



*A man goes in to a pub with his unusual looking pet.
The landlord looks over the bar at this creature
and enquires as to what sort of animal it is.
'Tis a long nosed, smooth haired, Irish wolf-hound',
came the reply, adding that it was 'a fighting animal'.
The landlord, being a man who liked a bet, thought about this
and then suggested a fight between his two prize Rotweilers
and this interesting fighting animal.
Between the two of them, a wager of £100 was agreed,
the Irish wolf-hound against the two Rotweilers, the winner to take the purse.
So out to the back yard went the interested parties,
together with their animals.
Amazingly, the Rotweilers were killed within 30 seconds
from commencement of battle and the man claimed his winnings.
The landlord conceded that this strange looking creature was indeed the winner,
and handed over the money.
Walking back to the bar he enquired again as to the
name of the creature that had beaten his dogs.
'Tis a long nosed, smooth haired, Irish wolf-hound',
came the reply again - 'but some people call it a crocodile!'*

Mr Patrick Kilgannon – once the landlord of the Little Crown

Sailor and Ball

Maldon Road or
Crouch Street

The name of this pub might refer to a sailor of the Royal Navy with a cannon ball as a symbol of the fighting spirit required at that time, there having been so many enemies at our shores in past times.

see **White Hart**

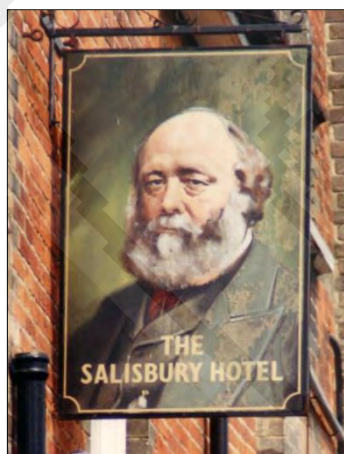
Salisbury Hotel

Butt Road

1885 to 2004

a public house

demolished September 2005



The name of this pub would have been taken from the road on which it was located and which, in turn, would have taken its name from a prominent politician of the time. The pub's sign depicts Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne Cecil, 3rd Marquis of Salisbury (1830 to 1903). The pub sign pictured is dated 1991. Lord Salisbury was an English Conservative statesman who became prime minister in 1885, coincidentally the same year as the pub's licence was granted. He was Prime Minister during the Crimean War which would have made him an especially important personality to the military personnel from the nearby army barracks.

There was a stone set into the high level brickwork which gave the date of 1886, and which therefore indicated when the building was finished. The original building plans show a Smoking Room, a Parlour, Bar and Tap Room on the ground floor. Upstairs there were four bedrooms and a 41 foot long Assembly Room. It was owned by Henry Jones until 1893 when it passed to Thorn and Company who, in turn, sold it to Daniells in 1912. It then passed to Trumans in 1959 and later still to Grand Metropolitan in the 1980s.

The 1891 census shows it in the occupation of John William Shiers, age 35, and described as a hotel proprietor. An advertisement of 1900 stated it to be, 'One minute from Cavalry Barracks. For Families, Officers and Gentlemen. Every Home Comfort. Moderate and Inclusive Charges. Newly Decorated and Refurnished. Mr Charles Thorne, Proprietor. Miss Crick, Manageress.'



c1905 postcard



c1964



1991



1991

In 1905, the newspapers reported a mysterious explosion had ripped through the building, together with a photograph showing a side of the hotel wall missing. This was recalled in a newspaper article in 1972¹. On talking with Mr Higgins in 1995, he was greatly amused by the newspaper article, as it was his mother in law had sent the picture in. She once kept another house in the town and was 'a bit of a boozer' in her day. She was advised on medical grounds to give up drinking when she was 80 and had to resort to subterfuge in order to enjoy her favourite tipple, whisky. She kept it in a urine specimen bottle on full view on the sideboard and nobody seems to have suspected or discovered her little ruse.

Some other incumbents were as follows:

1894 to 1895	John William Taylor Shires	Kelly's
1898 to 1908	Charles Thomas Thorn	Kelly's
1901	Mary A Baldwin, Hotel Manageress, age 37, born Diss, together with two visitors, a barman, a cook, a housemaid and a potman	Census
1912 to 1917	Archibald C. McRae	Kelly's
1925	Frederick William Bird	Kelly's
1933	Hubert Poole	Kelly's

In 1991² the pub was purchased by John Higgins, also the owner of the Globe Hotel and various other establishments in the town, who carried out extensive refurbishment works.

By 2005, the premises had been allowed to run down, was closed and in a decaying state, the subject of consternation by neighbours who objected to the building being demolished or converted to make way for several dwellings. As with so many other fine establishments, the land that it stood on was more valuable for development than it was for the sole use as a public house. History will judge the self interested 'get rich quick' property speculators of this period in our history. Thus ended the life of this once fine establishment.

¹ EG – 7th Dec 1972

² EG – 31st Aug 1992

Saracen's Head - 1

Holy Trinity

?

15th century

an ancient inn

presumed demolished

The name of this pub would be in memory of the time of the crusades. Richard the Lionheart fought the saracens, who were moslems or infidels, who threatened christianity in the holy land. Many of his knights wore the emblem of a saracen on their shields and this would have become a popular sign after their return.

This appears to be an ancient inn. The earliest reference, dated 1457, records that John Facoun of Nayland stopped a water course opposite this inn which was written as 'la Sarazynshed.' This same entry was repeated each year until 1461. In 1748, Morant mentions it as a tenement being situated opposite Holy Cross church in the time of Henry VIII.

Nothing more is known of its history or precise location.

Saracen's Head - 2

St Mary at the Walls

Head Gate

16th century

an ancient tavern

location uncertain

This ancient tavern is mentioned in an article by Mr L C Sier, published in 1938. A deed recorded the sale in 1540, by Richard Sylles, wheelwright, and his wife Margaret, daughter of Alderman William Cowbrege deceased, for £8 6s 8d, of two tenements and a stable and two gardens near Head Gate and the Town Wall, in the Parish of St Mary at the Walls. One of the gardens is said to be bounded on the east side by the tenement called le Swanne, 'now in the tenure of Robert Lambe, carpenter' and on the west side by the tenement called le Saresons hede. On the north side was the street called 'Hedegatestrete.' It would seem that this would have been the east end of what is now Crouch Street. The property had come to Margaret Sylles under the will of her father and was sold on 7th November 1540 to 'John Lucas, Esquire.'

The precise location is unknown and it is assumed that the Swan and the Saracen's Head were both taverns. Sier suggests that they were located near to where the Bull, another ancient house, now stands.

Saracen's Head - 3

137 High Street

c1850

a beerhouse

now offices

This beerhouse is shown in a trade directory of 1848 when Jonathan Smith was the victualler. The census of 1851 showed it in the occupation of Richard Hart, age 29, a beer house keeper. It survives as the old timber framed building next to Angel Court in High Street.

Sawyer's Arms

Magdalen Street

The name of this pub is a simple reference to the trade of a sawyer, or the two sawyers that were necessary to cut logs into planks and other more manageable pieces. The head sawyer would be on top at one end of the bow saw and the other would be below in a pit at the other end, covered in sawdust. The mechanical saw powered by steam led to the decline of this practice.

see the **Two Sawyers**

Scotch Ale Stores

Short Wyre Street

19th century (map 120)

a beerhouse?

now a shop



The correct description of this house is unknown. It may have been an 'off' licence, although various references have been found, mainly from concerns by the police, indicating that this house was used like a beer house.

The picture shows the building around 1905 and shows that it was owned by Nicholl and Co, a Colchester brewery. The gentleman standing outside is presumably the landlord.

The building still exists, almost opposite to the Little Crown, and can be easily identified by the characteristic windows on the upper floors.

Sea Horse - 1

St Giles

?

The name of this pub is of nautical origin, the sea horse being an unusual type of marine fish. It was depicted as being the horse that carried Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, thus leading to this house having the nickname of 'Neptune's Nag.'

see the **Falcon**

Sea Horse - 2

All Saints

61 High Street

c1736 to 1935 (map 58)

a public house

demolished

The following is based on articles¹ written by Gerald Rickword and in his usual eloquent style.

You may search the streets of Colchester in vain for the sign of the Neptune's Nag, the name that an unknown 18th century wit bestowed upon the Sea Horse. For the house was silenced some nine years ago, and now the honest housebreaker in the lawful pursuit of his calling is as effectively levelling the building to the ground as any Nazi bomb.

For over 200 years the sign of the Sea Horse was displayed over the front door in High Street and marked the boundary of All Saints parish from that of St Nicholas, and even before that (from a deed of 1736) went under the name of the Valiant or North Country Sailor, while still further back it was known as the Chequers.

The Sea Horse did not stand in the front rank of Colchester's inns - it was no place for the quality. But was a homely inn to which the carriers' carts came on their regular journeys to the town, and solid yeomen farmers on their stout cobs on Market Day. At nights, the nearby shopkeepers and tradesmen foregathered in its snug parlour, and with

¹ ECS – 16th Jun 1944

churchwarden pipes of real Brosely ware or those made in the town by Stephen Chamberlain 'talked with looks profound and news much older than their ale went round'.



A photograph of 1887

At the time of the parliamentary election in 1768, a free-burgess, James Green, who divided his votes between Mr Isaac Martin Rebow, Whig, and Mr Charles Gray, Tory, was the landlord, and continued to hold the licence for some twenty years.

In August 1806, when the town was becoming an important military centre, the waggon warehouse of Mr Bunner, in the inn-yard, was broken into early one morning, and two military trucks containing bedding, table linen and wearing apparel were stolen. The inn was an important carrier's house. Pigot's Directory of 1826 gave the Dedham carrier as calling twice per week, the Ipswich carrier three times, the Manningtree and Mistley three times, and the Wivenhoe carrier four times a week.

The only dramatic incident in the history of the Sea Horse that has come to light occurred in November 1840, when late in the afternoon of the 18th, two smart young men drove up to the inn in a gig, their horse showing signs of great distress. After arranging for their accommodation, they went out for a short time, and on their return, immediately retired to their room. This with their general appearance, the nature of their luggage and the prominence of a pistol, aroused the suspicions of landlord Benjamin Turpin, who communicated with the police.

No action was taken that night, but next morning Mr Whitehead of the White Hart in West Bergholt, accompanied by two constables, came in search of the travellers, who he accused of passing a counterfeit shilling at his house the previous day, and also with stealing a cloak and a hunting whip. They were secured and taken before the magistrates and fifteen counterfeit shilling pieces, some quite new, being found on them, they were remanded for further enquiries. There later transpired a catalogue of offences that they had committed, for which they were given terms of 21 years and 14 years transportation.

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Among a collection of water colour portraits painted by one of the famous Dunthornes, is one of William Green, landlord of the Sea Horse for many years, when the 18th century was old and the new century but young. He died in 1819 at the age of 73 and Dunthorne's delightful sketch shows host Green with a humorous twinkle in his eye, carrying two tankards of good home brewed 'Old October' to his cronies.

He wears his own grey hair and is dressed in long brown coat of good broad cloth, with pewter buttons, a dull red waistcoat decorated with three rows of buttons, drab 'small clothing' buckled at knee, grey stockings and square toed shoes as would become any Quaker.



Mr William Green (shown left) and  
Mr Charles Shillitis - store keeper to the  
garrison (shown right)

Another of Dunthorne's portraits is of one Mr Charles Shillitis, a tankard of foaming ale at his side, store keeper to the garrison. He was painted by Dunthorne around 1810 and would have been a key figure in the lives of innkeepers of the time. He was also probably a good customer of host Greene.

Another article featuring this old inn was researched by Mr John Bensusan-Butt and delivered as a lecture in the 1990s, on the subject of All Saints parish. Details from it are detailed below and refer to a comic episode in the inn's history in the year 1785. The Sea Horse had as landlords, a long succession of Greens. There was a political rumpus over who was to stand in Colchester and the following was taken from the Ipswich Journal of 26th February 1785. It is an advert which reads:

The Committee for collecting evidence in support of the petition against the Colchester election give this public notice, that they will continue to sit at the house of Shining Jemmy known by the sign of Neptune's Nag, every evening next week, in order to receive information. As facts will be difficult to obtain, any probable circumstances, or even a plausible pretext will be admitted.

Any person who has anything in this way to communicate, or any person of a quick invention, who is a good hand at EVIDENCE COINING, will meet with every possible encouragement, by applying either to:

COUNSELLOR STAYTAPE Chairman, or to  
BEN VELLUM, or  
NED LEATHER, or  
TOM SKYLIGHT

Members of the said committee.

Of the aliases given, Shining Jemmy was the landlord of the Sea Horse, James Green. Ben Vellum was Benjamin Strutt, scrivener. Ned Leather was Edward Capstack, currier or tanner. Tom Skylight was Thomas Andrews, a brewer and owner of five pubs (skylight was the gap between the beer and the rim of the glass.) Counsellor Staytape was election candidate Samuel Tyssen - a staytape ties in!

The inn first appears in the alehouse recognisances by this name in 1770. The various trade directories and censuses gave the following details:

|              |                                                                                                                                                        |                         |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1792 to 1794 | Wm Green                                                                                                                                               | Universal               |
| 1822 to 1824 | Ananias Chamberlain                                                                                                                                    | Pigot's                 |
| 1832 to 1832 | John Cook                                                                                                                                              | Pigot's                 |
| 1839         | Benjamin Turpin                                                                                                                                        | Pigot's                 |
| 1845 to 1852 | Thomas Brown                                                                                                                                           | White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | Thomas Brown, innkeeper, age 49, born Rivenhall together with his wife, a housemaid, a cook and a boots                                                | Census                  |
| 1861         | Sarah Brown, widow, age 54, inn keeper                                                                                                                 | Census                  |
| 1862         | Mrs. Sarah Brown                                                                                                                                       | Kelly's                 |
| 1867 to 1886 | Robert Bennett Porter                                                                                                                                  | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1871         | Robert B Porter, widower, age 54, inn keeper and 4 servants                                                                                            | Census                  |
| 1881         | Robert Bennett Porter, Licensed Victualler, age 64, born Great Bentley, together with his wife, his father, a niece, his sister and a domestic servant | Census                  |
| 1891         | Robert B Porter, age 74, innkeeper                                                                                                                     | Census                  |
| 1894 to 1895 | George Mead                                                                                                                                            | Kelly's                 |
| 1898 to 1899 | Percy Allen                                                                                                                                            | Kelly's                 |
| 1901         | Harry E Wagstaff, Licensed Victualler, age 46, born Barking, together with his wife, their daughter, two visitors and two general servants             | Census                  |
| 1902 to 1914 | Harry Elvy Wagstaff                                                                                                                                    | Kelly's                 |
| 1917 to 1925 | Walter George Haskings                                                                                                                                 | Kelly's                 |
| 1933         | Jack Phillips                                                                                                                                          | Kelly's                 |

In 1872 the inn was owned by Osborne and was acquired by the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886 who had it until its licence was refused in 1935. The building was sold to Mr Gadson of Adams Motors Ltd, situated next door, for £2600, and was later demolished.

A comical item has survived in the form of a 'Free Pass' that was issued to customers by a one time landlord, Walter Haskings, who had the licence from 1916 until 1926. It is a clever piece of advertising and the dog-eared survivor that was kindly given to the author by Mr N J Bailey of Brightlingsea, must have been carried about in his pocket for a long time to get in such a state. It is of too poor quality to reproduce here, so a transcript is shown on the next page. One might conclude from the foregoing that Wal Haskins was quite a character!

also known as the **Neptune's Nag**

This house was nicknamed the Neptune's Nag for the obvious reason. It was also, reputedly, previously known as the Valiant, the North Country Sailor and before that, the Chequers, although no evidence has been found to substantiate any of this.

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### Shaftsbury Hotel

St Nicholas

32 Culver Street

c1890

a temperance hotel

now a shop

This house was a temperance hotel and not a pub and therefore only shown here as a reference. It exists now as Shaftsbury House.

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## FREE PASS

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**This Pass is good on all  
Railroads provided that the  
bearer walks, carries his own  
luggage, swims all rivers, and  
stops for all Drinks and  
Smokes at the:**

### 'SEA HORSE' HOTEL

High Street, COLCHESTER

WAL. HASKINGS, Proprietor  
(Late of Ramsgate and Wingham)

**Wines, Spirits and Beers of  
the Finest Quality.**

This Pass is not transferable except  
to another man with money.

*A few That's that are interesting:*

Tennyson could take a piece of paper,  
write a poem on it worth £1000

*That's GENIUS*

Rothschild can write a few words on paper  
and make it worth £1.000.000

*That's CAPITAL*

A Mechanic can take a piece of steel worth £1  
and make into watchsprings worth £200

*That's SKILL*

A man can run a business for a time  
and not advertise

*That's FOOLISHNESS*

Some tradesmen do not study  
their customers

*That's A MISTAKE*

All Licensed Victuallers should belong  
to their Protection Association

*That's WISDOM*

W.H. is waiting to supply his customers  
with the very best Wines, Spirits and Beers

*That's BUSINESS*

WAL. HASKINGS'

### TEN COMMANDMENTS

++++

1<sup>st</sup> - When thirsty, thou shalt come  
to my house and drink, but not to  
excess; that thou may'st live long in  
the land and enjoy thyself for ever.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Thou shalt not take anything  
from me, that is unjust, for I need all  
I have and more too.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Thou shalt not expect too large  
glasses, nor filled too full, for we  
must pay our rent.

4<sup>th</sup> - Thou shalt not sing or dance,  
only when thy spirit moveth thee to  
do thy best.

5<sup>th</sup> - Thou shalt honour me and  
mine, that thou may'st live long and  
see me again.

6<sup>th</sup> - Thou shalt not destroy or break  
anything on my premises, else thou  
shalt pay for double the value, Thou  
shalt not care to pay me in bad  
money, nor even say "Chalk" or  
"Slate."

7<sup>th</sup> - Thou shalt call at my place  
daily, if unable to come we shall feel  
it an insult unless you send a  
substitute or an apology.

8<sup>th</sup> - Thou shalt not abuse thy fellow  
beings nor cast base insinuations  
upon their characters by hinting that  
they can't drink too much.

9<sup>th</sup> - Neither shalt thou take the  
name of my goods in vain by calling  
my beer "slops, " for I always keep  
best brewed ales, and am always at  
home to my friends.

10<sup>th</sup> - Thou shalt not so far forget  
thy honourable position and high  
standing in the community as to ask  
the Hotel keeper to treat.

Walter Haskings' Free Pass to the Seahorse Inn



## Ship - 1

St James

5 East Hill

pre 1764 to 1980 (map 63)

an alehouse

now a shop (2007)

The name of this pub is another of obvious nautical origin, its sign being simple and therefore easily recognised. Perhaps its original owner was a sailor who retired from the seafaring life and settled down to running a pub.

It appears in the alehouse recognisances for the full period from 1764 until 1819 and then in trade directories throughout the 19th century. For a period up to 1788 it had a rival of the same name located in the nearby East Bay area, which makes identification of the two houses somewhat difficult. One can only guess at why there should be two houses with the same name situated so close to each other, but then this same thing happened with the Three Crowns, the Fleur de Lys and the King's Head.

In 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1885. The census of 1851 gave James Folkard, age 35, as the inn keeper, followed in 1891 by Charles Aylett, age 53, also describing himself as an inn keeper. The 1901 census again showed Charles Aylett, aged 61, the inn keeper. It was transferred to Ind Coope in 1939. The old timber framed house was of the 17th century, with a large cellar area. It suffered badly from a lack of trade in the 1980s and closed soon after, the owners Allied Breweries leaving it to deteriorate<sup>1</sup>. In 1992<sup>2</sup>, the newspapers announced that the Mayor's son, Mr Frank, bought it and took the licence, with no intention of ever pulling a pint. He converted it into a private dwelling - but a private dwelling with a history!



The Ship Outing – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1921

A photographic postcard recording a day out for the lads with the pub in the background. It is a National vehicle. HK9077 is the reg no of the vehicle behind. The National Omnibus and Transport Co Ltd Walter James Iden, joint managing director. Vehicle number 2045.

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

|              |                                                                                                        |                                  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1822 to 1824 | James Thornington                                                                                      | Pigot's                          |
| 1832 to 1845 | Samuel Cranfield                                                                                       | Pigot's and Post Office          |
| 1848 to 1855 | James Folkard                                                                                          | White's, Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1851         | James Folkard, Innkeeper, age 35, born Dedham, together with his wife, sister-in-law and four visitors | Census                           |
| 1862         | William Byham                                                                                          | Kelly's                          |
| 1867         | Thomas Roofe Nayler, Builder                                                                           | Post Office                      |
| 1870 to 1882 | George Nicholson, Tailor                                                                               | Kelly's and Post Office          |
| 1881         | George Nicholson, Licensed Victualler, age 38, born St. Pancras,                                       |                                  |

<sup>1</sup> EG – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 1991

<sup>2</sup> EG – 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1992

## The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester

|              |                                                                                                     |                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1886 to 1899 | Charles Aylett                                                                                      | Census Kelly's  |
| 1901         | Charles Aylett, Inn Keeper, age 61, born Colchester, together with his wife and two family visitors | Census Benham's |
| 1907         | Mrs. Aylett                                                                                         | Kelly's         |
| 1908         | Thomas Northover                                                                                    | Kelly's         |
| 1912 to 1917 | Robert A. Wham                                                                                      | Kelly's         |
| 1925 to 1933 | Robert N. Allwood                                                                                   | Kelly's         |

## Ship Inn - 2

## Headgate

see the **Fox and Fiddler**

### Ship Inn - 3

Lexden

1709 to 1825 a tavern

precise location uncertain

All that is known of this old tavern is from building deeds held at the Essex Record Office. No more is known of its history or where it was situated in the Lexden parish.

### Ship - 4

St James

East Bay

pre 1764 to 1788

an alehouse

precise location uncertain

This alehouse appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1788 and would have been close to the other Ship on East Hill. Nothing else is known of its history or precise location.

## Ship - 5

St Leonard

Hythe

1763 to 1797

an alehouse

location uncertain

The existence of a pub by the name of the Ship at the Hythe is only known from deeds of the dates given, held at the Essex Record Office. Nothing else is known about its history or precise location. Could it be a mistaken reference to the previous house?

### Shoulder of Mutton - 1

High Street

The name of this pub may originally have come from the landlord of the pub having had a second source of income, that of a butcher. However, its location near to the Dutch Quarter of the town and its links with the wool trade, may have led to its naming. Whatever the answer, the reason has been lost with time and the name remains one of the most popular in the country.

see the **Lamb**

## Shoulder of Mutton - 2

Lexden

c1837

All that is known of this old tavern is that it is referred to on a tithe map of 1837, although it does not appear in trade directories of that period.

### Shoulder of Mutton - 3

St Botolph

?

c1838

a tavern

location uncertain

All that is known of this old tavern is that it is referred to on a tithe map of 1838. It is not referred to in trade directories of that period.

### Siege House

East Hill

1980 to c1990 (map 68)

a pub restaurant

not a pub now

The Siege House was so named after the Siege of Colchester in 1648 when Royalist supporters took over and held the town while it was besieged for eleven weeks by Parliamentary forces. On 5th July 1648, the Siege House being outside the town walls, was siezed by a Royalist sortie, led by Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle. They charged out of the Town Gate, down East Hill and dislodged the Roundheads in the building and the surrounding streets. It was held for only a few hours before being counter attacked by Colonel Whalley's Roundhead Cavalry and troops.

The building was peppered with bullets and the holes can be seen to this day, picked out in red by various owners, to mark their position. After great hardship, the Royalists accepted defeat and surrendered on 27th August. Lucas and Lisle were held at the King's Head in Head Street and were later led to the Castle grounds to be shot. The building was constructed in the early 16th century and has many other points of historical interest.

There is some evidence to suggest that medallions of arms in the upstairs windows came from the Perseverance alehouse, once located at the bottom of Hythe Hill. During the 19th century the house fell into disrepair and was restored in 1905. The premises was acquired by Whitbread and in 1980 the upper floor was converted into a Beefeater steak house, with the ground floor made in to a public bar.

This premises has enjoyed differing fortunes over recent years and whilst it was once a very good pub, particularly popular with young people, whilst its Beefeater restaurant did a good trade upstairs, it is not a pub any more. It is here for reference only with no cut-off date as a 'pub' known or suggested.

### Silver Oyster

Queen Elizabeth Way, Monkwick  
CO2 8LY

1959 to date

a public house

The name of the pub is a reference to Colchester's famous oyster trade, which probably dates from before Roman times. The house was originally to have been known simply as 'the Monkwick' but it took its eventual name from the official silver oyster that is an exact copy of the brass one used by Colchester's water bailiff, who is responsible for checking the size and quality of oysters.



Pictures from 1991



This measurement standard is about 54 millimetres at its largest diameter and is engraved with the borough arms. The silver oyster was given to the borough in 1905 by the wife of Alderman Horace Egerton-Green, Mayor of Colchester in 1886 to 1887. It bears a hallmark of 1804/5, with the maker by the name of Bateman. The object is believed to be unique. The Colchester Oyster Feast has been held for many years and has attracted many famous personalities.



The pub was opened in 1959 by its owners Ind Coope, with its publican's licence coming from the closure of the Horse and Groom. It was built to serve the inhabitants of the 1950s built Monkwick housing estate. Bacchus checked it out in 1963 and 1964<sup>1</sup> when the licence was held by Sheila and Neville Stanton. In 1998, it was purchased by Ridley's.

In 2012, this pub was given an external refurbishment by owners Admiral Taverns.

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### Sir Colin Campbell

Mersea Road

The name of the pub would have referred to Sir Colin Campbell (1792 - 1863) who became Lord Clyde, created a baron after his success in suppressing the Indian Mutiny. He was the son of a Glasgow carpenter and had a distinguished career serving in the Peninsular War and Crimean War. A very fitting name for a pub in such close proximity to the Army garrison.

see the **Gaiety**

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### Six Bells

Greenstead

289 Greenstead Road

c1850 to 1991

a beerhouse

demolished



The name of this pub is a variation on that of the Bell, six bells perhaps signifying opening time at the pub. It would have been within earshot of St Leonard's Church bells. However, the naming of the pub may have had a connection with the bell ringers themselves, perhaps six of them.

The earliest reference found to this beer house comes from the Essex Standard which recorded that one Edgar Chapman, age 27 years, a butcher, was charged with stealing two brass candlesticks from John Adams of the Six Bells, Greenstead. He was found guilty and given three months hard labour.

The census of 1871 shows Ann Tildersley, unmarried, age 39, described as a beer house keeper. Building plans dated 1884 indicate that Miss Tildersley's premises were rebuilt around that time when it was then owned by W E Grimston. The plans show it to have been a small building with a bar in the centre opposite the front entrance door, a 10' x 14' parlour on the left, and the same sized tap room on the right. There were three bedrooms upstairs. In 1899, it was sold by Grimston to Truman, with the deed stating it to have formerly been two messuages, and once called the Black Boy. It is shown in the 1901 census but with no licensee on the premises on that day. What this first building looked like can only be guessed at.

The beer house was to be completely rebuilt around 1924 in a style typical of the day and had some interesting moulding work on the exterior facade, with a date of 1924 inscribed. The picture on the left shows this in some detail, as it was, just prior to its demolition in 1991. What price progress?

The house first appears by name in the licensing records in 1907, when it was a beerhouse owned by Truman. In 1949, it was granted a full publican's licence.

In 1991, plans were submitted by Tesco, the supermarket chain, for a new store to be built. Within a short space of time, they had bought this pub and in 1992 demolished it, together with a row of houses, to allow the scheme to go ahead<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 1963, 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1964

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 1991, EG – 24<sup>th</sup> Jun 1992, 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 1992



The Six Bells - c1932

Trade directories show the following:

|      |                                 |         |
|------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1925 | Arthur S. Harden, Beer Retailer | Kelly's |
| 1933 | William Jackson, Beer Retailer  | Kelly's |

previously the **Black Boy**

19th century?

The pub is mentioned as once having had this name in a deed dated 1899. Exactly when it was thus named is unknown.

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**Slipstream**

St Botolph's

See **Judge and Jury**

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**Smith's Beer House**

Parson's Heath

|       |             |                    |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|
| c1894 | a beerhouse | location uncertain |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|

The name of this beerhouse was probably taken from the name of its original owner.

All that is known of this house is from a disapproved building plan application dated 1894, by its owners Daniells.

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### Smiths

Church Street

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

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### Spinnaker

Hythe Quay  
CO2 8JB

1989 to date (map 119)

a public house

The name of this pub is another with seafaring connotations, particularly fitting with its location along the Hythe Quay. A spinnaker is a type of sail fitted to a boat or ship to give it more speed. The name was chosen with the changing of the licensee who wished to change the pub's previous poor image.

The old anchor that used to hang as the pub's sign, once resided in the garden, perhaps waiting to be displayed again some day. Is it still there?

It is said to be the smallest pub in Colchester with its single bar. An indenture dated 1871 used to be hung on the wall of the bar and which recorded the sale of the property by Thomas Moy, to Walter Edward Grimston. Thankfully, we have a copy of this document and its details are now 'on record'.

This pub's future was uncertain in 1992, when the newspapers reported that new road plans for the Hythe were likely to cut it off from its customers, with an expected severe loss of trade. The owner at that time, Mr David John Clayton (one of life's 'characters' and with one of the few private freehold licences at that time), who ran it as a freehouse, looked forward to the long awaited re-development of the Hythe area, which would place his pub in an ideal position for trade. In 2005, the building work was well under way and the pub dwarfed by all the new buildings. Mr Clayton retired in 2006 and it became one of Punch Taverns' houses.

previously known as the **Anchor**

c1763 to 1989

There were several Anchor pubs in Colchester, it being a coastal town with many sailors around and about who might be attracted to a pub because of such a name.



The Anchor - c1932

The current building style and materials are early Victorian with it possibly having replaced an earlier building. The pub is shown on the 1876 map series and is detailed in the map section of this book.

It is known that the pub was sold by Thomas Moy in 1871 to local businessman, Walter Edward Grimston who, in 1899, sold it to the London brewers Truman, Hanbury and Buxton. The indenture covering that sale in 1899 records

the sale of 22 licensed premises (not all in Colchester) in total, raised the grand sum of £64000. The Colchester premises mentioned are; the Albert, the Anchor beerhouse, the Blue Boar, the Cambridge Arms, the Duke of York Inn, the Fencers, the Gardeners Arms beerhouse, the Hospital Arms beerhouse, the Marlborough Head, the Marquis of Granby, the Nelson's Head beerhouse, the Ordnance Arms, the Railway Tavern beerhouse, the Royal Standard, the Six Bells and the Spotted Cow beerhouse.

In the 50s and 60s the pub was renowned for being a rough house and taxi drivers were known to refuse fares from this location. Trumans held it until it was gutted by a fire in 1972. It re-opened in November 1972.

Just prior to it changing its name to the Spinnaker in 1989, the pub was wrecked by persons unknown, the landlord tied up and money strewn all over the place. The motive was certainly not theft and the landlord was reluctant to discuss the matter. He must have known what it was all about but probably knew better than to talk to the police. New landlord and owner, Mr David Clayton, opened the refurbished pub on 17th April 1989, making it one of the few, licensee owned, free houses in town.

Trade directories and census records show the following information:

|              |                                                                                                                        |                                  |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1848 to 1855 | Charles George Fuller                                                                                                  | White's, Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1851         | Charles G Fuller, age 30, licensed victualler                                                                          | Census                           |
| 1862         | Samuel Booth, Coal Merchant                                                                                            | Kelly's and Post Office          |
| 1899 to 1902 | Alfred Herbert, Beer Retailer                                                                                          | Kelly's                          |
| 1901         | Alfred Herbert, Publican, age 41, born Colchester, together with his wife, their eleven children and the mother-in-law | Census                           |
| 1912 to 1925 | Thomas E. Wilkin, Beer Retailer                                                                                        | Kelly's                          |
| 1933         | Frederick Eugene Aldridge                                                                                              | Kelly's                          |
| 1937         | Edward Green                                                                                                           | Kelly's                          |
| 1952         | Mr W E Jewell, licensee of the Anchor, Hythe Quay died on May 18th, 1952                                               | Black Eagle Journal              |

|                        |             |              |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Spotted Cow - 1</b> | St James    | Harwich Road |
| c1850 to 1909          | a beerhouse | demolished   |

The name of this beerhouse is a variation on the bovine theme of the Bull, the Black Bull, the Cow, the Red Cow, etc. The animal was an important commodity in those days before the coming of the motor car and this sign would have been an easy one to recognise. In this case, the landlord was also a cow keeper, hence the name of the pub.

The earliest reference to this beerhouse comes from a record in the Essex Standard of 23rd August 1852, when a drunken customer was prosecuted for his disorderly conduct. It was owned by Grimston who sold it to Trumans in 1899, who subsequently closed it in 1909. A personal recollection of Dr Laver said that it had a pictorial sign, and that it stood at the corner of Greenstead and Harwich Roads, facing East Street. He recalled that the building was later demolished.

It is possible that this house dates from a much earlier period and under the name of the Red Cow although there is some confusion on this point as a tithe map dated 1845 shows a Cow Inn in the general location of the later Flying Fox on Harwich Road.

Trade directories and census records show the following information:

|      |                                                                                                            |             |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1851 | John Bloice, beer house keeper, age 44, born Lawford, together with his wife, their four sons and a lodger | Census      |
| 1861 | John Bloice, beer and cow keeper.                                                                          | Census      |
| 1862 | John Bloyce                                                                                                | Kelly's     |
| 1867 | Mrs. Esther Bloice, Beer Retailer                                                                          | Post Office |
| 1874 | Mrs. Sophia Kemball                                                                                        | Kelly's     |
| 1901 | Walter Totham, aged 55, a coal merchant and publican                                                       | Census      |

see also the **Red Cow**

### Spotted Cow - 2

Harsnett Road

c1886

a beerhouse

location uncertain

All that is known of this house is from an entry in the Museum Collection. No more is known of it, although the date given of 1886 would have been around the time of the building of Harsnett Road as we know it today.

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### Spread Eagle - 1

Mile End

The name of this pub may be a reference to Colchester's Roman heritage, where the spread eagle was the symbol of the Roman legion. It is a sign of power.

see the **Dog and Pheasant**

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### Spread Eagle - 2

St Peter

11 Middleborough

1844 to 1910 (map 84)

a public house

demolished

The name of this public house is a common one throughout the country, probably dating from Roman times when the spread eagle (an eagle with outstretched wings) was their national emblem. With Colchester's Roman connections, this would have been a fitting name.

The pub by this name existed from 1844 and is shown as such in subsequent trade directories. It is shown in licensing records in 1872 as being owned by Osborne, who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1884. The 1901 census shows William J Bruce, aged 39, as the innkeeper, wheelwright and blacksmith, together with his wife, six children and a boarder, who was also a blacksmith. It was closed in 1910. The building was later used as a market stores and then Last's garage stood on the spot in the 1970s.



The Spread Eagle – date unknown

A newspaper article by Andrew Phillips in 1995, recalled this house and, in particular, one Charles Hayward, who was its landlord. Charles was also turnkey for the water works and Jumbo and a member of the local fire service. Fire was a very real hazard in the town and it was believed that, with the building of Jumbo, serious fires could be more readily controlled. However, following the outbreak of a serious fire in the High Street in 1883, Mr Hayward could not be found to operate the water works turncock on Balcerne Hill, so there was no water pressure to get the hoses working.

It appeared that Mr Hayward and a Mr Balls were later found in the Eagle pub, considerably the worse for drink. This incident was enough to convince the Town Clerk of the time, to take the water works into public ownership.

There is no evidence of the pub now, the site being occupied by modern offices.

Trade directories and census records show the following information:

|              |                                                                                                                                          |                         |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1845         | Thomas Ward Watson, Wheeler                                                                                                              | Post Office             |
| 1848 to 1855 | Abishai Green Pressney                                                                                                                   | White's and Kelly's     |
| 1851         | Abishi Green Pressney, Wine Cooper                                                                                                       | Post Office             |
| 1851         | Abishai G Presney, wine cooper, age 34, born Sudbury, together with his wife and their two daughters                                     | Census                  |
| 1862         | Samuel Bennell Lissimore                                                                                                                 | Kelly's                 |
| 1867         | William Platford                                                                                                                         | Post Office             |
| 1870 to 1871 | Henry Pitt                                                                                                                               | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1874         | William Hayward                                                                                                                          | Kelly's                 |
| 1878         | Mrs. Susannah Hayward                                                                                                                    | Kelly's                 |
| 1881         | Susanna Hayward, Licensed Victualler, age 63, born Lexden, together with her daughter and a boarder                                      | Census                  |
| 1882         | Mrs. Susannah Hayward                                                                                                                    | Kelly's                 |
| 1886         | Mrs. Caroline Hayward                                                                                                                    | Kelly's                 |
| 1894 to 1895 | Charles Hayward                                                                                                                          | Kelly's                 |
| 1898 to 1902 | William James Bruce, Wheelwright                                                                                                         | Kelly's                 |
| 1901         | William J Bruce, Inn Keeper, Wheelwright & Blacksmith, age 39, born Colchester, together with his wife, their six children and a boarder | Census                  |
| 1907         | F. Bensley                                                                                                                               | Benham's                |
| 1908         | Frank Bensley, Wheelwright                                                                                                               | Kelly's                 |

previously the **Weaver's Arms**

1799 to 1844

Deeds to this house indicate that the building dated from 1720, although whether it was a tavern (by another name) at that time is unknown. It is shown in the alehouse recognisance from 1799 until 1819 and then in trade directories up until 1839.

Trade directories show the following information:

|              |                 |         |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1822 to 1824 | James Parmitter | Pigot's |
| 1828 to 1829 | James Peachey   | Pigot's |
| 1832 to 1833 | William Broker  | Pigot's |
| 1839         | George Jackson  | Pigot's |

An anonymous commentator in 1856 writing his recollections of some Colchester taverns stated that this house was, 'probably a house of call for persons engaged in that trade as historical evidence proves that there were more weavers residing in St Peters parish than in any other in the town. And some of the barbarous amusements that delight the lower class were followed when I was young having seen many a badger baited there. It was done as follows; a wheel barrow with a piece of sack fastened in front was turned topsy turvy to represent a burrow, the badger was put in and the dog which drew it out was considered the best and his master entitled to the prize. It became the Spread Eagle but has not entirely lost its character for cruel pastimes, as a 'Ratting Club' is held there at this time. In the back room a pit is made of sufficient height to prevent the rats from getting over, yet low enough for persons to look into it. A number of rats are put in and that dog which kills the greatest number in the shortest time is considered to win the wager.'

The Museum Collection noted that on licensing day in 1844, it changed its name to the Spread Eagle.

see also the **Half Moon Inn**

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## Squire's Table

Ipswich Road

see the **Old King Cole**

## Stag's Head

Magdalen Street

The name of this pub is probably of heraldic origin although the reason for its use in this instance is not known.

see the **Unicorn**

### Star - 1

St Runwald

?

15th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of the pub was a religious sign in medieval days which referred to the star of Bethlehem.

The Museum Collection gives a reference to this ancient house from the time of Henry VI. In 1426, borough records mention Richard Hikeman who was host of the inn called the 'Sterre'. In 1446, there is a record that Robert Cok, Henry Wygore and others were released to Ralph Bole, of a tenement called 'le Sterre' in the parish of St Runwald.

Could this be the same as the Star in Head Street which in the 19th century was in the parish of St Mary at the Wall?

### Star - 2

St Giles

?

18th century

an alehouse

location uncertain

All that is known of this ancient alehouse is from a reference in Dr Morant's epic history where he speaks of St Giles' parish, saying "many houses have been pulled down in this parish, particularly a large range called the Star Yard, from an ale house there having this sign."

No more is known of it.

### Star - 3

East Bridge

c1827

a tavern

location uncertain

All that is known of this house is from a reference in a trade directory of 1827, where its address was given as being situated at East Bridge.

### Star Inn - 4

St Mary at the Walls

13 Head Street

c1860 to 1909

a beerhouse

demolished

This beerhouse is first mentioned in the 1861 census when one Thomas Hills, age 63, was the beer house keeper. In James Cater, beer house licence holder, applied to the magistrates for a full licence in 1869<sup>1</sup>. In 1871 the house was described as the Star Inn and in the occupation of Joseph Watson, described as a bootmaker and publican. It was mentioned in 1881 but on the night of the census was shown as being uninhabited. Then in 1891, the occupant was Herbert Beckwith, age 36. The 1901 census shows Frank Bensley, aged 27, a butcher and licensed victualler. It first appears by name in the licensing records in 1907, when it was owned by Adams. It closed in 1909 and a note in the Museum Collection says that it was Olley's greengrocer's in 1923. Another reference found in 1994 was that a man named Turner had the sign away when it closed. If you are out there Mr Turner, have you still got it?

The pub stood in Head Street at the corner with Culver Street, and in view of the Fleece Hotel. It is not known when it was finally demolished to make way for modern shop buildings that occupy the spot today.

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



Star - 5

Lexden Straight Road

see **Brights****Star and Anchor Inn**

St Giles

Stanwell Street

1770 to c1845

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of the pub could possibly have been a combination of two religious signs. The star as in the Star of Bethlehem and the anchor which kept men safe from the storms of life.

It first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1770 and is shown in trade directories up to 1845 when it appears to have either ceased in business or changed its name. A trade directory dated 1823 gives its address as St John's Green. Its precise location is uncertain.

It is understood that Charles Cobbold, of the North Hill Brewery, owned this house.

Trade and other directories show the following information:

|              |                         |                      |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1822 to 1824 | Charles Clark           | Pigot's              |
| 1831         | Robert Demaid           | Magistrates licenses |
| 1832 to 1823 | Robert W. Demaid        | Pigot's              |
| 1839         | Edward Buckingham       | Pigot's              |
| 1845         | James George Buckingham | Post Office          |

**Star and Garter Inn**

East Hill or East Bay

1789 to c1865

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of the pub is a reference to the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the highest order of knighthood in Britain. It was instituted by Edward III around 1348 when, according to tradition, he had picked up a garter which had accidentally slipped from the leg of the Countess of Salisbury. When he was seen with the garter by those around him, he slipped it around his own leg saying as he did so, 'honi soit qui mal y pense,' which translates as 'evil be to him who evil thinks.' The order is limited to members of the royal family and twenty five knights. The star forms part of the insignia and the sign would have made a very fine sight hung up outside a tavern.

It first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1789 and is shown in trade directories up to 1863 when it appears to have either ceased in business or changed its name. Jeremiah Welch was the tenant in 1863<sup>1</sup> when one of his intoxicated customers stole from him. Its precise location is uncertain, although it was most probably located at the bottom of East Hill as its address is also shown as being at East Bay, from time when ships were able to navigate that far and a bay existed.

It was briefly mentioned in the newspapers of 1858<sup>2</sup> when John Barker, the landlord, was summoned by the Bench for allowing prostitution to take place on the premises. The police stated that this was the first offence and the defendant promised that this was the first and the last offence of this nature.

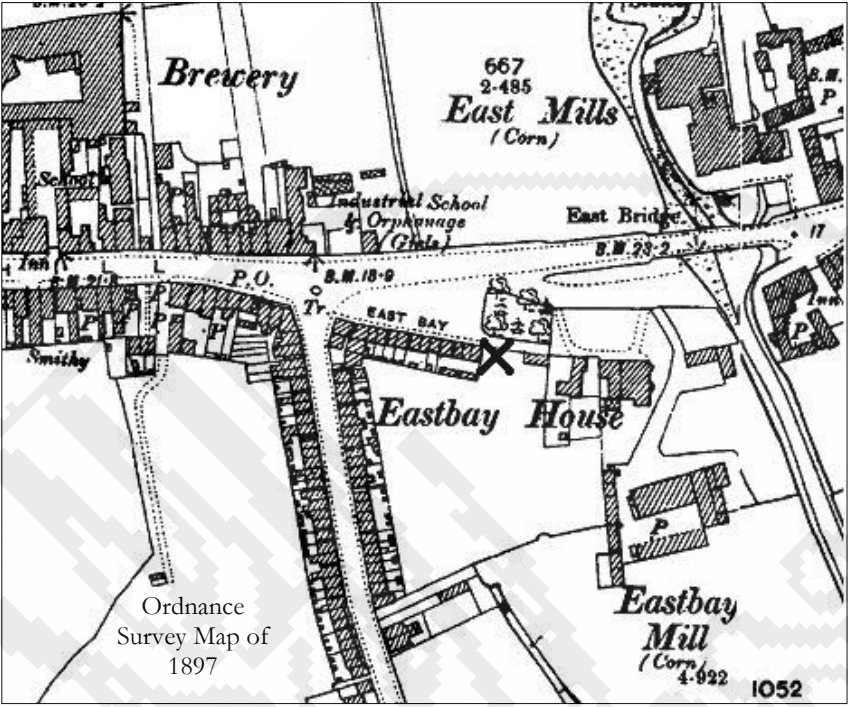
Various trade directories and census records show the following incumbents:

|              |                                |                         |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1792 to 1794 | ? Mixer                        | Universal               |
| 1822 to 1824 | John Bacon                     | Pigot's                 |
| 1832 to 1832 | John Matherman                 | Pigot's                 |
| 1839 to 1845 | Charles Norden                 | Pigot's                 |
| 1848         | Richard Seaman                 | White's                 |
| 1851 to 1852 | Miss Mary Ann Seaman           | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1855         | J. Barker                      | Kelly's                 |
| 1861         | John Barker, innkeeper, age 48 | Census                  |

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

<sup>2</sup> Essex Standard – 14<sup>th</sup> May 1858

In November 2008, Brian Norden, whose 2 x gt grandfather was Charles Norden (1794 to 1847) was a one time landlord of this house, wrote to us with the following information:



'The 1876 & 1897 OS maps show 13 terrace houses in East Bay + 3 others, including Eastbay House, which was on the same plot as Eastbay Mill (corn). The 1861 census confirms that there were 16 households and shows an innkeeper, John Barker (age 48) at 13 East Bay. While Alfred Francis, Corn Merchant employing 9 men was at no. 16. So no. 13 would have been at the end nearest the river (east), next to the X on the map below. John Barker is confirmed as a known resident of the Star & Garter in 1855 by Kelly's directory.

It probably catered primarily to the seafarers coming upriver to East Bay.'

Thank you Brian!

**Stars and Key**

St Peter

?

1764 to 1767

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of this alehouse is another one which combines two subjects, and may well have been of heraldic origin.

It appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1767 when it either ceased in business or changed its name. Its precise location is uncertain and no more is known about its history.

An advertisement appeared in the newspapers in July 1767<sup>1</sup> informing his fellow townsmen that he, 'Henry Davis, Wine Cooper, etc. hath taken a Publick-House known as the Stars and Key, near the North-Gate,' and that 'Good Stable Room for Horses' was obtainable. Possibly in the course of time this house became known as the Lancer in c1884, but no proof of this has been found.

**Stockwell Arms**

West Stockwell Street

c1865 to 2009 (map 105)

a beerhouse originally

became a restaurant in 2013

The name of the pub refers to the area of the town in which it is located. The stock well was the name of a spring that rose in that area and was used as a common well by the people for their supply of water.

Whilst this pub's timber framed building is very old indeed, perhaps of the 14th century, the earliest reference found to it as a public house is from a newspaper article of 1866<sup>2</sup> which mentioned, 'Bell Ringers' Supper – On Monday evening the bell ringers of Colchester sat down to a good supper at Mr Frederick Hyam's, Stockwell Arms, Stockwell Street, in commemoration of their recent achievement in having rung one thousand changes on St. Peter's church bells.' This is then followed by the census of 1871 when Frederick W Hyam, age 30, was shown as publican. It was shown again in 1891 when one George Andrews, age 39, was described as a bootmaker and beer retailer. The house was shown in the licensing records from 1907 as a beerhouse and under the ownership of Daniells, who had it until it was granted its full publican's licence in 1958, then passing to Truman's at around the same time.

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

<sup>2</sup> Essex Standard – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1866

Joseph Phillips mentions, in Chapter 2, the belief that the 18th century author, Daniel Defoe, writer of such works as Robinson Crusoe and Moll Flanders, who also held leasehold land at Severalls Park at one time, once lived here. Indeed, it is possible that he was living here when he penned these lines:

'Whenever God erects a House of Prayer,  
The Devil's sure to build a chapel there,  
And 'twill be found upon examination,  
The latter has the larger congregation.'



The Stockwell Arms c1950



The above picture dated around 1905, shows the Daniell's beer house as it then was. But also, notice the pub sign on the right of the picture belonging to the Nelson's Head Inn that once stood on the opposite corner – not to be confused with the Lord Nelson on Hythe Hill.

Bacchus visited in 1963 and described what he found<sup>1</sup>. Perched on a stool at the bar with a pint of ale, puffing at his briar and wearing his familiar trilby hat, he noted that the landlord had discovered some old pewter tankards inscribed with the pub's name, and had put them on display. These mugs would have dated from an age before customs and excise and health regulations brought about the almost exclusive use of glass mugs - and even perhaps from an age when the glass bottomed pewter mugs were said to have been designed so that a man could spot a coin surreptitiously placed there by a navy man, before taking a sip. By taking a drink, it was considered that you had accepted the King's shilling as pay and was sufficient to get you hauled off for naval service by the dreaded Press Gang. A more plausible explanation would be that it was simply to dissuade the drinker from banging the tankard on the table for fear of breaking the glass and spilling the contents. Alas, these mugs have disappeared over the years and probably decorate another pub now.

Trade directories and census records show the following information:

|              |                                                                                                    |         |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1894 to 1899 | George Andrews, Beer Retailer                                                                      | Kelly's |
| 1901         | Emma Andrews, Beer House Keeper, Widow, age 44,<br>born Isleworth, together with her barmaid niece | Census  |
| 1902         | William Frost, Beer Retailer                                                                       | Kelly's |
| 1908 to 1925 | Herbert William Waller, Beer Retailer                                                              | Kelly's |
| 1933         | Billy Turner, Beer Retailer                                                                        | Kelly's |



In 1979, the newspapers reported an on-going saga between the licensee and the dart team<sup>2</sup>. The no-nonsense landlady had turned them out, saying that they were all a lot of 'half-pinters' who never spent any money in the pub. She added that the takings had trebled since they left and went to play for the Marquis of Granby.

The pub was hitting the headlines again in 1981 when it was reported that the landlord had discovered that the pub had been built on a section of a Roman wall, evidence of which could be seen in the cellar. The pub stands within the Roman walled area of the town and the likelihood of Roman foundations is very credible.

The licensees of the time, Brian and Shirley Jerome, did much charitable work; their fund raising amounting to many thousands of pounds. In the summer months they would transform the outside of the building into a shower of colourful blooms, having won the coveted 'Colchester in Bloom' award on more than one occasion. By 2007, Shirley had left the business and Brian was looking to retire. The pub closed in April 2007, its future uncertain. Brian had served as landlord for 27 years at the Stockwell Arms. The owners, Admiral Taverns, sought new tenants and were fearful of what could happen to the ancient building whilst it was empty. Squatters, arson, etc.

Soon after, it seemed that, indeed, squatters had moved in. An explanation came from the new incumbents that, far from being squatters, they were being paid by the owners to look after the place and that they were self-proclaimed anarchists who hated consumerism and took part in protests, and the like. They had formed themselves into an organisation that looked after buildings – for payment.<sup>3</sup> In June 2010, the building was sold to Mr Robert Morgan, who announced plans to make extensive repairs<sup>4</sup>.

The photographs on the previous page, show the three gables of the building, generally as they are today and shows how the building must once have been more than one dwelling, but which were amalgamated into one at some point. Up until recently, the pub's bar area was full of the ancient timber beams, exposed to view as was the fashion and had a real old world charm and ambience. Sadly for the beer drinkers of this town, the pub underwent a massive refurbishment in 2011 and, in January 2012, it was advised by the new owners that it would henceforth become a restaurant, no longer a pub selling the produce of Sir John Barleycorn to its pub loving clientele.

As it turned out, the Stockwell (no longer the Stockwell arms) opened as a restaurant in 2013, after several delays in the building programme. Having been stripped right back to its base construction. The building had been carefully restored and the result was an incredible transformation. The new owners made sure that beer was very much an important part of its trade and that the bar was there to be used. A happy conclusion!

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 26<sup>th</sup> Sep 1963

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 1979

<sup>3</sup> G – 10<sup>th</sup> Apr 2009

<sup>4</sup> G – 15<sup>th</sup> Jun 2010



## Sun Inn - 1

Lexden

Lexden Street

16th century to 2008

an ancient inn

converted to private housing



The name of this pub is a very common one, easy to identify and of ancient origin.

The pub first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1764 but is known to be much older than that date. Property deeds exist dated 1542 to 1547, which include mention of the Sun ale house. It is shown in trade directories throughout the following century with three Suns for 1793 in the occupations of John Sadler, John Cock and James Ward. The other two would have been in Maidenburgh Street and at the Hythe, but who belonged to which takes some sorting out. In 1872 it was owned by Nicholls and taken over by Ind Coope in the 1930s.

The house is a timber frame building of great age and is said to have a 'priest's hole' leading to the church near by, where a persecuted cleric could make good his escape from his pursuers.

Bacchus visited in December 1962 when the landlord was Mr Arthur Holland.



The Sun c1910

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

|              |                                                                                                             |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1832 to 1833 | William Scott                                                                                               | Pigot's                 |
| 1839         | Joseph Wenden                                                                                               | Pigot's                 |
| 1845         | William Cresswell, Blacksmith                                                                               | Post Office             |
| 1848         | William Bental                                                                                              | White's                 |
| 1851 to 1852 | Mark Leppingwell Munson                                                                                     | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1851         | Mark Leapingwell Munson, innkeeper, age 44, born Marks Tey, together with his wife, their son and a servant | Census                  |
| 1855         | J. Crooks                                                                                                   | Kelly's                 |
| 1861         | Isaac Beardwell Garrad, age 40, inn keeper                                                                  | Census                  |
| 1862 to 1882 | Isaac Beardwell Garrad                                                                                      | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1871         | Isaac B Garrad, age 50, inn keeper                                                                          | Census                  |
| 1881         | Isaac B. Garrad, Innkeeper, age 61, born Boxted, together with his wife, their two children and a servant   | Census                  |



|              |                                                                                           |         |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1886 to 1895 | Mrs. Rebecca Garrard                                                                      | Kelly's |
| 1891         | Rebecca Garrard, age 61, licensed inn keeper                                              | Census  |
| 1898 to 1899 | Isaac Garrard                                                                             | Kelly's |
| 1901         | Arthur Juniper, Publican, age 47, born Lexden, together with his wife and three daughters | Census  |
| 1902         | Arthur Juniper                                                                            | Kelly's |
| 1908         | Walter Juniper                                                                            | Kelly's |
| 1912         | Frederick Henry Thompson                                                                  | Kelly's |
| 1917         | Colcon E. Abbott                                                                          | Kelly's |
| 1925 to 1933 | James Halls                                                                               | Kelly's |

For many years the Sun was a favoured meeting place for young people of a local footballing persuasion and in the 1980s, was headquarters of Colchester's Spoof Club. That entailed a trial of daring, not for the faint of heart or those with short arms and deep pockets. The names of Mr Chris Porter, Vanders, Moss, etc. being participants, springs to the author's mind!

The Spoofer's guide was compiled in the 1980s and soon became a prized work of literary wit, its authors exposing the personal characteristics of the combatants in a unique no-holds barred manner. A copy was encased for posterity, together with other memorabilia, in the public bar, only to be consulted on rare occasions. However, sadly, its current whereabouts is a mystery, probably removed by one of the spoofers who had risen to a level of social respectability and fearful of their past becoming known.

With the growth of car use, new building in the area and a shortage of on-road parking that this pub relied on, trade fell away and the owners called it a day in 2008. Soon after the builders moved in and refurbishment works began. In March 2011, the property was being marketed as being, 'arranged over three floors and includes six bedrooms, four reception rooms, open fires, oak floors, and the original bar'. In 2012, it has a pub sign, although the produce of Sir John Barleycorn is no longer available to the weary traveller<sup>1</sup>.

also known as the **Rising Sun**

This ancient hostelry is shown by this name in the alehouse recognisances from 1788 to 1790 and even in a trade directory of 1848. It must have been the appearance of the inn's sign that led to this alternative name being used.

### Sun - 2

7 Maidenburgh Street

pre 1764 to c1980 (map 102)

a public house

now a private dwelling

This house appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 but probably dated from well before that date. It was owned by Cobbold from at least 1843 as a plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of Messrs Cobbold, in 1843. This can be seen at the Essex Record Office. It is shown in trade directories through to recent times. An 1852<sup>2</sup> newspaper item noted that one Abraham Garland desired the transfer of the licence of this house to himself, which was granted, but with a caution as to his future conduct. It was owned by Cobbold who sold it to Stopes of the Colchester Brewing Company in 1883. It passed to Ind Coope in 1939.

One day, around 1980, the publican decided that he had had enough and closed its doors. It never traded as a pub again and later became a private house.

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

|              |                                                                                               |                                  |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1822 to 1824 | Sarah Cock                                                                                    | Pigot's                          |
| 1832 to 1833 | John M. Simson                                                                                | Pigot's                          |
| 1839 to 1852 | Jeremiah Emmen                                                                                | Pigot's, White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | Jeremiah Emmen, victualler, age 66, born Coggeshall, together with his wife and a lodger      | Census                           |
| 1870 to 1895 | Robert Lampon, Beer Retailer                                                                  | Kelly's                          |
| 1878         | Robert Lampon, Hide & Skin Dresser                                                            | Kelly's                          |
| 1881         | Robert Lampon, Felmonger, age 37, born London, together with his wife and their five children | Census                           |
| 1898 to 1899 | Mrs. Emma Lampon                                                                              | Kelly's                          |
| 1901         | John King, Landlord, age 61, born Boxford,                                                    |                                  |

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 2011

<sup>2</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1852

|              |                                                                          |                   |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1902         | together with his wife, his sister, a boarder and a visitor<br>John King | Census<br>Kelly's |
| 1908 to 1933 | Edward Alma Noy                                                          | Kelly's           |

### Sun - 3

|       |          |                    |
|-------|----------|--------------------|
| c1755 | a tavern | location uncertain |
|-------|----------|--------------------|

All that is known of this supposed tavern is from a mention in the Essex Note Book, dated 1755, stating that the Colchester Market Cross was near the Sun. Was this a reference to the Sun in Maidenburgh Street?

### Sun

|  |  |       |
|--|--|-------|
|  |  | Hythe |
|--|--|-------|

see the **Rising Sun**

### Sun Alehouse

|              |          |                    |
|--------------|----------|--------------------|
|              |          | ?                  |
| 1720 to 1791 | a tavern | location uncertain |

All that is known of this tavern is from deeds dated 1720 to 1791. It will probably refer to one of the other Suns.

### Sun Inn

|       |            |                    |
|-------|------------|--------------------|
|       | St Botolph | ?                  |
| c1838 | a tavern   | location uncertain |

This tavern is mentioned on a tithe map of 1838. Nothing else is known of it.

### Swan - 1

|              |          |                    |
|--------------|----------|--------------------|
|              |          | Helle Lane         |
| 15th century | a tavern | location uncertain |

The name of this ancient tavern was an emblem of innocence in medieval times. It has been used extensively on heraldic crests, with a possible origin coming from the Order of the Swan, an order of knighthood instituted by Frederick II of Brandenburg in 1440.

In 1437 there is a record in the borough records of a fine against John Kebbull of the Swan and William Stanton of the Herte, both in Helle Lane, for depositing dung at the rear of their inns. This was a case of anti-social behaviour, where the powerful smells of the many trades in the town were nothing to that of the foul stench of raw sewage that permeated the atmosphere. The town's officers spent much of their time trying to keep the town clean and it was not until several centuries later that the flush toilet was introduced (since previously introduced in Roman times.)

This is the earliest reference found to a house by the name of the Swan. From the reference to the 'Herte' and 'Helle Lane,' it is assumed that this house was situated in Culver Street, close to the White Hart. The Museum collection also suggests that Helle Lane was an old name for Culver Street, thus fitting in with the White Hart reference.

### Swan - 2

|                      |          |                                |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
|                      | St James | Frere Street (later East Hill) |
| 16th to 17th century | a tavern | demolished                     |

Mr L C Sier wrote an article in 1938<sup>1</sup> concerning this ancient inn, from which the following is an extract. The Colchester Borough records contain this record:

On September 28th 1539, Nicholas Woode, of Colchester, Clothmaker, and Alice his wife (formerly wife of John Pakyngton) secured enrolment of a deed which set forth that, on 15th January 1536, William Mauncell, of Colchester (an Attorney) had demised to John Wayne, Clerk, a tenement with curtilage and garden adjoining in St James parish,

<sup>1</sup> ER - 1938 Vol 47, October

Colchester, between St James Churchyard on the East side and the hospice 'le Swanne' on the West side, the distance or length being 2 perches 11 feet, more or less, between the Churchyard and the land and wall of the 'Swan' hospice, the North end (or frontage) of the property abutting on Frere Street and the other end on the field called Beryfield, the depth from the Street to the Beryfield being six perches. The demise to John Wayne by William Mauncell had been for John Wayne's lifetime, with remainder to John Pakyngton and Alice his wife (she being now wife of Nicholas Woode). John Wayne had died in 1536, before 23rd March, and the property had therefore descended to Alice Pakyngton, as Widow of John Pakyngton. Now, by deed dated 27th September 1539, Alice and her present husband, Nicholas Woode, sold the property to Richard Lorde, otherwise called Richard Burley, Gentleman, and Alice his wife, they to pay an annual rent of three pence to St Botolph's Priory at Michaelmas in each year, for all other services, exactions and demands.

It is not often that such precise indications of the location of a property are found in ancient documents. This document shows that the frontage to Frere Street (now East Street) was 44 feet from St James's churchyard westward and that its depth from the street southward was 99 feet.

At a Hundred Court on 7th March, 1541, Robt. Stampe of Colchester, yeoman, and his wife Joan, enrolled a deed dated 4th February, 1541, whereby they sold to John Damsell (a baker) 'all that tenement or hospice called 'le swan, ' with cottage adjoining it, in St James's parish, Colchester, in the street called fferis-strete opposite le Greyfrerys.'

Situated within 44 yards of the East Gate, it was the first inn for travellers from Harwich, Ipswich and elsewhere coming in to the borough - and the last for those leaving. Its patronage was therefore probably considerable.

On 3rd February 1636, Martin Basil, Esq., sold the 'Swan' to John Beriffe, Gentleman, of Colchester, who made his will in 1661 by which he devised 'the House at Colchester where Mr William Talcott now lives, with the Beryfield, ' to his eldest son Henry.

Prior to 1641, the building had ceased to be an inn and had been converted into private residences, one of which was occupied by William Talcott, another by Thomas Wade, gentleman, one of the Bailiffs of Colchester in 1630 to 1633, and Mayor of the Borough in 1641 (when he resided in the eastern half of the old inn) and others by Thomas Reynolds, gentleman, and Anne Gilbert, widow. This gives some indication of the size of the 'Swan Inn, ' as each of these occupants was of social importance and substance.

In 1641, John Beriffe sold the Swan to the above mentioned Thomas Reynolds, who was successful as a baymaker, but whose methods were somewhat dubious. Two thousand weavers, represented by three of their number, petitioned the Privy Council in 1637, alleging that their masters compelled them to take commodities, instead of money, in payment of their wages. Thomas Reynolds was ordered by the Mayor and Justices to pay a certain sum of money and to give further satisfaction, but he refused to do so, even when the order was made a second time, on which occasion Reynolds did not appear but was represented by his lawyer who, the petitioners stated, was the 'only cause of all our trouble.' The lawyer asserted in open court that Reynolds would spend £100 in law before he would give them one penny. He employed 400 spinners, 52 weavers and 33 others, so that he was in a large way of business. The upshot of the matter was that Reynolds was forthwith committed to the Fleet prison until he should pay the petitioners twice the amount of the wages he had defrauded, withdraw all actions brought by him against them, and pay such reasonable charges as the poor men had been put to in appearing before the Privy Council. This caused Reynolds to come promptly to terms with his men and on 17th May the Warden of the Fleet was ordered to set him at liberty. In his defence, Thomas Reynolds stated a great part of his house had been burnt, being wilfully fired, with goods to the value of £500, so that he was living elsewhere in St James's parish before purchasing a portion of the 'Swan.'

Eventually, after various changes in ownership, the property was purchased in 1741 by George Wegg, an attorney, which by then included several small tenements at each side of the old inn. In 1744, Morant noted that George Wegg had since December 1744, 'pulled down nine tenements.' The present property known as East Hill House was built around 1750 and stands on the site of the ancient inn once known by the sign of the Swan.

In 1936<sup>1</sup>, Gerald Rickword wrote, 'In a contemporary engraving of the reception at East Gate in October 1638, of Maria of Medici, mother-in-law of King Charles I, a house, probably an inn, is shown on the north side of the street, with the towers of the Castle appearing in the background, which has a signboard displaying a swan, stretching some distance into the roadway. The upright which supports the cross piece, from which the sign is suspended, is capped by a carved figure of the royal bird.' It is probable that this sign belonged to this house although the reference to it being on the north side of the road is misleading.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 1936

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                      |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Swan - 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | St Mary at the Walls | Head Gate          |
| 16th century                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | an ancient tavern    | location uncertain |
| <p>This ancient tavern is also mentioned in the article by Mr L C Sier in 1938<sup>1</sup>. A deed recording the sale in 1540, by Richard Sylles, wheelwright, and his wife Margaret, daughter of Alderman William Cowbrege deceased, for £8 6s 8d, of two tenements and a stable and two gardens near Head Gate and the Town Wall, in the Parish of St Mary at the Walls. One of the gardens is said to be bounded on the east side by the tenement called le Swanne, 'now in the tenure of Robert Lambe, carpenter' and on the west side by the tenement called le Saresons hede. On the north side was the street called 'Hedegatestrete.' It would seem that this would have been the east end of what is now Crouch Street. The property had come to Margaret Sylles under the will of her father and was sold on 7th November 1540 to 'John Lucas, Esquire.'</p> <p>The precise location is unknown and it is assumed that the Swan and the Saracen's Head were both taverns. Sier suggests that they were located near to where the Bull, another ancient house, now stands.</p> |                      |                    |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |             |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Swan - 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | St Leonard  | 100 Hythe Hill    |
| 16th century to 1956 (map 44)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | an alehouse | standing derelict |
| <p>One can just imagine the thoughts going through the mind of the person who gave this ancient pub its name. What better choice of name could have been found, it being sited on the banks of the River Colne, with groups of beautiful white swans gliding gracefully by, as they must have done for centuries past and still do to this very day. If ever a pub's name was well chosen, this is it!</p> |             |                   |



The Swan in the 1950s

The Swan is mentioned as early as 1515 in Manorial Records when it is described as an 'inn called le Swan juxta le Hethe.' Much later, in the St Leonards parish records of 1670 is recorded 'John Maynard from the Swann was buried the 26th day of November.' Twenty years later the Assembly Book of Thursday, August 14th, 1690, records that certain aldermen were 'to meet at the sign of the Swann at the Hythe' on the following Tuesday afternoon, to inspect the coalyard occupied by Maynard and Captain Drifffield, and afterwards report to the Council.

<sup>1</sup> ER - 1938 Vol 47, October

'The Swan in the Hythe Parish, then kept by Mrs Cock' has passing mention in a rare pamphlet, published in 1702, by the Reverend William Smythies, jun., Rector of St Michaels, Mile End and Chaplain to the Earl of Sandwich, entitled 'Mr Smythies's Vindication from the Foul Calamities of Dr Harison, and the Plain Perjuries of his Witnesses.' Mr Smythies was alleged to have been seen 'overcome with Drink' at the Swan and other houses; to which charge the indignant clergyman scathingly replies to his traducer, James Woodward, a needy butcher. 'Tis much this Butcher should see me in all these Taverns! I dare say I never saw him in any Tavern, nor does the Master of any Tavern in Town know him, I believe, so much as by Sight: When he can get Two or Three Pence, the Ale-house is sure on't; but he's no Guest for a Tavern.' (It is possible that this tale might have referred to the Swan in High Street.)

John Bloyce held the house in 1753, and two years later 'A Hat of Half a Guinea Value, ' was advertised to be run for by eight men at John Miller's at the Swan, each man paying in one shilling entrance fee which, with the liquor consumed on the premises on the day, probably amply repaid mine host for his venture. At Michaelmas 1757, William Summersum informed 'Gentlemen, Farmers and others' that he had removed from 'the Dolphin in the Hythe parish to the White Swan in the same parish, ' where he had 'good Stabling for Teams.'

It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 through until 1819 and thereafter in trade directories up until recent times.

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

|              |                                                                                          |                         |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1822 to 1824 | Thomas Child                                                                             | Pigot's                 |
| 1832 to 1833 | James Smith                                                                              | Pigot's                 |
| 1839 to 1852 | John Murrells                                                                            | Pigot's                 |
| 1845         | John Murrells, Shipowner & Coal Merchant                                                 | Post Office             |
| 1851         | James Cooper, age 45, victualler                                                         | Census                  |
| 1855 to 1862 | Miss Martha Keable                                                                       | Kelly's                 |
| 1861         | Martha Keeble, unmarried, age 59, inn keeper                                             | Census                  |
| 1867         | George Viall                                                                             | Post Office             |
| 1870         | Charles Joslin                                                                           | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1871         | Charles Joslin, age 39, inn keeper                                                       | Census                  |
| 1878 to 1886 | Mrs. Elizabeth Joslin                                                                    | Kelly's                 |
| 1881         | Elizabeth Joslin, Proprietress, age 51, born Colchester, together with her four children | Census                  |
| 1891         | Mark Joslin, age 36, clerk coal office                                                   | Census                  |
| 1894 to 1908 | Mark Joslin Jun.                                                                         | Kelly's and Benham's    |
| 1912         | Mrs. Harriett Joslin                                                                     | Kelly's                 |
| 1917         | Ernest Frank Wood                                                                        | Kelly's                 |
| 1925         | Ben Dyer                                                                                 | Kelly's                 |
| 1933         | Henry C. Carlo                                                                           | Kelly's                 |

It was owned by Cobbold from at least 1843 as a plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of Messrs Cobbold, in 1843. This can be seen at the Essex Record Office. Cobbold sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1883. It passed to Ind Coope in 1939 who had it until it was closed in 1956 and its licence transferred to the Baker's Arms.

Gerald Rickword wrote article in 1956 and 1957<sup>1</sup> and discussed the initials that he had seen carved into the brickwork. The earliest decipherable being E C 1821, S C 1821, J F 1825, Atkins 1858, W E 1872, J J 1876, H C '87, Mark York, W Corder hung Aug 11th 1828. The latter being a grim reminder of an atrocious crime committed 130 years ago. The inscription was probably the work of one of the crowd that gathered at the George Inn door in High Street when that diabolical murderer, closely guarded by a Bow Street runner, alighted from the London coach late one evening in April 1828. He included more information about the murder and other Corders in town, some who saw fit to change their name it seems. He also noted in 1963 that all the lettering on the wall was replaced by new bricks and that the house was then taken over by a bookmaker. This is not completely true as some lettering did survive as is mentioned below. The building today is brick built and of a Georgian style, although internal features would appear to be much older.

A debate raged in 1991<sup>2</sup> over whether the building should be demolished to make way for a new road development. Local historian, Mr Andrew Phillips wrote a splendid article in the local newspaper entitled 'The Case for Saving the Swan'. With his kind permission it is repeated here.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956, 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1957

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 27<sup>th</sup> Sep 1991, 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 1991, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1991, EG – 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1992



'The bottom of Hythe Hill is the latest Dunkirk in Colchester's attempt to live in the present and retain the past. No-one can argue with the need for an eastern approach road but all of us should care for the feel of this part of our town. Good Heavens, we have an unspoiled tidal river, a cluster of ancient buildings - perhaps the oldest in Colchester, St Leonard's Church, an 800 year old port and a beautiful riverside walk to Wivenhoe or Rowhedge. And, thanks to the decline of the port, a lot of open space which could be used to enhance the setting.

The appearance of Hythe Hill has changed little this century, as surviving Victorian photographs make clear. The area was once celebrated for its character and its characters. Real poverty was cushioned by a real sense of community - the area was full of 'good auld booyos.' As the brown sailed barges slid in on high water, thirsty bargees and dockers made for the Neptune, the Queen's Head, the Anchor, the Dolphin or the Swan. If they had the money, they could proceed up Hythe Hill via the Rising Sun, the Lord Nelson and some 22 pubs (some say more) until they reached St Botolph's corner. Not many of those pubs are now in business. At the Hythe itself, only the Swan is still there.

Look closely at the betting shop which English Heritage wants to preserve - in peeling letters it still says 'The Swan, Wines and Spirits'. There was a Swan Inn somewhere here in 1514, owned by that Duke of Norfolk whose son built the Red Lion in High Street. In the 19th century the Swan was much frequented by the men who worked the coal yards on the quay. Colchester knew the value of keeping the railway guessing by bringing coal from Newcastle in coastal barges. The largest yard was owned by Tommy Moy, whose coal depots could once be seen at every railway station in East Anglia. Twice mayor of Colchester, Moy was a leading Conservative and his coal haulers were loyal Conservative voters - hardly surprising in the days when voting took place in public. Across the road stood Moy's office. It is still there today, painted bright red - not a colour poor Moy would approve of.

Before every General Election, Moy's foreman would stroll into the Swan and buy a few drinks - often a lot of drinks - as he recruited Moy's 'lambs' for the forthcoming contest. Voting in public enabled political parties to secure votes in two ways. One was to offer free beer to likely voters; the other was to threaten to re-arrange the faces of anyone supporting the other side. This is where Moy's Lambs came in. No-one re-arranged faces more effectively than Hythe coal heavers.

To this day you can see carved on a brick in the wall of the Swan: "William Corder hung August 11th 1828". Nearby are other initials carved in the 1820s. In his time Corder, who was hung for the murder of Maria Martin in the famous Red Barn at Polstead, was a minor celebrity to the point where a fashionable peaked cap he wore was called a Corder Cap. Corder's old aunt lived on Hythe Hill and children recalled the thrill of being chased by this bearded old lady.

Please don't conclude that I want to preserve the Swan because it once housed bouncers or celebrates a murder. Rather I say we should listen to English Heritage. Given that open spaces around Hythe Quay are bound to be developed, we need to be preserved every historic building or infilling will overwhelm ambience. When I consider what they have made of their rivers at Exeter and Bristol, I would put money on the fact that Colcestrians in 2091 would want us to preserve the Swan.'

Shortly afterwards, the plans for the new road were revised and the old Swan was reprieved. Let us hope that it stays with us for many years to come and that Andrew Phillips' closing words will be proven to be true!

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|                            |             |                 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Swan</b> - 5            | St Nicholas | 110 High Street |
| pre 1764 to c1934 (map 56) | an inn      | demolished      |

Mr Gerald Rickword wrote about this old inn<sup>1</sup> saying that in 1747, whilst its customers were busy discussing the passage of the 'butcher' Duke of Cumberland through the town, Mr John Cooke, the landlord, advertised for sale cheap, 'A very good French Billiard Table, with new Sticks, Balls, and a Cue, the Room being wanted for another Use.' The game was then very popular and few towns in England are said to have been without a public table, although grey beards warned young men, as their sires had cautioned them against, 'those spunging Caterpillars, which swarm where any Billiard Tables are set up, who make that single room their Shop, Kitching and Bed Chamber.'

During the much looked forward to visit of the Norwich Comedians to the town in 1761, one of the company, Mrs Pearson, whose yearly benefit was held on November 27th, stayed at the Swan, whither dashing young bloods flocked to purchase tickets and engage in brief flirtations with this enchanting siren of the boards.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 1936

John Cooke appears to have been succeeded by James Fisin, and after his death in 1766, his widow Sarah, obsequiously informed the public that she proposed to carry on the business, and in returning 'Thanks to all her former Friends, hopes for a Continuance of their Favours and Recommendations, which will double the Obligations conferred on their very humble Servant to Command.' Mrs Fisin was a woman of mettle and to draw custom to her house, in August 1772, announced: 'To the Gentlemen Cricketers ., that there will be Eleven neat fashionable Hats, at the real Value of Ten Shillings and Sixpence each, to be played for on Monday, the Thirty-first Instant, at Mrs Fisin's at the Swan. Every Man to put in Five Shillings and Three-pence; to enter by Twelve o'Clock, and the stumps to be pitched at One. NB. A Dinner will be provided.'



An advertisement dated 1912

At the close of the century, Joseph Baines was the landlord, and trade was good owing to the number of soldiers quartered in the town. Linesmen, militia-men and fencible-cavalrymen all met at the Swan and drank confusion to Old England's enemies.

The inn's accommodations were described very fully when it was offered for sale in April 1836. 'That Old-Established, Popular and truly Valuable Property, the Swan Inn, and eating House, most Advantageously situated in the High Street and possessing every accommodation for carrying on a first rate business, comprising capital Sitting Rooms, Bar Parlour and convenient Kitchens, Scullery and Store Rooms; comfortable Sleeping Rooms and Attics; capital Brewhouse, Cellarage and Stabling for upwards of 40 Horses, with loose Boxes, and all requisite Out-offices, and with Back Entrances leading from George Street and Maidenburgh Street.'

The property, which was freehold, and let at a yearly rent of £85, was knocked down at the reserved bid of £1300.

In 1839, the Swan, with Mr Roper as landlord, was included in Pigot's Directory among the 'ten superior inns and hotels' in Colchester.

The one time licensee of this pub, John Bromley, was mentioned in an article by Mr Gerald Rickword in reference to a case of counterfeit money in 1854. See the Two Sawyers for more detail.

A directory dated 1870 gave a list of carriers who all left from this pub for destinations of various local towns.

An anonymous commentator (who was perhaps an ex-customer) has left us with the following recollection. 'This pub had the misfortune to have two bad tenants. One Wally Walstow, a most foul mouthed and ignorant fellow, boasting a great reputation as a sportsman, and employed by other publicans as a valuer - to their great loss. He was followed by a dissolute fool, with a vixen of a wife, and after trouble with the authorities, the licence was removed. The house was old and dilapidated and was still standing in 1941.' With customers like that, who needs enemies?

The inn is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 through until 1819 and thereafter in trade directories. In 1872 it was owned by Shepherd, then taken over by Daniells in 1884, who had it until its closure.

The following picture is perhaps the oldest known picture of Colchester's High Street. It is unique in that it records the visit to Colchester by Mary de Medici in 1637. Jutting into the High Street is the sign of the Swan, in perfect position for where we new the house to be. The view is looking west, with the observer being somewhere like the tower of All Saints church. This is perhaps therefore our earliest depiction of a pub in Colchester. Also shown, tantalising is a sign, on the opposite side of the road, which looks like a crescent. Could that have been another tavern of which we do not know? We should not take too much notice of the accuracy of the drawing, as there is probably considerable artistic licence taken by the unknown artist.



L'ENTREE DE LA REYNE DANS LA VILLE DE COLCHESTER

The arrival of the Queen in Colchester

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

|              |                                                                                                                 |                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1822 to 1829 | William Cockrell                                                                                                | Pigot's                 |
| 1832 to 1845 | George Roper                                                                                                    | Pigot's and Post Office |
| 1848 to 1862 | John Bromley                                                                                                    | White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | John Bromley, innkeeper, age 37, born Ardleigh,<br>together with his wife, a barmaid and a general servant      | Census                  |
| 1867         | Charles Godwin                                                                                                  | Post Office             |
| 1870 to 1871 | Mrs. Rose Ann Godwin                                                                                            | Kelly's                 |
| 1871         | Rose Ann Godwin, widow, age 44, licensed victualler                                                             | Census                  |
| 1874         | William Middleton                                                                                               | Kelly's                 |
| 1878         | George Guiver                                                                                                   | Kelly's                 |
| 1881         | John Page, Innkeeper, age 34, born Great Yarmouth,<br>together with his wife, a visitor, a nephew and a servant | Census                  |
| 1882         | John Page                                                                                                       | Kelly's                 |
| 1886         | Mrs. Matilda Smith                                                                                              | Kelly's                 |
| 1891         | James Potton, age 46, licensed victualler                                                                       | Census                  |
| 1894 to 1902 | James George Potton                                                                                             | Kelly's                 |
| 1901         | James G Potton, Licensed Victualler, age 57, born Bermondsey,<br>together with his mother and two visitors      | Census                  |
| 1907         | C. Lungley                                                                                                      | Benham's                |
| 1908 to 1925 | Arthur Thomas Walslow                                                                                           | Kelly's                 |
| 1933         | Percy George Noble                                                                                              | Kelly's                 |





Here is a picture of the old hotel in the 1920s. It was offered for sale in 1934<sup>1</sup> by its owners, Daniell and Sons, and closed its doors for the last time in that year. Argos store stood, until 1999, in the position that this pub once occupied, that store removing to Long Wyre Street that same year.

also known as the **White Swan**

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### Swan with Two Necks

Head Street

The origin of the name of this pub is another which is much debated. The author likes to believe that it was once named the Swan, but that on one occasion, a customer who had perhaps been ejected for being 'in his cups', glanced up at the sign and thought he saw a swan with, not one, but two necks. A more scholarly explanation varies with this theory in that it should read nicks rather than necks, thus referring to the nicks made on a swan's beak to determine ownership. Queen Elizabeth I granted the privilege of owning swans to both the Dyers Company and to the Worshipful Company of Vintners. The latter's mark was that of two nicks on the upper mandible.

see the **Duncan's Head**

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*One afternoon at Cheers, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm. Here's how it went:*

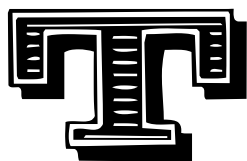
*"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this., A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.*

*In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."*

For the uninformed, 'Cheers' was an American comedy television programme from the 1980s, much loved in this country for its bar room humour - with Cliff Clavin and Norm Peters being two of the main characters dispensing a brand of humour that must be typical of bars all across the world and since time immemorial.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 12<sup>th</sup> May 1934



*Winston, you're drunk!  
Bessie, you're ugly, but tomorrow morning I shall be sober!*

*Bessie Braddock and Winston Churchill*

## Tailor's Arms Inn

St Botolph

Eld Lane (previously  
More Elms Lane)

c1720 to c1900 (map 13)

a tavern

now a shop

The name of this tavern is another with a reference to a working man's trade, a tailor being somebody who works with turning cloth into clothing. The general area around Eld Lane, probably had many tailor's businesses and would probably have enjoyed some trade from them.

The house is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 through until 1819 and thereafter in trade directories until 1863. It was probably much older than 1764, but no records have been found to prove this, although Morant records the Taylors Arms in More Elms Lane in 1723. In 1845 it was described in one directory as a 'Gin Shop'. It is mentioned in a disparaging way in connection with the application in 1860<sup>1</sup> for a licence for the nearby Rainbow. Mr Philbrick, representing Messrs. Osborne, proprietors of the Tailors Arms, opposed the Rainbow's application. The licence had been deferred following the head constable's report to the court of the house being 'conducted in a very irregular manner, and was frequented by many of the worst characters in the town'.

John Bawtree, the one time owner of St Botolph Brewery, once owned this tavern, which was bought by Osborne at a later date.

The building later became the Aberdeen Steak House but is now an unassuming little shop opposite the Little Crown in Short Wyre Street. It appears to be of great age, being of timber framed construction.

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

|              |                                                                                                  |                                  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1792 to 1794 | William Lee, Victualler                                                                          | Universal                        |
| 1822 to 1824 | John Deeks                                                                                       | Pigot's                          |
| 1828 to 1829 | William Hibble                                                                                   | Pigot's                          |
| 1831         | John Overall                                                                                     | Magistrates licenses             |
| 1832 to 1852 | John Overall                                                                                     | Pigot's, Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1851         | John Overall, licensed victualler, age 44, born Coggeshall, together with his wife and a servant | Census                           |
| 1855         | B. Chapman                                                                                       | Kelly's                          |
| 1861         | William Pitt, builder and inn keeper                                                             | Census                           |
| 1862         | William Brett Pitt, Builder                                                                      | Kelly's                          |
| 1867         | John Sach                                                                                        | Post Office                      |
| 1891         | Thomas Norris, age 50, beer house keeper                                                         | Census                           |

## Talbot Dog

St Botolph

?

18th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this tavern is taken from a type of hunting dog, white with black spots, with remarkable powers of scent, the name therefore reflecting a hunting theme, so popular and often essential to working people of the day. Perhaps the owner kept such a dog!

The only reference found to this tavern is in the alehouse recognisances in 1764. It is therefore probably much older than that date but we neither have any further information, nor have any idea where it was located.

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1860



### Tally Ho

Greenstead

Parsons Heath

This tavern's name is taken from the call sent out during a fox hunt which, to use the words of Oscar Wilde, involves 'the unspeakable chasing after the uneatable.'

It was then outside of the borough and is therefore only mentioned as a reference. It is shown on a tithe map dated 1838, showing it to have been in the Parson's Heath area.

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### Tap and Spile

Crouch Street

The name of this pub was a reference to the tap and spile used to get the beer flowing from the barrel. The spile is the tapered peg that is pushed into the barrel and the tap is opened or closed to pour the beer into the glass or tankard. With today's modern pressurised beer delivery systems, this type of device is less common although in common use where 'real ale' is enjoyed.

see **The Hospital Arms**

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### Taylor's Arms

10 Short Wyre Street

see **Tailor's Arms**

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### Three Black Nags

St Mary at the Walls

Head Street

c1740 to c1762

an inn

location uncertain

The name of this inn is a variation of the more commonly found Black Horse, where a nag is referred to in this context as a small horse or pony, in this case, three of them. Why the name was chosen in the first place, has now been lost with time. The modern day usage of the word nag would be applied to a woman who scolds her husband constantly and might very well induce him to go to the pub to get away from her. Such husbands would probably have gone to the King's Head, named after their hero Henry VIII, who they admired and envied for the masterful way in which he settled his matrimonial difficulties.

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

In Head Street there stood, on a site not identified, the Three Black Nags, which has long since passed into the limbo of forgotten things. The registers of St Mary's record the burial on July 11th 1742 of 'Sarah, wife of Samuel Mchallum at the Black Naggs, ' the widower following her to the same spot in January 1768. In October 1750, 'Mary, wife of Joseph Clews at the Black Naggs, ' who had moved there from the Fleece, was also laid to rest in St Mary's Churchyard.

During the parliamentary election in April 1754, the inn was one of the houses opened in the interest of John Olmius, Esq., of New Hall, Boreham, from whence his supporters, fortified by meat and drink, proceeded with drums beating and banners displayed, to the hustings in High Street to record their votes, amid showers of rotten eggs, defunct cats and other garbage. In March 1758, 'a Cart with two Pair of Draughts and able Horses' was advertised to set out every Monday and Thursday morning at 5 o'clock from this house for the King's Arms, Leadenhall Street, London, which destination they were timed to reach the same evening. 'Passengers will be carried commodiously and dry for Five Shillings, and 20lb weight allowed to each for Baggage.'

The last reference to the house occurs in July 1762, when Samuel Makalem, the tenant, advertised it under the name of 'The Three Black Colts, ' as being to let with immediate occupation. 'Brewing Utensils of every Sort, completely fitted up; with a good stock of Beer in the Cellar; with Variety of several Sorts of Household Goods' were also for disposal. It is assumed that this spelled the closure of the inn, unless it re-opened under a different name.

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

## Three Crowns – 1

St Mary at the Walls

Head Street

c16th century to 1758

an inn

now shops

The name of this inn would probably have come from the three crowns depicted on the borough's coat of arms which, as myth has it, came from the time of St Helena. The crowns were those of either the kings of East Anglia or the three wise men who visited the infant Jesus and whose remains, so it is said, were discovered by St Helena. Also shown on the coat of arms are sprouting pieces of the cross of Christ. The passing of time has clouded the facts in this instance. However, an alternative origin of the name could have come from the three gables of the building, which could possibly be seen as crowns.

Here follows a history of this ancient inn, which is based on an article written by Mr Gerald Rickword in 1935<sup>1</sup>.

When the premises, which originally formed part of the endowment of Joseph Elianore's Chantry in the Chapel of St Thomas the Martyr within the Church of St Mary at the Walls, founded in January 1318 and which later became the property of the Colchester Royal Grammar School, were turned into an inn, is not known. There is record in the Corporation accounts of 222 freemen being entertained to dinner at the inn in 1628 on the occasion of the yearly ceremony of choosing the bailiffs. The registers of the nearby Church of St Mary supply the name of the first landlord that can be traced; 'Philip Newill at ye 3 Crowns was buried November 5th, 1642.' Some months previous 'a mayd servant of Phillip Newell' had been interred in the same hallowed spot. The registers of St Peter's record the burial in 1704 of 'Mr Henry Fisher, att ye 3 Crowns'.

A well known name in the town's inn keeping annals is that of Timothy Cooke whose public services are better known than his business activities. He was a party to a lease for 96 years, granted by Anne Munk of Colchester in February 1687, to John Potter, alderman and draper, and John Wheely junior, brazier, of several messuages, tenements and rentaries with yards, gardens, etc. for making and supplying a cistern or reservoir for furnishing the town with pure spring water. A further deed of 1707 shows that the pipes passed from Chiswell Meadow through one of the Balkeke arches and the Three Crowns garden, into the cistern. Cooke, who had been admitted as a Free Burgess in 1697 was also largely instrumental in the rebuilding of St Mary's Church, of which he was a warden, and which had laid in ruins since the siege of 1648, when a Royalist cannon mounted on the tower, manned by the famous gunner 'One-Eyed Thompson', drew the hottest of the Roundhead fire.

The Three Crowns was one of the first inns in the town to be associated with coaching. In a handbill dated 1738, the oldest extant dealing with local coaching history, it is announced that the Colchester Old Stage Coach, in one day would begin running on March 13th at 5 o'clock in the morning from the Three Crowns, Colchester, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and would return on the following days. The fares were eight shillings each passenger, who were allowed 20lb weight of luggage, any excess being charged at a rate of one penny a pound. From the Colchester inns, passengers could, if desirous, proceed by coach to Harwich for the packet boats to Holland.

St Mary's registers, which furnish so much material for this inn's history, contain an entry which is signed by 'Phil. Morant, Rector.' Under the date of November 18th, 1741, 'John Graves Inn-holder at the Three Crowns in this parish, was buried at H. Trinity, with his wife's (Thorne) relations. I was invited to the burial and received fees, as Rector of St Mary's, St Peter not laying any claim, tho' some in that parish would have it, tho' without any ground, that part of that House is in St Peter's.' Widow Graves offered the stock and her furniture for sale in March of the following year, apparently without a taker, for in July it was again advertised when she announced her intention of 'leaving off trade.'

The trustees of the Estate of the Free Grammar School at the same time offered 'to the best approv'd bidder' the lease of 21 years of the inn and some adjoining tenements. Mr Thomas Smith, being approved, became the next tenant and about five years later a Mr Debart took the house (an Abraham Debart was drawer or barman at the White Hart a few years before and he may well have been the same man). During Debart's tenancy, the General courts of the Corporation of the Clergy of the Archdeaconry of Colchester for the Relief of Clergymen's Widows and Children were held there until removed to the King's Head. On these occasions, from the early hour of ten in the morning, the inn was overrun with parsons, both old and young, lean and fat, grave and gay, from town and country, rectory or vicarage, who after dealing with the business in hand, gathered around the dining table:

'On a pudden and joynt .., contented can dine,  
With a glass of old port, and October divine.'

Hyatt Walker, of the Queen's Head in the High Street, took the Three Crowns in September 1748, in addition to the former house. He announced that 'All Gentlemen, etc. may depend on civil Usage, good Entertainment, good Lodging, and also good Stall Stabling, with good old Hay and Corn. Also a Bowling Green belonging to the said

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 1935

House to accommodate Gentlemen.' This advertisement summed up the attractions of the inn. Fortune did not favour Mr Walker as he relinquished the house at Christmas 1753, when Edward Robinson entered into possession of the Old Three Crowns, 'Which is now lately put into good repair, and fitted up in the best Manner for Accommodation, with good Beds, good Stabling for Horses, Coach House, etc.'

The business of the post office was moved to the Inn and also that of the Excise; and later Robinson acquainted 'Gentlemen, Ladies and others, ' that he had undertaken of his own account the management of the posting business, and they could 'depend on an immediate and constant supply of four wheel post-chaises with good and able Horses, and very careful Drivers to any Part of Great Britain, at the most reasonable Expense; ., the exact Times when the Packets sail to and from Holland' might also be learned there. To further draw custom to his house, mine Host informed 'the Nobility, etc.' in October 1757, that there was to be seen at the Three Crowns during the time of the Fair the following stupendous attractions:

*'Just arrived from Jamaica, A White Negro Girl, nine years old, born of black Parents. She has all the Features of the Black in every Particular; as Eyes, Lips and Nose, etc., extremely fair, and white as any of the Europeans. Her Head is covered with a white thickset Wool; she has a surprising Quickness of Apprehension and is really a most surprising Production of Nature as ever existed.'*

*'Likewise a wonderful White Sea Monster, of a most amazing Structure, taken from a Mountain of Ice in Greenland, and brought to England August 1757.'*

Notwithstanding such undeniable attractions, trade did not prosper, possibly the building was old and inconvenient, according to the requirements of the age. In February 1758, Robinson was declared bankrupt and his stock, furniture, horses, harness and post chaises were sold. The house was advertised as being to let either by the year or on lease, and a year later its doom as an inn being sealed, either as a public or private house. In 1763, Mr Walford, Puke Maker and Hair Seller, had moved to the 'late Three Crowns.' Mary Walford, milliner, occupied the former inn in 1770, and about ten years later, M Boyle, milliner and haberdasher, entered upon a long tenancy of 'the Old Three crowns, ' by which name the premises were then still known.

Shortly after that, the bowling green, which extended to the Balcerne Gate, was opened as a public pleasure resort, and in its leafy arbours and shady nooks, hearts were won and reputations lost. The Jumbo water tower and the Mercury Theatre now occupy the position, both reminders of the water supply and the entertainment that were once provided in the location.

The final traces of the building seem to have been demolished in the 1920s when Pallant's restaurant was replaced with the present day, three storeyed, three gabled, timber framed and double jettied building, later known as Prudential Buildings and becoming the site of the Post Office in 1998.

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### Three Crowns - 2

Bergholt Road

date uncertain

a tavern?

location uncertain

It is said that a pub of this name once stood on the south side of Bergholt Road, the only evidence now being the road named Three Crowns Road. What the truth of this is, is not known as no record has been found to prove or disprove it.

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### Three Crowns and Ragged Staff

see the **Three Crowns**

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### Three Crowns and Star

St Peter

High Street

c1740 to 1756

an inn

location uncertain

The name of this house is a variation on that of the Three Crowns, adding the star to distinguish it from its nearby rival. Why it took that name rather than another is now lost with time, but probably reflects some ill-feeling between the landlords of the two respective houses.

Its location is uncertain, other than it was known to have been at the north west end of the High Street and therefore very close to the Three Crowns in Head Street. The following is part of the article written by Mr Gerald Rickword concerning the Three Crowns:

Among the trade rivals of the Three Crowns in Head Street, and which helped to bring about its downfall, was one by which a rather mean practice, prevalent at that time, adopted its name with the addition to its painted signboard of a further charge, and was known as the New Three Crowns and Star. This unscrupulous action is first noticed in 1740 when in November, the sporting Gentlemen of Essex and Suffolk offered a purse of five guineas to be run for on Lexden Heath in three heats by any men of the two counties, the entrance fee of ten shillings to be paid beforehand to Mr Joseph Dunningham 'at the Three Crowns in Colchester'. (Mr Graves was the landlord of the Old Three Crowns at the time).

On June 2nd 1742, the property of one Morley, a bankrupt, was sold 'by Inch of Candle, ' a now obsolete method of sale, 'at the house of Joseph Dunningham, called the Three Crowns and Star.' On the 28th of that month his creditors met at the same house, which a fortnight before had sheltered a Mr John Banks, Surgeon, of Spalding, Lincs., who possessed 'an infallible method' for curing deafness 'if curable' and was one of a big band of brothers touring England at that time, attempting to relieve people of both their gold and their ills.

A year later, in August, Joseph Moulton, the hostler at this inn, fell from a stack of wood on to his head, and died instantly. Dunningham, in October 1743, took the Wool Hall, in addition to his in-keeping business, and in the public press, promised honest dealing to all chapmen, and dealers in wool and yarn, transacting business with him. Six years later, John Daniell rented the Wool Hall, being in attendance every Tuesday, enquiries on other days being dealt with by Dunningham at the Three Crowns and star. For a few years from May 1748 onwards, Benjamin Rolle was attending at the same inn to assist 'any Person wanting to buy or sell Estates, or to lend or borrow Money, upon good Securities.' With a modern ring the notice adds 'Dispatch and Secrecy .., and Business transacted on reasonable Terms, 'and concludes with the warning that 'All Letters .., post paid, will be punctually answered, and not otherwise.'

At Michaelmas 1755, a freehold estate producing £40 a year, comprising 'The Three White Naggs, a good Inn, with lodging Rooms, Stabling, and all needful Accommodations, now in the occupation of John Smith, ' a private dwelling occupied by Widow Wayland; and another Inn, the New Three Crowns and Star, all adjoining properties, was offered for sale by Joseph Dunningham, of the latter inn. The poor old widow probably had cause on many occasions to regret living between the two inns.

In 1756, Dunningham announced his intention of retiring from retail trade, and advertised the inn, which stood at the west end of High Street, in St Peter's parish, as 'a well-built Brick House, handsomely sash'd, with three lower Rooms fronting the Street, neatly wainscoated and hung with Paper; also very handsome Chambers, Lodging-Rooms and Garrets; and Brewing Office, Vaults, Cellars, and other Conveniences of every sort.' His name still appears as tenant of the inn in January 1757, about which date the New Three Crowns and Star either passed out of existence as a licensed house or changed its sign, for it is met with no more.

### Three Cups

144 High Street

see the **Cups**

### Three Cups

Trinity Street

see the **Cups**

### Three Cups Tap

Cups Yard

see **Cups Tap**

### Three Goat's Heads

St Leonards

?

pre 1764 to c1820

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this tavern would have provided an easily recognised sign to attract customers to its hospitality. Why it was chosen in this instance is unknown although there are various theories. Three goats heads are an heraldic device used on the arms of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, who date back to 1439. They apparently made boots from goatskins. Another possibility is that it once was 'God Heed, ' a piece of religious advice perhaps. Another tells of how a goat was used in country areas to be put with cattle, so that any illness would be visited on the poor old goat. Hence he became a 'scapegoat.'

It is shown in the alehouse recognisance from 1764 until 1819, and property deeds exist dated 1804 to 1807. No more is known of its history or its precise whereabouts.

also known as the **Goat's Heads**

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### Three Horse Shoes

St Leonard

Hythe Quay

pre 1764 to 1899

an alehouse

demolished

The name of this pub is another reference to that important working animal, namely the horse. Its shoes were a symbol of luck and were also used for a game where they were pitched against a stump in the ground, with an element of gambling often part of the fun. The pub sign would have been another simple one to recognise, although why the more appropriate four shoes were not depicted, is not known.

The first mention of this house is found in the alehouse recognisances of 1764, although it ceases to appear again until 1770 under the name of the Horseshoes. It is then showed by both names in trade directories for subsequent years. In 1872 it was owned by Cobbold who sold it to Nicholls in 1883. The census showed that it was located on Hythe Quay within three houses of the Neptune and within two of the Anchor (now the Spinnaker). In 1899, it was closed together with the Roman Urn in Roman Road, in consideration of a new licence at the Recreation Hotel.

It was demolished some time later and the Museum Collection records that the original iron sign was put in the museum, although the present curator can find no record of its whereabouts. A letter written in 1966 by Mr E W Hatcher, details his childhood recollections from around the year 1895, of this old pub. He says that the oil mills wanted more storage space and that it was this that brought about the end of the Three Horse Shoes. He can remember the many shipwright's workshops where his grandfather George Carrington worked, as well as running the pub and bringing up a large family. There was a skittle alley in an adjoining workshop where the game of 'nine pins' was played, often for money.

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

|              |                                                               |             |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1822 to 1829 | Edward Cant                                                   | Pigot's     |
| 1832 to 1823 | Peggy Cant                                                    | Pigot's     |
| 1839         | Thomas Noon                                                   | Pigot's     |
| 1845 to 1848 | Thomas Booth                                                  | Post Office |
| 1851         | John Adams                                                    | Post Office |
| 1882 to 1886 | George Carrington                                             | Kelly's     |
| 1891         | George Carrington, age 54, licensed victualler and shipwright | Census      |
| 1894 to 1899 | George Carrington, Beer Retailer                              | Kelly's     |

also simply known as the **Horseshoes**

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### Three Mariners

St Mary Magdalen

111 Magdalen Street

before 1764 to 1913 (map 31)

a public house

now a shop

The name of this pub was in keeping with the type of clientele that it would have seen from the Hythe docks. Many a mariner would have called for a pint here.

William Wire, in his diary, recorded that, in 1766 'a John Beardel went to the Three Mariners and called for a pint of beer, wherein he put a quantity of arsenic and drank it. He afterwards went home and 'lived in the greatest torments for two days. He was buried at the Druary' (ie at the crossroads, as was the norm, it being a suicide.)

It would have been an inn before 1764, when it is first shown in licensing records. It was owned by Cobbold from at least 1843 as a plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of Messrs Cobbold, in 1843. This can be seen at the Essex Record Office. It was sold to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1883, who owned it until its closing in 1913.



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

|              |                                                                                                                             |                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1822 to 1824 | Mary Vincent                                                                                                                | Pigot's                 |
| 1828 to 1829 | Abraham Kent                                                                                                                | Pigot's                 |
| 1832 to 1848 | James Gardner                                                                                                               | Pigot's and White's     |
| 1845         | James Gardener, Baker                                                                                                       | Post Office             |
| 1851         | Mary Ann Gardener, widow, baker, age 55, born Stebbing, together with her four daughters (one 'afflicted') and her two sons | Census                  |
| 1861         | Sarah Sebborn, widow, age 64, beer seller                                                                                   | Census                  |
| 1862 to 1895 | William Groves, Beer Retailer                                                                                               | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1871         | William Groves, age 56, licensed victuallers                                                                                | Census                  |
| 1881         | William Groves, Innkeeper, age 37, born Colchester, together with his wife and two children                                 | Census                  |
| 1891         | William Groves, age 48, licensed victualler                                                                                 | Census                  |
| 1898 to 1899 | John Farlie                                                                                                                 | Kelly's                 |
| 1901         | Henry William Farran, metal planer, age 30, born Colchester, together with his wife and their four children                 | Census                  |
| 1902         | Henry William Farran                                                                                                        | Kelly's                 |
| 1908         | Horace Simpson                                                                                                              | Kelly's                 |
| 1912         | Frank Mattock                                                                                                               | Kelly's                 |

The building is timber framed, similar to other buildings in the general area and is now (2012) a shop.

also known as the **Mariners**

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### Three White Nags

High Street

The name of this house is a variation on that of the White Horse, a nag in this instance being an old word for a small horse or pony, rather than a nagging woman.

see the **King of Prussia**

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### Times Café, and Bar

St Peters

North Hill

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

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### Trafalgar

There has never been a pub with this name in Colchester, as far as we know. So, why mention it? Quite simply because Colchester has a proud record of service at the famous Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, with nineteen Colchester men having taken part. One, Isaac Pooley, served aboard Nelson's ship, HMS Victory and lived out the rest of his life in the town, being buried in St Leonard's churchyard. Why Colchester never had a Trafalgar pub, is a mystery. It had a Lord Nelson, a Nelson's Head and a Victory - but no Trafalgar.

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### Tramway Tavern

30 North Station Road

c1904 to 1985

a beer house  
later a public house

demolished

The naming of this pub would have come with the introduction of the tramway to Colchester, in this case plying its trade between Mile End and the town centre.

It was a beerhouse which stood next to the Globe Hotel (on the south side) and was previously known as the White Pig. This pub's first mention by name is in the licensing records in 1907, when it was owned by Nicholls. It was sold to Peek around 1925, who later sold to Ind Coope. Its full licence was granted in 1956 with the closing of the Castle

pub at North Bridge but was subsequently closed in 1985<sup>1</sup> by its owners Ind Coope, who cited the poor state of repair of the building as being the reason.

Licencees that we have on record are:

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1925         | Frederick William Ladbrook |
| 1930 to 1940 | Frederick Ralph Finch      |
| 1950         | Albert Edward Sparrow      |
| 1962         | Harold Coleman             |

Previously known as the **Pig** or the **White Pig**

In 1994<sup>2</sup>, the local newspapers published some recollections from Mr Ted Cant, when he stated that, 'the Tramway Tavern was always referred to by the older drinkers down the North as the Pig. The public bar is now a hairdressers and the saloon a bakery. Landlords included Mr Finch, Mr Sparrow, Toby Coleman and John Ketley. One customer throughout the time of all those landlords was Titch Ketley, the popular cattle dealer.'

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

|              |                                                                                                              |         |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1895 to 1899 | Alfred John Bones, Beer Retailer                                                                             | Kelly's |
| 1901         | Henry Ambrose, Inn Keeper, age 51, born Colchester, together with his wife, their six children and a boarder | Census  |
| 1902         | Henry Ambrose, Beer Retailer                                                                                 | Kelly's |

The only official record found is in a building plan application dated 1896, put forward by its owners, the Colchester Brewing Company.

### Traveller's Friend

Mile End

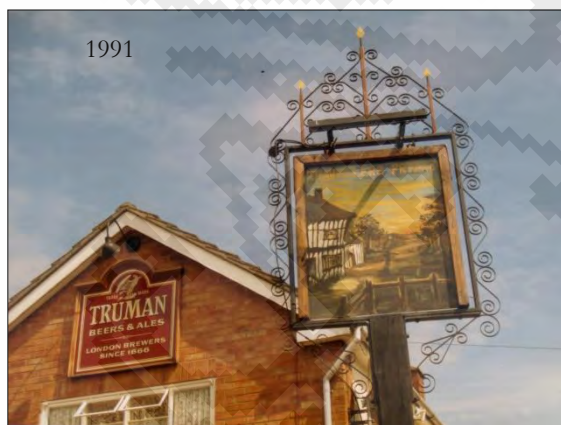
Mill Road

c1870 to 1995

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is a friendly one and would have appealed to all types of customers.



It is first mentioned in the licensing records in 1907 as a beer house and under the ownership of Daniells. It was granted its full publican's licence in 1951 and was owned by Trumans from that date. It is probably the same as the un-named house shown in the 1871 census when John Smith, age 73, is shown as a beer house keeper.

Bacchus visited in June 1963 when Jack and Dot Paterson were in charge, together with help from Gran. The feeling that is given is of a thoroughly happy community pub. It had an uneventful life and, after a decline in trade, probably much to do with the refurbishment and new found popularity of the nearby Dog and Pheasant, it was eventually closed and the building was demolished in 1995. New housing being built on the site.

A remarkable feature of this house is that a James Wass had been its landlord from at least 1898 until around 1960, probably combining the father and son shown in the 1901 census.

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

|              |                                                                                                                       |         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1874 to 1886 | William Dines, Beer Retailer                                                                                          | Kelly's |
| 1881         | William Dines, Beer Seller, age 59, born Tillingham, together with his wife and their two daughters                   | Census  |
| 1891         | William Dines, Beerhouse Keeper, age 69, born Tillingham, together with his wife, a daughter and three grand-children | Census  |

<sup>1</sup> ECS - 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 1985

<sup>2</sup> ECS - 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1994

|              |                                                                                                                                                   |                     |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1894 to 1895 | Jonathan Woodgate, Beer Retailer                                                                                                                  | Kelly's             |
| 1898 to 1933 | James Wass, Beer Retailer                                                                                                                         | Kelly's             |
| 1901         | James Wass, beer house keeper and roadman, age 50, born Colchester, together with his wife and their four children, one a son named James aged 10 | Census              |
| 1925 to 1950 | James Wass                                                                                                                                        | Beerhouse Licences  |
| 1951 to 1956 | James Wass                                                                                                                                        | Publican's Licences |
| 1962         | John Ellis Paterson                                                                                                                               | Publican's Licences |



The Traveller's Friend in 1991

also known as the **Traveller's Rest**

### Troopers (The)

St Giles

Abbey Gate Street

1860 to c1865

a public house

exact location unknown

The name of this house was used in anticipation of the building of the Cavalry Barracks, a trooper being a soldier in a cavalry regiment or a cavalry horse. It would have been a perfect name to attract a certain section of the nearby military barracks.

The first mention that we have found for this house was in the Essex Standard of 1862, where it mentions the granting of several 'New Licenses' at Colchester Town Hall on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The license was applied for by John Christerson who had been keeping the house for the previous two years as a beer-shop. The new license was agreed as the cavalry barracks were at last being constructed. He had a memorial as to his good character from 'fifty respectable persons' and also from the rector. The only other mention found is for February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1865 with the transfer of the license from John Barker to James Edward Woods.

### Trotters

Middleborough

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

### Two Brewers

St Mary Magdalen

?

1788 to 1790

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of this house is a simple reference to the brewing trade, and perhaps named because two brewers carried on their trade from the premises.

The only reference found to this alehouse is in the alehouse recognisances of 1788 to 1790. If it was located in the St Botolph's parish, it might be thought that it was an earlier name for the Two Sawyers. It probably changed its name, although its actual location and further details of its history must, for the time being, remain a mystery.

---

### Two Sawyers

St Botolph

Magdalen Street

1790 to c1873 (map 23)

a public house

now a shop

This pub's sign would undoubtedly have depicted the said two sawyers, and perhaps named because of a nearby timber yard. In those old days, timber had to be sawn by hand with the master sawyer above guiding the saw and his sawdust covered companion working in a pit below, the tree trunk supported on trestles between them. Presumably, promotion came when you got the top job!

The house is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1790 to 1819 and thereafter in trade directories. Ralph Root, age 26, was the inn keeper shown in the 1861 census. By 1872 it was owned by Nicholls but it fails to appear in the licensing records after that date. The book 'Essex Brewers' states that John Bawtree, who owned St Botolph's Brewery, also owned this pub at some point.

In an article by Mr Gerald Rickword<sup>1</sup>, the pub was mentioned in a not too favourable circumstance. A hawker named Brown and two women who gave the names of Cain and White were apprehended by the police in 1854 on suspicion of passing counterfeit coin. Six tradesmen (including his worship the Mayor) were defrauded by base half-crowns. White tendered just such a coin at the shop of Mr Cotton and was detected, pursued and captured by Mr John Bromley of the Swan Inn. The other two persons were taken at the Sawyers Arms. The following week, Mary White Smith was committed for trial and was later found guilty of uttering counterfeit half-crowns, with a strong recommendation for mercy and given nine months hard labour at Springfield jail. George Brown and Ann Cain were more fortunate in being discharged, but being ordered to leave town. What would our modern day counterfeiters get by comparison one wonders?

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

|              |                      |                         |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1822 to 1824 | Thomas Flewett       | Pigot's                 |
| 1839         | Thomas Rawlins       | Pigot's                 |
| 1845 to 1848 | John Dixey           | White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | Mrs. Matilda Funnell | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1862         | Ralph Root           | Kelly's                 |
| 1867         | Abraham Turner       | Post Office             |
| 1870         | Job William Smith    | Kelly's                 |
| 1874         | James Edward Woods   | Kelly's                 |

also known as the **Sawyers Arms**

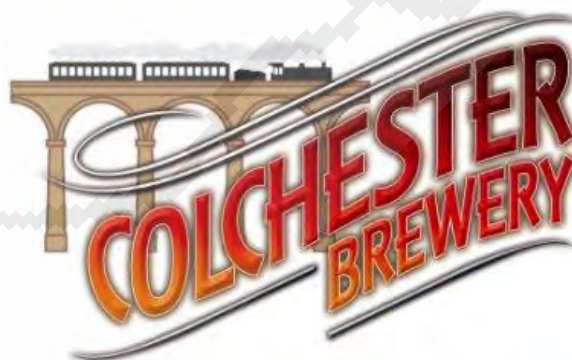
---

*Always remember, that I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me.*

Sir Winston Churchill

---

The Colchester Brewery started in late 2011, with its brewing premises situated at Wakes Colne. Their corporate logo shows the nearby Chappel Viaduct.



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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 1954



*All you that bring tobacco here  
Must pay for pipes as well as beer;  
And you that stand before the fire,  
I pray sit down by good desire,  
That other folks as well as you  
May see the fire and feel it too.  
Since man to man is so unjust,  
I cannot tell what man to trust.  
My liquor's good, 'tis no man's sorrow,  
Pay today, I'll trust tomorrow.*

*anon*

### Unicorn - 1

St Nicholas

?

1764 to 1780

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of this alehouse refers to a legendary animal which supposedly has the body of a horse and a single long horn projecting from its head. The horn is thought to possess magical properties. Its use for the name of a pub is most probably of heraldic origin, where two unicorns supported the royal arms of Scotland, with one of them being incorporated into the English arms when James VI of Scotland became James I of England. There were also ships of battle given this name and it is possible the owner of the house was once a sailor who served aboard such a ship.

This house appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1780, although nothing more is known of it.

### Unicorn - 2

190 (198?) Magdalen Street

1897 to 1912 (map 27)

a public house

demolished

This pub was yet another of the many pubs on the straight line route from Plough Corner to the Hythe. The 1901 census shows it in the occupation of Samuel Bloomfield, aged 44, an inn keeper, living with his wife and two boarders. It was owned by Daniells and was closed due to redundancy in 1912<sup>1</sup>. It was standing derelict in the 1990s but was demolished to make way for new housing; an old, unremarkable, brick built, slate roofed and whitewashed building. The timber supported archway led to what was known as Stag's Head Yard, giving access to the rear. It was situated directly opposite to the petrol station in Magdalen Street.

This address appears to become the Unicorn by 1898, unless roads are re-numbered.

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

|              |                                                                                                                  |         |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1898 to 1902 | Samuel Bloomfield                                                                                                | Kelly's |
| 1901         | Samuel Bloomfield, Inn Keeper - The Unicorn, age 44,<br>born Colchester, together with his wife and two boarders | Census  |
| 1908         | John Docwra                                                                                                      | Kelly's |
| 1911         | John Sutton, Publican. age 30, with wife and daughter                                                            | Census  |
| 1912         | John Sutton                                                                                                      | Kelly's |

previously the **Stag's Head**

1876 to 1896

It first appears by this name in the licensing records in 1876, through until 1896, in the ownership of Allen. A trade directory dated 1878 carried an advertisement stating that George Allen was the proprietor of this establishment, together with the Fountain at St Botolphs.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 15<sup>th</sup> Jun 1912



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

|              |                                                                                     |         |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1878 to 1886 | George Allen                                                                        | Kelly's |
| 1891         | Joseph Oddy, Inn Keeper (Stag's Head), age 46, born Ireland, together with his wife | Census  |

The house later changed its name to the Unicorn, presumably when it was purchased by Daniells.

---

### THE DUCK JOKE

*THE BEST JOKE IN THE WORLD – PROBABLY!*

*A duck walks into a pub and orders a pint of lager and a ham sandwich.*

*The landlord looks at him and says, "But you're a duck".*

*"I see your eyes are working", replies the duck.*

*"And you talk!" exclaims the landlord.*

*"I see your ears are working", says the duck, "Now can I just have my beer and my sandwich please?". "I'm working on the building site across the road, and I'm on my break. ", explains the duck.*

*The landlord serves him and he drinks his beer, eats his sandwich, reads his newspaper and leaves.*

*This continues for two weeks. Then one day the circus comes to town. The ringleader of the circus comes into the pub and the landlord says to him, "You're with the circus aren't you?, I know this duck that would be just brilliant in your circus, he talks, drinks beer and everything!".*

*"Sounds marvellous", says the ringleader, "get him to give me a call".*

*So the next day when the duck comes into the pub the landlord says, "Hey Mr. Duck, I reckon I can line you up with a top job, paying really good money!".*

*"Yeab?", says the duck, "Sounds great, where is it?".*

*"At the circus", says the landlord.*

*"The circus?", the duck enquires.*

*"That's right", replies the landlord.*

*"The circus? That place with the big tent? With all the animals? With the big canvas roof with the hole in the middle?", asks the duck.*

*"That's right!", says the landlord.*

*The duck looks confused, "What the hell would they want with a plasterer?"*

---



*A man goes in to a pub and orders a pint.  
A voice comes from somewhere 'Nice Shirt!'  
He looks around, but can see nobody.  
He orders another drink. This time, a voice says 'Nice tie!'  
Still nobody to be seen. He orders another drink and this time 'Nice hair!'  
He is totally amazed by all this and decides to ask the barman about it.  
'Oh' says the barman, 'that'll be the peanuts.'  
'What do you mean, the peanuts?' says the man.  
'They're complimentary!' says the barman.*

## Victoria

St Peter

123 North Street  
CO1 1RB

c1845 to date (map 127)

a public house

The name of this public house would have been a reference to Queen Victoria who ascended to the throne in 1837 at the age of just 18 years. She was the niece of William IV, whom she succeeded and she went on to reign longer than any other British sovereign. In this instance, the name was probably chosen to give continuity to Victoria's name in Colchester, after the failure of the Victoria Hotel at the nearby railway station.



The two pub signs are back to back images from 1991 and show a young and an old Victoria, married and widowed.

The earliest reference we find to the Victoria is in the 1850s, when it was in the occupancy of James Peek, described in the 1851 census as 'Coffee House Keeper'. But by 1859 Peek's Coffee-House was up for sale.

The pub soon became a beerhouse although when, at the 1859 licensing sessions, an application was made for a full licence, this was refused.



In August 1860, Mr O Brown of the Victoria Beer-house, offered goods and effects for sale, including those 'strange to us now' objects, iron spittoons. So, the Victoria commenced its life in the pub business in 1860.

**PEEK'S COFFEE-HOUSE,**  
**NORTH STREET, COLCHESTER.**  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY**  
**R. G. Craske,**  
On MONDAY, Oct. 31st, 1859.  
**P**ART of the Capital **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, IM-**  
**PLEMENTS of TRADE,** and other Effects, of Mr. PEEK,  
who has let the above house; comprising 8 French, 4-post, and  
tent bedsteads, 6 capital feather-beds, chairs, carpets, pewter  
mugs, &c., &c.  
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

**NORTH STREET, COLCHESTER.**  
**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.,**  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY**  
**Mr. Garrard,**  
On WEDNESDAY, August 8th, 1860,  
**A**LL the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, TRADE UTEN-**  
**SILS,** and other Effects of Mr. O. BROWN, Victoria  
Beer-house, North Street, Colchester: comprising tent, French,  
and other bedsteads, leather beds and bedding, mahogany and  
painted chests with drawers, dressing tables and glasses,  
washing-stands and crockery, mahogany dining, tap-room, and  
other tables, mahogany hair-seated and other chairs, mahogany-  
framed sofa, 8-day and dial clocks, fenders and fire-irons;  
quantity of pewter and other mugs; iron spittoons, and other  
effects, as will be fully described in Catalogues.  
Sale to commence punctually at Eleven o'clock.

Here follows a few brief references that were found in local newspapers:

6th Sep 1861 Essex Standard. Spirit licence granted.

18th Oct 1867 Essex Standard. To be let for immediate possession. Apply within of S J Holby.

11th Feb 1876 Essex Standard. Fatal result of a quarrel inquest.

24th Mar 1876 Essex Standard. Crown Court trial of George Elmer.

This was a reference to the local newspapers reporting the fatal result of a quarrel in the pub. One Barham owed money to one Elmer and, after the two stepped outside to fight, Barham fell down dead. The inquest was held at the nearby Castle Inn. The post-mortem suggested that death was not intended and the jury decided on a case of manslaughter. Whilst the report is lengthy, no name was given for the landlord or landlady. At the trial, Elmer was acquitted.

17th Feb 1883 Essex Standard. Theft of a sovereign from the landlord Alfred Gladwell.

16th Jun 1883 Essex Standard. Article mentions the fine decorations at this house as part of the Essex Horticultural Society.

3rd Nov 1883 Essex Standard. Alfred Gladwell was a witness in a case about the smuggling of tobacco.

5th Dec 1885 Essex Standard. A burglary.

19th Jan 1889 Essex Standard. Stephen Whetton charged for selling drink out of permitted hours.

6th Aug 1892 Essex Standard. John Baynes charged for selling drink out of permitted hours.

6th Jan 1894 Essex Standard. Death of the landlady.

This was a report about the landlady, Susannah Baines, age about 50, being found dead in bed. The headline read, 'Sudden Death in Bed – Caused by Heavy Drinking'. The deceased's husband had, by then, occupied the house for about three years. The verdict of the coroner was that she died a natural death, caused by excess drinking. We feel compelled to ask, 'does Susannah haunt the place today?'



This pub first appears in the surviving licensing records in 1872, when it was owned by Osborne. It was purchased by the Colchester Brewing Company in 1885 who held it until it was taken over by Ind Coope in the 1930s.

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

|              |                                                                                                                         |             |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1845         | ? Haynes                                                                                                                | Post Office |
| 1861         | George Grimwood, Publican, age 44, born Wormingford, together with his wife, their two sons and seven lodgers           | Census      |
| 1862         | George Grimwood, Shoeing Smith                                                                                          | Kelly's     |
| 1867         | Shadrach John Holby, Mail Contractor                                                                                    | Post Office |
| 1878         | James Lilley                                                                                                            | Kelly's     |
| 1881         | Alfred Gladwell, Builder & Innkeeper, age 40, born Suffolk, together with his wife, their six children and four lodgers | Census      |
| 1882         | Alfred Gladwell                                                                                                         | Kelly's     |
| 1886         | Stephen Whettem                                                                                                         | Kelly's     |
| 1891         | Jabez Scarff, age 49, publican                                                                                          | Census      |
| 1894 to 1895 | Clover Hart Reuben Lambert                                                                                              | Kelly's     |
| 1898 to 1908 | Arthur Chapman                                                                                                          | Kelly's     |
| 1901         | Arthur W Chapman, Publican, age 37, born Cambs,                                                                         |             |

|              |                                             |         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|---------|
|              | together with his wife and their three sons | Census  |
| 1912 to 1914 | Mrs. Jane Amelia Chapman                    | Kelly's |
| 1917         | George H. Elsey                             | Kelly's |
| 1925         | John W. Hall                                | Kelly's |
| 1933         | Olly Chapman                                | Kelly's |

The newspapers in 1974<sup>1</sup> reported that a plan by the owners, Ind Coope Ltd, to close and demolish the pub, was turned down by the town's development committee. It said that 150 customers of the pub had signed a petition against their plan to build another pub and adjacent offices. It went on to say that the timber framed building was built in the 17th century, with alterations to the facade being carried out later. From this we must assume that a private dwelling house was later converted to a public one.

In 1994<sup>2</sup>, the pub was put up for sale and had suffered from poor trade for some time. Plans were put forward by a local business man who had bought the freehold, to turn it into a 100 seater restaurant. These plans were refused and in August 1997, the pub re-opened with a facelift and under new management, once more to serve the needs of the local community. In 2015, this pub had become one of the best pubs in the town. It's all down to who is in charge!

|                       |         |               |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------|
| <b>Victoria Hotel</b> | Lexden  | North Station |
| c1844                 | a hotel | demolished    |

The name of this grand enterprise was, of course, a further reference to the young Queen Victoria.



A lithograph of the Victoria Hotel c1846

The Victoria Hotel stood next to what became known as North Station, opened soon after the Eastern Counties Railway extended its line to Colchester in May 1843. It was described at the time as a splendid specimen of Italian architecture.

Before it was built the site was occupied by a rag mill where the material known as shoddy was made. William Wire, as mentioned extensively in this book, wrote in his diary of his great interest in the new building work. He had a passion for archaeology, and the workmen employed there knew that there would be some beer money as a reward for any interesting find. He was at one point barred from visiting the site as the foreman thought that he would delay the work, but was later granted a permit. His diary stated that it opened for the first time on Monday 19th August 1844. He breakfasted there on the 22nd with Mr John Briton, the antiquary.

<sup>1</sup> EG – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 1974

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 15<sup>th</sup> Apr 1994, 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 1994



The application for the licence at the time was made as the Railway Hotel, but on the suggestion of a member of the Bench, it was changed to the Victoria Hotel - in honour of the young Queen.

It soon proved to be a profitless speculation. Incoming passengers, rather than being marooned on the outskirts of the town, sought the homely old fashioned comfort of the Cups, the Red Lion or the George, from which long established hosteleries, omnibuses and cabs regularly plied to and from the Railway Station for each train. It was, with the exception of the Tap, closed within a few years. A branch of the Earlswood Asylum occupied the empty building in 1850, and nine years later it was taken over by the Royal Eastern Counties Institution.

The building was demolished in the 1980s having been used as a hospital for mentally handicapped people for over a century.

see also the **Victoria Tap**

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### Victoria Tap

North Station

c1845 to c1865

a public tap

demolished

It is assumed that this tap was part of the Victoria Hotel building that was a massive flop and which opened in 1844 and closed shortly afterwards. It is shown in a trade directory of 1848 when Stephen Francis was its publican. It also appears in a trade directory of 1863, but closed shortly afterwards, probably due to the licence granted to the Great Eastern Railway Company for their premises at the railway station itself.

The various trade directory entries give the following information:

|      |                 |             |
|------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1845 | John Barnes     | Post Office |
| 1848 | Stephen Francis | White's     |
| 1855 | G. Chaplin      | Kelly's     |

---

### Victory - 1

St Martin

35 West Stockwell Street

1894 to 1912 (map 107)

a public house

now a private house

Many pubs with this name commemorate Nelson's flagship of that name. Whether or not this was the case, or whether it referred to some other victory, is not now known.

It changed its name from the Locomotive in 1894, being owned by the Colchester Brewing Company, who closed it by Magistrate's Order in 1912<sup>1</sup>.

An unfortunate incident happened outside its doors in 1905 when, inter-regimental rivalry caused a fight to break out between soldiers from the Norfolk's and from the Scottish Borderers. One of the combatants was hit from behind with a belt which had a heavy buckle, whereby he was killed. A lengthy investigation and prosecution ensued and the reputation of the pub must have been damaged considerably.

previously the **Locomotive**

1843 to 1894

The pub took this name in 1843, with the arrival of the railway, and the excitement this must have brought to the people of the town. It would have been an innovative name. In 1872 it was shown in licensing records as being owned by Cobbold, who sold it to Stopes of the Colchester Brewing Company in 1885.

This picture was painted by Major Bale and shows this house – although we do not know the date that the painting relates-to. The building is identifiable today as being the same, although the ornate brackets supporting the jettied upper story are all now gone, as are many of the other buildings shown. In the distance, along 'Dutch Lane' (as is written) is Lower Castle Park.

The building is identified by name on the 1876 map series, although not named, due to its being a humble beerhouse. Furthermore it is also shown on maps produced by Bowler at the request of its owners, Cobbold Brewers.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 15<sup>th</sup> Jun 1912



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

|              |                                                                                                                       |                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1845         | Robert Winning                                                                                                        | Post Office             |
| 1848 to 1851 | Robert London                                                                                                         | White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | Lucy Payne, (head, married) victualler, age 36, born Wakes Colne, together with her daughter, a visitor and a servant | Census                  |
| 1855         | W. Cresswell                                                                                                          | Kelly's                 |
| 1862 to 1867 | Henry Blandon                                                                                                         | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1870         | Henry Blandon, Beer Retailer                                                                                          | Kelly's                 |
| 1871         | uninhabited                                                                                                           | Census                  |
| 1874         | Samuel Pryke, Coach Builder & Wheelwright                                                                             | Kelly's                 |
| 1881         | Joseph O'Brien, Annuitant & Publican, age 39, born Bristol, together with his wife, their four children and a boarder | Census                  |
| 1882         | Thomas O'Brien                                                                                                        | Kelly's                 |
| 1891         | Harriet Rausby, age 33, laundress                                                                                     | Census                  |



previously the **Bishop Blaize Inn**

pre 1764 to 1843

The pub is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 through to 1819 and thereafter in trade directories. The building is timber framed and dates from before 1764, although no reference has been found to it as an alehouse before this date. It was mentioned by William Wire in an 1843 entry in his diary as changing its name to the Locomotive, coincidental with the arrival of the railway in Colchester.

1822 to 1833 William Rand  
1839 Edward Corder

Pigot's  
Pigot's

Cobbold owned this house during the period under this name.

---

### Victory - 2

Holy Trinity

Butt Road

see the **Fat Cat**

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### Vine

St Nicholas

Long Wyre Street

c1865 to 1951 (map 121)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is a very old one and would have referred to the vine plant from which come grapes to make wine. There was at one time a vineyard in the vicinity of the nearby and aptly named Vineyard Street and the name is probably a reference from those times when vines were grown against the south facing section of the town's Roman Wall.

A new licence was applied for by Mr Jones on behalf of the tenant Frederick Lugar (previously of the Ship Inn) at the Licensing Sessions in 1865<sup>1</sup>. It was said to have been trading as a beerhouse for the past two months. Opposition came from local inhabitants and one Mr Neck, who, it was assumed, acted for Messrs. Bridge of Ipswich, and some mirthful banter was exchanged between the lawyers. The full licence was granted.

The earliest reference found to this house is in the 1871 census, although it was then in the occupation of the barman only. It appears in the licensing records from 1872 to 1884, when it was owned by Jolly. From 1884 to 1888 it was owned by Rice who sold it to Harper, who had it until 1902 when it was purchased by Nicholls. By 1925 it had passed into the hands of the Colchester Brewing Company, who later sold it to the Colchester Co-operative Society in 1944. That spelled its demise as, by 1951, it was closed, its licence transferred to the Royal Oak at Parson's Heath and the building demolished to make way for the Co-op's extensive building programme in that area of the town, which also included the demolition of St Nicholas' church in the High Street.

A couple of recollections that have been noted were that it was once known as 'Harvey's' owing to that being the name of the man who ran it and, its bar was so small that two people could not stand side by side at it to be served. This pub is shown on the 1909 Insurance Map of Colchester, as seen in the maps section of this book.

also known as **Harvey's**

The reason for this alternative name was because of the landlord of the 1920s who was a Mr Albert Ernest Harvey.

---

### Vito's

Military Road

1990 to 1993

a public house

now private dwellings

The name of this pub came about from the then landlord, wishing to put old associations behind the establishment, by renaming it. He had a particular liking for the Italian lifestyle and had heard and liked the personal name of Vito. Before his tenure, the pub had become rather run down and with a reputation for being a favoured haunt of homosexuals (or 'gays' as it seems correct to say now). Men being men, the thought of using a pub that was also frequented by gay people, was seen as a threat to their manliness - and trade suffered because of it.

---

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



Window pane from the  
Recreation Hotel

In October 1991<sup>1</sup>, the police carried out a drugs raid on the pub, when eleven people were arrested and a sawn-off shotgun found. In 1992, the landlord lost his licence following predictable objections by the police, whereby another licensee was installed.

In January 1993, the pub was set on fire by an arsonist. The place was gutted and it was felt at the time that it might have to be pulled down. However, after it was shored-up to make the building safe, work began on turning it into private dwellings, thus preserving this fine old Victorian building.

The illustration is from a photograph taken in 1995, just prior to the old windows being removed by the builders. This example is thought to have been the last in the town and the last link with the company that put it there around 100 years previously! A local character, one Arnie, a beer drinking devotee, rescued the window and provided Arnie is still about the place, the window's whereabouts are known. Knowing Arnie, it is somewhere safe.

previously named the **Recreation Hotel**

1899 to 1990

This pub's owners, Nicholl and Company, were granted a licence in 1899 in consideration of the closing of the Roman Urn in Roman Road and the Horseshoes on Hythe Quay. They had purchased the property a short time before, with a view to making this their administrative headquarters. It was later taken over by the Colchester Brewing Company, to be followed by Ind Coope and Allsop in the 1930s. The original Nicholls windows survived until 1995, when they were unceremoniously smashed out by builders engaged in refurbishment work.

The site was originally occupied by the Mortar public house, and later became the Trinity House School, as indeed the 1876 ordnance survey map shows it. The current building was built around 1900, on a large scale, with several bedrooms for guests and a large function room on the first floor.

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

|              |                                                                             |                      |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1901         | William Spencer, Barman, age 51, born Stevenage,<br>together with a barmaid | Census               |
| 1907 to 1908 | Thomas Ivory                                                                | Kelly's and Benham's |
| 1912         | George Shore                                                                | Kelly's              |
| 1914         | Geo Clark                                                                   | Kelly's              |
| 1917         | John William Bosworth                                                       | Kelly's              |
| 1925         | Frederick J. Wells                                                          | Kelly's              |
| 1933         | Henry Malt                                                                  | Kelly's              |

The photograph on the following page shows the hotel as it was c1910, and is headed up as the 'Tram Terminus.' The story goes that the pub was at one time used as officers' quarters, where the elaborate cast iron verandah in New Orleans style, was used by the army officers to take a drink whilst watching cricket being played on the 'Officer's Cricket Ground' across the way. The modern day trees, and the noise and fumes from passing traffic, would discourage that particular pastime from being enjoyed today!

<sup>1</sup> EG – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 1991, 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1991, 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 1992,  
6<sup>th</sup> Oct 1992, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1992, 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 1993,  
ECS – 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1992





This was the Colchester Tram Terminus at New Town.  
The picture shows the Recreation Hotel, owned by Nichol and Co, landlord T Ivory.  
With several children and a tram approaching. Approx. date 1910.

See also the **Royal Mortar**.

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*A man walks into a bar with a large frog perched on his head.  
'Where did you get that?' asked the barman.  
'Well,' the frog replied,  
'you won't believe it but  
it started as this little wart on my bottom!'*

---



The Shepherd and Dog in Langham. c1964



*'When I was walking up Balkon Hill, I saw that a portion on the north side of the Balkon Fort had been destroyed in order to build additional rooms to the King's Head Inn to command a view of the railway. What a pity that one of the best preserved remains of Roman times should be destroyed to administer to the sensual pleasures, as it may be considered only as a decoy to induce persons to enter the house to drink.'*

*William Wire of Colchester – 1843*

## Waffles

East Street

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

## Waggon and Horses

St Peter

North Hill

The naming of this pub 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.

See **Pat Molloy's**

## Waterloo

169 Magdalen Street

1816 to 1982 (map 25)

a public house

demolished

The naming of this pub would have been in commemoration of the battle of Waterloo on 18th June 1815, which marked the end of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. The Duke of Wellington won a victorious battle against Napoleon, who surrendered and was later exiled to St Helena. Colchester had several heroes who survived this battle. One, in particular, Captain Jesse Jones, a seasoned soldier of the Grenadier Guards, was shot one hour before the end of the battle. The bullet passing through his body, it was later retrieved from where it had fallen into his boot, and he often proudly showed it off. He produced many children from two marriages and was buried in St Botolph's churchyard at the age of 81.



The pub is first mentioned in licensing records in 1816, although the building is of a much older date and therefore perhaps an inn of a different name before that time. The census showed that it was located next door to the Army and Navy and two doors along from the Lifeboat. It was owned by Osborne after 1872, who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886, later to be taken over by Ind Coope.

See also the Lifeboat.



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

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1822 to 1829 | Elizabeth Fisher                                                                                                                                                               | Pigot's                          |
| 1832 to 1833 | Hugh Byrne                                                                                                                                                                     | Pigot's                          |
| 1839 to 1848 | James Eustace                                                                                                                                                                  | Pigot's, White's and Post Office |
| 1851 to 1862 | John Eustace                                                                                                                                                                   | Kelly's and Post Office          |
| 1851         | John Eustace, victualler, age 40, born Colchester, together with his wife, their two children, a lodger and a house servant                                                    | Census                           |
| 1861         | John Eustace, Inn Keeper, age 50, born Colchester, together with his wife and their six children                                                                               | Census                           |
| 1867 to 1886 | Thomas Eustace                                                                                                                                                                 | Kelly's and Post Office          |
| 1871         | Thomas Eustace, age 42, inn keeper                                                                                                                                             | Census                           |
| 1881         | Thomas Eustace, Innkeeper, age 54, born Colchester, together with his wife, their four children and a servant                                                                  | Census                           |
| 1891         | William Sewell, age 34, publican                                                                                                                                               | Census                           |
| 1894 to 1895 | Henry Downham                                                                                                                                                                  | Kelly's                          |
| 1898 to 1912 | Enoch Pitchford                                                                                                                                                                | Kelly's                          |
| 1901         | Enoch Pitchford, Licensed Victualler - Waterloo Inn, age 52, born Staffs, together with his wife and their seven children one born in Gibraltar and another in the East Indies | Census                           |
| 1911         | Enoch Pitchford, Licensed Victualler age 61, with wife, three sons and two daughters.                                                                                          | Census                           |
| 1917 to 1925 | Isaac D. Winson                                                                                                                                                                | Kelly's                          |
| 1933         | Albert Edward Bunton                                                                                                                                                           | Kelly's                          |

A newspaper article in 1982<sup>1</sup> announced the closing of this pub, together with the Queens Head on Hythe Hill. It stated that they were the latest to be axed by owners Ind Coope who since 1980 had also ordered the shutdown of the Globe in Military Road, the Caledonian in St John's Green and the Welcome Sailor in East Street. It described the Waterloo as a lively, down-to-earth tavern popular with Colchester's small Irish community. It went on to say that the brewery intended to improve the Baker's Arms near the Waterloo and hoped that regulars from the closed pub would move further up the road for their drinking.

In days gone by it stood crowded amongst other houses, alleyways and courtyards, which gradually disappeared, giving the general area in Magdalen Street a very run down look. The building was later to become Colchester's Labour Party HQ before its demolition in 1997 to make way for the new YMCA building. Today, the whole area has been developed and nothing at all is left of the buildings of a century ago, yet another example of the destruction of a piece of the town's history!

### Waterside Inn

St Leonard

Hythe Quay

1983 to 1988

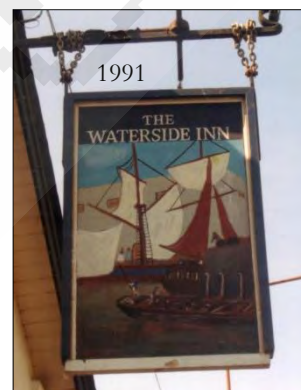
a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is a simple reference to the fact that it is located at the side of the river in the Hythe area of the town.

It took this name in December 1983 and was owned by Watney Mann. Around 1985, the landlord of this pub committed suicide by shooting himself and it never did much trade after that, despite new management. The Hythe was in decline, with trade from the docks and its workers becoming less and less. The pub sign pictured is dated from 1991 as it survived long after the pub finally closed its doors.

In 1994, the empty building found itself adjoined to the official 'traveller's site' and suffered extensive damage from vandalism and arson, making it unfit for any further useful purpose. By 1998, the final vestiges of this once happy house, were removed completely, the site still, it was believed, owned by Pubmaster. It would be nice to think that another pub might be built on or near this spot some day, as it is so perfectly located for trade from people who like to visit the area, to watch the boats, the wildlife, etc. as the Hythe's post-dock regeneration gets into full swing!



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

previously the **New Dock Inn**

c1870 to 1983



The New Dock Inn c1964

The census of 1871 shows Emily Segar, age 60, a widow, described as the landlady. Presumably, her husband had the house originally, she being allowed to keep it on after his death, as so often happened in those days. One must wonder at how a 60 year old woman could keep a pub like this in good order, especially with rough and ready dockworkers and seafaring men as customers - and the fights which must have broken out on occasion.

It appears in the licensing records from 1907 when it was classified as a beerhouse owned by Brooks. By 1940 it had been taken over by Daniells and in 1949 it was granted its full publican's licence. Trumans took the pub over in 1959.

A memory has been passed down by Mr Ken Lee who, as a young lad, used to know the pub well. He recalls one particular customer during the war, a little the worse for drink, disappearing over the side of the quay and sinking up to his waist in the mud. He was pulled out with no injury but his pride damaged.

Bacchus visited in 1963<sup>1</sup> and commented then that it was a popular pub with the sailors from the boats. Dennis and Pauline Cabuche held the licence then. It did a brisk trade in chocolate, which was cheaper than overseas. Glasses were also purchased [spectacles or for beer?]. It also had a spacious beer garden which was very popular in the summer months.

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

|              |                                                                                          |                     |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1871         | Emily Segar, age 60, widow, landlady, born Bradfield, together with her son and a lodger | Census              |
| 1881         | Frederick Reynolds, age 37, a maltster                                                   | Census              |
| 1907 to 1912 | George Taylor, Beer Retailer                                                             | Pigot's and Kelly's |
| 1917         | Mrs. Selina Taylor, Beer Retailer                                                        | Kelly's             |

In 1983 the pub changed its name to the Waterside Inn, giving it a homely feel, the New Dock, not being quite so new any more.

**Weaver's Arms**

Middlesborough

see the **Spread Eagle**

**Welcome Sailor**

St James

East Street

c1860 to 1981 (map 69)

a public house

now a restaurant

The name of this pub might have come about from an ex-sailor taking it over and extending a welcome to others.

This beerhouse is first shown in the census of 1861 when Daniel Joslin was described as a beer house keeper. An 1863 trade directory showed it also, although it is missing from one for 1878. It is first mentioned by name in the licensing records from 1907 when it was owned by Nicholls. By 1925 it was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company and later taken over by Ind Coope. Its full publican's licence was granted in 1954. The newspapers in 1981<sup>2</sup> commented

<sup>1</sup> CE – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1963  
<sup>2</sup> ECS – 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 1981

that it was soon to be closed as it was not paying its way, which it subsequently did, together with the Waterloo and the Queen's Head.



The Welcome Sailor c1915

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

|              |                                                                                         |                      |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1861         | Daniel Joslin, Beer House Keeper, age 54                                                | Census               |
| 1882 to 1894 | William Attway, Beer Retailer                                                           | Kelly's              |
| 1898 to 1907 | James Hume, Beer Retailer                                                               | Benham's and Kelly's |
| 1901         | James Hume, age 55, inn keeper, born Gt Bromley, together with his wife (pub not named) | Census               |
| 1908         | Samuel Goodall, Beer Retailer                                                           | Kelly's              |
| 1912         | Harold Hyam, Beer Retailer                                                              | Kelly's              |
| 1917         | Thomas Marsh, Beer Retailer                                                             | Kelly's              |
| 1925 to 1933 | Mrs. Rosina Marsh, Beer Retailer                                                        | Kelly's              |

In 1982<sup>1</sup>, the pub was converted into a restaurant.

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## Wellington (Duke of)

see the **Duke of Wellington**

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### Whalebone

St James

22 East Hill

18th century to 1935 (map 64)

an alehouse

now a shop

The name of this pub probably came from the whaling industry that was a lucrative business in the 18th century, when this house took its name. The name would refer to the shoulder bones of whales, which were often brought back by whaleboat skippers for good luck.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 1981



It appears as the Whale Fishery in the alehouse recognisances from 1770 until 1780 and is assumed to be the same as the Whalebone. There is no mention of it by either name from 1780 until 1819, which is a mystery, although the trade directories of 1791, 1793, 1823 and onwards, all record it as the Whalebone. In 1872 it was owned by Osborne, who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. The Whalebone Inn is shown in the 1901 census but with no licensee in residence. A photograph from the 1920s has survived which shows a charabanc outing outside its doors and mention of its Bagatelle champions. Its licence was refused in 1935 whereupon it was subsequently closed.

The inset picture is of the sign that once hung outside this pub and which was later taken down and preserved for posterity and later displayed in the Social History Museum in Holy Trinity Church.

Gerald Rickward wrote in 1936 that 'the old sign<sup>1</sup>, which was made from the shoulder bone of a whale, is preserved in the Social History Museum in Trinity Street. It is inscribed 'Old Whalebone - W Malcolm'. William Malcolm is shown in a directory of 1863, therefore making this sign well over 100 years old. The sign's future is unknown since the museum closed in the 1990s and with Trinity Church taking new occupants in the noughties.

A leaflet, recalling the free and easy election methods of the past, during the contest for parliamentary honours on March 1768 reads, 'This Ticket, Intitles the Bearer, a worthy FREE-BURGESS, to ONE SHILLING'S worth of any sort of Liquor, at the house of either of the FREE-BURGESSES following.' This includes the name of Mr John Talbott at the Whale Fishery, amongst a list of over twenty inns and public houses. The property was offered for sale at the King's Head, Colchester, with several other lots, in November 1768. The auctioneer's announcement referred to it as 'a messuage, being a well-accustomed public house, with the apputenances, called the Whale Fishery, on East-hill, in the parish of St James in Colchester, now occupied by Thomas Hunwicks.' Directories of 1793 and 1801 give the tenant as James Boutell, the Whalebone. Francis Malcolm occupied the house from about 1822 until 1848, by which latter date the sign had become the Old Whalebone'.

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

|              |                                                                                                                          |                                  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1792 to 1794 | James Boutell, Victualler                                                                                                | Universal                        |
| 1822 to 1848 | Francis Malcolm                                                                                                          | Pigot's, White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | William Malcolm, Innkeeper, age 34, born Colchester, together with his brother, an aunt and an ostler                    | Census                           |
| 1855 to 1862 | William Malcolm                                                                                                          | Kelly's                          |
| 1867         | Elijah William Byham                                                                                                     | Post Office                      |
| 1870 to 1871 | Roger Henry Chapman                                                                                                      | Kelly's and Post Office          |
| 1874         | William Edward Sallows                                                                                                   | Kelly's                          |
| 1878         | Miss Elizabeth Sarah Sallows                                                                                             | Kelly's                          |
| 1881         | Richard Brazier, Innkeeper, age 53, born Essex together with his wife and their two children                             | Census                           |
| 1882         | Richard Brazier                                                                                                          | Kelly's                          |
| 1886         | John McVicar                                                                                                             | Kelly's                          |
| 1894 to 1895 | James Richardson                                                                                                         | Kelly's                          |
| 1898 to 1902 | Charles Davey                                                                                                            | Kelly's                          |
| 1901         | Chas Davey, Fishmonger & Inn Keeper, age 37, born Colchester, together with his wife, their three children and a boarder | Census                           |
| 1908 to 1917 | William Jeremiah Cockrell                                                                                                | Kelly's                          |
| 1925 to 1933 | Silas E. Taylor                                                                                                          | Kelly's                          |

In the 1980s it became a Chinese takeaway food shop but fell into a poor state of repair, being extensively refurbished in 1995.

Also known as the **Old Whalebone**

It is shown by this name in trade directories of 1832 and 1848 and also on a map dated 1876.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1936

Previously known as the **Bricklayer's Arms**

1781 to c1820

For some reason, which must have made sense at the time, this house was renamed as the Bricklayer's Arms in or around 1781, and stayed as such until around 1820, as it is not shown in a trade directory for 1823 or in later editions.

Previously known as the **Whale Fishery**

1770 to 1780

It is shown by this name in the alehouse recognisances from 1770 to 1780 only.

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**Whale Fishery**

St James

East Hill

see the **Whalebone**

---

**Wheatsheaf - 1**

Barrack Street

c1870 to 1962

a beerhouse

demolished

The name of this house is a common one throughout the country and appears in the coat of arms of the Worshipful Company of Bakers, as well as being one of the devices on the arms of the Brewers' Company. Why it was chosen in this instance is unknown, but it was situated in an area where a large bakery was located and perhaps its landlord was a baker at one time.

The earliest mention of this beerhouse is in the 1871 census when it is shown as the Wheatsheaf Beer House. In residence was a labourer named Wents, but with no mention of the licence holder. It appears in the licensing records of 1907 when it was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company. It was taken over by Ind Coope in 1939, who had it until it was closed in 1962.

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

|              |                                                                                                                  |         |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1890 to 1894 | Henry William Bantick, Beer Retailer & Butcher                                                                   | Kelly's |
| 1891         | Henry William Bantick, Publican, age 56, born London, together with his wife, their eight children and a servant | Census  |
| 1898 to 1906 | William Durrant, Shopkeeper & Beer Retailer                                                                      | Kelly's |

A newspaper recorded the recollections in 1994<sup>1</sup> of Mrs June Channing whose grandfather Albert Symonds had the pub. When Albert died, her grandmother Florence and her father Albert, ran the pub. Her father was nicknamed 'Happy' and she says that he did not wear an eyepatch as was suggested by another article in the paper. The building is now (2012) the site of various shops.

---

**Wheatsheaf - 2**

St Nicholas

117 High Street

1841 to 1962 (map 54)

a public house

now another pub

This is a pub that was not a pub. It was opened in 1841 by James Wicks who had moved from the Bear, a few doors along the High Street. It seems that he was a philanthropist, setting up a humble establishment without the trappings of what one would normally expect of a public house.

The census of 1851 does not mention the Wheatsheaf by name but does show James Wicks, age 50, spirit merchant, at the address. It is shown in the licensing records from 1872 when the owner was given as Wicks and from 1940 the records show that it was owned by Wolton and Attwood. (See the George for photographs that show this premises.)

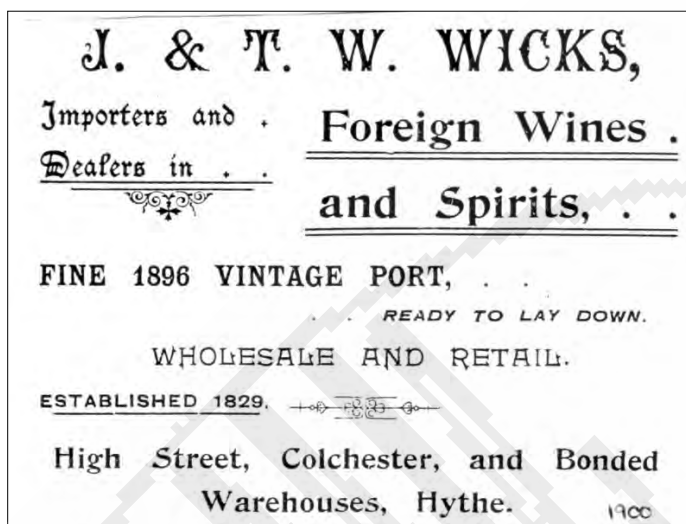
There was a flurry of newspaper articles in 1962, following an announcement that this 'ghost pub' was to close. One said, 'A small brass plate naming the premises as the Wheatsheaf public house, is coming off with the closing of the pub.'

---

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 1<sup>st</sup> Jul 1994, 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul 1994



This was a public house that practically nobody knew about. The premises had been known for a long time by Colcestrians as an off-licence.



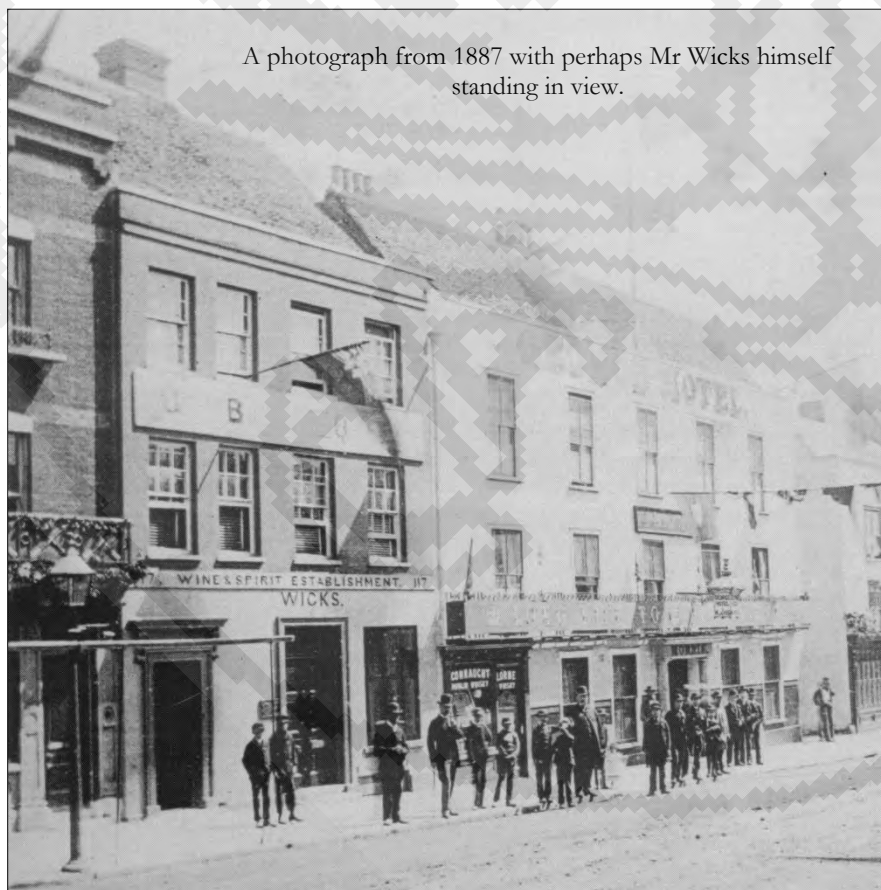
an advertisement from 1900

As far back as the 1880s they were occupied by the Wick's family, who were wine merchants. It was taken over by Wolton and Attwood Ltd in 1942, but was never known as the Wheatsheaf. In fact, a full on-licence had been held all the time and anybody who had asked for a glass of drink would have been entitled to be served. This house is mentioned here as a reference only as it never sold beer, as far as we know.

Gerald Rickword followed on with an article stating that, 'the founder of the firm, Mr James Wicks, a freeman of Ipswich, born in 1800, came to Colchester in 1819 with Robert Skitter of the Golden Lion of Cornhill, on his removal to the Three Cups in Colchester, as his clerk. After ten years service, Wicks took over the Bear. In 1841 he opened business at 117 High Street. He died in 1885 and was succeeded in the business by his son James.'

Indeed, the author has, in his collection, one of Mr Wicks' bottles, perfectly designed to slip into a pocket, flat and unobtrusive and easily refillable at the next visit.

It appears from the licensing records that it was closed upon the surrender of its 6 day licence upon the granting of an off-licence in 1962, to its owners Wolton and Attwood.



A photograph from 1887 with perhaps Mr Wicks himself standing in view.

This prompted a response from 87 year old Mr Stanley Wicks, whose grandfather took over the premises in 1841 and of whom he said, 'he was of a philanthropic disposition and his intention in applying for the full off-licence was to give members of the poorer classes an opportunity to buy small quantities of wine or spirits without having to go into ordinary public houses, which could be rather rowdy in those days.'

It became an off-licence and was later converted into the George Tavern, soon to be changed to the Market Tavern. It never did well and, after being shut up for a couple of years it became an oyster bar, which also failed. In late 2006 it became a soap opera themed bar called Bubbles. One can only wonder at what Mr Wicks might have made of it all.

### White Hart - 1

High Street

16th century to 1818

an ancient inn

demolished

The name of this ancient inn is one of the most popular in the land and would probably have derived from the coat of arms of King Richard II.

The White Hart once stood in the High Street where, what is now known as Bank Passage, passed through it. There is now no evidence of the original building. The earliest reference to the inn was in the town records dating back to 1437, when the inn keeper was fined for depositing dung at the back of the premises, an anti-social activity in the days when sewerage systems, as we take for granted today, were non-existent and had not been used in Colchester since Roman times.

Marian martyrs were examined at the inn in 1557 and a few years later a party of Roman Catholic nuns were detained there whilst letters passed as to their fate. Quakers found refuge here when their meeting place was destroyed at the Mayor's orders.

Records exist which state that, in 1603, the Lyon, the Angel and the White Hart were appointed by parliament to be the only three wine taverns in the town, being ancient inns and taverns. This seems like a strange piece of information, as one would have thought there would have been many more than just three taverns in the town, which had a population of perhaps eight thousand people. It must have had a very long bar!

There have been many references to this ancient inn over the years. Morant spoke of the yards belonging to the inn on the south side of Culver Street and a later newspaper mentioned stabling for 60 horses. A brief note of 1704 said that Thomas Wagstaffe hanged himself at the White Hart. More pleasant memories are of Corporation junketings, as in 1730 when the dinner following the election of Bailiffs served beef, venison pasties, turkeys with oyster sauce, chickens, ducks, a tongue, apple pies, fruit and walnuts - all for a cost of £7 13s 0d.

It is said that Dr Samuel Johnson, the literary critic, essayist, poet and writer of his Dictionary of the English Language, together with his friend and biographer, James Boswell, stayed at the inn in 1763 (they certainly stayed somewhere in Colchester!). 'The Life' simply states that on Friday, August 5th, they set out early in the morning on the Harwich stagecoach and 'stopped a night in Colchester.' Considering the importance of the White Hart, at that time, it is assumed that this is where they stayed. It was during his stay in Colchester that Johnson is said to have commented, 'Some people have a foolish way of not minding, or pretending to mind, what they eat. For my part, I mind my belly very studiously, and very carefully; for I look upon it that, he that does not mind his belly will hardly mind anything else.'



a painting by Dunthorne entitled, 'Card Party at Colchester' c1783

Johnson was what we would call today 'a celebrity', and very fond of the taverns and inns of old England. A few more of his comments, whilst unconnected with Colchester, are worthy of repeating here.

It was whilst he and Boswell were dining at 'an excellent inn', Boswell tells that the doctor, 'expatiated on the felicity in England in its taverns and inns, and triumphed over the French for not having in any perfection the tavern life.' This was also the occasion when the doctor philosophised on the superiority of inns to private houses, where the master is never free from anxiety in the endeavour to please his guests, where no man but a 'very impudent dog indeed' can as freely command what is in another man's house as if it were his own. 'No sir,' said Johnson, 'there is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn.'

The Chelmsford Chronicle of 1765 offered the inn for letting with the description that it was 'a new built elegant large house, makes a great number of beds, with stables for 50 to 60 horses....'

The Victoria County History gives dates for this inn from 1539 to 1705 and stated that the inn had accommodated 156 people for an election dinner in 1579<sup>1</sup>.

The picture above shows a group of ladies and gentlemen of the wealthier class, enjoying themselves in the Assembly Room of the White Hart. Each personality is like a caricature and there must have been a lot of humour associated with the occasion.

In an article by Mr Gerald Rickword, he refers to a Colchester Character by the name of James 'Duke' Hamilton, the coachmaster. He was as familiar a figure as any in the streets of Colchester in the robust days of King George III. He was at one time keeper of the White Hart and was, according to the diary of a long bygone townsman, 'remarkable for his dreadful depravity.' It is said that, when he put up a board outside the house, a farmer was heard to say that there was no end to his blasphemy. The board read 'Hamilton Hot-hell'. He had an imperious air and was nicknamed the Duke, because he claimed that he had family connections with the Abercorn family.

Strutt, a Colchester amateur artist, preserved Hamilton's likeness in two or three of his little known drawings. One, representing the coachmaster with jaunty air, swinging his cane, with beaver cocked at a devil-may-care angle, bears the defiant challenge, 'There, what is the matter with me?'

The inn was a large building with a main hall which, according to a French visitor, Francois de la Rochefoucauld, son of the Duc de Liancourt, who stayed there in 1784, was seventy four feet long by thirty four feet wide. Inevitably, a hall of these dimensions was used as a meeting place by the numerous Colchester societies and as a venue for balls and dinners. This varied patronage helped to augment the never ceasing hustle and bustle of this coaching and posting inn.

An un-named nobleman who visited the inn in January 1785, had good reason to remember his visit. A black leathern trunk containing, among other fallallery, eight shifts marked with A.B. and a coronet, a black Callimanco riding petticoat, and a rose damask nightgown trimmed with sable, was stolen from the back of his travelling carriage. His lordship offered a reward of ten guineas for the recovery of his property, to which the landlord Mr White, for the credit of his house, offered five more.

In the following year 'Christopher Pennywhite, innholder, dealer and chapman,' filed his petition for bankruptcy and during the following months 'all the neat and most elegant Household Furniture,' upwards of 100 ounces of silver, about 800 dozen of fine old red port, and other wines, brandy, rum, shrub, Dorchester and Burton ales, and choice perry came under the hammer, together with '21 very able horses, well known to be staunch travellers,' various vehicles, two good cows, eight hogs, and the unexpired part of the lease.

By 1786, the building had become very run down and a newspaper article stated that, 'a society of gentlemen have agreed to purchase the White Hart Inn for the accommodation of the inhabitants and the public in general.' Early in 1816 the inn closed its doors and in 1819 it was shut up and converted into dwellings, leaving the Cups across the road to take over as the principal inn in the town.

An old rhyme of Colchester's bygone times<sup>2</sup> went:

*My White Hart can beat the Bear,  
can make the Angel fly,  
can turn the Ship with its bottom up,  
and drink the Three Cups dry.'*

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<sup>1</sup> VCH Essex Vol IX P109

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1900

All of these inns, except for the Ship, were in the High Street and suggest a certain rivalry between the hostelrys.

The inn is mentioned in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1810. Trade directories give the victuallers to be William White in 1784, George Smith in 1793 and Joshua Watkins from 1805 to 1807 (Holden's). By 1811, Holden's Directory shows Lay and Gilder. A White Hart Tap is mentioned in the 1792 to 1794 Universal Directory with the licensee being one Henry Ames.

Another newspaper article commented on the extensive rebuilding of Bank Passage in 1961<sup>1</sup> and how it had removed most of the last traces of this ancient inn. It went on to say that parts of the old fabric dated back to the 16th century, although it had been extensively altered in 1756. It said that the earliest reference to the building was in a deed of 1533 when Thomas Bonham of Stanway Hall owned the property. It included, 'one parcel of land and a parcel of moor annexed, containing two acres'. This land would have been where the Culver precinct now stands.

### White Hart - 2

New Hythe

16th century

a tavern

location uncertain

This tavern is mentioned in the Museum Collection with a date of 1527 and a comment of 'feoffment of le Whight Harte.' No more is known about it or its whereabouts.

### White Hart - 3

St Giles

?

1775 to c1791

an alehouse

location uncertain

It is not known where this house stood in St Giles' parish but it is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1790 and in a trade directory of 1791.

### White Hart - 4

St Mary at the Walls

34 Crouch Street

c1824 to 1913 (map 3)

a public house

demolished

This pub was so named around 1824, presumably to take the name of the famous inn that was closed a few years earlier. The various census entries give the following information:

It is shown in the licensing records in 1872 under the ownership of Cobbold who sold to Stopes of the Colchester Brewing Company in 1884. They owned it until it was closed in 1913. It is shown in trade directories throughout the 19th century.

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

|              |                                                                                                                                |                                  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1828 to 1829 | William Duffield                                                                                                               | Pigot's                          |
| 1831         | James Thorrington                                                                                                              | Magistrates Licenses             |
| 1832 to 1833 | James Thorington                                                                                                               | Pigot's                          |
| 1839 to 1848 | James Hawes                                                                                                                    | Pigot's, White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | Isaac Read                                                                                                                     | Post Office                      |
| 1851         | Isaac Read, innkeeper, age 38, born Colchester, together with his wife, their two young children, an ostler and seven visitors | Census                           |
| 1852 to 1862 | Isaac Read                                                                                                                     | Kelly's                          |
| 1861         | Isaac Read, age 46, inn keeper                                                                                                 | Census                           |
| 1867         | William Mills                                                                                                                  | Post Office                      |
| 1870 to 1874 | William Platford                                                                                                               | Kelly's and Post Office          |
| 1871         | William Platford, widower, age 56 and nine lodgers                                                                             | Census                           |
| 1878         | James Watson                                                                                                                   | Kelly's                          |
| 1881         | Ernest C. G. Fitzgerald, Licensed Victualler, age 22, born Fulham, together with his wife, a potman and a lodger               | Census                           |
| 1882         | William Stocks                                                                                                                 | Kelly's                          |
| 1886 to 1899 | William Potter                                                                                                                 | Kelly's                          |
| 1891         | William Potter, age 60, publican and cab proprietor                                                                            | Census                           |

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 1961

|      |                      |          |
|------|----------------------|----------|
| 1901 | Unoccupied           | Census   |
| 1902 | Cator Watson         | Kelly's  |
| 1907 | W. J. Hakins         | Benham's |
| 1908 | William James Hakins | Kelly's  |
| 1912 | Frederick Boddington | Kelly's  |

This pub stood at the east corner of Maldon Road and Crouch Street, almost opposite the King's Arms and was demolished some years ago to make way for new building and road works.

previously the **Sailor and Ball**

pre 1764 to c1824

It is mentioned in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1819 and in trade directories as below. It is known to have changed its name to the White Hart by 1827, when it is shown as such in the trade directories.

|              |          |         |
|--------------|----------|---------|
| 1822 to 1824 | J. Bland | Pigot's |
|--------------|----------|---------|

Previously known as the **Maidenhead**

16th century

The Museum Collection states that this house was originally known as the Maidenhead and indeed, there is a deed dated 1655 which mentions a marriage settlement involving this property. The Victoria County History states that The Maidenhead was on the corner of Crouch Street and Maldon Road, recorded from 1554 until its licence was revoked for disorders in 1698<sup>1</sup>. No more is known of it, nor of when or why it changed its name to the Sailor and Ball.

### White Hart - 5

|       |          |                    |
|-------|----------|--------------------|
| c1776 | a tavern | location uncertain |
|-------|----------|--------------------|

Some deeds of 1776<sup>2</sup> show Miss Fanny Heckeringill as the owner of a property known as the Chequers, since Queen Elizabeth's Head and now the White Hart, then occupied by John Blackwell, but not identical with the famous coaching inn of that name in High Street. Nothing more is known about it.

A trade directory shows this reference but we are unsure as to which house it refers.

|               |                 |           |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1805 to 1807? | Joshua Watkins? | Holden's? |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|

### White Hart - 6

|       |          |                    |
|-------|----------|--------------------|
|       | St James | ?                  |
| c1845 | a tavern | location uncertain |

This premises is shown on a tithe map of St James' parish dated 1845. No more is known about it.

### White Hart Tap

|       |            |            |
|-------|------------|------------|
| c1790 | a tap room | demolished |
|-------|------------|------------|

This tap is shown in trade directories of 1791 and 1793 and would presumably have been situated to the rear of the premises in Culver Street.

<sup>1</sup> VCH, Essex Vol IX p109

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 1934



## White Horse - 1

St James

4 East Street

1780 to 1968 (map 67)

an alehouse

now offices

The name of this alehouse is a common one throughout the country, having a widespread use in heraldry and being the traditional emblem of Kent. A galloping white horse refers heraldically to the House of Hanover, and dates from the accession of George I in 1714.

The earliest mention of it comes from the diary of William Wire who recorded that 'A messuage called the White Horse and two closes of land called Windmill Field and Queens Lands (all in St James) were leased 26th April 1682 for £10 per annum.' It is first shown in the alehouse recognisances in 1780 and runs through to 1819, thence being shown in trade directories throughout the 19th century. In 1872, it was owned by Osborne, who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886.



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

|              |                                                                                                                                                        |                                  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1822 to 1829 | James Shovell                                                                                                                                          | Pigot's                          |
| 1839         | William Scovell                                                                                                                                        | Pigot's                          |
| 1845         | Henry White                                                                                                                                            | Post Office                      |
| 1848 to 1855 | William Church                                                                                                                                         | Kelly's, White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | William Church, innkeeper, age 46, born Little Bromley, together with his wife, their three children and four lodgers                                  | Census                           |
| 1861         | John Sudbury Garrod, inn keeper and carter                                                                                                             | Census                           |
| 1862 to 1871 | John Sudbury Garrod                                                                                                                                    | Kelly's and Post Office          |
| 1871         | John Sudbury Garrad, age 41, inn keeper and dealer                                                                                                     | Census                           |
| 1874         | John Sudbury Garrod, Butcher                                                                                                                           | Kelly's                          |
| 1878         | James Daldry, Pork Butcher                                                                                                                             | Kelly's                          |
| 1881         | James Daldry, Licensed Victualler, age 64, born Ipswich, together with his wife, their son, five grand children, one domestic servant and four lodgers | Census                           |
| 1882         | James Daldry                                                                                                                                           | Kelly's                          |
| 1886         | James Everitt                                                                                                                                          | Kelly's                          |
| 1894 to 1895 | James Archer                                                                                                                                           | Kelly's                          |
| 1898 to 1899 | Robert Nobbs                                                                                                                                           | Kelly's                          |
| 1901         | William Seaborn, Publican, age 28, born Colchester, together with his wife and a boarder                                                               | Census                           |
| 1902         | William Seaborn                                                                                                                                        | Kelly's                          |
| 1907         | R. Godfrey                                                                                                                                             | Benham's                         |

|              |                         |         |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 1908 to 1917 | John Scollard           | Kelly's |
| 1925         | Mrs. Ada Scollard       | Kelly's |
| 1933         | Ernest William Oxenbury | Kelly's |



In June 1941 , the licensee Mrs Mary Charlotte Kathleen Munns, age 60 years, was convicted of receiving 155 lbs of stolen meat and sentenced to six months in prison. In mitigation, she claimed that a German bomb exploding near to her at one time had affected her judgement. The licence was suspended until a new licensee could be found.

The pub passed to Ind Coope in the 1930s, who had it until it closed in 1968. It was rebuilt at some stage, as building plans dated 1904 show it as a large, three storeyed building, quite unlike the present building that stands at the side of the river, where it would once have enjoyed the custom of many a thirsty sailor. Our two pictures show how the building was modified some time before 1965 to give it a new roof. The lower half of the building retained and very similar to how it looks today, albeit not as a public house.

A passing memory came from an elderly gentlemen who enquired of the author what he was taking a photograph of. He could remember when, as a lad, his father who worked at the mill across the road, would send him to the White Horse to fetch a pitcher of beer for the men's refreshment.

It is now used as business premises, with no outward appearance that it was ever a public house.

**White Horse - 2** Culver Street

see the **Cross Keys**

**White Lion** (or Lyon) - 1 St Mary at the Walls ?

17th century a tavern location uncertain

|                       |                  |                    |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>White Lion - 2</b> | St Mary Magdalen | 87 Magdalen Street |
| 1779 to 1913 (map 30) | an alehouse      | demolished         |

The name of this old tavern is normally of heraldic origin, referring to Edward IV, or the Earls of March, or the Duke of Norfolk. We have no idea why it was used in this instance.

Very little is known of this house. Local researcher, Mr David King, discovered a document dated 1681 that mentioned, "One message or tenement with the outhouses, barns, stables and appurtenancies there unto belonging now in the occupation of Buckler Noades, his assigns or assignees called or known by the name of the White Lyon and are situate, lying and being in the parish of St. Marys at the Walls in Colchester."

The Museum Collection has a note which states that it was renamed by Robert Merry in 1700, as the Fleece or the Golden Fleece. There are also deeds in existence which are dated from 1682 to 1700, although it is not sure whether they refer to this particular property. It is therefore left in this section alone, pending further revelation. This alehouse first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1779, when one John Buss was granted a new licence. It is then recorded through to 1819, when the trail is picked up by trade directories. It was owned by Cobbold from at least 1843 as a plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of Messrs Cobbold, in 1843. This can be seen at the Essex Record Office. Cobbold sold it in 1883 to Stopes, then passing to the Colchester Brewing Company, who had it until it closed in 1913.

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

|              |                                                                                                                                        |                         |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1822 to 1824 | David Hudson                                                                                                                           | Pigot's                 |
| 1828 to 1829 | Thomas Marriott                                                                                                                        | Pigot's                 |
| 1832 to 1833 | George Wilson                                                                                                                          | Pigot's                 |
| 1839         | Samuel Howell                                                                                                                          | Pigot's                 |
| 1845         | James Brown & Co., Coal, Rag & Bone Merchant                                                                                           | Post Office             |
| 1848         | James Brown                                                                                                                            | White's                 |
| 1851         | James Brown, ....& Wine & Spirit Merchant                                                                                              | Post Office             |
| 1851         | James Brown, coal merchant, age 34, born Colchester, together with his wife and their two daughters                                    | Census                  |
| 1852 to 1855 | James Brown                                                                                                                            | Kelly's                 |
| 1861         | Edward Mayes, age 21, coal merchant's clerk (no licensee shown)                                                                        | Census                  |
| 1862 to 1871 | James Brown, Wine & Spirit Merchant                                                                                                    | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1871         | Robert Blatch, age 35, merchant's clerk and inn keeper                                                                                 | Census                  |
| 1874         | Robert Blatch, Marine Store Dealer                                                                                                     | Kelly's                 |
| 1878         | Mrs. Eliza Brazier                                                                                                                     | Kelly's                 |
| 1881         | Christopher Johnson, Licensed Victualler & Dealer, age 56, born Colchester, together with his wife, their three sons and seven lodgers | Census                  |
| 1882 to 1886 | Christopher Johnson                                                                                                                    | Kelly's                 |
| 1891         | William Nutts?, age 47, wheelwright?                                                                                                   | Census                  |
| 1902         | Thomas Carter, Beer Retailer & Coach Builder                                                                                           | Kelly's                 |
| 1908         | Arthur William Samuel Raggett                                                                                                          | Kelly's                 |
| 1912         | John Young                                                                                                                             | Kelly's                 |

It was an old gentleman, born in this pub around the 1880s, who produced a list of the Hythe route pubs, giving a copy to a member of the Carter family next door. (Mr Reg Carter still trades from the same premises as a scrap metal merchant, carrying on the business set up by his father, Saunders Carter, in the 1930s.) One of the Carter family let the author have a copy of the list - and which resulted in this book being written. If only we knew this old gentleman's name, it would make the story complete!

The pub was demolished at some time and the site is now occupied by one of those dreadful factory type buildings that helped to make Magdalen Street the eyesore that it became in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Less so now!

The 1901 census gives an interesting reference to a property at 84 Magdalen Street. There, a Thomas Carter, aged 31, was a beer seller and wheelwright, living with his wife and four children and a servant. At the same address was a travelling gypsy in a caravan. Interesting because, the present day (2012) Carter family have Romany family connections. Was this the same premises as the present day Carter scrap metal business?

previously known as the **Fox and Fiddle**

c1760 to 1779

The house by this name appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1778, at which point it seems to have undergone a change of identity.

A newspaper article dated 1774 recorded that, 'whereas several persons made an agreement between themselves to play a game of cricket in the field adjoining Bourne [?] pond between two teams, each member putting 6d in a pool before they started to play. The winning side would draw 3d each and the remainder was to be spent at the Fox and Fiddle that night.'

Of the licence holders, the earliest known is one James Searls who is recorded in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1770. From 1771 to 1772 was shown as Daniel Fordham, followed by Thomas Meakins in 1773. From 1774 until 1778, Edward Boggis was mine host, the records of the following year noting a new licence for one John Buss at the White Lion.

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### **White Lion**

St Nicholas

High Street

This was the previous name of the Red Lion. The change of colour came about as a matter of political expediency.

see the **Red Lion**

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### **White Pig**

North Street

The reason for the naming of this pub is now lost with time. Perhaps the landlord kept just such a beast.

see the **Tramway Tavern**

---

### **White Swan**

High Street

The name of this pub is an expansion on the name of the Swan which are naturally white. The shortened form is the more commonly used.

see the **Swan**

---

### **Wig and Fidget**

Pelham's Lane

c1840

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this old tavern has been much debated as to origin. One explanation is that the landlord wore a wig and was a fidgetty man, hence the naming. The house of the same name in nearby Boxted claims that it was built on the site of a court house (which seems highly unlikely) and that the wig when not in use sat on a fidgett, which was apparently a wooden wig stand. It sounds as if that pub should have carried the name of the 'Old Bull' - a whole pile of it!

Very little is known of this house. It was mentioned in a newspaper article in 1925 where the writer recalled his grandfather as mine host of the Wig and Fidget, which was an ancient inn on the east side of Pelham's Lane. Certainly, many of its customers would have worn wigs, it being near to the commercial centre of the town.

---

### **Wig and Pen**

North Hill

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

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### William IV

Artillery Street

c1870 to 1922 (map 36)

a beerhouse

demolished

The name of this beerhouse appears to have referred to King William IV who reigned from 1830 to 1837. He was known as the Duke of Clarence until his accession and served at sea from 1779 until 1790. He did not enjoy a harmonious marriage with his wife and chose to live with an actress, with whom he had ten children. Why such a monarch should have been honoured with the naming of a pub after him, is a mystery.

The earliest record found is in the 1871 census when George Leggett, age 61, is shown as a dealer and a beer house keeper. The 1901 census does not name the house but it shows a Henry Smith, aged 32, as a publican at 4 Artillery place, together with his wife and seven children. It is shown in building plans of 1905 when it was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company. The licensing records show that it was a beerhouse whose licence was stopped in 1922.

In 1991, Mr Ron Hogg recalled that the pub was run by his uncle Walter Smith, who apparently made so much money out of the place that he stopped the licence around 1927 and ended up living out his days there.

In 1993, Mr Dave Clayton, landlord of the Spinnaker and an all round fine fellow, produced a photograph of a gathering of men outside the pub, perhaps dated 1910. It is shown below. He was able to name George Dunt (an uncle, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Alfred Adams (his grandad 3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Mr Knight (with a chain, 4<sup>th</sup> from left), Tom Dunt (another uncle, 8<sup>th</sup> from left, at the back), Mr Knights, Mr Plummer. Second from the right was the landlord, Mr Smith. The sign on the pub front states 'William the IVth, Old King Coel, Strong Ale.' Another gives the name Smith. There are 24 men pictured, all dressed for a special occasion.



The William IV c1920

The building was knocked down in the 1980s to make way for housing.

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### William Scraggs

North Hill

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

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## Windmill Hotel

Copford

1960s to 1990s

a nightclub

later King's nightclub

Bacchus wrote about this hotel in 1963<sup>1</sup> that it was built around 1843 and was once the residence of Thomas Moy, the coal merchant. Kate Merrick bought the place and named it the Windmill after another of the name in London, with the aim of attracting Londoners. It was a free house which later became a popular nightclub. It was not a pub in the conventional sense and is mentioned here as a reference only, later becoming King's nightclub.

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## Woolpack - 1

St Peters

A woolpack was a large pack or bale of wool made ready for carriage or sale and said to have had a weight of 240 pounds. The name is a reminder of Colchester's important wool trade.

see the **French Horn**

---

## Woolpack - 2

St Giles

St Botolph's Street

1797 to 1968 (map 18)

a hotel

demolished

This house was mentioned in the alehouse recognisances from 1797 to 1819. After that period it is shown regularly in trade directories. An advertisement dated 1848 offered it for sale, together with the Marquis of Granby - the pub not the man himself!



A picture postcard of the Woolpack Hotel on St Botolphs Street. Colchester Brewing Company.  
G H Denman over the door. Bar and Parlour on the right. Sent to Corporal Johnston  
of the Band of the 16th Lancers, Norwich, for Auld Lang Syne,  
by G Harry Denman, June 4th 1911.

In the 18th century the Yarmouth coach ran from this hotel. John Bawtree, who owned the adjacent St Botolph's Brewery, at one time owned this pub. The brewery was bought from Benjamin Cock between 1764 and 1814 and later sold to J P Osborne. A newspaper article concerning a case of drunkenness in 1858 stated the landlord to be Mr P Clark.

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 4<sup>th</sup> Apr 1963

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

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1822 to 1829 | George Noon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Pigot's                 |
| 1832 to 1833 | Peter Leach                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Pigot's                 |
| 1839         | Robert Palmer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Pigot's                 |
| 1845         | Joseph Cousins                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Post Office             |
| 1848         | Henry White                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | White's                 |
| 1851         | James Dowson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Post Office             |
| 1851         | Peter Clark, innkeeper, age 32, born Kirby, together with his wife, their three sons, an ostler, a cook, a lodger and a nursemaid                                                                                                                                                                       | Census                  |
| 1855 to 1862 | Peter Clark                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Kelly's*                |
| 1861         | Peter Clark, Inn Keeper, age 43, born Kirby, together with his wife, their four sons, an ostler, a house servant and a boarder                                                                                                                                                                          | Census                  |
| 1867 to 1871 | William Middleton, Cab Proprietor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Kelly's and Post Office |
| 1871         | William Middleton, Licensed Victualler & Livery Stable Keeper, age 53, born Norfolk, together with his wife, their ostler son, a cook, a housemaid, an ostler and four lodgers. In the adjacent property was one Arthur J Osborne, age 41, unmarried and described as a wine, spirit and beer merchant. | Census                  |
| 1874         | Edward Sadler                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Kelly's                 |
| 1878 to 1882 | Abraham Wright                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Kelly's                 |
| 1881         | Abraham Wright, Hotelkeeper & Postmaster, age 52, born Colchester, together with his wife, their three daughters and two servants                                                                                                                                                                       | Census                  |
| 1886         | Abraham Wright & Son                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Kelly's                 |
| 1894 to 1895 | William Thomas Pitt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Kelly's                 |
| 1898         | William Thomas Pitt, Job Master                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Kelly's                 |
| 1899         | William Thomas Pitt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Kelly's                 |
| 1902 to 1908 | Robert Henry Fisher                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Kelly's                 |
| 1912 to 1917 | George Harry Denman                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Kelly's                 |
| 1925         | Mrs. Theresa Denman                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Kelly's                 |



In 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. It passed into the hands of Ind Coope in the 1930s and was closed by compulsory purchase in 1968 and demolished, to make way for the building of St Botolph's roundabout.

This photograph shows the pub as it was in the 1960s, the signage on the outside recording the ownership by the Colchester Brewing Company and below that a date of 1750, which does not agree with the information given in the licensing records. The frontage was of brick, although its great age is evidenced by the roof.

The rear cover of this book shows a picture painted around the year 1783, with a view of an ancient timber framed house, believed to be the Woolpack at an earlier date.

It shows the sun streaming down over its roof, casting a shadow over what would have been Plough Corner, the inn on the opposite corner. A gentlewoman can be seen with her parasol.

This building was presumably demolished, or perhaps simply converted, to produce the brickbuilt building that was to survive until 1968.



*On the chest of a barmaid in Sale  
Were tattooed the prices of ale,  
And on her behind,  
For the sake of the blind,  
Was the same information in Braille.*

## Yorkshire Grey

St Botolph

100 Magdalen Street

1790 to c1870 (map 32)

a tavern

demolished

The name of this tavern presumably comes from the name of a type of horse. Perhaps the owner was from Yorkshire or once worked in a mine with horses of this type. However, around the mid 18th century, Yorkshire Grey is known to have been a local name for a type of material used for garments for the poor of the parish, but it is doubtful whether this would have been a fitting subject for the naming of a tavern.

A dastardly murder was committed upon the landlord of this house in 1827. Thomas Patrick was landlord of the Yorkshire Grey and also a Parish Commissioner. In this latter capacity, he had the responsibility of selling the possessions of a parishioner who had recently died and had been receiving parish relief. The sale was held at the public house, but an argument ensued between a woman who had bought a coat and a Reuben Martin, who had been drinking there. By all accounts this man Martin was a powerfully built man and not averse to troublemaking. The police were called, but by the time they had arrived, Martin had armed himself with a sizeable piece of wood and, somewhere between the Yorkshire Grey and the Red Cross, had struck Thomas Patrick full in the face, causing such an injury as to kill him outright. The act was witnessed and Martin was duly tried and executed. Of Thomas Patrick, it was said that he was 'a very civil man' and 'a much respected man.'

This tavern first appears in licensing records in 1790. Thomas Patrick is shown in trade directories until his murder in 1827, whereupon his widow Elizabeth took over. The 1851 census gave one James Ward, age 26, as the innkeeper and showed that it was situated between the Colchester Arms and Wimpole Road. By 1861 it was in the occupation of Charles Johnson, age 27, an inn keeper, although by 1871, he was still there but described as a fish merchant. The licensing magistrates, in 1869<sup>1</sup>, were asked to grant a beer certificate for the house whereupon a statement was made to the effect that it was a resort of thieves, prostitutes and bad characters. Two policemen testified as to what they had seen going on and the certificate was refused. It was refused again in 1870.

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

|              |                   |                         |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1822 to 1829 | Thomas Patrick    | Pigot's                 |
| 1832 to 1833 | Elizabeth Patrick | Pigot's                 |
| 1839         | Samuel Branson    | Pigot's                 |
| 1845 to 1848 | John Vale         | White's and Post Office |
| 1851         | James Ward        | Post Office             |

The building was later demolished although the shape of its two storeyed 17th century building roof was still (in 1999) visible on the wall of the adjacent building, which would have been built against the earlier house.

*Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk.  
That will teach you to keep your mouth shut.*

Ernest Hemingway

<sup>1</sup>Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1869





*A local man, an Irishman, and a Scot go out to a pub and order 3 pints.  
They each find a fly floating on the top of their mugs.  
The local says, 'Bartender, can I have a spoon?' and quietly removes the fly from his brew.  
The Irishman says, 'Get out of there!' and flicks the fly away with a finger.  
The Scot picks up the fly with his fingers and says, 'Alright ya wee b-----d. Spit it out. Now!'*

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## Zac's

North Hill

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

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A suggestion was made that this book could do with a

## GRUMPY BUGGER CORNER

We couldn't think of any suitable candidates so, instead, we thought we would include a picture of a previous long serving Colchester publican, Mr Brian Jerome, loved by many for his dedication to his customers and his charitable work for the community, whilst landlord of the Stockwell Arms. Brian retired from the pub in April 2007 having been its landlord for 27 years. In that time, he and his wife Shirley had raised around £50,000 for charities, much from spare change put in giant whisky bottles placed on the bar, but also from the many sponsored walks that he undertook. During one expedition, he walked almost 300 miles and truded up 14 mountains in 11 days. His fundraising won him the Colchester Gazette's 'Man of the Year' award in 1997<sup>1</sup>.

This photograph shows Brian behind the bar in April 2006. This is what a pub's bar looks like when the incumbent has been there over many years. (See also the Abbey Arms for a similar picture of John Kemp.) Enjoy your retirement Brian! You were an 'institution' and an impossible act to follow.



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<sup>1</sup> CG – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr 2007

## Mystery (or unidentified) Pubs

The following directory lists several licensees but without addresses. To which houses do they refer?

### 1792 Universal Directory

Joseph Baines, victualler, Swan  
 Thomas Barnes, victualler, Swan  
 James Brooker, victualler, Rose  
 John Brown, sen, victualler, Lion  
 John Cock, victualler, Sun  
 William Everitt, Cross  
 John Finch, victualler, Anchor  
 John Sadler, victualler, Sun  
 Widow Thorpe, victualler, Rose  
 Jams Ward, victualler, Sun  
 William Willes, victualler, Ship

The following references have been found in various census years. They probably refer to beerhouses or 'off' licensed houses but, as they do not name the house, we cannot be sure to which they refer. The 'y' or 'n' in the 1841 census indicates whether the person was born in Essex, yes or no.

### 1841 (no houses are named)

#### All Saints

|              |                                                           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| High Street, | Robert Keymer, 60, innkeeper, y                           |
|              | Benjamin Turpin, 45, innkeeper, y (next to Culver Street) |

#### St Botolph

|                    |                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Queen Street,      | Mary Ann Dawson, 51, innkeeper, y |
| St Botolph Street, | George Strait, 42, innkeeper, y   |
|                    | John Long, 64, innkeeper, n       |
|                    | Michael Callaby, 25, innkeeper, n |
| Wyre Street,       | John Overall, 50, innkeeper, y    |
| Black Boy Lane,    | Hannah Bailey, 55, publican, y    |
|                    | James Mark, 40, innkeeper, n      |
| Barrack Street,    | John Marriot, 45, publican, y     |

### 1851

#### St Botolph

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Magdalen Street, | Elizabeth Long, widow, 66, innkeeper |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|

### 1861

#### Mile End

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Ipswich Road, | John Walford, age 53, publican |
|---------------|--------------------------------|

#### St Peter

|               |                                                  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| North Street, | James Ely, age 40, publican                      |
| North Hill,   | Thomas Chaplin, age 27, carpenter and inn keeper |

#### St Runwald

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Angel Lane, | Abraham Golding, age 30, inn keeper |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|

### 1871

#### Mile End

|            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mill Road, | John Smith, 73, beer house keeper |
|------------|-----------------------------------|

#### St Mary Magdalen

|                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Artillery Street, | William Brooks, 50 innkeeper |
|-------------------|------------------------------|

#### St Peter

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Middleborough, | Charles Cater, 62, beer house keeper |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|

#### St James

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| East St, | Digby? J Hook, 22 innkeeper |
|----------|-----------------------------|



### St Nicholas

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 13 Maidenburgh St, | Robert Lampon, 27, publican           |
| 26 Maidenburgh St, | George Cramer, 37, innkeeper, germany |
| 28 Maidenburgh St, | Mary Collins, 52, innkeeper's wife    |

### St Botolph

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Magdalen Street, | Harriet Lawrance, w, 46, innkeeper |
|------------------|------------------------------------|

### 1881

|                |                                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 80 Hythe Quay, | Mary Ann Booth, w, age 46, innkeeper        |
| 68 Hythe Quay, | Thomas Tucker, age 49, innkeeper and carman |
| 60 Hythe Hill  |                                             |
| 61 Hythe Quay  |                                             |

### 1891

#### St Nicholas

|                    |                                                       |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 21 Maidenburgh St, | George Cramer, 57, beerhouse and lodging house keeper |
| 23 Maidenburgh St, | George Thos Collins, 48, beer house keeper            |

#### St James

|                 |                                         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 4 Artillery St, | William Godfrey, 31, publican           |
| 51 East St,     | James Woolnough?, 46, publican          |
| 59 East Street, | William Attaway, 39, beer house keeper  |
| 8 Harwich Road, | Robert Bedwell, 54, licensed victualler |

#### St Giles

|                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| St John's Green, | George Sergeant, age 52, publican |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|

### 1901

#### St Botolph

|                  |                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 23 Mersea Rd,    | George A Lee, licensed victualler          |
| 34 Mersea Rd,    | Martha KL Raven, licensed victualler       |
| Porter Stores,   |                                            |
| 3 Short Wyre St, | Frederick W Thompson, 39, beerhouse keeper |
| 198 Magdalen St, | William James, 51, licensed victualler     |
| 84 Barrack St,   | George Langley, 33, licensed victualler    |
| 16 Magdalen St,  | John Bloomfield, 25, publican              |
| 22 Military Rd,  | William Clough?, 43, licensed victualler   |

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## Not a Pub – More like a Bar!

There are many bars in the town which are used like pubs, but are not pubs. They are Wine Bars, or Café Bars or Bar Cafés and they do sell beer as well as wine, as do pubs. At the time of writing this, Colchester is inundated by licensed premises, especially in the town centre. They come and go on a regular basis and name changes are the norm. It is impossible to keep up with it all so, as they aren't really 'pubs' in the original sense of the word, we offer limited information about them, mainly concerning their frequent change of name and because some people might confuse them for pubs. Several new bars have opened up over recent years but we have no interest in recording them. We must leave others to write the history of such premises as: the Ha-Ha Bar, Bubbles, the Noodle Bar, Cube, etc.

### The Wine Bar

Wine bars started to appear in the 1970s. Perhaps this was due to a perceived desire for a classier establishment to drink in, away from the 'rough and ready' types who used public houses, together with the dart boards, the pool tables and the smoke laden atmosphere. These were places where women were more likely to be able to go; without fear of unwanted attention from some males of the species who might be in the habit of thinking that any unaccompanied women were there to be 'chatted-up'.

During the next few years, a bit of a 'them and us' attitude developed, a demonstration of this coming from a couple of newspaper items in 1991, when an application was made to the licensing authorities for an 'upmarket' cocktail bar in Crouch Street. To support the application, it was claimed that the new premises would be an asset to an area where most pubs served 'the lager, T-shirt and jeans brigade.' Mr Ed Munn, one time landlord of the Tap and Spile, was

incensed at this and wrote a letter to a local newspaper to complain. To quote, he said that, 'I very much doubt if his high standards of dress will last long and wish Mr ..... well in his enterprise. However, I do take exception to the denigratory tone of his application to the justices, giving as it does the impression that most Crouch Street pubs (there are only three) are a haven for slovenly lager louts. Speaking for my own house, yes we sell lager, but we also have a range of ales which far outsell the lager. Yes, many of my customers wear T-shirts and jeans. After a day of suit and tie, who wouldn't? In conclusion, may I remind Mr ..... that some of the nastiest criminals of recent times have been impeccably dressed and advise him to stick to promoting his business without maligning others.' The new premises got its licence and went on to enjoy the patronage of a good level of well dressed 'classy' customers.

Many pub landlords in the town went on to express grave concerns about the borough council's approval of new wine bars in the town, which had, in their opinions, made an indelible impact on, what they saw as, 'their' trade. They seemed to have missed the point that, by their very success, wine bars provided something that the town's pubs were failing to do. The evolution of the wine bar in Colchester has arguably brought them (in 2012) to a position where they are simply known as bars; some with little of difference to a public house, others owned by large chains, ie. Yates, Slug and Lettuce, or Ha Ha bars. The main difference is that these bars are located in the town centre, whereas our good old fashioned pubs are more spread out, serving the local community, rather than folk who come into town to drink.

Many bars offer an excellent food menu, making them a good choice for a night out. In general, they cater for the young, the professional, usually sophisticated and well dressed customer. As the author is none of the aforementioned, nor cares to drink beer from a bottle without a glass (which became the norm at such establishments), he has neither spent much time in these bars, or none at all, nor knows much about them.

Strangely, most of the town's bars seem to have changed their proprietors and their names like it was going out of fashion. 'Big business' has taken many of them over and franchises set up. The latest trend is to describe themselves as 'café bars' or plain and simple 'bars', rather than wine bars. From this, it is concluded that the earlier entrepreneurial licensees 'burned out' with all the energy that they had to put into the business and, unable to keep up the pace, moved on to other enterprises. It is therefore further concluded that running a successful wine bar cannot be an easy thing to do.

This section is included for reference purposes only. We have used our judgement as to whether they fit our criteria of a pub style bar so, many of the modern day establishments do not appear for that reason.

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### Bar 45

45 North Hill

See **Twisters Café Bar**

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### Brahms and Liszt

7 Queen Street

See **Tin Pan Alley**

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### Carrick's

Middleborough

see **Trotter's**

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### Cavalier's

Vineyard Street

see **Greenland's**

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### The Cellar

33 Crouch Street

1992 to ?

a wine bar

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### Champagne Charlie's

High Street

see **V Bar**

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## Chicago Rock Café

Queen Street

see **TP's Sports Bar**

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## Churchill's Café Bar

4 St Botolph's Street

see **Spoofers**

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## Colne Lodge

Crouch Street

1980 to 1984

a wine bar

now private housing

This wine bar opened in a blaze of publicity, being one of the first of its type in the town. However, the standard of its clientele brought about a bad reputation with many problems arising with the police and neighbours. A fire put paid to this wine bar (which many at the time thought was the best thing for it!). It was repaired and is now used for private housing.

Previously known as the **Colchester Wine Lodge**

1972 to 1980

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## Deals

The sign of this bar showed two hands being shook, presumably after the deal had been struck.

see **Trotter's**

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## The Duchess

2011 to date

Under new ownership, it was decided to change the image of this bar completely. No longer was it to be a place for rowdy customers, Sky television, anti-social behaviour, etc. Time alone will tell how it fares.

previously known as the **Wig and Pen**

1997 to 2011

This bar was one of the busiest in the town centre, being converted from the shop that was known as Cullingfords. A one time owner pointed out that, before the great fire of 1848, that decimated so many of the buildings in that immediate area, the site was occupied by an ancient tavern, the name of which is unknown. Owned by Greene King it developed a reputation as a rowdy place, much responsible for the appalling night time antisocial behaviour in the town centre.

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## Fashion Café Bar

2 St Botolph's Street

1998 to date

a wine bar

This bar was owned by Mr Adnan Adomodlu, who also owned Adnan's Jazz Bar. Popular with young people.

previously known as **Palms**

1990 to 1998

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## Frog and Bean

see **Twisters Café Bar**

### Greenland's

Vineyard Street

1995 to 2014

a vodka bar

The name of this wine bar is simply taken from that of its owner, Mr Peter Greenland, who proudly claimed at its opening that this was the only Vodka Bar outside of London.

In its early days, the trend seemed to be for customers to come in for a special cocktail of several measures of different spirits, mixed with fruit juice or similar flavourings, a colourful umbrella and swizzel stick, a quick down the hatch and then off elsewhere. The aim seemed to be to get tight quickly or, to use the term of the time, to 'pre-load'.

This latest naming follows several others that have traded from this address.

previously known as **Jackpots**

previously known as the **Colchester Bar**

previously known as **Cromwells**

previously known as **Cavalier**

previously known as the **Vintage Wine Bar**

previously known as **Mossy's Bar**

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### Ivory's

see **Twisters Café Bar**

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### Maximillian's

East Hill

see **Rumpole's**

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### Mossy's Bar

Vineyard Street

The name of this wine bar was the surname of the owner, Mr Moss, who opened it in the 1980s. A popular lad with the ladies as the author recalls, and a keen spoofer, but no doubt succumbing to matrimony and losing much custom as a result!

see **Greenland's**

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### Muswell's

Queen Street

see **Silk Road**

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### Palms

St Botolph's Street

see **Fashion Bar**

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### Piccolo Padre

Hythe

1984 to 1994

a wine bar

closed

This wine bar was once an ale and porter store and is clearly shown as such on a map of 1876.

When it first opened, it had what appeared to be a strange sort of licence. It was very popular with young people and was an excellent venue for live bands. However, the licence prevented the bar from being used in the conventional sense in that drinks could not be bought over the bar. If a customer wished to buy a drink then he or she either had to order from a wandering barman or lady or to have the drink placed, not on the bar, but on a table next to the bar. It seemed farcical at the time but the licensee had to abide by the ruling of the authorities or lose his licence.

It later became a bit of a rough house with fights breaking out on a regular basis, and later took to making a charge for entrance. It closed its doors in 1994, to open again, much later, as the **Millennium** pub. It burned down a few years later as one of a series of arson attacks at the Hythe.

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### Roberto's

Crouch Street

1991 to 2014

a café wine bar

name changed

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### Rumpole's

East Hill

1994 to 1997

a wine bar

now a restaurant

The name of this wine bar and restaurant came from the popular 1980s television series starring actor Leo McKern as 'Rumpole of the Bailey,' based on the book about a crotchety old barrister, written by John Mortimer.

A newspaper article stated that this restaurant and bar used to be a bakery. The building dates from the 16th century and is described as late 16th century with two storeys and attics and gabled dormers, tiled roof and cellars. Timber framed, plastered and painted over applied timbers, the upper storeys are set on the original hook brackets and overhang the north front. Records show that until 1882 it was a private house and from that date until being extensively restored, it was a bakery.

It opened in August 1994, having previously been known as the Hill Street Blues, and before that Maximillian's.

previously known as **Hill Street Blues**

closed in 1994

previously known as **Maximillian's**

closed in 1993

The name of this bar cum restaurant was taken from Maximillian, nephew to Napoleon III. Why Maximillian's? Quite simply, because the name means un-equalled.

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### Silk Road

St Botolph's Street

2005? to date

a bar

This bar appears to have an eastern theme. An attempt was made by the authorities to have it closed down in 2014, but this was thwarted by the owner, who promised that he would stop all the trouble that his premises was causing. This case alone gives an insight into just how businesses run the licensing in Colchester now. A century ago, it and many others like it, would have been closed down without appeal. History will judge this generation of lily-livered politicians for allowing our society to be dragged down to gutter level, the streets now ruled by thugs and drug dealers.

previously known as **Spoofers**

1997 to 2005?

previously known as **Churchill's Bar**

1991 to 1997

a café bar

previously known as **Muswell's**

1985 to 1991

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### Smith's

2 Church Street

1992 to date                                      a wine bar

The name of this wine bar was to be Jester's, but as another business in the town used that name, a good English name like Brown's was suggested. And so, the name Smith's was settled upon.

The premises is owned by Mr Melvin Paul Wallis who, together with Mr Len Smith, is the licensee. It operates as a freehouse. It enjoys a lively custom being popular with the younger set and offers a range of drinks including guest beers, a juke box, live entertainment on occasion, an extensive bar food menu, daily newspapers for the edification of its clientele and, for warm days, a licensed pavement! This is one of the success stories for Colchester.

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### Spoofers

St Botolph's Street

see the **Silk Road**

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### TP's Sports Bar

Queen Street

2005? to 2013

This premises passed back into the hands of Colchester Borough and, in 2015, was destined to become a creative business centre. It's final months in business as one of the worst of bars on Kebab Alley, as Queen Street was then known, was punctuated by a drive-by shooting that peppered the brickwork<sup>1</sup> in various places and now a point of interest for visitors who regularly comment about Colchester town centre's disgusting nightlife.

previously known as **Chicago Rock Café**

1994 to 2005?                                      a café bar                                      became TP's Sport

The name of this café bar refers to the 1950s American style image that it portrays. The building that it took over was the old police station, which was a source of mirth to many an ex-Colchester hooligan at the time of its opening, as they claimed they had spent the night there on many occasions - in the detention cells! Of course, these previous incumbents are all fine upstanding pillars of society today, having learned the error of their ways.

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### Times Café and Bar

North Hill

1994 to 2005?                                      a café bar                                      Became a food outlet

This café bar opened in May 1994. It became a noodle bar.

previously known as the **Wig and Pen**

1985 to 1994

It was set up as Scraggs in the mid 1970s, as a restaurant specialising in fish dishes, by John Thorogood. The catering group Lasts later took it over and then in 1985, John Acton and Steve Jary bought it and renamed it as the Wig and Pen, because of the large number of lawyer's offices nearby. (Yes, there were two Wig and Pens.)

previously known as **William Scraggs**

1976 to 1985

The name of this wine bar and restaurant came from Mr William Scraggs who appears to have resided there around 200 years ago and who was a fish merchant. He appears however to have fallen upon hard times and had to sell the place to satisfy his creditors.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 2013

## Tin Pan Alley

2011 to 2014

This bar was opened in 2010 to give its customers a 'tin pan alley' style of music.

previously know as the **What?**

previously known as **Brahms and Liszt**

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## Trotter's

1995 to date

previously known as **Carrick's**

1992 to 1995

This wine bar took its name from its owner Martyn Carrick.

previously known as **Deals**

previously known as **Trotter's**

The building used to be a barber's shop which was originally opened in 1935 and eventually closed with the retiring of the barber in 1977. The author can well remember the barber shop where men with already short hair would enter and then come out with even shorter hair and 'something for the weekend' tucked in their pocket.

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## Twisters Café Bar

45 North Hill

1998 to date

This bar was opened under this name in November 1998, having enjoyed several names over the past few years. It claims to have originally been the first premises in Colchester to apply for a wine bar licence, having first traded as such around 1980 when it was opened up as the Frog and Bean.

previously known as **Bar 45** (or was it **45 Bar**?)

1995 to early 1998

The name of this bar came from the fact that its postal address is No. 45 North Hill.

previously known as **Zac's**

previously known as **Ivory's**

The name of this wine bar went with the theme of the black and white ivory keys of a piano, giving a 1930s jazz and blues music mood.

previously known as **Waikiki**

This bar took the theme of a beach bar.

previously known as **Frog and Bean**

This wine bar took its name from the two licensees. The Frog was a Frenchman by the name of Mr Mike Deckers. The Bean also referred to the other owner in some way but cannot now be recalled.

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## V Bar

High Street

2005? to date a bar

previously known as **Champagne Charlie's**

1992 to 2005? a wine bar

Champagne Charlie was an old music hall personality, whose name has been taken by this wine bar. The old timber framed building housed a popular bar and restaurant, mainly used by young people.

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## Waffles

24 East Street

1985 to 2011 a wine bar no longer in business

The name of this wine bar originally came about when the American waffle, a type of perforated cake served with various toppings, was introduced to this country in the 1980s. The craze seems to have died but the name has stuck.

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## Waikiki

see **Twisters Café Bar**

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## Wig and Pen - 1

see **Times**

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## Wig and Pen - 2

High Street

see the **Duchess**

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## William Scragg's

North Hill

see the **Times**

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## Yate's Wine Lodge

Head Street

1996 to date

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## Zac's

North Hill

see **Twisters Café Bar**

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He was a wise man who invented beer.

Plato