

# 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.

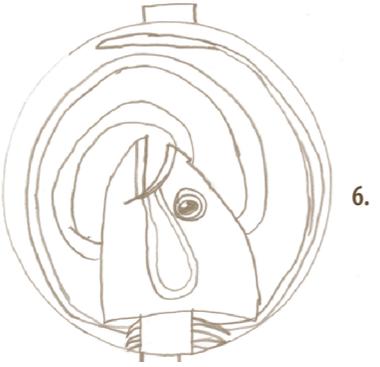
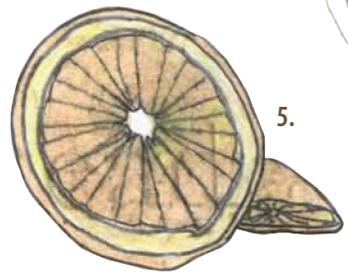
**2. Ship's Wheel**  
 by Scott Antoniou  
*Sir Charles Lucas Arts College*  
 Colchester, Rowhedge, Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea were known collectively as the Port of Colchester. They were once centres of ship building, fishing, trade and yacht racing.

**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

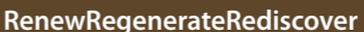
A moderate trail for cyclists and walkers including cycle paths and two busy roads. One section is unlit at night.

## More than Britain's oldest recorded town

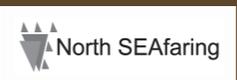
To find out more about the Town to Sea Trail and the many cultural attractions Colchester has to offer visit [www.visitcolchester.com](http://www.visitcolchester.com) or pop into the Visit Colchester Information Centre at 1 Queens Street, for more details call **01206 282920**.

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.

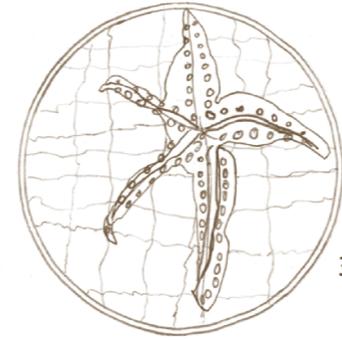
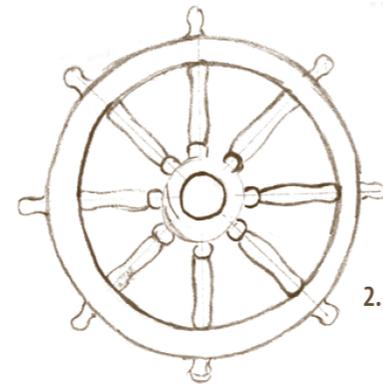
Unravel the poem in this leaflet and find the fourteen, hand-forged artworks along the route to gain insight into the area's history and wildlife.

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](http://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.

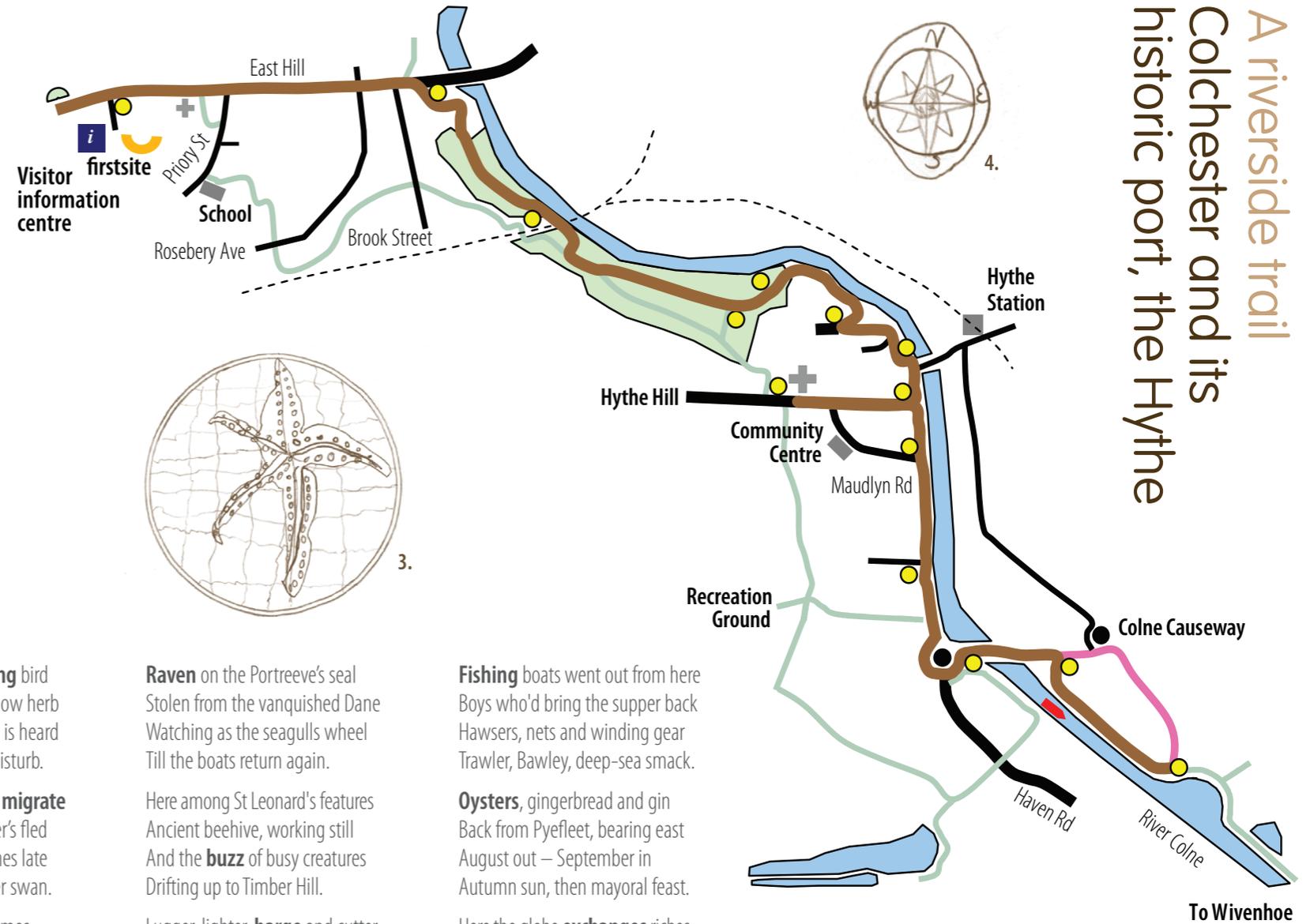
**Export** cargoes hoist by crane  
Boots and shoes and tuns of ale  
Sacks of feed and Essex grain  
Waiting for the ship to sail.

**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