

COLCHESTER RECALLED

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Welcome to issue No.29 of
COLCHESTER RECALLED.

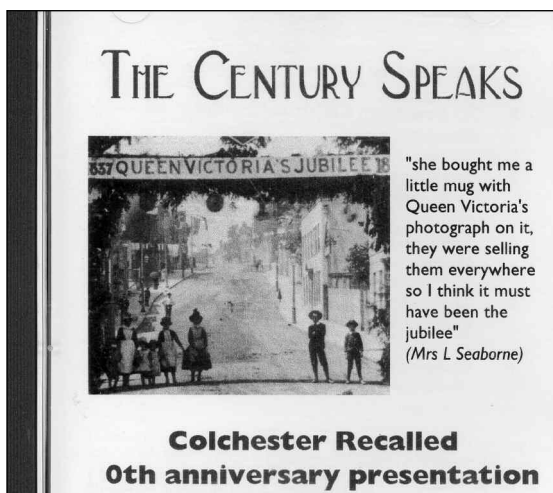
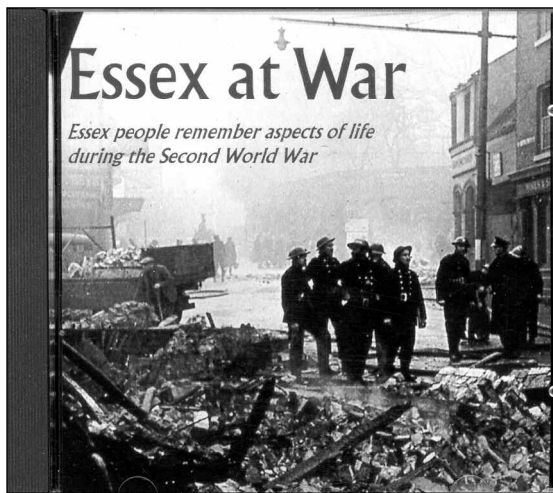
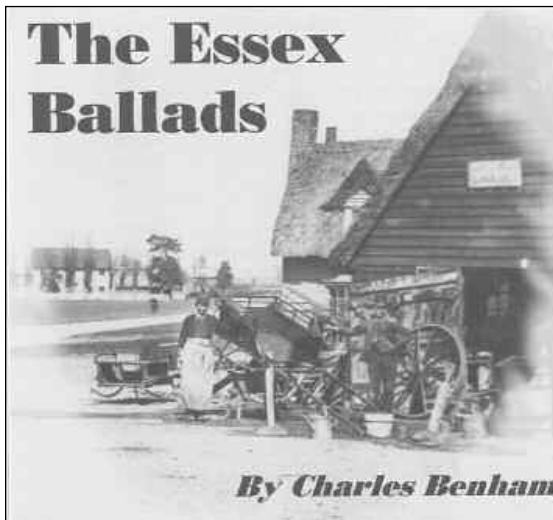
Again, as you can see above,
we have another good selection
of articles and hope that you
will enjoy reading them.

We are always delighted to
receive your articles, letters
and photographs. These should
be sent to Jim Robinson,
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OLD KING COEL IN 1938 SERVING OYSTERS



Three of our most popular CDs on sale at a cost of £10 each. Please contact our Hon Treasurer, Peter Evans, Tel. 540990 for further details.

Readers will remember that in Issue No. 28 James Watt was trying to contact Jean Wheeler, a friend of very long standing. Happily, Jean has been in contact, enabling us to put them both in touch once more. Jean wrote to us and her letter is reproduced on page 16, which we think many readers will find interesting, as it mentions several items featured in issue No. 28.

This edition includes an article from Mr William Jolliffe - a new contributor - and features his family ties and their lives over the last one hundred years. Many readers will have fond memories of his father Bill, who not only was the garrison tailor but also ran his business in Mersea Road and later in Crouch Street. Enjoy!



You are most welcome to join us.

The Annual Subscription is £7 per person or £12 for a couple.

Please see inside back cover for details of our activities.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Please look out for issue No.30 due for publication in 2016. Letters should be addressed to

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON MERSEA ROAD

My family arrived on Mersea Road, Colchester in 1913. Harry Cook, my grandfather, his two brothers Albert and George and their young sister Annie. They came from Halstead, part of the Cook beer brewing family. My grandfather moved into Brewery House, Mersea Road, just up the hill opposite the Norman wall, where the petrol station is now.

They had been there only 15 months when the First World War broke out in August 1914. my grandfather Harry and great uncle George were called up for Army duty. They did not have far to go to enlist - just round the corner to Artillery Camp. On enlisting all the men arrived in their best suits and stiff collared white shirts.

The business of brewing continued during the War, with great uncle Albert, and great Aunt Annie, who not only helping with the brewing, but looked after the office as well. The business survived and in 1917 both grandfather Harry and great uncle George returned home from duty.

Harry had been sent to the Middle East - Mesopotamia - now Iraq while George was in France, but unfortunately was gassed and died because of it in 1924. On Boxing Day 1925 my mother Marie was born and her sister Babs was born in 1928.

The brewing business continued, with deliveries being made by a very faithful horse and an old hard wheeled cart. In the late twenties a



Grandfather William Jolliffe 1920

Morris commercial van was acquired. Due to the business doing well, in 1935 grandfather bought a large piece of land further up Mersea Road opposite the cemetery and had a house built and called it Edmund House.

Also in 1935 my other grandfather, William Jolliffe, a military tailor arrived from the Isle of Wight, with his wife Mabel and 13 year old son Bill, who was to become my father. They moved in to 246 Mersea Road, opposite Middlewick Rifle Range. They had been there only a month when twin girls - Natalie and Primrose were born. Sadly Primrose passed away aged 10 months and her little grave is just opposite our house and I attend to it regularly. In 1946 grandfather William Jolliffe moved to 229 Mersea Road, a house called *Greenlands* with a two acre garden.

My mother used to cycle to

school and so did my father Bill. A friendship blossomed and in 1947 they fell in love and were married in St Botolph's Church in 1951. They immediately moved into grandfather William's military tailors shop at 3a Mersea Road and lived in the flat above. This is where I was born in 1953. Of course, that part of Mersea Road is no more as it forms part of the St Botolph's roundabout. Also now no longer there are the Empire Cinema, known as 'the Flea Pit', Mr Watts sweet shop, and Spendlove's health shop.

In 1958 my father, mother and I moved to grandfather Harry Cook's large garden where my father had his house built - 125 Mersea Road. I was five years old at the time and have lived there ever since, helping both my grandfather and father growing flowers, fruit and vegetables in the gardens. I attended St George's School in Canterbury Road, walking to and from home in the morning, lunchtime and at the end of the school day, with my pals Stephen and Peter. We would play in Bourne Wood, swinging on an old rope, climb trees, gather chestnuts and in the winter of 1963 play on the frozen Bourne Pond. I loved that school, my favourite teacher being Stanley Peck, a gardener to his finger tips.

Of course, Mersea Road has changed a lot since 1913. Brewery House has gone, along with it grandfather Harry's and grandfather William's houses, along with their large gardens.

At least mine is still in existence and will remain so while I am still alive. I am the only remaining member of both families left now. I suppose my next move will be back to Halstead where my burial plot is reserved for me, there with many, many Cook ancestors. So history will be repeated, but in reverse, grandfather Halstead to Colchester, grandson Colchester to Halstead.

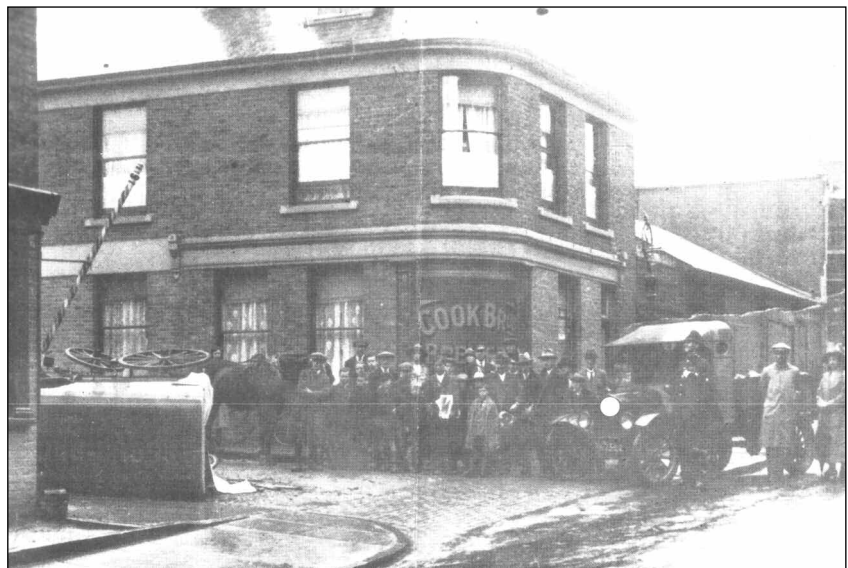
There is no doubt, it was quite a century for both the Cook and Jolliffe families on Mersea Road.

William Jolliffe

RIGHT: *The Empire Cinema when showing 'The Flag Lieutenant', in 1932, with the staff dressed up accordingly. The cinema closed in 1959 having opened in 1911 as 'The Vaudeville'.*



CENTRE RIGHT: *This picture is taken from the 'Evening Gazette' featuring a photograph supplied by Mr Charles Brooker, of 58 Queen Elizabeth Way, whose bakery cart was involved in an accident with an old Ford van in 1926, on the corner of Mersea Road and Cromwell Road, with Cooks Brewery in the background.*



LEFT: *Cooks delivery van, a Morris commercial, purchased in 1928, shown driving from St Botolph's Church Lane in St Botolph's Street. Note the exhaust fumes! Also the few other vehicles and pedestrians there were in those days. This picture is supplied by William Jolliffe's cousin, Clive Cook, who is still a resident in Halstead.*

COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY - How it all Began

An advertisement appeared in the *Essex County Standard* in early January 1925, announcing a meeting on Tuesday 27th January at the Town Hall to consider the formation of an amateur Operatic Society for Colchester.

The following week the newspaper reported the decision of the meeting and thus the Colchester Operatic Society came into being.

'With view to forming an Operatic Society in Colchester there was a meeting in the Grand Jury Room of the Town Hall on Tuesday last. The Mayor (Dame Catherine Hunt) presiding over a good attendance of music lovers in Colchester and the district'.

The Secretary of the Proposition, Mr W W Townsend, intimated that several of the prime movers in the origination of the Society were not present, but many had shown their sympathy in a practical manner by offering to act as guarantors. The amount already guaranteed was £41, including £3 from the Mayor. The chief difficulty with an operatic society in Colchester was that they could not get a suitable hall. The cost of producing an opera at the Hippodrome was £250.

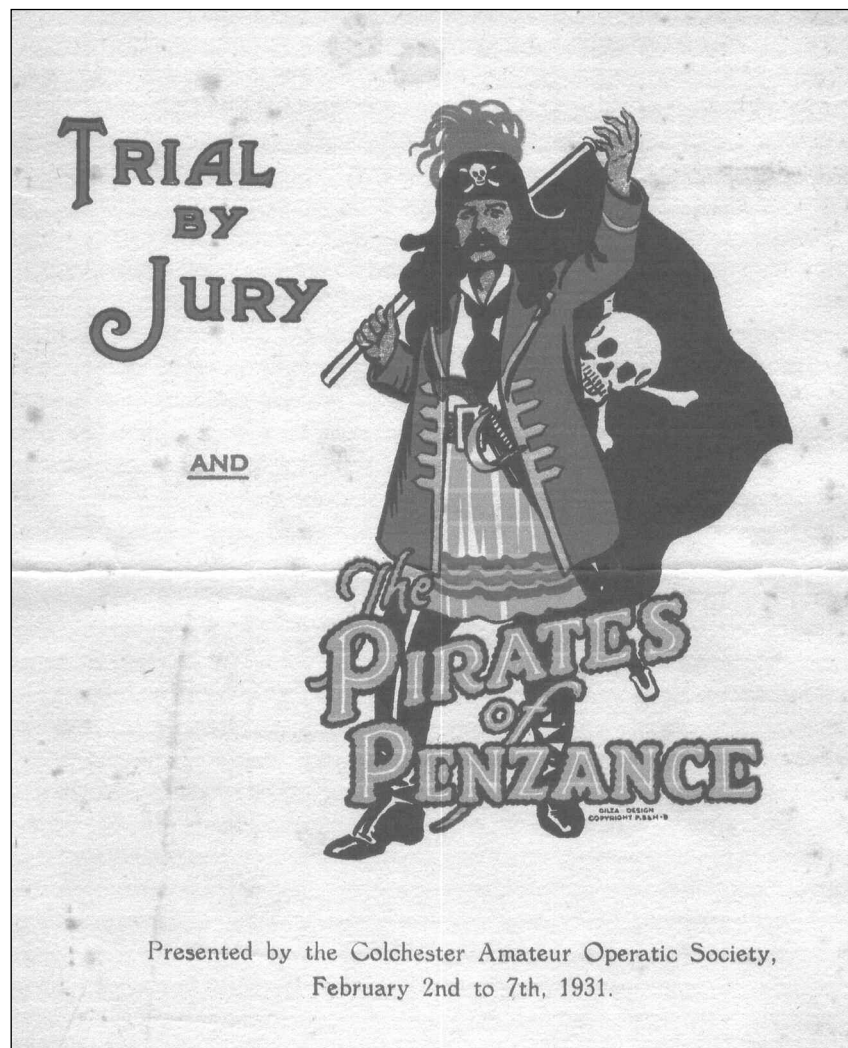
Mrs Townsend added, with reference to the Colchester Musical Society that it would be the last wish of the Operatic Society to take away any of their members: there was room for an Operatic Society in

addition to that.

The Mayor said that for a long time Colchester had looked for an Operatic Society. The Musical Society had been doing good work, most diligently. Colchester also had a Stag Society, but it did want something more in the way of a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan operas which were so popular and which, she was glad to say, had again captured London. The mayor wished the project every success, and said she would give it her support,

although she would be quiescent. They wanted members both quiescent and active. She concluded by remarking that they had great talent in Colchester, and it was a pity that it should not be drawn out. They were starting what might be a great help to the entertainment side of Colchester. (*Hear, hear and applause*).

Councillor Arthur Piper stated that they had a great deal of help from Colchester Players in being, in a measure,



The front cover of the programme for the two operas in 1931

the instigators in making the meeting possible. Urging the people of Colchester to support the scheme, he remarked that several small towns in the district, such as halstead and Witham, had given excellent productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. The popularity of these works today was as great as or even greater than when they were first produced. Cllr Piper spoke of his enthusiasm attached to the production of an opera and said that after it was over one felt that something had gone which one did not want to lose. He read an article on producing an opera, where it stated that a single performance would cost £100. It could be done in Colchester and the guarantors would not, he felt sure, called upon to forfeit the guarantees; as an Operatic Society for

Colchester was a thing much too long delayed. (*Applause*).

In answer to Mr J Armitage, the secretary stated that the annual subscription would be five shillings.

Mr H H Cant proposed, and Mr F H Bate seconded, the Colchester Amateur Operatic Society be inaugurated, and after it was formed there was not one present who did not join/ Several more expressed their willingness to act as guarantors. Mr Townsend stated that if the amount to be guaranteed was not forthcoming, an anonymous donor was willing to give £15. (*Applause*).

Upon the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Mr Bay, Mr W W Townsend was appointed secretary.

Some discussion took place as to the formation of a

committee, and it was eventually decided that the guarantors form the committee pro tem, and after the rules were made a permanent committee would be formed at a later meeting. Mr F J Gillings suggested that the Society should give three night's performance during the coming Cricket Week. It would not only be an excellent send off for the Society, but it would greatly help the Festival. It was stated that the committee would consider the suggestion.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

Bernard Polley

There is no evidence that the production in support of the Cricket Week ever took place - the first production being at the Hippodrome in December 1925.

'THE TECH' - TEACHERS' NICKNAMES

I was interested in the two articles on this subject as I attended the Gilberd from 1957 to 1962. In my first term the School of Art were on the top floor and the Girls' High School at the far end. Indeed the school had been the North East Essex County Technical School some years before.

Alan Taylor gives several examples of nicknames. He may be senior to me (by one year) but I must take issue with him over some of the information he gives.

'Bother' Calam did not come back for a year to replace Norman Curd - at least not during my early years..

'Brother' Calam attempted to teach me woodwork for my first two years - a frustrating task for him as my father was a carpenter by trade and I had none of my father's skill. In the second year it took me and several classmates almost the whole year to make a stool - mainly because the partly made stool had a habit of disappearing during the week. For years afterwards it was possible to spot these vintage stools in local antique fairs!

School assembly was held in St Peter's Church twice a week and I sat next to 'Brother' Calam for the whole of the first year. I remember it well as he

continuously sucked peppermints.

Norman Curd had the dubious pleasure of attempting to teach me Technical Drawing in later years.

'Mick' Rouse was always Mick. He taught history and ran the cricket 1st XI - I think I only disposed of my cap a short time ago.

Miss Nossen ('Fanny') hated fresh air and noise. She insisted that all windows were shut and once sent a boy out of a GCE exam because he dropped a ruler. She had taught my mother in the same building when it was partly the Girls' High School. Later my

daughter attended the 6th Form College so three generations used the same premises.

Mervyn Jones was a bit of a brute. The rumour was that he had previously taught at an 'Approved School'. He was known to us as 'Killer'.

'Oscar' Horlock taught RE.

He always marked homework in the same way. Girls merited 8 out of 10, boys received 7s!

Finally I can give the definitive answer surrounding Mr Brooks' nickname. I was present when a group of us were trying out teachers names spelt backwards. I can still remember the cry that went

up when we realised Brooks backwards almost became Skoorby and 'Skoorby' it was from that time on. H smoked Gold Flake cigarettes and would often send one of us out to a nearby shop for supplies.

Happy Days.

Martin Broom

COLCHESTER CARNIVAL 1938

The illustration on the front cover is from the front cover of a programme for the Colchester Carnival in 1938. The illustration looks very similar to those on the Oyster Feast programmes, possibly drawn by Horace Pearce.

Many people will remember the processions and other events that took place, either because they attended or took part. The proceeds were used to help fund Essex County Hospital up until the National Health Service arrived. Since then (1948 and after), hospital charities supporting patients have benefited and the organisation was often provided for by King Coel's Kittens.

After a gap, the Carnival has recently started again.

Of course, sometimes, the Carnival has been affected by rain. I remember one year, probably about 1964, when I went with my mother. After a while, whilst enjoying the procession, we looked upwards and saw huge dark rain-clouds. Rain then fell 'in buckets' and everybody in St Botolph's Street rushed on to the station for



shelter, but it was full. We arrived home soaked to the skin. As we squelched into the room, my father asked "Oh, has it been raining?"

It would be interesting to hear people's memories of watching or taking part in the procession or the organisation.

Peter Evans

JACKLINS - AN OLD COLCHESTER INSTITUTION

It was pleasing to read recently that Fenwick, new owners of the Williams & Griffin store, are to retain the frontage, attributed to 1927, of the former 147-148 High Street premises previously occupied by Jacklins. This will surely serve to bring a sense of individuality to the present redevelopment.

Jacklins was a long established Colchester family business and I believe that Mr. Jacklin lived in Lexden. On the ground floor was a high class tobacconist and confectioners, diversified from which upstairs was what I have recently seen referred to as a 'café'. It was never that. A restaurant if you like or a tea room. It was every bit up to the standard of the renown 'Betty's' in York or Harrogate.

This was 'the' place where Colchester ladies took tea.

On the cusp of the 1960's - 70's I was part of a team that carried out a 'long weekend' refurbishment of the tea room. This was planned, designed and supervised by Colchester architect Roy A.W. Orrin of the firm Duncan Clark & Beckett, both of which are still with us.

My recollection is that the staff packed everything away after closing on the Thursday evening, handing over the premises at 10pm. We then worked 24/7 to complete the refurbishment ready for reopening on the following Tuesday morning. All the fitments, including a completely new suspended ceiling, were constructed in

advance off site and fitted together like a giant Lego set. My involvement was with the electrical installations and I recall that the whole refurbishment came together without a single hitch and on time. True testament to Mr. Orrin's expertise and that of all the trades involved.

I particularly remember gaining access to the roof of the building upon which was erected a number of wooden sheds, used for storage. I mused at the contrast between this and the opulence below.

All the individual shops and businesses that came together as Williams and Griffin, formed

in 1963, had long standing reputations in the town. Eventually the Jacklins building was absorbed into the larger entity but there will now be at least something left to commemorate its heyday.

Whilst progress is inevitable it will still be sad to see the demise of the Williams & Griffin name as is now proposed. Since, for the older generation, the store will always be known as 'Willy G's'. May I suggest a compromise for the foreseeable future. How about 'Fenwick at Williams & Griffin' or, more simply, 'Fenwick at W&G'.

David Butcher



Jacklins became Williams & Griffin men's shop and now part of Fenwicks



PAXMANS' SPORTS DAY 1950

Another cartoon owned by Michael Buse, drawn by 'Nobby', whose work regularly featured in the Colchester Gazette.

This one featured the annual Paxmans' Sports Day, held at their Land Lane ground at the bottom of East Hill. In those days, Paxmans had leading

football, cricket, bowls, tennis, table tennis and badminton teams. The ground also being used for finals of many local cup competitions.

THE CUPS HOTEL AND THE CORN EXCHANGE

THE CUPS HOTEL was originally called the *Three Cups Inn* and the title of 'Hotel' was first used in October 1826.

My recollections of the building range from indistinct for the 15 years prior to 1957 but are fairly clear for the years from 1957 to its final demolition in 1972. My work in the agricultural seed trade necessitated my attendance at both the Corn Exchange and at associated trade and social functions in the adjoining Cups Hotel.

The entrance arch in the middle of the building led to the car parking area at the rear. From my memory, most of this area was used by cars and consisted of covered bays on the northern and eastern sides with a central open space. The covered bays were formed under a roof supported by large substantially built brick pillars. There was an additional parking area to the east, with its roadway beyond the car park attendant (ostler's) house, where there were garages with wooden doors on its northern side and an exit into St. Runwald Street.

The walk towards the High Street was up a slight incline past the usual enormous pile of coke on the right for the hotel boilers and on the left, the ostler's house. This was the former Cups Tap that was a popular drinking-place for the Americans during the latter part of the war and then later, as a place to warm your hands, as there was always an open coal fire burning there in winter.

The side entrance to the Corn Exchange, further up on the left hand side, was through two sets of narrow double doors that enclosed a small vestibule with its floor level being the same as the outside and a high step up to the level of the Corn Exchange floor. Along both sides of this entrance were small offices where confidential discussions took place and business accounts were settled. The entrances to these offices were from within the Corn Exchange and their depths matched that of the entrance vestibule.

In the evenings, the Corn Exchange was used by the general public as a roller-skating rink, ballroom and for wrestling. During the late 1950's and early 1960's, the wrestling promoter was Dale Martin, the master of ceremonies was Sammy King and the wrestlers included Mick McManus, Jackie Pallo, Steve Logan, Judo Al Hayes, Masambula, Bert Royal and Mike Marino.

The floor of the Corn Exchange was made of smooth hardwood blocks that were ideal for skating and dancing but treacherous when grain had been spilt on them. The roof was made of steel trusses and glass to give adequate light for inspecting samples of grain. There is a photograph of the inside of the Corn Exchange in the Library newspaper archives for the *Essex County Standard* dated 20th April 1956 that shows the distribution of the wooden stands covering the

floor. The main entrance to the Corn Exchange was from High Street by G. Powell & Co, travel agents where you could buy theatre tickets for London shows. This had been the entrance to the former New Market that opened on 27th March 1813 with the Three Cups Royal Apartments above. Alongside was the former Gin Shop, later Vogue a men's and ladies' clothes shop.

The 13 feet wide vehicular entrance to the Cups Hotel was through the body of the building and its length had been extended with a glass roof to reach 80 feet from the High Street. I remember there was a flimsy kind of gate made up on a wooden frame covered by a steel mesh (reminiscent of an old fashioned railway level-crossing gate) on hinges attached to the outer wall of the Corn Exchange. It was long enough to stretch across the entrance or swung back to enable it to be stored flush to the wall and there it remained because I never saw it used.

The main entrance to *The Cups Hotel* was to the left on its eastern side under this glass roof. It was about 30 feet wide and incorporated a central door with a large window on each side. My memory of this entrance is that it was recessed by about 5 feet to enable a door to the right, towards the north, to give access to a 'Men Only' bar or 'snug'. The bar itself, was on the left of the room and extended almost the full length of the 18 feet long room that was only about 10 feet wide



The much loved Cups Hotel in High Street, photographed in about 1960

and there was a door behind the bar that came directly from the kitchen area. There was a window on the opposite wall and at the end, that looked out onto the upper courtyard and the seating was a mixture of benches and chairs under these windows with stools at the bar. To the left of the recessed hotel entrance, there were several glass windows and that was the outside of the hotel office.

Inside the hotel was a large rectangular hall with a magnificent stairway in front of you and doors to the right that led to the kitchen area. To the left there was the hotel office surrounded by several more glass windows that seemed to match the outside windows. Passing by the office, a door led into the lounge that from my memory was the most

inhospitable area, it being cold and with hardly any people venturing inside. This lounge had two fireplaces that hardly ever had a fire in them, one on each of the east and west walls suggesting that it was originally two separate rooms. There was a 'temporary' bar round to the right from the hall under a sloping ceiling that seemed to have been there for years. There were several deep leather armchairs that were all uncomfortable and every time somebody entered the room from the High Street, by way of the revolving door, a blast of cold air entered the entire room. These people mainly did not stay in the lounge but seemed to be just passing through to go to other parts of the hotel.

From my recollections, the

most attractive part of the inside of the Cups Hotel was the staircase that led up to the Assembly Room and the hotel bedrooms. The staircase, with metal balusters, started from the hotel entrance hall and then curved round to the right and then right again onto a small landing. To the left of this landing, towards the north, was the Assembly Room and to the right, the staircase continued on up to the rest of the hotel.

William Ralton, the innkeeper of the *Three Cups Inn*, completed building the Assembly Room in November 1807 and it was built over part of the kitchen. The entrance was under a minstrel's gallery that was flanked by two Ionic columns. The Assembly Room was 65 feet long and 25 feet wide although there was also a



ABOVE LEFT:
The Assembly Room at The Cups Hotel photographed in 1965 shortly before its destruction.

BELOW:
The site of the destruction of The Cups Hotel in 1972

rectangular annex in the far right corner 28 feet long and 7 feet wide that was part of the room. There were six windows on the eastern wall, three each in the room itself and in the annex, plus a large bay window at the far end. I believe that they all contained shields of stained glass but as I usually only went in the room when it was dark outside this is only a vague memory. There was also a large marble fireplace



Above: Mr Samuel Besford was at the Cups Hotel from 8th June 1872 until his lease expired at Michaelmas (29th September) 1885, after which the re-building of the hotel commenced.

on the inside wall to the left.

Colchester Borough Council purchased the Cups Hotel and the Corn Exchange, as they wished to extend their ownership of the property from the Town Hall in a westerly direction. The rear half of the Cups Hotel, and that included the Assembly Room, was demolished in March 1968 and the front half in the High Street and the Corn Exchange met the same fate in May 1972.

Bruce Neville

CAN YOU RECALL 'PUSSER' WADE?

Some of our older readers may well remember my grandfather, Bill or 'Pusser' Wade, mine host at *The Nelson's Head* in West Stockwell Street.

The photograph shows Bill standing outside the premises with his wife Annie, daughters Hilda (my mother), Dolly (my Aunt) and son Billy (my Uncle), some time in the 1920s.

He was a colourful character by all accounts, having started his working life as a boots at *The George Hotel*. He later kept *The Clarendon* at East Gates where my mother was born. There is still a family tie here, as my second cousin Kevin Johnson is now the landlord, although it has been renamed *The East Gate Inn*. The family then moved to Norfolk, where Bill kept *The Chequers* at Foxley, then *The Bell* at Harwich, returning to Colchester to take over *The Nelson's Head*.

I remember him coming to our house in North Station Road for his lunch on most Saturdays. The 'menu' was always the same - the foul-smelling Steak and Suet Crust pudding - I hated the slimy mess! The rest of family loved it - as did he - and afterwards he would sit in the armchair by the fireside and fall sound asleep. One afternoon this happened and he was snoring his head off, mouth wide open. My two eldest brothers, George and Dennis came up with a 'cure'. On the mantelpiece over the fireplace were the family's fountain pens and one was chosen. George touched the roof of Grandad's mouth with



the pen, up came his hand to 'swat the fly' away. The same thing happened a short while later, only this time his hand touched the pen! Being short tempered and having a wide vocabulary, I will not put into print the names he called my two brothers, suffice it to say that he used words that I had never heard before and never

heard again inside the house and I lived there until I was 24!

Grandad was always smartly dressed, my father said that he could have shaved in his brightly polished gaiters.

I have several other fond memories of grandad who died when I was 7 in 1947. It is likely that you may have too...

Peter Constable

SOME COLCHESTER BUTCHERS IN THE 1920-30's

I helped Bert Pratt drive Ralph Wright's cattle from the Bull Meadow to the slaughter-house in St Botolph's Street. He then took me to the Soldiers' Home in Queen Street (where the Police Station used to be) for a cup of tea and a bun. I saw Ralph in Woodward's and Pridie's poultry market in North Station Road and said "Good morning, sir," to which he replied, "Hello, my duck, I've known you since you were that high," holding his hand out about waist high. "Look at you now!"

After talking about the men who worked for him and his horses Kit and Bob that both won prizes for the Best Butchers' turn outs at the Colchester Horse Show, held in those days on Whit Monday at

one in the shop so I nipped to the slaughter-house where a sheep had just been killed, cut its head off, cleaned it up and upon my return when I gave it to her. It was still warm!

There were two family butchers in High Street - Edwin Cheshire's next to Paul's Cycle Shop, their small slaughter-house looked out on to Jarmin's Antiques and in the summer, when the doors were open you could see the men at work, including Arthur Bloom, who took over Potter's Pork Butchers shop on the corner of Middleborough and St Peter's Street, opposite the old Cattle Market site.

Scrag and Haden's was where Angel Court used to be. Alf Firmin was the last butcher there before moving to

Market and he told me that the last time he was in Colchester, he worked in his brother in law's butchers shop - George Haden's in High Street.

There was a butcher's stall in the High Street Market, run by Mr Lloyd, who also had a shop in St John's Street.

I helped drive Cade's pigs from the Cattle Market along St Peter's Street, through the Castle Park folly, up Roman Road to Priory Street, where they were put in a pen down a chase near Watts, the Stone Masons. Two were then driven to a passage way next to the Maypole, a store in Long Wyre Street, 50 yards up from Cade's shop.

Wilson's butchers shop was on St Botolph's Corner.

Apart from W. Allen's in St



The Christmas livestock display was once a great feature of Colchester Butchers. LEFT is the future Scrag & Haden's, then run by Fred Wise; RIGHT is Wilson's when he was in partnership with Appleyby.

the Halstead Road, Lexden Show Ground, he told me the following tale.

A lady came into the shop for a sheep's head. There wasn't

Middleborough, on the corner with Sheepen Road.

Some 50 years ago I was talking to Mr Hammond an auctioneer in Cambridge Cattle

Botolph's Street, who took over from Ralph Wright over 85 years ago, all these shops have long since gone.

Ted Cant

WHERE ON EARTH ARE THESE?



Picture 1



Picture 2



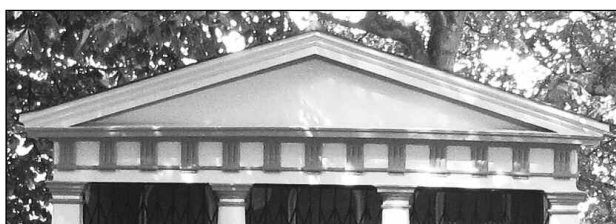
Picture 3

The photographs featured here have all been taken by Patrick Denney. They are all well-known landmarks around the town. But where are they?

To find out how well you know Colchester the answers can be found on the inside back cover!



Picture 4



Picture 5

WHO DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?

The subject of our fourth article of this series in our previous issue featured Andrew Phillips, our Assistant Honorary Secretary.

In this issue we feature another Committee member, but who is this mystery man?

His name will be revealed in the next Issue - Number 30.

What is your earliest memory?

I vaguely remember the Coronation, or I think I do. Dad had bought a TV and Mum had invited neighbours round. I have this image of seeing the coach on screen through the legs of chairs. I was two and a half years old.

Have you any unusual school memories?

While at Kendall Road Primary School some of us were recruited for Colchester Schools Music Festival and sang in a big choir in the Moot Hall. It was the first time I had been inside and I was impressed... The conductor was Dr Swinbourne, who stood on a very rickety podium and my mother was afraid he would fall on her!

For my Secondary school went to The Gilberd, then on North Hill. Our speech days were always held in the old Playhouse cinema. Our school song was *Jerusalem* but we only stood, we did not sing it. The Chairman of the Governors, Mrs Wheeler (of the toyshop family) did not know this and started to sing. We all joined in and we all, Chairman included, laughed afterwards.

What brought you to Colchester?

I have always been here - I can trace my father's family back to 1810 in Colchester. My mother was a Brightlingsea girl.

What is your favourite place in Colchester?

I think St Botolph's Priory just wins over Bourne Mill and Pond and the Town Hall.

What was the most scary event of your life?

Possibly trying (and failing) to learn to drive. I was awful! *What was the most famous event you attended?*

Not terribly famous but memorable for me.

Earlier this year I attended a special service in York Minster commemorating the reinternment of King Richard III. The really famous event was in Leicester, but York had wanted to bury him and put on a splendid service instead. It was surprisingly beautiful and I had never been to service in York Minster, a favourite



*Our mystery man. But who is he?
Find out in the next issue*

building. I went to a Colchester Recalled talk by John Ashdown Hill about eight years ago and we were told where Richard's body was likely to be found. It was absolutely accurate and so it was good to be there at the end of the story.



Dr Swinbourne conducting some of the children at the Moot Hall in 1952

THE HYTHE IN 1920



Norman Pertwee who built the successful seed and grain business at the Hythe recalled:

'Our farm collapsed in the war [1914-18]. Aged 16 father took me away from school because he could no longer afford the fees and I started to cycle to the Hythe to spend the day shovelling meal amid the dust and back-breaking labour. We pulled bags of meal up to the first floor on a hoist, emptied it through a hole in the floor and mixed the heap

with a shovel before bagging it up. I recall carrying 22 stone bags of cotton cake up a plank from a sailing barge moored at the quay to the warehouse. Our horse and cart had a daily capacity of delivering 15 cwts to any farm not more than 7 miles away, while I went out by bike to solicit more orders. Some days we spent hours turning the handle of a dressing machine to prepare seed for sowing and gradually a few farmers bought some. Soon a Ford 1-ton lorry replaced the

horse and cart and a 1-ton mixer cut down the hand work of mixing meal.'

The illustration below is the sixth panoramic postcard belonging to Ray Allan. It is of Colchester Barracks, but how different it is from today! It is a matter of conjecture as to where these barracks were - bearing in mind the recent re-development of the local garrison. If you think you know which barracks are shown and the date of the photograph, please contact the Editor with your thoughts.



READERS' LETTERS

I did not go to the 'Tech' so I was not taught by 'Nossey' (Miss Nossen), although I knew her and taught her the violin. At the time she was not very proficient but wished to improve so that she could teach music at the school. Each week after I left the office where I worked I went to her house in Maldon Road. She always provided a very nice high tea for us both and afterwards I would give her two hours coaching. She eventually passed the Associated Board of Music Final examination, enabling her to teach. She was not very popular, no doubt because she was German, but she was well respected for her language teaching. Another side of her was to hide an inferiority complex - she often had the feeling that people were against her and I often experienced her reduced to tears if the War was mentioned - I believed she had lost loved ones in the conflict.

The Operatic Society article brought back some happy memories. In the late 40s-early 50s I used to work with Muriel Reance, whose husband Horace produced the shows. I used to play in the orchestra and lived a good 20 minutes walk from the Playhouse and as my house was not on a bus route, Hervey Benham of the *Essex County Standard*, who played the flute, always insisted on taking me home after the shows and waited until I was indoors.

When my father had his shop in Kendall Road he always displayed a poster for the monthly variety shows at the

Playhouse for which he was given two free tickets for the show. What a pity that I no longer have the posters and programmes!

Harry Carlo's story of his father E.T. Carlo interested me greatly. My mother's maiden name was Carlo and she always said that all the Carlo's in Colchester were related. Her name was Ellen and her sisters were Florence, Winifred and Doris and her brothers were William and Jack. Her father's name was Samuel and he was a foreman bricklayer for Colchester Corporation and is believed to be one of the first employees to receive pension of 2s.6d from the Corporation.

He and my grandmother (Martha) were the first tenants of 28 New Park Street, which was one of the first houses to be built at that time. I was always told that the landlord of *The Swan* on Hythe Hill was also a relative and have heard my mother refer to some of the names mentioned by Henry, so I feel he may be a far flung relative.

I well remember the bombing of St Botolph's Corner. My father at the time was an Air Raid Warden and as soon as the all clear was sounded I joined him and other people at the end of Military Road - as far as we were allowed to go - to see the devastation. The tins of coloured paints exploding at Blomfields' hardware shop gave a spectacular display.

I look forward to No. 29.

Jean Wheeler

Sheila Scott wrote in issue No.28 about Colchester Operatic Society in 1949 and asked where they staged their pre-war productions. The list below explains.

1925 THE GONDOLIERS

1926 THE MIKADO

1927 PRINCESS IDA

1929 IOLANTHE

all at the Hippodrome and produced by Ashley Cooper.

1930 YEOMAN OF THE GUARD

1931 PIRATES OF PENZANCE and

TRIAL BY JURY and

LES CLOCHES DE CORNEVILLE

all at the Playhouse and produced by Ashley Cooper.

1932 QUAKER GIRL

at the Playhouse

produced by B Parker.

1933 THE MIKADO

at the Hippodrome

produced by B Parker.

1934 THE GONDOLIERS

at the Hippodrome

produced by H J Parkin.

1935 MERRIE ENGLAND

at the Playhouse

produced by Arthur Lucas.

1936 DUCHESS OF DANZIG

1937 THE VAGABOND KING

both at the Playhouse

produced by Albert Farrant.

1938 THE COUNTRY GIRL

at the Hippodrome

produced by Albert Farrant.

I was a non-playing member of the COS for a number of years helping with back stage duties and still have copies of the programmes for almost all of the productions.

Bernard Polley

OUR PROGRAMME 2015-2016

Our monthly meetings are held in the Lecture Theatre, Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road. There is a charge of £2 per night. All are welcome.

There will be the usual selection of recordings followed by a speaker.

The Programme to complete 2015 is as follows -

November 12th

Essex County Hospital – its story.

Dr Casale, who worked there for many years, describes the long history of Colchester's remarkable hospital, due to close next year.

December 10th

The Christmas Special - seasonal cheer.

A Quiz, a video, mince pies and wine (as usual).

PROGRAMME 2016

January 14th

Colchester's Big Dig.

Howards Brooks on the inside story of Colchester's archaeology in the 1970s, when Colchester was the largest archaeological site in Europe!

February 11th

Camp 186: German Prisoners of War in Colchester.

Ken Free tells their story using government archive photographs hitherto unknown.

March 17th

Colchester Voices.

Patrick Denney discusses Colchester's 20th Century History from his oral history work.

April 14th

'Essex Boys'

Karen Bowman looks at historical views of living in Essex, based on her recent book.

May 12th

Members' Evening.

Three more members recount tales from their life and times.

June 9th

Annual General Meeting followed by '18 years at Westminster.'

Our President Sir Bob Russell looks back at life in the 'Westminster village'.

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All telephone numbers except David Walton's have a 01206 prefix

The Colchester Recalled Oral History Society was set up in 1988 to record for future generations the memories of the people of Colchester and the surrounding area.

The Archive Group meets daily at the Museum Resource Centre, 14 Ryegate Road to access and index all new tapes.

Computer literate volunteers are needed to help with this work.

For further details please contact Andrew Phillips on 01206 546775.

Below are the answers to 'Where On Earth Are These?' featured on page 13 -

1. The Old water tower at the former Turner Village Hospital, in Turner Road.
2. The Statue of St George on War Memorial in Castle Crescent in High Street.
3. Front of the old bus garage in Magdalen Street.
4. The building on corner of Head Street and Church Street, formerly Thorogood's bakery.
5. The Doric summer house on the rampart in Castle Park.

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