

*How fine it is to enter some old town, walled and turreted, just at approach of nightfall, or to come to some straggling village, with the lights streaming through the surrounding gloom; and then, after enquiring for the best entertainment that the place affords, to 'take one's ease at one's inn!'*

William Hazlitt - On Going on a Journey

**Nelson**

St Leonard

Hythe Hill

see **Lord Nelson**

**Nelson's Head**

St Martin

51 West Stockwell Street

1799 to 1959 (map 106)

a public house

now a private house

The name of this pub is another one of nautical origin, despite its location being away from the normal area of Colchester associated with seafaring folk. The derivation of the name is the same as that discussed under the Lord Nelson. The first reference to this pub is dated 1799, which fits perfectly with Admiral Nelson's career. His name would have been a good choice for a landlord wishing to name his inn after a national hero of the time.

It was situated at the lower end of West Stockwell Street, directly opposite the present day Stockwell Arms. The two hostelries would have vied for the same customers and one must wonder at whether the same customers would have used both pubs and how the landlords might have viewed this.

A sensational incident occurred here in September 1840<sup>1</sup>. Duelling was frowned upon by authority and viewed with disfavour by the upper classes. Despite this, the impetuous Lord Cardigan, in defiance of public opinion, exchanged pistol shots with Captain Harvey Tucker on Wimbledon Common. Fired by this example, a Colchester colt-breaker, labouring under a grievance, despatched the following letter to John Bacon, innkeeper of the Nelson's Head, within a few weeks of the nobleman's encounter.

*"I, William Hamblion, forward this challenge to John Bacon, to meet him any time or place, with sword or with any other weapon that John Bacon may think fit to appoint. An immediate answer is required. To John Bacon. Nelson's Head."*

The magistrates took a lenient view of the offence and bound over the pugnacious law-breaker to keep the peace: but he, not producing the sureties demanded, was consigned to the lock-up to cool his heels and ire. Trade directories of that period revealed that the business of H and J Hamblion were licensed to let horses, gigs, etc. from the King's Head Yard and moved premises to Sir Isaac's Walk in 1842. Coincidentally, there is still a firm by the name of Hamblion in Colchester today, in a similar line of business.

Further mention of this pub was made when a certain James Clements made a daring escape from the debtor's prison behind the town hall in February 1858<sup>2</sup>. He was recaptured in April at the Nelson's Head. He had not wandered very far it seems - only to the nearest pub!

A 1926 newspaper<sup>3</sup> gave a brief account of a fire whereby it was the night of the first winter snowfall. The firemen's hose froze and could not be rolled up. They had to drag it to the station behind the Town Hall. They rescued the pub's ancient sign, which was reputedly 'a quaint picture of the old naval hero.'

The pub was owned by Osborne in the 1870s, who sold it to Cobbold in 1876, who sold it back to Osborne in 1884, who then sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. It later passed to Ind Coope who closed it down in 1959.

The various trade directory and census entries show the following:

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 1959

<sup>2</sup> Essex Standard – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1858, 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr 1858

<sup>3</sup> ECT – 10<sup>th</sup> Apr 1926

1822 to 1824	Samuel Harvey	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	James Orrin	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	Benoni Carter	Pigot's
1839	John Bacon	Pigot's
1848 to 1851	George Jackson	White's and Post Office
1851	George Jackson, victualler, age 42, born St Osyth together with his wife and sister	Census
1855	J. Fakes	Kelly's
1861	Sarah Halles?, widow, age 55, inn keeper	Census
1862 to 1878	George Trull	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	George Trull, age 63, inn keeper	Census
1881	Thomas William Huff, Manager, age 48, born Stoke by Nayland, together with his wife and a servant	Census
1882 to 1886	Thomas Ward Watson	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Robert John Webb	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	George William Willes	Kelly's
1901	George W Willes, Licensed Victualler, age 61, born Colchester, together with his wife and their four children	Census
1908	Thomas William Philip Stevens	Kelly's
1912	Elisha Brown	Kelly's
1914	Thomas Leigh	Kelly's
1917	Frederick Gillespie	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	William F. Wade	Kelly's
1940	George Edward Wagstaffe, Licensee	Petty Sessions

The local newspapers recorded a case of drinking after the permitted hours in October 1940 (wartime). Alleged drinking after hours in this public-house led to the licensee and two of his customers having to appear before the Colchester Bench. The licensee was George Edward Wagstaffe and he was summoned on two summonses for supplying beer during prohibited hours. He pleaded not guilty. The Bench fined Wagstaffe £2 10s in each case.

It is now used as private residential housing and you might well think that the external appearance still has the look of a public house.

Previously the **Admiral Nelson's Head**

1799 only

It was only listed by this name in the alehouse recognisances for 1799. After that date it was shortened to the Nelson's Head.

originally known as the **Admiral Nelson's Head**

### Neptune

St Leonard

14 Hythe Quay

1818 to 1935 (map 125)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is another one of nautical origin, Neptune being the Roman god of the sea and the brother of Jupiter. The pub's sign would probably have shown Neptune himself with his flowing locks and trident. The pub was located on the waterfront and would have enjoyed much custom from sailors and dock workers.

It first appears by name in the alehouse recognisances of 1818 and was later owned by Daniells until its licence was refused in 1935, when it closed down. The 1851 census gave the occupant as 41 year old George Leggett, a ratcatcher. Where was the licence holder one wonders? Was ratcatching a spare time activity? The 1901 census shows the publican as having been Thomas Youngs, aged 41. The oil mills were next door.

A newspaper article of 1905<sup>1</sup> mentioned some fine 15th century carvings being discovered in the building's fabric during restoration work then being carried out. The building was therefore an ancient one and it is possible that it was once an inn by another name.

<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep 1905



A photograph of c1910. In 2014, Mr Roy Youngs stated that the man in the waistcoat was the landlord, his great grandfather Harvey Youngs. His daughter Annie is shown beside him and the other woman is his wife Marie. Harvey Youngs was allegedly at one time head of the Royal Ancient Order of the Buffaloes.

The various trade directory and census entries show the following:

1822 to 1824	William Harris	Pigot's
1828 to 1833	Samuel Knopp	Pigot's
1839 to 1845	William Pannefer	Pigot's and Post Office
1848	William Rainbird	White's
1851	George Leggett	Post Office
1851	George Leggett, ratcatcher, age 41, born Wormingford, together with his wife, two sons and a lodger	Census
1862	John Sawkins	Kelly's
1867	John Sawkins, Beer Retailer	Post Office
1886	Leonard Daldry	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	James Fitch	Kelly's
1898 to 1917	Thomas Harvey Youngs	Kelly's and Benham's
1901	Thomas Youngs, Publican, age 41, born Colchester together with hsi wife and their six children	Census
1925	Edward Hall Newham	Kelly's
1933	George Frederick Bradley	Kelly's

The pub stood close to the present day Spinnaker pub and was demolished shortly after it closed in 1935. Contemporary photographs show that it was of brick construction and in a poor condition. The original 15th century building would have been of a timber framed construction.

**New Cattle Market Inn**

Middlesborough

see the **Market Tavern**

New Dock Inn

St Botolph

New Quay

The name of this pub is a reference to its location being where a new dock was built at the Hythe in the 1900s, now known as King Edward Quay.

see the **Waterside Inn**

New Inn

St Giles

36 Chapel Street South  
CO2 7AX

c1843 to date (map 112)                      a public house

The name of this pub is an unimaginative name for a new inn, a name which has stayed with it for over a century, some of the newness now having worn off. It was, quite literally, a new inn for new houses that had been built in the area.



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. However, it was not until the licensing sessions at the Town Hall in September 1847 that it was granted its first 'Publican's Licence'. Before that time it had been a simple beerhouse. Having previously refused the licence, the chairman agreed that, as the number of houses in the neighbourhood had increased to nearly 200, this was one of those applications that they were disposed to listen to.

The pub is in an 1848 trade directory, a time when there was much newly built housing in that general area, as well as the fast expanding garrison close by. A newspaper article of 1891<sup>1</sup> gave an account of what was described as a cowardly attack on the publican, William Turrell, by soldiers from an Irish regiment.

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

1848 to 1851	John Cross	White's and Post Office
1851	John Cross, innkeeper, age 45, born Layer de la Haye, together with his wife, a visitor, a servant and four lodgers	Census
1862	Mrs. Hannah Gall	Kelly's
1867 to 1878	George Turrell, Beer Retailer	Post Office
1871	George Tunell, age 66	Census
1881	Charlotte Turrell, Beerhouse Keeper, age 69, born Suffolk, together with her son and a lodger	Census
1882	Mrs. Charlotte Turrell, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1886 to 1894	William Turrell, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1898 to 1908	Thomas Wade, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1901	Thomas H Wade, Publican & Musician, age 48, born Colchester, together with his wife and their three children. The eldest also a musician like his father	Census

<sup>1</sup> ES – 4<sup>th</sup> July 1891

1914 to 1925 James Collins  
1933 Mrs. Mary Ann Collins

Kelly's  
Kelly's

In 1843 it was owned by Cobbold, followed by the Colchester Brewing Company in 1883. It later passed to Ind Coope.

This pub has the distinction of being the highest pub (not the tallest) in the town, at 109 feet above sea level. It is closely followed by the British Grenadier at 107 feet. Whether or not such high altitude is sufficient to add an intoxicating effect to that of its beer is however in some doubt. (The lowest pubs would have to be the Maltsters Arms and the Spinnaker at around 15 feet above sea level.)

It has the added distinction of being the only Colchester pub to temporarily close during the years of the Second World War, as a result of the damage caused by a German bomb. The landlord, Joe Girling, watched from an upstairs bedroom, a bomb land in the gutter outside the pub on September 28th 1942 and recalled that it took a couple of seconds to explode, whereupon all that he could next remember was being in the cellar in a dazed condition. Another recollection of the event came from an old'un [Derek from the Brit] who was then 13 years of age and had watched the German plane from St Helena School, where he was at school, dropping a stick of bombs near to where he lived in South Street. It was not until he got home later that day that he discovered the extent of the damage and learned that eight people had been killed. Indeed, some of the pub's older customers still reckon that there is an unexploded bomb around somewhere. The pub was re-built to the same general plan and eventually re-opened again in 1948<sup>1</sup> after alterations had been carried out. The New Inn therefore became the new New Inn! Further recollections were shown on the letters page of the ECS in 2009<sup>2</sup>.

The pub has the old style lounge bar and separate public bar, the former for a quiet drink and a chat and the latter for a game of pool, darts or to watch sport on the television. Behind the bar in the lounge, is an old notice board taken from the Railway Tavern, probably the one at North Station.

In the 1990s, landlady Mrs Lesley Thompson ensured a nice friendly atmosphere, drawing custom from the local area and further afield. The appearance of the pub was transformed in the summer with extensive floral displays, winning several awards in the annual 'Colchester in Bloom' competition, the latest award being commended in 2006.

The Saloon Bar was transformed with the theme of a Whisky Bar, at one time offering around 70 different whiskies from all over the world, including over 60 malt whiskies, specialising in the whiskies that the writer Michael Jackson wrote about. In 2007, the New Inn was home to various local groups, particularly the Pagans, the Green Party, the Royal Ancient Order of the Buffaloes and some ex members of the Devon and Dorset Regiment. There were also strong pool, darts and cricket teams. Lesley Thompson, by 2007, had held the licence for 18 years. Previously a Pubmaster house, it was then operated by Punch Taverns.

The pub changed hands in 2011, with the new owners planning to make this one of the best real-ale pubs in the town.

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### New Market Inn

St Peter

Middleborough

see the **Market Tavern**

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### New Town Tavern

Kendall Road  
CO1 2BN

2008 to date

a public house

This house took its name from the general area in which it is located, New Town, so named in the Victorian period when it was developed from 1878. The intention was an experiment to create a social mix of people through the provision of varied housing. Terraced houses, with some better ones for foremen of the building firm, were laid out on a gridiron road pattern and higher quality houses were built on the southern periphery in Granville and Gladstone Roads or in terraces overlooking the recreation ground.

The pub was taken over in May 2009 and renamed by Mr Mike Blackmore who runs it as a free-house. He took the word 'tavern' from his happy memories of his days working at the new Market Tavern in Middleborough.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS - 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1948, 28<sup>th</sup> Apr 1995 and  
EG - 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 2007

<sup>2</sup> ECS - 18<sup>th</sup> Sep 2009



previously the **Pink Panther**

2007 to 2008

The Pink Panther was opened under this new name in September 2007<sup>1</sup>. It had been known as a troublemaker's pub and the new name was aimed at changing its image. Dawn and Laurie Page moved from the Artilleryman to take the pub on and they put the word out to 'gays, lesbians and transvestites whom she knew', but insisting that the pub would be a friendly-to-all venue<sup>2</sup>. In June 2008 they were given an award by Admiral Taverns, the pub's owners, in recognition of their achievement in turning round the pub's fortunes. However, it all turned sour and the couple were forced to give up the pub later that year.

previously the **Blue Boar**

1878 to 2007



This pub was newly opened in 1878, coinciding with the new building development still known to this day as the New Town area. It gained its licence from the other Blue Boar in West Stockwell Street which burned down - also in 1878. Both premises were owned by Grimston, he selling this one to Truman in 1899, along with several other pubs in the town and surrounding area.

The newspapers recorded business coming to a grinding halt in 1983 when the landlord mysteriously disappeared, to be replaced at a later date by a new licensee.

The pub was featured on BBC television on 5th May 1995, when a reunion was organised at the pub for people who attended a street party held outside on Victory in Europe Day, 50 years before. The item included some of the Green family whose relative Arthur Green ran the pub during the war and who helped with the organising of the party.

The photograph is of the pub as it was around 1930 when the landlord was Robert William Martin.



The Blue Boar - c1932

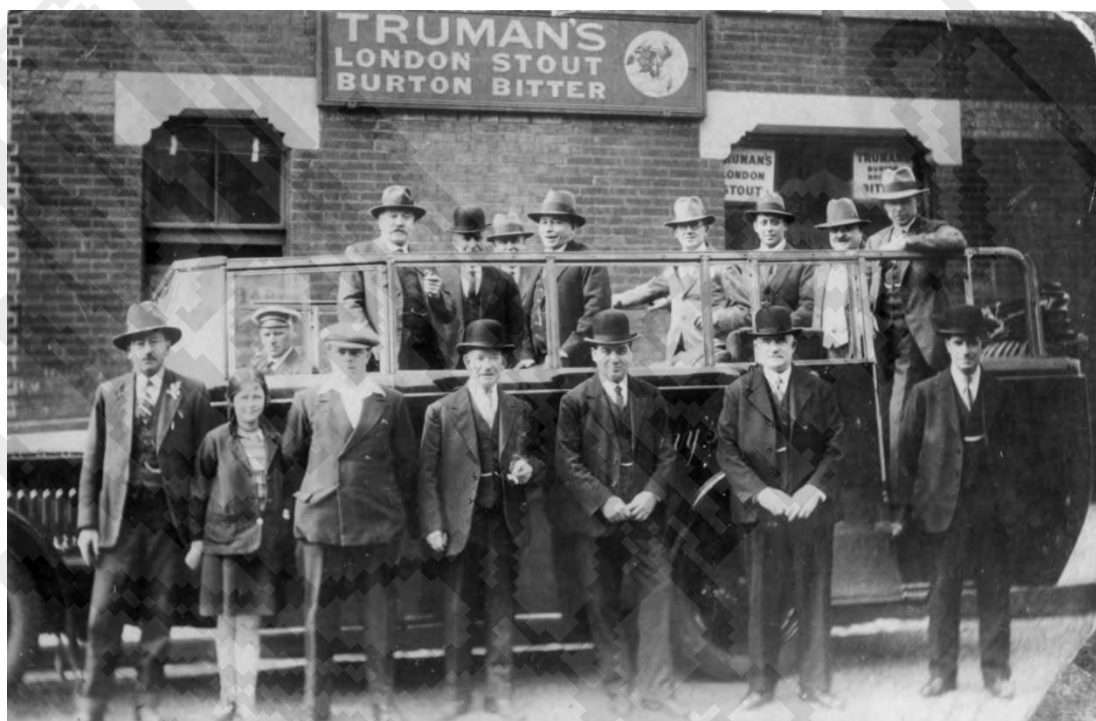
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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2008

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

1881	Charles A. Davis, Innkeeper, age 27, born Wivenhoe together with his wife	Census
1882	Thomas Corder Goodwin	Kelly's
1886	Harry Herbert Roberts	Kelly's
1891	Harry H Proberts, age 35	Census
1894 to 1895	Mrs. Adelaide Roberts	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Henry Thomas Barton Wood	Kelly's
1901	Henry T B Wood, Licensed Victualler, age 59, born Great Holland, together with his wife and three daughters	Census
1908 to 1914	Charles Johnson	Kelly's
1917 to 1933	Robert William Martin	Kelly's
2001	Kevin Woods	EG



The two pictures on the previous page were given to us by Mr Bill and Mrs Betty Day of Colchester in 2010. Between them, they have quite a story to tell about their family connections with some of the Colchester pubs. So this place is as good as any to tell a little of it. The first picture shows a Blue Boar charabanc trip in the 1930s. We cannot name anybody in the picture. Betty came to Colchester from Richmond when she was 5, with her parents Arthur and Eva Green. Arthur and Eva had the Prince of Wales from 1935 to 1939. Betty's bedroom was top left front of the Prince of Wales (see the Prince of Wales for details of that pub). They moved to the Blue Boar and were to stay there from 1939 to 1953. The second photograph is dated 1942 or 43 and shows the Blue Boar with Arthur Green in view with empty barrels on the right and new ones on the left (we think!). It seems a lot of barrels for one week but Betty told us that trade was good then. There were plenty of US and Canadian soldiers for customers. The sandbags were for the room where the children slept. The family moved to the Kings Arms at Elmstead and were there from 1953 to 1968. Arthur's brother Ted took over the Trowell and Hammer at Marks Tey from his father, Betty's grandfather Arthur Green. Arthur's sister Ivy married Stan Blake and they had the Crown at Ardleigh. Betty's sister Beryl married Ray Gibling and they had the Caledonian after Pettit. Bill's grandma had the Newmarket Tavern but handed it over to Bill's parents Harry and Alice Day in 1939. They had it until 1953. They then took over the Flying Fox from Betty Taylor.

By 2006, the pub had got itself a bad name, attracting troublemakers, with fights often breaking out and the police being called. It was closed for a period until new landlords could be found, or permission gained to dispose of it and build flats there.

### Noah's Ark

Head Street

The name of this pub is considered to originally have been a religious sign, having come from the Old Testament story of the deluge which purified the Earth. A story associated with the name involved a temperance minister preaching against the evils of drink. The story goes that the minister:

*'delighted in water, being himself a baptist, and he hated the publican, in as much as he sold that which comforteth more than water. And seeing that men went after that which hath more comfort than water, the preacher cried out against it, saying unto the publican and unto men at street corners, 'Wherefore seek ye delusion in the glass that is offered unto you by this publican. Know ye not that strong drink is poison?' So certain of those gathered there said unto him, 'What then shall we drink, if these things that the Publican offers unto us be of evil and bringeth death even as thou sayest?' And he answered them, saying 'Drink ye water, for that hath done injury unto none.' But one of the crowd, even a rude boy, mocked him, asking 'Sayest thou water injured none. What price the flood?'*

This item is part of a larger piece and was directed at the same Thomas Jephcott who kept the Fountain but who later kept a public house in Ramsgate, Kent.

see the **Duncan's Head**

### Norfolk Hotel

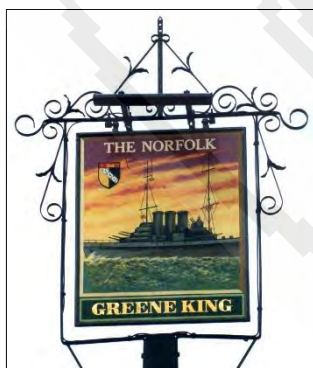
Lexden

60 North Station Road

c1872 to date (map 88)

a public house

CO1 1UZ  
545257



The name of this pub may or may not have come from a battleship, which is the subject of its sign. The iron ship depicted appears to be of First World War vintage, but there is also a coat of arms which requires identification and which might refer to one of the Dukes of Norfolk or some other armigerous family with Norfolk connections. The ship is certainly of a more recent date than the 1870s when this pub is first mentioned in our records.

The pub first appears in records for 1872, when the Norfolk firm of Steward and Patterson owned it. Indeed, this is probably the real reason for how the pub got its name - the Norfolk connection. It was sold to Greene King in 1894, who still own it to this day. A photograph dated around 1935 shows a coat of arms as the pub sign, rather than the battleship of its modern day sign.

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

1874 to 1878 George Potts

Kelly's

1881 Sarah R Potts, widow, publican, age 54, born Isle of Wight  
together with her nephew

Census



1882	Mrs. Sarah Rebecca Potts	Kelly's
1886 to 1899	Arthur Harry Newcombe	Kelly's
1901	Emma S A Newcombe, Hotel Keeper, Widow, age 37, born Halesworth, together with her niece, a general servant and a boarder	Census
1902	Mrs. Emma Newcombe	Kelly's
1907 to 1912	William Frost	Kelly's and Benham's
1917 to 1925	Arthur Crabtree	Kelly's
1933	Frederick John Harrington	Kelly's



This picture was given to us in 2011 by Mr Don Goodman, who was born in nearby Bergholt Road. His grandfather George Sealey is second from the left and the picture is probably dated around 1895, with the sign of Greene King on the roof.

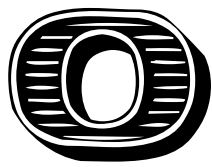
The older Colchester boys say that this was the only pub where you could see the town hall clock from its bar windows. There is a reference to this story under the Artillery Man.

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*What's drinking?  
A mere pause from thinking!*

Lord Byron

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*The Landlord's Prayer*

*Our Bitter,  
Which art in barrels,  
Hallowed be when drunk,  
I will be drunk, at home as I am in the pub.  
Give us this day our foamy head,  
And forgive us our spillages,  
As we forgive those who spill against us.  
And lead us not into incarceration,  
But deliver us from hangovers,  
For thine is the beer, the Bitter and the Lager,  
BARMEN* *(with apologies)*

**Oddfellows Arms**

St Martin	Moor Place (later 14 Northgate Street)
c1850 to c1900 (map 123)	a beerhouse
	demolished

The name of this pub is not uncommon and comes from an organisation known as the Independant Order of Oddfellows, which was a social and benevolent society with branches throughout the country and overseas. The order was founded in 1810, the name said to have derived from a remark made about the founding members. One might nowadays think of a pub sign depicting such odd fellows as Rowan Atkinson's 'Mr Bean' or Mr Basil Fawlty, 'the hotelier from hell'.



A watercolour by Major Bale.

The pub does not appear in the licensing records by name so would have been a beerhouse. It was located in Northgate Street but was later demolished, an open space now marking the site, close by the Ryegate entrance to the Lower Castle Park.

A great grandson (Mr Paul Munson) of one time landlord, Augustus Nayler, has done some reseach into this beerhouse. He provided us with a copy of an agreement between Mr Harry Foreman and Mr Augustus Nayler, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1900 and which concerned the tenancy of the Oddfellows Arms. Harry Foreman of Surbiton was described as the landlord and Augustus Nayler ‘of the Oddfellows Arms Beer Retailer, hereinafter called the tenant’. In this

agreement, the tenant agreed to pay the landlord forty shillings for every XX Ale and forty five shillings for every barrel of XXX Ale. It went on to say that, 'the tenant will not at any time during the tenancy buy receive sell or dispose of either directly or indirectly or permit to be bought received or disposed of either directly or indirectly in or on the said premises any ale beer porter stout or other malt liquors other than such such as have been bona fide purchased from the nominee or nominees of the landlord....'. The document was signed by Richard E Bright, Brewer, Coggeshall. So, where the Colchester brewers Daniells fitted in with this, we are uncertain.

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

1851	Thomas Childs, beershop keeper, age 49, born Kelvedon together with his wife and daughter	Census
1861	Thomas Childs	Census
1874 to 1901	Augustus Nayler, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1881	Augustus Nayler, Master Builder, age 47, born Greenstead together with his wife and six children	Census
1891	Augustus Nayler, Bricklayer, age 57, born Colchester, together with his wife and three daughters	Census
1891	also, a short distance away lived Susannah Childs, head of her household, single woman, age 62, born Colchester, described as Beerhouse Keeper. It is therefore probable that she held the licence of the Oddfellows but that Augustus Nayler and his family lived at the premises. Susannah was the daughter of Thomas Childs who is shown at the premises from 1851	Census
1901	Augustus Naylor, Publican, Widow, age 67, born Colchester, together with his daughter and two grand-daughters	Census

The 1876 map shows how the building lay on the boundary of the town's famous Roman wall, no sign of it now in evidence at this point. The map also confirms the appearance of the building as shown in the two illustrations.



The Oddfellow's Arms c1880.

Major Bale painted the preceding picture, around 1900, although it depicts a much earlier period of perhaps the 1820s. Note the old boys sitting on the bench, passing the time of day with a fellow who is standing. The following photograph of the pub is from the 1880s, showing one of the jetted walls removed, the written sign over the entrance door, a sign which states 'Thos Daniell & Sons Old and Mild Ales' and various other newspaper

advertisements. Railings belonging to the Castle Park are shown in the foreground, later removed to make way for the splendid new gateway that we enjoy today.

Whether the Oddfellows actually met at the Oddfellows' Arms is unknown. What is known is that:

- the Loyal Victoria Lodge was founded c1840 and met at the Anchor Inn, Magdalen Street (in 1856).
- the Loyal Fountain of Friendship Lodge was founded in 1843 and met at the Swan Inn, High Street (in 1856).
- the Loyal Albert Edward Lodge was founded in 1874 and met at the Cross Keys Inn, Wyre Street in 1897.

- the Loyal Earl Roberts Lodge was founded in 1901 and met at the Britannia Inn, Berechurch Road from that time, although it also met occasionally in Colchester Barracks.

Friendly societies of this type were numerous in the 19th century and most of them seem to have had their headquarters in public houses. It was estimated that, in 1816, they had 700,000 members nationwide.

The Oddfellows' Hall wall opened in George Street in December 1909, the hall still in use in 1945. This occurrence could have been the reason for this pub's closure.

The process of members making regular financial contributions, to be used in times of hardship, seems to have come to an end with most of these societies with the introduction of National Insurance in 1945, which took away much of the need for such organisations. Colchester still has strong contingents of Freemasons, the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes, the Foresters, etc. with their ancient observations of the ritual, mysteries and observances of their fraternities - and long may they continue!

The friendly societies in Colchester (from 1793 to 1847), their meeting places and their secretaries were as follows:

All Saints	Sea Horse	John Adams
St Botolph	Greyhound	Henry Vincent
St Botolph	Plough	John Green
St Botolph	Plough	Thomas Inman
St Botolph	Taylors Arms	Samuel Bedford
St Botolph	Taylors Arms	Thomas Beswick
St Botolph (Gate)	Yorkshire Grey	Charles Manning
St Giles	Bell	James Purkiss
St Giles	Red Cross	S Daniell, Gent.
St Martin	Royal Oak	James Carter
	(later removed to Swan, St Nicholas)	
St Mary	Bull	John Betts
St Mary at the Walls	Sailor and Ball	Argt. Simmons
St Mary at the Walls	Peter Dodd's house	William Robertson
St Nicholas	Cross Keys	John Smith
St Peter	Waggon and Horses	James Spooner
St Runwald	Angel	James Brightwell
St Runwald	Blue Boar	Thomas Harden
St Runwald	Blue Boar	Thomas Wittey
St Runwald	Griffin	Argt. Simmons

(This list does not include the Oddfellows' lodges.)

## Odd One Out

1985 to date (map 97)

St Botolphs

a public house

28 Mersea Road  
CO2 7ET



The name of this pub is probably the only example in the country and came from it being sold as a freehouse and the new owners, the Parrick family, deciding to offer a variety of what have since become known as 'Real Ales'. For this reason alone, the pub was an oddity as, overnight, it doubled the number of real ales that were available in the town. So, what about a sign? The Mad Hatter from Alice and Wonderland was an oddity and it was decided that he should become the subject of the pub's public identity.

After a period of closure, the pub had been sold by owners Ind Coope as a freehold but with a five year lager tie. It was re-opened with its new identity in February 1985. Mr John Parrick was the new landlord, ably assisted by wife Bridget and the landlord's mum, who found herself pulling her first pint at the age of 61 years. John had retired from the military and found the transition to running a pub an easy one – although the mortgage reaching 18% interest was a big struggle for a time.

After 30 years, in 2015, John Parrick was one of the longest serving publicans at the same house in Colchester. He had made the pub unique, with its own brand of customer who made the place what it was. One of the big factors of its success is the 'no swearing' rule and friendly atmosphere. The six beer pumps



with their range of different ales from a variety of regional brewers, the range of ciders, over fifty whiskies, Scotch, Irish, even Welsh and English, the traditional furniture, the varied pictures, signs and ephemera, etc. are all a testament to a long, happy and successful occupancy.



Bridget and John Parrick – February 2012  
Two of Colchester's longest serving publicans in 2015.

The Parricks consider their pub to be 'The Drinkers Pub of Colchester'. with a charm all of its own. They are pleased to offer no cooked food, as it was considered restaurant type smells spoiled the taste of his beer.

MOBILE PHONES – MAY ONLY BE USED IN THE: A. FRUIT MACHINE BAR, B. IN THE TOILET CORRIDOR, C. OUTSIDE. DOGS – ARE ONLY WELCOME ON THE WOODEN FLOORED AREA, SECURE AND MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD. FEET AND LEGS – MAY NOT BE PLACED ON THE FURNITURE, WALLS, RADIATORS, ETC. IN THE FRONT BAR. TL

A sign which appeared in this pub in 1999, one of several hand written 'gems', laid down certain conditions for the edification of its customers, and along the following lines:

By way of explanation to future generations, the first item covered the fast growing industry of communications which led to the inevitable irritation of fellow drinkers being subjected firstly to a shrill noise in close proximity, followed by being forced to listen to the one sided (and often banal) conversation of the owner of the said item of modern (1990s) technology.

First time visitors to the pub might have considered that they were entering a time warp. Comfortably furnished in something reminiscent of a pub from the 1950s, mainly older customers who all knew the landlord as 'John', unobtrusive background music from a bygone age, open fires, formica table tops, dominoes, the occasional friendly dog, dog chews for sale at the bar, old bottles and ephemera displayed as if they had been there for years, plenty of beer engines along the bar, the pressurised lager pumps tucked out of sight so as not to upset the CAMRA boys (and girls), low prices, friendly atmosphere, etc.

In 1999 and for several subsequent years, this pub was voted 'Colchester Pub of the Year' by CAMRA, who had great difficulty with 'not' giving it each year. Also voted Cider Pub of East Anglia in 2008 and similar accolades in other years. The good beer guide foolishly left them out one year, as the pub didn't open some lunchtimes. After an outcry, they were soon back in the book. Such was/is its attractions. The author of this book could not have agreed more!

In 2012, this was the meeting place for numerous local groups. The Trades Council, the Book Club, the Krafty Club, Colchester Historical Enactment Society (CHES), Annie's Fantasies, Real Oddies Cricket Club, etc. Each Sunday a

baptist church group holds its 'Open Door' service at the pub; a church for the unchurched. On the subject of the future, John aims to end up in a grave in the garden of the pub. No thoughts of retirement are entertained.

previously named the **Mermaid** (the second)

1937 to 1984

The Mermaid was shown in licensing records from 1907, when it was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company as a beerhouse. However, it did not occupy the same building. In 1937, there was a dispute between the owners and the licensee and the latter refused to quit the premises or to sell the former's beer. The owners acquired the Georgian styled private house next door, had the licence transferred and commenced trading as the second Mermaid in Mersea Road. The front half of the building was built in the 1790s and the back half in the 1890s.

It is said that the pub was much used by theatrical types and that it was visited by both Houdini, the great escapologist and Charlie Chaplin the silent movie star. A past landlady recalls that there was a ghost, a cavalier, who was allegedly shot against a mulberry tree in the garden of the property during the Civil War. He has been seen at the top of the stairs. [Don't believe a word of it!]

In 1949, the pub was granted a full licence and thereafter became a public house under the ownership of Ind Coope.

The original premises are now a private house, with no outward indication that it was ever a pub. The later and present premises were renamed the Odd One Out in the 1980s. Last orders were called at the Mermaid on the night of 15<sup>th</sup> March 1984.

for more details see the **Mermaid**.

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### Old Ben Johnson

56 North Hill

The name of this pub would have been in memory of the 16th century English dramatist and poet who was a friend of Shakespeare and Bacon. North Hill was an area of affluence and the name of the pub was in keeping with the interests of its more well to do customers. Perhaps the 'old' refers to a desire to make the place seem older than it was.

see **Cock and Pie**

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### Old Chequers

Bergholt Road

see the **Chequers**

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### Old King Cole

Ipswich Road

1994 to 2004

a public house

demolished



The name of this pub has come full circle on its original name which was simply the King Coel. As the nursery rhyme goes, 'Old King Coel was a merry old soul and a merry old soul was he, he called for his pipe and he called for his bowl and he called for his fiddlers three.' King Coel was of course a nickname for King Cunobelin, who once ruled the local area at the time of the Roman invasion in AD43 and the principal reason why the Romans came first to Colchester, rather than anywhere else.

The pub underwent many changes over the years. Newly refurbished in 1994<sup>1</sup>, nearly 2000 years after its namesake ruled this land, it became a 'Hungry Horse' restaurant, although a drink at the bar was still a great attraction to the local population. It finally closed its doors in 2004 and the ever hungry property speculators homed in on its potential for demolition and the cramming of many multi-storey dwellings onto its site. The Salisbury Hotel went that way, as did this one.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1994, ECS – 17<sup>th</sup> Jun 2005



Previously named the **Squires Table**

c1990 to 1994

During this period the landlord displayed a magnificent collection of all types of clocks in the bar area.



Previously known as **Hoofers**<sup>1</sup>

c1984 to c1990

It became a very popular pub with 18 to 30 year olds, being then owned by Tolly Cobbold.

previously known as the **King Coel**

1964 to c1984

Dilbridge Hall on the Ipswich Road, was purchased by Trumans in 1962 when a new licence was granted<sup>2</sup>. At first, Trumans intended to convert the house into a pub, but eventually it was pulled down to make way for the new King Coel. The pub was built to serve customers from the nearby newly built houses on the St Johns and Ipswich Road estates and its sign was taken from an early 19th century sketch of the king. It opened on 13th December 1966.

<b>Old Royal Oak</b>	St Martin	Maidenburgh Street
see the <b>Royal Oak</b>		
<b>Old Tavern</b>	St Peter	?
18th Century	a tavern	location uncertain

This name of this tavern is plain and simple. It was an old rather than new tavern.

The only reference found to it is from court records from 1735, in connection with a boundary dispute. Sam Holditch was fined five shillings for encroachment by palisades. Nothing more is known about it but perhaps it had another name that is mentioned elsewhere.

<sup>1</sup> EG – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1985

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 1956, CG – 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 1966

## Old Whalebone

St James

East Hill

The name of this pub is another with seafaring links, with perhaps an actual whalebone being on show in its bar. Boats would reach as far as East Bridge nearby, to unload or take on new cargoes and many a thirsty sailor would have been tempted by this sign.

see the **Whalebone**

## Oliver Twist

St Giles

Military Road

1983 to 2012 (map 94)

a public house

later became a music venue



The name of this pub was taken from one of Charles Dickens characters and when it opened, was decorated and furnished in Victorian style, even down to all gas lighting. A designer name to fit a 1980s style which was then popular. The owner, Mr John Acton, bought the freehold from Ind Coope and looked around for a good name for the place, in keeping with his plans. It was pointed out to him that there were then only three other Oliver Twists in the country and that all of them did good business. He also went on a trip to Gibraltar and noted that amongst the many bars over there, there was one which was doing better than the others - the Oliver Twist. That decided the name for him. He had some difficulty from local residents over the re-opening of the pub, which was to be a free house, but he won his case and the effect that he created made it a very popular watering hole. The pub sign pictured is from 1991.

The pub started to put on live music events which made it even more popular. Mr Acton sold the freehold to Greene King in 1986<sup>1</sup> and, following this change in ownership, the pub started to carve out a niche for itself by staging rock and heavy metal bands.

It was closed down for a short while in 1993<sup>2</sup>, due to the discovery of a structural weakness, when it was rebuilt internally and re-opened later in that year. It gained its first pub sign in a 'heavy metal' style.

This pub was purchased by the brewing concern, Greene King, and specialised in live music performances, usually for six nights a week. It was considered to be the live music pub in Colchester, with no pool or darts - just music and more music. Long hair, jeans, tattoos and Judge Dread 'T' shirts were recommended - but not compulsory. The author rarely missed an appearance of Dumpy's Rusty Nuts and their unique rendition of 'Cow S--t under me Wheels,' although they were just one of the many excellent bands that have appeared there.

With less and less bands appearing, complaints from neighbours about noise, etc. 'The Twist', as it became known, closed its doors as a music venue in 2012 and stood empty for some time until it was bought and converted as business premises. Whilst it had ceased to be a pub in 1993, only open when paying customers came to see music bands, it is worthy of mention nevertheless.

Known for a short while around 2003 as the **Soundhouse**.

Already of great concern to the neighbours due to the activities of the house, somebody in their infinite wisdom decided to change its name from the benign Oliver Twist (or simply 'The Twist'), to a name guaranteed to inflame the tender sensibilities of the neighbours who, predictably, complained to the authorities about noise, slamming doors, yobbish behaviour, etc. It survived and the name reverted<sup>3</sup>.

previously the **Globe**

1865 to 1980

The licensing magistrates in 1865<sup>4</sup> received an application for a new licence for this house. The tenant was Henry Hempsted. It had then been used for the past seven or eight years as a beerhouse and this application was an

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 1986

<sup>2</sup> EG – 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 1993

<sup>3</sup> ECS – 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003

<sup>4</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1865



application for the transfer of the licence formerly granted to the Red, White and Blue (a short distance away), which had been converted into a private house. Both houses were the property of Messrs. Nicholl. The application was refused and the house remained a beerhouse.



Until around 1920 the pub was owned by Nicholls, then by the Colchester Brewing Company and then by Ind Coope who closed it down in 1980, together with the the Caledonian and the Welcome Sailor.



These two photographs were kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Horspool of Barnhall and were both taken at the Globe, Military Road.

The picture on the right shows: far left - Harold Charles Percival Morgan (Mrs Horspool's father and one time landlord of the Robin Hood), seated - Mr Clark (we think), with back showing - Harry Trott (we think). The other gentleman - unknown.

The left hand picture is of Mason's darts team, c1950 with: standing, from left - Jack Rand, all others unknown. seated, from left - Frank Horspool, Ken Harvey (later to become landlord of the Dog and Pheasant at Mile End), Harry Trott, Cecil Allen, Bill Wray.

The Globe was the HQ for a branch of the Royal Antideluvian Order of the Buffaloes (RAOB, or simply 'The Buffs').



The above 1960s photograph shows: Ken, Cyril, Lorna, Joan, Bertie and Alice Wright. Bertie and Alice ran the pub.

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

1870 to 1871	Thomas Webb	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Thomas Webb, age 31, publican	Census
1873	Benjamin Chapman, Publican, age 49	Marriage Certificate
1873	Rosina (nee Isbern) Chapman, Wife, Barmaid, age 23	Marriage Certificate
1874 to 1878	Benjamin Chapman	Kelly's
1881	William Baynham, Licensed Victualler, age 38, born Leominster, together with his wife and son	Census
1882	William Baynham	Kelly's
1886	Miss Henrietta Jackson	Kelly's
1891	Charles Edward Scott, age 35, a brewer's agent	Census
1894 to 1895	Lewis Beale	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Frederick William Bayliss	Kelly's
1899	Frederick William Bayliss	Kelly's
1901	Walter C Wilson, Licensed Victualler, age 33, born Market Harboro, together with his wife and a barman	Census
1902	Walter Charles Wilson	Kelly's
1907 to 1908	George Fox	Kelly's and Benham's
1912 to 1913	Thomas Alfred Springett	Kelly's
1914	Frederick H Thompson	Kelly's

1917	Edward De Arth	Kelly's
1925	Arnold Alexander	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Sidney Freestone	Kelly's

After the pub was closed in 1980<sup>1</sup>, it was refurbished and re-opened as the Oliver Twist.

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### O'Neill's

St Peter

North Hill

The name of this pub came from a trend that believed an Irish theme was good for business. Who O'Neill was is unknown, although the name is the oldest known Irish clan name.

see **Pat Molloy's**

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### Ordnance Arms

St Leonard

3 Hythe Quay

1804 to 1959 (map 45)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is a probable reference to the nearby ammunition store on the quayside, the contents of which would eventually make its way to the army garrison. Was it a safe place to have a drink, one must wonder? It seems so as there were no explosions recorded.

Up until 1899 it was owned by Grimston and then by Trumans until its closure in 1959. The building was later sold to Thomas Moy Limited. It was located next to an ale and porter store that later became the Picolo Padre wine bar. With its ownership of a piece of the quay, it had an advantageous position to offload barrels of beer onto the quay to be placed in store, for onward distribution to the Trumans pubs in the town and district.



The Ordnance Arms - c1932 (licensee Sidney Davie)  
(and following picture, the Trumans Ale and Porter Store,  
later the Picolo Padre, Mr Pools and later still, the Millennium bar, now all gone).

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 1981, 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1982, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1983



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

1822 to 1823	J. Barnes	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	Thomas Letche	Pigot's
1832	Daniel Oathwaite Blyth, Owner & Porter Merchant	Auction
1832 to 1839	Everard Willett	Pigot's
1845	William Pitt	Post Office
1848 to 1851	Mrs Susan Pitt	White's and Post Office
1855	T. Wood	Kelly's
1861	James Martin, age 30, clerk and inn keeper	Census
1862 to 1867	James Martin	Kelly's and Post Office
1870 to 1886	Robert Shead	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Robert Shead, age 39, inn keeper	Census
1881	Robert Shead, Ship Owner & Agent (N Sons), age 50, born Colchester, together with his wife and their four children	Census
1891	Robert Shead, age 59, barge owner and licensed victualler	Census
1894 to 1899	Mrs. Anne Shead	Kelly's
1901	Ann Shead, Licensed Victualler, Widow, age 67, born Colchester, together with her two children and a barmaid	Census
1902	William Blyth James	Kelly's
1907 to 1908	James Clarke	Kelly's and Benham's
1912	Wm. Thomas Green	Kelly's
1917	Walter Scott	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	Samuel Davie	Kelly's
1959	J B Hubbard, licensee, died on April 14th, 1959	Black Eagle Journal

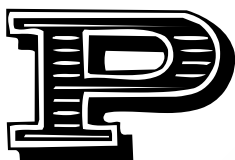
Lot 2 - An old established and well-accustomed FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE called the ORDNANCE ARMS.

Very desirably situated for Business, near the East-Bridge, in the Parish of St. Leonards, Colchester; it is Timber-built and Tiled, and contains good underground Cellars, Tap-Room, Parlour, Dining-Room, Five Bed-Chambers, and Two Attics; a Washhouse, Yard, Garden, and Stabling for 12 Horses, together with a Wharf, possessing a valuable and extensive Frontage to the River Colne. This Lot is in the Occupation of Mr. Everard Willett, who pays a Barrel-Rent on the Trade, which amounts by Estimation, to about £40 per Annum.

The auction took place on 26th March. 1832, by the order of Daniel Oathwaite Blyth.

The Ordnance Arms was later demolished and replaced with a carbuncle of an office building known as Bridge House. Bridge House which, in turn, eventually fell into disuse and was demolished in 2011. What price progress?





*For on this my heart is set:  
When the hour is nigh me,  
Let me in the tavern die,  
With a tankard by me,  
While the angels looking down,  
Joyously sing o'er me,  
Deus sit propitius,  
Huic potatori.*

An extract of verses of a poem  
written in 1163, possibly by  
Walter Map

*(Deus sit propitius,  
Huic potatori.  
Loosely translated as  
"May God be propitious  
to this drunkard!")*

### Packet - 1

St James

East Street

before 1764 to c1850

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub is another one of nautical origin, it being a type of vessel that carried mail, goods and passengers at regular intervals. The river Colne was at that time navigable up to East Bridge and perhaps packet boats were within sight of this house.

The premises first appears in the licensing records for 1764 but was probably much older than this date. The last reference to it was in a trade directory of 1848. Its precise location is unknown.

### Packet - 2

St Leonard

131 Hythe Hill

1780 to c1891 (map 40)

a tavern

location uncertain

The 1851 census showed this pub to be six households up from the Dolphin, towards the Barley Mow. The building is shown next to St Leonard's church on the picture on the front cover of this book and in the Dolphin Inn section. The building was demolished around 1890 and two houses built on the site.

It first appears in the licensing records for 1780 with regular entries in trade directories up to 1859.

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

1822 to 1824	John Chisnall	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	William Harrington	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	Adam Glendining	Pigot's
1839	William Fuller	Pigot's
1845	Sarah Fuller	Post Office
1848	Nathaniel Bentall	White's
1851 to 1855	George Henry Page	Kelly's and Post Office
1851	George Page, tailor, age 51, born Colchester, together with his wife, his daughter, his three grand-daughters, a niece and a sister-in-law	Census
1881	Uninhabited	Census
1891	Thomas Bloomfield, age 49, beer house keeper.	Census

### Paddy's Goose

Vineyard Street

c1862 to c1869

a tavern

precise location uncertain

The reason for the naming of this tavern is now lost with time, but one might assume that an Irishman had something to do with its name.

The earliest record that we have found to this den of iniquity is with a reference to licensing at the Town Hall in 1862 when the bench's attention was drawn to the disorderly manner in which this beer house was conducted. The mayor said that the attention of the police should be called to the house. Then, in a case brought to the magistrates in January 1866<sup>1</sup> concerning a labourer who was charged with being in possession of another man's clothes. The

<sup>1</sup> Essex Standard – 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1866

defendant stated that he, 'had been knocked down by a man and woman in the Paddy's Goose, his own clothes taken from him and these left instead'. He alleged that he had been taken advantage of while he was the worse for liquor. Then again in December 1866<sup>1</sup> when it is mentioned again in court being a place that a Meerschaum pipe that had been stolen at the nearby Jew's Harp, had been offered for sale by a soldier.

It is mentioned again in the licensing sessions of 1869<sup>2</sup> when one James Francis was the licensee. Constable Knott of the Metropolitan Police, appointed to control prostitution in the town, stated that the house was 'a common brothel and a resort of prostitutes'. The applicant challenged the allegation, admitting that the constable had seen women drinking there - but he did not harbour them and that they merely went there for a drink. When pressed, he said he had no women living in the house but there were several living in rooms adjoining, and which he rented to them. The magistrates refused to grant a licence.

An article written by Joseph Phillips in 1906 and reproduced in chapter 4 mentioned that it was in the same vicinity as the Rose and Crown in Vineyard Street, but that it had then 'flown.'

### Pat Molloy's

St Peter

North Hill

CO1 1PX

2011 to date

a public house

In keeping with popular trends, this old pub became the second Irish theme pub on this site. Newly 're-branded' (to use the current parlance) in 2011 it asked: "Planning a Hen night, Stag do, Leaving party, Birthday etc? Why not book your party here at Molloy's relax and let us take care of it! We can arrange food and drinks packages for your needs and parties over 10 will receive a bottle of bubbly!"

Owned by the Stonehouse Pub Company, O'Neills underwent a facelift and name change in 2011. Described by Stonegate as one of their 'Great Traditional Pubs, known for combining a contemporary look and feel with traditional pub values. Whether it's a lazy Sunday lunch, a quick drink after work, family dining or celebrating a special occasion, we have it covered. With a collection of 136 Great Traditional Pubs, located in city centres, towns and suburbs, your perfect food and drink destination could be closer than you think.....' Followed by, 'Pat Molloy's Colchester: Everything you would expect from a traditional Irish pub (and more) including a 'craicing' atmosphere, generous warm welcome, a great-tasting pint of the black stuff and hearty Irish food – lovingly served up in towns and cities across the UK.' What would Wal Haskings have made of it?

That was marketing hype in 2011 - a complete contrast to a true traditional pub that this one used to be; now geared up to attract the young and to compete with the 'pack em in and get em drunk quick' bars of the town centre that churn out spewing drunks, screeching semi-naked girls and anti-social behaviour that Colchester (in 2012) had sadly come to expect of a Friday and Saturday night, especially.

previously known as **O'Neills**

2000 to 2011



An Irish theme pub geared to younger people. We will have to leave it at that, as the author never visited it.

It had been converted into a place, a managed house, with beer-tie, designed for the get drunk quick, Sky sport watching, loud music liking, brigade, like so many other bars in the town centre.

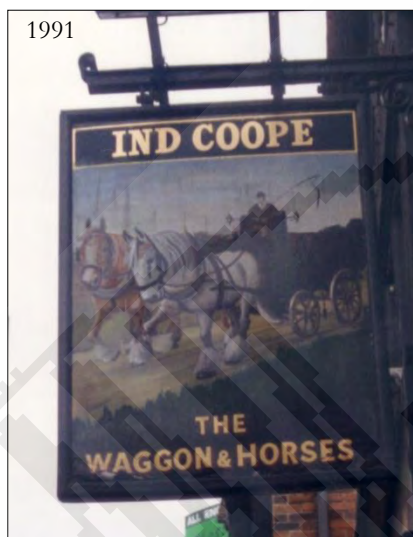
No longer a traditional pub that it once was – sadly.

<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 - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1869

previously known as the **Waggon and Horses**

before 1745 to 2000 (map 78)



The naming of this pub in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly before that, would have been an obvious one to use, bearing in mind how regularly waggons and horses would have passed by its doors, making their way in to, or out of, town.

It appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 through until 1819, as might have been expected. After that it appears in trade directories and then in licensing records from 1872. The pub was owned by Osborne after 1872, who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886, later to be taken over by Ind Coope in the 1930s.

The pub's free standing sign appears in a picture dated 1770, entitled 'King Coel's Pump,' showing that part of the High Street that has changed so much since.

In 1856<sup>1</sup> the newspapers recorded an extraordinary event. James Hall, late sergeant in the Essex Rifles and a native of Colchester, undertook to perform the following feat:

'to start from the Waggon and Horses at 6.00 am and proceed to the Angel Inn, Kelvedon, and return to the Waggon and Horses Inn three times per day for six successive days, trundling a hoop the whole of the distance, being 60 miles per day, or 360 miles within the week. The exact time of departure and arrival at each of the above places will be duly registered.'

Charles Smith, a Coggeshall estate agent, appears to have been incensed and wrote in reply:

'It seems a great pity that this man's time and bodily powers are not devoted to a better purpose than trundling a hoop 60 miles a day. If he is an industrious and trustworthy man I would have him apply to the General Post Office, for a situation as a walking country letter carrier, so that he might get an honest living and make a rational use of the powers which Providence has given him. If he is an idle man, who likes to live by other people's labours, the public should know it.'

Here follows an article written by Gerald Rickword in 1938<sup>2</sup> in response to the demolition of the ancient inn's timber framed building.

'One by one the old familiar landmarks of Colchester disappear before the ruthless onslaught of the housebreaker. Many will miss the picturesque Waggon and Horses on North Hill which is now making way for a new building designed to meet present day requirements.

Of the early history of the house, nothing is known, but from the year 1745 its story, quiet and uneventful as it is, can be traced from decade to decade. In that year the house bore the name of the Coach and Horses and was occupied by Thomas Cock, partner with William Cant in running the Harwich coach, which made its laborious way to London twice weekly, and was due back at the Essex seaport before the Holland packets sailed. Three years later, in advertising the removal of the Old Colchester stage coach from the Three Crowns to the White Hart, it was announced that 'Places are taken and Goods taken in at Mr Cant's own house at the Sign of the Coach and Horses at Colchester, next door but one to the Old Three Crowns.'

Mr Thomas Cant did not long retain the tenancy for, in June 1749, a reward of 5s was offered for the return of a black greyhound bitch which had been lost from Mr Thomas Stevens' at the Coach and Horses on North Hill. The advent of Mr Stevens marked an important stage in the history of the inn. Five years after taking over the lease he purchased the freehold, and at about the same time renamed the house the Waggon and Horses, he carrying on the business of a carrier or road waggoner to London, in addition to that of an inn keeper.

In November 1763, it was made known that, on December 5th a complete peal of eight new bells were 'to be rung for the first time' at the parish church of St Peter, which had been re-opened for public worship after rebuilding some years before. The following announcement concluded the notice. 'NB A Dinner will be

<sup>1</sup> ECS? – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr 1956

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 16<sup>th</sup> Jul 1938

provided at the Waggon and Horses, for all who please to dine, at Two of the Clock on the same Day, by their humble Servant, Thomas Stevens.'

Stevens, who lived a happy married life judging by the baptismal entries in the parish register, died in November 1768, and by his will bequeathed the inn, stable and granary to his wife Elizabeth, the property being valued at £600. In 1772, wedding bells rang out at St Peter's church when William Lee, of St Botolph's, was united to Ann Stevens, and hence stepped into his late father-in-law's shoes. The joys of the honeymoon over, it was announced that 'WILLIAM LEE, lately married to Miss STEVENS at the Waggon and Horses .... begs Leave to inform his Friends, that he has laid in a new Stock of all Sorts of Liquors, etc., and hopes for the Favours of all Friends who used the House in the late Mrs STEVENS' time.'

Although the ancient sport of cockfighting does not appear to have been viewed with favour by the civic authorities in Colchester during Lee's occupancy of the inn, fights were staged, and the following notice inserted in the Ipswich Journal of February 2nd, 1777, was read with much interest by the votaries of the cruel sport.

*COCKING. At the Waggon and Horses in Colchester, on Wednesday, March 5, will be fought a Main of Cocks, the Gentlemen of Suffolk against the Gentlemen of Essex, shewing 21 mains, for Five Guineas a battle and Ten the odd battle.*

*Feeders                      SWAN for Suffolk  
FOLKARD for Essex*

*A good ordinary will be provided, where all Gentlemen will meet with a hearty welcome.*

*From their humble Servant,  
WILLIAM LEE.*

Later in the year a further day's pleasure was planned, and the announcement in the same periodical gives very full details of the arrangements.

*COCKING. To be fought for at the Waggon and Horses in Colchester, in a Welch main of 16 cocks on the 10th December. A dark brown filly 3 years old; a very good watch and 3 guineas. Each cock to pay One Guinea entrance, and have his door free; the best cock to have the horse; the second cock to have the watch, and the two cocks that win two battles each to have £1 11s 6d, and the losing cocks to have the door money between them. No cock to exceed 4lb 10oz and fight in fair reputed silver spurs. Any gentleman chusing to put in a cock to pay 10s 6d to the landlord; the rest at the time of weighing at Nine o'clock on Wednesday morning the 10th of Decbr.; to fight immediately after Weighing. Dinner at Two O'clock. A good Spangle Pudding for Dinner.*

Death robbed William Lee of his wife in 1779, and the inn was offered for sale with immediate possession, it being described thus, 'That good-accustomed Freehold Inn .... consisting of a hall, 3 parlours, a kitchen, a dining room, 4 bed chambers with garrets over them, two large cellars, commodious stabling for 30 horses, with granary and hay lofts, all in excellent repair. The premises, being at an old rate, are very moderately assessed to the land tax and poor rates, and are exceedingly eligible to convert into a private house, either for a gentleman or tradesman.'

James Stevens, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth, who succeeded to the property, entered into the management of the inn, while Lee appears to have devoted his energies to the carrying business of his late father in law, in conjunction with one John Brown. After over twenty years, 43 year old James Stevens died in 1801 and was buried in St Peter's churchyard. His will directed that the inn should be sold for the benefit of his widow Martha and their children. Martha carried on the business until 1811, when the inn was conveyed to Francis Smythies, Esq. and John Lay. Lay occupied the inn until 1815 when he was succeeded by William Bond.

This new landlord was an enterprising man and in 1818, built additional stabling for 100 horses. In 1819, he lost his wife after a long illness, 'who left an industrious husband and 5 children to lament her loss.' He continued for a few years being followed by George Knight around 1826. He in turn was followed around the year 1839 by Mrs Jemima Godden. In 1841, James Jarmen announced his taking of the Waggon and Horses Commercial Inn and asked for 'that distinguished support bestowed upon his worthy predecessor Mrs Godden,' and added the following useful information, 'NB. The Market Ordinary as usual on Saturdays, at the former reasonable charges. Well aired beds, good stabling, and a careful ostler. Bottled Porter, Cyder, etc.' Jarmen was succeeded in the 1850s by Thomas Ward Watson who stayed at the Waggon and Horses for some twenty years.



At the end of the 19th century the host was William Walsh, at a time when London volunteers of the famous Grey Brigade were quartered at this and other Colchester inns. A popular host in the early years of the present century was Thomas Adamson, a former Garrison-Major.

The Waggon was a typical market-town inn of its day, and no sensational occurrences seem to have disturbed the even tenor of its days. Its energies were devoted to the entertainment of coach and waggon passengers, bagmen, billeted soldiers and yeomen farmers from the country around.

One untoward incident in its story is recorded in the Common-Place Book of Benjamin Page, a substantial farmer of Fingringhoe, who noted on April 12th, 1800, that a son age 15 of Mr Daniel Dyer of Stanway, after spending the evening with his father at the inn, left at 8 o'clock to walk home, and was not heard of again, although a most diligent search was made and rewards offered for his discovery. However a few days later the diarist was able to add that the prodigal son had been 'found in a state of profligacy on the 15th inst., or more properly speaking, he returned home in that state'. In the previous year, Page recorded on December 14th, the purchase of eight Welch runts at Colchester for £32 and treating a man from Wivenhoe who selected the beasts for him, to two shillings worth of punch at the Waggon.

The inn's landlords appear to have escaped the fate which attended so many of its larger rivals and steered clear of insolvency although, among the bankrupts who were called upon to surrender to their creditors at the Waggon, was Mary Stevens, a milliner and probably sister of Thomas Stevens, the former host. The unfortunate debtor appeared for examination in June 1775.

Coachmasters and Innkeepers were informed in March 1792 that Messrs. Barlow and Bunnell would sell by auction in the Corn Market '11 capital seasoned coach horses, in high condition' belonging to the Colchester New Machine, a stage coach which was at that time running from the George to London three times weekly. The horses were on view at the Waggon, previous to the sale.

One who deserved well of his fellowmen in days when the streets of the town were paved with cobbles, made the inn his headquarters in the autumn of 1789, and among his many clients was one sufficiently grateful to insert the following appreciation in a newspaper.

*An Uncommon Discovery.*

*To the Public.*

*Having been attended by Mr SMITH, Chiropractist, of North Hill, Colchester, for the cure of an inveterate corn, declare myself perfectly cured. I with many others in London, judge Mr SMITH's abilities as great as any in the profession. I am with respect, GEORGE COATES, King's Messenger, Whitehall.*

*Orders directed to Mr SMITH, Waggon and Horses, Colchester, will be attended to.*

Mr Smith, whose celebrity in his profession permitted him to ignore the use of a Christian name necessary to lesser mortals, was also of a philanthropic nature and announced that 'Poor working people pay what they please.'

-----

A 1907 newspaper article noted that the inn had been restored by its owners, the Colchester Brewing Company, who had converted it into a wine store. It was a three gabled and three storeyed timber frame building of great age. In 1938 the old pub was demolished and rebuilt in its present form.

An anonymous commentator had it that the pub was allowed to go to wrack and ruin during most of the 1930s by one Hills who used to go insane at the full moon. Apparently, he never made any effort to do any trade, having much personal wealth, and retired to 'The Chalet' in Sussex Road.

The pub has undergone a number of facelifts over the years and was, and still is, a favourite 'soldier's pub.' In 1994, it underwent another facelift, the lovely old sign that depicted a fine old waggon and horses, disappearing and being replaced with a sign of a very obscure appearance. A sign of the times perhaps! The pub had/has a ghost named Fred, an elderly gentleman with a peaked cap, who seems to enjoy turning things off in the cellar. He never ventures upstairs although he has been known to disappear through the odd wall or two.



The Waggon and Horses c1910, before demolition and rebuilding.

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

1822 to 1824	William Bond	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	George Knight	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	Thomas Ward	Pigot's
1839 to 1848	Jemima Godden	Pigot's, White's and Post Office
1851	Edward Dubbins, innkeeper, age 28, born Brighton, together with his wife, their son, a house servant, a nurse girl, an ostler, a pot boy and two lodgers	Census
1851 to 1852	Thomas Mansfield	Kelly's and Post Office
1855 to 1874	Thomas Ward Watson, Coach Builder	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Thomas Watson, age 43, inn keeper and coachbuilder	Census
1871	Thomas W Watson, age 52, licensed victualler	Census
1878	James Hobbs	Kelly's
1881	Alfred J. Norman, Licensed Victualler, age 28, born Blandford, together with his wife, the mother-in-law, a barmaid, a cook, a housemaid and a boots	Census
1882 to 1886	Alfred James Norman	Kelly's
1891	John L Brown, age 52, hotel keeper (manager)	Census
1894	David Joseph Sheppard	Kelly's
1895	E. K. Chamberlain	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	William Walsh	Kelly's
1902	Henry Parrott	Kelly's
1907 to 1908	Thomas Adamson	Kelly's and Benham's
1912	Mrs. Cecilia Adamson	Kelly's
1917	Arthur Reeve	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	Edwin Hill	Kelly's
1937	Charles Amey	Black Eagle Journal
1939	Charles Thomas Amey, Licensee	Petty Sessions

In June 1999<sup>1</sup>, this pub was the centre of much discussion and letter writing to local newspapers concerning a televised programme called 'Soldier Town'. The programme makers wanted to show how soldiers and civilians co-

<sup>1</sup> EG – 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 1999

existed in the town, especially when 'off-duty'. The main concern was over the lewd and sordid behaviour of young Colchester women. Colchester girls, it portrayed, were game for anything! It, soon after, changed its name to O'Neills.

### Perseverance

St Leonard

Hythe Hill

1833 to 1877 (map 43)

a beerhouse

demolished

One can only guess at the reason for the naming of this beerhouse. The building was demolished in 1910 and stood next to the Swan at the foot of Hythe Hill. The space that it occupied is now a car park belonging to a tool hire firm.

There was a flurry of articles about the building in the local newspapers of 1914<sup>1</sup>. It was reputed to have been inhabited by Catherine Parr, widow of Henry VIII. In the book, 'Cedar Court' by Julie M Roberts, it states that it was a beerhouse from 1833 until 1877, when it ceased to be a tavern, was converted into tenements and later became a furniture store. She states that, in 1910<sup>2</sup> it was demolished, the timbers marked, the parts taken to Ipswich and then to Surrey where it was rebuilt. The house at Kingston, Surrey, was later occupied by a Spanish order of nuns.

Built originally as a private house, it passed through many hands before it became an inn in the 1800s. In about 1880 it was bought by Mr Last who used it as a tenement building. Later it could no longer be used for accommodation purposes and was turned into a furniture store. Later still it was bought as a store by the Colchester Brewing Company.

This is said to be the house which was re-erected at Kingston Hill, although not to exactly the same design. Stained glass windows which contained the arms of Catherine Parr and the Howard family, are thought by some to have come from this house, thereby fuelling a theory that this was once her house. These were saved some years previously and are now safely preserved (we believe) in the windows of the Siege House, East Street.

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

1861 Charles Joslin, age 30, beer house keeper  
1862 to 1867 Charles Joslin, Beer Retailer

Census  
Kelly's and Post Office

Note: The Premises were only named in 1867

The plot that it once occupied later became parking space for cars, and is to the immediate west of the old Swan pub at the foot of Hythe Hill.

### Piccolo Padre

Hythe

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

### Pig

North Street

see the **Tramway Tavern**

### Pigg

St Botolph

?

18th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub strikes me as a bit of 18th century fun. However, a scholarly view says that the name came from the Saxon 'piggen', a type of milking pail. When the pails were used for serving beer, customers would have dipped their mugs (known as piggs) in and served themselves.

It first appears in the licensing records for 1764 but was probably much older than this date. The last reference to it was in 1780. Its precise location is unknown.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 4<sup>th</sup> Apr 1914, 18<sup>th</sup> Apr 1914, 25<sup>th</sup> May 1956, 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 1962, 14<sup>th</sup> May 1965

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 19<sup>th</sup> Mar 1910

### Pink Panther

The name comes from the film that starred the likes of David Niven and Peter Sellers in the 1960s and which was adapted as a cartoon character afterwards. A bit of fun therefore, in keeping with the light-hearted atmosphere that the new landlords wished to adopt for their establishment.

see the **New Town Tavern**

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### Pinnacles

St Giles

?

18th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub may have been a reference to the pinnacles on top of the building or perhaps referred to the view of the pinnacles on top of St Johns Abbey Gate.

It only appears in the licensing records for 1764 but was probably much older than this date. William Wire referred to it in his diary in 1842<sup>1</sup>. Its precise location is unknown.

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### The Playhouse

St John's Street

CO2 7AA

1994 to date

a modern alehouse

571003

The name of this modern day alehouse (as it is termed by its owners), was taken from the fact that this was the original name of the building that was started life in 1929 as a theatre and later became the ABC cinema. To quote from Nicholas Butler's book 'Theatre in Colchester', 'this was a large commercial undertaking by a firm which already controlled the Norwich and Ipswich Hippodromes. It seated 1000 people on three levels and was built in a pseudo classical style that contained a good deal of Egyptiana. On 18th March 1929, it opened with a musical comedy, 'So This is Love'. Unfortunately, it was at about this time that the talkies appeared. In August 1930, the Playhouse became a cinema.'

The building was used as a bingo hall when the ABC closed, but that became redundant with the building of the new bingo hall in Osborne Street around 1990. It was purchased by J D Weatherspoon and a new licence granted in 1994<sup>2</sup>, against strong opposition from local licensees. There was mention at the time of it taking the name J J Moons, but it eventually opted for the Playhouse.

It soon became a popular place for all ages of clientele, attracted by the low priced beer and smart new decor. It has a large central bar with computerised tills and camera surveillance to dissuade any 'nere-do-wells.' The overall theme concentrates on its former use as a theatre, cinema, with old posters that had been discovered adorning the walls announcing the many acts that appeared there at one time - with names like Max Miller, Winifred Attwell, Wilson, Keppel and Betty, Michael Bentine, etc. The old picture house cameras were placed by the entrance doors. The stage area has a theatrical painted backdrop, with a false fireplace, that area being set aside for its non-smoking customers. The balcony is unused, with dummies scattered around in the seats, set as if they were watching a performance. The centrepiece is the roof dome which has a crescent moon and face hanging down and surrounded by gold painted mouldings. When it opened, it was selling beer at 79p a pint, as opposed to more than double that at most other pubs in the town. Another feature is that this is the only pub in town that does not have music.

originally known as **J J Moons**

The initial granting of a licence for this house in October 1994, was in this name.

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### Plough - 1

St Mary at the Walls

Crouch Street

pre 1764 to c1770

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of this pub is another typical of the period, whereby it refers to a common agricultural implement which would be recognised easily on a sign hanging outside the pub.

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<sup>1</sup> Wire Diary 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1842

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1994, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1994,  
16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1994, 10<sup>th</sup> Mar 1995



This house is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1770. Morant mentions the Plough Alehouse as being on the north side of Crouch Street, by which passed Plough Alley. This would place it in the area of where the present day King's Arms is situated. Its precise location or any other details remain unknown.

---

### Plough - 2

St Botolph

Magdalen Street

pre 1764 to 1969 (map 19)

an alehouse

demolished

This house is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1819 and then in trade directories for subsequent years. In 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1885, it having been entirely rebuilt in 1882. In 1925 it was shown to be owned by Daniells. However, it had passed in to the hands of Ind Coope by 1940.



Plough Corner c1783  
(a painting by Eyre?)

A painting believed to be by Eyre, also copied by Major Bale, is reproduced above and is also shown on the rear cover of this book. The sign of the plough is distinguishable on the far left of the picture, and the attire of the sergeant standing outside the old inn has enabled an expert to date the picture to c1783. The building had a typical Georgian style frontage, probably built onto a timber framed structure of much greater age. It is thought that the building on the right was the Woolpack. The postcard picture on the next page is from Edwardian times and shows a long gone view of this part of the town.

The Eyre picture above shows that the Plough stood at the corner of the street, hence the area was historically known as Plough Corner. Joseph Phillips tells us, in his 1906 article (in Chapter 2), that the pub was rebuilt in 1882, a few houses along. The following picture shows this later building. The 1876 map shows its original position, hence the disparity in the shape of the buildings.

A book about Essex brewers claims that beer was brewed on these premises from as early as 1732, although no more details are known.



Plough Corner, Colchester.



c1967

In 1900<sup>1</sup>, it was reported that three inn keepers were summoned for permitting drunkenness, namely the Fountain, the Plough and the Railway Tavern (a beer house), all close to each other. Full accounts were given of instances and the conclusion was that it was mainly due to reservists and not Colchester residents.

A newspaper article of 1952 stated that the pub's sign which was then affixed to the wall of the building, was thought to once have been a working plough, but of some considerable age. Whatever happened to that rusty old agricultural implement is unknown.

In 1986<sup>2</sup>, there was an article about Freddie Bird, colourful landlord of this pub in the early 1920s, who was also a comedian and comic singer. He used to run a beer tent at local events such as the Colchester Rose Show.

Bacchus visited in 1963<sup>3</sup> when the licensees were Eric and Arlette Newton. He gave a snapshot of life in the pub on that particular day.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 1900

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 1986

<sup>3</sup> CE – 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 1963

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

1822 to 1824	James Baskett	Pigot's
1828 to 1845	John Long	Pigot's
1848 to 1851	Mrs Elizabeth Long	White's and Post Office
1851	Elizabeth Long, widow, innkeeper, age 66, born Suffolk, together with her niece companion, a housemaid and an ostler	Census
1855 to 1882	Thomas Pitt (elder and younger)	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Thomas Pitt, Inn Keeper, age 64, born Colchester, together with his wife, a servant, an ostler and a lodger	Census
1867	Mrs. Susan Pitt	Post Office
1871	Thomas Pitt, Inn Keeper, age 42, born Berechurch, together with his wife, their three children, four lodgers and a servant	Census
1881	Thomas Pitt, Innkeeper, age 52, born Colchester, together with his wife, two daughters, a general servant and a lodger	Census
1886	James Raven	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Albert Edward Forster	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Mrs. Sophia Elizabeth Perkins	Kelly's
1901	Sophia E Perkins, Publican, Widow, age 56, born Suffolk, together with her son, a publican aged 30, a barmaid and two ostler grooms	Census
1908 to 1912	Thomas James Grant	Kelly's
1917	Frederick James Bird	Kelly's
1925	Alfred Edward Parkins	Kelly's
1933	Mrs. Rosa Lena Cross	Kelly's

The pub was closed in 1969 as a result of compulsory purchase for the St Botolph's roundabout development. The photograph on the previous page shows the building in 1967, shortly before it was demolished. The building that can just be seen beyond the Plough was the Woolpack Hotel.

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### Prettygate

The Commons

1960 to date

a public house



The name for this pub was taken from the area of Colchester that is known as Prettygate. The pub's sign is a copy of the original gate, considered to have been a pretty gate, that belonged to the old farmhouse known as Prettygate Farm, which was knocked down to make way for this pub. The original gate is now all that remains, being safely preserved in the pub's garden (in 2000). Farmer William Baines<sup>1</sup> is believed to have made the original gate in the 1800s and would not then have known that a housing estate, a road and a pub would all be named after the product of his handiwork.

The pub was granted its first licence in 1960, it being built to serve the thirsty inhabitants of housing that was being built in the general area.

The Winkle Club once thrived at this pub (1980s), costing members a fine if they could not show their winkle when challenged so to do. (The winkle, of course, being the shell of a sea creature by that name - what else?) One of the pub's regulars indulged in a bit of one-upmanship and commissioned a winkle to be made from silver, which he would proudly display when challenged.

In 2012, the Prettygate was a good local pub.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 1995



**Prince of Wales**

Military Road

The name of this pub would have been taken from one of the many Princes of Wales, the title usually being given to the eldest son of the King or Queen of England. A very loyalist name for a pub.

see **Adnan's Jazz Bar**

**Priory Arms**

St Botolph's Priory

1990s

a historical monument

not a pub at all

This reference is to a non-conformist non-licensed premises. It was a nickname used for St Botolph's Priory, an important clerical building founded by the Augustinian Priors (indeed the first in Britain) in the 12th century and much damaged by Cromwellian cannon ball shot during the siege of the town in 1648. This was the place where the 'have you got any spare change' brigade got together to drink their cans of 'Special Brew', having being banned from just about every pub in the town. Their presence was so strong that this important historical monument was left out of the official guided tour at one time, for fear of upsetting the image of historic Colchester.

A recollection of this meeting place came from a member of the local constabulary who, with a colleague, was patrolling the hallowed grounds. The players were gathered around Mr Hawkins' tomb, as was the norm at the time. The constable made comment to the gathering to the effect, 'I hope you're not doing any damage'. To which the quick reply was, 'Not as much as Henry the 8th!'

**Purple Dog**

Holy Trinity

Trinity Street, Scheregate

2006 to date

a pub

This pub was given its name in 2006 when it opened for business in September of that year. It was previously known as the Clarence.

Previously known as the **Clarence**

c1848 to 2006 (map 8)



The name of the pub could, like the Waggon and Horses, have been taken from a popular type of horse drawn carriage of the day, a Clarence being a roomy town family conveyance seating four people and drawn by two horses. It was described as being midway between a brougham and a coach. However, it is more likely to have been a simple reference to the Duke of Clarence who later became King William IV. William, Duke of Clarence (1765 - 1837), became King William IV and was succeeded by his niece, Queen Victoria.

The Clarence is one of the oldest pubs in the town. It is sited facing Scheregate Steps, originally a hole which was 'bashed' through the town's unique and famous Roman wall in the medieval period, to provide passage for people travelling to and fro from nearby St John's Abbey. This access point has since become one of the major tourist sights of the town, the Clarence being perfectly framed by its portals.

To say something of the pub's history, you would have to start by looking at its timber framed construction, of a style typical of the 17th century - when the best of the plenteous English oak went to build our fighting ships and what was left, our dwellings. Over the years, this one time tavern has grown in size, now taking up what were once at least four separate buildings.

The earliest reference to the name 'The Clarence' is in a trade directory of 1848, although it probably dates from a few year's earlier. The building fabric is much older than the pub, with its timber frame construction of the 17th century era.





Two picture postcards from the 1910 period, the first looking west and the second looking east.



....and another from the 1980s.

The pub first appears by name in a trade directory of 1848 but not in 1845 or 1839. Local newspapers<sup>1</sup> in 1857 recorded that William Minter was refused a renewal of the licence of the Clarence, Trinity Street, 'it being a most notorious house'. That did not seem to have impeded its business as it continued to be mentioned in each subsequent trade directory after that date. In 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. By 1940 it was owned by Ind Coope.

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

1848	Jeremiah Hamblion	White's
1851	John Sach, innkeeper, age 54, born Layer Marney, together with his wife, their young daughter, a servant and a lodger	Census
1855	J. Sach	Kelly's
1861	William Minter, age 46, inn keeper	Census
1862	Mrs. Emma Minter	Kelly's
1867	William Siggers	Post Office
1870 to 1874	William Siggers Sen.	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	William Siggers, Licensed Victualler, age 66, born Cornard, together with his wife, niece and two lodgers	Census
1878	Mrs. Sarah Siggers	Kelly's
1881	Charles Frost, Licensed Victualler, age 26, born Halstead, together with his wife, their two children and a brother	Census
1882 to 1895	Charles Frost Jun.	Kelly's
1891	Charles Frost, age 36	Census
1898 to 1899	George Martin	Kelly's
1901	George Goodman, Inn Proprietor, age 60, born Beds, together with his wife, their two children and a grand-daughter	Census
1902	George Goodman	Kelly's

Memories of this house from the 1960s came in a book by George Pluckwell, who recalled:

*'the old widowed landlady, a plumpish lady who wore rows of shiny beads. She supervised her staff and lively inn like a sentry, pacing up and down behind the heavy wooden bar counters. On a Saturday night, the bar rung to the sound of rather boozy voices singing all the old songs, and the sounds of the ancient joanna could be heard streets away.'*

*'Pat was an attractive barmaid with hair like a raven's wing. She generally spoke to us in the modest snug. Often she sported a black eye. 'Been fighting with me boyfriend again' she explained. Sometimes she donged him with the frying pan. Today the pub has been tarted up like an old ship and even has a garden room. But I prefer that old-time character, now vanished with the distant sixties.'*

This pub is one of the busiest of the town centre pubs and, in the 1990s, was owned by Carlsberg Tetley. In 2006 it was linked with the Ha-Ha concern in the High Street.

previously named the **Joiner's Arms**

c1776 to c1847

From around 1776 to 1847, the pub was known as the Joiner's Arms, perhaps a reference to the type of tradesmen that lived in the general area at that time. Previous to that it is believed to have been known as the Cock but, although the tavern appears in the alehouse recognisances by this name from 1764 until 1775, it would probably have dated from well before this period.

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

1822 to 1824	T. Clark	Pigot's
1828 to 1833	Robert Lloyd	Pigot's
1839	Elizabeth Lloyd	Pigot's
1845	Daniel Leggett	Post Office

<sup>1</sup> ES – 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1857,  
Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 11<sup>th</sup> Sep 1857



previously named the **Cock**

pre 1764 to 1775

Although the tavern appears in the alehouse recognisances by this name from 1764 until 1775, it would probably have dated from before this period.

John Bawtree owned St Botolphs Brewery, and this pub was amongst those in his possession. He bought the brewery from Benjamin Cock at some time between 1764 and 1814, and later sold it to Osborne.

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*Drink today, and drown all sorrow:  
You shall perhaps not do it tomorrow.*

John Fletcher

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### COCK FIGHTING



Cockfighting was a sport enjoyed by many Colchester people.  
This illustration is by William Hogarth and is entitled 'The Cockpit'.  
The Waggon and Horses at the top of North Hill was a known venue for cockfighting.



*A man goes into a pub with a giraffe.  
They drink pint for pint all night and at the end of the evening,  
the giraffe falls over drunk and incapacitated.  
The man gets up and goes to walk out. The barman shouts after him,  
'You're not going to leave that lying there are you?'  
The man replied, 'That isn't a lion - its a giraffe.'*

## Quayside

St Giles

Haven Road, Hythe  
CO2 8HT

2008 to date (map 128)

a public house

The pub took this name as a fresh start in 2008. It is, indeed, on the quayside, so the chosen name was ideal.

previously known as the **Maltsters Arms**

c1832 to 2008

It is first mentioned in a trade directory of 1832 and would have enjoyed much trade from the labour of the many industries in the locality, as well as from the dock workers and sailors of the day. As the port became more and more run down, its trade suffered and the building of warehouses and buildings at each side dwarfed it and obscured it from view. A newspaper article in the 1970s showed a glum looking landlord lamenting his loss of trade and mentioned plans to extend the pub to make it more noticeable.

This pub was owned by Grimston up until 1902 when he sold it to Trumans. The various census entries give the following information:

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1832 to 1833	William Pitt	Pigot's
1839	William Hale	Pigot's
1845	Abraham Glading	Post Office
1848	John Gladding	White's
1851 to 1862	Abraham Gladding	Kelly's and Post Office
1851	Abraham Glading, innkeeper, age 50, born Great Holland, together with his wife, their daughter and six lodgers	Census
1861	Abraham Glading, Inn Keeper, age 62, born Essex together with his wife, a barmaid grand-daughter, two brickmaker lodgers and three maltsters	Census
1867 to 1870	Richard Springett	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Richard Springett, age 63, maltster and inn keeper	Census
1874 to 1878	John Reynolds, Farmer	Kelly's
1881	Mary Reynolds, Licensed Victualler, age 64, born Dedham, together with her son, an Agricultural Labourer, three lodgers who were Maltsters Labourers and a fourth lodger who was a Sewerage Contractors Labourer	Census
1882	Mrs. Mary Reynolds, Farmer	Kelly's
1886	Mrs. Mary Reynolds	Kelly's
1891	Frederick Grossman, age 28, working maltster	Census
1901	Frederick E Crossman, age 37, maltster	Census
1907	John Green	Benham's
1908 to 1933	John Green, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

John Green, Maltsters Arms, after 28 years as licensee, after his father, in occupation of the family for over 30 years before him, died in 1954. - Black Eagle Journal.

Earlier in the last century, the pub had a strong quoits team<sup>1</sup>, often winning trophies in the pub's name.

For most of its time, the pub has enjoyed good custom from the working people of the Hythe dock area where boats were coming and going, the maltings were busy, other industries thrived. However, the river was gradually silting up,

<sup>1</sup> EG – 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1976



bigger boats were using easier moorings at Wivenhoe and Felixstowe, and the Hythe went into decline. The pub was overshadowed by huge warehouses, making it barely noticeable from the road and in the 1980s it was in serious trouble from a lack of trade.



The Maltsters Arms - c1932  
...and below, the pub sign in 1991



In 1994, the pub was taken over by new management and became Colchester's first pub for the gay and lesbian community<sup>1</sup>. It seemed a strange alliance as the two sexes didn't really mix, but it did seem to work – divided bar end to bar end. A visit by the author one evening led to a disconcerting encounter with two 'ladies' behind the bar, dressed in a very ostentatious manner. He later discovered them to be Rose and Ethel. One might have thought at the time that it was normal attire for the bar staff, but a visit at a later date led to the question being put to the landlord, which revealed that the said visit was on one of their drag nights. With condoms instead of peanuts on the bar, it was certainly not like the old Maltsters!

On another visit, the author (accompanied by his wife of course!) stood at the bar alongside a couple of average looking lads in army style jumpers but, on surreptitious inspection, noted that they were also wearing tight fitting, shiny rubber leggings and stiletto heels. Elsewhere, a group of conventionally dressed women at a table turned out to be two women and two six foot men, the latter pair spoiling the effect with their unshaven chins, short, dirty and partly varnished finger nails and wrinkled stockings. It was difficult to understand why they didn't make more of an effort over their appearance!

The pub enjoyed a lively evening trade, putting on strippers and other live acts for the entertainment of its customers. On certain evenings, they held a 'Fetish Night,' where rubber, leather and uniforms were the dress requirements.

Graham the landlord said that the old part of the building had a ghost, an apparition in grey that chose to lay down on the settee. He felt that the pub was at one time used by smugglers, situated as it once was, tucked out of the way and close to the river bank.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 1994

Joking aside, and whatever your persuasion, it was certainly the first openly declared gay pub in Colchester, welcoming both gay and straight customers. (Other pubs used in the past and renowned for their gay customers, have been the Recreation, the Headgate and the Welcome Sailor.) Its customers were pleased to have somewhere to go in Colchester without fear for their safety but it seems there were not enough of them - and the natural prejudices of 'straight' folk meant that they did not use the pub to any major degree. It closed its doors again in 1996, leaving the Fox and Hounds in Little Bromley as the premier gay pub in the district.

In July 1999, after a period of closure, the Maltsters was purchased, refurbished and re-opened by David and Margaret Martin. A past incumbent paid them a visit and informed them of a second (or was it the same) ghost, presumed to be a woman as this ghost was in the habit of slapping the landlord around the face, waking him in his bed. After the Martins moved on, the new tenants allowed the pub to get a bad reputation for trouble and, by 2008, Stephen and Lisa Adams had taken over and changed the pub's name, to put bad associations behind them.

also nicknamed the **Molesters** (by its customers during its gay period).

### Queen Elizabeth's Head

St Runwald

High Street

c1558 to c1760

an ancient inn

demolished

This inn would have taken its name from Queen Elizabeth I of England. The adoption of this name was not lightly undertaken, for such signboards that did not do full justice to 'hir Majesties person, favour, or grace' were by the imperious lady's own order 'knocked in pieces, and cast into the fire,' and she further directed that all subsequent artistic efforts were to be 'licensed by the head officers of the place,' and were to conform strictly to a portrait she caused to be painted 'for the satisfaction of her loving subjects.' Her reign is perhaps the most colourful and splendid in England's history, with the foundation of the British Empire, the power of Spain challenged on the seas and finally broken by the defeat of the Armada, the flowering of the Renaissance, the work of William Shakespeare, and so much more.

The following is based on an article written by Gerald Rickword around 1934<sup>1</sup>.

On the north side of High Street, where the parishes of St Runwald and St Peter meet, at 'The Queen's Head Gateway,' a point known to all in times past when the good old custom of bumping small boys at parochial boundaries was still observed, there stood a 'large and commodious inn' of which, although carrying on in business for some 300 years, but little record exists.

Standing in the centre of the town, overlooking the stocks, where some of its patrons may have repented of indiscretions in the cold and the rain, the inn witnessed all the pageantry of Colchester's history. Here met men who had fought at Agincourt, others who marched to Tilbury Fort under Gloriana's banner, or sailed down the Colne to face Spain's vaunted Armada, cavaliers and Roundheads, merchants and men of affairs, who would have gravely discussed a strange project advanced by William Mott in 1662, that all the inns in the town be purchased by the Council and put under their own management, the profits arising from this early attempt at municipal trading being devoted to the relief of the poor.

Some twenty years later when the landlord was one of the great Smith clan, a yearly rent of 1s was payable to the town, with an additional 2d for an encroachment, and a still further charge of 1s for 'Ye standing of ye signe poste in ye street.' Its proximity to the Moot Hall made it a convenient meeting place for committees drawn from the Council, whose deliberations took place in a secluded room undisturbed, but for the occasional entry of the drawer or barman in response to demands for refreshments - later paid for from the funds of the borough. Such a bill incurred here in 1735 reads: '2 pints of Red 1s 8d, 3 pints of Wite 3s, 2 mugg of Ale 4d, for Welsh Rabbit 4d, for backer 1d - Total 5s 5d.'

The best known of a long line of landlords was Byatt Walker, a member of an old Colchester family. He was a typical inn-keeper of his day, 'an honest plain man' of respectable family and moderate education, a sound judge of horse flesh and of wine, he possessed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the roads, their inns and stages, and of the farms and their occupiers for miles around. He was proud of his town, of which he was a free burgess and had some knowledge of its antiquities, on which he was pleased to expound to any enquiring traveller. In the conduct of his house he was ably assisted by his wife, Ann Sparrow, whom he had married in 1724, a woman who took a pride in her home cured hams and preserves, welcomed her road weary guests with a smile as she busied herself attending to their needs, ruled her maids with a firm but kind hand, and who when the labours of the day were over, enjoyed a game of cards and a gossip with her neighbours.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 1934

In 1748, a London coach was running on alternate mornings from the Queen's Head, and its next door neighbour the Three Cups, to the Black Bull in Leadenhall Street. On Tuesdays, the coach returned to Colchester, and after a night's repose, continued its journey to Harwich. On Thursdays it went no further than the Queen's Head, but on Saturdays it was advertised to 'fly' to Harwich in one day to be in time for the Holland packet boats, a start being made from the London inn at 1 am.

Again in 1748, during a visit to the Moot Hall by the Norwich Company, tickets were to be obtained here and at the Bear and the Three Cups Inns, the season's plays including 'The Concious Lovers' bespoke by Isaac Martin Rebow, Esq., and described by Fielding's Parson Adam's as containing 'some things solemn enough for a sermon;' Shakespeare's 'Measure for Measure' by desire of Nicholas Corsellis, Esq. and his lady; and 'The Provok'd Husband, or, a Journey to London,' at the request of the Gentlemen Foxhunters.

During the parliamentary elections in 1754, the Queen's Head was one of the inns opened in the interest of John Olmus, Esq. of New Hall, Boreham, who, possibly in a large measure due to the unlimited quantities of meat and drink provided for his supporters, was returned top of the poll.

In 1749, Walker, in addition to the Queen's Head, took 'the Old Three Crowns Inn ... fronting the grand high Street in the high Town,' but possibly this undertaking was too great a strain on his capital, or the responsibility of running both inns was too great for him, for he advertised in 1751, the remaining portion of his lease of the former inn for disposal. No satisfactory offers being made, he remained at the Queen's Head but again advertised in 1755 as 'an Antient and old-accustom'd Inn ... containing above thirty Good Rooms, with large Wine Vaults and Cellars, and good Stables for one hundred Horses; with a Brewing Office, and all Manner of Outhouses, Yards, and other Conveniences,' with the proposition that a tenant might let off warehouses and granaries to the value of £10 a year without any inconvenience to his business.

Paul Potter became the next tenant, but in 1757 he retired and his furniture offered for sale. The old inn was doomed it seems (its nearby rival the Three Cups was building up a good custom) and a few years later, in 1763 it was privately occupied by Mr Barnard, surgeon.

It was demolished at some point, becoming the site of the much enlarged Cups Hotel, which stood until it too was demolished in the 1960s.

In 1763 a Roman mosaic was found in what was then described as the garden of the Falcon and Queens Head, on the north side of the High Street.

also known as the **Queen's Head** - 1

previously known as the **Falcon** or **Fawcon**

c1420 to c1588

Morant wrote, 'This Chantry was founded in pursuance of the Will of Edmund Haverland of this Town, which was enrolled in 1431. He therein bequeathed to the keeper, brothers and sisters of the Holy Hospital of the Holy Cross in Colchester, and their successors forever, all his Inn, called the Fawcon, with all the rentaries thereto annexed, and their appurtenances, situated in the market place of this town, and in the parishes of St Peter and St Runwald.' This and other property included were presumably granted with the other possessions of the hospital to Lord Chancellor Audley at the dissolution of the monastic establishments.

What significance the sign had when first displayed it is impossible to determine. It may have represented the 'falcon belled' - fawcon being another form of the spelling - of the noble sport of hawking, or the falcon in his proper natural colour, of Edward III (1327 to 1377), the hero of Crecy, who committed to the care of the bailiffs of Colchester some of the prisoners captured at that decisive battle, possibly in acknowledgement of the town having furnished him with five ships and nearly 200 mariners for the blockade of Calais in 1347. A later re-painting may have shown the 'Faucon argent and the Fetterlock' of the commercially minded king, Henry VII, which remained until the accession of Elizabeth I of England in 1558, who visited Colchester within twelve months of coming to the throne, and which would have brought about a further change in the sign. Mine host of the day, who could with the aid of a little paint, have altered his signboard to the 'white falcon crowned, holding a sceptre,' the badge of Anne Boleyn and of the new queen, her daughter, in the way that tavern lions have frequently changed their hue, and white boars became blue after Bosworth Field, preferred, regardless of cost, to display a new sign representing the Virgin Queen. The inn then became the Queen Elizabeth's Head, later shortened to the Queen's Head, although Morant speaks of it with its full title.

## Queen Elizabeth's Head

?

c1776

a tavern

location uncertain

see the **White Hart**

## Queen's Arms

St Runwald

43 Pelhams Lane

c1848 to c1894 (map 51)

a beerhouse or inn

demolished

The name of this pub, together with those that follow, are probably the most common of names of pubs in England. They are a simple demonstration of loyalty to the Crown, and of special relevance to a town such as Colchester where the armed forces have played such an important part since Queen Victoria's reign.

It was an old timber framed building which stood at the south west corner of Pelhams Lane, overlooking Trinity churchyard.

It was listed as a beerhouse and, as such, does not appear in the alehouse recognisances by name. It is first mentioned in trade directories in 1848, apparently closing some time after 1894<sup>1</sup> when it appeared in a list of houses owned by the Colchester Brewing Company. It is mentioned in an 1869<sup>2</sup> newspaper reporting on Licensing Day proceedings, being cautioned about its conduct. It was then described by a policeman as a 'perfect brothel' but that a new landlord, a Mr Benjamin Firmin, had brought the house back into good order. The renewal application in 1870 referred to the house as being called the Green Dragon, presumably with a full licence. There is now no trace of the original building.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1845	Thomas Mason	Post Office
1848	James Ford	White's
1851	Joseph Smith, Innkeeper, age 32, born Ardleigh together with his wife, their two daughters, a Pot Boy and a visitor	
1855	Joseph Smith	Census
1862	William Henry Traveller	Kelly's
1870 to 1871	Benjamin St. John Firmin	Kelly's and Post Office
1874 to 1878	John Richer	Kelly's

Some indication of its disreputable character was recorded in an 1865<sup>3</sup> newspaper when George Pettican, a pig jobber and landlord of the Whalebone Inn at Fingringhoe was robbed of £75 in notes, gold and silver. He admitted that he was the worse for drink at the time when he first picked up with two women, Mary Tiesenger and Emma Vaughan and went into the Queens Arms. Most of the money was recovered and the landlord, John Buckingham, was called to give evidence.

previously known as the **Green Dragon** or **Griffin**

c1823 to c1840

The names Green Dragon and Griffin would refer to the same mythical beast, the Griffin returning some years later as the emblem of the Midland Bank.

William Wire's diary of 1846 mentioned the removal of the corner of the building and its jetty which would have jutted out across Pelham's Lane with other buildings of its time.

The various trade directories show the following:

1822 to 1823	John Rumsey	Pigot's
1831 to 1833	Robert Criddle	Publican's Licenses
1839	George Clare	Pigot's

<sup>1</sup> The Essex Telegraph - 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1894

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

<sup>3</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1865



## Queen's Head - 2

80 Hythe Hill

c1760 to 1982 (map 42)

a public house

in other use

A newspaper article in 1982<sup>1</sup> announced the closing of this pub, together with the Waterloo in Magdalen Street. It stated that they were the latest to be axed by owners Ind Coope, with this pub being affected by the run-down of the Hythe as an industrial and commercial centre. Efforts were made to re-open it in 1990, but the authorities turned the application down because of lack of parking and protests from local residents.

The Queen's Head was an ancient pub dating, at least, from 1764 and probably well before that. It was sold by Osborne to Colchester Brewing Company in 1886 and later passed to Ind Coope.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1822 to 1839	James Chamberlain	Pigot's
1845	Everard Willett, Coal Merchant	Post Office
1848 to 1852	Maria Willett, Coal Merchant	White's and Post Office and Kelly's
1855 to 1871	Elijah Langley	Kelly's and Post Office
1874	James Adams	Kelly's
1878 to 1886	Joshua Francis	Kelly's
1894 to 1901	John Summers	Kelly's
1901	John Somers, Publican, age 56, born Ireland, together with his wife	Census
1908	William Lord	Kelly's
1912	Mrs. Sarah Lord	Kelly's
1917 to 1925	Mrs. Sarah Clarke	Kelly's
1933	George E. Worth	Kelly's

The building was heavily restored some years ago but still retains its ancient timber framework internally. After it closed as a public house it became shop premises.

## Queen's Head - 3

St Giles

?

c1764 to c1770

a tavern

location uncertain

This tavern is mentioned in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to about 1770. Nothing else is known of it.

## Queen's Hotel

Berechurch Road  
CO2 7QB

1894 to date

a public house



This pub was built as a hotel although it never seems to have functioned as such. An odd place to build a hotel one might think but its owners may have thought it would take trade from the Britannia, some short distance towards the town. It was then the first pub that a traveller would come upon when journeying into town by that road. It would also have enjoyed the custom of soldiers from adjacent barracks that were being built for an ever expanding garrison. To this day there has always been a rivalry with the Britannia.

It was built in 1894 having a new licence, by its owners Nicholls who later sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company and who subsequently sold it to Ind Coope. The 1901 census shows the licensed victualler as George Shurley[?], age 51, born in India but a British subject.

The various trade directories show the following:

1902 to 1906	George Shurey	Kelly's
1908 to 1933	Ernest Warner	Kelly's

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1982

A postcard photograph dating from around 1900, is shown below. It gives the licensee as a Mr Ernest Warner, and the picture shows a large group of people standing outside. Presumably, Mr Warner is pictured amongst the crowd, together with several military personnel and a young girl on a pony. What could the occasion have been?



The Queen's Hotel c1900

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*When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.*

Henny Youngman

---

The Edwardian picture postcard shown here is of the Soldiers Home and Institution that was in Queen Street.

The strongest beverage they served there was coffee. It later became Colchester's police station and, after that, Chicago's Bar. In 2012 it was TP's Sports Bar.





*When you have lost your inns down your empty selves,  
for you will have lost the last of England.*

Hillaire Belloc

## Railway Refreshment Rooms

Railway Station

c1865

public house

precise location unknown

This is not really a pub but is worthy of mention surely, if only for the tale that follows.

The licensing sessions in 1865<sup>1</sup> heard from Mr Downes (Head Constable?) that, 'a number of persons, he did not mean to say at any one time; were in the habit of going to the refreshment rooms at the Railway Station at the time the trains were running on Sunday to be served with beer, etc. at a time when the ordinary public houses were not opened. On the previous day he took the opportunity of going down to see if this was the case, and in the refreshment rooms he found two notorious characters well known to this Bench, being supplied with refreshment, after partaking of which they left the station. This, of course, beside being contrary to the Act of Parliament, was unfair to other publicans. and he mentioned it that Mr Mills, the occupier of the rooms, might take care the like might not occur again'. The Bench agreed and a warning was given.

Was this at North Station or St Botolphs? The latter is more likely, don't you think?

## Railway Tavern - 1

Mile End

Bergholt Road

The name of this pub and the others of the same name, would have been taken from the railway that came to Colchester in the 1840s, first at the station now known as North Station and then later at St Botolphs, more recently renamed Colchester Town.

see the **Colchester Arms**

see also the **Chequers**

## Railway Tavern - 2

Lexden Road

c1848 to c1863

unknown

now a private house

The only references found to this public house or beerhouse is in trade directories from 1848 through to 1863. The shape of the plot was identified by Bowler's plans of 1843, which were commissioned by its owners Cobbold brewers. It was a bow-fronted building facing north, with a small pond to its north west, suggesting that it was near to Spring Lane, which fits perfectly with the old timber framed building that now stands opposite to Lexden church that is known to have been owned by a brewery and later became a school.

## Railway Tavern - 3

St Giles

Magdalen Street

19th century to 1909 (map 22)

a beerhouse

partly demolished

This particular Railway Tavern was situated on the eastern corner of Magdalen Street and Military Road. An old photograph showed the main bar in a position that is now (2012) simply a section of pavement. The owners of the adjoining house have created some interesting signwriting on their frontage alluding to Messrs Grimston, the brewers who, at one time, owned this house. Military Road must have been widened at some point after this pub finally closed its doors.

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1865





The Railway Tavern c1900

This pub was close to other pubs, with a short stroll across the road to the Inkerman or the Prince of Wales and, of course, was directly opposite the railway station – hence its name! Indeed, the newspapers reported in 1867<sup>1</sup> that it was kept by Mr John Brown, jun., and that it applied for a full licence on the grounds that, directly opposite, was about to be erected new goods sheds. The application was refused and it remained a beerhouse.

It was owned by Grimston up until he sold it to Trumans in 1899 and was closed down in 1909. It was one of three inns fined for permitting drunkenness in 1900<sup>2</sup> and seemed to have been a favoured watering hole for soldiers.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1870 to 1899	John Bloomfield, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1871	John Bloomfield, age 24, beerhouse keeper	Census
1881	John Bloomfield, Publican, age 34, born Colchester, together with his wife and three daughters	Census
1902 to 1980	Mrs. Ann Blomfield, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

<b>Rainbow</b>	St Botolph	21 Long Wyre Street
c1860 to 1922 (map 11)	a public house	demolished

The name of the pub is a popular one throughout the country and its sign would have been easily recognised. The story goes that a crock of gold could be found at the end of a rainbow. Perhaps a few people thought that they would find their fortune in this pub.

The earliest reference found to this pub was in the newspapers of 1860<sup>3</sup>, when it applied for a licence for the Rainbow beerhouse on Licensing Day. Mr Church applied for the licence, kept by T B Rampling and the property of Mr Salmon. He compared this house to the nearby Tailor's Arms, a house of so very indifferent a character. Mr Philbrick opposed the application on behalf of Messrs. Osborne, the proprietors of the Tailors Arms. The application was refused.

It was owned by Bridges until it was sold to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1884.

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 1867

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

<sup>3</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1860



The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1861	Thomas Ramplin, age 37, carpenter and inn keeper	Census
1867 to 1882	James London	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	James London, Publican, age 56, born St Osyth together with his wife, their son, two visitors and a lodger	Census
1881	James London, Innkeeper, age 67, born St. Osyth, together with his wife	Census
1886	Israel Siviter	Kelly's
1891	Florence McInmon, age 31, a widow, inn keeper	Census
1894 to 1895	Richard Dawes	Kelly's
1898 to 1908	Mrs. Charlotte Dawes	Kelly's
1901	Charlotte Dawes, Inn Keeper, widow, age 52, born Rainham, together with her grandson, a barmaid and a housemaid	Census
1912	William James	Kelly's
1917	Richard Lurcock	Kelly's

At the licensing sessions in 1922<sup>1</sup>, it was stated that there were 31 licensed houses within 400 yards of this house and that its conduct had not been very good. Owners, the Colchester Brewing Company, said the trouble had been through soldiers. The landlord had refused a soldier a drink and other soldiers had created a disturbance. Their general put the house out of bounds, but the committee decided to close it down.

### Recreation Hotel

Military Road

The name of this pub would have come from its location, overlooking the recreation field.

see **Vito's**

### Red Bull

St Botolph

?

date unknown

a tavern

location uncertain

The only reference found to this establishment was in the St Botolph's Church chest. More research is clearly necessary to discover its location, presumably in that parish.

### Red Cow - 1

North Street

The name of this pub is perhaps a variation of that popular pub name of the Bull. Its location on North Street would have meant it seeing many a red cow go past the windows, both to and from market.

see **Chaise and Pair**

### Red Cow - 2

St James

Harwich Road

1792 to c1845

a tavern

location uncertain

This tavern is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1792 and in trade directories for 1823 and 1827. There is a reference in the Tithe Map of 1845 to the Cow Inn, which is probably the same house. Its location was in the same general position as the present day Flying Fox, so perhaps this was that pub's previous name before it was demolished in the 1920s for a total rebuild. Nothing else is known of its history.

The various trade directories show the following:

1822 to 1824	William Stevens	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	Thomas Fitch	Pigot's

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 17<sup>th</sup> Jun 1922

It is possible, if not probable, that it later became known as the Spotted Cow, although the reason why a red cow would change its markings is now lost with time. Perhaps it was the pub sign makers mistake or little joke by a new landlord.

see also the **Spotted Cow**

### Red Cow - 3

St Peter

?

19th century

a tavern

location uncertain

All that is known of this Red Cow is from a mention in the Museum Collection referring to Mr Laver's notes, stating that it later became the Railway Tavern. Could this be the Railway Tavern (later the Colchester Arms) at North Station? There are also property deeds dating from 1682 to 1843, which include land where the Ipswich Arms, Dukes Head and the Red Cow once stood. Are these two references about one and the same property?

### Red Cross

St Giles

Magdalen Street

c1820 to 1907

a public house

precise location uncertain

The reason for the name of this pub is now lost with time. One might think that it would have come from that organisation which began in Switzerland as a result of the Geneva Convention in 1862 and took this name and symbol to indicate the neutrality of ambulances and hospitals in time of war - and which would have had special relevance to Colchester's military connections. However, this public house is much older than that date and the name is therefore probably a patriotic one, taken from the red cross of England, now incorporated in the British Union Jack flag, which derived from England's patron saint George who slew that nasty old fire breathing dragon. The question is, were Scots, Welsh and Irishmen made welcome here?

The pub first appears in the trade directories in 1822 and was later mentioned in a murder case in the newspapers, in 1827, when Thomas Patrick of the nearby Yorkshire Grey was struck down and killed. In 1872, it was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. The pub closed in 1907.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1822 to 1824	T. Nelson	Pigot's
1831	William Wade	Publican's Licenses
1832 to 1839	William Wade	Pigot's
1845	William Gage	White's and Post Office
1851	John Wade	Post Office
1851	John Wade, victualler and carman, age 43, born Colchester, together with his wife, their four children, an ostler and a servant	Census
1861	Christopher Johnson, Licensed Victualler, age 35, born Colchester, together with his wife, their four children and his brother	Census
1862 to 1878	Christopher Johnson, Beer Retailer	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Christopher Johnson, Horsedealer and publican, age 44 together with his wife and four children	Census
1882	John Murrells	Kelly's
1891	George Hawkins, age 42, a beer house keeper, along with his wife and eight children and 6 lodgers	Census

### Red Lion Hotel - 1

St Nicholas

44 High Street  
CO1 1DJ

15th century to date (map 53)

an ancient inn

The name of this ancient hostelry is another popular one throughout the country, it being a symbol of England. The red lion is depicted on many heraldic shields, perhaps the most famous being that of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster who died in 1399.



A watercolour painting by Major Bale giving an unusual view of c1810.

The age of this building might just fit the period. However, archaeologists uncovered a splendid lion mosaic in Lion Walk, dating from Colchester's Roman period. Is it possible that the name could have been passed down through so many centuries, making this the site of the oldest pub in Britain? Archaeologists discount this as pure coincidence, saying that Lion Walk was once known as Cat Lane. But what is a lion if not a cat?

What later became the famous inn is known to have once been the private residence of the Howard family, whose arms displayed the White Lion and which is believed to have been the earlier name of this ancient house. One of the family, Sir John Howard, (c1430 to 1485), was appointed Constable of Colchester Castle in 1461 and later in 1483 was created Duke of Norfolk. He fell at Bosworth, fighting for Richard III. It was his grandson, the third duke, Thomas (1473 to 1554), who then as the Earl of Surrey, was named in a deed as the owner of the White Lion. It underwent a change in colour to the Red Lion, although the date at which this happened is uncertain, the inn being, in antiquity, generally referred to as the Lion. The Victoria County History states that, 'The Bell, The Crown, and the New Inn or the White (later the Red) Lion, stood side by side on the south side of High Street in 1522. The White Lion had been built as a town house for John Howard, Lord Howard, later Duke of Norfolk, in 1481 or 1482, and seems to have become an inn between 1501 and 1515 when it was the New Inn, with a sign on the street'.<sup>1</sup>

A magnificently carved wooden panel has survived the passing of the centuries, facing onto the High Street, forming the archway leading into the yard. It depicts what appears to be England's patron saint, St George and the Dragon. Much discussion has taken place in recent years as to why the Red Lion should have such a subject carved into its facade when, just across the road, stands another ancient hostelry, the George, also once known as the George and Dragon. The most likely explanation for the carving is that Sir John Howard held the Order of the Garter, (an order of chivalry founded by Edward III, in St George's name, in 1350). Bearers of the order were and still are, entitled to display St George and the dragon as part of their heraldic identities.

Alternative theories revolve around it simply being a means of warding off evil spirits, or that the carving once belonged to the inn of the same name. What do you think?

The court rolls of the town record that in 1527, 'wellys at the lyon for ingratyng of the market' was fined 3s 4d. In 1603, records show that the Lyon, the Angel and the White Hart were appointed the only three wine taverns in the town, being ancient inns and taverns. The Angel stood at the corner of West Stockwell Street and the High Street, but only exists in a later form as council offices. The White Hart used to stand in High Street, where Bank Passage passed through it. The 'Lyon' is therefore the only one of these three to still stand in anything like the form it would have taken in 1603.

By 1625, it had definitely become the Red Lion, possibly in recognition of the accession of James VI of Scotland to the English throne in 1604, an act which added the red lion to the royal coat of arms.

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

The building's oldest features are the 14th century stone doorway and some of the masonry in the vaulted cellars, where a Roman pavement was uncovered. The building is mainly of 15th century origin with extensive exposed timbers.

Apparently, the hotel has a ghost, said to be that of Alice Miller who was, allegedly, 'fouly done to death' in 1633. She had occasion to walk through party walls. Whether one is to believe it is a much discussed matter.

In 1741 the following statement was made before an Ipswich justice and reveals a long forgotten intrigue.



'Whereas it has been falsely and scandalously reported that some Company who were met together at the Red Lion Inn at Colchester on Admiral Vernon's birthday, did there burn the Effigy of the said Admiral Jonathan May, the Master of the said Inn, Maketh Oath that he does believe the said Report to be entirely false and groundless: and that he does not know that any Company met at the said House, either then or at any other Time, did any Thing in Derision of the said Admiral or his Proceedings, Ipswich, May 1, 1741. Jonathan May. Sworn before me, John Sparrowe.'

The foregoing came from a newspaper article by Mr Gerald Rickword<sup>1</sup> in reference to maritime pub signs and in which he noted that Colchester did not have an Admiral Vernon or a Portobello amongst its inns and taverns.

One of the inn's 18th century personalities was one Bobby Wass. He was a waiter at the Red Lion and is the subject of this etching by James Dunthorne, which was reproduced on much locally used pottery and china, though none appears to have survived. Wass was recalled in the notebooks of E B Strutt as follows:

*"This eccentric little man, who wore a wig with a long queue, blue coat and waistcoat, dark breeches, white stockings and large buckles on his shoes, was very angry whenever, in the various houses, he met with his effigies (which were exactly like him), so that he always contrived to break the vessel or basin upon which it was represented, till they argued with him, saying, 'Why Mr Wass, are you so offended seeing that the King and Queen have had their portraits drawn?' This appeal somewhat reconciled him, so in future the work of spoliation was dispensed with."*

The Red Lion was amongst the first inns to be used by the London coaches with evidence of this as far back as 1756. It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1819. In 1843, William Wire recorded in his diary that an omnibus ran to and from the Red Lion to the newly opened railway station and at a cost of 6d per person.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1805 to 1833	William Shave	Holden's and Pigot's
1839 to 1845	Charles Heard	Pigot's and Post Office
1848	Mrs. C. Heard	White's
1851 to 1852	Mrs. Fanny Heard	Kelly's and Post Office
1851	Fanny Heard, widow, innkeeper, age 54, born Kelvedon, together with her daughter, a barmaid, a servant, a housemaid, two waiters, a chambermaid, a cook, a kitchen maid, an ostler, a stable man, a boots, an errand boy, a coachman and three visitors	
1855 to 1878	William Fletcher	Census
1861	William Fletcher, age 49, hotel keeper and post master	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	William Fletcher, age 58, licensed victualler	Census
1881	Matthew A. Black, Hotel Proprietor, age 46, born Scotland, together with his wife, two barmaids, a waiter, a boots, a page, four domestic servants and a lodger	Census
1882 to 1886	Edward Julian Hart, Proprietor	Kelly's
1891	Henry E Heath, age 36, hotel keeper, plus 14 staff	Census

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 1947



## The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester

1894 to 1895	Henry Edward Heath	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Frederick Rees, Proprietor	Kelly's
1901	Fred Rees, age 45, born Swansea, proprietor, with his wife and 15 others	Census
1907 to 1912	Mrs. Rees	Kelly's and Benham's
1908	Mrs. Esther Rees, Jobmaster	Kelly's
1917 to 1933	Home Counties Public House Trust Ltd.	Kelly's

The reference in 1861 refers to the fact that the Red Lion at one time acted as the Post Office, the innkeeper cum post master providing horses to ride post. With the increase in post business he found he could not devote enough time to it and had to delegate to servants, with inevitable irregularities creeping in.



The Red Lion c1934 (possibly the most photographed pub in town!)



Red Lion Yard c1920

The photograph above is dated c1920 and shows Red Lion Yard as it then was and some of the staff of the hotel, complete with cat. The picture was in the possession of Mr Jack Swainston (now deceased) whose father, John Bassett

Swainston, pictured seated second from the left with his arms folded, was head waiter at the hotel. Others in the picture are Captain Oswald Bradbrook Hill and his wife Mrs Dorothy Alice Hill, managers of the hotel.

The licensing records which start in 1872 show that it was then owned by Fletcher who sold it to Daniells in 1884. In 1925 it was owned by Trust Houses. It underwent ownership by several bodies, being purchased in 1987 by Cordwell Properties who had plans to restore it. It was offered for sale in 1991 with 24 'en suite' bedrooms, etc. and at a price tag of approximately £750,000. The three star hotel was offered for sale again in 1994, by owners Restoration Inns of Surrey.

A memory of the 1960s was passed down in a book by George Pluckwell when 'it had a Gentleman's Only Bar for, I suppose, husbands to get away from their wives or mothers-in-law. Strange though, for I noticed a middle-aged woman serving in there, so you can never really escape them!'

What was once a fine old coaching inn has now been fragmented into tiny shops crammed-in along its frontage and throughout its ancient yard. It no longer offers a pint of beer to a customer off the street as it once did, although a drink at the upstairs bar, a viewing of the beamed ceilings and a chat about the ghost, is to be recommended.

<b>Red Lion - 2</b>	Holy Trinity	?
1770	a tavern	location uncertain

This Red Lion is probably a tavern that took the name as a result of some incident or ill feeling that has long since been forgotten. It only appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1770 and presumably closed shortly afterwards or took another name. The nearby Fleur de Lys and the Three Crowns at the top of North Hill appear to have suffered in the same way and around the same period.

<b>Red Lion Tap</b>	St Nicholas	32 Culver Street
c1850 to c1902	a tap	demolished

Like the Angel, the Cups and the George, the Red Lion had a taproom with its own customers. It was located in Culver Street, later demolished to make way for the building of the Lion Walk precinct. It's actual position can be seen on the plan that follows.

It probably had a beerhouse licence only.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1851	Mark Springett, victualler, age 41, born Colchester together with his wife and their three children	Census
1867 to 1874	Mrs. Susannah Springett	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Susannah Springett, age 66, 'in charge of tap'.	Census
1898 to 1899	George Upson, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	Arthur J Mole, age 30, manager.	Census
1902	George Upson, Beer Retailer & Livery & Bait Stables, Red Lion Hotel Yard	Kelly's
1925	Mrs. Anne Ellis	Kelly's

<b>Red Roan</b>	?	Middleborough
c1900	a beerhouse	now a shop

The name of this house would appear to be taken from a type of horse, perhaps a favoured animal of the owner, again maybe purchased from the livestock market across the road from this house.

All that is known of this tavern or beerhouse is in the Museum Collection which refers to a report by Stephen Woodroffe, a baker, who lived in the house which was formerly the Red Roan. It was said to have been located in Middleborough, close to the north east corner of St Peter's Street. Laver states that it later became Woodroffe the baker around 1918.

## Red Lion Hotel (High Street) continuation.....

The trade directories and census returns show the Red Lion in the occupation of William Fletcher from around 1855, until it was sold in 1879, due to Mr Fletcher's ill health. Here follows extracts from the sale documents, which includes a superb plan that shows the ground floor layout of the inn at that time. By the time of the sale, Mr Fletcher was dead; his wife and executors finalising the sale to William Wilberforce Daniell in October 1879 for the grand sum of £3800.

### PARTICULARS

## THE RED LION HOTEL

occupies an important central position

### IN THE GARRISON TOWN OF COLCHESTER,

having a considerable frontage to the High Street, and extending to Culver Street in the rear, where another large frontage attaches to the Property, giving it a considerable intrinsic value, independent of its trading attractions. MR WILLIAM FLETCHER, *who has concluded the business successfully for many years past, now retires from failing health.*

### THE HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

(as will be seen by the accompanying Plan) as follows:-

ON THE GROUND FLOOR - Fronting the Street on the right of a Covered Entrance is a large **Coffee Room**; and on the left are the **Spirit Vaults**, under the whole of which is capital **Cellarage**. Beyond is the Hotel Lobby, **Bar Parlor** and Bar, Luggage Room, and an excellent **Commercial Room**.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR - are three front **Sitting Rooms**, one with a Bed Room communicating, also two back Bed Rooms, and two W.C.s. The Proprietor's **private** apartments in the rear consist of a **Sitting Room** with Dressing Room, and Bed Room, over which (approached by a separate staircase from the Basement) are the Barmains' and Female Servants' Bed Rooms.

ON THE SECOND FLOOR - are four front and two back Bed Rooms, Landing, and Staircase.

IN THE REAR - (Communicating, with the Hotel on the first floor) are a large **Dining Room** and **Billiard Room** (having an independent staircase), with Store Room at the end, over which are the Waiters' Rooms and on the Ground Floor are a large stone-paved **Kitchen**, with **Wash-house** adjoining; Pantry and Pickling Room; good Larder; **Box Room**, with movable partition, forming a spacious **Market Dining Room**; and beneath the latter are extensive **Wine Cellars**.

**LARGE STABLE YARD**, on the right of which are a Harness Room, and two ceiled Loose Boxes, with Laundry and Store Room over. Stalled Stabling for 8 horses, and 5 loose Boxes beyond, (the latter shutting on the back entrance of Culver Street,) over which are Fodder Lofts.

On the opposite side of the Yard is a long Slated Carriage Shed of 6 bays, behind which is a **range of Stabling**, comprising six Loose Boxes and four Stalls; also Knife-house, and Coal Cellar, with the Lofts above.

**NEXT CULVER STREET IS - The TAP-HOUSE**, containing Tap Room and Bar, with Cellar beneath; Parlor, and Wash-up; also a Sitting Room; two Bed Rooms, and Attic above. The Tap is let to JOHN BROWN at a Weekly Rent of 5s.

**AND ADJOINING THE TAP IS - A House**, with **Ironmonger's Shop** and **Smithy**, with four rooms above. Let to MR. DAMART, a Quarterly Tenant, as a Rent of £12 per annum, the Landlord paying Rates.

**NEARLY OPPOSITE TO THE LAST HOUSE IS A - Large Enclosed Market Yard**, (forming an important adjunct to the Hotel) in which are two Stables, a Large **Carriage House**, and Dog Kennels. The owner of the "traverse" and of the adjoining property have a 4 foot right of way over this yard as denoted by a dotted line on the plan

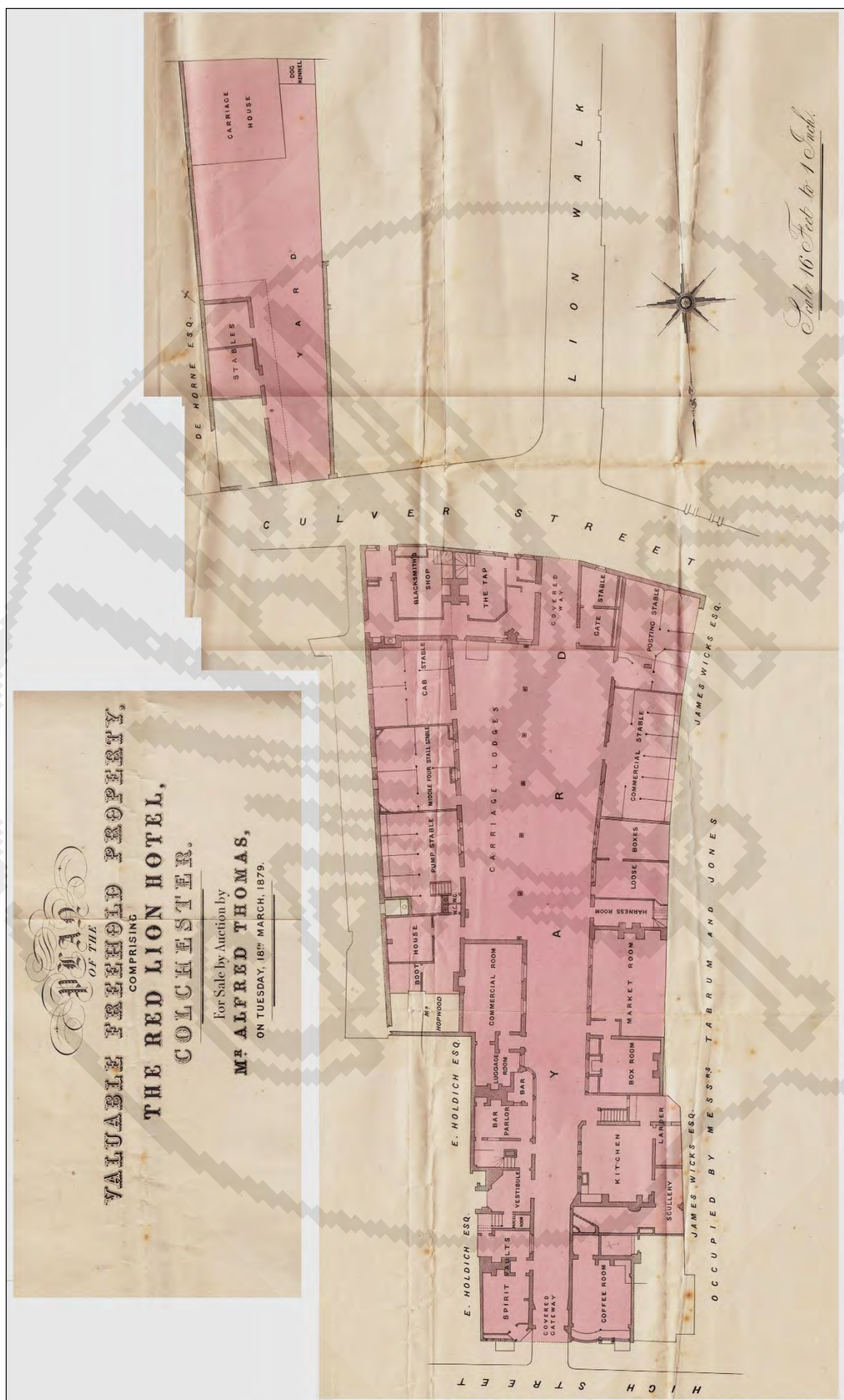
### THE WHOLE OF THE FOREGOING PROPERTY IS FREEHOLD.

N.B.- That portion of the premises in connection with the Hotel on the east side (comprising a Private Sitting Room and Wash-house, Staircase, and Landing to a front Sitting Room and two back Bed Rooms on the first floor, and two Bed Rooms on the upper floor) is held at an Annual Rent of £50, and the option of a Lease at such rent will be given to the purchaser of the Freehold Property; - conditionally on the lessor supplying the top with the malt liquor at the usual prices.

THE PURCHASE WILL TAKE AT A VALUATION, TO BE MADE IN THE CUSTOMARY MANNER, ON OR ABOUT THE 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT, THE FIXTURES AND FITTINGS, FURNITURE, PICTURES, PLATE LINEN, CHINA, GLASS AND ALL OTHER EFFECTS APPERTAINING TO THE HOTEL AND TAP, TOGETHER WITH ANY BROKEN WINES AND SPIRITS AND ALL OTHER COMMODITIES IN THE NATURE OF STOCK-IN-TRADE CONNECTED THEREWITH. THE VENDERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SELL BY AUCTION THE UNBROKEN WINES & SPIRITS, THE HORSES, CARRIAGES, AND OTHER VEHICLES, HARNESS, AND IMPLEMENTS BELONGING TO THE STABLING DEPARTMENT.

**THE SUM OF £3,000 MAY BE LEFT ON THE MORTGAGE OF THE PROPERTY.**







## Red Umbrella

town centre?

c1945

a bar

location unknown

A Dutch gentleman by the name of Hendrick Westerouin contacted the author in September 1997, looking for a pub by this name. He used to frequent it when he was stationed here during the war, working on a ship being built in Wivenhoe, and after some 50 or so years, returning to the town for a nostalgia trip to find it again - and perhaps enjoy a drink or two. The author had never heard of a pub by such a name but promised the Dutchman that he would make enquiries of the 'Good Old Boys.' He didn't have to enquire very far as his neighbour, Frank Jones, remembered well that there was a large red umbrella that hung outside Kendall's shop, to the right of the Red Lion. Harry Cheshire was the landlord at that time, Frank recalled. On reporting this to Hendrick, he was sure that this was not the pub that he knew.

Can anyone answer this mystery?

## Red, White and Blue

Military Road

see the **Alma**

## Rifleman

St James

29 Ipswich Road

c1863 to 1953 (map 71)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is of military origin, despite being located well away from where the modern day barracks are situated. It was named after the Essex Rifles, whose barracks were within a short distance.

At the licensing sessions in 1863<sup>1</sup>, a full licence was applied for by Messrs. Bridges, the tenant being Samuel Howe. The 1871 census shows Samuel Miller, age 60, who was described as a publican. Close by, and for at least 20 households, were living a Staff Sergeant, a Sergeant Major, a Colour Sergeant, a Bugle Major, a Hospital Sergeant, a Paymaster Sergeant, a Master Sergeant and a Sergeant Instructor, as well as their families and other ranks and personnel, all connected with the Essex Rifles. These houses or barrack blocks have all disappeared now and the site is occupied by two large DIY stores. Colchester's prison also stood on the site at one time, which would also have dated back to the 1870s period. The 1901 census shows Frederick J Bines, aged 41, as carpenter and publican.

The Rifleman dates from around 1860, appearing in the 1872 licensing records under the ownership of Bridges. George Bruce, the landlord, in 1878, also ran the smithy close by in East Street. The pub was sold to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1888 and passed to Ind Coope in the 1930s.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1867	George Lucking	Post Office
1870 to 1871	Samuel Miller	Kelly's and Post Office
1874 to 1878	George Bruce	Kelly's
1881	George Bruce, Blacksmith and Licensed Vicualler, age 34, born Colchester, together with his wife and their five children	Census
1894 to 1902	Frederick J Bines	Kelly's
1901	Frederick J Bines, Carpenter & Publican, age 41, born Little Clacton, together with his wife and their four children	Census
1908 to 1925	George Rayner	Kelly's
1933	Mrs. Alice M. Rayner	Kelly's

We are fortunate to have received information about this pub from the Rayner family who held the licence from 1905 until its closure. In the following picture (date 1908 approx.) are, from left to right: Arthur William Rayner (born 1894 and emigrated to Canada), Alice Mary Rayner (née Suttle, born 1869 in Suffolk), George Rayner (licensee born 1861 in Suffolk), Alice Ruby Rayner (born 1899 in Kent), Frederick Robert Rayner (born 1903 in Colchester), George Henry Rayner (born 1895 in Hornchurch and killed in 1916).

George Henry Rayner retired from the Suffolk Regiment in 1905 having served over 22 years in the East Indies, Malta and South Africa. He took the licence of the Rifleman, with his wife Alice Mary. He died in 1928 at the age of 68, as a

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

result of cirrhosis of the liver and the licence was transferred to Alice. She died in 1938 and the licence passed to her son Fred who, with his wife Eva, ran the pub until it was closed at 10pm on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 1954. He was offered the Lion and Lamb on Ipswich Road, but he decided to retire instead. He bought the building and the family lived there for many years afterwards. The licence was transferred to the Maypole which opened the following day. It was demolished a few years later, the site becoming overgrown with vegetation until a new residential building was erected in 1997<sup>1</sup>.



.....and in the following picture, a group of Rifleman locals (date unknown).



The two gents in back row, from left to right:- Roy Humphreys (with flat cap) – used to own Humphreys Vegetable Shop in Short Wyre Street, unknown. Middle row:- unknown, Mr James, unknown, Bill Strutt, Bill Scrutton, Frederick Rayner. Front row:- Walter Wilkins (Wilkie), unknown, Mr Hyam.

<sup>1</sup> With thanks to Fred Rayner (junior) and his daughter Kirsty McCrave for the photograph and other information.

Ring of Feathers

?

?

?

?

?

A certain gentleman, who shall remain nameless (an eternal joker who worked at O.S.Locke), insisted that there was a pub in the town by this name. When pressed as to the whereabouts of the Ring of Feathers, he calmly declared it to be around a duck's bum! Enough said!

This encounter reminded the author not to take this work too seriously.

Rising Sun - 1

St Botolph

Hythe Station

1789 to 1995

a public house

closed

The name of this pub is another with a common heraldic sign and is said to have had its origin from the badge of King Edward III. It is often shortened to simply the Sun.



This pub first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1789 and in trade directories thereafter. In 1872 it was owned by Osborne and then by the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. It was taken over by Ind Coope in the 1930s. Ind Coope became Allied Breweries, who sold the pub to Greene King in 1990.

The two pub signs are from the 1990s.

The picture postcard that follows shows a gentleman, presumably the landlord, with white shirt and braces, hand in pocket. The sign reads, 'Famous

Colchester Oyster Feast Stout Old King Coel Strong Ale.' This therefore shows it to be a Colchester Brewing Company house. Hawkins Road is marked on the wall. The name over the door says, 'Walter S Clements'. He is presumably the gentleman in the picture.



The Rising Sun c1920



The pub was closed in September 1995, following poor trade and uncertainty over the future of the Hythe. Whether it will open its doors again, remains to be seen, but the poor condition of the building at the time of writing makes it hard to believe that it will. In 2012 the building was virtually derelict.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1822 to 1824	Mark Oliver	Pigot's
1831 to 1832	William Morden	Pigot's and Publican's Licenses
1839 to 1845	William Mills	Pigot's and Post Office
1848	Joseph Fincham	White's
1851 to 1852	Joshua Francis	Post Office
1851	Joshua Francis, sailor, age 41, born Maldon, together with his wife, Harriet Francis, wife, beershop keeper, age 31, born Kent, together with their five children and Joshua Francis, father, retired [beer] shop keeper, age 70, born Ulting	Census
1855	W. B. Pitt	Kelly's
1862	Robert Pack	Kelly's
1867	William Bruce, Blacksmith	Post Office
1870 to 1871	Edward Cranmer Harrington	Kelly's
1871	Edward C Harrington, Inn Keeper, age 37, born Burnham, together with his wife, their four children, a brother-in-law, a visitor and a servant	Census
1874 to 1882	Thomas Francis Harrington	Kelly's
1881	Thomas Harrington, age 41, horse dealer and inn keeper.	Census
1886 to 1899	Daniel Southgate, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	Daniel Southgate, age 83	Census
1901	Charles Johnson, Publican, age 41, born Colchester, together with his wife, their son and two boarders (both timber carters)	Census
1902	Charles Johnson	Kelly's
1907 to 1917	Thomas Pretty Johnson	Kelly's and Benham's
1925	Walter C. Clements	Kelly's
1933	William R. Rutledge	Kelly's

also known as the **Sun**

A trade directory dated 1793 gave three houses named the Sun with victuallers named as John Cock, John Sadler and James Ward. It also appears by this name in 1848 in the occupancy of Joseph Fincham.

### Rising Sun - 2

?

Lexden

see the **Sun**

### Robin Hood

45 Osborne Street

c1870 to 2007 (map 16)

started as a beerhouse

became a restaurant

The name of the pub was a reference to the legendary outlaw of medieval England who was an unofficial and unconventional taxman, robbing the rich to help the poor. The name may have been chosen in this instance because of the Ancient Order of Foresters who had a strong membership in Colchester.

This pub is mentioned in the 1901 census as a beerhouse, but with no licensee on the premises. It first appeared in the licensing records, by name, in 1907 as a beerhouse owned by the Colchester Brewing Company. Mrs Pam Horspool, (née Morgan) lived there from 1933 when her father Harold Morgan became landlord. She recalls the large accommodation of the upstairs rooms, some ten large rooms, making it ideal for lodgers or boarders.

By 1940 it was in the hands of Ind Coope who still owned it when it was granted its full publican's licence in 1952. It is not certain exactly when the Robin Hood first opened its doors to the drinking public but the un-marked building is shown on the 1876 map series (at the rear of this book) and it is quite probable that it was built to replace one of the



several pubs in the general area that were closed down by the authorities in 1869 due to alleged brothel keeping (see chapter 4).



Phil and Nora Clarke held the licence in the 1950s before moving to the Kings Arms in Crouch Street. They were followed by Norman and Dorothy Cowell in 1963, when Bacchus<sup>1</sup> paid them a visit. At that time, one of the regulars was a character named 'Nutty Curran', a former professional boxer who had fought Randolph Turpin and Freddie Mills, in his day.

There is a story from a book by Mr Wesley Downes recalling an incident in the 1930s, which tells of the time when a mother sent her eight year old daughter to the pub to fetch her father home, before the dinner was entirely ruined. Reaching Stanwell Street, she found herself face to face with a strange thing, the like of which she had never seen before. It was an animal form, with the body of a fat Alsatian dog, but the head of a goat with horns. She stopped dead with fright, the creature seeming quite oblivious to her, waddled its way towards the pub. As soon as the girl had regained her senses, she ran back to tell her mother what had happened. Her mother's immediate reaction was to say 'Oh my God, its the Devil, he's come for your father!' With that, she ran as fast as she could to the pub.

Reaching the door she heard the uproar within, voices were raised and the house was in turmoil. It was obvious that something had happened. Pushing her way through the bar, she demanded to know where her husband was and what all the commotion was about. The harassed barman said that as far as he knew her husband had gone out to the toilet but that the trouble was with one of the customers who had had a fit and had jumped up screaming, 'No, no, not me.' He had then fallen down dead! Whether this is a true story is left to you to decide.



What is known for sure is that a violent death occurred here. One particular day in 1979<sup>2</sup>, there was a lot of trouble in the pub, mainly from soldiers, who often frequented the establishment. The landlord felt under considerable pressure and had cause to load a shotgun and discharge it into the ceiling as a warning and to stop the fighting and damage that was being done in the bar area. In the confusion that followed, he jumped over the bar with the gun and it went off accidentally, fatally wounding a man named Hughes who was standing close by. An attempt was made to stem the blood pouring out of the wound, but he died later. The landlord was charged with murder and held on remand until his trial in May the following year, where he was acquitted of murder and was set free with a two year suspended sentence for involuntary manslaughter. Great emphasis was put on his good character and work with raising money for charitable causes.

<sup>1</sup> CE - 11<sup>th</sup> Jul 1963

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1979, 21<sup>st</sup> Sep 1979, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 1979,  
8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1979, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1980, 16<sup>th</sup> May 1980

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1901	Philip J Gees, Musician, age 51, born Elmstead, together with his wife	Census
1902	Philip James Gee, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1914	George Copplestone, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1933	Wm Hy Huggett, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1937	Harold Percival Morgan	Kelly's

As if prophetically, the licensing records show that the licensee of this pub in the 1970s was a man by the name of Deadman!

In 1998 this pub was owned by Pubmaster with Cath and Brian Caminski the tenants. They were followed by Mick and Jackie Burke (previously at the Britannia) taking over in April 1999. These thoroughly decent people decided to move on in 2004, after an unfortunate incident with a trusted employee. It was in the news in 2007<sup>1</sup> when it was shut down for the second time in twelve months when it was found to be flouting its licensing conditions; operating without a Designated Premises Supervisor (a DSP, once known as a licensee). It became a fast food outlet in the noughties.

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### Roman Arms

Roman Road

There would have been places in Roman Colchester that might now be called 'pubs.' We know nothing of these earliest houses, but this pub would have been so named because of its location in Roman Road which runs alongside a section of Colchester's magnificent Roman Wall.

see the **Roman Urn**

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### Roman Urn

24 Roman Road

c1867 to 1899 (map 61)	a public house and a brewery	now a private house
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The name of this pub is a variation on the previous example. There may have been a Roman looking vase or urn on the premises, to which the name alluded. The Roman Road area was a Victorian housing development for more 'well to do' citizens and this pub would have been their 'local.' The area was previously a botanic garden and was later to be given over to housing. As part of this housing, a pub was included, together with a brewery.

We have trade directory references from 1867 but also found a newspaper reference dated August 1870, revealing a legal dispute over the ownership of the brewing equipment. It seems that one Benjamin Hurrell had become insolvent and had removed and secreted away some of the assets. A letter to the editor of the Essex Standard is reproduced on the following page. How it all turned out we do not know - other than that the 1871 census the next year showed a new landlord. Occasionally, bottles turn up that are embossed with the name of the botanic brewery.

From 1872 it was owned by Crabb who sold it to Nicholls in 1876. It did not seem to do very well as it was closed in 1899 and the licence surrendered, together with that of the Horseshoes on Hythe Quay, both in consideration of the newly opened Recreation Hotel.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1867 to 1871	John Hurrell	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	David Gooding, age 25, inn keeper	Census
1878	Alfred Johnson	Kelly's
1881	Albert Johnson, Publican, age 30, born Reading together with his wife, a niece and a lodger	Census
1882	Eugene Ciccoganani	Kelly's
1886	Benjamin Butcher	Kelly's

It is now a private house with no outward appearance that it was ever a public house.

also known as the **Roman Arms**

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<sup>1</sup> EG - 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007



## DIGBY v. HURRELL.

To the Editor of the Essex Standard.

SIR,—As my name has appeared in your paper in connexion with the above case, may I request a short space in your columns to narrate a "plain tale" of the circumstances which have made Benjamin Hurrell the "nine days' talk" if not the nine days' wonder of Colchester? I shall extenuate nothing, neither shall I set down aught in malice, for fiction is not my forte, nor have I any taste therefor. The public of Colchester, however, are entitled to a full and truthful explanation of the whole case, and that explanation I desire to offer to those before whom I have for forty years appeared, and in the same parish and town, as an Auctioneer and Estate Agent.

Some little time since I received instructions from Mr. G. E. Digby, Solicitor, of Maldon, to offer for sale the Roman Urn Inn, Botanic Garden, together with the brewing plant, in one entire lot; at the sale, however, it was arranged not to sell the plant with the house, as a separate sale would be likely to realise more for the mortgagee. The sale came off at the Waggon and Horses Inn, when the property was sold for £540. I subsequently advertised the brewing plant to be sold at the house, on the 11th of July; but on the morning of the day of sale I learnt that the brewing plant and a large quantity of the furniture had been clandestinely removed by Hurrell and others. Part of the things thus taken away were found under a search warrant in a cottage at the Hythe, which had been hired for the reception of the goods by Hurrell's son, and the remainder were discovered on premises in Magdalen Street, and were subsequently taken possession of by the police. I was throughout acting from specific instructions, and primarily under the authority of a bill of sale given to Mr. Digby, and also by the order of the trade assignee under Hurrell's bankruptcy. Mr. Digby has shown me securities executed by Hurrell for about £600, and also the cheques given to Hurrell, payable to Hurrell's order, and endorsed by Hurrell himself when he received the money. I have also seen a mortgage deed for between £300 and £400, which was paid off by Mr. Digby to Mr. A. M. White, as solicitor to the Foresters' Club; trustees, Messrs. Rand, Howe, and Durrant.

Benjamin Hurrell was declared a bankrupt in October last, and of course all his property of every kind, save and except that which he had previously mortgaged and assigned to Messrs. Digby and others, vested at once in his assignees; and yet, in the face of this notorious fact, Benjamin Hurrell has the hardihood to issue a large poster, stating that "the Brewing Plant, Household Furniture, &c., advertised to be sold by Nathaniel Cobb, on Friday, the 5th of August, 1870,

on my premises, at the Roman Urn Brewery, Botanic Garden, Colchester, under a Bill of Sale, are my sole and exclusive property." (Signed) B. Hurrell.

Now Hurrell states in his balance-sheet, filed in the Court of Bankruptcy, and the correctness of which he has sworn to on his oath, that he is indebted "to creditors holding security £589.1, and estimates his property at £485." The South-Essex Equitable Investment and Advance Company (Limited) and Mr. George Edward Digby, the Managing Director, are entered as creditors for £200, and as holding security for £175 thereof by a second mortgage on the house and fixtures in Roman Road, and a bill of sale of the personal effects of the bankrupt. All this was sworn to so late as the 9th of December last, and yet now he dares publicly to claim that property as his own solely and exclusively, and the greater part of it he has forcibly carried away.

It is, Mr. Editor, an incontestable truth that the property thus violently taken away from me in nowise belongs to Hurrell: he possesses not the shadow of a claim to it, and has not even the poor pretence of *prima facie* ownership. For if the goods do not belong to Messrs. Digby and others under their security, they must necessarily be the property of the assignee under the bankruptcy; in either case they belong to Hurrell's creditors, and not to Hurrell himself. By the course of procedure he has adopted he has deprived those creditors of their just rights, and has appropriated to his own sole and exclusive use what in law and right belong to them.

Through no *laches* and through no action of mine was the sale twice advertised, postponed, or abandoned. And yet I feel I owe an apology to the public of Colchester who have known me so long for the disappointment occasioned. True, I might have opposed force to force, and proceeded with the sale despite the proceedings of Hurrell's allies; but I should be the last man to counsel violent issues or to oppose force to force.

The law is still strong enough in Colchester, I should hope, to vindicate its own sanctions and to bring the wrong doers to punishment. Mr. Hurrell and his pleasant companions have had their innings, no doubt, and it will now be for those who are interested in the securities and those under the bankruptcy to teach them, and such teaching is sadly needed, that such wholesale outrages upon law and order cannot be perpetrated with impunity.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,  
Auction Office, NATHANIEL COBB.  
11, St. John's Street, Colchester, Aug. 10, 1870.

## Rose

c1793

an inn or tavern

location uncertain

The name of the pub is probably a shortened version of the Rose and Crown, two of them appearing by this name in a trade directory of 1793 in the occupancy of either James Brooker or Widow Thornton. We know that the widow Thornton kept the Rose in East Hill and so this one was probably the one in Vineyard Street. It is also named thus in the Publican's Licenses of 1831 in the occupation of Joseph Peeling.

## Rose and Crown Hotel - 1

St James

51 East Street  
CO1 2TZ

17th century (map 70)

an ancient inn



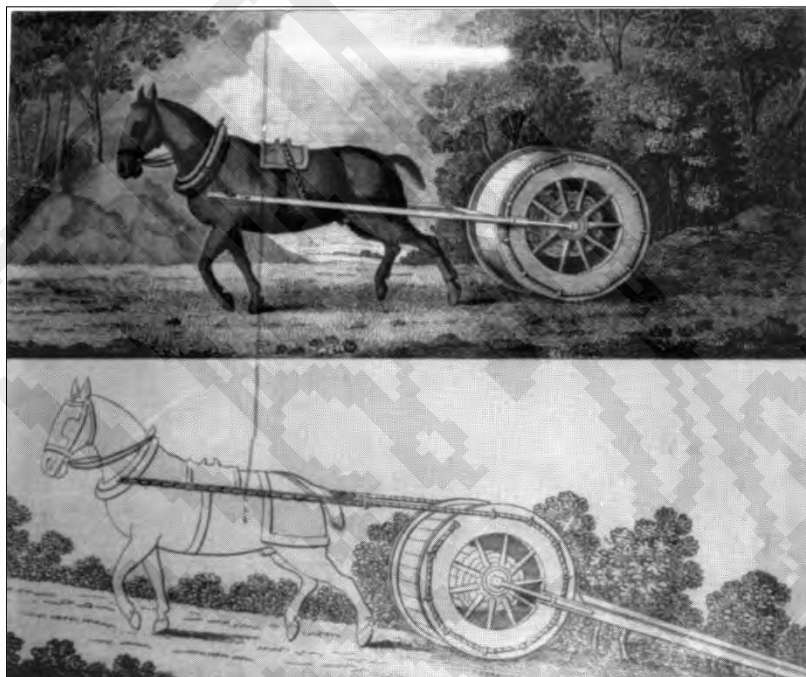
The name of the pub symbolised the end of the Wars of the Roses (1455 to 1485), when the houses of York and Lancaster fought and divided the country. It is therefore a name demonstrating loyalty to the crown and is a very common pub sign throughout the country.

This pub claims to be 'the oldest inn in the oldest recorded town of England,' although the Bull in Crouch Street probably holds a better claim to this honour. The building itself is very old with some 14th century building features, believed by experts to have been an aisled medieval structure due to certain joint features. It has been well preserved (but much modified) over the years and is now renowned for its high standard of cuisine and accommodation.

Here follows an extract from an article written by Gerald Rickword in 1937<sup>1</sup>.

'It is of great interest to all lovers of old buildings that Mrs Faithfull Roper, well known for her many other successful restorations, is undertaking similar work on the 15th century house in East Street, formerly known as the Rose and Crown Inn. The inn, the subject of one of the late Major Bale's delightful sketches now in the Albert Hall, standing at the corner of the old Ipswich Road, the present road not being opened until the early years of the 19th century, was the first house to attract the custom of travellers entering Colchester by the Suffolk road, dusty or muddy according to the season of the year, but in either case in need of refreshment.

The sign recalls the great days of the Tudors, whose badge it was, and it may well have been an inn in those days, although reference to it has not been found. The earliest mention of the house as an inn is not met with until centuries later, when a big fire occurred at the millwright's premises of Christopher Gilson at the rear of the Rose and Crown, in November 1741. This fire was extinguished by Mr Salmon with his engine.



A sporting event centred around the inn to the great benefit of its hostess, and led to many aching heads on the morrow. In that 'merry month,' one Abraham Sherman, a butcher, wagered that a horse belonging to an Ipswich merchant, Mr John Moore, could not draw a two ton weight from the Falcon in that town to the Rose and crown in Colchester, a distance of seventeen miles, in sixteen hours, stakes of forty guineas a side being laid.

The feat was accomplished in fifteen hours, thirty six minutes 'to the astonishment of a vast concourse of spectators' - and of the sporting son of the cleaver.

'What renders the above performance the more remarkable is, that the road the horse went over is the heaviest between this place [Ipswich] and London.' Prints of the four footed hero of the exploit, 'the famous horse Dragon,' were soon on sale and no doubt decorated the snug parlours of many Suffolk and Essex inns, and formed a subject of conversation for years to come.

The death of Mine Hostess for upwards of fifty years, Mrs Thornton, a widow, age 86, is recorded in February 1789; and of Mr Robert Thornton, probably her son, Master of the Rose and Crown, in April 1792. The widow Thorpe followed in the management of the house and in April 1800, late of the Rose and Crown, she too joined the great majority.

The inn primarily drew its custom, apart from satisfying the wants of its immediate neighbours, from the drovers, who in those days were always on the road with large herds of cattle, making their way to the London markets, raising great clouds of dust in their passage and leaving the aroma of the farmyard behind them. An advertisement in 1819 informed farmers and cattle dealers that Edward Wade, junior, was 'drawing in Beasts, Sheep and Pigs' for Romford and Stratford markets at several locations, including the Rose and Crown in Colchester. Every fortnight during the season did Mr Wade or his underlings make this journey and the price of beasts and the state of the markets formed the staple of talk round the fireside at his inns on the road.

The house was at that time described as an 'old established, roomy and commodious Inn or Public House ... adjoining the great road from Colchester to Ipswich,' and contained a bar, taproom, kitchen, large cellar, scullery, dairy, two parlours, six sleeping rooms and two attics. In addition to stabling for thirty horses, with hay lofts and granary oven, there were cowhouses, sheds, piggeries, and several acres of garden and pasture.

In the early years of the 19th century William Rowland occupied the inn, and on Monday July 23 1809, being Cattle Fair Day - New Fair, granted by William and Mary in 1693 - provided 'a good Dinner' with the

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 1937



additional inducement of 'Good Wines and Beers as usual' for his friends and customers, hungry and thirsty from their chattering and bargaining on the New Fair Field near by. George Hill or Hills was landlord in the 1820s, Benjamin Smith in 1839 and Minerva Smith, probably his widow, some nine or ten years later. The railroad opened to London in 1848, drawing the traffic off the roads, sealed the fate of this inn and many others, and it sank in status, finally closing its doors about twenty years ago.'

(When writing this piece, Gerald Rickword little knew then that the inn would re-open as a hotel some fifty years later.)



A painting by Major Bale, said to be of the Rose and Crown and seemingly copied from another painting of a date perhaps dating from c1750. The building today is quite unrecognisable, although certain features do tally.

The illustration shown on the following page is from a watercolour painting by Major Bale. It is dated 1900 and, whilst it does not show the ancient inn in its full glory, it is a delightful study of the area which is little changed today. Note the horse in the smithy across the road, no doubt patiently waiting for a new shoe. The smith was at one time the landlord of the nearby Rifleman public house.

The inn is shown in the alchouse recognisances from 1764 through to 1819 and then throughout the trade directory series. The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1811	Wm Bowland	Holden's
1822 to 1832	George Hills	Pigot's
1839 to 1845	Benjamin Farrow Smith	Pigot's and Post Office
1848 to 1855	Minerva Smith	White's and Post Office
1851	Minerva Smith, widow, innkeeper, age 38, born Lavenham, together with her two children, her mother and a lodger	Census
1861	James Harrington, victualler, age 50	Census
1862 to 1871	James Harrington	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Mary Ann Harrington, widow, age 54, inn keeper	Census
1874 to 1886	George Bensly	Kelly's
1881	George Bensly, Licensed Victualler, age 35, born Colchester, together with his wife, their four children, a domestic servant and three lodgers	Census
1894 to 1895	Frederick Wadsworth Hazleby	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Alfred Bridge	Kelly's
1901	Alfred J Bones, Publican, age 40, born Manningtree, together with his wife and their four children	Census
1902 to 1912	Thomas Marsh	Kelly's



A painting by Major Bale

Abraham Garling, the then landlord, was summoned in 1858<sup>1</sup> for allowing bad characters to assemble in his house. Sergeant Stewart said that, ‘about half-past 11 o’clock on Wednesday night he visited defendant’s house and found five prostitutes and six soldiers’. He detailed the circumstances under which the parties were discovered, which left no doubt as to the purpose for which they had visited the house. Police Constable .... proved seeing the defendant light two couples up to bed .... This was not the first time that there had been complaints against the defendant. The Mayor told him that it was a most disgraceful case and that he was quite unfit to keep a house of this sort.

The Star and Garter was similarly in trouble with the Bench, so they were not alone. Prostitution was indeed rife in Colchester at that time!

Abraham Garling had quit the Crown and Anchor in 1854; his goods being advertised for sale at that time.

In 1872 the pub was owned by Daniells who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company around 1903. The licensing records then show it back in the hands of Daniells in 1911 but that its licence was refused in 1913.

The Essex Review, of October 1937, published a sketch of the building made by Miss Ethne Payne, together with the comment; ‘It was lately occupied as three tenements, but was

condemned for demolition by the Colchester Town Council as unfit for habitation. It has been purchased by Mrs Faithfull Roper, of Le Talbooth, Gun Hill, Dedham, for renovation and restoration.’

The photograph on the following page, dates from c1910, offering accommodation for cyclists and the ‘Parlour and Jug Entrance’ to the rear. It shows the Daniell and Sons sign affixed to its plastered facade, with the main entrance being on the left hand side of the building, rather than how it is today. The pub was then much smaller in size and did not have the exposed timber beams that it has today, a fashionable trend but one which serves to hasten the decline of its centuries old timbers.

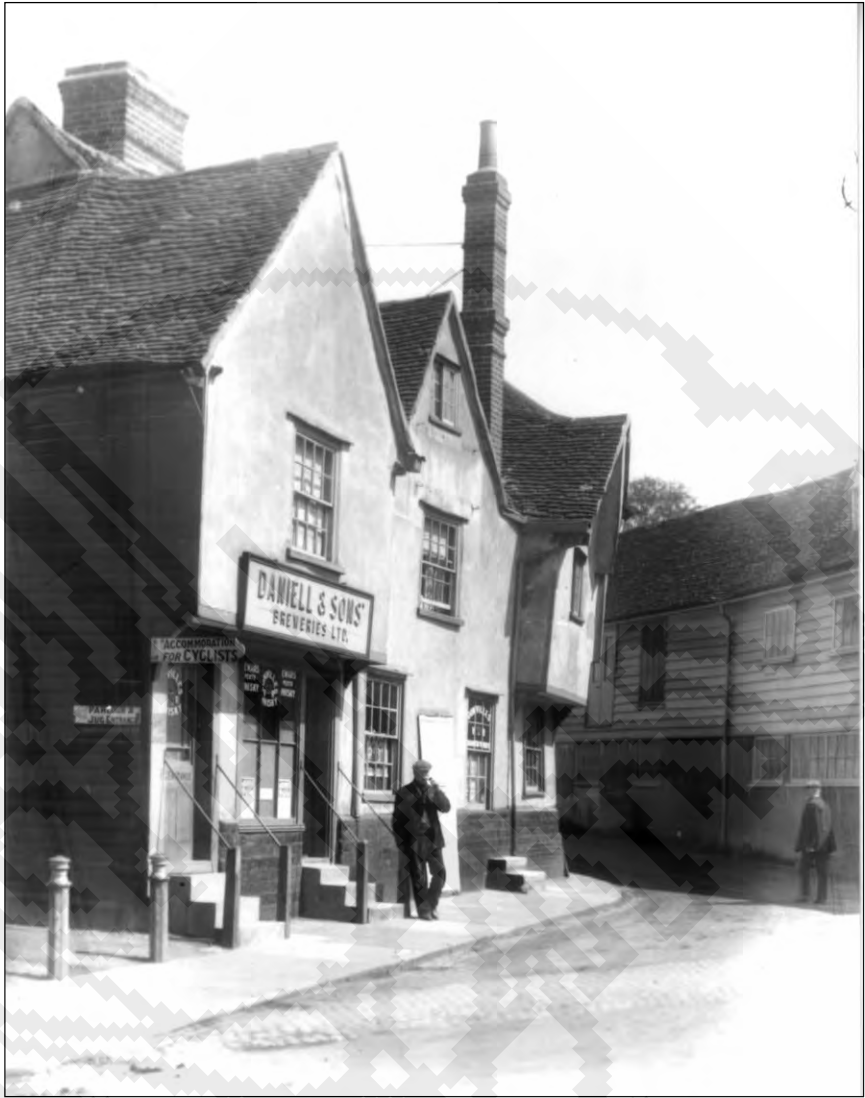
In 1962, it was granted a licence as a private club and later, in 1969, a new licence as a public house was granted to owner George Hudson, so that, some 56 years later, it opened its doors once again to the general public. A newspaper article in the 1980s recalls the work of Grace Faithfull Roper who died in 1968.

She had left her mark on lovingly restored ancient buildings all over north-east Essex, transforming this rather tumble down old building into an attractive half timbered hotel - and one of her finest memorials.

Also known simply as the **Rose**

We see the name Rose appearing in the older trade directories and tend to assume that this refers to this house, as opposed to the other Rose and Crown in present day Vineyard Street, previously Black Boy Lane.

<sup>1</sup> Essex Standard – 14<sup>th</sup> May 1858



The Rose and Crown, East Street, c1910

**Rose and Crown - 2**

St Botolph

Vineyard Street  
(previously Black Boy Lane)

pre 1764 to 1962 (map 14)

a tavern

demolished

The name of this pub was chosen much later than the date of the Wars of the Roses, but perhaps was chosen as it is a popular name and has a comfortable sound.

It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 through to 1819 and then throughout the trade directory series. The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1832 to 1833	James Oliver	Pigot's
1845 to 1848	James Clark	White's and Post Office
1851 to 1852	Richard Norden	Kelly's and Post Office
1851	Richard Norden, innkeeper, age 58, born Suffolk, together with his wife, their twin sons (both coal merchants), a visitor and three lodgers	
1855	T. Goody	Census Kelly's
1861	James Pitt, Inn Keeper, age 28, born Colchester, together with a housekeeper, a visitor and two servants	
1862	James Pitt, Stonemason	Census Kelly's
1867	Thomas Branson	Post Office

1870 to 1878	William Springett	Kelly's
1881	Joseph Balls, Bricklayer, age 43, born Colchester, together with his wife, children and others	Census
1882 to 1886	William Collins	Kelly's
1891	William Papworth, age 34, publican and lodging house keeper, together with 19 lodgers ranging in age from a girl of 14 years to a man of 71 years	Census
1894 to 1895	John William Belding	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Robert Westby, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1908 to 1933	Harry Glanville, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

In 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold the house to the Colchester Brewing Company around 1886. Joseph Phillips, writing in 1906, commented that 'The Black Boy, in a lane of that name, now boasts the emblems of sweetness and power, the Rose and Crown, the throughfare itself has changed to Vineyard Street.' Could it be that Mr Phillips was mistaken in his recollection as the British Lion in Stanwell Street was once named the Black Boy? No, it is thought that he was correct and that there were two Black Boys in the vicinity although both not at the same time.

The house passed to Ind Coope in 1939 who had it until it was closed in 1962<sup>1</sup>, its licensees Mr and Mrs Oliver removing to the Dragoon. It was demolished soon after as part of a redevelopment scheme.

Recollections of this house and the general area came from Mr and Mrs Horspool in 2007<sup>2</sup>. Mrs Horspool grew up in the nearby Robin Hood in the 1920s and could testify to the inadvisability of persons walking along Vineyard Street. It seems to have been a 'no-go' area at that time, with violence being given out to any stranger. Mrs Horspool spoke of the 'Doss-House' that existed there, known as the Rose. The 1911 map towards the back of this book clearly shows the extent of the lodgings in the general area.

### Rose and Crown - 3

Lexden

18th century

a tavern

location uncertain

All that is known of this house is from a record left by Morant dating it to the reign of James I (1603 - 1625). Its precise location is unknown.

### Roundabout

Magdalen Street

see the **Judge and Jury**

### Roundhouse

Shrub End Road

The name of this house was a nickname, being a reference to the shape of the original building, which can only now be seen from the rear.

see the **Huntsman Tavern**

### Rover's Tye

Highwoods  
CO4 9BA

1983 to date

a pub/restaurant

The name of the pub was simply a copy of the name of the farm, whose farmhouse was converted to a pub. It was opened in August 1983, the 17th century listed farmhouse and its barn having been extensively restored and extended to make it an up to date and very attractive new pub restaurant to serve the thirsty inhabitants of the newly constructed Highwoods housing development. The original building probably started its life as a farmhouse and was, for a time, a butchers. Traditionally furnished inside, it has flagstones and authentic oak floors, low beamed ceilings and pictures around the place depicting how the local area once looked.

<sup>1</sup> CE – 26<sup>th</sup> Apr 1962

<sup>2</sup> March 2007 - video interview given to J Jephcott



The pub hit the news in 1993<sup>1</sup> when the 'big brother' local authority decided that the children's play equipment set up in the pub's garden, was not in keeping with planning requirements, and ordered its removal. So, what had become a good family pub atmosphere, popular with parents and children alike, was forced to remove one of its main attractions. It seemed that some people didn't like to see others enjoying themselves!

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### Rowers and Beaters

Black Boy Lane  
(later Vineyard Street)

Rowers and Beaters were two activities associated with the weaving trade and the name probably came about because of the many weavers in the general area.

see the **Cooper's Arms**

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### Royal

65 Butt Road

see the **Fat Cat**

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### Royal Artillery

65 Butt Road

The name of the pub is a reference to a regiment that would have been stationed at Colchester around the time of its naming.

see the **Fat Cat**

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### Royal Mortar - 1

Donyland Road, later Military Road

c1850 to 1869 (map 89)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub may have been taken from the field opposite (land on which Winchester and Canterbury Roads now stand) that had the name Mortar Field before it was built upon. Conversely, the field may have taken its name from the pub. Whichever the case, it is assumed that mortars were once associated with the area, a mortar being a type of cannon having a short barrel, a large bore and an exploding shell which could wreak much damage upon an enemy. The knack in the early days was to get the shell to explode at the point of impact - so life in the general area at that time could have been quite dangerous.

This is the first Royal Mortar which later became the Trinity House School, later to be demolished and the Recreation Hotel built on the site. It then stood next to what was known as the Home Drill Field, or the Royal Mortar Field, later to become the Recreation Field as it is today.

It seems as if the pub may have had two periods in business as a record exists dated 10th September 1858 stating that it was a new licence, but that it had been a public house a long time ago, when the old barracks were in existence, but for many years it had been used as a private house. The date of that earlier licence is unknown although there is a reference found to it in a doctor's account book of 1850 referring to a Mr Castle. It was later occupied by a London firm of silk manufacturers and then in 1856, converted into a private dwelling known as Parade House. The trade directories show it as a public house in 1863 and 1866, which fits in with the 1858 new licence record. The pub probably closed for good in 1869<sup>2</sup> when a local newspaper report records its licence being refused in connection with its suspected activities as a brothel. An application was made in 1870 for a new licence, the house having been shut-up for the past year, the proposal being to install William Clark, previously of the Ardleigh Crown. The application was refused. The house is not shown in a trade directory of 1870. There was clear evidence in the newspaper article of the local authority's determination to clean up the act of public houses and beerhouses, this house being one of many others similarly discussed. Various well known solicitors of the day appeared in court on the day, with Mr Jones appearing on behalf of Samuel Howe (the owner?). The reporter's account is quite entertaining.

Joseph Phillips' epic article of 1906 stated that 'the Recreation Hotel has recently been erected on the site of the original Royal Mortar .....'. The OS map of 1876 shows the site occupied by the Trinity House School.

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<sup>1</sup> EG – 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 1993, 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 1993

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



This photograph is probably the same building as the Royal Mortar, but of a later date and when it was Trinity House School.

## Royal Mortar - 2

St Botolphs

115 Military Road  
CO1 2AS

1885 to date

a public house



This is the second Royal Mortar, which was built around 100 yards away from the first, a short while after the demolition of the original. We have a copy of an indenture dated April 1886 and recording the sale of a piece of land know as the Royal Mortar field by John Stuck Barnes to Charles Edward Denney and James Frederick Goodey, for the sum of £1050. The present day Royal Mortar was not then built, nor the roads and houses or the later Recreation Hotel. So, we assume that this sale of land led to the building of this pub.

It first appears in licensing records of 1885 when the owners the Colchester Brewing Company were granted a new licence. The house passed into the ownership of Ind Coope in 1939.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1891	Isaac Leech, Brewers Foreman, Publican, age 30, born Langham together with his wife, brother, three children and a general servant	Census
1894 to 1895	Isaac Leech	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Mrs. Sarah Leech	Kelly's
1901	Sarah Leech, Publican, Widow, age 37, born Ardleigh, together with her three children, two visitors and a general servant	Census
1902 to 1925	Mrs. Sarah Leech	Kelly's and Benham's
1933	Albert Harris	Kelly's

What might seem a little strange in health conscious Britain today is an article in a 1913 newspaper<sup>1</sup> which reported a Smoking Concert that was held at the pub by the Colchester Wanderers' Cycling Club. One can only imagine what a smoking concert might have entailed and where the ash tray might have been placed on their bicycles!

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 1993



ROYAL MORTAR  
COLCHESTER 1995



The 'Mortar' was in the news in August 1995 when, following comments about peeling paintwork, the landlords, Peter and Clare Dillon, decided to paint the outside of the pub with brightly coloured giraffes, rabbits, caterpillars and other creatures, with designs by their seven year old daughter and from other sources. Owners, Sycamore Taverns took the licensee to court in December 1995 and the pub closed shortly afterwards. After extensive refurbishment, the house re-opened to, once again, enjoy good trade from its loyal 'regulars.'

The illustration is of a flat 'coffin' bottle marked 'Royal Mortar Hotel, Colchester, I Leech, Proprietor, The Colchester Brewing Company Ales Stout'. This was probably for the sale of a drop of the hard stuff from the pub's off-sales, of a design of bottle that slipped discretely into the pocket. Of course, Isaac Leech was the proprietor in the 1890s.

There exists a superb quality photograph of this pub, dated around 1900, with the name 'S Leech' over the door and with three people standing there. One of these people was presumably Sarah Leech, widow of Isaac, who took over the licence after Isaac's death. Sarah went on to be in residence as the publican for over 25 years and a further 10 years in support of her husband.

In 2012 this pub was in the capable hands of Paul and Tanya Bugg, who had bought the freehold in 2007, assisted by Greene King PLC, with a 5 year wet-tie. The pub was not a real-ale house, nor did its customer require it to be. It was a pub that had pool and darts teams and a good friendly atmosphere, serving the local community. A proper pub!

## Royal Oak - 1

St Martin

East Stockwell Street

18th century to 1901 (map 109)

a public house

now a private dwelling

The name of this pub has been taken from that popular story about King Charles II hiding from his pursuers in an oak tree, after his army had been defeated at Worcester in 1651. Charles became a fugitive with a price of £1000 being offered for his capture. It became a popular name for a pub thereafter.

The pub appears in the alehouse recognisances for the full period from 1764 until 1819 and then in trade directories throughout the 19th century.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1822 to 1824	Edward Corder	Pigot's
1848	Joseph Poulton	White's and Post Office
1851	Joseph Poulton, licensed victualler and clerk, age 48, born Braintree, together with his wife, their son and three lodgers	Census
1855	C. Crowe	Kelly's
1861	James Binks, age 72, inn keeper, born Colchester together with his 32 year old wife Emma, a servant and three lodgers	Census
1862 to 1871	James Binks	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Emma Binks, a widow, age 42, inn keeper, together with eight boarders.	Census
1874	William Spinks	Kelly's
1878	William Spurgeon	Kelly's
1881	Jackson Moore, Innkeeper, age 31, born Ireland, together with his wife and their three children	Census
1882	Alfred Baker	Kelly's
1886	George Beaumont	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Frederick Merrie Startup	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	James Burnby	Kelly's

A newspaper report in 1858<sup>1</sup> dealt with a case of violent assault against the landlord, James Binks. Mr Henry Goody appeared for the complainant. A sordid story unfolds of how John Hurst, private of the 34<sup>th</sup> Regiment, was brought up under warrant. It was claimed that he had threatened the life of the landlord and kicked him in the mouth, the defendant attempting to show how the landlord had encouraged him and his comrade into the house while, 'their bounty money lasted, and when it was finished wanted to prevent them coming in'. A neighbour stated that he was very annoyed by the conduct of soldiers and girls at the complainant's house, where continual disturbances were taking place. Addressing the complainant the chairman said that this was the second time that his house had been mentioned in court as the resort of prostitutes and the Bench had no doubt of the truth of the statement, and if it was not put a stop to he would be made to feel the effects of it.

It was taken over from Cobbold in 1884 by Daniells. The census of 1851 showed Joseph Poulton, age 48, licensed victualler and clerk living on the premises, it being referred to as the Old Royal Oak. It was closed down in 1901 following the conviction of James Burnby, the licence holder, for allowing his house to be used as a brothel.

The newspapers reported the charge against James Burnby in some detail<sup>2</sup>, it presumably being a nice bit of gossip for the local people. He was charged with 'permitting his premises to be used as a house of ill fame on eight different dates in the past two months.' The police had mounted a surveillance at the rear of the premises, where the ladies in question were entertaining their soldier customers. The owners, Messrs Daniells Breweries, made an application to have the licence endorsed, as the present licensee was 72 years old, had held this licence for seven years and a charge was pending against him. They held that they wished to put a younger man into the premises in his place. Their application was bound over until the case had been heard against the present licensee. Burnby was convicted and the maximum fine of £20 was imposed - as well as a custodial sentence.

At the Brewster Sessions at Colchester<sup>3</sup>, it was reported that all the licences in the borough, bar one, would be renewed. It gave a detailed explanation of the case for rejecting the re-licensing of the Royal Oak and the comment was made that the general tone of the neighbourhood had been a lot better since the pub had been closed.

It is known to have been a clothing factory in the 1920s as is borne out by an insurance map of the period. The solid brick building that occupies the spot today can be dated to around 1880 and is now a private dwelling, located in the middle of the historic area of Colchester known as the 'Dutch Quarter.'

Previously known as the **Bird in Hand**

19th century

<sup>1</sup> Essex Standard – 7<sup>th</sup> May 1858

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

<sup>3</sup> CG – 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 1901



The only references found to the tavern by this name are for 1839 in the Castle Museum records and then in a set of maps commissioned by its owners, the Cobbold brewing family, in 1848. These can be seen at the Essex Record Office. The plot was shown empty on the 1876 map series, indicating that the house had been demolished prior to that date. There is an element of confusion arising from this as the site appears to be the same as for the Royal Oak. The question therefore is, was the Royal Oak renamed as the Bird in Hand around 1830, the building then demolished around 1870, to be replaced with another Royal Oak after 1876?

1839	James Wellham	Pigot's
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**Royal Oak - 2**

Harwich Road

c1900 to 1997	a beerhouse	now a shop
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The second Royal Oak was originally a beerhouse and first appears by name in licensing records of 1907 when it was owned by Nicholls. The 1901 census shows it in the occupancy of George Bensly, aged 56, a publican. Building plans exist from 1904. By 1925 it was in the hands of the Colchester Brewing Company who still had it when its full publican's licence was granted in 1940 in consideration of the closing of the Vine in Long Wyre Street. It then passed to Ind Coope. There is some confusion in the records in 1952 as it shows that its full licence was granted in that year too.

In 1991<sup>1</sup> the newspapers announced proposals to knock the pub down and build a new improved house. There followed an article about the pub's regulars and their concern over what they considered to be the last 'spit and sawdust' pub in town. The final nail in the coffin came in 1996<sup>2</sup> when a murder was committed in close proximity to the pub. This led to the final closing of its doors.



The Royal Oak in February 1935

This pub housed the 'Domino School' painting, a remarkable work of art that was removed from the Clarendon when that pub was sold to Greene King. At the time of writing (2015), the building was a takeaway food shop.

Mr Harvey, son of Les Harvey, who is shown in the picture overleaf, recalled that the painting was done by the landlord of the Clarendon, John Roy, and was unveiled in December 1961, having taken six months to complete. He was able to give the following names and details from memory, without having a copy of the picture in front of him.

Les Harvey - round shouldered with scarf; Derek Moat on the left, dark hair; Tom Marshall - lived 5 Dilbridge Road, tall, long features; Fred? - balding, handlebar moustache; Harry Cook - playing

<sup>1</sup> EADT - 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1991, EG - 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 1991

<sup>2</sup> ECS - 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 1996, 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1996

dominos, cloth cap; Dick Willingham - in middle sitting down; George Carter - seated right, pipe, hat, double chin; Jack Frost - white hair, seated next to George; Graham Bowton - young, standing, quiff, dark hair; 'Turk' - little man, peaked cap, sharp features; Bill Gear - next to John Roy?; John Roy - seated with back on view, far right.



The author also contacted Mr Derek Moat, another of the subjects depicted, who kindly provided the photograph of the original painting. He had a different recollection of the subjects as follows:

Graham Bowton - standing, moved to Epping; Jack Frost - top row, hat; Inspector Pearson - standing, an ex-boxer; Freddy Thorpe? - big moustache; Les Harvey - standing; himself - standing; Mick Dougherty - standing; Harry Smith? - standing, hat (or was it Patch Eye Cole?); unknown - standing; George Cole - standing; Bob Starling - standing, hat (Reg Starling, his son lives in Greenstead); George Sadler - standing, hat; Seven people seated around the table he did not know.

Apparently, John Roy removed to the Cock Inn at Beesley End and took the painting with him. John Crogan went and saw him, bought it for £500 and returned it to the pub.

The painting has gone, its fate unknown. The present owner (an oriental gentleman) appears to have some inflated idea of its financial value and, hopefully, because of that belief, will ensure that it will be well cared for. Who knows, the painting may once again be put on view for the general public to see, a priceless record of a piece of Colchester's history.

## Royal Standard

St Botolph

34 Mersea Road

1863 to 1994 (map 96)

a public house

now private dwellings

The name of this pub is decidedly of military origin. It is located next door to the barracks and would have been the first pub that a thirsty soldier encountered when commencing his off duty tour of the town. The Royal Standard is the flag that symbolised all that is sacred to a soldier in battle and is the very essence of loyalty to Queen (or King) and country.

It first appears by name in an 1863 trade directory, being owned by Grimston who in turn sold it to Truman in 1899. Its opening was around the same time as the building of the barracks and its name therefore particularly appropriate.

In 1863 William Wire, in his diary, recorded that whilst the German Legion was here, Mr Ellisden, the licensee, had it open night and day, he taking night turn, his wife day turn. Afterwards he retired and lived in one of the little houses at end of Sussex Road. The German Legion moved out of Colchester and took many Colchester brides with them, there being some panic setting in over whether the Garrison Church could keep up with all the marriage ceremonies and indeed whether the marriages that had been performed were in fact legally binding.

The various trade directories and census records show the following:

1861	Richard Hart, Publican, age 39, born in Kent, together with his wife, their two children and the mother-in-law	Census
1862 to 1878	Richard Hart	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Richard Hart, Licensed Victualler, age 49, born in Kent, together with his wife, and their two children	Census

1881	William T. Pitt, Licensed Victualler, age 45, born East Donyland, together with his wife, their two daughters and a domestic servant	Census
1882 to 1886	William Thomas Pitt	Kelly's
1894 to 1899	Mrs. Martha Caroline Raven	Kelly's
1901	Martha C Raven, Licensed Victualler, Widow, age 56, born London, together with her two children and a grand daughter	Census
1902	William George Raven	Kelly's
1908	James William Wray	Kelly's
1912 to 1914	Albert W. Wood	Kelly's
1917	Stephen Axford	Kelly's
1925	George Peachey	Kelly's
1933	Garnham Chambers, Cooked Meat Dealer	Kelly's
1963	Mrs Smith, wife of tenant Mr B Smith, died on October 30th, 1963	Black Eagle Journal

The pub became very run down in the 1980s and was no longer a house of call, the soldiers from the adjacent barracks preferred to go into town to 'wet their whistles'. In 1994, the pub was taken over by the proprietor of the adjacent Indian food shop, who subsequently closed it down and converted it into private accommodation.



The Royal Standard - c1932

Rumpole's

East Street

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

*You're not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on.*

Dean Martin