History on our Door-step... One Square Mile.

Town Hall

Did you Know?

- The Town Hall site has been the focus of civic duties for more than 800 years.
- Colchester's first Town Hall, called the Moot Hall was built in 1160. The second Town Hall was built in 1844 and was a three-storey structure with a stone faced front.
- The building design is Baroque and the 162ft Victorian tower was presented by industrialist James Paxman with a statue at the top of St Helena, Colchester's patron saint.
- The tower also features four allegorical figures by L. J. Watts representing engineering, military defence, agriculture and fishery
- The Council Chamber has a glorious painted ceiling showing a classical description of the twelve months of the year and the two stained glass windows depicting the Roman history of the Borough.
- A 192 feet (59 m) tower, funded by a donation from James Noah Paxman, the founder of local engineers, Davey, Paxman & Co, was erected at the east end of the building to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.
- A chiming clock with five bells was placed in the tower, with another 15th-century bell which is thought to have hung in the original moot hall. The clock is known locally as Charlie, after Charles Hawkins, who paid for it.
- The main facade of the town hall featured six life-sized statues, depicting famous people connected with Colchester: on the south elevation, Eudo Dapifer, Lord Audley, William Gilbert and Samuel Harsnett, and on the east, Edward the Elder and Boudica.
- Queen Elizabeth II visited the town hall and had lunch with civic leaders before waving to the crowds from the balcony on 20 May 1985.