



**The Friends of
Colchester Museums**

Registered Charity No. 310669

Winter Newsletter 2023

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For up to date news and information, please visit
the website for The Friends of Colchester Museums

tfocm.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The autumn programme of evening talks ran smoothly apart from two problems, one where a speaker withdrew at short notice (and Joy Hopkinson found an excellent replacement) and one when we could not connect the speaker's laptop to the church system and the talk had to continue without slides.

There have been reports that people could not hear speakers. Lion Walk Church are intending to improve their sound system soon, and we will try to arrange for a clip-on microphone to be available. If at any time you have a problem with this, simply raise your hand and the speaker will improve the audibility.

This year the talks will continue in Spring and Autumn, and we intend to resume the summer outings which were cancelled because of the Covid troubles. Fuller details are included in this newsletter.

We will be asking members for their views on the timing of talks and their views on replacing live meetings with Zoom.

The trial of a reduced entrance price to the lectures for students has not been successful, with very few students using it, and will be discontinued.

We have been in contact with the Colchester Museum Development Fund. Generally, our activities do not overlap but there could be areas where could advantageously work together.

We are in need of someone to run our website and possibly social media presence. If anyone is willing to help with this, please make yourself known.

I would like to thank all those holding responsibilities on the committee who are keeping everything running so smoothly, and all of you who support the Friends. We look forward to an interesting programme during the coming year.

Ray Cantrell

Chairman



TREASURER'S TOPICS

Increase in subscriptions 1st January 2023

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, subscriptions are increasing from 1st January 2023. The new rates, which still include free admission to the Castle, are:

Single members £13.00 Couples £20.00 Family £28.00

If you are paying by cheque, please use the enclosed remittance form. The form also shows how to make payments online through your bank to the Friends bank account.

If you have already arranged a standing order through your bank, due 1st January, please check that you have increased your instruction to the new rate.

Please note: Your membership card is enclosed with this newsletter. If you no longer want to remain a member, please return the card to me (address under Officers, inside front cover)

Season ticket for our talks

The admission for members to our series of 12 talks is still £2 per session (£4 for non-members). If you are intending to attend all or most of the talks, you can buy a Season Ticket for £20 (a saving of £4 if you attend all sessions).

You can pay for this along with your subscription by cheque or direct into the Friends bank account, as shown on the subscription form, if you prefer.

Peter Evans

Hon. Treasurer

WANTED!

Volunteer to run website.

- Must know how to update the website contents
- Preferably be willing to join the committee
- Preferably be a member of TFOCM
- Ideally have some ability to change the website format when needed

If you can help with this, please contact Ray Cantrell on 01206 867032

or email: raymond.cantrell@ntlworld.com

FOCM TRIPS

We are hoping to organise two trips in the summer of 2023 after an interval of three years. It will be exciting to get out and about with the Friends once more!

The Food Museum

This was formerly the Museum of East Anglian Life but was transformed into this new museum earlier in 2022. It is situated in Stowmarket, Suffolk.

It is said to be ‘multi-sensory, fun, relevant and engaging’. From cheese making to brewing, historical breads to seasonal eating, it engages the visitor and you will explore how Britain’s diet has changed through the centuries.

Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome (postponed from July 2020)

There is plenty to enjoy at this unique venue, with award winning exhibitions exploring the early days of British military aviation. As well as recording the history of the men and women who served in the RAF/RFC in WW1, the Stow Maries site is the home to much wildlife, including five species of British owls.

Please note that we are still holding payments from some members in respect of these; kindly inform when booking if you have paid for a postponed trip.

Joy Hopkinson

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TIMING AND FORM OF LECTURES

The committee have been considering whether the current format of lectures being at 7.30 pm and “live” is the most suitable. Some members are not keen on being out in the evening.

To avoid the worst of the dark evenings, the lectures for the coming year have been booked rather earlier, with the first to be on 11th April, and with seven lectures in the spring and five in the autumn.

There seem to be four options for the future: to continue as now; to start and finish earlier; to have the lectures on Zoom instead of meeting to hear the lecture; or changing to meet in the afternoon.

To start and finish earlier would probably better for more senior members who are not working but may mean that some wanting to eat and refresh after work cannot attend. It may also limit the number of possible speakers, particularly as some have to come a long way.

To change to Zoom would save members having to come out but is less appealing to many, is no use to members who do not use Zoom, and once again may limit the choice of speakers.

To meet in the afternoon would avoid coming out in the evening but may rule out many speakers and members who are working or otherwise engaged during the day.

We do not at present have the means to run a live meeting and put it onto Zoom.

If you would like to give your views on whether the time and type of meeting should change or the current format be retained, please can you let me know your views by email on raymond.cantrell@ntlworld.com or by post to 52 Guildford Road, Colchester, CO1 2RZ.

I have no doubt that we will be unable to please everybody, but the committee will take all views into consideration.

Ray Cantrell

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EVENING LECTURES, SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2022

The Lost City of Dunwich (6 September)

Mark Mitchels' inspirational talk chronicled the destruction of this once thriving centre; as a port it had been of equivalent importance to London.

He described how its downfall began well before the sea took its toll, when Dunwich 'burghers' set parish boundaries in the 11th century to tax nearby towns for using the harbour and river.

However, as coastal erosion began it was not possible to move westwards because crossing self-imposed boundaries would in turn incur taxation from their neighbours. Then huge storms in the 13th and 17th centuries swept much of the town into the sea; eight churches and Greyfriars monastery had been lost. Finally, the tower of All Saints' fell into the sea in the 1970s. The only remaining building from that time is the ruin of the Leper Hospital.

A poignant story, illustrating human frailty as well as the power of nature.

Joy Hopkinson

Colchester Cemetery (20 September)

Sharon Mooney's talk, based on research carried out during the pandemic, outlined the establishment of the Cemetery and developments up to the end of the 19th century.

The Burial Acts of the 1850s and the fact that churchyards were becoming full meant that Colchester required a cemetery. In 1854 a Burial Board was established and the site in Mersea Road was chosen.

Following consecration by the Bishop of Rochester in April 1856, the first burial took place on 2 May 1856, the day following official opening.

The talk included details of the Cemetery Superintendents, the first being James Cobb. His assistant was James Nason and a house was provided for each post. Unfortunately, the Superintendent's Lodge has since been demolished.

Other topics included the obelisk purchased by Mr Wyre and moved from the High Street, and some tales of those whose headstones have prompted further interest.

Liz Anderson

Essex Lights - Keeping Sailors Safe around our Shores (4 October)

This memorable talk by Peter Jones gave details about the history of maritime warning systems (many with links to Essex) from Ancient Egypt to contemporary halogen devices. It included a fascinating story about the evolution of reflectors, which enhanced the power of the oil lights in use until relatively recent times.

The hazards involved were emphasised, as in the loss of Cornwall's Eddystone Lighthouse, built by a man from Harwich in the late 17th Century. And although our locality has no rocks, Nelson regarded the Thames Estuary as a most dangerous area, with its shifting sandbanks.

But the role of Trinity House was central. They replaced earlier private networks with a national system in 1836 and now run a national computer system from Harwich controlling buoys, lightships and lighthouses. Thankfully, we are no longer losing hundreds of ships and thousands of lives each year.

Michael Connell

St Leonard's (18 October)

Joy Hopkinson presented an enlightening history of the present church, which dates from the fourteenth century. The Hythe was then a thriving industrial area and port, but as the Hythe declined, so did the congregation of the church. And in 1985, it passed into the care of the Churches' Conservation Trust.

The tower is part of the original building, although rebuilt after the Colchester earthquake, and houses six bells, dating from the fifteenth to the twentieth century.

St Leonard's south porch showing the windows onto the main road



The fifteenth century south porch has an upper parvise room and the mediaeval south door contains four holes made by Royalist troops during the Siege of Colchester. The clerestory and hammer beam roof date from about 1500.

In the nineteenth century much of the interior was embellished in the Anglo-Catholic style.

The church is open to visitors every Tuesday from 12 to 2pm. It is still used occasionally for worship, including carol services, and other events.

Mary Dale

The Changing Face of OS 1” Maps of Essex (1 November)

Peter Walker, in a truly skilful and enlightening presentation, gave a closely documented history of these maps, originating before the nineteenth century, but given fresh impetus by the fear of Napoleonic invasion. Indeed, the term “Ordnance” shows the military’s need for precise mapping when moving weaponry: until recently, railways were presented distinctly to denote single and double track lines. And now, newly developed trunk roads in our area are more prominently coloured - evidence of a changing way of life.

The transition from military to a leisure emphasis in the 1920s was highlighted by map covers, which first depicted hikers and, more recently, photographic scenes of attractive locations in and around Colchester.

Finally, we were able to view a range of maps, from 1805 to the present day; the earliest were hatched, with no contours or railway lines and later 19th century maps were coloured by hand.

Michael Connell

Money Talks (15 November)

Tom Hodgson took us through the long history of coins and pointed how much they can tell us of earlier times, for example their use for personal propaganda and profiteering by Henry VIII.

Originally, coins were made by striking a metal on a die, a slow and imperfect process. Although methods did improve, especially in the reign of Elizabeth I, it was only in the late 18th century that new equipment enabled the Royal Mint to produce coinage in quantity. Tom explained that many changes came as the Mint tried to defeat illicit clipping of coins to steal gold or silver. Counterfeiting has always been a challenge and, recently, the two metal £2 coin has been introduced as a deterrent.

And now, although the use of ready money is declining, we will shortly be seeing the first coins issued for King Charles III, so a very apposite and interesting talk.

Peter Evans

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The late Jean Baker

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that Jean Baker, one of our Vice Presidents, had died at the age of 96. Her sons, Clyde and Glyn, arranged that the Friends would receive a share of donations given in memory and we have received the sum of £233.15, which will be used for help fund purchases for the Museum. We thank Clyde and Glyn for their generosity.

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THE BRAINTREE HOARD:

1066 and all that

An exceptionally rare and historically important hoard of Anglo-Saxon coins has been discovered recently at a site in north-east Essex and valued at £250,000. Known as the Braintree Hoard, after the nearest large town, this hoard comprises 145 silver pennies, dating from the reigns of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) and Harold II (1066). The coins were minted at several towns, including Colchester, Ipswich and Sudbury. The hoard was buried in the early Autumn of 1066 and as a result provides direct evidence relating to Colchester and north-east Essex at a crucial date in English history – the Battle of Hastings.

Before this discovery only seven coin hoards were known from England which were buried in the reign of Harold II, and none of these come from Essex. Indeed, only a single coin of Harold II is known from the County so this hoard completely transforms our understanding of the coins circulating in Essex at the time of the Norman conquest.

The pennies of Edward the Confessor and Harold II have on one side the king's portrait, name and title, 'Rex Anglorum – King of the English', and on the other the names of moneyer (the person who made the coin) and of the place where the coin was made. The 'tail' side of the coin also has a design featuring in most cases either a cross or, for the coins of Harold, the Latin word pax or 'peace'.

The hoard includes two silver coins of the emperors Basil II (976-1025) and Constantine X Ducas (1059-67) produced at the capital of the Byzantine empire, Constantinople (modern Istanbul). It is exceptional to find Byzantine coins in an English hoard of this period and their presence adds to the interest of the Braintree Hoard. It likely that the coins were kept for their bullion value as they could not have been used as money.

The hoard has now been valued as part of the Treasure process and a decision has been taken by Colchester Museums to attempt to raise £35,000 to purchase the coins minted in Colchester and the two Byzantine coins. The Committee of the Friends of Colchester Museums have already pledged £5,000, using the generous legacy from Janet Fulford for this exciting project. Other funding bodies will be approached shortly, and if any museum Friend would like to make an individual donation, then please contact the Treasurer, Peter Evans.

(peter.evans7978@btinternet.com; 01206 540990).

Individual donations may be eligible for gift aid and, if the donor wishes, will be acknowledged publicly.

Philip J. Wise

Heritage Manager, Colchester and Ipswich Museums

Members who want to contribute to this exciting purchase should look at the subscription form enclosed for details about how this can be done.

One of the Byzantine coins in the Braintree Hoard



An example of a penny of Harold II.



THE END OF THE YEAR QUIZ By Gill Bird

1. What is Wassailing?
 - a Abseiling below ground level
 - b Riotous drinking
 - c Sailing against a rip tide
2. The Chinese years are named after animals. What is 2023 the year of?
 - a Tiger
 - b Gerbil
 - c Rabbit
3. What year did King George V make the first Royal Christmas day broadcast?
 - a 1930
 - b 1932
 - c 1934
4. When did the first Christmas card appear?
 - a 1838
 - b 1843
 - c 1849
5. Which Saint is the inspiration for Father Christmas?
 - a St Artimas
 - b St Peter
 - c St Nicholas
6. Where did Good King Wenceslas come from?
 - a Bohemia
 - b Bavaria
 - c Bosnia
7. Which of these famous people were born on Christmas Day 1642?
 - a William Gilbert
 - b William Harvey
 - c Isaac Newton
8. Who wrote the traditional New Year song Auld Lang Syne?
 - a William McGonagall
 - b Sir Walter Scott
 - c Robert Burns
9. When Did England adopt January 1st as the start of the New Year?
 - a 1752
 - b 1812
 - c 1698
10. What is the birthstone for January?
 - a Garnet
 - b Amethyst
 - c Topaz

Answers inside back cover

‘TWINKLE STAR’ STATUE FOR COLCHESTER

“Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” is arguably the world’s most famous nursery rhyme – it was voted as the UK’s most favourite a few years ago in the publication *Mature Times* which has a discerning readership of senior citizens.

Not so well known – even here in Colchester – is that it was written in Colchester, in 1806, by Jane Taylor. With her sister Ann, she was a prolific writer of poems for “infant minds” as so described on a plaque at the house where the Taylor family lived from 1796 to 1811 in what is now known as West Stockwell Street, but was called Angel Lane at that time.

There are some who say it was written in Lavenham, where the family had lived previously, or at Ongar where the family moved to after Colchester and where Jane died aged 39, from breast cancer, in 1824.

The date of publication, however, proves that it was written in Colchester.

Jane and Ann were the daughters of the Rev Isaac Taylor, Minister of an Independent Chapel in what is now St Helen’s Lane but which no longer exists. He and his daughters were skilled engravers, which was the means by which they earned a living.

The sisters, each with an attic bedroom in what at that time was a single dwelling but now two houses, would look westwards over the rooftops, gazing into the night sky, which gave Jane the inspiration to write a poem she titled “The Star”.



This comprised five verses, each of four lines. About 30 years later – it is not known by who, when or why – someone took the first verse and put it to the music of a 17th century French folk tune, with the first two lines of the poem repeated to fill the music and thus create what became the nursery rhyme “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”.

With others, I am currently raising money for the erection of a statue to the Taylor sisters for which I have been granted planning permission by Colchester Borough Council. It will be sited diagonally opposite the Town Hall on the wide pavement in front of the recently opened Tesco Express store.

Sir Bob Russell

For further information about the statue, and how to make a donation, please contact me on the following e-mail address:

sir.bob.russell@hotmail.com

THE ANGELS OF ST LEONARD’S-AT- THE-HYTHER

The church of St Leonard’s stands rather remote from the city centre and could be said to look rather sad and neglected. However, in its time was one of the most splendid of Colchester’s medieval churches.

The Church holds many secrets and also evidence of the history of Colchester and the Hythe area in particular. From the prosperous maritime days of the port of New Hythe, the weeks of the Siege of Colchester during the English civil war to the Victorian Anglo-Catholic revival in the Church of England, you will find it all and more at St Leonard’s. There are stories of the infamous Kitty Canham of Thorpe le Soken, whose body was stored in the church before being identified, to men being arrested for using the nave for sail making.

However, one of the stories that has led to speculation and local legends is that of the Angels of St Leonard’s.

Before the reformation there were 12 wooden, carved angels attached to the hammerbeam roof of the nave. They would have looked similar to the angels attached to the roof of Westminster Hall in London.



The wooden angel in Westminster Hall

These beautiful carvings were taken down at some point. No one is completely sure when or why. William Wire, the Victorian Colchester historian, who was married to Mary Stevens in St Leonard’s, says in his “Journal of Colchester” that they were removed by the ardently protestant congregation in the eighteenth century. Other sources say they were removed in the 1640s, again by the Puritans. But it may have been that they were unsafe and removed for that reason.



Door to the parvise room

After removal they were placed in the parvise room for safe keeping. This room is situated above the south porch, the main entrance to the church. It has been used for many things over the years, including a treasury and at one period it was used as a parish jail. It is a timber framed room which has only one access point: inside the church about eight feet up and with no ladder!

When the angels were removed and placed in this room they were arranged in such a way that their heads could be seen out of the windows, onto the main road. This gave rise to a celebrated Hythe legend:

Four thieves were caught attempting to steal the church plate. As a punishment they were locked up in the parvise room and left to starve to death. A local baker heard their cries for help and threw them a loaf of bread. For his act of compassion he, too, was locked away with them. It was believed that the angels' heads were in fact the shrivelled heads of the thieves and the baker.

The five angels are still safely in the parvise room, although in the nineteenth century they were displayed in the tower of the church. When the church became redundant in 1984 it was obviously felt that they were safer in the parvise room, as the church was no longer in frequent use.



The five carved angels in the parvise room

But what happened to the other seven?

And should the surviving angels stay hidden away, or is it time that they deserve to be restored to some of their original glory? Surely these mediaeval treasures could be displayed somewhere in Colchester where their unique beauty can be more widely appreciated?

However, they have been peacefully resting in their own little 'cell' for many years; should we disturb the Angels of St Leonard's? Is it better sometimes to preserve the unique and mysterious in a hidden place?

Joy Hopkinson

Chair of the Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe

The Friends are a group of volunteers that try to keep the church open to welcome visitors and to organise events to raise awareness and interest in the church and also to fundraise. At the moment, we are only able to open each Tuesday from 12 noon until 2pm. Hopefully, with more volunteers we will be able to open more frequently in the Spring.

friends@stleonard-at-the-hythe.org.uk

RECENT COLCHESTER MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Since our last update we have seen a small dip in visitor figures over the summer period, in comparison with that of last year, but considering the extremely hot weather we were pleasantly surprised that it wasn't more significant. September was comparable with recent previous years, and October was very busy, with half-term holiday falling towards the end.

We believe that the current exhibition, *Wicked Spirits?* encouraged a different demographic to visit, and held up the visitor numbers to an acceptable level.

The talks series for *Wicked Spirits?* has been the most successful ever, with dates added to the schedule due to interest from 'expert' speakers and demand from attendees.

Colchester Castle is an important building in the history of witchcraft accusation in England. Hundreds of people were kept in the castle throughout its history, having been accused of practising magic. Some were executed for their crimes, others died in the cells awaiting judgement. Those who were declared 'not guilty' returned home where neighbours, friends and family would continue to view them with suspicion. This was an incredibly dark part of the town's history and one that needs to be remembered.

The witch trials were formerly held in the prisons of Colchester Castle, where a few cells from the 1700s remain. Although these specific cells were not used to contain those accused of witchcraft, they are part of the building's long history of imprisonment. This space is fairly dark and can be difficult for some to access. Therefore, we wanted to bring these stories out into the open. In a first for Colchester Museums, we swapped some of our permanent display space for this temporary exhibition, making *Wicked Spirits?* the first thing visitors see when they enter the museum.

We also wanted the exhibition to focus on the lives of those who suffered and were killed as a result of changing laws around witchcraft. Most people are familiar with the witchfinders, such as Matthew Hopkins, but we wanted to put the stories of the victims at the forefront of this exhibition. This is why we included a wall of all the names of people who were accused in Essex between 1550 and 1675, totalling over 700 people. We also include displays with individual case studies of local people who were executed under the Witchcraft Acts.

Recognising this is an incredibly dark part of our history and the objects and design around the exhibition were going to reflect that, we wanted to include an area in the exhibition that allows visitors to reflect on modern day beliefs and practices, many of which have the same roots as belief in magic and witchcraft. 'Superstition Corner' includes objects and an art installation of paper cuts that showcase modern superstitions. We hoped visitors would reflect on their own beliefs and practices, as many of us continue to salute magpies or think broken mirrors bring bad luck.

Wicked Spirits? Witchcraft and Magic will have closed on 8th January 2023. We hope to have a legacy from the exhibition by incorporating some of the stories into the prison area, including the wall of names.

There will also be added information in this area, on website and on-line curated object group, but sadly deinstall starts on 9th January.

We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback about the exhibition and want to ensure that those who were unable to visit can still, in the future, benefit from the work we have done.

Interest in the Natural History Museum redevelopment has boosted numbers a little there, with Hollytrees still just below pre-pandemic figures.

The second Museums Estates and Development Fund application for repairs to Hollytrees is awaiting a decision from Arts Council and we won't know the outcome until February or March. However, the Council has agreed to pay for the lift repairs which we hope will take place in January. The window broken during the break-in also has funds to cover the repair.

Interestingly, whilst we're all very concerned about the cost of living developments, the retail figures are showing a spend per head of over £2 at times across the service, particularly at the Castle, which is quite exceptional for museums in general.

For information, entry prices to the Castle have just increased by approximately 5% across the board, with another 5% increase planned for April 2023.

ACCESS AND INCLUSIVITY

We've continued to work hard on our access improvements and received recognition for this.

As a result of some work by our Access Champions - a group of staff from across the service, and particularly Lib Fox - we now have:

- Access audits completed for each museum, with recommendations being carried out.
- Been rated 7th out of 200 attractions for our access information on our website, in the top 1%, by Vocal Eyes, an organisation specialising in access. This rating was picked up by National Lottery Heritage Funding who publicly congratulated us.
- Been nominated for best access by 'Kids in Museums,' narrowly missing out on winning, but with some great feedback to help us further.

Now we've been short-listed for an Accessible and Inclusive Tourism award in the east of England – fingers crossed for the outcome.

We are working with the Employability Officer at Marketfield College, a Special

Educational Needs and Disability college in Tendring, and now have 16 student work placements, each doing approximately three hours a week each.

We had a Curating for Change placement, Karl, with us until December. Curating for Change advocates equity for d/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people.

Free Castle passes have been distributed to Ukrainian families and individuals through their support systems, and we are continuing to work with Barnardo's, Essex Child and Family Well-being Service in order to provide free access to certain events and activities.

We also provide free children's activities in the Natural History Museum during school holidays.

Each month we have a 'Relaxed Opening' when the audios and hand driers are switched off, creating a quiet and calm atmosphere for those that prefer less noise and hustle around them.

Staff have undertaken Dementia Awareness training and some are trained in basic British Sign Language.

Finally, we have taken delivery of a range of sanitary products for visitors that perhaps find themselves without the necessary products to be comfortable.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Hollytrees will have a themed '**Empire**' case, and the Castle will have a new '**Hidden Histories**' display when *Wicked Spirits?* is deinstalled in January.

Next summer will see a temporary '**Siege Display**' installed for the 375th anniversary of this event and we're looking forward to the big exhibition, *Gladiators... A day at the Roman Games*.

We're currently working with a designer to develop a very family friendly exhibition that will depict a day at the games with beast hunts, as well as the gladiatorial combat itself. As with previous exhibitions, this will be supported by peripheral activity, talks, and schools' programmes.

FUNDING

We were incredibly heartened to receive Arts Council National Portfolio funding for the next three years, and to be awarded an uplift to double our current funding. This will mean a very ambitious delivery programme for us, as well as the ability to recruit some new staff. As always with the Arts Council, the expectation is that we plan our programme around the community and inclusivity.

Pippa Pickles

Colchester Museums Manager

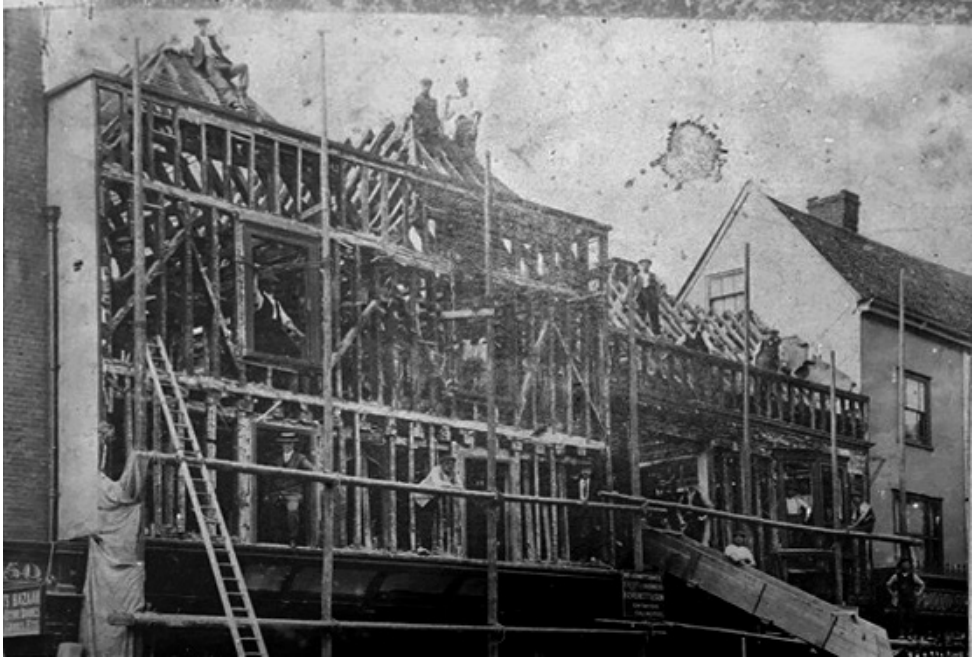
HIGH STREET c1912

One of our members, Angela Hammond, has the original of the image below. Her father was a carpenter, and later foreman, at Everetts the builders from the 1940s. He must have found the photograph, which Angela would like to go to the Museum collection.

Woolworths and Burtons jointly purchased the properties in the photograph and opened the store in September 1914. It seems likely that it shows Everetts preparing the new shops, so probably during 1912/13. I wonder if they are doing a complete refit or carrying out demolition before a rebuild? I am also wondering how old the original timber frame was, although it is possible that a new frontage may have been added later.

We have consulted Andrew Phillips and Patrick Denney, our leading local historians, and they have not seen this photograph before. They confirm Angela's estimate of the date. Part of the site is now the Robert Dyas shop and part was demolished for the old Woolworths building.

Peter Evans



Answers to End of the Year Quiz:

1 B, 2 C, 3 B, 4 B, 5 C, 6 A, 7 C, 8 C, 9 A, 10 A.



FRIENDS OF COLCHESTER MUSEUMS 2023

Lecture Series

Admission for members £2 per session (£4 non- members)

Season ticket for all talks is £20

EVENING LECTURES – Tuesday at 7.30 pm

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- 11 April Under Siege** *Cllr Professor Pam Cox*
Colchester and the Civil War
- 25 April Colchester Royal Grammar School Pool** *Dr Paul Byrne*
Colchester's biggest war memorial!
- 9 May The Low Countries to New Hall and beyond** *Sr Moira O'Sullivan*
A history of the Canonesses who now live *Sr Margaret Mary Horton*
in Chelmsford & Colchester
- 23 May The great Essex earthquake, 1884** *Peter Jones*
When panic and destruction swept across north Essex
- 6 June The Essex Industrial School** *Emma Palmer*
The Chelmsford institution for destitute boys, founded in 1872
- 20 June AGM** *Patrick Denney*
Old Heath
Ancient port and modern suburb of Colchester.
- 4 July The journey to a new museum for Brightlingsea** *Margaret Stone*
A curator's view
- 5 Sept Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust** *John Barter*
Its future plans and the new Heritage Centre
- 19 Sept The Town Watch** *Town Watch*
- 3 Oct The art in the Town Hall** *Philip Wise*
An insight into this rich collection
- 17 Oct Colchester between the Wars** *Paul Rusiecki*
The story continued from the lecture in 2022
- 31 Oct Colchester: City or Town?** *Mark Davies*

Further information from Joy Hopkinson, Programme Secretary
joyhopkinson1010@gmail.com