

**Summer 2008**



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**Ipswich Museums**  
**Friends**  
**Newsletter**

**The Friends of the Ipswich Museums**

**Newsletter** is published quarterly and distributed free to all members. The FOIM was set up in 1934 to support the work and development of the Ipswich Museums: Ipswich Museum in the High Street and Christchurch Mansion and the Wolsey Gallery in Christchurch Park. Since April 2007 the Ipswich Museums have been managed as part of the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service.

Friends continue to provide financial support to the Ipswich Museums as well as acting as volunteers. The Friends run outings, lectures and other events for their members.

The Friends provide guided tours of both the Mansion and the Museum, including free taster tours of the Mansion on Wednesday afternoons during British Summer Time. Tours can be booked by contacting the Mansion.

FOIM is a member of the British Association of Friends of Museums and Ipswich Arts Association.

Contributions to the Autumn 2008 Newsletter should be sent to Mary Halliwell by 2 August 2008 (address on back cover)

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**Contents**

Editor's Notes	3
IAA Discounts	3
Chairman's Message	4
AGM Report	5
Museum Service Report	7
Peter Berridge's Column	9
Friends News	10
From the Membership Secretary	13
New Arts Curator	14
Collection Notes	15
Conservation Corner	17
Treasure from Suffolk	19
Colchester's Entymology	19
Community Outreach	20
Staff Activities	21
Ipswich Museums Information	22
Guardians to the King	23
Visual Arts Ipswich	23
Children's Activities	24
Other Organisations	27
FOIM Council 2008-9	28
Corporate Members	28

**Cover Illustration:** Detail from *In the Conservatory* (1894) by William Quiller Orchardson. This painting is on view in Christchurch Mansion.

## Editor's Notes

In this edition I have included reports from the AGM as only a fraction of members were able to attend. It was an encouraging meeting, followed by a very entertaining talk by Maggi Hambling.

Paul Bruce has arranged another lunch time talk for us in July and Alan Swerdlow has arranged a day trip in August to see the recently renovated Audley End and the Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden.

Mary Hollis has now taken over from Howard King as talks organiser. She would be delighted to hear any ideas you may have.

The museum staff have provided several articles for this issue, including a short introduction from our new Arts Curator.

Jerry Latham has made a lot of progress with the Friends website. Jerry would love to hear your comments and criticisms. Please do visit the website if you can and have a good look at it - [www.foim.org.uk](http://www.foim.org.uk)

**Mary Halliwell**

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## Ipswich Arts Association Discounts

FOIM is a subscribing member of the Ipswich Arts Association and this entitles its individual members to discounts on certain events promoted by Ipswich Borough Council.

Vera Rogers, secretary to the IAA, has provided the following information:

Ipswich Borough Council has confirmed the continuation of the arrangement whereby paid-up members of societies affiliated to

Ipswich Arts Association may receive special offers on certain events promoted by IBC. These events will include the Ipswich Civic Concerts and certain ballet and opera events at the Ipswich Regent Theatre. The concessions do not extend to other promoted events. To obtain these concessions, please produce a current membership card confirming your affiliation to FOIM when booking.

## Chairman's Message

After just over a year as part of the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service we are seeing the benefits. A larger Egyptian Gallery is planned for the High Street Museum. The Friends have agreed to support this provided the bulk of the costs are secured from other sources.

At the Mansion our long period without an Arts Curator has finally come to an end. We are delighted to welcome Emma Roodhouse, who arrived on 29 April (she introduces herself on page 14).

We have provided input for the Three Year Plan for the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service. The Friends Council read it



thoroughly and prepared a list of comments. I was able to discuss these with Jayne Austin who will be passing them on to the rest of the management team.

I was thrilled to see that the Ducking Stool is once again on display in the Mansion. This is one piece that everyone seems to remember from their childhood visits. Frequently visitors coming back to the Mansion after a long period have expressed disappointment at the stool's absence.

I was delighted that Maggi Hambling accepted my invitation to speak after the business at our Annual General Meeting. It was a very entertaining and intriguing talk about her life and work, followed by an even more interesting question session.

I am always happy to receive your questions and comments.

**Paul Bruce**

**Chairman**

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[pauldbuce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pauldbuce@tiscali.co.uk)

The Cucking or Ducking Stool in which women who made trouble between neighbours were ducked in the River Orwell. Cucking is derived from coquiner (= nag or scold in Norman French).

## Annual General Meeting Report

The AGM was held on 18 April 2008 at Christchurch Mansion. It was attended by 58 members of the Friends plus Jayne Austin, Lynette Burgess and Tom Hodgson from the Museum Service. Alan Swerdlow (Vice President) chaired the meeting. The minutes of the 2007 AGM were approved and there were no matters arising.

Paul Bruce (Chairman) reported on a successful year in which we had begun to feel the benefits of the combined Colchester and Ipswich Museum Services. The Friends Council had been kept fully informed during the year and was currently considering a draft development plan for 2008 - 2011.

During the year George Lockett, a former Vice-President had died and Richard Cobbold (President) had resigned for personal reasons. Paul expressed his thanks for Richard Cobbold's active and sympathetic contribution during his years as President. A replacement President was now being sought.

The Friends had enjoyed another successful year of events. Howard King was thanked for his series of winter lectures. Mary Hollis is

taking over this role for 2008/9 (see page 10). Lunchtime lectures continued to attract good numbers at the Admiral's Head. Alan Swerdlow's trips and away visits were greatly appreciated, not least because his connections in the museum world led to some unusual opportunities.

Recent acquisitions funded by the Friends included a Giles cartoon of 'Grandma' in Ipswich Town Football Club regalia, which is now in the Town Hall. An acrylic painting by Reg Snook 'First Impressions of Ipswich' had been given to the Museum Service. The Friends had agreed to contribute £8,000 towards a new Egyptian Gallery in the current financial year and a further £8,000 in the following year.

Members would be glad to hear that, after a gap of some years, we would once again have a Curator of Fine and Decorative Art (see page 14).

Paul thanked members of the Friends Council for their hard work throughout the year. He presented a book token to Mary Southwood in thanks for her work as Guides

Co-ordinator. He was also grateful to the staff at both the Mansion and the Museum for their co-operation with the Friends.

### **Treasurer's Report : Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The Report and Accounts had been circulated and the Treasurer commented on certain items. Members queried the new practice of charging Friends for the hire of Museum Service premises for their events and asked if it could be reviewed. The accounts were adopted by a show of hands. Ken Wilson was thanked for acting as our Independent Examiner for the past year and agreed to continue in the role for the immediate future.

### **Report of the Membership Secretary**

Current membership stood at 378, made up of 12 corporate, 191 individual, 172 joint or family and 3 young members. There had been 47 new individual and one new corporate membership since the last AGM. In the same period the Friends donation chests had yielded £2,670 in Christchurch Mansion and £303 in the Museum.

### **Report from Colchester & Ipswich Museums Service**

The report is summarised on pages 7 - 8. Following the report, Tom Hodgson and Jayne Austin answered questions from the

audience.

### **Vice-President's Address**

Alan Swerdlow thanked Tom Hodgson for his report, and said that performance had exceeded the Friends expectations. The care taken over new appointments was especially appreciated. There was concern that the Wolsey Art Gallery, in Ipswich uniquely suited to visiting exhibitions of importance, was no longer being used for this purpose. In his travels and meetings as BAFM Eastern Region Co-ordinator, he had been able to compare our group with its peers and believed that we have as good an organisation as any in the country. He praised the work of the Chairman and Council members during the year and was grateful to Ken Wilson (the Ipswich Society) and Ferial Evans (Ipswich Arts Association) for representing their organisations on the Council.

### **Election of the Officers and Council Members**

The Council remains substantially as last year. The only changes were: Mary Southwood to be Vice-Chair, Jeremy Latham and Siobhan Steel to become ordinary council members. Siobhan is the new Guides Co-ordinator. (The new Council is shown on the back cover.)

**The Meeting was followed by a  
talk by Maggi Hambling.**

## Museum Service Report

*This is a summary of the report Tom Hodgson, the Community History Manager, delivered at the recent AGM*

### Finances and Staffing

The merger of the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Services has brought its share of teething problems, but the service is now in a much stronger position. As a partner in the East of England Museum Hub, it has access to central Government funding in addition to the budgets from Ipswich and Colchester Borough Councils. This has brought in an extra £705,000 in the last financial year and £720,000 in this year.

New posts have been established with the enhanced funding. Last April Rachel Macfarlane's post was made permanent as the Ipswich Learning Officer. Caroline Hammer has recently been appointed as the Senior Learning Officer, for both Ipswich and Colchester. In September Danielle Sprecher started as Costume Curator, dividing her time between both towns. On 29 April Emma Roodhouse starts as Art Curator, based at Ipswich, but with responsibility for the fine and decorative art collections both in Ipswich and in Colchester. We are very pleased that we have managed to resurrect this post as the art collection at Ipswich is of national importance and deserves the full time curatorial attention that it will now get again.

Over the next few months the posts of Archaeology Curator, Assistant Curator of Natural History and Curatorial Assistant will all be filled at Ipswich. This will allow Jayne Austin, our new Collections

Manager, to organise the substantial amount of work to put the management of the collections on a solid footing. The immediate goal is to gain accreditation for the Ipswich Museums. Accreditation publicly demonstrates a museum's achievement of good standards in all areas, but especially in terms of collections management. Re-organisation of our storage has been a major element of this collections work. Our hand was forced by the need to clear completely the High Street Exhibition Gallery (HEG) in advance of roofing works which will start in July.

### Accessions 2007/8

The last year has seen a steady number of additions to the collections, especially art. These have included: 5 sculptures by Ivor Roberts-Jones; a self portrait by Anna Airy; a painting of *Copdock Street* by William Trent; and material associated with the painter Henry Robinson – sometime Ipswich resident. Nick Milner's painting, *A Likeness of the Darkness* – a portrait of Justin Hawkins, the lead singer of Lowestoft rock group, the Darkness, in the style of Gainsborough's portrait of *William Wollaston* (created during the 2007 Ip-Art festival).

The purchase of one of Maggi Hambling's prints of *Rosie the Rhino at Ipswich Museum* was important not only in terms of the artist and subject matter, but also because it is part of the museum's

commitment to build on the collection of work of artists associated with Benton End and the Ipswich School of Art. In the same vein, *Machine Man* by David Carr was acquired in March. Carr was a contemporary of Lucien Freud in 1939 at Cedric Morris and Arthur Lett Haines' art school, when it was based at Dedham. In May we will hear whether the Museum has been successful in winning Lottery funding to strengthen further the Benton End and Ipswich School of Art collections.



The Friends purchased Reg Snook's painting *First Impressions of Ipswich*, of his grandchildren on the lawn at Christchurch Mansion.

The exceptional find at Holbrook of silver Roman horse harness fittings has recently been acquired and is being conserved before display in Ipswich Museum.

### Loans from Ipswich Museum

The most significant loans were the two paintings of Golding Constable's gardens by Constable and Gainsborough's painting of Holywells Park to the British Vision exhibition in Ghent.

### Exhibitions in Ipswich

**Jamestown, Virginia** at Christchurch Mansion. The exhibition made clear just how important Ipswich was in the Virginia Venture.

**Coming to Ipswich** in Gallery 3 at the Town Hall. The exhibition generated much interest and has been a springboard for further work with the many communities in the town (see page 20).

**Abolition!** In Ipswich Museum telling the story of Thomas Clarkson.

**Visitor Numbers** A regular programme of events, organised by Rachel Macfarlane, has led to a slight rise in visitor numbers at Ipswich Museum. The sessions with live animals have been especially popular. Christchurch Mansion has seen a slight drop in visitor numbers over the last year, which can be attributed work in the park which left the Mansion marooned behind fencing. Within the Mansion the light well in the China Room has been replaced and this summer and autumn will see further building works with repairs to the roof and the installation of a lift in the gap between the Mansion and the Wolsey Art Gallery to give level access to both floors. This work will inevitably continue the disruption of the past year, but we will emerge stronger with a building in good shape for future.

### Future Plans

Planning for the future of the Ipswich Museum, Christchurch Mansion, the HEG and the Town Hall Galleries are included in the draft Museum Development Plan for 2008 to 2011.



## Peter Berridge's Column

### **Margaret Catchpole**

Firstly I need to say thank you to all who responded to my notes on Margaret Catchpole in the last newsletter. I have contacted several of those who sent me additional information and I hope to speak to you all eventually. This is a general thanks to everyone from whom I have learnt many interesting details and been provided with copies, or pointed in the direction of other original source material. I was also told of a new novel about Margaret Catchpole. I have only just managed to get hold of a copy and have yet to read it.

I have learnt that there is significant interest in Australia and that a filmed dramatisation about Margaret Catchpole is being considered. Clearly there is strong endorsement for the museum service to give more prominence to the story, both real and fictional, of this fascinating Ipswich character.

### **Three Year Plan**

The big issue for the service is finalising the three year development plan which is now due to go for adoption by the Joint Museum Committee (i.e. by both Ipswich and Colchester Borough Council) in early June. Initially we had planned that it would be adopted in March but quickly realised that, even though we were under no obligation to do so, it would be very valuable to gather feedback from a wider range of organisations. The consultation

has now ended and it was very gratifying to receive an overwhelmingly strong endorsement for the plan and for the work of the museum service over the last year. Thank you to everyone that responded, including the Friends Council on your behalf. A lot of additions, clarifications, and new ideas are currently being amalgamated into the plan. I will write more in the next Newsletter.

### **Dragons, Silks and Stories**

I think the Chinese Exhibition is splendid. It shows the wealth of the collections and the expert knowledge and talents of staff. It is the first exhibition in the redesigned Gallery 3 which has been redecorated and the bar has been removed. If you were at the community events that took place to mark the opening of the exhibition and the start of Museums and Galleries Month, you will also have seen the opportunity that such an exhibition provides for us to engage with, and involve, the wider community in the work of the museum. The young children in their Chinese silk costumes, giving a performance of Chinese drumming, with a back drop of the town hall steps and a graceful Chinese dancer, definitely brought a lump to the throat of many in the audience. Incidentally full praise to the marketing team who successfully got this event listed as one of the top 10 events happening nationally, to mark Museums and Galleries Month.

**Peter Berridge**

## Friends News

### FUTURE EVENTS:

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#### Visit to Colchester Castle

Colchester Friends have invited Ipswich Friends for an evening visit to Colchester Castle on Friday 27 June. This event is already fully booked.

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#### Lunch Time Talk with John Webb, 16 July 2008

Paul Bruce has arranged another lunchtime talk for the Friends at *The Admirals Head* in Little Bealings. John Webb will speak about ***A Week in Ipswich with Elizabeth I.*** John has been working since 1950 on the history of Ipswich. He is the author of three books on Ipswich published by the Suffolk Records Society.

John's talk will cover a period in 1561 which was particularly significant for the Tudor dynasty.

Booking forms are being distributed with this Newsletter. As usual, numbers will be limited to 50. In the event of overbooking all applications up to 25 June will be entered in a draw.

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#### Visit to Audley End House and Gardens and the Fry Art Gallery Saffron Walden, 6 August 2008

Alan Swerdlow has arranged a visit to Audley End and the Fry Gallery at Saffron Walden. Audley End has just reopened after a £1 million face lift so there will be new things to see. The morning will be spent at Audley end. After lunch (at own cost) we will visit the Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden to see the current exhibition ***Edward Bawden in the Middle East.*** There will be an introductory talk. The cost will be £22 (less for English Heritage members). Booking forms are being distributed with this Newsletter.

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#### Winter Evening Talks

Mary Hollis writes:

I expect most of you know that Howard King can no longer provide the Friends with the excellent programme of evening talks during the winter months. Sadly for us he will, in future, be required to work longer hours for the Museum Service and will therefore not be able to continue in

his role as Talks Organizer.  
Howard will be a hard act to follow.

A change concerning the location of the evening talks will be made. This has been brought about because of the dissatisfaction expressed by the members at the AGM on hearing that the Borough



are now charging the Friends a hiring fee for use of the various meeting rooms at the Museum and in the Mansion.

We will therefore be holding the forthcoming winter talks in the Methodist Church via the Blackhorse Lane entrance. It is a comfortable venue where we will be able to continue serving coffee and tea before the talks.

However to assist with this domestic nicety I need some coffee making volunteers. Offers please!

I also need your help to maintain

the wide variety of talks we have enjoyed so far. Many of you, I'm sure, belong to other local, cultural Societies and Groups and will also have participated in courses where good speakers have been enjoyed. Perhaps you could pass details of these speakers onto me for future reference?

I look forward to talking to and hearing from members so that we can arrive at a programme of talks to suit our interests.

Dates for Your Diary

Evening Talks to be confirmed.

Wed 1 October 2008

Wed 5 November 2008

Wed 3 December 2008

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## Report of FOIM visit to Gardens and Castles of North Wales 28 April to 1 May 2008

Early on Monday morning a driver from North Wales collected 39 Ipswich Friends and one brave Colchester friend. We had a long drive to our first stop at Blists Hill, Victorian Village in Shropshire. We enjoyed two hours wandering around the reconstructed workshops, pubs and shops. I bought a copy of a handbill printed in 1900 in Blists Hill advertising RD and JB Fraser (est. 1838) of

Princes Street, Ipswich who offered to buy “your false teeth and turn them into money”. We then moved on to Ironbridge to admire the first iron bridge in the world erected by Abraham Darby in 1779.

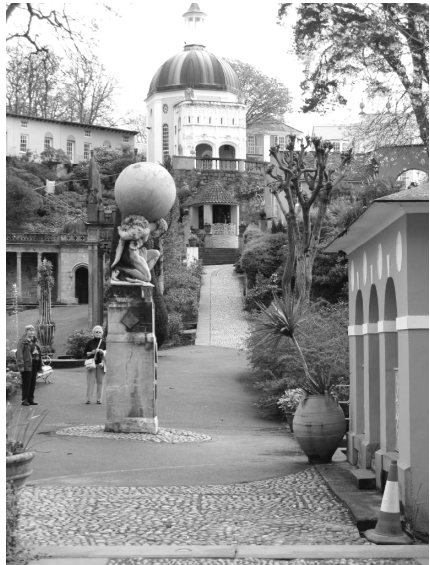
Leaving Shropshire we passed through Langollen and on to Snowdonia. We appreciated the skill of Errol, our driver as he negotiated the winding steep road to deliver us to our base hotel in Llanberis in the early evening.

On Tuesday our second Welsh driver, Selwyn greeted us all “Boroda” as we set off for Bodnant Gardens. The Gardens are spectacular and rightly famous. They descend by a series of terraces to the River Conway. The rhododendrons and azaleas were in full bloom and there were drifts of narcissi in the meadows. The lily pond was classically elegant. We would have liked to stay longer but we had to continue our journey.

Plas Newydd in Anglesey is on a hill with a commanding outlook over the Menai Strait. It was built in the Classical Style in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by James Wyatt on the site of an older building. The most interesting exhibit is the 15 feet high by 58 feet wide mural in the dining room. It was painted by Rex Whistler for his friend the fifth Marquess of Anglesey. It is a composite picture of wooded hills

coming down to water in which Whistler has inserted buildings, boats and people of special meaning for the Marquess.

On Wednesday we had another early start to go to Portmeirion, a model village built to plans of Sir Clough Williams-Ellis to resemble an Italian village. The brightly coloured houses have great charm. Though people live there,



Portmeirion

to me the general effect is that of a rich man’s Toytown, even so it is well worth seeing.

We then went to Blainau Ffestiniog and travelled by light railway to Port Madog. In the afternoon most of us went to the slate museum. Thousands of men were employed in the quarries in their heyday. Later slate went out of fashion and

was replaced by cheaper materials. We continued to Penrhyn Castle, built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for a Manchester chemist. The castle is a massive monument of tasteless and oppressive vulgarity, and we were glad to get out of it – although the tea room served excellent Welsh specialities.

On Thursday we returned to Ipswich taking our break at the Earl of Plymouth's new farm shop at Ludlow. I found the "fidgety pie" irresistible. The thanks of the party are due to Alan Swerdlow for

finding us so much to see and making all the arrangements, also to Barbara Cole for her ever efficient supporting staff work. We were very fortunate with weather which was generally dry. Finally our most grateful thanks to our two Welsh drivers who gave us great confidence on the difficult mountain roads and who were always friendly and informative.

**Andrew Gunn**

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## From the Membership Secretary

We extend a warm welcome to members who have joined since the last Newsletter was prepared:

Mrs R Clapperton  
Mr P Cawthorn  
The Countess of Euston  
Mr & Mrs J. Sinclair  
Mr & Mrs J. Irvine  
Mrs D. Snell  
Mrs Z. Gravener  
Mr & Mrs I Freeston  
Mr & Mr I MacDonald

And two corporate members:

Barnes Construction  
Stan Gasking Ltd

### OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not yet paid your 2008

subscription, you will find a **red spot** on your envelope. I look forward to hearing from you.

The subscription rates are £12 for an individual and £15 for joint/family members.

### STANDING ORDERS

Many thanks to all those who have responded to my appeal for £3 to make up the difference between the old and new subscription rates. Sixty six people have still underpaid. Please change your standing order for the coming year.

**Barbara Cole**

**Membership Secretary**

## Our New Art Curator—Emma Roodhouse

*Emma Roodhouse tells us about herself.*



I started my career in museum and gallery work 11 years ago after graduating from my MA in Museum Studies at Manchester University. Of course my interest in history and art had been developed much earlier and museum work suited my natural curiosity about people and their objects. Since Manchester I have had the chance to work with a variety of collections on planning exhibitions, research and management.

One of my first jobs was working with artists in Birmingham for a charity on public art commissions but I was eventually tempted to move to the 'big smoke' and took

up work in London. In particular my work at the Government Art Collection (Department Culture, Media & Sport) focused on using the collection to promote British art in several hundred major British Government buildings in the UK and overseas. The Collection, which has been developed over the past 100 years, contains works of art by a wide range of primarily British artists, and they range from the sixteenth century to the present day. It was certainly a great opportunity to see how No.10 Downing Street works and inside the Oval Office on another occasion.

As well as working with art collections I have had the opportunity to expand my curatorial knowledge in a past role as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Quincentenary Curator. This was a temporary post for 9 months that had a short deadline to curate an exhibition on 500 years of surgery. I worked alongside surgeons, artists, doctors, college staff and volunteers in order to curate the displays.

My most recent post was working as the Curator for Falkirk Council Museums with responsibility for

collections management and the temporary exhibition programme. Falkirk's main museum is a beautiful historic house, called Callendar House, dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and it also has a working Georgian kitchen. As Curator for Falkirk Council I looked after the fine and decorative art, social and industrial history collections. I had the opportunity to curate displays on 'Kitchen Goddesses: influential women in cookery from eighteenth century to

the present day'; 'Dunmore ceramics nineteenth century decorative pottery' and an exhibition in partnership with Scottish National Portrait Gallery on the different types of media used to create portraits.

**Emma Roodhouse**  
**Arts Curator**

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## Collection Notes

*Joan Lyall tells us the work being done to clear the High Street Exhibition Gallery so that roof repairs can be done.*

In the Spring newsletter Jayne Austin, our Collections Manager mentioned that during the first three months of the year we were due to clear the area of the

museum known as the High Street Exhibition Gallery so that the roof could be repaired. Many of you will have visited this display area to view the wonderful carved



Before (above) in January and  
After (right) in late April



timbers when it was open as ***The Glory of the Parts About – Tudor and Stuart Ipswich***. These important timbers include part of the frontage from 98 Fore Street; corner posts from Tavern Street, Foundation Street, Carr Street and the Ram Inn on the Quayside; beams from the Customs House and a fabulous double-faced wooden sundial from Smarts Wharf.



Pooley's men removing a corner post

It was a tricky task taking these very heavy timbers down from the walls and we were grateful for the help and expertise of Pooley's Removals

Some of the corner posts have

grotesque figures carved on them, including a female figure or 'she-devil' in shackles circa 1590-1610. One decorative post has a carving with a Tudor rose, the cross of St. George, a musician, a bear and a greyhound from the Buttermarket opposite the Ancient House, about 1580, and one depicting the fable of the fox and geese date 1490 from Foundation Street .

The timbers are now safely stored having been photographed, measured and documented.

Also within the High Street Exhibition Gallery, on the stage which lies out of sight of the visitor, were stored Natural History, Archaeology, Social History and Museum Management books and journals. Also, correspondence, ledgers, wage books, minute books and other Ipswich Museum ephemera giving an insight into how the museum operated in the early part of the twentieth century. All these volumes have been entered onto Excel spreadsheets and moved to a dedicated room within the museum.

**Joan Lyall**

**Documentation Officer**

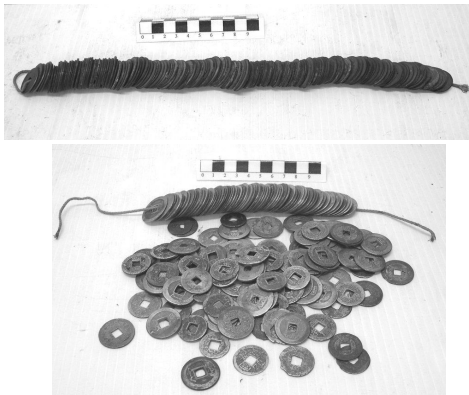


## Conservation Corner

### Dragons and Silks

The conservation section has been busy doing work for the 'Dragons, Silks and Stories' exhibition (see page 22). I have had the help of Ray, Kath, Hilli, Stella, Chris, and new boy Steve.

Steve Taylor originally came to help David Jones but decided to take up residence in the conservation lab and clean sparkly things instead. Like me he likes things to be shiny. However I know when to stop and have to rein Steve in occasionally. All the volunteers have done, and are still doing, sterling work.



Coins before and after Steve's cleaning

We have cleaned crossbows, lots of coins, lots of silver dangly things of unknown purpose, small figures,

porcelain, tea pots, knives and chop sticks etc.

Cheryl Osborne and Anna Todd, private textile conservators, have mounted a silk flag for us and are conserving a silk dragon robe for the exhibition. Anna was an ex student of ours, now a full time mum and part time conservator.

Dominique has conserved a piece of Chinese 'Ikea' flat pack furniture. A dressing table that was glued together was actually meant to come apart for travel or storage or perhaps it was just meant to be easy to assemble. It came apart in bits each with a Chinese symbol on it. Typically they forgot to include the hex screw!



Teapot cleaned by Kath

Hilli and Stella, when not cleaning stuff from afar and Cathay, are still photographing ceramics. Sheila is still trawling through the accession registers when she can and tracing our flints, although Len and Steve have unfortunately not been able

to come as much as they would have wanted of late.

### **Beccles**

I had a trip to Beccles Museum to repair a dental drill, a clock door, and treat a cricket bat. The hardest thing about the job was actually getting into Beccles Museum.

They forgot I was coming and after an hour of standing in the rain I took myself off to a café had cheese on toast and pot of tea for one.

Eventually a nice chap turned up, apologised, and showed me the delights of Beccles Museum. He introduced me to his dental drill and his clock. Not knowing what exactly they wanted me to do was a problem and my travelling conservation kit did not stretch to removing tread wheels and other stuff. However I did have some glue and begged a piece of leather from the shoe repairers in a nearby street. I managed to make his drill look presentable. Part of the problem was that it actually still worked and the local children could get it going by pulling a piece of string supplied for this purpose by the accommodating curators. I decided that immobilising it would be in the best interests of the drill and the children. Unfortunately whilst engaged in this we dropped a fiddly screw that held it all together. We spent a pleasant 20

minutes on our hands and knees looking for it. Luckily I found it by kneeling on it causing me some pain but saving our blushes.

The clock was a doddle so I won't speak about that. Who wants to know when things go right?

### **Conferences**

I have been expounding the virtues of Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service at the David Harris conference in the Metropolitan University in London, and soon at the British Disaster Management Association Conference at Kentwell Hall. Hopefully there will be no disasters but if there are they will rent our freezer for all their wet stuff.

I had to compose myself before going on stage to speak to 110 people at the David Harris Conference. I get very nervous. I was on after the French conservators from Versailles but thankfully before the Polish conservators from Auschwitz Birkenau Museum. I met the Polish conservators before Christmas when I took my son to Auschwitz. He said he liked Krakow but did not like Auschwitz. Good, I said, that is how it should be.

**Bob Entwistle**

**Senior Conservation Officer**

## Treasure from Suffolk

The past twelve months have been a busy period for the discovery of archaeological finds which are covered by the 1996 Treasure Act. The museum service was fortunate to be able to acquire a group of Anglo-Saxon metal works from Witnesham, near Ipswich, including a magnificent silver great square-headed brooch, sadly now broken into several pieces after nearly fifteen hundred years in the ground. Only seven or eight silver brooches of this type are known from Britain and, like several of them, this brooch is of Scandinavian design. Other cases yet to be added to the museum

collection range from a 17th century gold finger ring to a Roman coin hoard. The former was found at Lavenham and is decorated with the arms of Sir Thomas Eden of Sudbury (died 1614) or one of his sons. The latter was found at Saxmundham and contains three gold coins, or solidi, and 58 silver coins, or siliqua, which were buried around AD 402 during the reign of Honorius, the last emperor to rule Britain.

**Philip J Wise**  
**Heritage Manager**

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## Colchester's Entymology collection frozen at Ipswich

The biggest threat to a museum's insect collections are insects themselves. An entymology collection is like a free buffet to the dreaded Museum Beetle!

To reduce the risk of such damaging infestations the Entymology store at Colchester has recently been refurbished and sealed more effectively to prevent hungry insects getting in.

To ensure that nothing living remained it was decided to transport the entire Entymology

collection from Colchester Museum's Resource Centre to Ipswich where it could be frozen in Ipswich's huge walk-in freezer.

After spending a week at -40 °C the 35 cabinets of creepy-crawlies, some 100,000 specimens in total, made the 18 mile return journey. All arrived safely - wings and legs in-tact.

Regular monitoring will now ensure that they remain safe.

**Steve Yates**  
**Documentation Officer**

## Community Outreach

The adage “one thing leads to another” might have been coined for community outreach! We have a new bout of reminiscence work arising from the *Coming to Ipswich* project, which has created a new multicultural loan box and so far delivered new training to some 25 people working with the elderly in day centres and residential homes.

Two highly successful projects working with children from fostering families in Essex gave rise to the prospect of doing something similar on the Suffolk side of the border. We are now running *The Coming Alive!* project with a group of children who are having fun creating their own animation inspired by Ipswich Museum’s Natural History Collection.

The Chinese exhibitions in Ipswich and Colchester have inspired closer contact with our local Chinese communities. So far we have been recording memories inspired by some of the objects in the “Dragons, Silks and Stories” exhibition; supporting a Chinese drumming ensemble to expand its numbers and repertoire; enabling a Chinese dance teacher to work with Chinese children and finding out how a creative writer might work with teachers at the Chinese school in Colchester.

One of the exciting aspects of my job as part of the larger hub is the opportunity it affords to get involved with other smaller museums. Which is why I’ve been supporting the wonderful Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum at Flixton near Bungay in organising its first family fun day on 25 May. See [www.aviationmuseum.net](http://www.aviationmuseum.net) for details. The equally wonderful Ipswich Transport Museum has agreed to run one of their buses up there on the day. If you would like a FREE seat, please get in touch with me for details.

Add that to the photography project we’ve been running in the Big (community) Garden at High Woods Country Park in Colchester, and a lively drama, literacy and art initiative currently building towards an exciting half-term week in and around the village of Tiptree (famous for its jam) and you can see that Amy (the assistant outreach officer) and I have plenty to keep us out of trouble.

**Ruth Gillan**  
**Outreach Officer**

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**Free drumming workshops:** Every Sunday, until 13 July, 2 - 4 pm at CSV Media Clubhouse, Ipswich. Suitable for children aged 6 - 14, To find out more and to book call Mel Holmes on 01473 418022

## Staff activities

### **New Education Assistant training sessions launched**

School pupils are a key audience for Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service and we already deliver curriculum-based, engaging and relevant programmes to over 30,000 pupils and students each year.

To develop the schools provision further at Ipswich, all museum assistants will be actively involved by delivering sessions directly to students and to this end a comprehensive and lively training programme, devised by Rachel Macfarlane and Caroline Hammer, has been launched.

All museums assistants will have their own individual personalised learning plans and then working in small groups, our colleagues will study object handling, observing colleagues, drama sessions, learning styles and group management.

Already, the feedback from the first training group has been really positive. The objective is to have a good number of colleagues completing their training by September 2008 and ready to deliver a range of learning sessions that meet the needs of pupils and students.

**Lynette Burgess**

### **Away Days at the Museum of East Anglian Life**

Marlene Moyes and the front of house team had a very cold but enjoyable away day at the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket on 19 and 20 March. It gave the team the chance to spend some quality time together away from the work environment. However, it wasn't all play as they took the opportunity of looking at the service the Museum of East Anglian Life offers to its visitors as a whole. The team concentrated on what was good and what could do with improvement and if there was anything from their service that could be applied at Colchester and Ipswich Museums. The away day also gave the team an opportunity to find out what our neighbours are up to and to also find out how naughty the team manager is! Marlene was intent on smuggling in carrots and apples for the resident horse even though the sign said "Please do not feed the horse".

**Saskia Stent**

## Ipswich Museums Information

### **Christchurch Mansion**

Opening times: Daily 10am - 5pm  
(Café closes at 4pm)

### **Museum and Gallery 3**

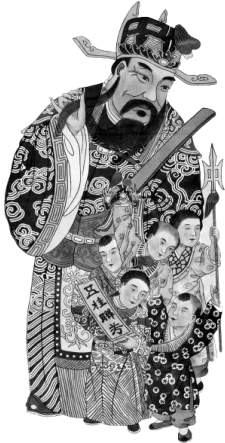
Opening times: Tues - Sat 10am - 5pm

Mansion: 01473 433554,

Museum 01473 433551

[www.ipswich.gov.uk](http://www.ipswich.gov.uk) (click on 'museums')

### **DRAGONS SILKS AND STORIES in Gallery 3**



This exhibition opened on 3 May. Items from Ipswich's Chinese collection have been put on display to coincide with the Olympic games in China.

There is a free drop in activity

**Make Your Own Chinese Art** from 10am to 4pm on Sat 5 July

### **OUT OF THE BOX : BRINGING COSTUME TO LIFE**

Events at Christchurch Mansion:

24 July 2008, 2 - 4pm

Beadwork

7 August 2008, 2 - 4pm

Embroidery

21 August 2008, 2 - 4pm

Children's wear

Similar events are taking place at Hollytrees Museum in Colchester.

Don't miss your chance to see some of Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service's most beautiful costume as they come out of their boxes! Hosted by the costume curator you will have the chance to see beautiful items close-up, many of which have not been on display before.

There will also be the possibility to handle some of the items.

### **GUIDED TOURS OF THE MUSEUM AND MANSION**

Guided tours are available at Christchurch Mansion and the Museum. These must be booked in advance through the Mansion. The Friends provide the guides. A choice of tours is available. The tours last around 75 minutes.

On Wednesday afternoons during British Summer Time Free Taster tours are offered. These last for 30 minutes and start at 2 pm and 3 pm. They are not suitable for large groups.

## Guardians to the King -Terracotta Treasures from Ancient China

**Colchester Castle, Essex**

**19 July – 2 November 2008**

Don't miss Colchester Castle's most stunning exhibition to date featuring 43 miniature terracotta figures from the Chinese Han Dynasty. This is only the second time these figures have ever been out of China and their first visit to the UK.

The miniature figures, from Xuzhou Museum in Jiangsu Province China, are 2,000 years old and represent soldiers,

officials, dancers, musicians and cavalry horses. Working in partnership with Essex County Council, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service is delighted to be hosting this blockbuster exhibition.

Mon – Sat 10am – 5pm

Sun 11am – 5pm

Admission charge to Colchester Castle applies (Free with FOIM membership card)

For further information: **01206 282939** or

[www.colchestermuseums.org.uk](http://www.colchestermuseums.org.uk)

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## Visual Arts Ipswich at the Town Hall

Open: Tue-Sat 10 am- 5 pm

Information from:

[visualarts@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:visualarts@ipswich.gov.uk)

[www.townhallgalleries.org.uk](http://www.townhallgalleries.org.uk)

Telephone: 01473 432863

GALLERY 1

**May 29 - Jun 12: PULSE**

Liz Ballard, Juliet Holton, Ryan Jordan, Richard O'Sullivan, Dominique Rey, Justyna Scheuring

The inaugural collaboration with The New Wolsey Theatre's annual PULSE Fringe Festival. Installations and live art events will be hosted across festival venues.

**Jun 28 - Aug 1: Edmund Goubert, Fugitive Pieces**

A new body of site-specific paintings, documentary photographs of the works 'in situ' will also be on display in the Gallery.

GALLERY 2 - Suffolk Craft Society

**June 3 - 28: Sue Bruce**  
Ceramics & Prints

**Jun 28 - July 13: Danielle Spelman**  
Ceramics by Suffolk Craft Society invited guest exhibitor.

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## Summer Holiday Events in Ipswich

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All sessions are free unless a charge is stated. Where booking is required telephone 01473 433554. Please cancel your bookings if you are unable to come, as there is often a waiting list. The Museum Service regrets it cannot take bookings for large groups.

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### **The Silk Trail @ Ipswich Museum, Christchurch Mansion and Gallery 3, Thu 24 July – Sun 31 August**

Everyday over the summer holidays you can enjoy a fun quiz trail at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich Museum and Gallery 3 in the Town Hall. In the quiz trail you can learn more about the museums and how many of their fascinating objects were inspired by, or came from the East. Plus, everyone that completes a quiz trail form will be entered into a prize draw, for the chance to win a fabulous prize. Drop in during normal opening times

### **Broccoli Landscapes @ Christchurch Mansion, Mon 28 July – Fri 1 August**

Have you ever thought that broccoli looks a bit like a tree? Well Thomas Gainsborough thought the same thing and used them to create his own mini still life landscapes before he drew them. Now is your chance to make your own mini still life landscapes to inspire your artistic side. Will you use a mirror for a lake, a pebble for a rock and broccoli for a tree? Come along and see what kind of a beautiful landscape you can create before

painting or drawing it into your very own fine art masterpiece! Booked sessions at 10.30am, 11.30pm, 12.30pm, 2pm & 3pm, £1.50 per person.

### **Meet Thomas Gainsborough @ Christchurch Mansion, Tue 29 – Thu 31 July**

Step back 250 years to 1758 and meet the wonderful Thomas Gainsborough when he was painting in Ipswich. Find out what inspired him to create the magnificent masterpieces on display in the Wolsey Art Gallery, and how he painted them. Listen as Gainsborough shares fascinating tales to help bring the pictures to life with the stories that are hidden within them. Performances at 11am, noon, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

### **Chinese Animal Prints @ Ipswich Museum, Tue 29 July – Fri 1 August**

Put your stamp on history and come along to Ipswich Museum to create your own fabulous Chinese print stamp from which you can create amazing pictures. Take inspiration from the beautiful animals on display in the Natural History Gallery and see how these creatures influenced Chinese prints. Have your turn to create your own print stamp out of foam or lino and use it to make beautiful print pictures that you can take home as a memento of your day. Booked sessions at 11am, noon, 1pm, 2.30pm & 3.30pm, £1.50 per person.

### **Fan Decorating @ Christchurch Mansion, Mon 4 – Fri 8 August**

Cool yourself down this summer by having a go at decorating your own



fan. Be inspired by the beautiful collection of fans on display and have a go at designing your own. What kinds of patterns and pictures will you create on your fan? Using metallic pens and other decorative items this fun and creative session will get your design skills flowing! Drop-in event 10.00am – 12.45pm and 1.45pm – 4.30pm, £1 per person.

### **Egyptian Embalming @ Ipswich Museum, Tue 5 – Fri 8 August**

Do you want to know how the Ancient Egyptians mummified their Pharaohs? Ever wondered how they got the brains out of the nose? Well come and take part in an enchanting embalming ceremony to find out. As well as getting the chance to see precious Egyptian objects that are not normally on display, you will also be able to take part in some fun role-play. Booked sessions at 10.30am, 11.30pm, 12.30pm, 2pm & 3pm, £1 per person.

### **Meet the Egyptian Storyteller @ Ipswich Museum, Wed 6 & Thu 7 August**

Come and hear tales of Pharaohs and Gods with our enchanting Egyptian storyteller. She will take you on a journey into the past and tell you about life in Ancient Egypt. Take a closer look at an Egyptian headrest and learn about what the Egyptians would have used as a mirror. Performances at 11am, noon, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

### **Make Your Own Tudor Instrument @ Christchurch Mansion, Mon 11 – Wed**

### **13 August**

Using a template your Tudor instrument will be a work of art and make some great sounds! Our friendly freelancer will be on hand to help you make your instrument and you can decorate your instrument however you like. Take it home and amaze your friends and family with the music you'll be able to create. Booked sessions at 11am, noon, 1pm, 2.30pm & 3.30pm, £1.50 per person.

### **Tudor Minstrels @ Christchurch Mansion, Wed 13 August**

Don't miss your chance to listen to professional Tudor musicians playing in the Main Hall and hear some traditional Tudor music. Performances at noon, 1pm, and 2pm.

### **Chinese Magic @ Ipswich Museum, Thu 14 & Fri 15 August**

With our enchanting magician Hui Ling Zhu you can see a variety of close-up tricks! Performance at noon.

### **Circus Skills Workshops @ Ipswich Museum, Thu 14 & Fri 15 August**

Come and take part in a circus skills workshop where you will have the chance to have a go at plate-spinning, ribbon dancing and using a Diabolo. Our professional Chinese acrobat and performer will teach you these skills so that you can take them away with you to amaze your friends and family. Booked sessions at 1.30pm, 2.30pm, and 3.30pm, £1.50 per child.

### **Animals Go Live! @ Ipswich Museum,**

## **Tues 19 – Sat 23 Aug**

Enjoy getting closer to nature this summer, as Ipswich Museum hosts Go Live Week. Every day you can meet and learn more about a selection of birds, reptiles and bugs.

### **The Owl Show, Tue 19 & Wed 20 August**

Marvel at these beautiful birds of prey and watch as they swoop over your head. Booked sessions at 1.30pm, 2.30pm, and 3.30pm. Entry to owl shows by ticket only £1.50 per person (2 years and under free).

### **Big Bugs, Thu 21 August**

Don't miss your chance to get closer to some unusual and fabulous big bugs. Booking is advised. Sessions are £1.50 per person starting from noon. Last session finishes at 4pm.

### **Fluffy Creatures, Fri 22 August**

Come and have the chance to find out some great facts and stroke some amazing fluffy creatures. Booking is advised. Sessions are £1.50 per person starting from noon. Last session finishes at 4pm.

### **Snakes, Sat 23 August**

Find out more about the fascinating world of snakes and get closer to some real life slithery friends. Booking is advised. Sessions are £1.50 per person starting from noon. Last session finishes at 4pm.

### **Shadow Puppets Workshop @ Christchurch Mansion, Mon 18 – Fri 22 August**

Come along and create your own Chinese birth year shadow puppet. Are you a rat, a tiger, a dragon or a monkey? Depending on what year you were born in you can discover the animal that represents you in the Chinese zodiac. Have fun making your puppet and why not have a go at making your own mini theatre so that you can have hours of fun putting on your own shadow puppetry performances at home. Booked sessions at 11am, noon, 1pm, 2.30pm & 3.30pm, £1.50 per person.

### **Toy Talks @ Christchurch Mansion, Mon 18 – Fri 22 August**

Be enchanted as you are guided through some of the fascinating toys in the collection. Can you guess what they are made from and which one made an appearance in the Great Exhibition? How did the Victorians get toys to move without batteries or electricity? Drop-in talks at 10.30am, 11.30pm, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm.

### **The Victorian Chimney Sweep @ Christchurch Mansion, Mon 25 & Tue 26 August**

How did a Victorian chimney sweep manage to keep all the chimneys on a house like Christchurch Mansion so clean? Just how did he hide the mess from the rich lady of the house? Come and find out from our Chimney Sweep and try and have a go at some of his sweeping techniques in this interactive and fun storytelling session. Performances at 11am, noon, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

## News from Other Organisations

### **The Suffolk Book League**

**Literary Suffolk** by Anne Parry was published in April this year to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Suffolk Book League. It provides information about all the authors and poets who have lived in Suffolk, visited Suffolk and written about Suffolk, including children's authors. It is a 28 page A5, available for £1 at tourist information offices, libraries and some book shops.

### **Ipswich Arts Association : One year on-line**

Those who lament the passing of Images, the local arts magazine will be pleased to know that it is enjoying a renaissance as an on-line publication, now with the advantage of full colour. The articles cover a wide range of arts related topics and it is an integral part of Ipswich Arts Association website [www.ipswich-arts.org.uk](http://www.ipswich-arts.org.uk). This first year for the website has been a resounding success with data recording a high volume of visits. It is smart, stylish and very easy to navigate with wide-ranging, free events listings for both members and non-members of Ipswich Arts. For a very modest fee, an advertiser is able to buy a full colour box with graphics and a comprehensive description of the

event.

Despite its name Ipswich Arts Association covers the whole of Suffolk and North Essex with member groups in all areas of Suffolk. Each group has a designated page on the website that includes graphics, a description of its activities and a link to its website.

Also in the spotlight are the Ipswich Charter Hangings. For those who have not viewed these eight magnificent panels in exhibition, here is the chance to see them online. Further, there is news of IAA Lectures and Concerts and a page of useful links to other arts organisations.

For information on arts events, to post an event or to apply for membership visit [www.ipswich-arts.org.uk](http://www.ipswich-arts.org.uk) and go to Contact Us.

**Ferial Evans**  
**IAA Representative**

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Any correspondence, except where indicated, should be sent to:

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