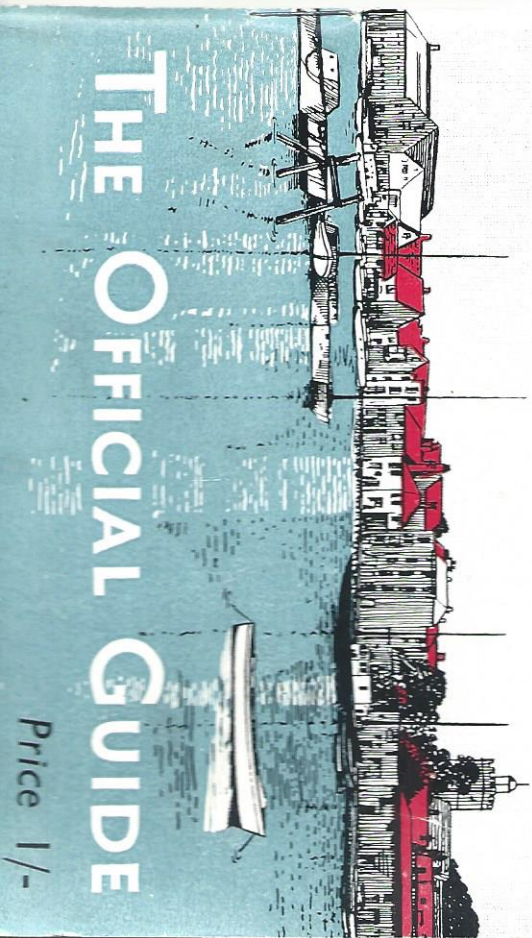


Wivenhoe

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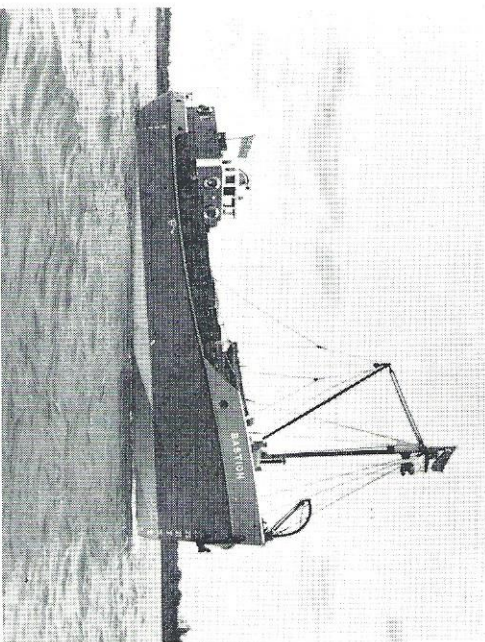
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*With Map and 7 Illustrations
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East Essex

Bakery



HIGH STREET
WIVENHOE

WIVENHOE

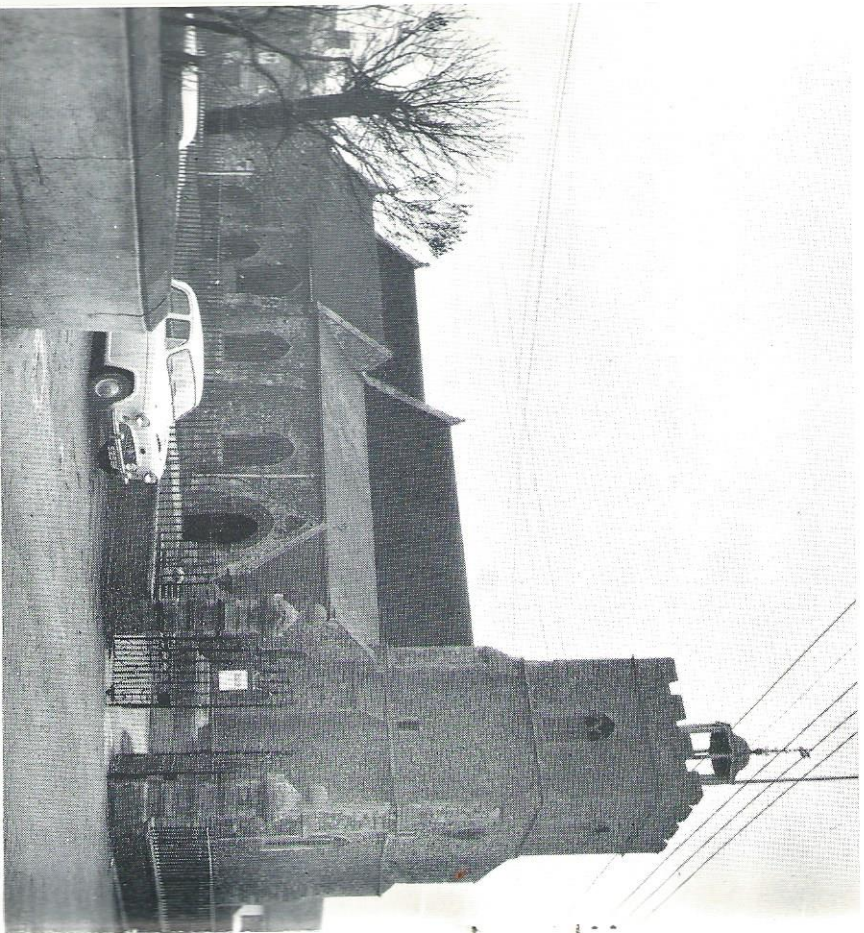
Situated in the north-east of Essex, Wivenhoe is on the River Colne and only a few miles from where this river and the Blackwater, which together form such fascinating creeks and islands, unite their estuaries as they flow into the North Sea.

From early times Wivenhoe has been a port, and for many generations its craftsmen have built boats, as they still do. Wivenhoe, which was an adjunct of the Cinque Port of Sandwiche, contributed a ship to defeat the Spanish Armada. Later it became a particularly convenient spot for landing contraband from the Continent, and stories are still recounted of the spirited encounters between the free traders and the Excise officers.

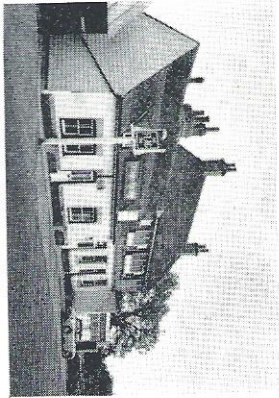
During the last war Mulberry Harbour sections and minesweepers were built at Wivenhoe. Now the shipyards specialise in sea-going yachts and distinctive types of smaller craft for which they hold a high reputation. The sailing tradition is maintained by the unique Nottage Institute where instruction is given in seamanship and practical boat building. There is a certain amount of fishing to supply the local canning factory. Other light industries of a non-traditional nature have also become established in the town.

Perhaps the most dramatic event in the life of this place was the East Anglian earthquake in 1884, as the main axis of this was in a south-westerly direction from the port of Wivenhoe, and considerable damage occurred here.

Being on the dryer side of Britain, Wivenhoe has a very moderate rainfall and a good sunshine record. The salt-tanged air is bracing and very healthy. Although Wivenhoe has for long been well known to keen yachtsmen, it is becoming increasingly popular as a resort because there is always much of interest going on here, and it makes excellent small holiday centre.



The Parish Church of St. Mary
The Virgin, Wivenhoe



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ACCESSIBILITY

Wivenhoe is situated 5 miles south-east of Colchester, 14 miles north-west of Clacton which is the nearest coastal resort, and 20 miles south-west of the North Sea port of Harwich. London is 59 miles distant by road and 56½ miles by rail.

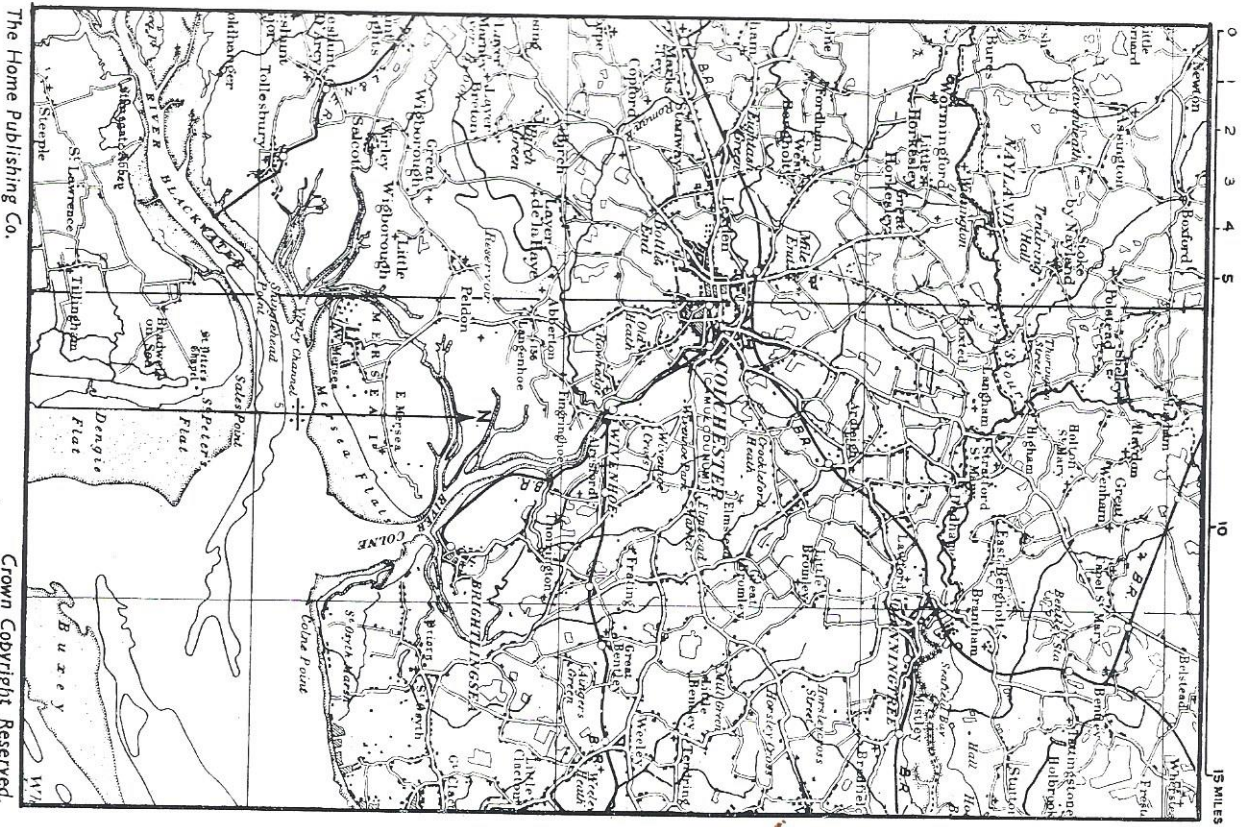
The town is served by the Eastern Region of British Railways with the main line from Liverpool Street to Colchester and Clacton-on-Sea. This is now electrified between Colchester and Clacton, and the whole of the line from London to Colchester is due to be electrified. Diesel rail cars run on the branch line between Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea. The average journey time to or from London is one and a half hours. Passengers usually have to change at Colchester but certain trains include through carriages.

Bus routes link Wivenhoe with Colchester and other surrounding towns and coastal resorts. Long-distance coaches may be connected for London and numerous provincial cities.

Wivenhoe is very directly reached by motorists from London by the A.12 trunk road through Brentwood and Chelmsford to Colchester and then by the B.1028 to Wivenhoe. Equally good main road access from the West of England is via Oxford, St. Albans and the A.120 from Bishop's Stortford and Braintree; from the Midlands through Rugby to Huntingdon, or from the North through Leicester or Stamford to Huntingdon, and then by the A.604 via Cambridge to Colchester.

**WIVENHOE CROSS
POST OFFICE**

COLCHESTER



GENERAL LOCAL INFORMATION

Area of the Urban District.—1,480 acres, or over 2½ square miles.

Banks.—Barclays Bank Ltd., High Street.

Churches.—Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, High Street; Congregational Chapel, West Street; Methodist Chapel, The Avenue. Roman Catholic churches and other Nonconformist chapels are in Colchester and Clacton.

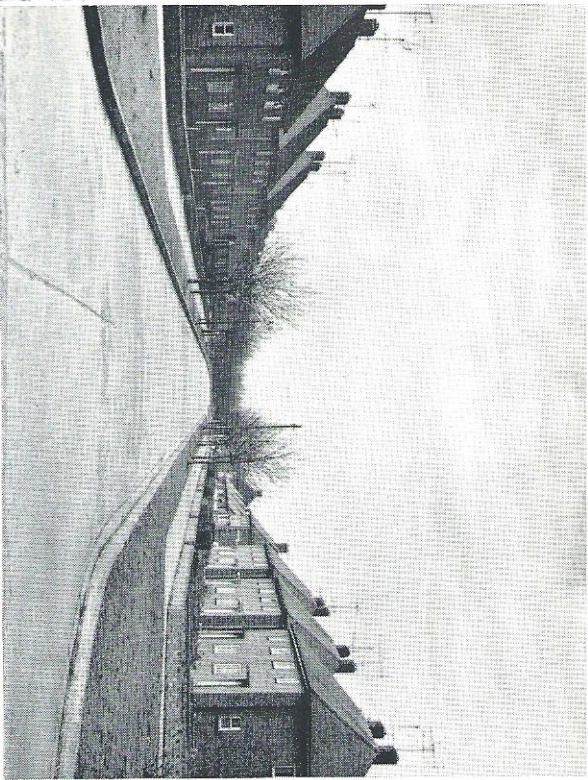
Early Closing.—Thursdays.

Education.—Advancement may be gained from the primary grade school in the town to grammar, secondary modern and technical schools at Brightingsea, Colchester and Clacton. Evening courses are arranged by the Essex Education Committee in commercial and advanced subjects and handicrafts whenever there is sufficient demand.

Seamanship, navigation, boat designing and construction are the principal subjects taught at the Nottage Institute, The Quay, Wivenhoe. Known as the nautical academy of the Colne, this is a unique local foundation, with part time evening tuition during the winter months.

Health Services.—Hospitals administered by the Colchester Management Committee of the N. E. Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board provide for local needs. There are natal clinics and a child welfare centre in the town.

Housing.—To date the Urban District Council has erected 142 houses. The present building programme includes a block of flatlets for old people. Houses and bungalows are also being built here by private enterprise.



The Council's Housing Estate, Wivenhoe

Industries.—Agriculture and its associated rural undertakings are still maintained in the undeveloped parts of this Urban District. The soil is very fertile, producing excellent crops and good pasturage. There are sand and gravel workings in the vicinity.

Although a port from early times, the sea-going trade at Wivenhoe is now small. Sea fishing is still carried out by the boats of the North Sea Cannerns (Gt. Britain) Ltd., and by a few private boats which are also operated from Wivenhoe. This town which was famed for its fast sailing yachts in the 19th century, still has its shipyards and marine engineering works, and the Colne Marine Yacht Company which continues to build sea-going craft specialises in the individual one-off class of boat rather than the production lines that occupy most modern boat yards.

A canning factory, electrical and general engineering works and some small clothing factories comprise the other industries in this Urban District. The canning factory is expanding and now deals in frozen foods.

Library.—There is a branch of the county library at the Wivenhoe Centre.

Local Government.—Administration is by the Wivenhoe Urban District Council which consists of 9 members. This Urban District was created in 1898 under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1894. Council meetings are held on the second Monday in each month at 6 p.m. The Offices of the Council are in High Street, Wivenhoe. Telephone No.: 364.

Market Days.—Saturdays at Colchester.

Newspapers.—*East Anglian Times* (daily), *Colchester Gazette* (Tuesdays), *Essex County Standard* (Fridays), *Essex County Telegraph* (Tuesdays and Fridays).

Population.—Estimated at 2,590 (mid-1958).

Post Offices.—High Street and Wivenhoe Cross.

Public Services.—A piped supply of soft, pure water is provided by the Urban District Council. Electricity is distributed by the Eastern Electricity Board, and gas by the Eastern Gas Board. Drainage is to a sewage disposal scheme operated by the Urban District Council.

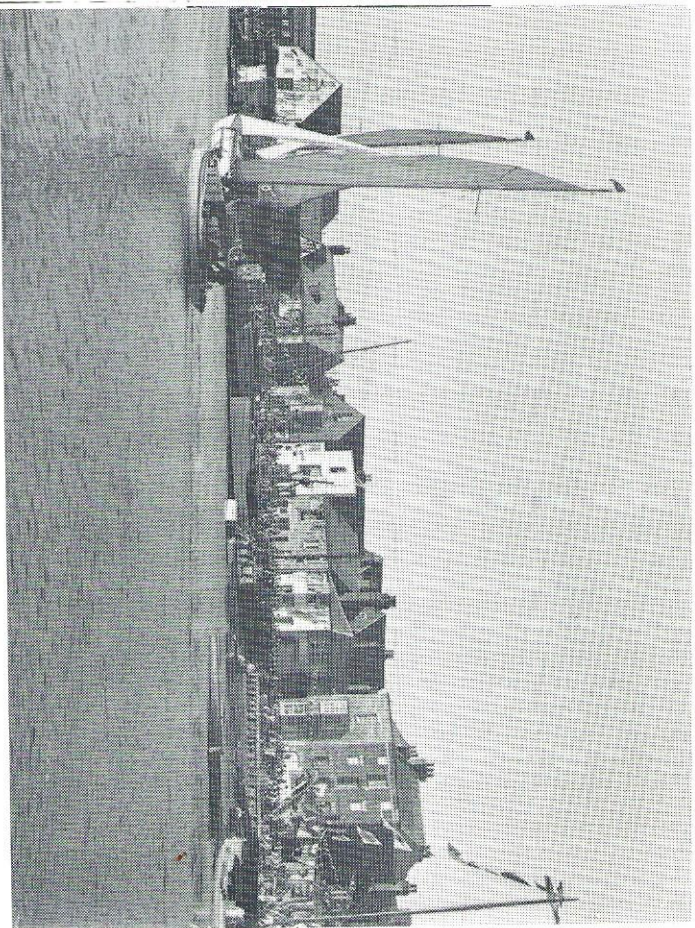
Allotments and cemeteries are maintained by this Local Authority. The Fire Station at Brook Street, Wivenhoe, is a unit of the Essex Fire Brigade and is administered by the Essex County Council. It is controlled from Colchester and is summoned by a remote calling system.

Rateable Value.—£21,908. A penny rate produces £87. General rates for the year ending 31st March, 1961:—18/4d. in the £.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Hunting is with the Essex and Suffolk Foxhounds. There is some rough shooting and wild fowling in the surrounding district. Coarse fishing is available in the Colne and other rivers on the Essex and Suffolk borders. Sea fishing provides good sport, particularly during autumn and early winter. The principal fish to be caught in the estuary and off the coast are whiting, soles, plaice, dabs, cooling and whiting pout.

The River Colne offers excellent opportunities for sailing and boating. The Wivenhoe Sailing Club, which has a very



Regatta Day at Wivenhoe

keen membership, holds an annual regatta and takes part in regattas at Brightlingsea, Mersea, Clacton, Frinton and Walton.

There are 18-hole golf courses at Colchester, Clacton and Frinton.

The King George V Memorial Field of 16½ acres is a public recreation ground in the ownership of the Urban District Council. It has been laid out with games pitches and has a children's playground. There are well supported clubs in the town for football, cricket, tennis and bowls.

Dances, whist drives, entertainments, socials and club meetings are held in the local halls. There are cinemas in the surrounding towns and a theatre at Colchester. Organisations in this Urban District include a branch of the British Legion, a Women's Institute, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, various cultural societies and recreational clubs, also Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs, Brownies, and the Youth Club at the Wivenhoe Centre.

IN EARLIER TIMES

The imprint of history goes deeply at Wivenhoe. The derivation of the place name—which is variously spelt in old records as Wihenoe, Wyrinno, Wyveho, Wivenhoo and Wienhow—is from the Saxon and means the hoe, or spur of rising land, associated with or belonging to Wifa.

There was therefore at least a family settled here well over a thousand years ago. It is also possible that this place was known to the Romans, being so close to the great city they established in 43 A.D. at what is now Colchester; and undoubtedly the oysters they so esteemed were often dredged from the creeks around Wivenhoe.

After the withdrawal of the Roman legions in a vain effort to save their crumbling empire, the Saxons landed in increasing numbers along this east coast. Driving the native Britons westwards, they took possession of their land and were able to establish the kingdom of the East Saxons, or Essex, by the end of the 5th century. This remained independent until 823 when it was absorbed into the greater kingdom of Wessex.

Later in this century the Danish invaders entrenched themselves on Mersea Island at the mouth of the Colne and began pillaging and burning the Saxon villages, including Wivenhoe, which were situated up the estuaries and the creeks. Under the Treaty of Wedmore, made in 878, their further advance into Wessex was stopped, but they retained their conquest of East Anglia until displaced in 913. They returned, sailing up the Colne and the Blackwater in great numbers in 991 to re-establish themselves here, occupying this part of England, except for a further short break, until the Saxon supremacy was restored by Edward the Confessor.

After the Norman Conquest in 1066 the Saxon lord of Wivenhoe, named Alric, was dispossessed by Robert Gernon to whom this manor was granted by William I as recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

Traditional Industries

During medieval days the inhabitants of Wivenhoe gained their living principally by fishing. Records of the 15th century show that these fisheries were then declining; but the maritime industry of boat building had begun to develop, and the wide reputation gained by the shipwrights of Wivenhoe has been maintained to the present day. During those times the lordship of the manor was held by various families which included the famous Howards and the powerful de Veres, Earls of Oxford, who had great landed possessions in East Anglia.

Contraband

Because of its secluded but eminently useful position up river within a short distance of the open sea and within easy distance of the Continental ports, Wivenhoe became a notorious haunt of smugglers. Many exciting encounters took place in the estuary, particularly between the "free traders" and Daniel Harvey, commander of the Wivenhoe Customs House cutter, who became noted for his fearless exploits in the interception of illicit cargoes.

The Earthquake

The great East Anglian earthquake which occurred in April, 1884, was particularly felt in the district around Wivenhoe where the effects were both startling and severe. In fact, the main axis of this subterranean eruption took a general direction from north-east to south-west, extending from Wivenhoe to Peldon.

Altogether over 1,200 buildings were damaged. A relief fund organised by the Lord Mayor of London amounted to £8,906 which was mainly distributed amongst private owners whose property had suffered. These included a considerable number in and around Wivenhoe.

THE URBAN DISTRICT

The Port

Situated at the head of the Colne estuary, Wivenhoe has a waterfront which extends for some distance along the river. Viewed from the opposite bank, where the Roman River flows into the Colne, this forms an attractive picture of colourwashed old houses and the medley of buildings, large and small, which characterise the quayside of so many small ports.

Berthed by the quay, or anchored in the broadening curve of the river where their tall masts with their fluttering pennants sway rhythmically against the buildings and the sky on the ebb and flow of the tide, are craft which, like the buildings, are of all ages, sizes and designs.

Although this one-time member of the Cinque Port of Sandwich in Kent has lost its medieval maritime trade and its importance as the port of Colchester when coal, timber

The River Colne and the Water Front, Wivenhoe



and grain were unloaded here for the city before the advent of the railways, it is still a busy little place, carrying on its traditional undertakings with the same skill and spirit as in past centuries.

Every port, ancient or modern, possesses a strong fascination, and this is certainly true of Wivenhoe; for something of interest is always taking place here. There is constant movement; of the ever flowing water, of the varied craft upon it, and of comings and goings at the quay. There are, too, the sounds which are essentially associated with a waterfront; the perpetual lap of the tide against the shore and the moored vessels, the wind trilling through the rigging, the creak of blocks and the pull of tackle, and the echoes across the river from the repair shops and the boat yards.

Although the types of maritime work have largely changed with the years, and up-to-date machinery has replaced older and more laborious ways of carrying it out, the original craftsmanship has not been lost. Handed down through succeeding generations, it is still a characteristic of which this little port and boat building town is justly proud. For only those who go down to the sea in ships know and fully appreciate that, in such industries as these, modern mechanisation cannot dispense with traditional craftsmanship.

The Quay

The appearance of this part of Wivenhoe has hardly changed over the last two hundred or so years, and there is an atmosphere amidst these colourwashed, mellowed brick and weatherboarded buildings which seems to linger from a much more distant past. There is here, too, that pervading sense of timelessness which is so characteristic of all old waterfronts.

Quayside Cottage was damaged during the great East Anglian earthquake and its brick back is dated 1884, having been repaired and partly rebuilt after this occurrence. Next to it stands Maple Cottage which, like the nearby Trinity House, is now scheduled as of historical and architectural interest under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. It has slated roofs and a dormer, and there are old cellars below. The front elevation is notable for its double bow windows. Trinity House, of painted brickwork and dating from the 18th century, has typical

Essex weatherboarding on its east side. There is a six-panel door with panelled reveals. The interior of this building is little altered from its original Georgian appearance.

The Nottage Institute

Also situated on the Quay is the Nottage Institute which occupies a brick and tiled building into which it moved from less convenient premises on Black Buoy Hill in 1947.

It was founded in 1895 as a result of a bequest by Capt. C. G. Nottage who was prominent in the yachting world and invariably selected his skippers and crews from the Colne. He desired to establish an institute where sailors and yachtsmen could improve themselves in navigation and might also have a club with a reading room and library of standard works on navigation, charts, maps and books of travel.

Trustees, appointed with the fullest and widest discretion to carry out these wishes, decided that Wivenhoe should

The Nottage Institute, The Quay

