

## A PILGRIMAGE AROUND COLCHESTER'S MEDICAL SITES

### Introduction:

Our "Pilgrimage" is just an amble through a few streets of Colchester where doctors have lived and/or practiced for the last 500 years. This can only be a very simple guide because many doctors changed their addresses a number of times. In the early days of the practice of medicine in Colchester, there no such people as 'Consultants'. Some had special skills in surgery, or medicine, but until the Essex County Hospital, originally known as the Colchester and Essex Hospital came into being, doctors practiced in their own homes. Once the hospital was established, doctors with the appropriate skills set were offered honorary posts and they provided services their service gratis. Full time consultant posts only came into being with the NHS in 1948.

We start today's walk at St Botolph's Priory which contains some stained glass windows in memory of the Nunn sisters, and the Nunn Family Vault.

### QUEEN ST.

**No. 2:** Dr James Churchill *d.* 1863, Robert Symmons *d.*1888 (Hon Surg removed ovarian tumor in 1879) William Clowes *d.*1949(Hon Surg

**No. 3:** Dr Horatio Cock *d.*1800; Dr Horatio Perkins *d.*1890; William Waylen *d.*1888 ( Perkin's nephew and partner paid him an annuity for 34yrs), Edward Waylen *d.*1891 (MOH,Lock Hospital)

**No. 11:** Dr Roger Nunn *d.* 1844

**No. 12:** Dr Roger Sturley Nunn *d.*1882; Dr Jonathan Becker *d.* 1924

**No. 28:** Dr Loftus Wood's Dispensary 1783-1803,

### FIRSTSITE GALLERY.

### EAST HILL:

**No. 3:** 1963-1993 The East Hill Practice: Drs: John Cameron *d.*1984, John Williams, John Owen et al. Transferred to new premises at 78 East Hill in 1994. Hillsleigh House was split into two dwellings in the 1850s.

**No. 9:** Dr Joseph Partridge *d.*1891(Hon Surg ;son of Alderman P.); bought in 1896 by Dr Joseph Ryan *d.*1935 passed to his son-in-law Dr John Cameron *d.*1984.

**No. 10:** Dr Joseph Partidge's Sisters: Emily and Mary Anne who set up a school continued which became Hillsleigh School for children with learning difficulties.

**No. 83:** Dr William Worts *d.*1876, his son Dr Edwin Worts( Honorary Surgeon) *d.* 1917.

**No. 85:** Dr Samuel Brough GP in Colchester from 1855 until his death in 1880. Succeeded by Dr Joseph Ryan in 1881. Dr Ryan moved across the road to 9 East Hill in 1896.

**No. 86:** Dr Peter Duncan *d.*1891, One time GP and mayor of Colchester. Professor of Geology, King's College,London )

**No. 26:** Dr James Barker *d.*1837.

### HIGH STREET (East).

**No. 74:** The Minories was built in 1771 for Isaac Boggis, a manufacturer of bays. In 1821 the house was occupied by Dr George Palmar Holt *d.*1831 (Honorary Physician), then 1831-69 by Dr Alderman Partridge, FRCS, *d.*1868 (Honorary Surgeon). In 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 d.1953 (GP, Labour Councillor, stalwart of the Colchester Maternity Hospital). The house was sold in 1958 to The Minories Trust and is now run as the Minories Art Gallery.

**East Lodge:** built in 1600 for Dr John Duke; bought in 1670 by Dr Thomas Skinner (Physician to General Monk, Duke of Albemarle); 1895-1945 by Dr Benjamin Nicholson d. 1945 (Honorary Surgeon: he performed the first appendicectomy in Colchester in 1901).

**Hillcrest:** Dr Charles Bree d.1886 ( Honorary Physician, naturalist, ornithologist) later moved to 68 East Hill.

**Grey Friars:** Built in 1774 on the site of an old convent Dr Robert Potter; 1893-1907 Dr Edward Liveing Fenn d.1907 (Honorary Physician))

**Hillsleigh House:** Dr Charles Edward Blair lived here from 1835 to 1855.

## **CASTLE GARDENS.**

Close to the Castle Park Café there is a Memorial to Dr William Maybury d.1924 by his family (bronze plaque stolen, replaced by stone, rededicated in 2012)

**PLEASE NOTE:** We plan to take a break here with an opportunity to have coffee in the very user friendly Castle Park Café.

**MAIDENBURGH ST:** (Previously spelled Maydensbury St)

**No. 6:** Short-lived Colchester Eye Infirmary project of 1815 of Drs Roger Nunn and Alderman Partridge.

St Helena's Chapel and Roman theatre,

**ST.PETER'S ST:** (ex DEAD Lane)

**Dead house:** Possibly for persons drowned in the river.

**NUNN'S RD:** named after Dr Roger Nunn.

## **QUAKERS LANE:**

**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 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 (Founder Member of the Medical Society.) Dr Hossack was the physician to Prince Fredrick (father of King George III) and one time Mayor of Bures)

## **DUTCH QUARTER**

Was so named after the Protestant refugees who fled France and Holland in the 16 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 its well located at the bottom of Stockwell Lane (granted to Alice Lambe, spinster in 1670 for 500 years at one penny yearly rent )

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

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

**St Martin's House** built for Dr Richard Daniell. (A drainpipe hopper shows his initials: R. D. 1733)

**No. 9:** Dr William Maybury *d.*1924. General practioner here from 1876 until his death in 1924. A forerunner of the East Hill practice.

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

**No. 11&12:** Plaque to Taylor sisters' nursery rhyme, '*Twinkle twinkle little star*'.

**No. 62:** This house was built for William Cole *d.*1759 who was a corn merchant, and who gave the house to his daughter Mary Cole when she married Dr Francis Pigott *d.*1788. The house was later owned by Dr Edward Williams *d.*1877 (Honorary Physician and first medical superintendent of the Royal Eastern Counties Hospital). The house was acquired in 1921 by Dr John Charnock *d.*1940 (GP and Honorary Surgeon), when he came to Colchester to take over the practice of William Maybury, after serving throughout the First World war as a regimental medical officer on the Western Front. The next occupant was Dr Donald Campbell, who was 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.

#### **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 plaques: to Dr Richard Daniell *d.*1772 (inscription in Latin), to Dr Francis Pigott + his wife Mary *d.* 1793) also son Martin, to Dr William Maybury (churchwarden). The churchyard contains many burials, including the sarcophagus of William Sparling. (a solicitor).

**Hospital Yard:** ? site of ancient 'almhouse/hospital'

The recently restored Stockwell Arms pub, but alas a pub no longer, the owner having become bankrupt.

**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 (who was drowned falling off Hythe bridge). Both men were Founder Members of the Medical Society. Many apothecaries shops including Old Twisted Posts and Pots, (near the Red Lion), owned by Robert Buxton and Samuel Great (de Groot) *d.*1706, who manufactured Colchester Candy (Eringo root).

**No 62:** The Colchester Medical Society library/reading room was on the upper floor of a bookshop at this address. Medical Society meetings and dinners were held at the various hostelrys in the High Street, including the Three Cups (on the present site of Williams & Griffin), the Red Lion, and the George.

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, *d.*1844 (Honorary Surgeon) when he was Mayor in 1842, he also opened the iron bridge at Middleborough that year. 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 in the 19th, with John Sanderson, and Chris Hall in the 20th century.

#### **PELHAMS LANE:**

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

#### **TRINITY ST.**

Trinity House was the home of Alexander Wallace d.1899. Wallace was an Honorary Physician, who traded as Teutschel Co. importer of Japanese lily bulbs, silk worms, who eventually went bankrupt).

**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.

**Nos. 6 & 9:** Dr William Worts d.1876 and his son Edwin, d.1917, occupied these premises after moving from 83 East Hill in 1867. They practised as GPs and honorary surgeons until the death of William. Edwin then became a full time surgeon at the Essex County Hospital.

**Tymperleys** was the house of Dr Wiliam Gilberd (1544-1603), Physician to Queen Elizabeth I President of the Royal College of Physicians and a scientist whose studies on magnetism, published in 1600 as '*De Magnetica*', laid the foundations of modern electro- physics. Between 1723 - 68 Tymperleys was owned by John Richardson, d. 1768. He was an apothecary and grandfather of Colchester Medical Society founder, Robert Newell. Between 1863 until his death in 1932, Tymperleys was occupied by Colonel Ernest Carrick Freeman, MD. RAMC. (Master of the Society of Apothecaries.) Before the outbreak of World War 1, he trained many local ladies as Red Cross Volunteers.) Dr Eustace Renny d. 1941 (Honorary Surgeon) moved into the house from Crouch Street, and lived in Tymperleys between 1930-34.

The next occupant was Dr William Harwood-Yarred, FRCS who lived there between from 1935 until his death in 1967. After the death of Harwood-Yarred, Tymperleys was bought by Mr Bernard Mason, a successful Colchester businessman, who was also a famous collector of historical Colchester made clocks. The collection was donated to Colchester Borough and some are kept on permanent display in the Hollytrees Museum. Since 2014 Tymperleys has been leased to the Cobbold family of Layer Marney Towers, who run it as a restaurant.

Trinity Church, Trinity Cemetery: contains the tomb of Dr Henry Topping d.1819 and Founder Member of the Medical Society, and that of his son Captain Pinto RN, who served at the battle of Trafalgar. The church is certainly one of the oldest standing buildings in England, being built between 1020 and 1040; i.e 20 to 40 years before William the Conqueror arrived.

#### **ELD LANE:.**

Red House: residence of Dr John Bastwick d.1654 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)

#### **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: Joseph Stapleton, d.1797,( Founder Member of the Medical Society); John Norman, d.1880; Henry Laver d.1917( Honorary Surgeon, Mayor of Colchester and founder of the Castle Museum; he also helped local oyster fisheries); his son Philip Laver d. 1941 (Honorary Surgeon, excavated the Lexden Tumulus); Samuel Philbrick d.1841 (obelisk now at the Colchester General Hospital); his son Samuel Adolphus Philbrick d. 1871; son-in-law David Morris, d. 1856; grandson David Philbrick Morris d.1870; Charles Addison d.1905; Leigh Day d.1935 (Honorary Surgeon); William Payne d.1959 (Honorary Surgeon).

**No. 43;** Now occupied by Marshall Sutton, solicitors, one time coaching inn, home of Robert Newell and site of a Blue Plaque commemorating the life of Dr Newell. (This was put up in 2013 to replace the 'lost' plaque of 1932.)

## **NORTH HILL:**

Contained in St Peter's Church, which is located at the top of North Hill, is a Memorial Plaque to Dr Jacobus Bayley d.1699 '*Hic tutius jacet.*'

**BALKERNE LANE**, now **BALKERNE HILL**, a double carriage road widened by demolishing the poor dwellings on both sides of the carriage way which was lowered to make the hill less steep for traffic, and to expose 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 Drs Francis Kelleman d.1988, Consultant chest physician and Henry Laver d 1917, Consultant surgeon.)

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 Isaac Rebow, and again in 1872, but the tower fell during the 1884 earthquake, and was repaired in brick. In its cemetery lies the tomb Elizabeth Nunn d.1808 aged 25, the first wife of Dr Roger Nunn d.1844 (Honorary Surgeon). Robert Richardson Newell, 1750-1814, who founded of the Colchester Medical Society (CMS) in 1774, is remembered inside the church on a Memorial Plaque to him and to his son Edward, d. 1788, also a doctor. 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 by first by Doctor Edward Bawtree d.1898 (an Honorary Physician who worked in Canada, New Zealand, and Abyssinia); and later by Eustace Renny d.1941(Honorary Surgeon) The house was bought in 1919 by Dr Nolan Fell d.1960 and after his death it became the main Colchester Friends (Quaker) Meeting House.

**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* (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 stage was Linton House School 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, GP who died in 1970. In 1980 the house became a Retirement Home.

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

**No. 22:** 'Tranent', now John Cole House was built in 1788 for John Cole. In 1910 it was owned by Dr Edward Chichester d.1925 (Honorary Surgeon), and in 1924 by Dr Edgar Wirth, a GP who died in 1974, (Dr Wirth built himself a pleasant house for his retirement in part of the large garden which contains the ruins of an early Saxon Christian church whose foundations still can be seen in front of the Police Station. This 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 Blatch). The house was sold in 1839 by Dr.Charles Bouflower d.1844 (Honorary Surgeon, who was with Wellington in the Peninsular War); From 1902 to 1930, the house was occupied by Dr Eustace George Renny d. 1941 (Honorary Surgeon 1914-32). In 1933 the property became the site of the Regal, later Odeon Cinema.

**No. 12:** In 1848, Dr Peter Duncan (Honorary Surgeon and GP), arrived in Colchester, 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 he was largely responsible for the establishment of the town's Castle Park, hence the Duncan Gate at the North entrance to the park. In 1870 Peter Duncan left Colchester to become the first professor of geology at King's College, London.

## **SOUTHWAY (Completed 1973)**

**HOSPITAL Rd** and **WELLESLEY RD** were cut off from Lexden Road and Crouch Street after the Southway inner ring road was built in the 1960s. The following doctors lived in these two roads in the 1930-40s: Drs: Augustine Fry *d* 1946, James Pender- Smith, *d*.1971 and Penry Rowland *d* . 1964, The Boys School in Wellesley Road was used as the Essex County Hospital Female and Childrens Wards the during World War 1 to accommodate wounded soldiers.

**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 a large tract of land, which is now Manor, Papillon, and Rawsthorn Roads. (See: A History of the County of Essex: Vol. 9, the Borough of Colchester.

## **LEXDEN RD**

**Nos. 2 & 4:** Dereham Place 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 *d*.1935 (Honorary Surgeon), who sold it to Dr Michael Lampard (*d*.1974,) and Arthur Pollard (Consultant physician) *d*. 1988; they leased part of the house to other doctors as Consulting rooms.

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

## **BEVERLEY RD:**

**No.1:** Beverley Road House connected to **No. 18 Lexden Rd**, renamed Beverley House and became the Beverley Rd Nursing Home in 1930, The premises were run by Mrs E.K.Seamer who was succeed by Miss Margaret Allen, and continuing as a mainly Private Maternity Home until 1955. Further along the Lexden Rd was the Colchester Borough Maternity Hospital, which housed both a consultant maternity hospital and a 32 bed GP maternity unit. (1932-1990).Redeveloped as Sovereign Crescent, a row of nice 'town' houses.

**No. 16:** Dr Charles Davey *d*.1927 (emigrated to South Africa) Mansfield House was built for his father the co-founder of Davey & Paxman Engineering Ltd.

## **CAMBRIDGE RD:**

**No. 4:** Gostwyke House was built in1882 for Edwin Sanders (Mayor of Colchester 1916). The house became Gostwyke Auxiliary Hospital during World War 1; Dr Sydney Curl *d*. 1936 (Honorary Physician) lived at Cambridge Lodge ,

**No. 5:** Dr George Young *d*.1935 (Honorary Ophthalmologist), also musician and violin maker.

## **LEXDEN RD:**

Along the North side of Lexden Road is the Regency terrace known as St. Mary's Terrace. In recent memory several of the houses were occupied by consultant members of the Colchester Medical Society; to name but a few the list includes Lionel Penrose *d*.1972, Sydney Propert *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,

**No. 1:** Dr Roger Sauvan-Smith, *d*1998 (Consultant obstetrician & gynaecologist).

**No. 17:** Dr Alan Maclean, *d* 1840. (Honorary Physician) 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.

**No. 19:** The Oaks was built in 1848 for John Catchpool, who owned an iron works factory, later owned by Dr Roger Sturley Nunn *d*.1882, an Honorary Surgeon, who, in January 1848, was the



first man to perform an operation under ether anaesthesia at the ECH. The next occupant was Mr Gurney Benham (newspaper owner/printers), who sold the house in 1934 to Mr Ronnie Reid, FRCS *d.*1968 who ran it as the Colchester Nursing Home from 1948 until 1964. The garden was later sold to Hills & Co who developed Oaks Drive and its associated houses, and also the Oaks Nursing Home/Hospital,(1964-1994).

Turn **Right** off Lexden Road

**OXFORD RD** was developed in 1877 (the ECH was charged £360 for this) Most of the houses in the road were owned by or leased by the ECH as Nurses or Sisters accommodation. At the corner, No 2 **Gray Rd** Dr W.Fraser-Allen started the Grey Rd practice which subsequently relocated to Ambrose Avenue in Prettygate with Drs Dennis Lamont, Chris Hall, and Peter Snell as principals; Further on at 16 Creffield Rd the 'Creffield Road' practice of Drs John Steeds, Roy Axon, Richard Hudson, Peter Chapman, and Nat Young et al. was established in the 1960s; the practice moved to modern purpose built premises in the Cavalry Barracks development in 2013. Also in Creffield Road, at number 19, Drs Roger Sauvan-Smith, Norman Paros, Colin Davies, Dimi Annan, Jonathan Gatland and David Withnall ran as two site practice with premises in Mersea Road.

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Our walk finishes at the ESSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL (ECH). The foundation stone was laid in 1819. It 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 (which yielded the Sphinx, now in the Museum), later part of the Crouched Augustinian Friars Church, finally owned by the Round family. The hospital was originally a plain double, storied building. It had achieved its present imposing look by 1865 with the addition of the *Portico*, the four *Wings* for wards, to which the square towers on the corners were added to accommodate lavatories and WCs after the arrival of piped water.

On entering the ECH on right was the Board Room also used by Matron, on left the Surgeons' and Physicians' Room, plus Wards 1 & 2, Matron's quarters, and the hospital kitchen. The original straight, shallow-stepped staircase led to upper Wards 3 & 4 and to the Operating Room which

needed to be under a skylight. At the rear was a central courtyard with a well, stables, laundry and brew house and dead house. These have all disappeared replaced by: Ward 5 (Children's) built in 1907 plus 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 they were demolished in 2006 for staff a car park. A 'new' operating theatre was opened in 1955 followed by medical Postgraduate Centre (with its beverage facility) in 1968. The Nurses' Home with an art deco frontage was opened in 1900, and extended in 1932.



