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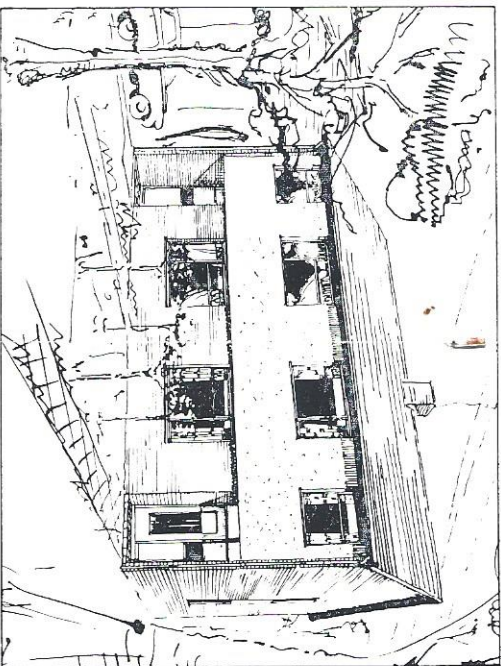
## WIVENHOE

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be selected as the most suitable place for such an institute. Ever since it was established here it has filled a most useful and noteworthy place in the life of Colneside and north-east Essex, and has become fittingly known as the nautical academy of the Colne.

There are well-equipped classrooms for instruction and study, a lecture room, and a workshop where boat building is carried out. Subjects taught include navigation and seamanship, practical boat construction, knotting, splicing and canvas work, ship designing and building. Tuition in all these subjects is free. In more recent times a development has been the introduction of apparatus for films and screen illustrations for fortnightly lectures on subjects of general maritime interest.

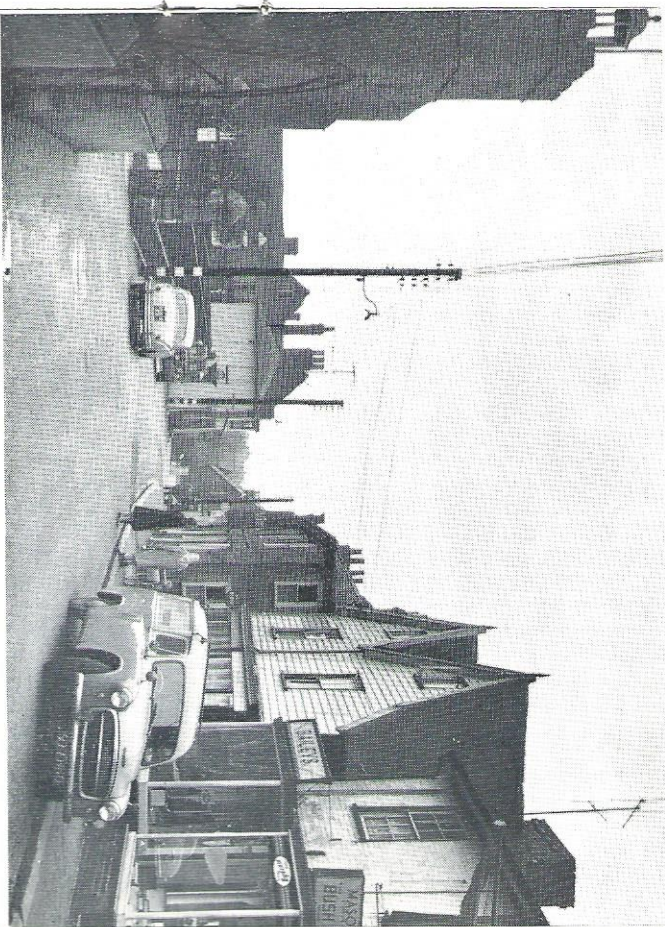
In 1950 the students built a 16 ft. motor dinghy which was presented to the Royal Research ship "Discovery" at Pilgrim's Wharf, London, for use in the training of Sea Scouts. In 1955, a year which marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Institute, a Maritime Exhibition was staged here which, with the co-operation of shipyards and craft owners, presented a survey of the Colneside tradition of yachting, seamanship and craftsmanship.

There are qualified instructors in all subjects, and from time to time World Voyagers and Master Mariners have given valuable aid in the courses. By gift and purchase this unique Institute has acquired an excellent library. It has also become the repository of interesting maritime records, pictures and relics. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. W. J. Cracknell, of Charmaine, Belle Vue Road, Wivenhoe.

### The Town

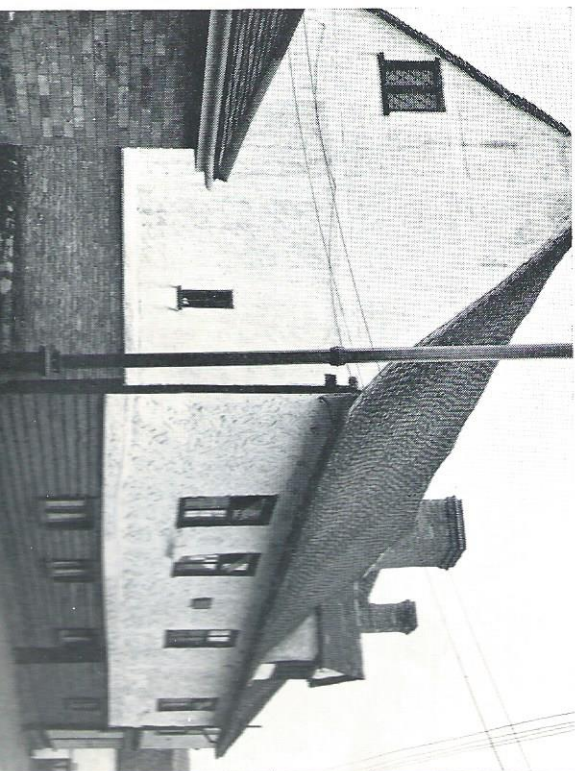
Although the waterfront is naturally the main attraction for visitors, the rest of the older part of the town is also of interest. It has quaint byways and picturesque buildings, some with overhanging upper storeys and steep gables with carved bargeboards.

In East Street stands Garrison House, now a class I scheduled building under the Town and Country Planning Act. This is most notable for its characteristic parge-work, said to be the largest and finest example of such in Essex. Built about the middle of the 17th century, this house is timber-framed and plastered, with a tiled roof. Some restoration has been carried out by brick and weather-boarding.



The Lower End of Wivenhoe High Street

The Garrison House, East Street



On the south side the upper storey projects on three moulded and shaped brackets and there is a moulded eaves cornice. The north front has its upper storey completely covered with elaborate parqueting, or raised plaster decoration in foliage and strapwork. There is a dormer in the roof with its original moulded frame and a parqueting gable. The interior displays traces of wall-paintings.

The traditional history of this fine old house is that it has been variously used as offices of the East India Company, by smugglers, press gangs, as a place of detention, and a revenue office. It subsequently fell into a state of considerable disrepair, especially as regards the interior; but it has now been carefully restored and is in use as a guest house.

Also of considerable interest, and similarly scheduled although as a class II building, is what was formerly known as Last's Bakery (now Halsey & McKay) which is situated on the west side of High Street. This is a 17th century house, of timber-framed and plastered construction with tiled roofs. The front elevation has two modern dormers inserted, and the projecting upper storey has been underbuilt. The pair of bay shop windows were fitted here last century. The principal features of this old building are the original coved eaves, the plaster cornice decorated with running foliage, and the contemporary interior wall-paintings which were only discovered fairly recently.

### Wivenhoe Park

The more modern residential development of Wivenhoe continues inland from the quay and the old part of the town, rising to Wivenhoe Cross and beyond to the main road between Colchester and Clacton where an elevation of 116 feet above sea-level is the highest point in this Urban District. Wivenhoe Hall, seat of the Earl and Countess of Oxford in the 16th century, has been largely rebuilt but still retains a gabled wing dating from that time.

Between the main road and the river lies the well timbered estate of Wivenhoe Park, extending to about two hundred acres. The residence here was added to the already compiled list of local buildings scheduled as being of historic and architectural interest on the authority of a letter to the Urban District Council from the Minister of Housing and Local Government on 24th November, 1958, with a class II classification.

The house was originally built for Colonel Isaac Martin Rebow, the work being begun in 1759. Alterations are said to have been carried out by General Francis Slater, who took the name of Rebow on marrying the family heiress in 1796. The residence was painted for him by the celebrated Suffolk artist, John Constable, in 1816, this picture now being in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

General Slater-Rebow had only one child, a daughter, who predeceased him. In consequence he was succeeded in 1845 by his son-in-law, John Gurdon Rebow, who commissioned Thomas Hopper to alter the house. This work, which consisted of remodelling the facade in Elizabethan style, building a new entrance porch on the north front and a staircase wing on the east, was completed in 1853. In 1902 the property was purchased by Mr. C. E. Gooch, father of the present owner.

### The Parish Church

Situated in the picturesque old High Street and just above the quay where its tower forms a well-known landmark from the river, the parish church is approached through a churchyard which contains some interesting old grave-stones and a fine group of chestnut trees.

Dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, this church is mainly of 14th and 15th century dating. The chantry chapel of the de Veres, Earls of Oxford, was erected in 1413. Extensive restoration work was undertaken in 1859 at a cost of £3,000 and again in 1884 as a result of the damage from the earthquake. The western tower, constructed of local flints in or about the year 1500, has corner buttresses and an embattled parapet above which rises a wooden cupola.

The spacious interior of this church is noteworthy for its 14th century nave arches. The north door panelling illustrates the Miraculous Drought of Fishes. In the vestry is preserved a very handsome nail-studded and embossed parish chest, believed to be of Flemish workmanship and probably about five hundred years old.

The most notable memorial is a really magnificent pair of 16th century brasses. The first depicts William, second Lord Beaumont, who died in 1507 and is considered to be the work of Flemish craftsmen. He is in Tudor armour with his head supported by a helm bearing a lion crest and his feet upon an elephant carrying a castle. This splendid

engraving is completed with a most decorative triple canopy. The second brass is to his widow, Elizabeth, who subsequently married John, Earl of Oxford, and died in 1537. She is shown in a heraldic robe with a pedimental headdress and a coronet beneath a triple canopy and the further enrichment of an embattled supra-canopy. Another good brass depicts Thomas Westley (1538) in his mass vestments. He was chaplain to the Countess during her time of residence at Wivenhoe Hall. A further brass, dated 1537, commemorates Lady Elizabeth Scroope and members of the Sutton family.

## WIVENHOE AS A HOLIDAY RESORT

This most pleasant small town is becoming increasingly popular as a resort for those who prefer the less conventional type of holiday. There is always activity here, at the quay and in the boat yards. The passing river traffic provides a constant but ever changing interest. Wivenhoe is also an ideal centre for yachting, boating and fishing.

The well-known coastal resorts of Clacton, Frinton and Walton-on-the-Naze are within easy reach, as are the growing resorts of Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick, and the historic small port of Brightlingsea where there are some of the most noted Essex oyster beds. A ferry across the Colne from Wivenhoe provides access to Hyde Park Corner and the picturesque village of Fingringhoe set above the Roman River. There used to be a ford from Wivenhoe to the south bank where Rowledge stands. This one-time port was, like Wivenhoe, a member of the Cinque Port of Sandwich and became famous for its iron boat industry. Boat building is still carried on here.

Close to these two villages passes the main road from Colchester to the very popular Mersea Island which is situated between the estuaries of the Colne and the Blackwater with its extensive beaches facing the open sea. A few miles inland lies the city of Colchester, which proudly claims to be Britain's oldest recorded town and preserves many interesting relics of its long past, including a Roman gateway and city walling, a magnificent Norman castle and picturesque abbey and priory ruins. L. ELGAR PIKE.

*Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this guide, and the statements contained herein are believed to be correct, the publishers and the promoters of this publication will not hold themselves responsible for any inaccuracies.*

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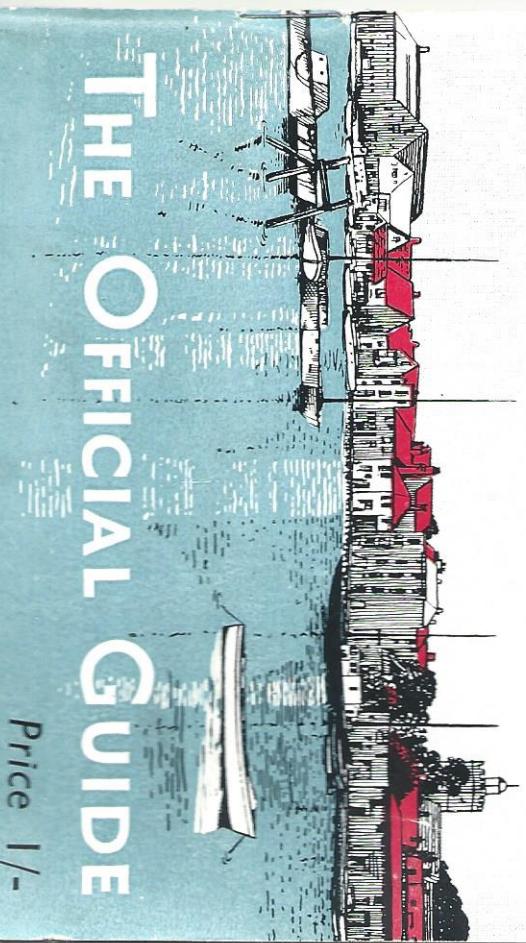
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