

*A man went into a pub with a newt on his shoulder.  
The barman commented that it was a very fine creature and asked what its name was.  
'Tiny' was the reply. 'Why is he called Tiny?' enquired the barman.  
'Because he's my newt,' came the reply.*

**Half Moon - 1**

St Peter ?

1768 to c1790

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub provides another example of a simple sign to attract clientele. The half moon has always had romantic associations, setting it apart from the lunatics and their full moon.

This pub was mentioned in an advertisement<sup>1</sup> which read 'Philip Rowland, at the sign of the Half Moon near North Gate Bridge', who was advertising in December 1781 the loss of a red cow, which had strayed off the Commons in the North Ward. What became of this wandering bovine is not known. Did it jump over the moon as in the nursery rhyme? This old tavern was also mentioned a few years earlier in 1776, when William Heckford, brushmaker was carrying on business next door to the Half Moon near North Bridge.

The Half Moon suffered an unrecorded eclipse but may have become the Weaver's Arms at a later date.

**Half Moon Inn - 2**

St Botolph 27 Long Wyre Street

c1866 to c1871

a beer house

demolished

This was the second house of this name in the town. It is shown in the 1871 census, although no landlord is shown. It is mentioned in the 1881 census occupied by one Edgar Barrett, age 29, a publican and butcher.

In 1866<sup>2</sup>, this house is mentioned in a case of a labourer refusing to leave a public house. William Nelson was charged with refusing to leave, with breaking a square of glass and assaulting the landlord with a pewter mug, Mr Charles Murphy. The defendant was found guilty and sentenced to two month's hard labour.

**Hare and Hounds**

St Botolph's Street

c1822 to c1848

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this tavern is a common one throughout the country, depicting the sport of hare coursing, which still takes place today. It makes a few brief mentions in trade directories as follows but nothing more is known of it or of its precise location.

1822-4	J. Baker	Pigot's
1832-3	Samuel Burton	Pigot's
1848	John Abbott	White's

**Harrow**

St Giles ?

1799 to c1810

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub would have been an attraction to the many men who took their living from the land, with the sign being a simple one to recognise. It only appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1799 to 1810 and its precise location is unknown.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun 1938

<sup>2</sup> Essex Standard – 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1866

## Harvey's

Long Wyre Street

see the **Vine**

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## Headgate Hotel

The name of this pub is taken from that part of Colchester's third century Roman wall that was known as the Headgate, which was located very close to where this pub stands. The last traces of the Roman Headgate was demolished during the last century (although an archaeological dig in 2006 revealed evidence of the size and position of this gate).

see the **Fox and Fiddler**

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## Health and Happiness

St Giles

Old Heath

c1869 to 1910

a beerhouse

location uncertain

The name of this beerhouse is a traditional toast offered when drinking and is therefore appropriately named.

A licence was granted to George William Sach of this house in 1869<sup>1</sup>. Its precise location is unknown although the 1871 census shows it at a junction with Donyland Road, suggesting that it may be the building later to become Ipswich Arms and Walnut Tree pub of later years. In that year it was in the occupation of John Brown, age 59, shown as a mariner and beer house keeper. The 1881 census gives one Edgar Burton, age 27 years, as landlord, he describing himself as a beerhouse keeper and pork butcher. It was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company and was closed in 1910.

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## Hill Street Blues

East Hill

The name of this wine bar was taken from a popular (with some) American television programme of the 1980s.

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter.

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## Hole in the Wall

St Mary at the Walls

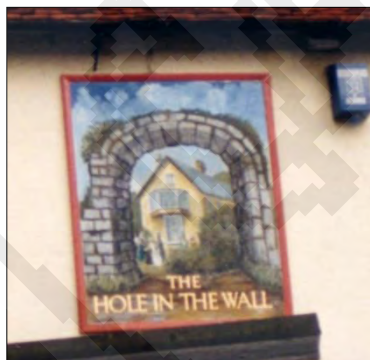
Balkerne Hill

1961 to date (map 5)

a public house

CO3 3AA

579897



The name of this pub came about as a result of the railway coming to Colchester in 1843. At that time, what was known as the Balkerne Fort stood on the hill, but a 'hole' was made in the wall to make room for additional apartments in the pub and in order to give a better view of the newly constructed Great Eastern Railway. This act of vandalism was thereafter referred to by local people as the Hole in the Wall, the name to be adopted as its official name over a hundred years later.

The Hole in the Wall pub is well known because it stands right on top of the town's famous Roman defence wall, perhaps the only one to do so in the country, and adjacent to the Balkerne Gate, the west entrance into the Roman town, built around AD 80. It was not until this century that the Balkerne Gate was revealed by famous archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler. Before the

Balkerne Gate was revealed, the fields ran right up to the Hole in the Wall and there was an old farm house where the Mercury Theatre now stands.

Part of the original Roman wall can be seen inside the pub, exposed to view for the benefit of tourists, through which a section was cut in 1843 to enable customers to view the newly arrived railway at what is now known as North Station. It would have been the only pub in the town to have commanded such a view and must have drawn many extra customers for the landlord of the day. He certainly would not have got away with it today!

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869

Another interesting feature of the pub is the passage that leads from beneath the pub right into the centre of town and finishes beneath a High Street store. This was probably one of the original Roman drains but popular myth has it that it was a secret tunnel for escape from Cromwell's forces during the Civil War.

A recollection from Mr George Pluckwell from the 1960s tells of how famous stars appearing at the Mercury Theatre used to drink there and how he thought that 'the scooped out Balcerne Hill for a new road project, left the Hole in the Wall perched up on the slanting bank like a Tibetan monastery.' When travelling up Balcerne Hill, you can see what he meant.

Local people always knew the pub as the Hole in the Wall and it was given this as its official name in 1961 by its owners Ind Coope when Walter Rix was the landlord.



The Hole in the Wall c1965

The above photograph shows the Hole in the Wall, or the King's Head, as it was around 1965. It was not until the 1970s<sup>1</sup> that Balcerne Hill was so drastically cut into, leaving the pub high and dry as we see it today, or in the words of George Pluckwell, 'like a Tibetan Monastery.'

Today, the main building is little changed from centuries ago. The windows are Victorian and a succession of extensions and alterations, with further work in 1995 have given it more bar room. It was (before the anti-smoking laws came into effect in 2007) one of the few pubs in Colchester to provide a no-smoking area.

The building work in 1995<sup>2</sup> revealed a mass of Roman artefacts such as coins and pottery, as well as musket balls dated from the Colchester Siege period. These were closely studied by the town's archaeologists before being put on display in the pub. The pub's sign is a depiction of Balcerne Gate as it is conjectured it once looked like, the owners seemingly preferring to believe this to be the reason for the pub's name, rather than from an act of Victorian vandalism.

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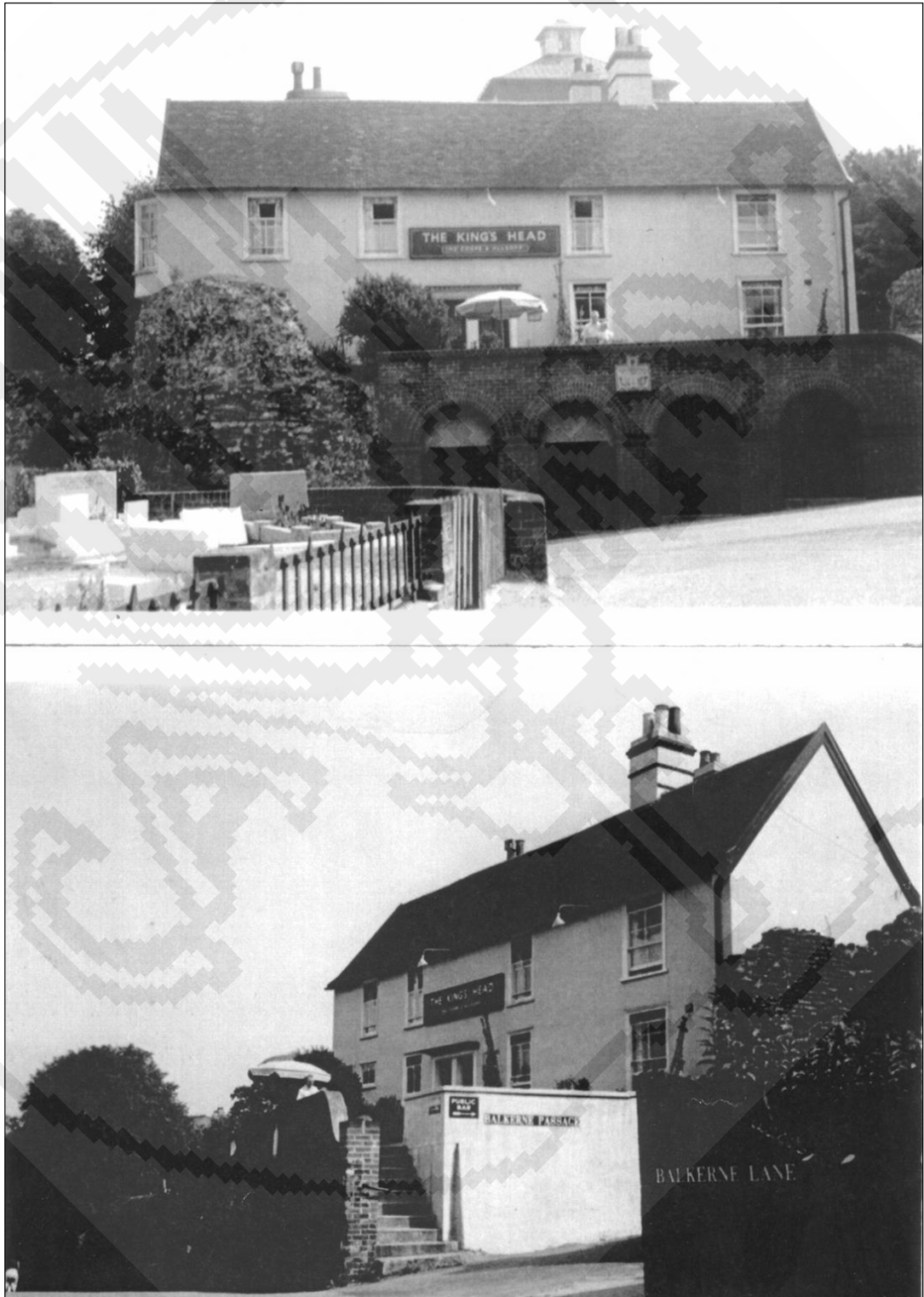
<sup>1</sup> CE – 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 1973

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 28<sup>th</sup> Apr 1995

Previously the **King's Head**

18th century to 1961

In 1843, William Wire wrote in his diary, 'when I was walking up Balkon Hill, I saw that a portion on the north side of the Balkon Fort had been destroyed in order to build additional rooms to the King's Head Inn to command a view of the railway. What a pity that one of the best preserved remains of Roman times should be destroyed to administer to the sensual pleasures, as it may be considered only as a decoy to induce persons to enter the house to drink.' It should be mentioned here that William Wire's father was publican of the Fencers in Maidenburgh Street.



The King's Head c1935

The pub first appears by name in the licensing records of 1764, although it dates from much earlier than this, later owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company. It then passed to Ind Coope and was renamed officially as the Hole in the Wall in 1961.

Reputed to have been built in 1498, folklore has it that it is the oldest pub in the town and that it has always been a pub since it was built. In 1550, it was called 'Woodcocks', but in 1656 it was renamed the King's Head by the Roundheads following the Siege of Colchester. (King Charles I lost his head in 1649.)

At one time it was run in conjunction with the King's Head in Head Street and acted as a coaching house for its 'double' pub. The pub, until recently, still had the coach-house and stables as a reminder of those days.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1792 to 1794	Jos Watkins	Universal
1822 to 1829	Joseph Brown	Pigot's
1845 to 1855	John Rumsey	White's, Post Office, Kelly's
1851	Susannah Rumsey, married, publican, age 51, born Colchester	Census
1861	Susannah Rumsey, widow, inn keeper	Census
1862 to 1871	Mrs. Susannah Rumsey	Post Office and Kelly's
1871	Susan Rumsey, widow, age 75, licensed victualler	Census
1874 to 1878	Harry E Chenery	Kelly's
1881	George W. Smith, Licensed Victualler, age 45, born Lexden together with wife and daughter	Census
1882 to 1886	George William Smith	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Frederick William Adams	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Richard Mortimer	Kelly's
1901	Richard Mortimer, Licensed Victualler, age 44, born Stoke, Suffolk with wife and 5 children	Census
1908 to 1917	Mrs. Emma Mortimer	Kelly's
1925	Leonard King Martin	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	George Western	Kelly's
1930 to 1950	George Weston	Publican's Licences
1956	Henry John Worland	Publican's Licences
1957	Walter William Rix (with the note that the pub changed its name to the Hole in the Wall on 28 <sup>th</sup> June 1961)	Publican's Licences
1966 to 1973	Wally Walters	CE – 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1973

Previously known as **Woodcocks**

16th century to c1656

The rental of Lexden Manor refers to the building in 1550 which then or later was known as Woodcocks<sup>1</sup>, and in 1656 as the King's Head, described as 'quite decayed.' This was probably the result of the disastrous siege of 1648 when 51 houses in St Mary's parish were 'burnt and ruined'. It was repaired or rebuilt and in 1671 described as the inn called the King's Head.

Previously the **Green Maurice**

The deeds of the property also mention that it was known as the Green Maurice at one time. No more is known of this at this stage.

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## Hoofers

Ipswich Road

The name of this pub is now obscure but it was probably a theme associated with horses and agriculture generally.

see the **Old King Cole**

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul 1962

**Horse and Groom**

St Mary at the Walls

53 Crouch Street

18th century to 1959 (map 4)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub shows the importance of the horse as a means of personal and goods transport and sport. The house probably got its name from the many stallions that were put to stud at the premises, the groom being an essential part of the procedure and the man who looked after the horse's well being.



The Horse and Groom c1958

It first appears by name in a deed dated 1716, although it is not certain that the pub is that old. An article written by Gerald Rickword in 1956<sup>1</sup> on the occasion of the imminent closing of the pub, detailed some of its early history. Always associated with farmers and other countrymen, in the 1740s the house was occupied by John Proud, and was the resort of all who prized good horse flesh. Here 'stood to cover at half a guinea the leap' with a shilling for the groom in April 1758, and on other occasions, 'the noted horse called Daisy,' bred by the Duke of Ancaster, which 'was got by Rib, a Son of Old Crab, his Dam was the noted Mare call'd Doll.'

On May 29, 1764, John Proud gave notice that 'Three Pipes of exceeding good, full, high flavoured Grape-Wine (little inferior to foreign wine) 'tis Four Years Old, and the Duty paid; likewise one Hogshead and a Half of Grape Juice, very fine,' were 'to be sold together or separately, at considerable Loss by reason of the said Mr Proud is going to retire from Business.' Henry Davis was landlord ten years later when, on a January night at about 9 o'clock, one Robert West came to the inn with 'a bright bay mare, about 14 hands 1 inch high, and about seven years old,' but only harnessed with a bridle. Suspecting that the horse had been stolen. Davis promptly called for the constable and his visitor was placed under lock and key to await his fate.

'All lovers of Agriculture' were informed in May 1792 that there was to be sold at Mr Davis' at the Horse and Groom, 'that most excellent sort of Turnip Seed, at 4d a pint. Known by the name of Mr Kendall's Stock, and transplanted by Mr Ambrose of Copford, who last season (though well known to be an unfavourable season for turnips) grew from this stock above 26 ton per acre.' It was offered for sale in 1855 and described as 'A capital old established public house, well known as the Horse and Groom Inn, situate in the parish of St Mary at the Walls, producing a rental of £105 per annum and now doing a first rate business.' The inn 'with stabling, chaise house, sheds, etc.' was sold to the leaseholders, Messrs John Posford Osborne and Sons, wine and spirit, porter and coal merchants, of St Botolph's Street, for £1250.

It is shown in 1764 in the licensing records through to 1872 when it was owned by Osborne. From 1870 to 1881, James Pitt was the landlord, also advertising himself as a stone and marble mason and statuary.

A local newspaper recorded, in May 1839, an unfortunate story of one Sarah Searle, a widow, 'an indigent looking female' who was charged with being intoxicated at this house. She had been discharged two days earlier 'from the House of Correction, and had been supplied with a pair of shoes and stockings, to enable her to proceed to her

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956

Union; but, instead of that, she begged in the street, and spent the money with drinking. She had drunk half a quatern of rum, and when called upon to pay for it, stated that she had no money, and being very intoxicated was taken into custody. She was fined 5 shillings and expenses for drunkenness, and a week allowed her to pay it in; but in default to be put in the stocks for 6 hours<sup>1</sup>. This is but a typical story of the time. We have found many instances of the courts dealing with drunkenness and the use of the stocks. Some of the stories can be very humorous. Has anything changed over all these years?

In 1886 it passed to the Colchester Brewing Company who sold it to Ind Coope, who owned it until it was closed by compulsory purchase order in 1959 and the licence transferred to the newly built Silver Oyster at Monkwick. It was demolished<sup>1</sup> that year in readiness for the widening of Balkerne Lane.

A newspaper article in 1994<sup>2</sup> recalled the pub's bar room beauties. The charms of the landlady's daughters worked wonders at this pub, but when they married and left home, business dropped off and it went bankrupt. Admitting liabilities of over £1000, she attributed her failure to a recent decline in trade, high overheads and unsatisfactory labour. She said that 'when her daughters married, trade seemed to fall off.'



A photograph of Mona (mother), Rene and Joan (the daughters) behind the bar of the Horse and Groom and taken Christmas 1948. Kindly sent to us by Ann Steady, daughter of Irene Cracknell née Pitchford. Joan became Joan Bridge.

As a follow up to the article, a reader confirmed the beauty of the daughters, Rene and Joan, and added another memory, its connections with the theatre and variety. Actors from the Old Colchester Repertory Theatre always called in there for a drink after the evening performance<sup>3</sup>.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1822 to 1839	Thomas Brown	Pigot's
1845	John Phillips Vie	Post Office
1848 to 1855	John Abbott	White's, Kelly's and and Post Office
1851	John Abbott, innkeeper, age 40, born Great Clacton, together with his wife	Census
1861	Henry Smith, Publican, Pensioner of Chelsea, age 54, born Woodbridge, together with his wife, their two daughters and a servant pot boy	Census
1862	Henry Smith	Kelly's
1867 to 1971	James Pitt, Stone & Marble Mason & Statuary	Post Office
1870 to 1978	James Pitt, Stone & Marble Mason	Kelly's
1881	James Pitt, Publican, age 48, born Colchester, together with his wife	Census
1882 to 1986	James Pitt	Kelly's

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul 1987

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 8<sup>th</sup> Jul and 26<sup>th</sup> Aug

<sup>3</sup> ECS – 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 1994

## The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester

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1894 to 1902	George Beaumont	Kelly's
1901	Margaret Beaumont, Licensed Victualler, Widow, age 49, born Ireland	Census
1907	C. Walker	Benham's
1908	Charles Walker	Kelly's
1912 to 17	Ernest Edward Golding	Kelly's
1925	Charles Stewart Walker	Kelly's
1933 to 37	Joseph Pitchford	Kelly's
1930 to 1940	Joseph Pitchford	Publican's Licences
1950	Agnes May Pitchford	Publican's Licences
1954	John Henry Rayner	Publican's Licences

The Horse and Groom closed for trading on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1959.

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### Horseshoes Inn

St Leonard

Hythe Quay

see the **Three Horseshoes**

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### Hospital Arms

Crouch Street  
CO3 3HA

1998 to date (map 1)

a public house

The name of this pub is a reference to the adjacent Essex County Hospital which was founded in 1819. Indeed, it was perhaps opened principally to serve the needs of the hospital's employees and the more able-bodied patients.

This is the second time it has taken this name after the very unpopular previous name of the Tap and Spile. By popular demand it became the Hospital Arms once again and (in 2015) stands as one of the best of Colchester's real ale pubs.

previously known as the **Tap and Spile**

1990 to 1998



The pub took this name in 1990, an attempt to change from the old spit and sawdust image of the Hospital Arms, soon establishing itself as a real ale pub catering for the classic real ale drinkers.



At that time, the pub had a splendid collection of framed photographs of esteemed rugby football and cricket players, collected by a previous landlord, Mr Ed Munn - a gentleman whose physical build and general demeanor would suggest that tackling him in a scrum could seriously damage your health. Mr and Mrs Munn later took over the Norfolk public house.



The pub's name reverted to the Hospital Arms, by popular approval, in November 1998, when Suffolk brewers Adnams became its new owners. Regular customers had never acknowledged it by any other name! Fred Veasey, popular landlord of the Bricklayers Arms, took this as a second house.

In 1997, the landlord was a Mr Wishart who brought to Colchester the distinction of the town's only licensee publican to be mentioned in the Lord's Prayer - 'Our Father, Wishart in Heaven, ....'

previously the **Hospital Arms**

c1860 to 1990

The rules of the hospital at that time, and for some forty years afterwards, banned certain types of patients, viz. children under seven (unless they were having an operation), pregnant women, mentally disordered, people with smallpox or venereal disease, those with long standing leg ulcers, those with terminal heart disease, and those believed to be dying.



The Hospital Arms c1935

It would be nice to think that the Hospital Arms might have brought comfort to such unfortunates!

The staple beverage of the patients was beer or porter, the ration being a pint a day for men or women, the maximum price paid to local brewers being one shilling per gallon. For a while, the hospital brewed its own beer (not porter), although some of the patients complained about its quality. Matron was also known to have ordered port wine, gin, brandy and sherry, although who drank it is not recorded. Perhaps a stiff brandy was administered before an operation - but whether to surgeon or patient has gone unrecorded. Brewing ceased in 1864, after many complaints. As an aside, the first anaesthetic death in the country is believed to have occurred at the hospital in 1847.

described as 'keeper of beer house' and the address being shown as 6 Wellington Place. Beerhouses first appeared from 1830, in an attempt by the government of the day to reduce the drinking of spirits, especially gin. They were different from public houses in that they could not sell spirits (or ghosts presumably!) We cannot be sure exactly when the Hospital Arms first opened its doors for business.

The earliest reference found to the Hospital Arms is in the 1861 census, when one William Southgate was

The Ordnance Survey map of 1876 showed that the premises was part of a row of houses, the corner one a beer house at some time. As time went on, the adjacent building was incorporated into the pub, beerhouse. The beerhouse is known to have been owned by Walter Edward Grimston in 1899, when he sold it to the London brewers Trumans, together with several other pubs in the town. The deed of sale mentions that the building was once a workhouse.

It is first mentioned by name in the licensing records as a beer house in 1907, owned by Truman. It was granted its full publican's licence in 1949, sold to Tollemache Cobbold Breweries in 1979 and later sold to Southwold brewers Adnams in 1998.

We are indeed fortunate that memories have been passed down from circa 1885. Mr David Snow of Stowmarket (in 1999) tells us that his great grandfather, Joseph Henry Ezra, born in Manchester in 1846, discharged from the 11th Hussars at his own request upon payment of £8 whilst stationed in Colchester, took on the beer house around 1885. Joseph died in 1891 and his widow Mary Ann took over the licence. She died in 1907. Their daughter and son-in-law, Ada and Herbert Bibby, took over until Herbert's death in 1923. David's mother Mabel grew up in the pub and often talked of her times there. She recalled that Truman's sent their beer from London by sailing barge to the Hythe and thence to the pub by horse drawn dray. She also recalled that there was always a jar of home produced pickled onions on the bar, as bread, cheese and pickled onions were sold, together with a pint of beer and a clay pipe full of tobacco.

Before the 1914, 18 war, the pub would open at 6.00am, for the benefit of the servants (gardeners, grooms, coachmen, etc.) going to work at the big houses of the gentry in the Lexden Road area.

The job that Mabel disliked most of all was emptying the spittoon, which stood in the bar. When she married in 1912, on Christmas Day (the only day that the pub closed), a newspaper report of the wedding noted that the presents included 'a music stool with cabinet' from the pub's Loan Club members.'

The following photograph is believed to date from around 1910, with the prominently displayed signage of Truman, Hanbury and Buxton. This picture shows the building of simple brick construction, without the stone cladding that the building has today, with sash windows (unlike those in the photograph), with tramlines along the road and a series of posters outside, one of which advertising the sale of the contents of Stisted Hall. This means that the stone cladding we see today was added after 1904, when trams first came into operation in the town (trams ceasing in 1929).



The Hospital Arms - c1910

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1861	William Southgate, Keeper of Beer House, age 63, born Brightlingsea, together with his wife	Census
1867 to 1870	Thomas Bacon Rampling, Beer Retailer	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Thomas R Ramplin, age 47, carpenter and joiner	Census
1874 to 1882	Thomas Samuel Kidby, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1881	Thomas Samuel Kidby, Innkeeper & Hotel Waiter, age 34, born Colchester, together with his wife, their five children, a barmaid and a domestic servant	Census
1886 to 1895	Joseph Henry Ezra, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	Joseph H Ezra, age 46, publican	Census
1898 to 1902	Mrs. Mary Ann Ezra, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1907 to 1917	Herbert Bibby, Beer Retailer	Kelly's and Benham's
1925	William Sherman Ince, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1933	Bertie Collingwood, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1937 to 1943	Edward Bell	Kelly's
1943 to 1951	Edward Green, licensee of the Hospital Arms, Crouch Street, Colchester, died on December 19th, 1951. Mr Green, prior to taking over the Hospital Arms in 1943, was licensee of the Anchor, Colchester, for seven years.	Black Eagle Journal
1949	Full publican's licence granted 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1949	Publican's Licences
1960	Mr & Mrs Reg Barber	Black Eagle Journal

It was a very good thing for the Licensed Trade when Reg Barber, having come out of the army in 1949 and as he put it, "knocking around for two years trying everything and achieving nothing" decided to take a pub. Since then the Barbers have been tenants of three Trumans houses all of which have prospered under their tenancy. The first was the Star and Garter, Chelmsford, where they consistently improved the trade for five years.

Now they are host and hostess at the Hospital Arms, Colchester. On entering this house, Reg Barber's connections with the Brigade of Guards are apparent. He stands smartly and upright behind the pumps whilst the whole house

shines with cleanliness and all the bottles are "dressed by the right". This is the standard set by this ex-Sergeant of the Guards Armoured Division and is a fine example of how a public house should look.

The Hospital Arms is situated opposite the Essex County Hospital and is widely used by the medical profession who refer to it as Ward 9; there being only 8 wards in the hospital.



Apart from hospital visitors, Reg and his very charming wife enjoy a predominantly local and regular trade. This has resulted in their having one of the finest darts teams in the area which has won the Trumans Darts League and also the Trumans Knock-out Cup.

Charity also plays a great part in the lives of the Barbers and their customers. In the eight years they have been in the house, they have raised nearly £700 for the local Blind Association by means of collections, raffles and an annual auction which is nearly always the talk of the town.'

Black Eagle Journal 1960

(The photograph is of Reg Barber & his wife at the Hospital Arms, in 1968, kindly provided by Alex Wilkinson.)

also known as **Ward 9**

The pub became known, in the goodness of time, by doctors and staff alike, as Ward 9, seemingly to allay suspicion amongst patients that their care might be in the hands of drunkards. Others have pointed out that Ward 9 was in range of the hospital's pager system, so staff could nip out for a quick one and still be available for an emergency. The hospital ceased its main business in the 1980s with the building of the new hospital in Turner Road, making it opportune to change the pub's name.

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## Hound or Dog

St Botolph

The name of this pub is a rare one and seems to imply a difference of opinion. Perhaps the animal on its sign was described as one or the other, with no clear decision having been arrived at. So tell me, what is the difference between a hound and a dog?

see the **Marlborough Head**

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## Huntsman's Tavern

Shrub End Road

See the **Berechurch Arms**

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*After the Colchester Beer Festival, a few of the brewery representatives decided to go out for a beer.*

*The rep from Theakstons sits down and says 'Hey barman, I would like the best beer in Yorkshire, a pint of Old Peculiar.'*

*The barman pulls a pint and gives it to him.*

*The rep from Greene King says 'I'd like the best beer in Suffolk, give me a pint of Abbot Ale.'*

*The barman responds accordingly.*

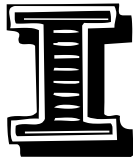
*The rep from Carlsberg says 'I'd like what is probably the best lager in the world, a pint of chilled Carlsberg.'*  
*He gets it.*

*The man from the Colchester Brewery sits down and says 'Give me a Coke, please.'*

*The barman is a little taken aback, but gives him what he ordered.*

*The other reps look over at him and ask 'Why aren't you drinking a Colchester beer?' to which the rep replies 'Well, if you guys aren't going to drink real beer, then neither will I.'*

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*Drink moderately, for drunkenness neither  
keeps a secret, nor observes a promise.*

Cervantes - Don Quixote

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## Inkerman

Magdalen Street

c1863 to 1913

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub recalls the desperately fought infantry action during the Crimean War in 1854. It is another example of Colchester's proud military links.

The pub was situated on the north side of Magdalen Street, opposite to the Prince of Wales. Newspaper reports of the day often mentioned fighting between soldiers in this area, spilling over from pub to pub. Indeed, it was standard practice for young children to keep a watch for fights to start, as this often led to money falling from pockets onto the pavement.

This pub's name would have made it a popular watering hole for soldiers and its main rival for business would have been the Prince of Wales. The earliest reference found to it is in a local newspaper report of the licensing sessions in 1863<sup>1</sup> when the owners, Messrs. Bridges (the tenant was Benjamin Beal), applied for a full licence, which was opposed by Messrs. Osborne. By 1869<sup>2</sup> the licensee, Robert Tyler, was granted his licence and given a warning about its future conduct. Constable Knott had stated that prostitutes had lodged there, although the landlord had denied it. Building plans dated 1878<sup>3</sup> show that it was a three storeyed brick built building with seven bedrooms upstairs and a bar and tap room on the ground floor. It had a large written sign board affixed to the outside facade with the name inscribed.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1871	Henry A Langley, Carpenter & Beer House Keeper, age 26, born Colchester, together with his wife and their four children	Census
1886 to 1899	Thomas May	Kelly's
1898	Thomas May, Blacksmith	Kelly's
1902	William John Pooley	Kelly's
1901	William James, Licensed Victualler, age 51, born Colchester together with his wife, their three sons and two lodgers	Census
1908	Walter H. May	Kelly's
1911	Henry Plumb, Inn Keeper, age 54, with wife and son	Census
1912	Henry Plumb	Kelly's

The licensing records do not mention it until 1881, when it was described as a new licence and being owned by Daniells Brewery. Before that time it would have been a simple beer house, rather than a public house, as indicated by the 1871 census entry. It was closed in 1913, together with several other pubs in the town.

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## Ipswich Arms

The name of this pub is presumably a simple reference to Suffolk's county town, with which Colchester has close links.

see the **Lancer**

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## Ivory's

North Hill

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter..

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1863

<sup>2</sup> ECS - 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869, Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869

<sup>3</sup> BP – PB2, 107

Ivy

North Hill

date unknown

a beerhouse?

location uncertain

This pub was mentioned in a newspaper article of 1987 but is believed to be an error as no other reference has ever been found to it. Perhaps the writer was thinking of the Vine!

*Without question, the greatest invention in the history of man is beer.  
Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention,  
but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.*

Dave Barry

## The Stocks (not to be confused with the Pillory)

Numerous instances of drunkenness have appeared in the local newspapers over the years. The following three extracts from the Essex Standard give three instances of individuals being brought before the court and a spell in the stocks being threatened, if a fine was not paid. The first, for one Thomas Claypole, from 1849. The second, a tragicomical example in the case of Mary Roy in 1857, but also mentioning George Pardo. The 1861 census showed that Mary was born around 1809 in Sudbury, a widow, a tailoress and living alone in Priory Street. There was no sign of her by 1871, so presumed deceased. Did she ever sit in the stocks one might wonder – with the gaoler? The old stocks used to be on display in the dungeons of the castle, a silent testament to law and order from a bygone age and a warning to modern-day visiting children.

prisoner's box firmin found half a sovereign and a fourpenny piece. —The prisoner admitted that the money was in his pocket, but when cautioned by the Bench refused to make any further statement. —He was committed for trial.

**Thomas Claypole, 19, labourer, was charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct near the Marlborough's Head Public-house, Botolph Street, where he was apprehended on Saturday night by policeman Stewart. —He was fined 5s., with 6s. costs, and in default of the money being forthcoming in a week he was ordered to sit six hours in the stocks.**

**AN AGED THIEF.—Charles Durrant, upwards of 79 years of age, convicted a fortnight since of stealing turnips from a field in the occupation of Mr. Charles Darling, and sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment applied to the Bench to forego his sentence.**



### COLCHESTER TOWN HALL.—OCT. 1.

Before J. Cooke, Esq. chairman: and Stephen Brown, Esq.  
**Mark Dumphy, a private of the 66th Regiment, was charged by police-constable Neale with being drunk and disorderly on Wednesday last. —About 12 o'clock Neale found the prisoner creating a great disturbance in the Tailor's Arms, Wyre Street, from whence he was with considerable difficulty removed. When in the street he continued his misconduct, and was ultimately brought to the police-station. —A Corporal of the 66th attended, and stated that prisoner's general conduct was good; and the Bench, upon his expressing his regret, discharged him with a caution.**

**THE STOCKS.—Mary Roy, the woman who was discharged from custody at the Quarter Session on Tuesday, under circumstances detailed elsewhere, again made her appearance in the dock, being charged as "drunk and disorderly." —Police-constable Neale stated that about half-past 11 o'clock on the previous night he found the prisoner lying in the back premises of a person named Scott, in Priory Street, and he making no charge against her she was merely turned out. She was very drunk, and despite witness's remonstrances continued to create a great disturbance, and she was at length brought to the police-station. —The CHAIRMAN to defendant. We sentence you to pay a fine of 5s.: are you prepared to pay? —Defendant (laughing). Bless you, I haven't got any money. —The CHAIRMAN. Then you must be imprisoned for a week, and if it is not paid then be put in the stocks. Defendant (with considerable alarm). The stocks! What is the stocks? —The CHAIRMAN. We will let you work for the money during the week instead of imprisonment, and if it is not paid you will have to sit 6 hours in the stocks. —Defendant. I haven't strength enough to sit 6 hours. —Mr. Harvey (gaoler). Then you should not come here: you have had every kindness shown you here. —Defendant. I know I have, but I can't sit 6 hours: you'll have to sit with me. (Laughter). —Defendant then left the Court inveighing bitterly against the stocks.**

**CAPTURE OF A RECEIVER.—William Tunbridge, a dirty-looking hawkker of small trifles, was charged with feloniously receiving a quantity of Derby cheese, stolen in March last from a railway truck at the Heaths. —Robert Perryman, a youth, said on**

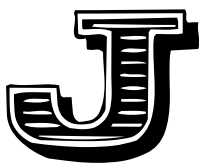
of the cheese committed to receive one on the 20th of 50s., and a gentleman who witnessed the whole occurrence voluntarily came forward in Sergeant Sach's behalf.

**George Pardo, a tramping tinkler, was charged with drunkenness and indecency. It appeared that prisoner went to the Duke of York public-house on Wednesday evening and ordered some porter, of which he drank a portion. On being reminded that he had not paid for it, he declared with most abusive language that he had, and proceeded to expose himself in a most indecent manner. He was very drunk at the time, but now denied acting in the manner described. —Fined 5s. and 7s. expenses, or to be placed 6 hours in the stocks.**

**Mary Roy, the woman remanded from last week for drunkenness, was again brought up. —She is evidently a person of unsound mind, which has been caused by her dissipated habits, and when before the Magistrates, both last Thursday and to-day, conducted herself in a most eccentric manner. When kindly advised by Mr. Brown to go to the union, she interrupted by saying she had been there, and came out to get some snuff; but she would go in again if she was allowed to have some. —She was eventually discharged on promising to proceed at once to the union.**

**THE POOR BOX.—A young man named John Jowers applied to the Bench under the following circumstances: —He said he was 36 years of age, and belonged to the parish of St. Osyth, from**

The stocks, as a form of punishment, are medieval in origin. One of our mayors, in his wisdom, decided to bring them back in the 1840s in an attempt to deter the anti-social proclivities of Colchester's ne're-do-wells. Of course, it had no effect whatsoever, and the practice did not last for long.



*Useful things to say in latin, in a Roman pub!*

<i>Hoc ei propinabo!</i>	<i>(I'll drink to that!)</i>
<i>Caupo! Etiamnunc!</i>	<i>(Bartender! Another round!)</i>
<i>Propino tibi salutem!</i>	<i>(Cheers!)</i>
<i>Frequentasne hunc locum?</i>	<i>(Do you come here often?)</i>

### Jew's Harp

St Botolph's Street

c1866 to c1869

a tavern

precise location unknown

The name of this house is a reference to a type of musical instrument, played by plucking a reed, amplified by holding it against the musician's teeth. Its characteristic sound is often associated with Wild West cowboys sitting around their campfire but would have been a common sound in Colchester's pubs.

The various trade directories have only the following to add:

1867	John Ward	Post Office
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The earliest mention of this house is in a case brought before the magistrates in December 1866<sup>1</sup> when the landlord, Mr Robert Gillett, brought a case against a soldier who he alleged had stolen his Meerchaum pipe and had been seen offering it for sale at the Paddy's Goose nearby. Then again in 1869<sup>2</sup>, when William Henry Porter applied for a full licence. It was stated that it was originally a public house but that it had been so badly conducted that its licence was taken away and it became a beerhouse, whereupon it was conducted better. The licence was then granted and it again became badly conducted, when the licence was, a second time, taken away.

### Joiner's Arms Inn - 1

Trinity Street

The name of this pub is another reference to a working man's trade, a joiner being a man who works with wood, as does a carpenter.

see the **Purple Dog**

### Joiner's Arms - 2

St James

63 and 64 East Hill

1884 to 1909

a public house

demolished

It is probable that when the Joiner's Arms in Trinity Street closed or ceased being known by that name, perhaps around 1850, this hostelry was given the name in its place.

The Joiner's Arms adjoined the Mitre on the west, the first building of the block, and was in business at the beginning of the century under the licensee named Vaughan<sup>3</sup>. It was a lodging house for the poorest classes and fights were not uncommon.

It first appears in the licensing records in 1884 and was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company. It was eventually closed in 1909. The building has since been demolished.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1891	William Sutton, age 49, licensed victualler, born Kelvedon, together with his wife, their three children (two born in India) and nine lodgers	Census
1901	W Sutton, Inn Keeper, age 59, born Kelvedon, together with a domestic servant and thirteen lodgers	Census

<sup>1</sup> Essex Standard – 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1866

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869, Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1869, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1869

<sup>3</sup> RP – 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1953

1902 William Sutton, Beer Retailer  
 1906 to 1908 Walter James Vaughan

Kelly's  
 Kelly's and Benham's

A Mr Terry Dadds commented that the birth of the first of 14 children of his great grandfather Henry John Dadds and a barmaid called Mary Ann Thompson in 1907 was registered with an address as Joiners Arms, East Hill, Colchester.

## Jolly Waggoners

Hythe Quay

c1880 a beerhouse location uncertain

The name of this pub conveys a picture of folk going about their business aboard the type of heavy waggon that would have done much of the work of transporting goods from the docks to the town or vice versa.

The only references to this hostelry have come from anecdotal sources. The name may have been a nickname of another beerhouse called the Haycart. Joseph Phillips, in his article dated 1906<sup>1</sup>, mentions that this pub stood along Hythe Quay next to the corner building at the south east corner of Hythe Hill. Others say that it was the building later used as the offices of the Pertwee company. Mr Phillips' account is ambiguous as he seems to contradict himself.

No records have been found to give us even a little of its history.

## Judge and Jury

St Botolph's

212 Magdalen Street

2011 to 2012 (map 20)

a public house

CO2 7EF

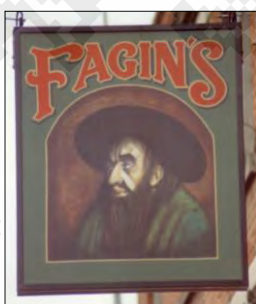
closed up

The name of this pub was inspired by the building of Colchester's new magistrates courts at St Botolph's, a short distance away from this house. The fact that magistrates do not have judges or juries did not deter the owner with his choice of a new name for the pub.

The Judge and Jury was opened by a musician, Mr Jimmy Kingston in August 2011<sup>2</sup>. With great plans, things did not work out and the place closed the following year. A further attempt was made to open it as a music only venue, as the Twist, but under yet another name of Tribal. This also failed and, in 2015, the property had been closed up for some time – a pub no more and its future unknown.

Previously known as **Molly Malone's**

1996 to 2011



Molly Malone's name is synonymous with Ireland and all things Irish, a theme that the owners of this house wanted to introduce to Colchester. Irish theme pubs became common in London and other large cities throughout the UK in the 1990s, with sales of Guinness being an important factor. The joint venture between Guinness and Greene King was aimed at bringing the Irish concept of sociability, warmth and a bit of blarney, to non-Irish people.

The pub was given its new name in 1996<sup>3</sup>, having been known as the Dickens Inn previous to that.

<sup>1</sup> ECT – 16<sup>th</sup> Jun 1906

<sup>2</sup> G – 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011

<sup>3</sup> ECS - 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1996

Also known as **Fagin's Den**

For a few years, this house seemed to flit between being Molly Malones and Fagan's Den or both. In 2007, the newspapers announced the opening of Colchester's first gay nightclub, below Molly Malones, to be known as the Freedom Club<sup>1</sup>.

For a short period only known as **Slipstream**.

c2002

The author is uncertain about precise dates but believes that this name was taken out of fear of discouraging soldiers from using the house due to its Irish theme (an unhappy posting for British soldiers at that time). The lads soon showed this to be of no concern and the previous name returned. This name change did however give this house the record for the most number of different names gives to one pub in Colchester, beating the Fox and Fiddler with five.

previously the **Dicken's Inn**

1988 to 1996

The name of the pub was decided upon by its owner Mr John Acton who had a liking for things Dickensian. It was particularly apt as a visit was once made to Colchester by the famous Victorian writer, Charles Dickens. Another Colchester pub, at one time owned by the same company, bore the name of another of Dickens' characters, namely Oliver Twist.

This pub was also known as Fagin's Den, which is the name of the nightclub in the cellar of the building. Fagin was the skinflint character in Dickens' novel Oliver Twist, made even more well known by Lionel Bart's musical of that name.

Previously known as the **Carousel**

c1985 to 1988

This house was owned by Mr John Acton, who purchased the freehold from Grand Metropolitan and who also had interests in the Oliver Twist and the Wig and Pen. He converted it for use as a hotel and restaurant, the size of the upstairs being well suited for that purpose. He changed its name to a variation of the Roundabout, to try and get away from the previous bad reputation of the house.

Previously known as the **Roundabout**

c1980 to c1985

Originally known as the **Fountain**

1865 to c1980

At the licensing sessions of 1865<sup>2</sup>, the local newspapers reported the application for a new licence for this house. Mr Jones applied on behalf of Mr W H Bagg, a young tradesman of the town, his father having kept the Cross Keys for over 42 years. The structure was new and adjoined the intended terminus of the new railway. It was not intended as a public house in the ordinary sense, being simply for the purpose of supplying accommodation which the railway passengers and the people of the neighbourhood required. The architect advised that the building was finished but not yet furnished. The licence was granted.

This house does not appear as a public house in trade directories until after 1870. There is an entry for 1866 which gives it as 'The Fountain Wine and Spirit Stores.' From 1872 to 1877 it was owned by Simpson who then sold it to George Allen. An 1878 trade directory has an advertisement stating George Allen to be the proprietor of this



The Fountain c1964

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<sup>1</sup> ECS - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007

<sup>2</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1865



establishment together with the Stag's Head in Magdalen Street. In 1884 it was sold to Hollingsbury who in turn, sold it to Whitbread in 1900. The licensee in 1903 was one Thomas Jephcott, a distant cousin of the author of this book and therefore a welcome discovery. Daniells acquired it in 1906 who held it until it was taken over by Trumans in the 1960s.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1867	William Henry Bagg, Wine & Spirit Stores	Post Office
1874 to 1895	George Allen	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	George Henry Hollingbery	Kelly's
1900	George Henry Hollingsbury, Licensed Victualler	London Gazette, 9 March 1900
1901	William H Jones, Licensed Victualler, age 50, born Shrewsbury together with his wife and their two children	Census
1902	Frederick Charles Dawkins	Kelly's
1911	Edward Nicholars, Licensed Victualler, age 33, with wife, two sons and two women workers	Census
1914	Frank Taylor	Kelly's
1917	William Gatrill	Kelly's
1925	Leslie L. Foster	Kelly's
1933	Frederick Jones	Kelly's
1937	Frederick Jones	Kelly's

The year 1900 was not a good year for this house. In January the publican was sued by an employee for his alleged negligence in providing poor accommodation, which she said led to her contracting diphtheria. He was acquitted at a later date<sup>1</sup>. In March of that year the newspapers reported that three inn keepers were summoned for permitting drunkenness. These being the Fountain, the Plough and the Railway Tavern (a beer house). The conclusion was that it was mainly due to reservists and not Colchester residents<sup>2</sup>. They seem to have overlooked the fact that the landlords of said establishments were the guilty ones. Again in March, George Henry Hollingsbury of the Fountain Public House, was made bankrupt with debts over £1000.

Memories from the 1960s came from a book by Mr George Pluckwell, when 'it was another alehouse of strong character. One evening I visited there to see a mate play the new electric organ. Talk about an exciting evening! A jock soldier, well oiled, did the Highland Fling. Think he must have been stationed in town with his Scottish regiment. A dishy blonde winked her eye at me and said, 'see you outside later', which she never did. A fighting Irish paddy got thrown through the door making a quicker exit than when he arrived.'

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*Drunkenness is nothing else than a voluntary madness.*

Seneca

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The Prince of Wales at Marks Tey c1932.

Later replaced by a new building by owners, Trumans.

But now, all gone!

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 1900

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 1900



*....It even puts Apollo  
to all his strength of art to follow  
The flights, and to divine  
What is meant by every sign.*

Ben Jonson

## King Coel

Ipswich Road

The name of this pub came from an ancient Briton by the name of King Cunobelin who, was later given the name King Coel by the Saxons, who made him out as the hero who defied the might of the Roman empire. Cunobelin, son of Tasciovanus, ruled Colchester (then Camulodunum) for about thirty years before he died in AD 40. His daughter was reputed to have been Helena (later Saint Helena), who married the Emperor Constantius and later begat Constantine the Great. Helena was later to become the legendary figure favoured by Colchester's medieval borough and appeared on the seal of the borough.

see the **Old King Cole**

## King of Prussia

St Peter

High Street

c1760

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub probably referred to Frederick the Great, grandson of George I, who reigned from 1740 to 1786. His success at Rossbach in 1757 made him the most popular man of the day and inn and tavern keepers throughout the land repainted their signs with a likeness of 'The Glorious Protestant Hero.' He was responsible for Prussia's importance in the then German states, although, during the 1914 - 18 war, many of the pubs with this name understandably changed their name.

The house is mentioned by this name in the alehouse recognisances of 1764 and in deposited deeds of 1706 to 1842, which state that it was formerly named the Three White Nags. In 1763 it was in the occupation of a Mr Tetum and in the following year a Mr T Baker<sup>1</sup>.

Previously named the **Three White Nags**

18th century

The following is an extract from an article written by Gerald Rickword.

In contrast to the nearby Three Black Naggs, there stood at the north-west end of the High Street, an inn known as the Three White Naggs. The first landlord of whom there is mention was Joseph Copping, who was buried at St Mary's on June 17th, 1747, although his house stood in St Peter's parish. He was succeeded by John Conway, who subsequently moved to the Chequer Inn, Ipswich.

At Michaelmas 1755, a freehold estate producing £40 a year, comprising 'The Three White Naggs, a good Inn, with lodging Rooms, Stabling, and all needful Accommodations, now in the occupation of John Smith;' a private dwelling occupied by Widow Wayland; and another Inn, the New Three Crowns and Star, all adjoining properties, was offered for sale by Joseph Dunningham, of the latter inn.

In April 1756, John Beets took the inn, 'a very commodious House, which stands in the principal Street, where all Persons pass travelling from London to Harwich,' but his tenancy was of short duration as at Christmas, Mr Dunningham was again offering it to let at moderate rent. It changed its name to the King of Prussia.

## King's Arms - 1

St Peter

?

c1764

a public house

location uncertain

The name of this pub is an ancient one and demonstrated loyalty to the Crown.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 1935

This particular King's Arms is shown only in the alehouse records of 1764. Its precise location is unknown but it is quite possible that the clerk in charge of records mistook it for the King's Head (later the Hole in the Wall) or, less likely, the King's Arms in Crouch Street, both in the parish of St Mary at the Walls.

Due to its apparent centre of town location, it is presumed that the following article published in the Ipswich Journal of 10th April 1762, relates to this house.

Mr Powell, the celebrated Fire-Eater from London, will perform at the King's Arms, Colchester, in the Easter-Week, and no longer.

He intends to exhibit the following Articles:

1. He eats red-hot Coals out of the Fire as natural as Bread.
2. He licks with his Tongue red-hot Tobacco-Pipes flaming with Brimstone.
3. He takes a large bunch of Deal-Matches, lights them all together and holds them in his Mouth till the flame is extinguish'd.
4. He takes a red-hot Heater out of the Fire, licks it with his naked Tongue several Times, and carries it round the Room between his Teeth.
5. He fills his Mouth with red hot Charcoal, and broils a Slice of Beef or Mutton upon his Tongue, and any Person may blow the Fire with a Pair of Bellows at the same Time.
6. He takes a Quantity of Rosin, Pitch, Bees-wax, Sealing-wax, Brimstone, Allum, and Lead, melts them over a Chaffing-dish of Coals, and eats the said Combustibles with a Spoon, as natural as a Porringer of Broth, (which he calls his Dish of Soup) to the great Surprise of the Spectators.

The author recalls a conversation with a gentleman who said that the building that was built after a large fire in the 1840s in the High Street, which later became Cullingfords and later the Wig and Pen (1999), was the site of a public house, possibly this one. Regrettably, the conversation was not recorded and therefore, at this time, cannot be corroborated.

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**King's Arms - 2**

Lexden

?

1764 to c1780

a public house

location uncertain

The only references found to this pub is amongst the alehouse licences from 1764 to around 1780. It is perhaps an older name for the King's Head, which later, sadly, became a temperance hotel.

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**King's Arms - 3**

St James

Harwich Road

c1835 to c1848

a tavern

presumed demolished

This house only appears in trade directories from 1835 to 1848. It therefore missed the years covered by licensing records, although its general location is shown on an 1845 tithe map, placing it in the general vicinity of the present day Flying Fox public house.

The various trade directories give the following information:

1839 Thomas Fitch  
1845 Joshua French

Pigot's  
White's and Post Office

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**King's Arms - 4**

St Mary at the Walls

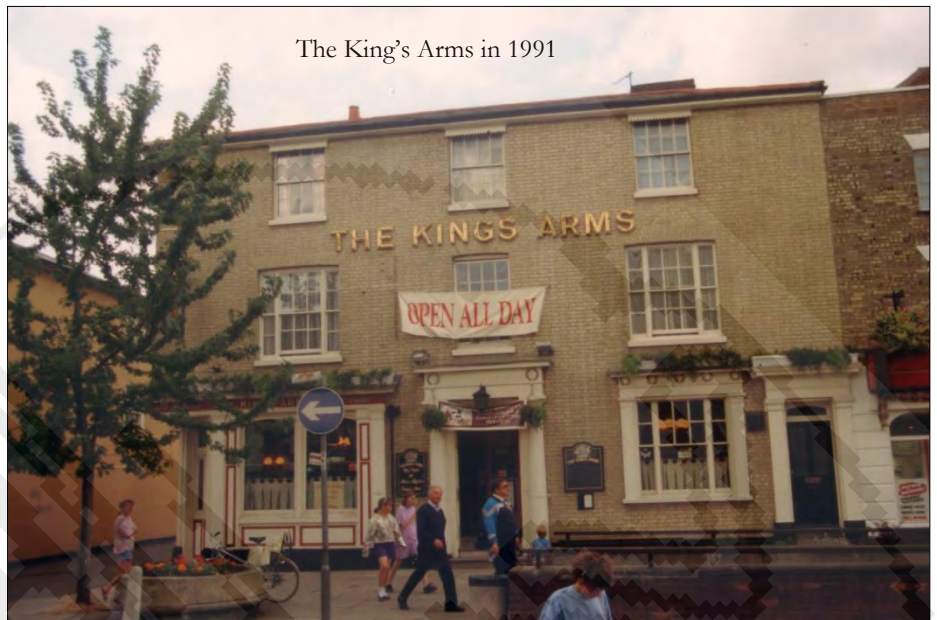
Crouch Street  
CO3 3EY

1787 to date (map 2)

a public house

This pub first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1787. In 1872 it was owned by Cudden, who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company around 1920. By 1940 it was in the hands of Ind Coope. An article by Bacchus in 1962 stated that it was built in 1700. A reference in Morant states that this pub stood on the original site of the Plough, but no other record of this has been found.

It must have been a happy time in 1844 when William Wire recorded in his famous diary that a newly arrived circus started from here and paraded through the town. In that same year, Wire wrote that he attended the No 25 Druid's Lodge at this house.



Bacchus visited in 1992<sup>1</sup> when Phil and Nora Clarke had been the licensees for four years, having previously held the licence of the Robin Hood.

In the 1990s, the King's Arms was a Hogshead Cask Ale house, a managed house, owned by Whitbread Inns offering a selection of traditionally served real ales and guest beers, live entertainment at various times, an extensive bar food menu, gaming machines and a beer garden. It was the Colchester in Bloom category winner in 1994.

Closed for a period in 2011, the pub was extensively refurbished, emerging once again to become a firm favourite among Colchester's 'proper' pubs.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

In the King's Arms Yard in 1881 lived John Wilshire, ostler.

1792 to 1794	John Brooker	Universal
1822 to 1829	Charles Heard	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	William Dorrell	Pigot's
1839	Richard Pargeter	Pigot's, White's and Post Office
1851	Richard Pargeter, innkeeper (employing 7 men), age 43 born Colchester, together with his wife, their four children, a visitor, a waiter and three house servants	Census
1855 to 1862	Richard Pargeter	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Richard Pargeter, Inn Keeper, age 53, born Buckinghamshire together with his wife, a daughter, a chambermaid, a cook, a waiter and an ostler	Census
1867	George Francis Eaton	Post Office
1871	Joseph Farrow, age 65, inn keeper	Census
1874 to 1886	Thomas Bacon Rampling	Kelly's
1881	Thomas B. Rampling, Innkeeper, age 57, born Stanway together with his wife and daughter	Census
1894 to 1908	Mrs. Elizabeth Rampling	Kelly's and Benham's
1901	Elizabeth Rampling, Proprietress of Hotel, Widow, age 61, born Little Bromley, together with her barman son, her daughter, son-in-law and three grand-children	Census
1912 to 1925	Albert Baker	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Arthur Astley Worley	Kelly's

see also the **Plough**

<sup>1</sup> CE - 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1962

<b>King's Arms Tap</b>	St Mary at the Walls	Crouch Street
c1860	a tap bar	ceased as a tap bar, time unknown

This would have been a separate watering hole to that of the main King's Arms and would have been to the rear of the existing pub of that name. All that is known of it is from the census of 1861 and again in 1871.

1861 Edward Harrington, Tapster, age 32, born Wakes Colne, together with his wife and their three children

<b>King's Head - 1</b>		Head Street
16th century to 1800 (map 75)	an inn	now offices

The name of this pub is another example of a display of loyalty to the Crown, and in particular, to the King, whose portrait would have been displayed on its sign. Perhaps the first sign was of Henry VIII, a king who knew how to handle women and marital difficulties!

Much of the following account of this inn's history is based upon the work of Gerald Rickword<sup>1</sup>.

The first mention of this ancient inn occurs in Foxe's 'Book of Acts and Monuments.' In these gruesome pages it is related that, during the persecutions of Bloody Mary's reign, 'at the Kynes-head in Colchester, and at the other Innes in the sayd Towne, the afflicted Christians had set places for themselves to meet at.' A Commission being appointed in 1557 to suppress these illegal assemblies, frequent meetings took place 'in my Lord of Oxenford's chamber' at the King's Head. Following these conferences at the inn, many suffered martyrdom for their faith in the town that summer, while over twenty 'heretics' were driven up to London for examination, among them 'the good woman of the house.' The death of the Queen in November 1558 put an end to these cruel persecutions, and release to mine hostess of the King's Head.

In the days of the Great Civil War, occurred the most dramatic incident in the inn's long history. A reaction in favour of the Royal cause, brought about by fear of the Puritan army, led to a rising in Kent in 1648, which was soon crushed, but a large body of cavaliers, eluding capture, crossed the Thames into Essex and marched on Colchester, seizing in their way, at Chelmsford, several members of the County Committee, whom they lodged at the King's Head. The prisoners were treated with every consideration, a flag being flown over the inn that Fairfax's gunners, now encamped around the town, should not fire on them. Later on, when food was short - a time when the side of a small dog was fetching six shillings - they were permitted to receive food from their friends outside the walls. When, after 11 weeks of fighting, starvation and shortage of ammunition compelled the Royalists to surrender, it was ordered that all the officers and gentlemen of distinction should assemble at the King's Head and 'submit themselves to the Mercy of the Lord General.'

Within an hour of Fairfax's entry into the poor battered town, a messenger was despatched to the inn to summon Sir Charles Lucas, Sir George Lisle and Sir Bernard Gascoigne to a Council of War. Here they were promptly sentenced to death, and less than three hours later, Lucas and Lisle met their fate like gallant soldiers. An obelisk in the Castle grounds now marks the spot where they met their end.

Mr J B Harvey, three times Mayor of Colchester, who died in 1890, told of a ghost on the site of the King's Head Inn<sup>2</sup>, in which the Royalist officers were confined on the surrender of the town in August 1648 and from whence Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle were led forth to their death outside the castle. An apparition, said to be that of a cavalier or a trooper - possibly implying a Roundhead - is to be seen marching up and down the cobbled courtyard. If the former, it could be Sir Bernard Gascoigne grieving for his brothers in arms who were 'in cold blood barbarously murdered' as the black marble memorial in St Giles church reads, he being reprieved at the last minute from a similar fate on account of his being a foreigner. Or it may be a sentry of the victorious army, whose negligence allowed Colonel Henry Farr, a former Parliamentary officer, who had joined the Royalist forces, to escape.

It was also related that when the Craske family resided in the house in the 1850s, a portrait of Lucas in one of the rooms, always fell to the ground when a death occurred in the family, although no blood relationship existed between them and the royalist martyr.

The King's Head was at one time the centre of the commercial life of Colchester, the starting point for a journey to London, then a very important undertaking. It was situated just within the town's walls and adjoining the main

<sup>1</sup> ECT – 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1927, ECS – 1934, 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 1948

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1960

entrance into the town, through the Head Gate. Of the myriads of guests who came here, slept the sleep of the just on beds smelling of lavender and drank of its excellent wine, few names have been preserved.

Sir Phineas Pett, resident commissioner at Chatham Dockyard, was here in June 1667. He had been on a tour into Suffolk and Norfolk to buy timber for the navy.

A gallant soldier who had served with credit during the Seven Years War, the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick, was here in January 1764, on his way to London, where a few days later, his marriage to Princess Augusta, a sister of George III, was solemnised. At the end of the month, the royal bride and groom, accompanied by the Marquis of Granby, passed down the road to embark at Harwich. A year later, the Prince and Princess visited England and stayed for an hour at the King's Head, and presumably, there being an 'R' in the month, partook of oysters, receiving the cheers of loyal Colcestrians at the inn's newly sashed windows.

Daniell Manning, who had the honour of lighting the Brunswickian highnesses to bed, was the most famous of the hosts of the King's Head. He came to the inn in 1754, and died there 25 years later. The Rev'd Thomas Barstow, of St Mary's, a regular visitor to the coffee room, was on very good terms with him and often chided him for not coming to church. So Daniel, as he was generally known, went one sultry afternoon - and fell asleep. Preaching from the Book of Daniell, and seeing his old friend comfortably dozing, the waggish rector, on coming to the name of the prophet, called out loudly 'Daniell, Daniell!' Starting to his feet at the well known cry, poor Manning answered, 'Coming, coming, sir.'

The Rev'd Philip Morant was another well-known visitor, and his diary contains a note of three dinners partaken at the King's Head, with the ladies on Coronation Day, 1761.

From the early years of the 18th century, the King's Head was a centre of social life in the town, its 'Concerts of Vocal and Instrumental Musick' followed by a ball, developing into the regular monthly assemblies of later days, joyous functions which brightened life in times when the cinema was unknown. Deep plotting went on in panelled rooms between matchmaking mother and ambitious daughters when the annual training of the Eastern Regiment of Essex Militia was held in the town, and red coats graced the ballroom, or when special entertainments were planned on the occasion of the review of a regular regiment, as in October 1764, when General Mostyn's Regiment of Horse was inspected, and Mr Reinhold organised a grand concert and dance, 'to begin exactly at Six o'Clock.' The concluding line of his announcement, 'It will be MOON-LIGHT,' alluding to the dangers of the road when disbanded soldiery were compelled to levy contributions in the style of Dick Turpin to support themselves.

Pugilistic combats were staged in the cobbled courtyard. The probable chief topic of conversation in 1745 was a forthcoming boxing match at the King's Head for £20 a side, between William Cook of Bramford, near Ipswich, and Tony Jones, the Colchester Champion, took place on the 15th January and took upwards of twelve minutes, when Cook was beaten and many a wager won or lost.

A Masonic Lodge practised their mystical rites in a room made secure from prying eyes. Post boys ready to turn out at a moments notice, the coming and going of the Norwich coach, the entertainment of the free and independant electors during a parliamentary election, all contributed to the bustle and hurly-burly that went to make up the life at an important inn.

In 1775, the Lady Dowager Chedworth lay in state here and was buried at Etherstone near Ipswich.

In 1784 the King's Head closed its doors, when Thomas White, brother of the landlord of the White Hart, opened it as an academy for young gentlemen. In 1790 there was an auction on the premises of brewing equipment and personal effects of the bankrupt owner Thomas White, who, apart from running the said academy, also brewed beer here, hence perhaps leading to his financial downfall. His brother, being landlord of the White Hart, probably sold his brother's beer from that important hostelry.

In 1799, James (Duke) Hamilton, a notable figure in coaching and inn-keeping history in Colchester, re-opened the inn, but it again lapsed into private life at the close of the century.

The Victoria County History records that this was an inn in the 1550s, and in 1565 its innholder was licensed to keep a 'tennis play' as recreation for gentlemen and 'other fit persons'. As many as 232 freemen ate an election dinner there in 1600, occupying 'Mr bailiffs chamber', the little building, the lower great building, the other lower building, the street parlour, the roof parlour, Michelle's chamber, and the hall. It was probably this house in St Mary's parish assessed on 22 hearths in 1671, the greatest number of hearths in any house in the town<sup>1</sup>.

An ancient signboard, believed to having once belonged to this house, was for a long time preserved in the Town Hall, and was now to be seen in the Social History Museum in Trinity Street (its location now unknown). It appears to

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<sup>1</sup> VCH Essex Vol IX P 109

represent George III in the style of a portrait painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds around 1775. It is a palimpsest as, underneath the portrait of the king, can be detected a foliage design and on the obverse that of a Crown, leading to the theory that the sign once belonged to a house by the name of the Crown. Could it once have belonged to the public house now known as the Marquis of Granby, therefore making it the oldest pub sign in Colchester?

For some years, this inn traded in parallel with the other King's Head on Balkerne Hill, now the Hole in the Wall, some say as its annexe. It was later called King's Head Yard and Observatory Court and is now occupied by a firm of solicitors. All that is now left to indicate its previous life is a tablet set into the wall, overlooking the courtyard, recording the surrender of the Royalists in 1648.

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**King's Head - 2**

Balkerne Hill

see the **Hole in the Wall**

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**King's Head - 3**

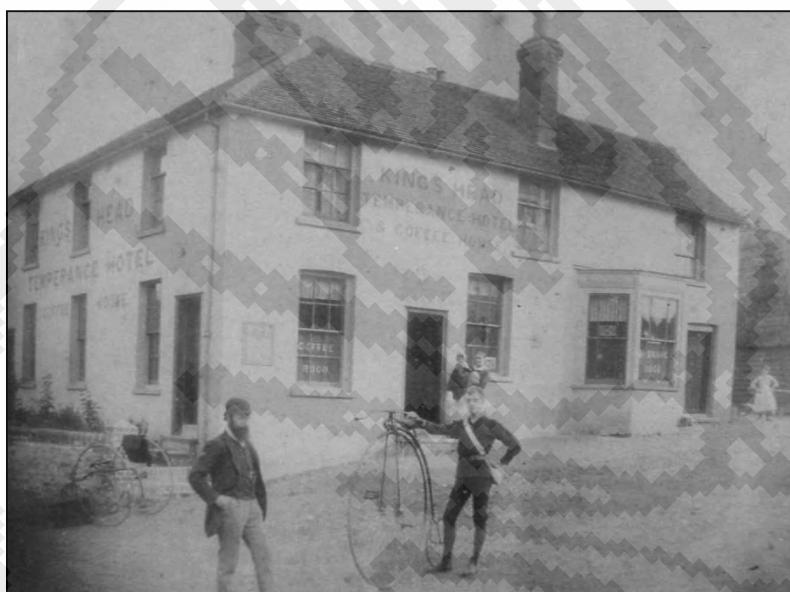
Lexden

Lexden Street

1772 to 1884

an inn

became a temperance hotel



This inn first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1772. The census for 1861 shows the inn keeper as James Austin, age 40, and in 1871, James Crooks, age 45. In 1872 it was owned by Nicholls who sold it around 1884, when it ceased supplying the beverage of Sir John Barleycorn and became a temperance hotel. There must surely have been some very upset regulars in the Lexden area at that time!

Temperance being a fine virtue (if rather dull), but unpopular with the majority of the populace, the hotel of that name did not prosper and soon closed down. The premises are now private dwellings with an evangelical church alongside - an indicator of earlier times.

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**King's Head - 4**

Lexden

St Botolph's Street

1836

location unknown

On Transfer Day in December 1836, this pub was mentioned when one William Mumford<sup>1</sup> applied for a publican's licence transfer for this house. He stated that he had held the licence since Michaelmas Day. The application was opposed by Mr Philbrick on behalf of the Watch Committee. Judging by the press report, their opposition was well founded. With accusations made against other houses and the police accused of taking bribes, unsurprisingly, this house is never seen or heard from again, nor indeed was Mr Mumford. So, we must add this house to our list of those whose location is unknown.

The following excerpt comes from a newspaper report of this instance and makes interesting reading. It would seem that prostitution was alive and well in 1836 too and not just a result of the presence of soldiers in town.

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<sup>1</sup> Essex Standard – 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1836

Monday, December 19.

Before the Mayor, and G. Savill, B. Brown, and John Thorogood, Esqrs.

**Publicans' Licences.**

It being transfer day, two applications were made for the transfer of Publicans' Licences. This first application was made by Edward Lay, who has recently taken the "Barley Mow" public house, in Magdalen Street, which was allowed.

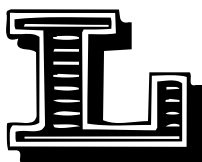
The other application was made by William Mumford, who has occupied the "King's Head" public house, in Botolph Street, since Michaelmas last. The application was opposed by Mr. Philbrick, on behalf of the Watch Committee, on the ground that the house had been very irregularly kept, and that frequent complaints had been made to the Committee that the house was the resort of disorderly characters at very unseasonable hours; to prove which Mr. P. called William Morgan, one of the police, who proved that the applicant's house was open on Saturday night last till half-past 12 o'clock, and a considerable number of disorderly characters of both sexes were there.—Harvey, the town serjeant, and Cowell, one of the night police, also proved that on the Saturday night previously, they felt it their duty to clear the house of a number of disorderly characters, and two women of abandoned character had been fighting in the tap-room.—Firmin, one of the police, proved that, on another occasion, he saw several abandoned characters come out of the house at half-past 3 o'clock on the Sunday morning; and that disorderly characters were in the house during the whole of the night.—Payne, another of the police, stated that, at another time, he saw a number of girls of ill fame come out of the house at very improper hours, and retire to their lodgings, in Black Boy and More Lanes.—The MAYOR asked the applicant what he had to say to the charge against him.—Applicant. I want to know why my house should be watched more than any other?—The MAYOR. Because repeated complaints have been made against your house; and the Watch Committee gave the police directions to watch your house.—Applicant. It is done through spite.—The MAYOR. It is not to be supposed that so many parties that have been examined, and who have proved so many separate charges against you, have combined together for the purpose of giving false evidence against you.—Applicant. Then why are not other houses complained of? There is the "Marlborough's Head," opposite, kept open all night, and no notice is taken of it.—The MAYOR. There has been no complaint against that house; but if you or any other person choose to make a complaint against it, it shall receive every attention.—Applicant. Mr. Neville, the superintendent, and Harvey, the town serjeant, were there at 1 o'clock the other morning, when a number of customers were there; but they wont say any thing about it, as they are bribed for taking no notice of it.—The MAYOR. How do you know they were there?—Applicant. I was told so. The MAYOR. Who told you so?—Applicant. A man named Offord, who saw them there.—Payne, the policeman, here stated, that Offord was one that he had heard in applicant's house at a late hour, and challenging to fight another man that was there for £5.—The MAYOR. Is Offord in Court?—Applicant. I believe not.—Alderman THOROGOOD. You have brought a very serious charge against two of the police officers, and if it can be proved they would be discharged without hesitation.—The MAYOR. Name the parties who

can prove that the officers in question have taken a bribe for the purposes you have stated?—Applicant. I do not feel myself at liberty to satisfy the Court upon that point; but I again assert that the charges against my house are unfounded; and I hold a paper in my hand to that effect, signed by a number of my neighbours, who are respectable. The applicant here handed the paper to the Bench. It stated the belief of those who had signed it, that the house had been conducted in an orderly manner during the time that the applicant had occupied it.—Alderman THOROGOOD. These individuals are not able to contradict the evidence of the police; for no doubt they were in bed at the time.—The MAYOR to applicant. In the face of such evidence against you, this document, however respectfully signed, will not avail you to the extent that you may wish; especially as you have thought proper to charge two of the police with highly improper conduct, and are evidently unable to substantiate it, although the Court feel a great desire that you should do so.—Mr. Philbrick here observed, that as the charge was evidently a scandalous and unfounded one, and the applicant being unable to rebut the statements of the police, he trusted that the Court would feel justified in dismissing the application.—The MAYOR. The Magistrates cannot make up their minds under the circumstances to grant the application. How long have you kept the house?—Applicant. Since Michaelmas.—The MAYOR. Did you ever keep a public house before?—Applicant. Never.—The MAYOR. At all events, the further consideration of the application must be deferred till next transfer day; and your success will entirely depend upon the manner in which your house is conducted up to that time. It is evident it has been very irregularly kept up to the present time, for you are unable to contradict the charges brought against you.—Applicant. Am I allowed to keep my house open at night till the Theatre is over?—The MAYOR. There are certain hours appointed for the closing your house at night, viz., 10 o'clock, with the exception of Saturday nights, then you are allowed to keep it open till 11 o'clock; and if you think proper to keep it open to a later hour, your do it at your peril.—Applicant. Other houses do it.—The MAYOR. There is no charge of that sort before the Court; but if there was it would have every attention paid it. Your conduct, in making a charge against the police, which you are unable to support, does you no credit. Your case is deferred till next transfer day; and I advise you to be very careful, as the police will have a watchful eye upon you.—The applicant then left the Court.

*Here's to a temperance supper,  
With water in glasses tall,  
And coffee and tea to end with,  
And me not there at all!*

Irish Toast





*The Horse and Mule live thirty years,  
And nothing know of wines and beers.  
The Goat and Sheep at twenty die,  
And never taste of Scotch or Rye.  
The Cow drinks water by the ton,  
And at 18 is mostly done.  
The Dog at 16 casbes in,  
Without the aid of rum or gin.  
The Cat in milk and water soaks,  
And then in twelve short years it croaks.*

*The modest, sober, bone-dry Hen,  
Lays eggs for nogs, then dies at ten.  
All animals are strictly dry,  
And sinless live and swiftly die.  
But sinful, gin-full, rum soaked men,  
Survive for three score years and ten,  
(And some of us, the mighty few,  
Stay pickled till we're 92.)*

Anon

## Lamb

St Runwald

High Street

1779 to 1905 (map 50)

The name of this pub is another popular one throughout the country but is said to be more common in areas where the wool trade was important to local commerce. This was the case with Colchester and its nearby Dutch quarter that took its living from weaving.



The above picture shows the Lamb Inn just prior to its demolition in 1903. The building was replaced by the present day pub and the Grand Theatre.

The pub became the Lamb around 1778 and, taking into account the replacement building of 1905 built generally on the same spot, was to keep this name for nearly 200 years. Joseph Phillips in his article of 1906 mentioned the landlord who was generally known as Jacob Everson but whose real name apparently was Abraham. Jacob died around 1896 after thirty six years' tenancy of the pub. In 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold it in 1886 to the Colchester Brewing Company. It was demolished and rebuilt by around 1905, coincidental with the recently built and present town hall. The decision had clearly been taken to bring two very architecturally interesting new buildings to our High Street..

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1792 to 1794	John Johnson	Universal
1811	I Dowson	Holden's
1822 to 1824	James Orrin	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	Robert Johnson	Pigot's
1832 to 1845	George Appleby	Pigot's and Post Office
1848	George Webster	White's
1851	George Weston	Post Office
1851	Samuel Mann, Licensed Victualler, age 31, born Great Oakley	Census
1855	S. Mann	Kelly's

1855	Samuel Mann	Post Office
1862 to 1886	Abraham Everson	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Abraham Everson, age 41, publican	Census
1881	Abraham Everson, Publican. age 50, born Wix	Census
1894 to 1899	George Johnson	Kelly's
1901	nobody at home that day	Census

Previously known as the **Shoulder of Mutton**

1750? to 1778

The earliest mention of this house is by the name of the Shoulder of Mutton, when Morant recorded it as being at the east limit of St Runwald's parish. It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 through until 1778 when it appears to have changed its name to the Lamb, a name on a similar theme!

see also **After Office Hours**

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<b>Lancer</b>	St Peter	North Hill
19th century to 1908	a beer house	building existing

The name of this pub is probably of military derivation, a lance being a thrusting weapon consisting of a long shaft with a sharp point, formerly the peculiar weapon of knights in armour. However, this weapon was later used by some cavalry regiments, with typical names such as the Bengali Lancers, etc. Regiments of lancers were unknown in the British Army until after Waterloo and this sign probably came into use after the building of the cavalry barracks in the 1860s. Amongst the first occupants of the new buildings were the 16th Queen's - the Red Lancers.

The pub was in fact a beer house, built against the north east side of Colchester's famous Roman wall. The census of 1881 showed it in the occupation of William Finch, age 24, and later, in 1891, in the occupation of Catherine McGrath, age 36, simply described as the landlady. By 1901, the 'Inn Keeper' was Henry Short, aged 59, living there with his wife and five boarders. In 1907 it was owned by Greene King who closed it in 1908. It later (1990s) became a restaurant.

Previously named the **Ipswich Arms**

It was reputed to have once been known as the Ipswich Arms<sup>1</sup>, although this link has not been proven. A newspaper article from 1869<sup>2</sup> concerns an assault on Mrs Chapman, the wife of the landlord of the Ipswich Arms beerhouse.

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<b>Langham</b>	All Saints	103 High Street
c1868 to 1877	a beer house	building demolished

The name of this pub is an unusual one whose origin is now obscure. It may have come from the nearby village of that name, or from the name of the owner, or from some other source.

There is no evidence of the original building, which would have stood close to the wine bar known as Champagne Charlie's and next door to the ancient corner building for many years occupied by Farmers. The earliest official mention of the house is in the licensing sessions reported in an 1869<sup>3</sup> newspaper. It was owned by Jones in 1872 but seems to have ceased as a pub in 1877.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1870 to 1871	William Henry Porter	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Henry Barward, age 49, innkeeper and harness maker	Census
1874	Samuel Sheldrick	Kelly's

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun 1938

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869

<sup>3</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869

## Leather Bottle

Lexden

Shrub End Road

CO3 4RH

766018

17th century to date

a public house



The name of this pub has come from the original name of the premises which was known as the Bottle House. An attempt to perhaps make the pub sound more attractive and 'Olde World' gave it the embellished name of the Leather Bottle, which was a medieval type of liquid carrier, vessel or bottle.

It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1811 when presumably it first became a tavern. It was perhaps known as the Bottle House before that date because it was a bottle making business rather than a seller of Sir John Barleycorn's refreshment. In 1872 it was owned by Nichol, then to be acquired by the Colchester Brewing Company and later by Ind Coope.

In the 1970s, landlord Ron Thompson, carried out some research into the pub's history<sup>1</sup> and found that he could go back as far as 1729, when the Bottle House (as it was then known), was sold for £26 15s 6d. It was originally a row of three cottages and later extended. On a map dated 1777, the pub building was situated on the edge of Lexden Heath at a place called Shrub End. The building is mentioned in the Manor Roll of 1690.

From 1988 to 1995, the licensees were David and Yvonne Richardson and during this period they raised in excess of £40,000 for various charities. Quite a considerable sum for one pub!

In the 1990s, the pub was a popular one, well known for its charitable fund raising activities and serving the residents around Lexden and Shrub End. Ron Thompson's research was displayed on the wall of the public bar for all to see. Sadly, the pub went downhill in the noughties, no longer a place of repute. From personal experience, the author noted how a pub can fail when it has the wrong people in charge, allowing an undesirable element in that can put off decent customers. It closed for a while in 2009 and underwent new management and refurbishment. It was one of three pubs that had been similarly treated, the others being the Foresters and the Crown at Lexden.

The pub hit the news in 2010 when its stolen 300 year old leather bottle was recovered, after being spotted at a local auction. New landlords, Carol and Frank Beardsell were very pleased with its return<sup>2</sup>. Let us hope that the Leather Bottle will put its unhappy past behind it and move forward as one of Colchester's best food pubs.



The Leather Bottle in 1951

<sup>1</sup> EG – 6<sup>th</sup> Apr 1978

<sup>2</sup> G – 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010

## The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester

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As Mr John Parker, of the Flag in Wivenhoe and secretary of the LVA, said in relation to this house's re-opening, 'all the big pub companies have realised that food is the way to go, with drink as the second source of revenue. It's no good just serving anything, you've got to get the quality and price right for your customers.'<sup>1</sup> Amen!

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1832 to 1832	William Thredgold	Pigot's
1839 to 1862	William Smith	Pigot's Kelly's and White's

Note: recorded as the Leathern Bottle up to 1848

1851	William Smith, innkeeper, age 62, born Langham together with his wife, three children and one grandson	Census
1861	William Smith, age 72, licensed victualler and 'blind from infirmity of age'	Census
1867 to 1886	Henry Wade	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Henry Wade, age 38, publican	Census
1881	Henry Wade, Innkeeper, age 48, born Stanway together with his wife and son	Census
1891	Walter C Roofe, age 39, publican	Census
1894 to 1895	James Barker	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Mrs. Lavinia Eva Roofe	Kelly's
1901	Henry Martin, Publican, age 40, born London, together with his wife, two sons that were born in India and a further five children born in England	Census
1902	Henry W. Martin	Kelly's
1908 to 1912	James Winsborough	Kelly's
1917	John Foley	Kelly's
1925	John Taylor	Kelly's
1933	John Charrington Taylor	Kelly's

Regrettably, the Beardells were forced to give up this house in April 2012 following a dispute with pubco owners Punch Taverns<sup>2</sup>.

previously known as the **Bottle House**

pre 1811

It is not known whether the house was ever a tavern by this name.

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<b>Leopard</b>	Holy Trinity	(Stanwell Street area)
mid 18th century	probably a tavern	location imprecise

The name of this pub is an old one, which would have been easily recognised by its customers. We cannot be sure whether the building still stands but it is thought unlikely that it does. All that is known of it is a reference made by Doctor Morant who, in his writings, refers to the sign of the Leopard when describing the east boundary of Trinity parish. This would have made it the building right or left of where that boundary crosses the north side of Stanwell Street.

It is not shown in the alehouse recognisances which date from 1764, so would probably have pre-dated this time.

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<b>Life Boat</b>	St Giles	Magdalen Street
c1842 to 1891 (map 128)	a beerhouse	building demolished

The reason for the naming of this beer house is now lost but may have been chosen by the landlord because of his seafaring connections. It joined several other pubs along the same road which also held maritime connected names such as the Dolphin, Lord Nelson, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> G – 29<sup>th</sup> Apr 2010

<sup>2</sup> G – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1862 to 1870	George Butcher, Beer Retailer	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	George Butcher, age 48, shoemaker and publican	Census
1874 to 1878	Mrs. Mary Ann Butcher, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1881	Mrs. Mary Ann Butcher, Beerhouse Keeper, age 60, born Ardleigh, together with two boarders	Census
1891	Louis Meier, age 57, publican, a German	Census



*Thursday, January 24.*  
**Before J. A. Tabor, Esq. in the chair, and Horace G. Egerton Green, Esq.**  
**DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.**—*Anne Harmer*, an unfortunate, who has several times figured before the Bench, was charged with acting as a disorderly prostitute in Magdalen Street, on the 23rd inst.—Police-constable Collins said, the previous night about ten o'clock, he heard a noise proceeding from the direction of the Lifeboat beerhouse. On going to the spot, he saw the defendant swearing at two other women, who were standing at the entrance to Childwell Alley, she being drunk at the time. He told her to go home, when she turned round and, using some bad language, said she paid rates and taxes to keep the police, and she did not care for any of them. She then flung herself down on the pavement, and was carried to the police station.—Seven previous convictions for similar offences were proved against her, and she was sentenced to 14 days' hard labour, without the option of a fine.

The premises were located on the east side of Childwell Alley. The picture shows the curved cornered building (to the right of centre) at a later date, after it had been closed as a pub for many years. The 1891 census shows the Lifeboat at 174 Magdalen Street in the schedule for St Giles parish and the Waterloo at 169, the Army and Navy at 168 and the Duke of Wellington at 162. Indeed, the picture shows the Waterloo far right (low building) with, presumably, the Army and Navy being the tall building at the edge of the picture. As some of these premises were beerhouses, they do not appear by name in the licensing records and we are left to identify them by other means. The 1891 census helps us with this.

Joseph Phillips stated in an article in 1906 that the

Lifeboat became a fish and chip shop at the beginning of the century. It faced the Anchor, later to be named the Boar's Head, but is now demolished.

Whilst not directly associated with the Lifeboat, we can get an idea of the environment from the newspaper article in the Essex Standard in 1878 as shown. Anne Harmer was just one of the many (up to 200 women are recorded as working in the sex trade during that general period) women of ill fame at the time. This incident is of note as Mary claimed to have been paying rates and taxes to keep the police. The thought of the police being funded by immoral earnings is an interesting situation to ponder upon.

The Lifeboat was clearly a 'dodgy' pub and it had been coming to the attention of the police and the licensing authorities over several years. Finally, the authorities had had enough and they refused to re-license it in August 1891. This was met with an appeal by the owners, Messrs Steward, Patteson and Co. and the newspaper coverage was

extensive<sup>1</sup>. We have shown it in full as it gives such a vivid description of how life was in those days; a real piece of social history.

At the Brewsters Sessions in August 1892, an application to grant a licence to this house was made. It had held a licence for 50 years. It was stated that a previous landlord, one Meier, had been convicted of drunken behaviour and it was clear that he had kept a disorderly house. Childwell Alley was a notorious area and the pub had become a soldiers' house, attracting bad characters. Collins had taken the licence for the three months leading up the licence being refused and it was Collins' reputation that was put up as being a good reason for the licence to be granted. The police gave statements, as did various neighbours. They wanted silence from this house. The question of need was discussed but this was rejected as there was another pub almost directly opposite, some 30 yards away, as well as several other houses. A reference was made to the nearby Anchor Inn, with which Collins was linked in a case of brothel keeping<sup>2</sup>. The licence was refused.

**APPEAL COURT.**  
**Before Sir H. J. Selwin-Ibbetson, Bart., M.P. (Chairman), the Rev. E. F. Gepp, Rev. G. West, Hon. C. H. Strutt, H. C. Wells, W. W. Glenny, F. Chancellor, and C. B. Russell, Esqrs.**

**THE LIFEBOAT INN, COLCHESTER.**

**THE MAGISTRATES' DECISION UPHOLD.**

**Mr. WIGHTMAN WOOD** (instructed by Messrs. Jones and Son) appealed on behalf of Messrs. Steward, Patteson and Co., brewers, against the decision of the Colchester Borough Licensing Justices, who, at the annual Brewster Session in August, refused the renewal of the license of the Lifeboat Inn, Magdalen Street, Colchester. **Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C.**, and **Mr. J. Patterson** (instructed by Messrs. Wittley and Denton, solicitors, Colchester), appeared for the Justices; and **Mr. Forrest Fulton, M.P.** (instructed by the Town Clerk, **Mr. H. C. Wanklyn**), for the Watch Committee.

**Mr. Philbrick**, in opening, explained the situation, etc., of the Lifeboat Inn, which was in Magdalen Street, and led into Childwell Alley, a rather difficult part of the Borough to manage. The house had been licensed for some time, but the Justices at the last licensing meeting—there being then a full Bench—unanimously refused the renewal of the license, the grounds of objections being that the house was of a disorderly character, frequented by thieves and prostitutes and people of that description. The learned counsel referred to the fact that Meier, who had been tenant of the house, had been convicted twice, and his license was endorsed. In May, 1891, he (the learned counsel) supposed, because it was thought that his continuance in the house might endanger the license, Meier was got rid of, and Collins, the present tenant, was put in his place. It was admitted, although there had not been an entire cessation of disturbances, etc., that the house had been better conducted since Collins came in, and he had tried to a certain point to get the house as respectable as possible, but so late as Thursday last it continued to be the resort of known thieves and prostitutes. The learned counsel proceeded to detail certain disturbances which had taken place in and outside the house, and called

Sergt. Lilley, who deposed that he visited the Lifeboat Inn in December last, and found there soldiers and prostitutes. One soldier was drunk. On his visit on October 23, 1890, he also found two drunken soldiers, one being asleep on a seat. There were two or three prostitutes there. On November 8 he paid another visit in company with P.-c. Stannard, and saw there soldiers, prostitutes, one of the latter being drunk, and another had a quart of beer.

**Mr. Forrest Fulton** was examining this witness, when **Mr. Wood** objected he had no *locus standi*.

**Mr. Fulton** replied he appeared in a double capacity—as counsel for the Watch Committee and as junior to his friend **Mr. Philbrick**.

**Mr. Wood** thereupon submitted that it was contrary to the practice of this Court to hear more than two counsel in any one case.

The **CLERK** of the Peace could not remember an instance of more than two counsel on one side in a case at Quarter Sessions, but he knew of no reason against such a practice.

**Mr. Wood** said that in the interests of counsel he was very glad his objection was not sustained. (Laughter.)

Continuing, **Sergeant Lilley** said on Oct. 15, this year, he visited the house in company with **Inspector Smith**, and saw two men in front of the bar drunk. The landlord (Collins) was near the bar, and **Inspector Smith** said to him, "You have got two men drunk in your bar." Collins said, "Charlie (one of the drunken men), you are the worse for drink. He told me that he would be quiet if I would serve him. He has been in the house an hour, and only had half a pint of beer. Cook (the other drunken man) was very quiet when he came in, and I did not notice he was the worse for drink." Witness said, "I saw Cook in the street drunk just now." Collins said, "He's a very quiet fellow if you don't say anything to him." Witness, proceeding, said he had known the house for the last 20 years, and it was the resort of disorderly characters—prostitutes, thieves, &c.—Cross-examined by **Mr. WIGHTMAN WOOD**, witness said Colchester. Like other towns, had wealthy parts and poor parts, and the Lifeboat Inn was surrounded by a population of the poorest classes. On the three different occasions that he went into the house he saw persons drunk there, but they had not been summoned, but the previous landlord (Meier) had been for permitting drunkenness on Dec. 17, when his license was endorsed. There was no prosecution on Nov. 8. So far as he knew no one had been prosecuted for being drunk in the Lifeboat. Pressed to give the names of prostitutes who visited the house, witness gave the names of Sarah Blackwell and Alice Moore. The house had been better conducted since Collins had taken the license, and no complaint had been made to the police against him that witness was aware of. Collins had conducted the Rose and Crown, Vineyard Street, for seven years very well.

**Louis Meier** (the former landlord), who was seated at the back of the Court, here got up and made some unintelligible ejaculations, and the **CHAIRMAN** sternly warned him to be quiet.

**Mr. Wood** (to witness). Do you know of any prostitutes who have been in this house longer than is necessary for the purpose of refreshment?

**Meier** (shouting at the top of his voice). No!

The **CHAIRMAN**. Remove him if he is not quiet.

Continuing to interrupt, the disturber had to be forcibly ejected.

**P.-c. Samuel Edwards** (examined by **Mr. Fulton**) gave similar evidence as to the bad character of persons frequenting the house, and gave the names of convicted thieves—two **Cardy's**, **Wm. King**, **Lott**, and **Gardner**, whom he had seen at the house on several occasions. He also gave names of prostitutes whom he had known to stay in the house from 9 a.m. till 11 p.m. He deposed to being called to a disturbance in the house in December, 1890, when he met soldiers coming out of the house putting on their belts.—**Mr. Fulton**. What do you mean by that?—Witness. Soldiers as a rule fight with their belts. (Laughter.) The language used was always bad.—Replying to **Mr. Wood**, witness admitted that there had been a great improvement in the conduct of the house since Collins took possession.

**Wm. Brown**, general dealer, living next door to the Lifeboat, testified against the character of the house and its frequenters, and spoke of the rows outside the house. In the disturbance in August last he had to have his property protected. He knew a man named **Clark**, who had been convicted and who frequented the house.—**Mr. Wood**. Convicted of what?—Witness. I don't know.—**Mr. Wood**. Vaccination Act? (Laughter.)—I don't know. (Renewed laughter.)—**Mr. Wood**. You talk about questionable characters coming out of the house: I suppose you have such persons sometimes?—Witness. Yes sir.—You can't control persons coming in?—No sir.

<sup>1</sup> Essex Standard 24<sup>th</sup> October 1891

<sup>2</sup> Essex Standard 24<sup>th</sup> October 1891

P.-c. Robert Frost next gave evidence as to disturbances he had seen inside and outside the house, and asserted that he could not say that he had ever seen any respectable people visit the house.—Mr. WOOD. Sometimes you see persons convicted in shops?—Yes sir.—Buying other commodities besides beer?—Yes.—You speak of having seen poachers there—are they not allowed to have drink?—The two that I saw there were suspected of fowl stealing.—Since Collins has been there you have nothing to complain of?—I have seen convicted thieves in the house since the decision of the Magistrates in August.

Alexander Smart, draper, Magdalen Street, declared the house to be “the most disorderly he could imagine.” He spoke of the disturbance there in August, this year, when the road was rendered impassable. Cross-examined. Witness said he had made complaints to a sergeant the Saturday previous to the hearing before the Magistrates.—Mr. WOOD. You have strong views on the temperance question?—Not particularly.—Teetotaler?—Well, I am a teetotaler, yes. (Laughter.) Witness said he had seen a prostitute in the house and wrote the name down on a piece of paper. He knew that she was in work.

Samuel Downes, ironmonger, Magdalen Street, said there were repeated fights going on about the house. The house was visited by a very low class of people—what he would term “blackguards.” (Laughter.)

P.-c. Stannard also testified against the character of the house, but admitted it had been better conducted by Collins.

George Bowles, 41, Magdalen Street, said the house had been fairly quiet since Collins had been there, with the exception of two disturbances.

James Henry Downes, said he had lived opposite the Lifeboat for 40 years, and his customers had often complained to him about the conduct of it, and he had lost a good deal of trade through it.—Mr. PHILBRICK. What is the language used?—Oh! not fit to hear, sir. (Laughter.) I have seen soldiers and girls using foul language, and children standing round with their mouths open to hear it. (Great laughter.)—Mr. WOOD. Do you refuse to supply prostitutes?—Well, I really don't know. (Laughter.) They may come into my shop occasionally. I supply anyone who behaves civilly. If they act decently in my place they would do. (Laughter.)

Mr. WIGHTMAN WOOD then addressed the Court on behalf of the appellants (the present tenant of the house and the owners), contending that the opposition to the house arose from an organised attack on public-house property throughout the country, in consequence of the publicity given to a certain case, which, however, carried the law no further than it stood before. He said that in every place there must be the best-conducted house and the worst-conducted house. There could not be the slightest doubt that the witnesses already examined were interested persons, and he went on to point out that the social evils which they had referred to must exist, and it was merely tumbling them out of one place into another by refusing this license, which was no good. These things would continue till education had taken a deeper root and had greater effect, until a more generally civilised state had come, and something that had not yet occurred. He contended that the mere shifting of one public-house would have no effect whatever, and it was for the convenience of the public that this house should exist. People went there for the legitimate purpose of getting drink, and he would satisfy them that it had a *bona fide* trade. The lowest classes were just as much entitled to drink as any other class. He maintained that the Act meant, when speaking of thieves and prostitutes, that they should not frequent licensed premises for the purposes of thieving or prostitution.

The CHAIRMAN. The Act was passed with a view to stop any house being frequented by people of bad character.

Mr. WOOD. Surely it must mean for the purposes of the thieving or prostitution, and surely licensed premises have no legal right to refuse a person on the ground that that person has been convicted.

The CHAIRMAN. It is prevented by the Act.

Mr. WOOD. It cannot have that meaning.

The CHAIRMAN. That is the interpretation.

Mr. WOOD submitted that the evidence did not show that those persons who used the house did so in the way he had suggested, and went on to refer to the good character borne by the tenant (Collins), who had conducted the Rose and Crown, Vineyard Street, entirely to the satisfaction of the police for seven years. He proceeded to lay stress on the improvement Collins had effected in the conduct of the house, and what house of this class in the town, he asked, against which such evidence could not be brought? He submitted that there was no exception to the Lifeboat as would justify the Magistrates to take away the license as they had. The learned counsel then called

Mr. George Joselyn, solicitor, who said he was agent at Colchester for Messrs. Steward, Patteson and Co., the owners of the Lifeboat Inn, which had been licensed long before he (witness) had anything to do with it. For the last 20 years there had been only two tenants. The first one was Mrs. Butcher, against whom he had never heard a complaint. She was succeeded by Meier, who was tenant for nearly 10 years. In 1886 he was convicted, but the license was renewed to him each licensing day for five years since. In December, 1893, he was convicted of supplying drink to a drunken soldier. Within a week of that witness gave him notice to quit, and they got rid of him as soon as they could and got Mr. Collins in his place. The transfer of the license to him was approved by the police and magistrates. During the whole of the time he had been manager he had never received a complaint from the police or any other persons. The house did a considerable trade, and it would be a serious pecuniary loss if the license was taken away.—Cross-examined by Mr. PHILBRICK. Witness said he did not give Meier notice when he was first convicted, as three endorsements were allowed before the license could be taken away.—Mr. PHILBRICK. The more a man is a lawyer the less he knows of the law. (Laughter.) After the conviction of 1886 did you consider him a fit and proper person to carry on the license?—Yes.

Walter Jas Nicholls, traveller for Messrs. Steward, Patteson and Co., proved visiting the house occasionally, and he had never received complaints as to the management from any persons.

Wm. Collins, the tenant, then gave evidence. He said he took possession in May last, before which time he was tenant of the Rose and Crown, Vineyard Street, for seven years. When the license of the Lifeboat was transferred to him by the Magistrates, the police approved of it. To his knowledge he had not served convicted thieves nor prostitutes. When he first went to the house he had some, but he would have nothing to do with them. On Sergt. Lilley's visit on Oct. 15, witness did not say that a man, who was in the house, was the worse for drink, but in his (witness's) opinion he was not. He admitted that there had been a little disturbance one night. He took the house with the entire consent of Mr. Coombs (Head-Constable).—In cross-examination, witness said he was away at work the greater part of the day. He denied that there was

a fight between soldiers on Aug. 22, but it was simply a squabble inside. He did not know what happened outside.

Joseph Constable, an ex-Sergt.-Major of the 11th Hussars, who lives next door, denied anything approaching disorder in the conduct of the house, but since Collins had been there the house had been very well conducted indeed. The class of people who used it did not differ from the frequenters of other similar houses. He considered it was better conducted than some neighbouring public-houses.

Walter Littlebury, corn merchant, said he saw nothing objectionable in the general conduct of the house.

John Carter, shoemaker, Magdalen Street, said the house had a “very good character” since Collins had been there.

Robert Brandon, tailor, Magdalen Street, and Charles Fisher, bricklayer, bore similar testimonies.

Mr. PHILBRICK briefly addressed the Court, touching upon the Act, and observing that the Colchester Magistrates, in exercising their discretionary powers, were convinced that the house was of a disorderly character and frequented by persons of bad repute, and he thought ample evidence had been given to prove that.

The Magistrates retired for about half-an-hour, and in the result the CHAIRMAN said the appeal would be dismissed with costs.

**Lion**

High Street

The name of this pub would have been a shortened version of its proper name, that of the Red Lion. It is in the nature of man to familiarise a name, be it William being called Bill, or the Prince of Wales being named the Feathers. All local people knew its proper name. The Lion symbol is a heraldic one, first adopted by Philip, Duke of Flanders in 1164, somewhat before this house was built.

see **Red Lion**

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**Lion Tap**

St Nicholas

Culver Street

see **Red Lion Tap**

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**Lion and Crown**

Holy Trinity

18th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub is another example of a demonstration of loyalty to the monarchy, combined with the sign of the lion, so often a symbol of England and all that is good.

The only record found to this tavern is in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1790. Its precise location within the parish is unknown.

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**Lion and Lamb**

Mile End

Ipswich Road

19th century

a beer house

now a private house

The name of this beer house is of biblical origin when it is written that a time would come when the lion would lie down with the lamb. The theme is that of peace and harmony amongst mankind, including perhaps between those that frequented this watering hole.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1871	John Walford, age 63, beer house keeper.	Census
1881	Samuel Everitt, Publican	Census
1882	Samuel Everett, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	Francis Downes, Brick Maker, age 43, born Ardleigh together with his wife and son	Census
1894 to 1899	Frank Downs, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1929 to 1933	Harry S. Gepp, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1937	Mrs. Ada Gepp	Kelly's

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**Little Crown**

St Botolph

Short Wyre Street  
CO1 1LN

c1855 to date (map 12)

a public house

The name of this pub is a variation on the pub name the Crown. In this instance, the 'Little' part indicates the size of the pub rather than the size of the Crown.

This pub used to be a beerhouse, rather than a pub, but is now a well established and much enlarged (from its original size) public house. It was known as the Crown Beer Shop when the Free Burgesses met there in 1856.

At the licensing sessions in 1863<sup>1</sup>, the owners, Messrs. Bridges (the tenant was Mrs Cowell), applied for a full licence, which was opposed by Messrs. Osborne. Building plans of 1899 give the owners as Daniells, with the licensing records mentioning it by name from 1907. In 1951, it was granted its full publican's licence, thus making it one of the last beerhouses in the town.

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1863





Memories of this pub are given in a book by George Pluckwell who recalled that: 'it was a proper working man's pub in the early sixties. One thought they might get crowned any minute. It had a wild west saloon flavour with sawdust on the floor, rickety tables and chairs and a bare barrack room atmosphere. The landlord, a dapper little cockney from up the smoke was a friendly and cheerful bloke. The gent's loo was like the Black Hole of Calcutta. Today the Little Crown has a new landlord and has been transformed into a palmy comfortable place, respectable enough to take your own mother to. Now there is soft velvet upholstery and even little oil lamps on the inside walls. The old-time, rather rough, fellows would

have knocked them off. Gone are the rough tough days, along with another page of history.'

Rumour had it that a soldier could once find a lady here for immoral purposes, but the precise time period is unknown. This probably applied to many more pubs than this one alone. Nowadays, of course, this 'trade' has all but disappeared with the ready supply of enthusiastic amateurs.

In 1991, the landlord and his wife, Clifford and Margaret Rasor, retired after 21 years at the pub<sup>1</sup>. At that time they were the longest serving licensees in Colchester, (that distinction then passing to Brian and Julia Mellon at the British Grenadier). The Rasor's stated that the pub had changed breweries six times in their time at the pub, ending with Brent Walker.

The pub has a magnificent Victorian fireplace, although thought to be not contemporary with the building. In 2010, it underwent a refurbishment that turned it into a very attractive 50/60s music themed pub.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1861	William Platford, age 46, beer house keeper	Census
1862	William Platford, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1867 to 1870	Stephen Good, Beer Retailer	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Stephen Good, age 37, born Irelandm together with his wife and their five children	Census
1874 to 1878	Robert Irvine, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1881	Robert Irwin, Innkeeper, age 40, born Ireland, together with his wife and daughter	Census
1882	Mrs. Mathilda Irvine, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1886	John Martin, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	Edwin Parker, age 34, fitter and beer house keeper	Census
1894 to 1917	Edwin Parker, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1901	Edwin Parker, Beerhouse Keeper, age 45, born Colchester, together with his wife and their eight children	Census
1925	Mrs. Elsie Fisk, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1933	Walter Rogers, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

In the 1990s, a genial Irishman by the name of Mr Patrick Kilgannon and his wife Marion took over this popular town centre pub, the owners then being Pubmaster. The pub's main business coming from lunchtime trade. There was no pool table or juke box, just a little background music, which helped to ensure a nice friendly atmosphere. The introduction of the Stena Line Fastcat, led to the pub being a favoured stop for Dutch visitors on day trips to the town. Paddy (as he became known) would tell the story of the time when he caught a leprachaun. In true tradition, the little fellow was asked where one might find the crock of gold, to which the reply came, 'The Little Crown, Short Wyre Street, Colchester'. Paddy and Marion moved on in 2003. It was a delight to have been a customer of yours Patrick!

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1991

### Live and Let Live - 1

St Giles

Stanwell Street

c1869 to 1909 (map 10)

a beerhouse

demolished

The name of this beerhouse is not uncommon although its meaning is much debated. The simple meaning is that this was a place where a customer could come, where he could enjoy a drink without harm or hindrance and where he was expected to behave well towards others at the same time. Although we have no record of what its sign depicted, the pub signs artists throughout the country have made great play of the name with a cat watching a fish in a bowl or a lion laying down beside a lamb.

It was located either on the same site or close to what is now the Castle Bookshop.

The earliest reference found was in a newspaper report of 1869<sup>1</sup> which detailed the licensing sessions concerned with several pubs, including this one. Mr Jones stated that there had been one complaint against this house, concerning opening the house during prohibited hours on a Sunday. Its licence renewal was granted.

The courtyard to the rear of the premises, which still exists, would have served this trade well.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1866 to 1882	Daniel Jennings, Coach Smith & Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1871	David Jennings, Coachman & Beer House Keeper, age 29, born Colchester, together with his wife, their three children and a servant	Census
1881	Daniel Jennings, age 39, Coach Builder	Census
1901	Edmund Fowler, Publican, age 42, born in Scotland together with his wife, their six children and a lodger	Census

At one time, this pub had a very notable landlord. The newspapers of 1901<sup>2</sup> gave the headline 'VC Hero Charged'. Edmund Fowler<sup>3</sup>, landlord of the pub was charged with selling beer out of permitted hours. A soldier was seen coming out of the premises with a bottle of beer and then going off with some others to drink it off the premises. It was said in court that this was the first offence and that Fowler had won his VC in the Zulu War. It was considered to be a minor incident and he was discharged with a caution. Edmund died in Colchester and is buried in the Mersea Road cemetery.

The pub was owned by Daniells until it closed in 1909.

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### Live and Let Live - 2

Stanway

Millers Lane  
CO3 0PS

19th century to date

a public house

In the 1990s, the sign of this pub used artist's licence, it being of a cat casting hungry glances at a fish in a bowl. The house is included in this book as a reference only as it was not licensed by the borough, despite being considered by most as a Colchester pub.

It was owned by Daniells, later to be taken over by Trumans. An article by Bacchus in 1962<sup>4</sup> stated that the pub was then about seventy years old. Jack and Dorothy West had then held the licence since 1950.

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### Locomotive - 1

St Martin

Northgate Street

The name of this pub came about at the time of the railway reaching Colchester in 1843, a locomotive being the newly coined name at that time for the steam engine driven train at the head of the string of carriages. The name therefore celebrated a piece of the town's history.

see the **Victory**

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869

<sup>2</sup> CG – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1901

<sup>3</sup> CG – 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 1956

<sup>4</sup> CE – 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1962

**Locomotive - 2**

Chitts Hill

c1843 to 1910

a beer house

location uncertain

This pub was really a beer shop and would have served the railway workers at the nearby and now disused railway yard, hence its name. It is shown in the 1871 census, when one Thomas Adkinson, age 63, described himself as a brewer. The 1891 census has Thomas Mills, age 45, described as a beer retailer. The licensing records from 1907 to 1910 show that it was owned by Thomas Mills. It disappears from the records after that date so is presumed to have closed. This pub was located immediately adjacent to the Chitts Hill Railway Gate House, although the building is assumed to have since been demolished.

**Lord Cardigan Inn**

St Giles

Butt Road

19th century to 1911

a beer house

building demolished

The name of this pub would have come from James Thomas Brudenell who was the Earl of Cardigan from 1797 to 1868. He was the British General in Command of the light cavalry in the Crimean War and was responsible for that famous engagement in 1854 that has been termed 'The Charge of the Light Brigade.' The poem by Tennyson reads 'Into the valley of death rode the six hundred, ...' The name for this house was typical of the time and particularly suited to its location adjacent to the Cavalry Barracks.

**SERIOUS ASSAULT AT THE LORD CARDIGAN.**—*John Connor*, a private of the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers, was charged with unlawfully wounding Harry Baldwin, landlord of the Lord Cardigan Inn, Butt Road, on the 18th inst.—Dr. Geo. Brown stated that he was called to the Lord Cardigan Inn, Butt Road, on the night in question by a messenger, who stated that the landlord had been wounded. He went at once and found the prosecutor, whose head was covered with blood, suffering from an incised and contused wound on the left side of the upper part of his head. The injury must have been produced by a blunt instrument, used with considerable violence. He attended to the wound and bandaged prosecutor's head. The wound was likely to produce erysipelas, and prosecutor was not out of danger yet.—Prosecutor stated that the prisoner came to his house on the night in question, and had some drink. There was some disturbance about the change, and afterwards witness ordered prisoner to leave. Shortly afterwards someone struck him a violent blow on the head with a stick or something of the sort, which rendered him insensible for a time.—Arthur James Jones stated that he saw the prisoner deal the prosecutor a blow on the head with a stick, and then rush out of the door. He thought it was a malacca regimental stick.—Henry Wm. Field, musician, corroborated.—Prisoner said he was drunk at the time. If the Magistrates would let him off this time, he would promise never to do it again.—He was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

Deeds for the building date from 1830 but it probably only took the name, and commenced trading as a beerhouse, around the time of the famous military action. The licensing records mention it as a beerhouse from 1907 as being owned by Greene King, until 1911 when it was closed.

An extract from an 1889 newspaper is shown which shows details of one of many attacks on a landlord by a soldier. As we all know, drunks are either happy or angry and an excess can bring out some very violent acts. Connor was

let off lightly, changed his name and, having already been detained for three months, he was awarded a further three weeks in jail. We might conclude that this attack resulted in the landlord giving up the license, as he does not appear in the 1891 census.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1870 to 1886	John James Wade, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1871	John Wade, age 23, beer house keeper	Census
1881	John J. Wade, Beerhouse Keeper, age 32, born Colchester together with his wife, their son, the mother-in-law and a boarder	Census
1889	Harry Baldwin	Court details
1891	Jabez Philip Scarff, age 24, publican	Census

The Lord Cardigan stood where the entrance to Wellington House in Butt Road now is. It would also have stood on (or close to) the ancient Romano-British graveyard, that has been extensively excavated in recent years.

**Lord Cowper**

Parsons Heath

513 Ipswich Road

see the **Earl Cowper**

## Lord Nelson

St Leonard

134 Hythe Hill

c1880 to 2013 (map 39)

a public house

CO1 2NF

in other use



The name of this pub is another of nautical origin, being located in the vicinity of the maritime activities at the Hythe. Many a sailor would have called here and possibly some with personal memories of Britain's most famous admiral, Horatio Nelson (1758 to 1805), who entered the navy at twelve years of age and was killed in battle by a sniper's bullet, within sight of his greatest victory at Trafalgar.

A deed dated 1899 showed that it was sold by Grimston to Trumans. This house was number 134, at 147 was the Barley Mow, at 131 the Packet (later demolished) and at 126 the Dolphin. From 1907, the licensing records tell that it was owned by Trumans and in 1955 it was granted its full publican's licence.

In 1900 it got a brief mention in a local newspaper<sup>1</sup> when John Bantick was fined 10s for being disorderly. Mrs Eliza Lambert (the landlady) said that he was a troublemaker and had been a problem before. Later in 1922, there was some debate about the renewal of its licence<sup>2</sup>, when 'Inspector Clark said that the licensee was employed at some preserve works and was not dependent upon the licensed house. There were seven full licences within 400 yards and two beer 'on'. Mr Lamb, counsel for the owners, stated that the licensee had been there for 17 years and his family since 1886. Mr Walter Smith, hon. secretary of the Hythe Bridge Athletic Club whose headquarters were at the Lord Nelson, supported the renewal, which was granted.'

A gas explosion virtually destroyed the pub in December 1971<sup>3</sup>, badly injuring the landlord. It was thought at the time that the building would have to be demolished and rebuilt. It was repaired and reopened in February 1973, with a single bar layout as it has today.



The Lord Nelson - c1932

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1900

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 17<sup>th</sup> Jun 1922

<sup>3</sup> EG – 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1971, CE – 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1973

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1881	James Everitt, Tailor & Dealer, age 33, born Lexden, together with his wife, their three children, a nurse girl and a lodger	Census
1882	James Everitt, Beer Retailer & Shopkeeper	Kelly's
1891	William C Lambert, age 41, licensed victualler.	Census
1894	William Charles Lambert, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Mrs. Elizabeth Lambert, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1901	Eliza Lambert, Publican, Widow, age 49, born Suffolk, together with her niece and a barmaid	Census
1907	C. L. Lambert	Benham's
1908 to 1933	William Charles Lambert, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1950	Mrs & Mrs G W Rayner	Black Eagle Journal

### Lord Palmerston

St Giles Abbeygate Street

c1870 to 1902 (map 115) a public house demolished

The name of this pub would have been a reference to Henry John Temple (1784 to 1865), statesman and Prime Minister in 1855 and 1859.

It is shown in the licensing records from 1872 when it was owned by Bridges. It was purchased by the Colchester Brewing Company in 1888. It ceases to be mentioned in 1902 when it is assumed it closed. It was demolished at some unknown time, with the site being where the present day underpass joins the two sections of Abbeygate Street. See the map section.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1867	James Edward Wood	Post Office
1870 to 1871	John Hildyard	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	John Hildyard, age 52	Census
1874	Henry Bright	Kelly's
1878	William Finch	Kelly's
1881	Henry Short, Licensed Victualler, age 39, born Somerset together with his wife, their pianist son and two boarders	Census
1882	Henry Short, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1886	John Baynes	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Wilton Ford	Kelly's

### Lord Raglan

St Botolph 75 Military Road

c1860 to 1909 (map 92) a public house demolished

The name of this pub is another of military origin and was located near to the barracks. It would probably have been a reference to Lord Fitzroy James Henry (1788 to 1855), the first Baron Raglan. A soldier, he fought in the Peninsular War and commanded the British troops during the Crimean War.

The pub is first mentioned in trade directories in 1863 and in the licensing records from 1872 when it was owned by Daniells.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1861	John Sheldrake, Inn Keepeer, age 60, born in Suffolk together with his wife	Census
1862	John Sheldrake	Kelly's
1867	Edward South	Post Office
1870 to 1878	Mrs. Jane South	Kelly's
1871	Jane South, Inn Keeper, Widow, age 52, born Wiltshire together with her son and daughter, both described as innkeepers	Census
1881	William J. Adams, Licensed Victualler, age 25, born Tattingstone together with his wife, their three children, his parents,	

1882 two brothers, a servant and two lodgers  
Thomas Collins  
1886 to 1907 William Johnson  
1908 Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson

Census  
Kelly's  
Kelly's and Benham's  
Kelly's



Two pictures of the Lord Raglan – dates unknown

By the time of the 1901 census, no licensee was present. The licence ceased in 1909 although a catalogue dated 6th October 1908, offered this property for sale, stating that the licence had been withdrawn the previous year, with an annual estimated value of £40. It was described as having good cellarage in the basement. On the ground floor it had, 'Entrance Passage, Bar, Taproom, Bagatelle Room, Living Room, Kitchen with Sink, and Water laid on.' On the first floor were six bedrooms and WC. On the second floor were also six bedrooms. The premises appear to have been withdrawn from the sale at £250.

The building does not now exist, the site being occupied by a motor vehicle dealer and garage. (See the Army and Navy, for the sale document details.)

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*'Sir, if you were my husband, I would poison your drink.'*

Lady Astor to Sir Winston Churchill.

*'Madam, if you were my wife, I would drink it.'*

His reply.

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*A man became well known in one particular pub because he would order three pints at a time and sit with them in front of him, taking a drink from each one in turn. One day, the curious barman asked him why he drank his beer that way and was told that the man once had two very good friends, whom he used to go drinking with. One emigrated to Australia and another to Canada. They all agreed that, whenever they went out for a drink in future, they would drink two extra ones in memory of their friendship. A short while later, the man started to come in and only order two pints and drinking them each in turn. The barman was alarmed at this and enquired as to what on earth could be the matter.  
'Had one of his friends passed on?' 'No' came the reply,  
'I have decided to give up drinking.'*

### Magpie

St Peter

North Hill

The name of this house refers to the black and white bird of that name from which comes the old saying 'one for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl and four for a boy'.

see the **Chaise and Pair**

### Maidenhead

St Mary at the Walls

The name of this pub is a simple reference to a young maid or virgin (and you don't see many of them about nowadays!) A symbol of purity, perhaps alluding to the quality of the ale sold. The sign might have been that of a pretty girl - or in the language of the day, a comely wench.

see the **White Hart**

### Maltster's Arms

St Giles

Haven Road (New Quay)

The name of this pub is another depicting a working man's trade. A maltster made malt, which was grain, usually barley, steeped in water and fermented, dried on a kiln and used for the brewing of ale. There were maltings close to this pub, so the name would have been a reference to a local landmark.

see the **Quayside**

### Mariners

St Mary Magdalen

111 Magdalen Street

see the **Three Mariners**

### Market Tavern - 1

c1870 to 1974 (map 83)

a public house

Middlesborough

demolished

Also known as the New Cattle Market Inn, the New Market Inn, the New Market Tavern

The name of this pub is a simple name taken from the fact that the pub was next to the livestock and farm produce market. For many centuries, Colchester's market was in the High Street, but was moved to Middleborough in 1862. As the years went by the word 'new' was dropped. If ever there was a reason for opening a pub, this was it. Plenty of thirsty farmers and their customers; where a deal could be struck over a glass of beer or three.

The pub was owned by Daniells, later to be taken over by Trumans. It enjoyed extended licensing hours due to the market's activities and the thirsts of the market traders.

previously the **New Market Inn** or **Tavern**

The new part of the name referred to the fact that the market was a new one in the 1850s, less new in the 1950s.

Mrs Patricia McNeill, daughter of Harry and Betty Taylor was able to provide us with information about her parents' time at the New Market Tavern from 1953 to 1957. They later moved to the Flying Fox. Patricia gave us several photographs that we reproduce here, all giving a snapshot of life in the 1950s.



Here we have Harry and Betty Taylor pictured at the bar of the New Market Tavern



We don't know who this man is but Ernest Small's name is over the door of the New Market Tavern. We think that the group of three are Ernest Small and his wife and their daughter Alice, later to become Alice Day. Harry William Day and Alice Matilda Lascelle Day had the pub from February 1943, taking over from Alice's parents, the Smalls.

It was discovered that the original building was of the 15th century, with a wealth of additions from subsequent centuries. The building stood on the site of a third century Roman villa which was subsequently excavated by archaeologists. The Royal London Insurance building was later to occupy the site.

The market closed in the early 1970s and was moved to Severalls Lane with the old pub being doomed to be demolished in 1974<sup>1</sup> to make way for the new western relief road. It was reprieved the following year when it was realised it was in a conservation area. Minus its roof tiles it became the centre of a 'save-it' campaign, but the council won a dispensation from the Environment Department to flatten it. After another possible saviour in the form of the Royal London who considered incorporating it into their new building plans, it was finally demolished.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 14<sup>th</sup> Jul 1978





The Market Tavern c1964



A 1910 postcard showing the New Market Tavern on the left, facing north toward North Station along Middleborough



The New Market Tavern in the 1950s

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1848 to 1851	John Sheldrake, Beerhouse Keeper	White's to Post Office
1862	Robert Sheldrake, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1867 to 1871	John Sheldrake	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Robert Sheldrake, age 29, licensed victualler	Census
1874	Robert Sheldrake	Kelly's
1878	Robert Kedge	Kelly's
1881	Robert Kedge, Licensed Victualler, age 33, born Kersey, together with his wife, their baby daughter and the mother-in-law	Census
1882	Mrs. Jane Kedge	Kelly's
1891	William Webster, age 51, licensed victualler	Census
1894 to 1895	William Webster	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Archibald Rich	Kelly's
1901	Archibald G Rich, Licensed Victualler, age 27, born Romford, together with his wife, their son, a domestic servant and an ostler	Census
1907	J. Bunce	Benham's
1908	John Thomas Corby	Kelly's
1912	Robert William Martin	Kelly's
1917	George Douglas Dorton	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	Ernest Small	Kelly's

previously the **New Cattle Market Inn**

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### Market Tavern - 2

High Street

1986 to date

a public house

This is the second pub to be given this name, so named after the Saturday High Street market. It was extensively refurbished by its owners Trumans in 1986, who took the opportunity at that time to also change the name. It shared the same address with the Wheatsheaf, Colchester's previously least known pub.

previously known as the **George Tavern**

1973 to 1986

Newly opened by the Mayor in 1973 it was billed as the town's newest pub, formerly being Reeve's off-licence.

See also the **Wheatsheaf**

## Market

Cattle Market

A new licensed premises opened in 1992<sup>1</sup> to serve those using the livestock market in Severalls Lane.

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## Marlborough Head

St Botolph

46 St Botolph's Street

18th century to 1956 (map 101)

a public house

now a shop

The name of the pub would have been given in recognition of John Churchill (1650 to 1722) the English General who was the son of Sir Winston Churchill, an impoverished Royalist. He was awarded a barony after quelling the Monmouth rebellion and had the supreme command of British forces in the war of the Spanish succession. Blenheim Palace was built and presented to him by the nation.



The Marlborough Head in the 1930s and, below, the Marlborough Frieze in Priory Street (still there in 2012)



It was once the rendezvous of recruiting parties. It was from here in February 1780 that Captain William Shairp of the 31st Company, First division of the Marines, informed

'All under the age of 40, and above the size of 5 feet 3 inches,' that they would meet 'with due encouragement' by applying to him at his house in Queens Street, 'or to his sergeants at the Marlborough's Head, Botolph's Gate,'

adding, with a touch of present-day publicity genius,

'now is the time for young men of spirit to gain honour and make their fortunes by capture from the enemy.'

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1991

In the year 1765<sup>1</sup>, an intriguing advertisement in the Ipswich Journal read:

*'whereas John Stevenson who was draughted out of the regiment of the Old Buffs in the beginning of March in 1760, is now wanted to be found or heard of..... 10s 6d reward offered for information - he is a comely man, about five feet and a half high, thicke set, a dark brown complexion, and a bairy mole near the middle of his right cheek. If this notice should come to his knowledge, and he will meet the person who desires to see him, on the Sabbath day, between 12 and two o'clock in the afternoon, at the sign of the Marlborough's Head, near Botolph's Gate, Colchester, or send a private letter to the landlord of the house, to inform where he is to be met with, and will forefill the promise that he made on the 18th January in the year 1760, he shall have twenty guineas reward.'*

The angry father of a girl in trouble perhaps? Or, more probably, a creditor!

The opening of a new theatre in Queens Street in 1812 brought thirsty Thespians to its snug parlour, and in the succeeding years the St Botolph's Harmonic Society made it their meeting place, when the conviviality of their half-yearly suppers was 'maintained with spirit until a late hour'.

One of Colchester's 'Good Old Boys' recalled that, from the pub's bar window, you could look out and see an upside down clock on the building opposite. What the purpose of such a clock was, is not known.

The deeds to the property indicate that it was once known as the Hound or Dog and dating back as far as 1650. It appears by the name of the Marlborough Head in the earliest licensing records of 1764. The licensing magistrates warned the landlord, Mr Connor, in 1861, that his tap-room was in the front part of his house and that they wished to caution him on continuing it there, or if it remained there he must keep disreputable persons out of it. It was the second time that they had mentioned it to him. The census of 1871 showed the landlord as William G Walker, age 42, licensed victualler, who lived there with his 19 year old wife Ellen. She must have tired him somewhat as by 1881, Edward Coventry, age 40, was shown as the licensed victualler.

The pub was rebuilt around 1914 by its owners Trumans, who had bought it from Grimston in 1899. It was during Trumans possession that the licensing authorities fined them for harbouring prostitutes on the premises, a trade that was in great demand by soldiers who were stationed in the town.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1822 to 1833	James Dowson	Pigot's
1839	Mary Ann Dowson	Pigot's
1845	James Dowson	Post Office
1848 to 1851	Charles Dowson	White's and Post Office
1851	Caroline Dowson, widow, innkeeper, age 30, born Woodbridge, together with her two young sons, her mother, a servant and an errand boy	Census
1855	Mrs. Caroline Dowson	Kelly's
1861	Thomas Conmer, Inn Keeper, age 36, born Ireland, together with his wife, their barmaid daughter, their two younger children and two servants	Census
1862 to 1871	Thomas Wood	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	William G Walker, Licensed Victualler, age 42, born Hackney, together with his 19 year old wife, a barmaid, a domestic servant and a pot boy	Census
1874 to 1878	William George Walker	Kelly's
1881	Edward C. Coventry, Licensed Victualler, age 40, born Wandsworth, together with his wife, their three children, a barmaid and a pot man	Census
1882	Edward Charles Coveney	Kelly's
1894 to 1908	Richard Thomas Noble	Kelly's
1901	Richard Noble, Licensed Victualler, age 39, born Ipswich, together with his wife, their six children, his mother and a general servant	Census
1911	Richard Thomas Noble, Licensed Victualler, widower, with five sons and two daughters and a servant	Census

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<sup>1</sup> IJ – 6<sup>th</sup> Jul 1765, ECS – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956

1912 to 1917 John Charles Bartlett  
1925 to 1933 Charles E. Pratt

Kelly's  
Kelly's

It was closed in 1956 and the licence transferred to the Ancient Briton, a newly built pub on the outskirts of town.

also known as the **Duke of Marlborough's Head**

previously known as the **Hound or Dog**

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### The Marquis

St Peter

25 North Hill  
CO1 1EG

2003 to date (map 81)

a public house

The name of this ancient hostelry is of military origin and commemorates one John Manners, Marquis of Granby who lived from 1721 to 1770. He was a brilliant soldier and much beloved by the men under his command. In 1760, during what has become known as 'The Seven Years War', he was in command of cavalry with the army in Germany. Of his character it was said that he was 'brave to a fault, skilful, generous to profuseness, careful of his men and beloved by them.' After the wars, so the story goes, he set up many of his officers in inns, thus making this inn's name a popular one throughout the country.

The Marquis gave rise to a well known phrase, as it was customary in his time to wear wigs, even when in battle. But the bald headed Marquis did not, hence the phrase 'to go into something bald-headed.'



(The picture is of the bas relief on the front of the building dating from around 1920.)

This pub has been much written about. This account is a combination of many articles from various sources<sup>1</sup>. At this point in our story, it should be pointed out that this inn's fabric is much older than the Marquis after whom it is named. The building can be dated from the 1500 to 1520 period. Sections of its interior woodwork are remarkable and wonderfully preserved. The bar at the back of the inn shows some of the finest examples of wood carver's skill. The great oak beam spanning the room is carved with eagles, dragons, dogs and monkeys. At either end, its wall posts are decorated with carvings of figures in 16th century costume.

The wood is carved elaborately and profusely by a genuine artist, a craftsman gifted beyond the average with artistic perception and with original humour and fancy. Whether he was a foreigner or an Englishman (and one must venture to hope that he was an Essex man), he was a master of his craft. His work resembles the remarkable carving at Paycockes House, Coggeshall, and fully equals it. The same artist may be responsible for both buildings but, in any case, his name is irretrievably lost.

More surprising still, the name of the original owner and builder of this Colchester mansion has gone unrecorded - or has it? He must have been a burgess of considerable wealth and also a man of some taste and ambition. Moreover, in order that he might not be forgotten, he had his initials HW carved in the centre boss of one of the oak beams of the ceiling of the large hall. It is believed that this records one Henry Webbe, a prominent clothier and merchant, of Colchester, whose name occurs frequently in the borough records between 1485 and 1515.

In support of this theory, during some building operations around 1914, two parchments were found, which had previously been covered-up by structural work (it may be supposed that they had remained hidden since the 16th century.) They are two deeds issued from the Manorial Court of West Mersea, recording ownership of copyhold properties in that manor. The earliest of these deeds is dated 1562 and relates that Edward Kynester, and his wife Anne, had been appointed 'Guardians in Socage' of Elizabeth Webbe, then eight years of age, daughter and heir of John Webbe. The second document, dated 1577, mentions John Thimble having appointed his sons-in-law as executors of his will, as guardians of his son John Thimble the younger, then aged thirteen years.

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<sup>1</sup> ER – Apr, Vol 33 1924, ECS – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr 1924,  
ECS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun 1938, ECS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1961,  
CE – 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 1972

An eminent local historian, Dr Philip Laver (deceased), had devoted special attention to the history of St Peter's parish and he was struck by the name Webbe in the older of these documents, putting forward the theory that Henry Webbe, was the builder of the Marquis of Granby premises.



This is a mere selection of some of the wondrous carvings to be seen at the Marquis.

The Reverend Philip Morant (18th century vicar of St Mary at the Walls) mentioned in his epic history of Colchester a lease for conveyance of spring water to this house, granted to Henry Webbe in 1536. This was confirmed when the Marquis of Granby was offered for sale in 1781, it was then described as having 'two cisterns with excellent spring water, belonging to the same, which said water, upon a moderate computation, brings in £10 annually.'

When the premises first became an inn is not known. However, it is known that its original name was that of 'The Crown', then described in 1753 as an alehouse being 'within Northgate in Colchester, being a very good and commodious and well accustomed house, with a large garden and conveniency for stabling, and extraordinarily well situated for good spring water to brew with.'

John Degraives took over the lease and was at the Crown at the time of the parliamentary election in March 1768 when tickets were issued entitling 'the bearer, a worthy Free Burgess, to one shilling's worth of any sort of liquor.' In 1769, Benjamin Brame (possibly an old cavalryman) took over the licence, and promptly set up a new sign, a portrait of the fighting Marquis of Granby.

Indeed, it first appears in the Borough's licensing records as 'The Marquis of Granby' in 1770, the date coinciding precisely with the death of the much revered Marquis.

After the inn was offered for sale in 1781, John Howes became the next landlord, and others came and went. One, Abednego Bland, a member of an old Colchester family and one time master of the band of the East Essex Militia, held the licence from 1809 to 1818, when he moved to the George in the High Street. In 1827, one Martin Bland held the licence, possibly the son of Abednego. Another in the 1830s was Michael George Clare, 'considered to be one of the best whips in the county' and the proud owner of 'a handsome tandem gig, upon a new construction' and a 'handsome pair of tandem ponies of superior action, and great speed.'



During Clare's tenancy a mock election took place in January 1835, when the candidates to represent Middleborough were 'Mr Joseph Lewin, a compromising Tory', proposed by 'Mr John Nunn, Tonsor and Perruquier', and 'Mr Beales, an uncompromising Whig', who had for his proposer 'a gentleman named Noah Agus, the keeper of the Cock and Crown Hotel' in North Street, where the present day Globe stands. Following the declaration of the poll, Lewin, who received 102 votes to his opponent's 54, was 'chaired'. A band of music, preceded by a large party of electors arm in arm, and others with banners bearing appropriate devices, escorted the new member, seated in a chair borne on the shoulders of his friends, who was 'plenteously sprinkled with water' at North Bridge, before being taken to the Cups Hotel, where he addressed the populace; and was then returned to 'his committee room at the Marquis of Granby Inn, where a plentiful stream of Sir John Barleycorn gladdened the hearts of the friends of the cause'.

In 1837, a newspaper item<sup>1</sup> noted an inquest held at the inn on the body of a woman found dead in an outhouse. The verdict was declared 'a visitation of God.' In 1848, another newspaper article offered the inn for sale together with the Woolpack at St Botolph's.



The Marquis is the timber framed building on the left of the street. The picture dated around 1910.

<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep 1837

The inn was later owned by Walter Edward Grimston (who owned several public houses in and around the town) who, in turn, sold it to the London brewers, Truman, Hanbury and Buxton around 1899. At that time, the deeds mentioned Ostrich Court, which formed part of the land holding. Cistern Court was (and still is) on the opposite side of North Hill, a reference to the ancient water supply to this house and to the area in general. The 1901 census gives James Alfred Cocks, aged 53, as the licensed victualler.

Trumans restored the frontage in 1913, still retaining the old timber framed interior, when it was noted that the house was originally of three storeys, as there was evidence of a staircase on the second floor up to the ceiling.

Another fascinating feature of the inn is to be found over the fireplace, where there is a bas relief, designed by a once well known Colchester citizen, Mr Gurney Benham, portraying people connected with the town's history, all sitting down to the celebrated Colchester Oyster Feast.



In 1974<sup>1</sup>, a fire closed the Marquis, but it was soon reopened and in 1975 a scheme to combine the public and saloon bars was approved.

The landlord of this day will tell of the ghost who haunts the rear of the premises, with locked doors opening and closing and electrical appliances turning on and off. Whilst nothing has been seen, its footsteps have been heard, moving from room to room, usually around midnight. It is said to be female and friendly and might even be that poor unfortunate woman found dead in the outhouse as mentioned before. Or, perhaps a past landlady, tired of the sound of her husband's 'out of hours' guests!

The owners at the time, Scottish and Newcastle, carried out an extensive refurbishment in 1997 and renamed the pub as 'Ye Olde Marquis'.

A previous edition of this book was designated as, 'The Smoker's Edition'. The reason being that our nanny state decreed that smoking would be banned in all pubs from July 2007. News of this was announced in our newspapers and one carried an item showing Mr John Lowe<sup>2</sup>, landlord of the Marquis of Granby, offering:

FOR SALE  
GENUINE WELL USED  
PUB ASH TRAYS  
BUY YOUR BYGONES  
OF THE FUTURE  
NOW!

Doom and gloom for smokers was predicted, the closure of pubs throughout the land as a result, etc. In part, the prediction came true. Our pubs were under attack from the do-gooders. Watch this space for an update.

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PS. It is possible that the original sign belonging to this inn, then the Crown, is the same as that which was displayed in the Social History Museum in Trinity Street (until its closure as a cost cutting exercise in the 1990s). If this is the case, then it must surely be the oldest surviving Colchester pub sign. (See also the King's Head).

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 1974

<sup>2</sup> EG – 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2006



Previously **Ye Olde Marquis**

1997 to 2003

This daft name was given to the pub for reasons unknown. The landlord, Mr John Lowe, got many complaints about it and set up a vote amongst his customers<sup>1</sup>. The unanimous decision was to revert back to its old name (but not its original name) of the Marquis of Granby, but shortened to simply, 'The Marquis'. Thank goodness that good sense prevailed! What say you?

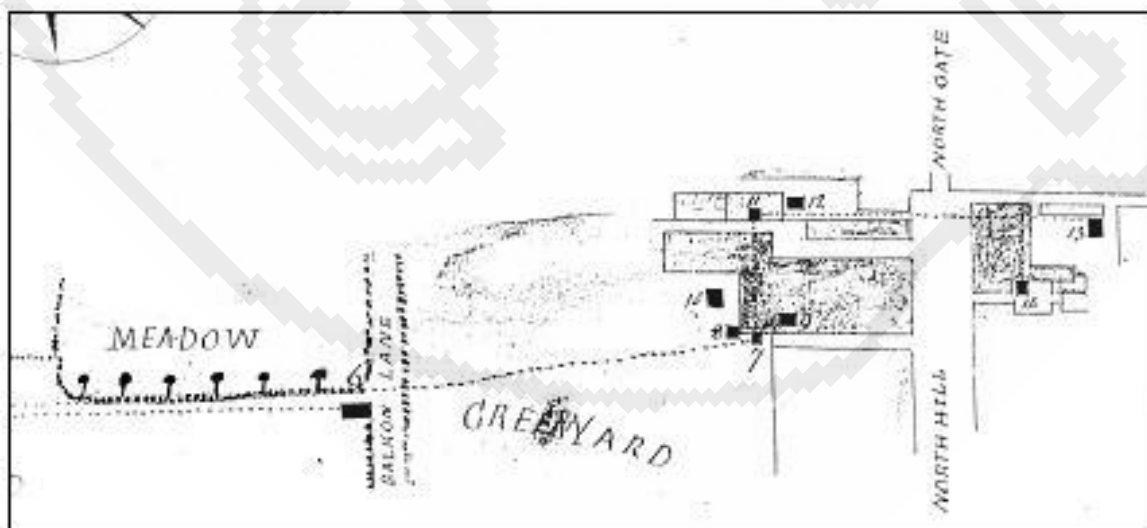
previously the **Marquis of Granby**

c1769 to 1997

The 1997 renaming appears to have been one of fashion, decided upon by its owners, Scottish and Newcastle, who extensively refurbished the premises in 1997. The addition of imitation antique ephemera and mock models of 18th century gentlemen, brought it into line with other 'theme' pubs in the town.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1811	A Bland	Holden's
1822 to 1829	Isaac Martin	Pigot's
1832 to 1832	Thomas Collins	Pigot's
1839 to 1840	Nathan Bentall	Pigot's
1845	Henry Mussett	Post Office
1845	John Henry Harris	Post Office
1848	Henry Taylor	White's
1851	Hart Sparling Cook	Post Office
1851	Thomas Rumsey, innkeeper and addler, age 41, born Colchester, together with his wife, two general servants and two lodgers	Census
1855 to 1886	Elijah French	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Elijah French, Inn Keeper, age 56, born Suffolk, together with his wife and their young daughter, two vistors, a servant and five lodgers	Census
1881	Elijah French, Publican, age 55, born Bures, together with his daughter, a domestic servant and a potman	Census
1894 to 1907	James Cocks	Kelly's and Benham's
1901	James Alfred Cocks, Licensed Victualler, age 53, born Colchester, together with his wife, his brother and two domestic servants	Census
1908	John White	Kelly's
1912	Walter Scott	Kelly's
1914 to 1933	Thomas Whitwell	Kelly's
1940	Alfred Leonard Davey, Licensee, age 33	Petty Sessions



<sup>1</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Jun 2005

On a plan of the water pipes from the spring head in Cheswell Meadow, to the cisterns near North Gate, surveyed by William Cole in December 1782, he states that, 'the other pipe leads to cistern No. 13 and 14 the ? of which is in a yard called the Cistern Yard and the other in a yard belonging to the Public House now known by the sign of the Marquis of Granby'. The illustration above is an extract from this plan and also shows where once were Cobbold's Brewery and the French Horn public house (marked as 11 on the plan), as well as a tantalising indication of the narrow passage that then existed because of the Roman North Gate (later demolished entirely).

previously the **Crown**

18th century to c1769

This alehouse was only mentioned in the alehouse recognisances in 1764 but would have dated from before then.

An advertisement in the Ipswich Journal of 30 June 1753 described the Crown Alehouse, as being "within Northgate in Colchester, being a very good and commodious and well accustomed house, with a large garden and conveniency for stabling, and extraordinarily well situated for good spring water to brew with."

John Degraives took over the lease and was at the Crown at the time of the parliamentary election in March 1768 when tickets were issued entitling 'the bearer, a worthy Free Burgess, to one shilling's worth of any sort of liquor.' A few years later (1769), Benjamin Brame (possibly an old cavalryman) took over the licence, and promptly set up a new sign, a portrait of the fighting Marquis of Granby.

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### Maximillians

East Hill

See the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter..

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### Maypole

Berechurch

131 Berechurch Hall Road

1954 to 2012

a public house

CO2 9NR

in other use



The name of this pub is a reference to Maypole Green, opposite to this pub and where, during the past 300 years was the site of a maypole. The pub was originally a farmhouse by the name of Maypole Farm. A maypole was a pole decorated with garlands, around which people danced on May Day and was a pagan fertility ritual.



The building is a timber framed 17th century farmhouse which gained its first licence as a pub in 1954 at the expense of the closing

of the Rifleman on Ipswich Road, being owned by Ind Coope. Some believe that the building was originally a pub<sup>1</sup>, then became a farmhouse and then in 1954 was converted back to a pub. However, no evidence of the earlier pub has been found and in the 1851 census it was shown as a farmhouse only.

What is clear is that the pub has a ghost which used to terrify one of the landlord's dogs. It would not venture downstairs at night for fear of the etherial being that lurked in the vicinity of the fruit machine and in the ladies toilet.

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1972

This pub finally called last orders on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012, after its owners, Punch Taverns, decided to sell it off for other use. The local newspapers printed an article about the Wearmouth<sup>1</sup> family who were the first licensees here in 1954.

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## Mermaid

St Botolph

Mersea Road

c1870 to 1937 (map 98)

a beerhouse

licence removed



The name of this pub is a reference to that legendary creature, half woman, half fish, which was reputed to have lured many a love starved sailor to his death. It is therefore another pub name of nautical origin, but the location being off the track of where sailors from the Hythe would have happened by.

The earliest reference found to it is in the census of 1871 when James Thompson, age 49, was described as a pensioner and beer house keeper. This beerhouse was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company and, after a dispute with the licensee in 1937, the owners acquired the adjacent private house and moved the business lock, stock and barrel to next door. This second Mermaid later became the Odd One Out.

The photograph shows the earlier pub around 1922, the building still recognisable today. The bareheaded centre character is believed to be the landlord of the day, Mr Thomas William Wharton, with his daughter Doris and far right, his son George Arthur Wharton.

The picture was sent to us by Mr Ian Cook of Aldeburgh in 1999. His great grandfather was Mr Thomas William Wharton who, after a spell in the army, became landlord of this house and, at another time, the Dragoon.

see also the **Odd One Out**

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## Millennium Tavern

3 Hythe Quay

1998 to 2001

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub came from the popular obsession (some might have called it hysteria) of the time with the forthcoming millennium in the year 2000. Apart from the predictions of the world coming to an end by Nostradamus in July 1999, the Y2K bug and the building of the Millennium Dome at Greenwich, life went on generally as it had been, the next millennium year of 3000 being a thing of incomprehensible wonder. Whether or not Jesus Christ (who is indirectly responsible for our dating system) was actually born at the beginning of the year one, will never be known.

This pub and restaurant was once a Truman's ale and porter store (see the picture of the Ordnance Arms which once stood next door), from a time when beer was brought to the town by boat and then distributed to pubs in the town. The low, heavy beamed ceilings, attest to the building's former use and, in the 1980s, opened as a wine bar known as the Pico Padre. The Hythe area at that time was at an all time low with the port losing much business and nearby buildings in very shabby condition. The Pico Padre eventually closed down, the building lying unused for several years before being re-opened as the Millennium Pub.

With renewed interest in the regeneration of the Hythe in the late 1990s, it was hoped that this house would thrive to serve the inhabitants of this previously neglected but fast growing area of the town. However, in 2001<sup>2</sup>, the newspapers announced, 'Last orders for unfit landlord'. His licence was revoked and the place closed down to await a future use.

In 1999 this house was owned by the Essex County Council, this coming about due the area having been blighted by proposals for a new road system. The council acquired several properties at that time, having rendered them unmarketable by their plans. A refusal by English Heritage to allow the demolition of the listed building, that used to

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<sup>1</sup> G – 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2012

<sup>2</sup> EG - 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2001

be the Swan public house, at the foot of Hythe Hill, put paid to the plans. Has not the council caused the demolition of too many of our historic buildings already?

see also **Piccolo Padre** in the wine bar section of this book.

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### Mitre

East Hill

pre 1750 to c1884 (map 66)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is of religious origin, referring to the head dress worn by bishops. Why this name was chosen is unknown.

Mr Gerald Rickword has given something of the history of this old property<sup>1</sup>. He felt possibly that it was formerly occupied by prosperous baymakers with their tenting grounds behind and that it was at one period a public house known as the Mitre - although its reputation was not always in keeping with what might be expected of a house bearing such a respectable sign.

In 1759, Thomas Hardy deposed before a magistrate that several men drinking at the Mitre alehouse, broke his windows, which evidently overlooked it. During the parliamentary election in 1768, when Charles Gray and Isaac Rebow were returned, the name and sign of Mr Smith at the Mitre's Cap was entered on a leaflet furnishing a list of houses of entertainment where Free Burgesses might claim 'one shilling's worth of any sort of liquor' and then scratched out, leaving one to draw one's own conclusions. In 1783, when Colchester was 'newly adorned with lamps,' William Byham, a broom maker of Greenstead, declared before the justices that 'he being at the house of John Smith, known by the name of the sign of the Mitre,' was assaulted by two labourers.

Widow Smith carried on the business at the end of the century, with another John Smith being there in the 1820s. Edward Miles (1826) was followed by James Folkard (1839) who was in turn followed by Isaac Roxby who was, in 1843, fined for allowing persons to be drinking in his house on Sunday during the hours of Divine Service. Roger Henry Chapman held the licence during the 1870s and 80s, after which time the house returned to private occupation. Mr Chapman's son, who was born at the Mitre in 1881, remembered the huge kitchen in which his father used to boil neat's (bullock's) feet and trotters and take them around the country in a pony and trap. He also sold neat's feet oil. Neat's feet suppers were part of the revelries at the pub at the end of the last century it seems.

The militia used to be billeted there and they marched to the depot in Ipswich Road for drill practice. It was also a lodging house.

A newspaper article of 1953 lamented the demolition of the 16th century building. It said that its destruction 'is arousing plenty of protest, but unhappily is confined to official and therefore impotent quarters. The best that can be hoped is that a revived awareness of the present threat to ancient towns may spread in municipal and still more in governmental circles in time to save the Stockwell Streets from being swept away as slums. Then East Hill will not have suffered in vain.' Thankfully the writer's fears seem to have been noted and acted-upon - although many might disagree!

It was mentioned consistently in trade directories from 1791 until 1878. A plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of owners, Messrs. Cobbold, in 1843. This may be seen at the Essex Records Office. The census shows it in the occupation of Isaac Roxby through the years 1851 to 1871. It was owned by Cobbold in the 1840s and then acquired by the Colchester Brewing Company in 1883. It is not mentioned in licensing records after 1884.

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1792 to 1794 Widow Smith

Universal

1822 to 1824 John Smith

Pigot's

Will of Edward Miles - Essex Record Office ref CR21 545 \*\*\*

My gt-gt-gt-grandfather was the Edward Miles who was licensee of The Mitre public house, East Hill, Colchester from (at least) 1828-1833.

His Will, proved in 1834, left everything that he possessed 'To my beloved daughted Sophia Albra Now the wife of Martin Ryan and now in the occupation of the House called the Mitre Public House East Hill Colchester in the County of Essex'. So it would appear that the Ryans held the Mitre before Mr. Folkard took over in 1839. (Martin

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<sup>1</sup> Colchester Library - Rickward Papers

Ryan died in 1839, although there is no trace of what happened to Sophia.)

1828 to 1833	Edward Miles	Pigot's
1839	James Folkard	Pigot's
1845 to 1848	Isaac Roxby	White's and Post Office
1851	Isaac Roxby, Innkeeper, age 47, born Framlingham, together with his wife and two visitors	Census
1867 to 1870	Isaac Roxby, Beer Retailer	Kelly's and Post Office
1874 to 1882	Roger Henry Chapman	Kelly's
1881	Roger Henry Chapman, Licensed Victualler, age 39, born Colchester, together with his wife, their ten children and ten lodgers, six of these being Italian born musicians.	Census

The Joiner's Arms adjoined it on the west, apparently the first building of the block. The map series of 1876 shows the plot standing next to a Post Office (which still exists), which can be identified by Bowler's plans of 1843. The location was later occupied by a petrol station but has since been built on.

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### Molly Malone's

The author of this famous Dublin song is unknown. Cockles, mussels and other fresh fish were sold by "Dealers" (Hawkers) from three-wheeled carts often made from wicker.

*In Dublin's fair city, where the girls are so pretty  
I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone  
As she wheeled her wheelbarrow through the streets broad and narrow  
Crying cockles and mussels alive a-live O!*

*A-live a-live O! A-live a-live O!  
Crying cockles and mussels alive a-live O!*

*She was a fishmonger and sure it was no wonder  
For so were her mother and father before  
And they both wheeled their barrow through the streets broad and narrow  
Crying cockles and mussels alive a-live O!*

*A-live a-live O! A-live a-live O!  
Crying cockles and mussels alive a-live O!*

*She died of a fever, and sure no one could save her  
And that was the end of sweet Molly Malone  
Now her ghost wheels her barrow through the streets broad and narrow  
Crying cockles and mussels alive a-live O!*

*A-live a-live O! A-live a-live O!  
Crying cockles and mussels alive a-live O!*

see the **Judge and Jury**

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### J J Moons

St John's Street

see **The Playhouse**

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*I never drink anything stronger than gin before breakfast.*

W C Fields