

## Location, location!

This rare photo, taken from the top of the long-gone car park, above the erstwhile bus station, show how well situated the adult college was when based at Grey Friars. The flagship for over 1,000 courses a year at its peak, presented throughout the Borough, its proximity to public transport, coupled with a generous car park and its open-access walk-in presence proved definite advantages in giving adult learning a high profile in Colchester. (The second photo is an aerial shot from the 1990s.)



In the photo below we see the bus station upper left, Grey Friars centre and Castle Park upper right.



For 100 years a hub for country bus services, latterly focussed on the once impressive, but now defunct bus station, and a significant junction on the East Anglian main railway line, Colchester held major interest for transport historians and enthusiasts. Chambers of Bures and Norfolk of Nayland are reputedly Britain's oldest bus companies.





The tramway system (1904-1929) was originally conceived as a link between the mainline railway station (“North”) and the town, but was soon to serve a wider area from Lexden to Hythe and later Old Heath Road.



Only a memory: Entering the erstwhile bus station (with former adult college Hillcrest/Grey Friars in the right-hand background) is a magnificent example of civic pride – a Daimler bus of Colchester Corporation Transport sporting the elegant maroon/cream livery with Borough crest.



Tram near Grey Friars 1900s



Osborne's AEC bus 1970s



CBT Bristol 1980s



Arriva bus 1990s