

Spring 2010



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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 (including Gallery 3 at the Town Hall), 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 Wednesdays. Tours for groups can be booked by contacting the Mansion (01473 433554).

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

Contributions to the Summer 2010 Newsletter should be sent to the editor by 1 May.

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Cover Illustration: **Playing**

Soldiers (1979) by Colin Moss. This picture was chosen by our Chairman, see page 5

Please visit our website at www.foim.org.uk. Jerry Latham would welcome your comments. We have already started to use the website to advertise events which are notified too late to be printed in the Newsletter.

Editor's Notes

I must start by apologising for adding incorrect copyrights to two pictures in the last issue. The cover picture and the Colin Moss "Dustbin" on page 15 should both have been "Copyright the artist's estate".

We have a picture by Colin Moss on our cover—Mary Southwood chose it and comments on it on page 5. This picture together with many others by Colin Moss is on display in Gallery 3 until 17 April. It is well worth the climb up to see this very varied collection. Everyone I have spoken to about it has enjoyed it - even some who claimed to hate modern art. Colin was particularly good at depicting ordinary Ipswich folk doing everyday things. It is also interesting to see how his style developed over the years,

particularly after he had spent some time with Oskar Kokoschka.

I was delighted to hear on page 15 that the room into which our insect collection has been moved is to be called the Morley Room. I was prompted to find out about Claude Morley after I had helped to catalogue all the entomology books in Ipswich Museum. There was a complete set of Morley's **Ichneumons of Great Britain** all lovingly inscribed with messages to his wife.

In this issue we are pleased to include three advertisements from our corporate members.

Mary Halliwell

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.

Paid-up members of societies affiliated to Ipswich Arts Association may receive special offers on some events promoted by Ipswich Borough Council.

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 Letter

Dear Friends

Well, 2010 is underway and there is more for us all to think about in the Museums.

Firstly I must say how pleasant it was to meet so many of you at the Christmas Party; I do hope you all enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

The year has begun with an excellent exhibition on the works of Colin Moss, who is fondly remembered by so many people in Ipswich and for his Art School connection in particular. I came to his work relatively late, because I am quite new to Ipswich, but I was so impressed by this exhibition. I think it is the great humanity in his work which is so striking; he has a way of capturing a subject with his pen, paint, pencil or charcoal in such a complete way that you feel you have seen that person just recently. The exhibition is at Gallery 3 in the Town Hall until 17 April. I hope you will be able to see it.

At Colchester Castle there is an opportunity to enter **The Medieval Mind** which sounds a bit frightening but also very interesting. This exhibition covers the period from 1066 to 1539, the Norman Conquest to Dissolution of the Monasteries, and shows

objects from museums and collections in East Anglia. Part 1 is on until July 2010 and then the exhibition will become Part 2.

Alan Swerdlow has come up with some more interesting visits for us. This year he offers Cardiff in Spring and Oxford in September (see page 9).

The **AGM** is on 14 April; you might like to write it in your diary. I know it sounds a long way off, but time goes so fast - April will be here before we know it! This year our visiting speaker will be Jo Rooks from the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket. Jo was the winner of the Robert Logan Award for the best presentation by a young museum professional. Those of us who were in York for the BAFM Conference heard Jo speak and were very impressed, so I do hope you can come along to the AGM at the Mansion and hear her.

Please keep an eye on the website, where you will find all sorts of up to date information, and you can add your own comments. We love to hear from you!

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Best wishes,

Mary Southwood

We need a Treasurer

Would you like to serve on the FOIM Council? Our Treasurer has decided to spend some time in the sun and has, therefore, to leave the Council. As a registered charity we cannot function without a treasurer, so this is very important. You do not need qualifications in accountancy, but a logical mind is helpful! Our Independent Examiner, Ken Wilson, is always willing to offer help and advice.

There are other opportunities, too; for example I would like to create a new post for someone to deal with publicity, spreading the word about the Friends to bring in more members and to make people aware of events and services we offer e.g. talks, tours.

If you are interested please contact me.

Mary Southwood

Our Cover Picture

My choice for the cover illustration is a work from the Colin Moss Exhibition now in Gallery 3 at the Town Hall. **Playing Soldiers (1979)** is oil and collage on board. The collage is the attachment of real playing cards which provide bright stress points among the dark soldiers. The title is interesting; are they 'playing at being soldiers' or are they 'soldiers playing cards'? This work is an excellent example of Colin Moss's great skill at portraying lifelike facial expression and bodies in clothes/ clothes on bodies. These skills and others can be seen in a variety of works in the Exhibition. I hope you will be able to visit.

Mary Southwood

Mary can be contacted via our website (www.foim.org.uk) or c/o Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH

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Peter Berridge's Column



Typically when I start writing the words flow quickly and normally there is such a lot to write about that I have often had the difficulty of knowing what to leave out. This time I have to admit that I am struggling and this is in large part because as we are, in many aspects, at a moment 'in between'. A number of key decisions are about to be taken over the next few days, weeks and months that should herald some further significant developments for the museum service but it is just too early to report on these.

The Art School Building

One of the things that we are still awaiting is a final decision relating to the Ipswich Art School building. By the time this actually appears in print hopefully the decision will have been taken and we will be forging ahead with a fund raising campaign. As part of this we hope to have taken up temporary residence in the building and to be running a programme of exhibitions of modern and contemporary art. In order to achieve progress with the fund raising campaign, and also run the programme in the building, the support of the Friends will be vital. One of the things that in particular we will be looking for is a body of volunteers to act as gallery invigilators who would work alongside museum staff. As I have already stated, however, there are still some critical formal approvals that are needed before we get the 'green light' to proceed and so we all just have to be patient in relation to this exciting project.

The Egyptian Gallery

Another way that we are 'in between' is that a number of projects are part of the way through such as the new Egyptian Gallery in Ipswich Museum which we now expect to open to the

public at the beginning of August. This project is particularly important and I am beginning to compare it to a 'show house' on a new estate. It will be through this gallery that we demonstrate what can be achieved in the rest of the building and in particular give confidence to potential funding bodies.

The Wolsey Gallery

We have also started the process that will lead to a redisplay of the Wolsey Art Gallery at Christchurch Mansion. The redisplay will continue to cover the themes it does but will place a far greater emphasis on the life and works of John Constable. The intention is that Christchurch Mansion becomes the regional centre for anyone wanting to view the works of Constable and also to gain a greater understanding of the man. There will also be stronger links from the gallery and the paintings out to 'Constable Country'.

Future Funding

Another aspect of this waiting mode is that a number of things that are currently being reviewed and discussed will not be resolved until after the next general election. After the next election, whatever the result, a number of significant changes are expected at a national level concerning how the cultural sector is organised and managed and also about major funding

streams such as Renaissance in the Regions which has been so beneficial to us over the last three years. Another critical issue will be the level of government funding to Local Authorities which, again irrespective of the party in power after May, will be significantly reduced over the next few years though by how much and how quickly is a major topic of debate. Some people suggest a series of successive yearly decreases of 5%, while some are suggesting that as well as successive cuts that there might be a higher figure in 2011/2012 of perhaps 10% or even more. Just to stress that this is not a party political issue but just the realities of the current financial situation and will occur which ever party is in power. So again in this respect we are 'in between'.

One thing that is very clear is that there are going to be some challenging times ahead. In order to help us more effectively meet these challenges one of the things that both of the councils that form the museum partnership, Ipswich and Colchester, have agreed is that over the next few months there will be a major review of the museum service. This Fundamental Service Review (which you might in the future see abbreviated in documents as the FSR) will be wide ranging though the full scope is still to be decided. The review will, however, also be inclusive and will

involve a range of so-called stakeholders and interested organisations and individuals and this again is an area where the 'Friends' involvement will be vital.

Endowment Funds

One last thing to mention is a matter that is growing in importance in my mind which is the idea of setting up endowment funds. This is something very common in the cultural sector in countries like America but still surprisingly rare in this country. Certainly in terms of the Art School, subject to the full go-ahead, the intention will be to not

only raise the money to purchase the building but to go beyond this and create an endowment fund to help support the building in the long term. The dream would also be to go even further and set up funds linked to each of the major museum venues in both Ipswich and Colchester. In attaining this dream it may take many years, even decades, to achieve the levels needed but you have to start somewhere and consequently this is a subject that I will be returning to again and again in the coming months and years.



Museum staff exploring the Octagon Gallery
in the Ipswich art School Building

Friends News

Annual General Meeting 2010

The Annual General Meeting will take place in Christchurch Mansion at 7.30 pm on Wed 14 April. Tea and coffee will be served from 7.00 pm.

After the business, Jo Rooks, from the Museum of East Anglian Life, will talk about the museum in the community and working with volunteers. AGM notes are being distributed with this Newsletter.

Lunch Time Talks

These will take place at Priory Park (formerly known as Alnesbourne Priory). This venue has a modern conference room, restaurant/bar area with stunning views and good parking.

Three talks have been arranged for the Spring:

Wed 7 April, Carol Twinch will talk about **Margaret Catchpole**.

Carol is a local historian and writer who will introduce us to our local heroine via links with Alnesbourne Priory.

Wed 5 May, Diana Grace will talk about the book **Benton End Remembered** she published jointly

with Gwyneth Reynolds in 2002. This is a history of the East Anglian School of Painting based at Benton End in Hadleigh. Diana has spent her life in Education but now enjoys researching local arts and crafts.

Wed 2 June, Paul Bruce will tell us about the **History of the Ipswich School of Art**. Paul attended the Art School in the Sixties. Paul was persuaded to talk about the Art School for our members after his December 2009 Town Lecture for Ipswich Arts Association proved very popular.

All talks will start at noon and will be followed by a set two course lunch.

Booking is required. Booking forms are included with this Newsletter.

Mary Hollis & Paul Bruce

Visit to Oxford

Alan Swerdlow has arranged a trip to Oxford on 9 -10 September 2010. The itinerary includes visiting the recently refurbished Ashmolean Museum and the Bodleian Library, with spare time to visit other Museums of your own choice. The overnight stop will be at the Barcelo Oxford Hotel.

A leaflet including more details is

included with this Newsletter. If you wish to join the visit please return the tear off part and you will be sent the booking form as soon as it becomes available.

From the Membership

Secretary

There have been five new ordinary memberships and one new corporate member since the last Newsletter.

Ms S Abbott

Mrs C Burge

Lady Freyberg

Lady H Heygate

Mr and Mrs J Wilson

Mr and Mrs S Gagg

and

Ipswich School

We extend a warm welcome to them all.

Barbara Cole
Membership Secretary

Mansion Guides

Guided Tours

In the past few weeks we have received an unprecedented number of requests for tours and outside lectures and at the time of writing 10 have been arranged for this year, with two more in the pipeline. The more recently

enrolled guides have been showing a great deal of enthusiasm and initiative and their extension of the taster tours has been going well.

A New Guides Coordinator

At the Guides meeting in January Joan Munns was appointed Guides Coordinator to replace Siobhan Steel who retired in the Autumn. Joan has also been Co-opted onto the Friends Council.

A Tour of Witnesham



Witnesham Manor

As part of our winter study sessions, the new guides met at Witnesham on 11 November 2009 to look at the relationship of Manor, Church and The Manor Farm as a comparison with the Christchurch Mansion estate.

Witnesham is known to have been a Saxon settlement, and there has long been a story of a Saxon warrior buried with his horse discovered near the Church in the



Manor Farm

early 19th Century. The artefacts unearthed, including silver harness parts, have been lost over time. The Meadows family have been Lords of the Manor since the 1100s. The family seat, Witnessham Hall, remained in their ownership until the early 1980s. The Hall is a timber framed house dating from the 15th or 16th C with a brick façade added in the early 1800s. From the back, the earlier origins are still evident. The present owner kindly showed us part of the interior including what is thought to be a 16th C carved oak overmantle, displaying the Meadows crest.

From there we walked the ancient track across the water meadows to the Manor Farm. In Medieval times, if the Lord was absent, the Manor Farm ran the agricultural estate on his behalf. Sometimes, the building was the original Manor House, remaining as the farmhouse when a grander Hall was built nearby. This Manor Farm was

originally a single story hall house with a small parlour next to the hall. Two doorways, dating to around 1420, led into the cross passage, which separated this part from the service wing. In the late 16thC, chimneys and an upper storey were added, together with a somewhat grander parlour, reflecting the increased fortunes of the yeoman farmer who would have lived there at that time. In around 1700, a large service wing was added accommodating the kitchen, dairy and stores.

We rounded off our tour with afternoon tea in front of a log fire in the “new” parlour.

**Erica Burroughs
Mansion Guide**

CHRISTCHURCH MANSION

FREE SHORT GUIDED TOURS
WEDNESDAYS

APRIL to OCTOBER
11.00am 12.00noon 1.00pm 2.00pm

NOVEMBER to MARCH
11.00am 12.00noon

30 minute tours - no need to book,
just turn up

These tours are not suitable for larger groups,
for further details of group tours contact
Christchurch Mansion, Tel no. 01473 433554

Legacies

If you would like to remember the Friends of Ipswich Museums in your Will you can be assured that any gift we receive will be used to enhance or conserve the collections in the Ipswich Museums. The Friends ensure that money from legacies is used only in ways that the donor would expect. If you are considering a legacy, please speak to your solicitor. Our registered charity number is: 275527

Friends' Contribution to the Museum

*Here is a list of the money we have contributed to the Museum Service since 1995. Where items have been bought for the collection * indicates that outside grants have been applied for to complete the purchase, § indicates other museum resources have been used to complete the*

1995		Contribution towards "Trimming"	£1,500
Conservation of Deer Antlers	£2,200	2000	
Computer/Training Equipment	£1,200	Costume Grant	£200
Contribution to Dr Plunkett's Book	£1,500	Books	£500
Photography of Oil Paintings	£2,920	"Dr Hingeston" by Gainsborough *	£7,000
Books	£500	2001	
Contribution to Boss Hall Treasure *	£3,000	Books	£500
1996		Contribution:Market Research Project	£2,000
Photography of Oil Paintings (cont)	£1,500	Dishwasher for CCM	£400
Books	£500	2002	
Woodworking machine §	£7,000	Books	£500
1997		Staff Training at Ickworth	£400
Books	£500	Photos of Town Hall Paintings	£214
Geology Report	£2,000	Wolsey Art Gallery	£1,000
Education Work Station §	£400	"Ladies of the Mason Family"	
1998		by Constable*	£10,000
Leaflets	£510	Sound Equipment for Lectures	£755
Lowestoft Porcelain	£4,600	Museum, Ipswich Story display	£2,000
Books	£500	Electronic Slide Projector	£1,585
Exhibition Gallery Grant	£1,000	2003	
Zoology conservation Grant	£1,000	Books	£500
Computer Accession Project	£1,215	Grant towards Ipswich at War	£5,000
Anglo Saxon Gilt	£700	Viking Pendant§	£1,000
Design Computer Grant §	£6,320	Grant for Mammal Gallery and	
1999		Mansion Display Panels	£2,000
Books	£500	Improvements to storage of	
Contribution to CCM Restoration	£4,000	costume collection	£1,000
Conservation "Avenue of Trees"		2004	
by Constable	£1,000	Books	£500
Restoration of Clocks in CCM	£1,000	Drawings for Room Books	£500

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Roman Knife Handle (Minerva) §	£1,000	Cabinet for drawings in	
Three paintings by John Pryke	£800	Wolsey Gallery	£4,000
Demountable display cabinets	£8,000	Broke Cup*	£10,400
2005		2007	
Books	£500	Giles cartoon	£800
Mammoth trail notice board	£500	2008	
Lighting for Constable paintings	£3,500	Clarkson Exhibition	£7,970
Valerie Irwin Drawing, Ipswich Docks	£250	Picture by Reg Snook	£800
Dishwasher	£270	2009	
Catalogues from Public Catalogue		Conservation of Holbrook	
Foundation	£200	Horse Harness	£900
2006		Three paintings by John Western	£1750
Books	£500		

This amounts to over £120,000. In addition we are making a contribution of £16,000 for the Egyptian Gallery. Where external grants have been applied for, these are usually dependent on the size of the contribution we have made and can be up to ten times the value of our contribution.

The money comes from members subscriptions, profits made on our events and publications, legacies to FOIM and donations collected in the boxes at the Museum and Mansion.

Special Event for Friends - Art Master Class with Chen Hong

Mr Chen is a highly regarded Chinese artist from Beijing who is visiting the East of England this spring. His visit is part of the Stories of the World project, which is being led by the four hub museums in our region. Mr Chen will be spending March with the Fitzwilliam Museum as their artist in residence. In April he will be coming to Ipswich as the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service artist in residence. Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service will be accommodating him in May. Colchester and Ipswich Museum

Service is hosting a number of events to celebrate Mr Chen's residence in April, including an exhibition of his work in the University Campus Suffolk gallery on the Waterfront and family craft activities in Christchurch Mansion.

This exciting project brings an exclusive opportunity for members of the Friends of Ipswich Museum to attend a master class led by Mr Chen. Members of the



Friends will be able to explore Chinese culture and tradition with a demonstration by the master artist of his renowned calligraphy and painting skills. There could also be the chance for Friends to try their hand at these skills too.

When? 7 April 2010

What time? 14:00 – 15:30

Where? Wolsey Art Gallery,

How many? Up to 20 places are available.

Booking is essential.

How much? £10

How do I book? Please contact Mel Hollis on 01473 433570 or at

melanie.hollis@colchester.gov.uk.

Insects on the move

Finishing touches are being put to the new Morley Room in the old staff room at the High Street Exhibition Gallery. Following the deep freezing of the entire Morley collection to eradicate any lurking pests, specialist removers have installed the cabinets in the old Annex staff room. This has had a makeover to make it more suitable for storage.

The collection is arranged in taxonomic order and wider aisles between the rows of cabinets make it much easier to examine the drawers of specimens.

Microscopes and a work table will be available for researchers and students to study the collection which comprises tens of thousands of insects amassed by Morley during his lifetime.

The washroom has been stripped out and shelves installed, so that the rich library of entomological journals and books is now available right next door to the insect

collection.

A few outstanding small jobs remain to be finished, but it is hoped that the room will be fully operational in the summer.

Jerry Bowdrey
Senior Curator of Natural History

Claude Morley (1874 - 1951) was an English antiquary and entomologist.

He moved to Earl Soham in 1892 and worked with John E. Taylor, then Curator of the Ipswich Museum. He married in 1904, living in Monk Soham until his death. He had no radio, telephone, or electricity in his house.

Morley worked first on Coleoptera, then Hemiptera and then Ichneumonidae. His magnum opus was the five volume *Ichneumons of Great Britain* (1903-1914). Morley's collection of mainly Suffolk material covers the period 1898-1951 and is still in the Museum. It occupies about 260 drawers.

Morley was a Fellow of the Entomological Society of London.

Thoughts provoked by a model Steam Plough

If ever an engineering model can be called beautiful the Ipswich Museums model of a steam plough is surely it. With green and black livery gleaming as new and superb attention to detail it is a miniature example of the great Victorian aesthetic of the steam engine. What is more it has a strange and fascinating story attached to it. It starts unexpectedly perhaps with the struggle against American slavery just before the Civil War. The wealth of the plantation owners of the deep South was based on cotton grown by enslaved Afro-Americans. This cotton was woven and printed in the mills of northern England.

Abolitionists had long been seeking an alternative source of cotton based on free labour. When Harriet Beecher Stowe (author of **Uncle Tom's Cabin**) visited Ipswich and London this was one of the things she discussed. George Alexander, a member of the great Ipswich Quaker banking family who was the treasurer of the British and Foreign Anti Slavery Society, was particularly concerned with this issue (he can be seen in the giant picture of Clarkson addressing the anti-slavery conference now in the museum). In the 1860s John Purcell Fitzgerald, the elder brother of the Edward FitzGerald of Woodbridge, famous for his

translation of the Rubai'yat of Omar Khayyam, was attacking the Liverpool and Manchester pulpits for not denouncing the slave-produced cotton from the South and plantation slavery in general, and writing pamphlets on the subject.

Once the Civil War broke out the North blockaded the South so that they could no longer supply the cotton mills of Lancashire. Therefore there were large scale lay offs and starvation amongst the workers. The shortage of cotton led the British mill owners to look elsewhere and for other countries to see if they could fill the gap.

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Chief amongst these was Egypt, then under the modernising and forward-looking rule of the Khedive Ismail, the grandson of Mehmet Ali. Technically the Khedive was only the deputy of the Ottoman Sultan and the ruling family were Turkish. Despite strong English and French influence, at this stage the country was still independent.

Egyptian cotton could replace American cotton, but to do so Egyptian cotton production had to be completely modernised. As a result agents of the Egyptian government in Britain were deep in discussion with agricultural engineers.

This led to a visit by Hamil Pasha, at that time a potential claimant to the throne of Egypt. Hamil Pasha was the son of the first Khedive of Egypt, Mehmet Ali and the uncle of the reigning Khedive Ismail. . Hamil Pasha was a man of great sophistication who had been educated in France and like most of his Turkish Egyptian family a great moderniser. Amongst other things he was the first Grand Master of the Masons in Egypt , (and later in Istanbul). His palace at Shoubra was a centre for European businessmen.

The delegation was interested in the idea of using the most modern invention, steam plough, to convert more of the Egyptian delta to cotton, the value of which had gone

up 500%. For some years the Leeds inventor John Fowler had been working with the Ipswich firm of Ransomes and Sims on solving various problems connected with steam ploughing and had just come up with a greatly improved version.

Hamil Pasha travelled to Leeds to see what Fowler had to offer. Although he lived in luxury at the Queens Hotel he nevertheless turned up as an "apprentice every day at six, arriving in a brougham with two black guards holding drawn sabres". He was, apparently, very popular with the workmen, frequently distributing oranges freshly delivered from Egypt. As a result Ransomes at Ipswich helped turn out the 200 complete sets of steam ploughs and sets of tackle together with several complete workshops for their maintenance. In Feb 1864 an order was received by Fowlers to produce "A complete working model of Fowler's Single Engine Steam Ploughing system, including ploughs, cultivators, harrows etc. To be 1/10 original size and engine made to take steam. Price No object. Issued by HP (Halim Pasha) Shoubra". Three such models appear to have been made; two were destroyed in Egypt and one is preserved in the Ipswich museum. After the war the Egyptian cotton boom collapsed. At around this time Ismail Pasha invited Halim Pasha and all of his other male relatives and potential

rivals for the throne to a conference. On the way back the train on which they were travelling was mysteriously driven over a bridge which had not yet been built. Halim survived and decided to spend the rest of his life in Istanbul, where his son in time became the

last grand vizier. The links thus created between Ransomes and the Egyptian government were to persist and develop still further, but that is, as they say, another story.

David Jones
Curator of Human History

Staff Activities

Future jobs fund

'Stepping Stones'

The Museum Service in partnership with Renaissance Hub Partners have secured funding for ten apprenticeships and twenty jobs across the region. Four jobs will be based in Colchester and Ipswich, to support this government initiative to get young people aged 18 to 24, who have been disproportionately affected by the recession, back into the workplace.

Visitor Services Assistants

These jobs are for a period of 6 months. Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service have appointed 2 Visitor Services Assistants to work within the Galleries Team at Ipswich. Ken Brooke aged 24 and Baden Chaplin were the 2 successful candidates and started

with the Service on Dec 31st.

Marlene Moyes, Gallery Service Manager reports:

Ken has been out of work for 6 months and is enjoying his role of Visitor Services Assistant and finds the job really interesting and is enjoying being part of a team that is very friendly and helpful. The job is very different from what he has done in the past and he is grateful for the opportunity to work within the Museums Service and is looking forward to the next 6 months. Ken tells us that he could certainly see himself working in this



field in the future.

Baden Chaplin is just 21 and has been out of work for 9 months; this is also very different from his past jobs and is really enjoying the role. He enjoys working as part of a large but friendly team. Baden is looking forward to shadowing the Education workshops and experiencing activities and events and is also looking forward to the next 6 months.

Display and Marketing

There has been limited interest in the display and marketing posts and closing dates for both posts were extended. Interviews took place for the marketing post in January— due to paperwork issues the offer has yet to be accepted.

Interviews for the display post took place on 5 February. Further updates will be reported in the next Newsletter.

The Formal Learning Team

Every year the girls from Colchester Girls High School do a project on William Gilbert. Once again we were asked to help. The Learning and Community History teams gave short presentations in Holy Trinity Church and in Tymperley's Clock Museum (the home of William Gilbert). The girls wanted a cross-curricular

approach to their project involving science, art, drama, ICT, English and history. Both Catherine Newley and I gave the girls plenty of information on the topic.

We have also helped with Key Stage 1 **Toy** activities at Hollytrees. Teachers had told us that they would appreciate a change to the existing activity (constructing cubes with letters and pictures on their faces). We have now produce a craft based activity based on the construction of a clown with moving limbs. For children with poor craft skills we have provided a simple jigsaw with a picture of Noah's Ark (which can be seen in the Childhood Gallery).

Also currently being trialed: the Key Stage 1 children who come and study **Homes** can now make puppets of the characters they meet in their sessions. They will colour and cut out characters of Mrs. Round, Mr. Round, a chimney sweep and a maid. The children will choose two characters; once complete they can start conversations between them, and use them back in the classroom, as part of a literacy lesson.

Ali Naylor
Learning Officer

Mental Health Project

The **Inside Out** project is going well. Feedback has already been

positive from group members and museum staff. We hope that this group will provide evidence for the 'therapeutic' nature of engagement with our museums and be the springboard for similar projects in the future.

The **Stadium Legends** intergenerational project has been a success and the exhibition part (co-ordinated by the Museum service) is presently in Hollytrees

Museum. CUCST (Colchester United Community Sports Trust) have also managed to secure funding for a community project that is open to the older Legends' participants.

The second part of the **Open to All** mental health training for staff will be piloted in April.

John Pollard

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From Other Organisations

Dunkirk Commemoration Weekend at Ipswich Waterfront

29/30 May

Ipswich Borough Council, the Thames Sailing Barge Trust, the present owners of Sailing Barge "Pudge", and the British Legion are collaborating to hold a weekend event to commemorate the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from France in May/June 1940.

Pudge, a spritsail barge
which went to Dunkirk



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