

Platform 4

To be read in a slow mono-tonal voice

I was sitting on a seat on Platform 4 when I noticed someone behaving strangely.

“What has she got do with me,” I thought. So with that I ignored her.

Colchester North is a really interesting Station and I had been trying to get there and tick it off my Station Book for many a long year and nothing was going to spoil it for me now that I was there.

In 1984 was able to visit Colchester Hythe Station briefly, before catching a ferry from Harwich to The Hook of Holland. Colchester Hythe Station was built in 1847 as a freight only line. The passenger line started on 8th May 1863. It has two platforms.

The third station in Colchester is Colchester Town Station. It was opened on 1st March 1866 by Tendring Hundred Railway as a subsidiary of Great Eastern Railway and named St.Botolphs. It was renamed Colchester Town on 8th July 1991 to reflect the fact that it is the closest station to the town centre.

Colchester North Station is the primary Station serving Colchester and was opened in 1843. It has six platforms.

I had come to Colchester North Station to see Platform 3 & 4, which together make the longest non-single platform in the country. Number 3 serves the Norwich Express while the number 4 end serves the Sunshine Coast line. Where they merge they join end-to- end and are protected by traps leading to friction buffer stops.

It was while sitting eating the cheese sandwich I had carefully wrapped in greaseproof paper that I noticed the strange woman. She was looking up and down the lines, then when a train came along on any of the lines she wrote down something in her notebook. I had heard of people like this before and thought they were called anoraks, although I have no idea why. Seems such a silly pastime, still each to his own, or her own in this case. I opened my shopping bag and took out my Thermos flask and poured myself a cup of tea.

It had been an exciting day.

Berney Arms Station one of the remotest in England, standing as it does in the middle of the Halvergate marshes, seven miles from the nearest road is my next destination. I know you are looking forward to reading all about my adventures there.