

A PILGRIMAGE AROUND COLCHESTER'S HISTORIC MEDICAL SITES



The Essex County Hospital, 2015.

INTRODUCTION

Our "*Pilgrimage*" is just an amble through a few streets of Colchester where doctors have lived and/or practiced for the past 500 years. This can only be a very simple guide because many doctors changed their addresses a number of times. In the early days the license to practice medicine in Colchester would have been granted by the Bishop of London, then later by the Royal College of Physicians, (LRCP), the Royal College of Surgeons, (LRCS) and the Society of Apothecaries (LSA). Thus the title of Dr or Mr for a medical man was often interchangeable. Doctors usually practiced from their residences, but would visit and treat patients in patients' own homes until the Essex and Colchester Hospital was established in 1820. Here those doctors with the appropriate skill were offered Honorary Surgeon or Physician posts, and in return they provided their service gratis. Full time consultant posts only came into being with the National Health Service in 1948.

We start at the Essex County Hospital (ECH), now designated a Grade II listed building. The foundation stone was laid in 1819 and the hospital opened a year later as the Essex and Colchester Hospital (the first Voluntary Hospital in Essex and Suffolk). The land had been the site of a Roman Cemetery where the funerary Sphinx, now in the Colchester Museum, was discovered; in the Middle Ages the land had belonged to the monastery and church (dating from 1235) of the Augustinian Crossed (Crutched) Friars. Eventually the land was owned by the Round family of Birch who sold it to the trustees of the new hospital. As first built, the hospital was a plain, double-storied building, but by 1865 following the addition of a portico and two wings which increased the size of the wards, the hospital had achieved its present imposing appearance. The square towers on the corners were added to accommodate lavatories and WCs once piped water had arrived. The windows were also enlarged.

On entering the ECH, on right was the Board Room, which was also used by the Matron; on the left was the Surgeons' and Physicians' Room, plus Wards 1 & 2, Matron's quarters, and the hospital kitchen. The original straight, shallow-stepped staircase led to Wards 3 and 4 and to the Operating Room which needed the good light provided beneath a skylight; this was before gas or electricity were installed.

At the rear was a central courtyard with a well, stables, laundry, a brew house and a dead house. (mortuary) These have all disappeared, and were replaced by Ward 5 (Children's) built in 1907, followed by the Outpatients department, Casualty, and the Private Wards on the first floor. (renamed Jefferson Ward in the 1980s to appease Socialist sensitivity). In 1914 two 'temporary' Netley Huts were erected to accommodate World War I wounded, but the huts remained in use till 1950. In 1936 Wards 6 & 7 were built, and following the opening of the District General Hospital in 2006, they were demolished and land used for a staff car park. A new operating theatre suite was opened in 1955, and the Medical Postgraduate Centre (with its beverage facility) in 1966. The Nurses' Home was built in 1900, but extended with an art deco frontage on Oxford Rd in 1932.

Turn **Left** on to Lexden Road

OXFORD RD was developed in 1877 (the Board of the Essex County Hospital was charged £360 for this.) Most of the houses in the road were owned by or leased by the hospital to be used as Nurses' or Sisters' accommodation. At **No 1** lived Dr E.J. Baldwin (Honorary Ophthalmologist, and from 1948 NHS consultant), **No 2a** "Creffield House" Dr J.L. Hamilton from 1947 to 1951 followed by Dr William Fraser-Allen until 1963. Their practice premises were at the rear of the building.

At the corner of **Gray Rd** Dr W. Fraser-Allen started the Gray Rd practice at Number 1, which subsequently relocated to Ambrose Avenue in Prettygate with Doctors Dennis Lamont, Chris Hall, and Peter Snell, and later Helen James and Max Hickman as principals;

Creffield Rd: No.19 the 'Creffield Road' practice was established in the early 1960s; Drs John Steeds, Roy Axon, Richard Hudson, Peter Chapman, Nat Young, Nick Dixon, Andrew Lennard-Jones and Vivien St. Joseph were among the partners. The practice moved to modern purpose built premises in the Cavalry Barracks development in 2013. Also in Creffield Road, at number 16, Drs Roger Sauvan-Smith, Norman Paros, Colin Davies, Dimi Annan, Jonathan Gatland and David Withnall were partners who ran the practice on two sites, with the second premises on Mersea Road, serving the Monkwick estate.



1 Gray Road



16 Creffield Road



19 Creffield Road

LEXDEN RD: (South side):



4 Lexden Road



12 Lexden Road

No. 4: Dereham Place, was built for William Buck, (Honorary Dentist) whose daughter married James Wicks, one time Mayor of Colchester and promoter of the 'Jumbo' water tower). In 1922 the houses were bought by Dr Leigh Day, an Honorary Surgeon, (*d.*1935), who sold it to Dr Michael Lampard (*d.*1974,) and Dr Arthur Pollard, consultant physician. (*d.* 1988); they leased part of the house to other doctors as Consulting rooms. The building now houses the Oxford Road infants school.

No.12: 'Camulodunum' was built 1876 for the Nunn medical family.

No.22: Dr.J.L.Hamilton (ex RAMC) from 1933 to 1947, who then sold it to the Royal Observer Corp. This organisation built a Nuclear Fallout Control Shelter in its garden, where there is now a pair of semidetached houses.

No.1: Beverley Road was connected **No. 18 Lexden Rd, and** renamed Beverley House, becoming the Beverley Road Nursing Home in 1930. The premises were run by Mrs E.K.Seamer who was succeed by Miss Margaret Allen, and continued as a mainly private Maternity Home until 1955. Further along the Lexden Rd the Colchester Borough Maternity Hospital was opened in 1932, and contained both a consultant maternity hospital and a 32 bed GP maternity unit.(1932-1990). Maternity services were transferred to the new Colchester General Hospital in 1990 and the site redeveloped as row of nice Town Houses.



Beverley House & 16 Beverley Road



16. Beverley Road: Mansfield House was built in 1875 for Charles Davey the co-founder of Davey & Paxman Engineering Ltd. His son Dr Charles Davey lived here before he emigrated to South Africa where he died in 1927. The house is now owned by Colchester Royal Grammar School

CAMBRIDGE RD:



4 Cambridge Road



5 Cambridge Road

No. 4: Gostwyke House, was built in 1882 for Edwin Sanders (Mayor of Colchester 1916). The house became Gostwyke Auxiliary Hospital during World War 1;

No. 5: Dr George Young, (*d.*1935) an Honorary Ophthalmologist: he was also a musician and violin maker. Both houses have since been converted into apartments.

No. 1: Cambridge Lodge, Dr Sydney Curl, an Honorary Physician, lived here. (*d.*1936)

LEXDEN RD: (North side)

Nos 33 to 51: these are the row of semidetached Regency houses known as "St. Mary's Terrace West", which became known as the 'Consultants houses' because several were occupied by consultants working at the ECH. The list of past residents includes Lionel Penrose, (*d.*1972), Sydney Probert (*d.*1985), Simon Lavender (*d.*1974), Dennis Dunn (*d.* 2001), Jack Nicholas (*d.*1980), Robert Woodd-Walker (*d.*2011), Neil Orr (*d.*2012), David Learmont, and last but not least, one GP, John Steeds who died in 2008.



St Mary's Terrace & 1 Lexden Road

No. 1: Dr Roger Sauvan-Smith, GP and consultant obstetrician & gynaecologist. (d.1998).

No. 17: Dr Alan Maclean, an Honorary Physician. (d.1840). He was a great gardener, famous for his experimental marrowfat peas, early rhubarb and white pelargoniums. The nature reserve at Highwoods is named after him. The original house was demolished sometime in the early 20th century, and four contemporary houses were built in the grounds.

No. 19: 'The Oaks' built in 1848 for John Catchpool, (owner of an iron works foundry), and later owned by Dr Roger Sturley Nunn,(1813-1882): Nunn was an Honorary Surgeon, who performed the first operation under ether anaesthesia at the ECH in January 1848. The next occupant was Mr Gurney Benham, a newspaper owner, who in 1934, sold the house to Mr Ronnie Reid, FRCS, (1904-1968). Mr Reid ran the house as the Colchester Oaks Nursing Home until 1964, when the purpose-built Oaks Nursing Home/Hospital was opened in Oaks Drive. This was developed into a small up-market housing estate, built by Messrs Hills & Co in the garden of the old Oaks house. In 1994 the Oaks Hospital was relocated to Mile End Road. Mr Ronnie Reid was the first fully trained Surgeon to work at the Essex County Hospital, and here he played a major role in establishing and promoting the high standards of surgical practice for which Colchester became well known. The house is now occupied by the Colchester English Language Centre.



The Oaks, Lexden Road.



The Hospital Arms, Crouch Street

HOSPITAL LANE, so named because it led to the Spital, or St Catherine's 'Hospital' (1352), maintained by the Lords of the Manor of Lexden who owned the large tract of land, where Manor, Papillon, Crowhurst and Rawsthorn Roads were built towards the end of the 19th century. (**Note:** See a *History of the County of Essex: Vol. 9, the Borough of Colchester*.

SOUTHWAY

HOSPITAL RD and WELLESLEY RD were both cut off from Lexden Road and Crouch Street after the Southway inner ring road was built in the 1970s. The following doctors lived in these two roads in the 1930-40s: Doctors Augustine Fry, (d.1946), James Pender-Smith, (d.1971), and Penry Rowland (d.1964). During World War One The Colchester

Boys High School in Wellesley Road was used as the Essex County Hospital Female and Children's Wards wounded soldiers. (The school is now Co-educational)



Wellesley Road



Crouch Street West

CROUCH ST: Named after the monastery and church of the Augustine Crossed (crutched) Friars, was a continuation of Lexden Rd until Southway was built. The Hospital Arms, aka Ward Nine, was where doctors might be found if not in any of the other eight ECH wards.

No. 107: Crouched Friars House was built for John Blatch in 1776: at one time the house became known as Linton House School, and was later owned in turn by Drs Edgar Hunt (d.1923), Honorary Surgeon, and promotor of the Colchester War Memorial, John Roth radiologist, and Robin Bradshaw, a GP who died in 1970. In 1980 the house became a retirement home.

No. 38: Dr Johnstone (d.1936)

No. 28: Dr Richard Chambers, Honorary Physician. (d.1843).

No. 22: 'Tranent' renamed after the builder in the 1970s, formerly known as John Cole House was built in 1788 for John Cole. In 1910 it was owned by Dr Edward Chichester, an Honorary Surgeon; (d.1925) and later by Dr Edgar Wirth, (Honorary Surgeon and GP) who died in 1974, Dr Wirth built himself a lovely house for his retirement in part of the large garden which contains the ruins of an early Roman Christian church the foundations of which can still be seen in front of the Police Station. The house was compulsorily purchased and demolished soon after, to build Southway bypass.

No. 16: Built in 1765 for Dr William Smythies (d.1795) (Apparently he had a wealthy wife, Elizabeth, daughter of John Blatch),. The house was sold in 1839 by Dr.Charles Bouflower, an Honorary Surgeon, who was with the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War. (d. 1844). From 1902 to 1930, the house was occupied by Dr Eustace George Renny (d. 1941) an Honorary Surgeon from 1914-34. In 1933 the property became the site of the Regal, later renamed Odeon Cinema following conversion into a two screen cinema.

No. 12: Dr Peter Duncan, Honorary Surgeon and GP, arrived in Colchester In 1848 and took lodgings with a school master called John Bare, before setting up in general practice. After his marriage in 1852 to a Miss Jane Cooke, Dr Duncan moved to 86 East Hill. In

1857 he became the Mayor of Colchester, as well as being a Justice of the Peace. Peter Duncan had a great interest in natural history and geology, and he was largely responsible for the establishment of the town's Castle Park. Duncan also had an interest in archaeology and he uncovered the remains of the northern gate of Roman Colchester, which lies at the bottom north east corner of Castle Park; the area was subsequently named the Duncan Gate in recognition of his work for Colchester; this structure was a postern gate in the Roman town's north wall. In 1861 Peter Duncan left Colchester to become the first professor of geology at King's College, London. He died in London in 1891.



16 & 12 Crouch Street



BALKERNE LANE, now BALKERNE HILL: In the early 1970s Balkerne Lane was turned into a dual carriage road by lowering the level of the top of Balkerne Hill in order to make the hill less steep for traffic and by demolishing the poor dwellings on both sides of the old road; this also had the benefit of exposing the triumphal eastern Roman Gateway. The 'Hole in the Wall' pub had part of the Roman wall pulled down in 1846 to allow customers to watch the trains arriving at the Colchester North station. Today one can view the new Balkerne Heights housing estate, which was built in the 1990s on the site of the old Colchester Union Workhouse, built in 1837, with its Infirmary which became St Mary's Hospital. Two of the roads on the estate are named after doctors; Drs Francis Kellerman, consultant chest physician, (d.1988), and Henry Laver, Honorary Surgeon: (d.1917),

CHURCH STREET: The church of St Mary at the Wall whose medieval tower was used in 1648 as a platform by the gunner One-eyed Jack to fire on the besieging Parliamentarians. The church was rebuilt in 1713 by Sir Isaac Rebow, and again in 1872, but the tower fell during the 1884 earthquake, and was repaired in brick. Inside the church is a memorial plaque to Dr Robert Richardson Newell, (1750-1824), his wife Sarah and son Edward, a surgeon who died in 1800 aged 21. A similar plaque remembers another son Charles, captain of an East Indiaman ship who died in 1815 when it caught fire. They are buried in the Rebow Vault in the cemetery grounds. Interred in the grounds are William Hall, (barber surgeon) (d.1637); Richard Seaman (d.1740); John Wade (d.1792); Thomas Skinner d. 1769; in the 'altar' tomb are the remains of Elizabeth Nunn who died in 1808 aged 25, the first wife of Dr Roger Nunn.

The Mercury Theatre stands on the site of St Mary's Rectory, whose one time incumbent the Reverend Irvine christened the nearby town water tower 'Jumbo'. St Mary's House was built in 1802 for William Mason (his initials WM on hopper) was later occupied first by Doctor Edward Bawtree, an Honorary Physician who worked in Canada, New Zealand, and Abyssinia;(d.1898) and later by Dr Eustace Renny, The house was bought in 1919 by Dr Nolan Fell (d.1960), whose son John Fell became a GP and a consultant anaesthetist at the Essex County Hospital. After the death of Nolan Fell, the house became the main Friends Meeting House in Colchester. (Quakers)



The church of St Mary's at Walls

St Mary's House

NORTH HILL: St Peter's Church, which is located at the top of North Hill, contains a memorial plaque to Dr Jacobus Bayley (d.1699) which includes the latin inscription '*Hic tutius jacet.*' (All is safe), apparently his favourite saying. Also at St Peter's is a stone at the vestry door to Robert Sterling FRS, who died 1in 1787 aged 63.

No. 7: North Hill House: Dr David Morris (d.1856); Dr Henry Finch (d.1871)

No. 18: Half of the imposing house was owned by Royston Barton, now the location of "The North Hill Medical Practice, was started by Dr Thomas Fripp (d.1963) taken over by Dr John Parker

No. 37: Dr George Sargent (d.1866)

No. 63: Dr Henry Whitby (d.1899)

HEAD ST:

Over the years the buildings in Head Street have undergone many alterations, so it is difficult to pinpoint individual houses but it was a popular area for residences and surgeries for many doctors: John Musgrave (circa.1760); Moses Griffin (c.1757); Joseph Stapleton, (d.1797), founder member of the Medical Society; Andrew Brock (c.1857); Edward Wilson (d.1837), John Norman, (d.1880), Henry Laver, Mayor of Colchester and founder of the Castle Museum; he also helped revive the Colchester oyster fisheries; his son Philip Laver,

(d.1941), honorary surgeon, excavated the Lexden Tumulus; Samuel Philbrick (d.1841); an obelisk in his memory is now at the Colchester General Hospital, his son Samuel Adolphus Philbrick, (d.1871), his son-in-law David Morris, (d.1856), and grandson David Philbrick Morris, (d.1870), Charles Addison (d.1905), Leigh Day, Honorary Surgeon, (d. 1935); and William Payne, Honorary Surgeon, (d.1959).

No. 39: Probable home of Dr Robert Richardson Newell, (1750-1814) who founded the Colchester Medical Society (CMS) in 1774, and the oldest Provincial Medical Society in Britain, second only to the London Medical Society. A Blue Plaque to commemorate him was placed here in 2013, (replacing the 'lost' plaque of 1932.)



43 Head Street; the courtyard

No. 43; Now occupied by Ellisons, the solicitors, and one time coaching inn known as The King's Head. It was here that two of the Royalist commanders during the siege of Colchester, Lisle and Lucas, were tried and sentenced to death for their part in the siege.

ELD LANE: Red House: residence of Dr John Bastwick, (d.1654); he was an English Puritan physician and controversial writer. He was born at Writtle, Essex. He studied at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and became a hardline Puritan zealot, whose ears were chopped off by order of the Star Chamber.

TRINITY STREET

Darcy House: built for Lady Rivers of St Osyth. Dr Thomas Fripp lived here. (d.1963)

Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Cemetery: contains the altar tomb of Dr Henry Topping (d. 1819), a founder member of the Medical Society, and that of his natural son, Captain Pinto RN, who served at the battle of Trafalgar. The church contains a memorial plaque to John Raoul MD, who died in 1737. There is also mural alabaster statue of Dr William Gilbert

No. 5: The widow of Dr Samuel Brough, who had a practice at 85 East Hill, lived here after her husband's death in 1880.

No. 6: Dr Edwin Worts, Honorary Surgeon (d.1917), occupied these premises from 1867 after moving with his father William from 83 East Hill. In 1894 Stanley Worts (Edwin's son) joined the practice as did William Clowes, Honorary Surgeon in 1904 and his brother Ernest Clowes in 1920. On the front wall is a memorial plaque to John Wilbye, a 16th century madrigalist.

No.9: Dr Walker, followed by Dr George B. Clarke from 1840 for 21 years. Dr William Worts, (d.1876) moved here in 1867 from 83 East Hill.



6 Trinity Street

9 Trinity Street

Tymperleys:

The house takes its name from the family who built it and who were administrators for the Duke of Norfolk in 1483. It was the home of Dr William Gilbert, 1544-1603, Physician to Queen Elizabeth I, President of the Royal College of Physicians and a scientist whose studies on magnetism were published in 1600 as '*De Magnetica*', This work laid the foundations of modern electro- physics. In 1723 Tymperleys was inherited by John Richardson, an apothecary, who was the grandfather of Dr Robert Newell, founder of the CMS. When Richardson died in 1768 his many properties were sold at two-day auction. From 1900 Tymperleys was occupied by Dr Ernest Carrick Freeman MD, who died in 1932; he was a former Colonel in RAMC and Master of the Society of Apothecaries.



Tymperleys

While practicing here Dr Freeman trained many local ladies as Red Cross Volunteers who provided invaluable nursing services during the First World War. Dr Eustace Renny moved from 16 Crouch St, to live here 1930-34 then sold it to Dr William Harwood-Yarred, FRCS. On his death in 1967 Tymperleys was bought by Bernard Mason, a successful Colchester



businessman to house and display his collection of historical Colchester clocks. The house and the collection were donated to Colchester Borough. Today some of the clocks are on permanent display in the Holly Trees Museum, while Tymperleys has been leased to the Charrington family of Layer Marney, who run it as a restaurant.

The view looking up Trinity Street

CULVER STREET: Trinity House was demolished for the Culver Street shopping precinct in the 1960s. Dr B H Pollett (circa 1756) lived there, also Dr Alexander Wallace 1829-1899, (Honorary Physician). He was a well known etymologist and naturalist; he imported silk worms and later flowering bulbs from Japan, trading as the acclaimed Teutshel Co in Eld Lane; eventually he got in financial difficulties. His son Robert became an established horticulturist who was responsible for designing the Holly Trees and Castle gardens in 1922. Henry Laver also lived at the corner of Culver Street and Trinity Street for a few years.

PELHAMS LANE:

Pelhams Lane was the site of an apothecary's shop owned by Mr John Richardson, one time owner of Tymperleys.

Sir Herbert Pelham joined the Winthrop Expedition of 1630 to Salem, Massachusetts. Some of the accompanying villagers from Bures, were carriers of Huntington's Chorea genes and thus brought the disease to the USA. The odd behaviour of their descendants may have fuelled the Salem Witches trials of 1692.

HIGH STEET (West): In the 19th Century, this street was the location of many doctors' premises including Robert Sterling (d.1787), and Cater Day (d.1799). He was drowned falling off Hythe bridge. Both men were founder members of the Medical Society. There were many apothecaries shops in High Street including the Old Twisted Posts and Pots at 28 High Street near the Red Lion, once owned by Robert Buxton and Samuel Great (de Groot) (d.1706), who manufactured Colchester Candy (Eringo root). Over the years other owners of No. 28 included Jordan Lysle from 1760 to 1780, who became Mayor, Robert Harris until 1788, William Taylor until 1803 and Thomas Meadowcroft until his death in 1835.

No. 62: The Colchester Medical Society library/reading room was on the upper floor of a bookshop at this address. Now the location of a dilapidated café, displaying a large 'FOR SALE' notice. Medical Society meetings and dinners were held at the various hostelrys in the High Street, including the Three Cups (ex site of Williams & Griffin, now Fenwicks), the Red Lion, and the George.

No.65: Dr John Eardley d.1787; Dr Newton Tills, who became Mayor and Alderman in 1793 after his sister Mary had married the influential lawyer William Sparling.

No. 112: the "Swan Pub" where Dr William Clarke (d.1778) in 1772 resided.

No. 121 Dr Thomas Mens from 1845 to 1855.

The Town (Moot) Hall holds the Newell Cup among the Borough plate. In the foyer is the corner stone of the previous Town Hall laid by Roger Nunn, when he was Mayor in 1842, during which year he opened the iron bridge at Middleborough. Other medical men who became the mayor of Colchester include Jordan Lyle, Newton Tills in the 18th century: Roger Nunn twice, Edward Williams four times, Peter Duncan, and Henry Laver once each in the 19th century, with John Sanderson, and Chris Hall in the 20th century.

THE DUTCH QUARTER

Was so named after the Protestant refugees who fled France and Holland in the 16th Century. Dr Lionel Penrose founded the Preservation (now Civic) Society in 1930s and Dr Robert Kershaw, Borough Medical Officer of Health in the 1960s, helped to preserve the houses, and also Stockwell spring and associated well located at the bottom of Stockwell Lane (granted to Alice Lambe, spinster in 1670 for 50 years at one penny yearly rent)

WEST STOCKWELL ST: (Previously known as Angel Street, after the public house at the top of the street.)

The Old Magistrate's Court & Old Library has some nice stained glass windows .



St Martin's House: built for Dr Richard Daniell in the early 18th century. A drainpipe hopper at the rear of the building shows his initials: RD 1733

No. 9: Dr William Maybury was in general practice here from 1876 until his death in 1924. A forerunner of the West Stockwell Street practice.

No. 10: Dr Robert Bewick lived here from 1835 to 1845 before taking Holy Orders.

No. 11 & 12: Plaque to the Taylor sisters'

nursery rhyme, *'Twinkle twinkle little star'*.



St Martin's House



St Martin's Church

9 West Stockwell Street

St. Martin's Church: This old church was extended in 1320 on the site of a Norman chapel, using re-cycled Roman bricks. The church tower is wrongly alleged to have been damaged during 1648 siege. Restored in 1883, closed 1953 but used as theatre. In 1996 it was restored by Church Conservation Trust. The church contains memorial plaques to Dr Richard Daniell, (d.1772) with an inscription in Latin, and to Dr Francis Pigott. (d.1793), also to his wife Mary and son Martin. There is also a memorial plaque to Dr William Maybury who was a churchwarden for many years. The churchyard contains many burials, including the prominent sarcophagus of William Sparling. (a solicitor).

No. 62: This house was built for William Cole, (d.1759) who was a corn merchant, and who settled the house on his daughter Mary Cole when she married Dr Francis Pigott, (d. 1788). The house was later owned by Dr Edward Williams, Honorary Physician, four times Mayor and first medical superintendent of



the Royal Eastern Counties Hospital: (d.1877) The house was acquired in 1921 by Dr John Charnock. Charnock came to Colchester to take over the general practice of William Maybury after serving throughout the First World war as a regimental medical officer on the Western Front. Charnock died in 1940 from obstructive airways disease, secondary to lung damage sustained during the war. The next occupant was Dr Donald Campbell, who was previously in partnership with Dr Charnock and Dr John Cameron of East Hill; he died in 1953 aged only 54 from influenza. The last medical occupants were Drs John and Audrey Williams until 2014.

62 West Stockwell Street

Hospital Yard: Possible site of an ancient almshouse/hospital

NUNN'S RD: named after Dr Roger Nunn.

EAST STOCKWELL ST: In the 14th century this was called Calayse Street, but by 1692 its name had changed to Bear Lane, and by 1748 the name had changed yet again to St Martin's Lane; it seems to have become East Stockwell Street in 1841. Halfway down on the left one comes across Peake's House. This beautiful Tudor house was saved from demolition and restored in 1946 and donated to the Borough by W. Peake, a clothing manufacturer whose premises were higher up East Stockwell Street. The house was used by the Red Cross until 1970. Somewhere in the street lived Dr Colin Hossack, (d.1883), a founder member of the Medical Society. Dr Hossack was one time Mayor of Bures and the physician to Prince Fredrick, father of King George III. Dr Deidre Paulley ran a psychotherapy practice in East Stockwell Street in the 1980s and 90s.

MAIDENBURGH ST: (Previously spelled Maydensbury St)

No. 6: Site of short-lived Colchester Eye Infirmary, a project of 1815 of Drs Roger Nunn and Alderman Partridge, which soon ended in acrimony. See also St Helena's Chapel and the protected remains of the Roman theatre.

ST.PETER'S ST: (ex DEAD Lane) Dead house: Possibly for persons drowned in the River Colne. (Demolished in 1979)

CASTLE PARK GARDENS: Close to the Castle Park Café there is a memorial to Dr William Maybury. This was erected by his family sometime between the two World Wars, and contained a bronze plaque. The plaque was stolen in 2011, and replaced by stone plaque by the CMS in association with the Borough Parks Department, and dedicated by the Mayor of Colchester in March 2012.



The Maybury memorial stone

Peake's House, East Stockwell Street

HIGH STREET (East).

No. 74: The Minories was rebuilt in 1771 for Isaac Boggis, a manufacturer of bays. In 1821 the house was occupied by Dr George Palmar Holt, an Honorary Physician, (d.1831), then 1831-69 by Mr Alderman Partridge, together with members of his family, including Dr Joseph Partridge. Alderman Partridge was an early recipient of the degree of FRCS, and he worked as an Honorary Surgeon at ECH; he died in 1868. Between 1884-1902 the house was occupied by Dr Charles Gustavus Becker, (German Legion, father of painter Harry Becker). In 1915 The Minories was bought by Dr Ruth Bensusan-Butt, an early feminist, the first woman GP, in Colchester, a Labour councillor, a promoter of family planning and a stalwart of the Colchester Maternity Hospital. She died in 1953. The house was sold in 1958 to The Minories Trust and is now run as the Minories Art Gallery.



The Minories Art Gallery



The top of East Hill showing East Lodge, Hillcrest, and Grey Friars

East Lodge: built in 1600 for Dr John Duke; bought in 1670 by Dr Thomas Skinner, physician to General George Monk, Duke of Albemarle. Occupied from 1895 to 1945 by Dr Benjamin Nicholson; he was an Honorary Surgeon, and he performed the first appendicectomy in Colchester in 1901. (d.1945).

Hillcrest: Dr Charles Bree, physician at ECH from 1860 to 1882 lived here for a few years before moving down East Hill to number 86, probably in 1870.

Grey Friars: Built on the site of the monastery of the Franciscan Friars (who wore grey habits), bought from Thomas Bayles in 1740 by Dr Robert Potter (d.1752), then totally rebuilt by Reverend Halls in 1755. From 1893 to 1907 Dr Edward Liveing Fenn (Honorary Physician) lived there. It became the Adult Education Centre in the 1960s, and in 2015 a four star 'bijou' hotel.

EAST HILL:

'Berryfields' now, '**East Hill House**': rebuilt by George Wegg, a wealthy merchant who died in 1747 leaving it to Susan Round wife of Dr Horatio Cock, who lived here till his death in 1800. (Now facing possible conversion into another 'bijou' hotel)

No. 3: From 1960 until 1963 John Cameron (d.1984), he and John Owen practiced together at 9 East Hill, before moving up to No. 3, where they were joined by John Williams, who came from his practice premises at 62 West Stockwell Street. Cameron and Williams had been in partnership since 1956 despite each working independently from their own homes. It was quite revolutionary to have all three partners working under one roof. Cameron retired in 1968, Williams in 1976, and Owen in 1993. Other doctors who have worked in the practice include Alan Ogilvie, Bob Cutler and Pamela Wright. In 1994 the practice moved to shared purpose built premises at 78 East Hill.



East Hill House



3 East Hill

No. 8: Dr Joseph Partridge, (d.1891) an Honorary Surgeon and GP; son of Alderman Partridge, moved here from 74 High Street. He was living at No. 8 in 1851.(**H.O. 107 1781 page 8**)

No. 9: According to the 1851 census No. 9 was part of the 'Seminary for young ladies' owned by Misses Mary and Eliza Partridge. The 1861 census (**RG9 1100 page 8**), shows that No. 9 is still part of the school, but the 1871 census has Dr Joseph Partridge firmly in residence there, (**RG10 1687 page 59**). The 1881 census still has Joseph Partridge living on East Hill, though no house number is shown; I suspect that after his wife died he downsized and moved to a smaller house. (**RG11/1792. page 30**, no house number shown) In 1896 No. 9 was bought by Dr Joseph Ryan, who lived and practiced from there until his death in 1935. The house then passed to his son-in-law Dr John Cameron, who lived and practised there until 1963, when his partners moved the practice up East Hill to number 3.

No.10: The Misses Partridge opened a seminary for young 'ladies', first at No.10, later overflowing into number 9. After the school closed some time in the 1860s, Joseph Partridge and his wife moved there from No.8. and then back to No.9 in the 1860s. Over the next 30 or so years No.10 passed through a number of hands and at some time became known as Hillsleigh House. In 1916 the house was bought by the Royal Eastern Counties Hospital, and became a home for 34 children with learning difficulties.



Numbers 9 & 10 (Hillsleigh House)

No. 26: Dr James Barker, (d.1837)

No. 78: Purpose-built premises for both Castle Gardens and the East Hill practices.

No. 81: Dr Beryl Goff (d.1998) After a few years working with Dr Bensusan-Butt, she left and started 'The Lady Doctors' Practice' at No. 81a in 1950. Dr Goff was later joined by Dr Brenda Grimmet (d.1987), Dr Joy Howe, and Dr Lynn Barnes. The practice joined with the 3 East Practice in developing joint purpose built premises at No.78, in the process

No. 82: Dr Philip Havens lived here but in 1848 he moved to the family home at East Donyland Hall to practice in Wivenhoe, where he was joined in 1886 by his relative Dr Samuel Squire (d.1913) and his son Edward Squire.

No. 83: Dr William Worts was a general practitioner/surgeon who lived here with his son Dr Edwin Worts until 1867, when they moved to Trinity Street. William Worts's father was also a surgeon; he worked at Guy's Hospital for the famous Sir Astley Cooper in the early 19th century. (d.1841)

No. 85: Dr Samuel Brough was a GP in Colchester from 1855 until his death from cirrhosis of the liver in 1880. He was succeeded by Dr Joseph Ryan in 1881. Dr Ryan moved across the road to 9 East Hill in 1896.



A view of East Hill, showing numbers 83 to 86.

No. 86: Dr Peter Duncan moved here from Crouch Street after his marriage in 1852. The 1861 Census shows him at this address with his wife and six children under the age of 8. He moved to Blackheath in London on becoming the first professor of geology at Kings College in 1870.

Dr Charles Bree moved to 86 East Hill from Hillcrest after Dr Duncan's move to London. Dr Bree was a physician at Essex County Hospital and a GP, but his main claim to fame was his work as a naturalist, particularly for his monumental five volume '*History of the Birds of Europe*'. Dr Bree was a Fellow of the Linnaean Society and of the Zoological Society. He also disputed vigorously with Charles Darwin on the latter's theories of natural selection. Dr Bree lived here until he retired, moving to Long Melford where he died in 1886.

No. 2: Dr James Churchill (d.1863), Colchester Borough Medical Officer Health; he was a well known medical botanist, quoted in the first British Pharmacopeia; he was a member of the Churchill publishing family. Robert Symmons; (d.1888), an Honorary Surgeon who performed the first abdominal operation at the ECH in 1879 when he removed an ovarian tumour. William Clowes, (d.1949); he was an Honorary Surgeon; joined Edwin Worts at 6 Trinity Street in 1904.

No. 3: Dr Horatio Cock (d.1800); Dr Horatio Perkins (d.1890); his nephew Dr William Waylen, (d.1888): Dr Waylen was invited buy the practice from his uncle Dr Perkins, who was retiring on health grounds, for an annuity which lasted 34 years; also Dr Edward Waylen,(d.1891) He was the Medical Officer of the Lock Hospital in Port Lane, and later MOH for Colchester.

(NOTE: The Contagious Diseases Acts of 1864, 1866, and 1867 attempted to limit the spread of venereal diseases by the compulsory treatment of infected prostitutes in certain military towns, and this included Colchester. A government sponsored 'Lock Hospital' was built in 1867-8 in Port Lane at the East end of the town; it was closed in 1886).

No. 11: Dr Roger Nunn, MD, (d.1844), Honorary Surgeon, and twice Mayor of Colchester in 1834 & 1842.

No. 12: Dr Roger Sturley Nunn; the son of Roger Nunn senior and who later became the occupant of 19 Lexden Road: also Dr Jonathan Becker (d.1924)

No. 28: Dr Loftus Wood's 'Dispensary for the Poor', 1783-1803.

PLEASE NOTE: It is not possible to identify any of these addresses in today's Queen Street.

ST BOTOLPH'S PRIORY contains the Nunn family vault plus some stained glass windows in memory of Dr Roger Nunn's daughters.



*The 'Medical Pilgrimage' around Colchester was prepared jointly by
Dr Fab Casale and Dr John Owen*

COLCHESTER : MARCH 2016

The medical staff of the Essex County Hospital 1880



Robert Symmons
2, Queen St.

Henry Laver
Head St.

Joseph Partridge
9, East Hill

Roger S. Nunn
19, Lexden Road

Charles Bree
86, East Hill

Alexander Wallace
Trinity House, Culver St.

The medical staff of the Essex County Hospital 1908





Leigh Day
4, Lexden Road

Edward Chichester
22, Crouch St.

William Clowes
6, Trinity St.

Benjamin Nicholson
East Lodge, High St.

Edgar Hunt
107 Crouch St.

Henry Laver

Edwin Worts
6, Trinity St.

Sydney Curl
1, Cambridge Rd

