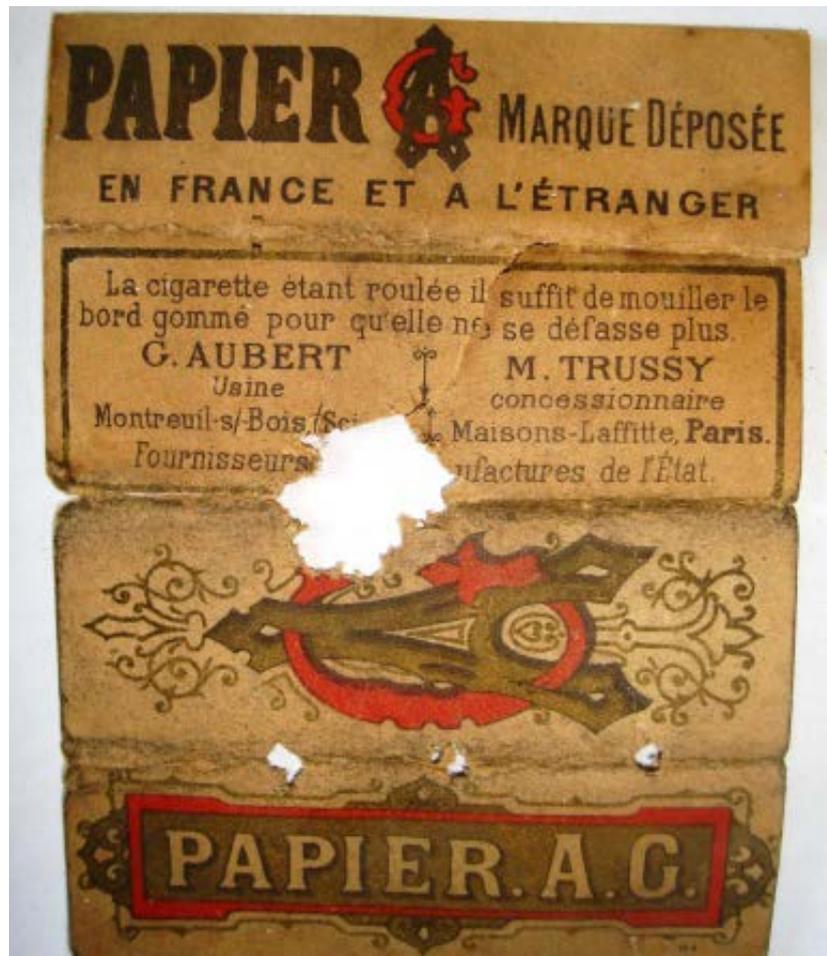




# UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS - a different kind of heritage!



*In a sharp contrast to some of the highbrow heritage items on view at Heritage Weekend, here's a more down-to-earth collection of artefacts. They were found under the floor by a carpenter renovating Grey Friars for the new hotel. We are very grateful to Robert for this little collection which gives a brief glimpse of various stages in the social life of the building.*



Starting with the Grey Friars Convent School era ... ..  
French cigarette papers! Posted in the gap between the floorboards.

Two discarded postcards – there must be a story here ... why was the top one (of Lexden Road, with a tram) defaced and stuffed through a gap in the floorboards?

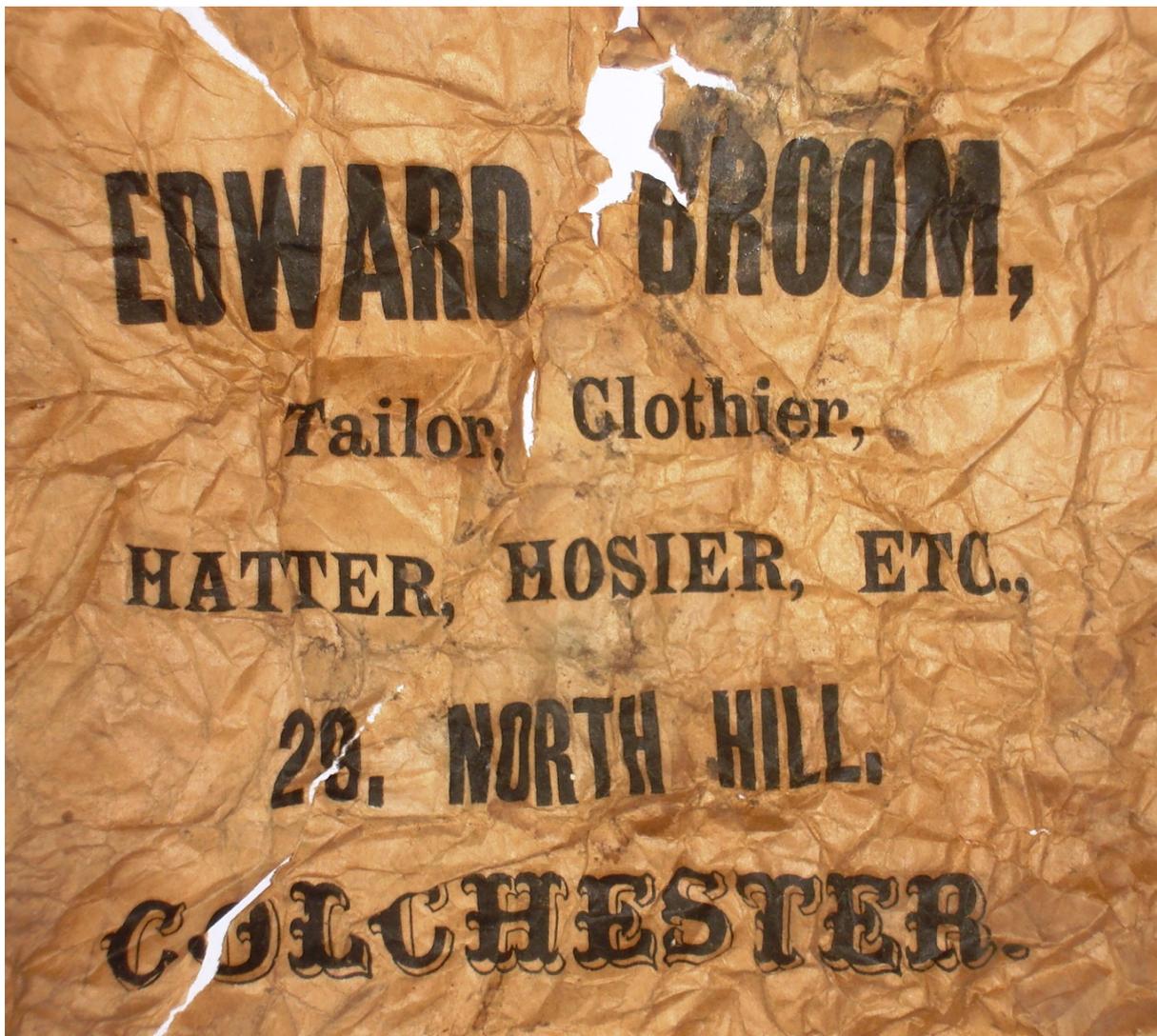


The lower one (of the front of the building in Convent School times) has rooms marked and explained. Why bother to do all that, then hide it under the floor? (Unless the damage to it occurred before it was disposed of.)





A fascinating find – and very appropriate. A rosary - possibly dropped accidentally?



Paper bag or wrapping from a shop based in a much-altered late C15th timber-framed building (see below), documented as being well-known and well-patronised in the late 1800s (see: [www.colchesterhistoricbuildingsforum.org.uk/drupal/taxonomy/term/49](http://www.colchesterhistoricbuildingsforum.org.uk/drupal/taxonomy/term/49) )



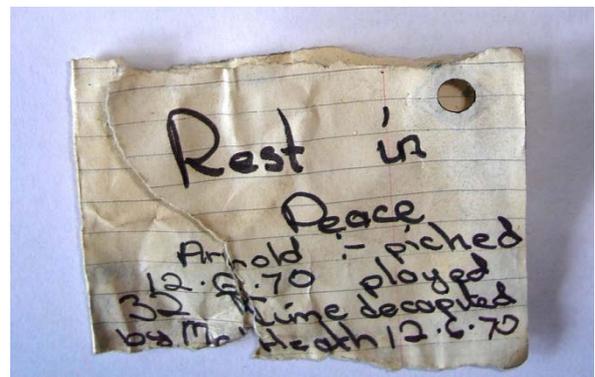
Other, inevitable, smoking-related items including cigarette collector cards. They show ...

(left) Westminster Hall: the oldest building on the Parliamentary estate. What makes it such an important building is not simply its great size and the magnificence of its architecture, but its central role in British history. In and around the Hall grew up the major institutions of the British state: Parliament, the Law Courts and various government offices. Closely involved in the life of the nation since the C11th, a journey through the Hall's past is a journey through our nation's history.

(centre) Robert Fielding, a C17/18<sup>th</sup> womanising bigamist in the court of King Charles II.

(right) Lew Ayres (1908-1996) a 1930s film star, once married to dancer Ginger Rogers, and famous for his role in "All Quiet on the Western Front" the film of the 1929 war novel.

And a quirky 'burial' ... .. (the package was empty when found) ... ..



... .. possibly a 'pet' insect of some kind, or a rescued creature dissected in a biology class? 'Arnold' was clearly afforded some kind of dignity in his passing. It's dated in the 1970s so would have been one of the classes temporarily housed in Grey Friars.

Everyday items now obsolete: 3 tickets from an 'Ultimate' machine of Colchester Corporation and a (rarer) conductor-issued 'Bell Punch'-type ticket from Eastern National.



(below) A range of paper items bridging the decades require some explaining ... .  
 What was the Coltown Syndicate, managed by DJL Cant?  
 What was the Amendment Record Card of 1948 used for?  
 Any offers?



Additional items found were:

**STAMP:** a franked, torn George V scarlet penny stamp (1918-21?).

**COINS:** two 1912 pennies; a halfpenny (*ha'pny*) of 1966; sixpences of 1959, 1963, 1967.

**STATIONERY ITEMS:** nib from an ink dip pen; a plastic desk ink well cover; a ruler, named 'EDNA COX UPPER IV'.

**TEST PAPERS:** maths test 'MARIE LEIGHTON LOWER 4B'; geography test 'DAVID TRELAU 1B'; history tests 'ALEC SHAVE 2B' and 'IAN STEPHEN 2A' and a scrap of paper with the name 'MADELINE VALLIS 3B'.

**POEM:** There was a defaced copy of the poem "Six and Out" by Gerald Durani Martineau, a prolific English cricket writer who contributed to E. W. Swanton's *World of Cricket* and *The Cricketer*. He was a captain in the Royal Sussex Regiment and wrote the *History of the Royal Sussex Regiment* (Moore & Tillyer, 1953). His *Wisden* obituary states his books "were not works of much original research" but, "pleasantly written, they were ideally calculated to arouse the interest of the novice and spur him on to try for himself the masterpieces". Martineau died in 1976, aged 79.