

## Wivenhoe Pubs & Beerhouses

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This trail leaflet will guide you through Wivenhoe to visit the sites of the 24 known pubs and beerhouses that traded here. Many of the buildings are still recognisable, but only six are still public houses. Several alas, have been demolished and the sites will be more difficult to locate.

Using the QR code on the front of this leaflet, more details and additional photos of these pubs can be accessed from the History Group website.

This leaflet was produced by members of Wivenhoe History Group who were inspired by Peter Kay's booklet 'Wivenhoe Pubs', published in 2003.

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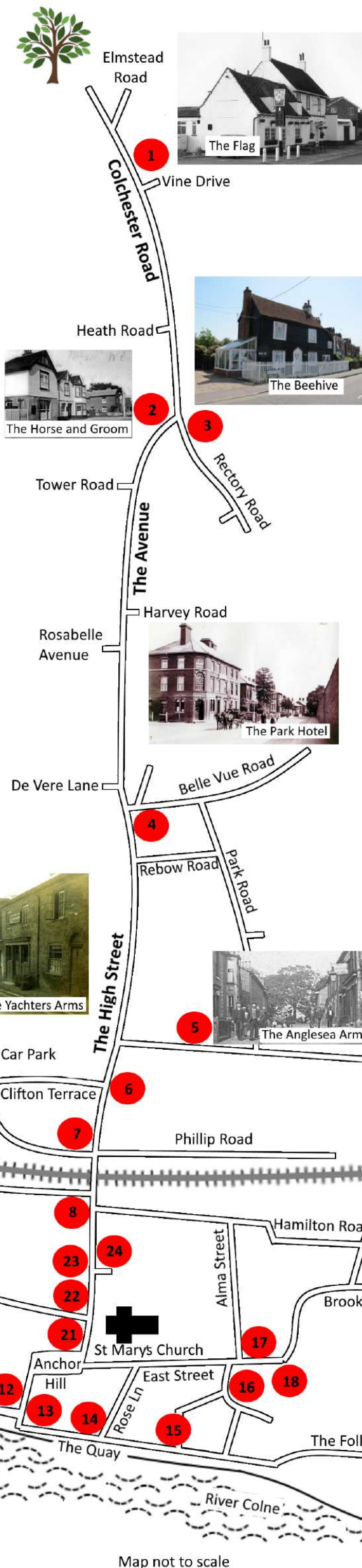
Photographs from Wivenhoe Memories.

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As research continues, the website will be updated.



Map not to scale

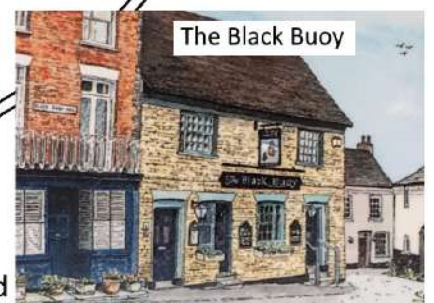
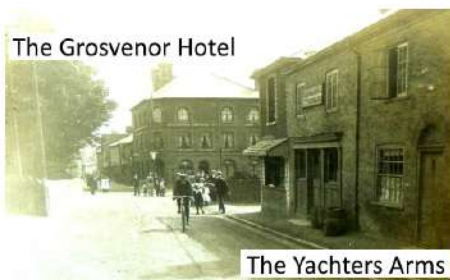
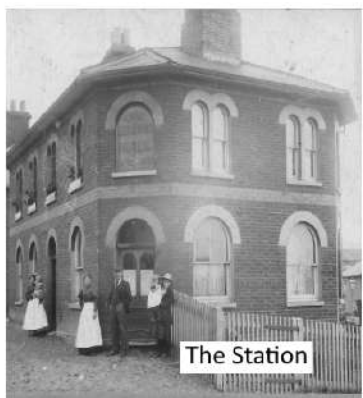
# WIVENHOE PUB TRAIL



Explore the Wivenhoe  
Pubs and Beerhouses  
Past and Present

[www.wivenhoehistory.org.uk/pubtrail](http://www.wivenhoehistory.org.uk/pubtrail)

£1





1. The Flag (The Union Flag) c.1769

Currently a 'Pop-Up Pub', during refurbishment. Once set on an unmade road leading to Colchester and surrounded by fields. Originally named after the 1707 Union of Scotland & England then later changed to 'The Flag'. In 1905 they advertised 'Good accommodation for Cyclists'.

2. The Horse and Groom (The Kings Arms) 1725. Still



Trading  
Wivenhoe Cross was an isolated hamlet in 1725. The trade being agricultural workers from the local farms and the nearby rope

works. From c1800, there was a forge next door and the pub customers played horseshoe pitching.

3. The Beehive c.1848 - 1910

Today named Beehive Cottage and situated in Rectory Road near the junction with the Avenue, it was one of the earliest beerhouses in Wivenhoe. The first licensee was Joseph Ames Dowsett (1804-1854), a butcher by trade and the beerhouse was run by his wife Maria.

4. The Park Hotel 1863 - 2008

A prominent building marking the entrance to Wivenhoe in Victorian times. It was just one of several pubs built by John Eade, at the time the railway came to Wivenhoe. This hotel had a large upstairs room and it became a popular meeting place for many sporting clubs. For instance, during summer in the 1920s, the Cricket Club met here weekly to pick their teams.

5. The Anglesea Arms (The Old Shipwrights) c.1860 - 1922

It was a purpose built beerhouse surrounded by new Victorian terraces. An archway on the left provided access to the yard at the back. It was closed 1922 when the Licensing Committee concluded Wivenhoe had too many pubs and beerhouses.

14. The Rose and Crown c.1764. Still Trading



The last remaining quayside pub and it still has many period features. A popular venue with visitors who want to enjoy the riverside setting. In earlier times all quayside pubs played their part in smuggling; each one adopting a 'spirit' eg. gin, with an unwritten agreement not to encroach on the other's illegal trade.

15. The Sailors Return c.1860 -1909

The site of this quayside beerhouse later became Guy Harding's Colne Marine and Yacht Co. boat yard. Currently residential housing named Hardings Yard. It was a favourite with sailors, having a splendid view of boats coming up and down the river.

16. The Black Buoy (the Black Boy) c.1758. Still Trading

This building is late 16<sup>th</sup> Century and claims to be the oldest surviving pub in Wivenhoe. Being close to the river and the downstream shipyard, it was popular with all those connected to the river. There have been rumours of a smuggling tunnel linked to the Quay.

17. The Live and Let Live 1862 - 1908

Another beerhouse which closed in the Edwardian era. Built on the corner of Alma Street on a small plot, in a similar style to the Shipwrights Arms. Later it became a general store, then Holy Joe's and more recently a Guest House.

6. The Greyhound 1817 Still Trading



Much of the exterior of the original pub remains and inside there is an old fireplace thought to be from the former Cross Keys Tavern, once on this site. It had a 'jugslip' a place where jugs were stored ready for people to take home their ale. There were originally stables behind the pub.

7. The Yachters Arms (The Brewers Arms) c.1871 - 1908

In 1880 it was renamed 'The Yachters Arms' reflecting Wivenhoe's maritime history. At this time many Colne fishermen also crewed the numerous large racing yachts that moored on the river.

8. The Grosvenor c.1865 - 1968

Built in a similar style to The Park Hotel and The Live and Let Live. The exterior remains similar today. The Railway Line opened in 1863 bringing people from London and beyond. The racing yacht owners and their guests stayed at the Grosvenor Hotel soon after it opened.

9. The Station (The Railway Hotel) 1863. Still Trading

It stands in a significant position for people after their journey to Wivenhoe by train. It was very popular with locals travelling from London who had several minutes to wait at Wivenhoe before getting the 'Crab & Winkle' line to Brightlingsea. It had a quoits rink at the back of the pub. The quoits were 8lb steel discs and the pin was set in a bed of soft clay.

18. The Sun c.1772 - 1805

The Sun was a substantial building in Brook Street and is thought to have stood where the entrance to the Black Buoy car park is today. The first publican, Thomas Corder, kept pigs and in 1772, the Ipswich Journal reported that he had a Large FOREIGN HOG standing over twelve hands and reputed to be the largest in England.

19. The Brewery Tavern 1868 - 1986

It was situated just at the rear of Cook's shipyard and this beerhouse accepted the tokens that shipyard workers had as part of their wages. In 1868 the 'Wivenhoe Ales and Stout Brewery' was located behind the tavern and provided the very good and popular beer. Later, it was a favourite with artists who exhibited their paintings; including primitive artist, Ernie Turner.

20. The Yachtsmans Arms c.1860 - 1922

This beerhouse was very close to the Captain's row in Anglesea Rd. Set within walking distance of the big racing yachts moored on the sea wall, the crews from these yachts would have their elevenses in The Yachtsmans Arms and The Brewery Tavern.

21. The Bull (The Trowel and Hammer) c.1867 - 1906



In 1871 it was called 'The Trowel & Hammer', but by 1881 it was renamed 'The Bull' when it was owned by a butcher. This C16 building occupies a prominent position on Anchor Hill, once the market square.

10. The Shipwrights Arms c.1848 - 1953

A popular beerhouse with sailors and yachtsmen, situated next to the upstream Shipyard. The main door on the corner of Bath Street led into a triangular bar. In 1913 its interior was badly damaged when the chimney in the shipyard was struck by lightning.

11. The Ship at Launch (The Woolpack) c.1728 - 1910



Formerly named the Woolpack because of the local trade in woollen cloth. Situated in the midst of shipbuilding. It was renamed in 1781 when bigger boats were being launched nearby, the shipyard was vibrant and the wool trade had collapsed.

12. The Anchor (The Blue Anchor) c.1684 - 1911

Situated in a very prominent position on the Quay, early photos show people launching their boats right in front of the pub. It managed to survive the 1884 earthquake without much damage, unlike the houses next door.

13. The Swan (The Maidenhead) c.1720 - 1805

When this property was purchased after WWII the owners found a large cavity between two rooms, a hiding place for storing contraband silk, reflecting the smuggling that took place in Wivenhoe.



22. The Lion (The Red Lion) c.1840 - 1906



Another 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framed building, the façade of which was possibly damaged in the Earthquake of 1884 and in more recent times by a large lorry!

23. The Grapes 18<sup>th</sup> Century

There is a cornice with the grape vine pargetting under the eaves, so did it sell wine as well as beer? A grade II listed building which later became a bakery.

24. The Falcon 16<sup>th</sup> Century - 1975

The Falcon was once the centre of village life and with the yard alongside was the scene of many village events including Morris Dancing, parades and dances. As it was close to church, it was a popular location for weddings, wakes. It was also a meeting place for many local groups and societies.

