

Drawings by local children

1. Gin and Gingerbread
 by Paulina Wyzkowska
Sir Charles Lucas Arts College
 A tradition within Colchester is for the Mayor to drink Gin and eat gingerbread with oysters as part of the opening ceremony for the autumn oyster season.

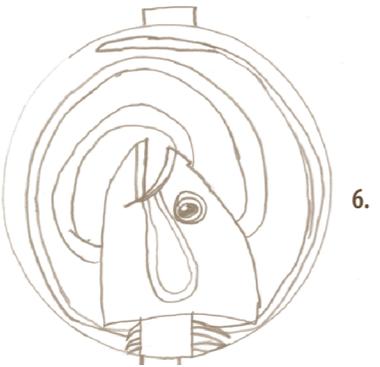
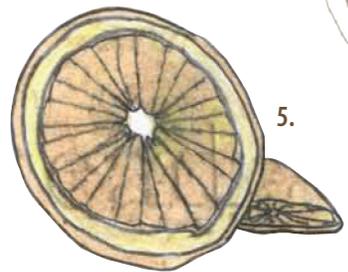
2. Ship's Wheel
 by Scott Antoniou
Sir Charles Lucas Arts College
 Colchester, Rowhedge, Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea were known collectively as the Port of Colchester. They were once centres of ship building, fishing, trade and yacht racing.

3. Starfish
 by John Brady
Old Heath Community Primary School
 The starfish is a natural predator of oysters. The Colchester Native oyster is known to have been part of the Roman staple diet and is still popular today.

4. Compass
 by Ayodhya Senanayake
Sir Charles Lucas Arts College
 William Gilbert, a famous son of Colchester, his study of magnetism and electricity would help transform the way people thought about navigation.

5. Oranges
 by Curtis Ford
Sir Charles Lucas Arts College
 A variety of cargoes were imported and exported through Colchester such as cloth and timber. Some of the most exotic ones came in from London. A famous fruit cutter for the exotic fruit trade was built on the Hythe.

6. Fish Head
 by Joel Black
Old Heath Community Primary School
 Fishing was an important industry on the river and a fish market used to be held in the Hythe.



One of the 14 handforged waymarkers found on the route

We would like to thank all the schools, organisations and community groups that took part in the development of the Town to Sea Trail.

About the poet

Wivenhoe based poet and writer Martin Newell is poet in residence for The Sunday Express. A musician and broadcaster he also regularly features on BBC Radio and TV.

The walk

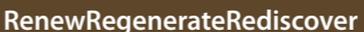
A moderate trail for cyclists and walkers including cycle paths and two busy roads. One section is unlit at night.

More than Britain's oldest recorded town

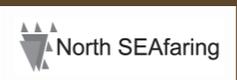
To find out more about the Town to Sea Trail and the many cultural attractions Colchester has to offer visit www.visitcolchester.com or pop into the Visit Colchester Information Centre at 1 Queens Street, for more details call **01206 282920**.

This project was supported by Colchester Borough Council's Arts Development Department within Cultural Services and the East Colchester Regeneration Team.

Large print and Braille copies available on request Tel: 01206 282917





Leaflet designed by Ifan Bates, ifan@graficlight.com Photography by Chris Reeve.

Town to Sea Trail
 A riverside trail
 Colchester and its
 historic port, the Hythe



Trail map

2 miles / 3.2 km

This unique art trail, designed for walkers and cyclists, follows the tidal River Colne through some of the lesser known areas of Colchester.

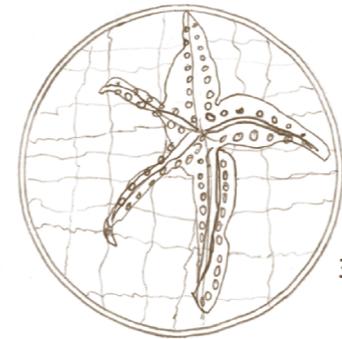
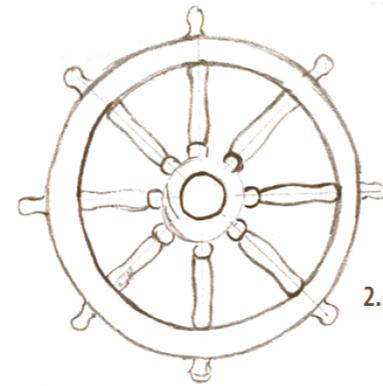
Unravel the poem in this leaflet and find the fourteen, hand-forged artworks along the route to gain insight into the area's history and wildlife.

Artists Andrew Rowe, David Mackie, Heather Parnell and Becky Adams worked with the local community to create the stunning imagery which Wivenhoe based poet, Martin Newell, has taken as the inspiration for the trail's poem. Start or finish at firstsite, or extend your journey to the charming port of Wivenhoe and why not stop at a café or pub for refreshment?

The Hythe (meaning haven) has been a port since the middle ages and was overseen by an official called the Portreeve.

The poem and artworks refer to the industries that made Colchester rich and some of its famous ancestors, including the Elizabethan scientist, William Gilbert. Use your senses to find the insects in the tower and the other wildlife on route.

To discover what gingerbread and oysters have in common download the activity sheet at www.visitcolchester.com



Town to Sea

by Martin Newell

From Cymbeline to present day
By wooden ship and iron plough
From town to sea, this was the way
The trail that led from then, to now.

Here Queen Bess's own physician
William Gilbert's fame was won
England's earliest electrician
Colchester's **magnetic** son.

Cloth for master, **cloth** for dame
Flemish Weavers passed this way
Wove the borough wealth and fame
Gave the town its bay and say.

Rails run towards the wharf
Where the rusty river curled
Lathe and **diesel**, oil and swarf
Engineering for the world.

Lizard, newt and **nesting** bird
Bee-wolf wasp and willow herb
Where the nearby town is heard
And King Car may not disturb.

Swallows and the swifts **migrate**
When the Essex summer's fled
And the winter sun comes late
Waiting for the whooper swan.

Cargoes from exotic climes
Wafted on the summer winds
Lemons, oranges and limes
Cinnamon and tamarinds.

Boats built by the river bank
Since the distant dawn of sail
Keel, keelson, rib and plank
Rudder, rivet, cleat and rail.

Raven on the Portreeve's seal
Stolen from the vanquished Dane
Watching as the seagulls wheel
Till the boats return again.

Here among St Leonard's features
Ancient beehive, working still
And the **buzz** of busy creatures
Drifting up to Timber Hill.

Lugger, lighter, **barge** and cutter
Graced this quayside with their load
Schooners bringing fruit and butter
Ghosts that gaze at Maudlyn Road.

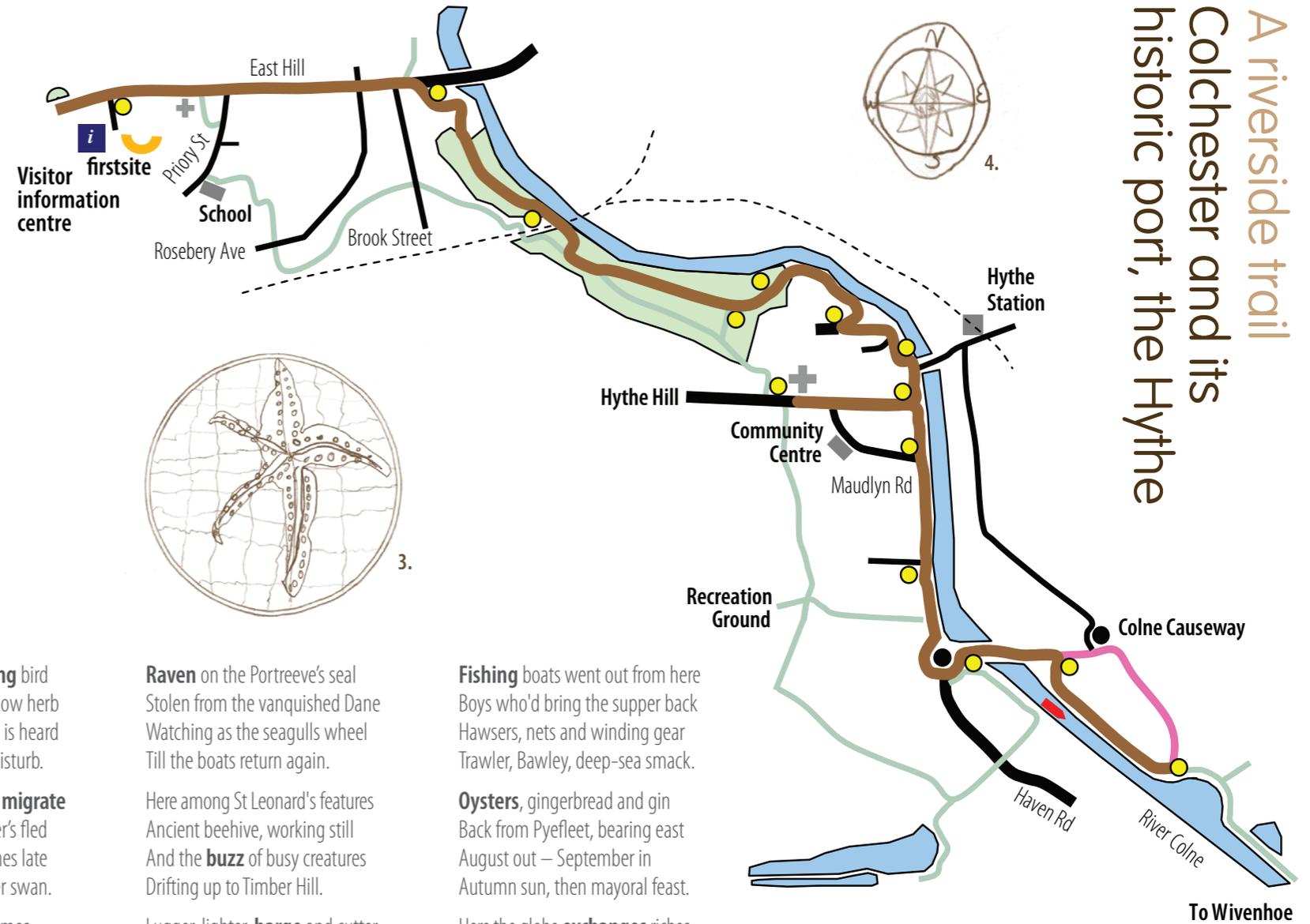
Export cargoes hoist by crane
Boots and shoes and tuns of ale
Sacks of feed and Essex grain
Waiting for the ship to sail.

Fishing boats went out from here
Boys who'd bring the supper back
Hawsers, nets and winding gear
Trawler, Bawley, deep-sea smack.

Oysters, gingerbread and gin
Back from Pyefleet, bearing east
August out – September in
Autumn sun, then mayoral feast.

Here the globe **exchanges** riches
Electronics, education
Take the place of fish and fitches
Nation trades with other nation.

Underneath this eastern sky
Went the weaver and his pack
Sailing ships and seagull's cry
Sea to town the trail leads back.



Key			
	Trail		Road
	Alternative route		Way marker & verse
	Green footpath		Church
	Railway		Light Ship

A riverside trail
Colchester and its
historic port, the Hythe

To Wivenhoe