

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2011

In this issue:

Friends News

Museum Service
Manager's Report

Luxembourg trip
report

News of Ipswich
Museums

Iron Age Coin
Hoard

Professor Henslow

Exhibitions

Acquisitions & Loans

Staff

Colchester Update

The Wickham Market Iron
Age Gold Coins are coming to
Ipswich Museum!



© Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service

See pages 6 & 14

FIM

THE FRIENDS OF THE IPSWICH MUSEUMS

Registered Charity Number: 275527

About the Friends

The **Friends of the Ipswich Museums Newsletter** is published three times a year 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 Ipswich Art School Gallery. 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 "Peeps into the Past" at the Mansion (see page 10).

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 Autumn 2011 Newsletter should be sent to the editor by 1 September.

Contents of this Issue

Editor's Notes	3
Chairman's Letter	4
Peter Berridge's Column	6
Friends News	8
Visit to Luxembourg	10
Going for Gold	14
Frederick Ashton Exhibition	16
Henslow's 150 th Anniversary	18
Acquisitions & Loans	19
Staff News	22
Charles Partridge	24
Curry & Culture	25
Flashback & Future	26
Ipswich Art School	27
Other Exhibitions	28
News in Brief	29
Colchester Update	30
Membership Information	31
Corporate Members	31
The Committee	32

Advertisements:

8, 15, 22, 24, 26, 30

Our advertisements are all from Corporate members. Please support them.

We look forward



www.foim.org.uk

to promote the past



FOIM is a subscribing member of the Ipswich Arts Association, please visit their website for further information.

Editor's Notes

This is our first issue to have a coloured cover. This is part of a strategy to attract more members to provide greater support for our Museums. I have decided to improve the appearance gradually so that I can still achieve the planned publication dates. I have attempted to match the style of the cover to the Web site.

Unusually we have no events leaflets to deliver with this Newsletter. We have two outstanding events: the trip to Stratford on Avon in September (already fully booked) and the visit to the Museum of East Anglian Life and the Mechanical Music Museum in July (a few places—see next column).

Paul Bruce is planning more talks for the Autumn which will be advertised in the next Newsletter. I very much enjoyed the last two talks by Jeremy Greenwood and Philip Wise. These were the first I had attended at Priory Park. I liked the spacious new venue very much.

As I was preparing to go to press the Museum heard that they had acquired the Iron age hoard of gold coins found near Wickham Market. Caroline McDonald tells us the how the hoard came to Ipswich on page 14.

Mary Halliwell

LAST MINUTE TREAT

Visit to Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket and Museum of Mechanical Music, Cotton on 21 July 2011

There are three places still available on the coach which leaves Deben Pool, Woodbridge at 9.00 am and Crown Street Ipswich at 9.30 am - back around 5.00 pm. Bring own picnic or have lunch at the Museum cafe. Price including admissions, afternoon tea and gratuity £25.00 each. If you have the day free and would like to join us please phone Barbara Cole to check if seats are available 01473 287716

Please visit our website at www.foim.org.uk. We have already started to use the website to advertise events which are notified too late to be printed in the Newsletter. Dolly our new secretary looks forward to meeting you on our face book page: www.facebook.com/ipswichmuseums

Chairman's Letter

Since taking over as chairman from Mary Southwood at the AGM in April, I have been thinking back to when I came to the end of my three years chairmanship of FOIM in 1999. Such a lot has happened to our museums since then. I hope everyone will agree that the joining together of the Colchester and Ipswich museum services has been a total win-win for Ipswich.

Finding a use for the old Art School building had been on the agenda for several years: now it is going forward with considerable support from the Friends. At our committee meeting in April we pledged £20,000 from our own funds towards the building. We have also supported the project by covering the design and printing costs of the history of the Art School 'High Street Heyday' by Paul Bruce and Richard Scott, all the profit from which goes to the project. If you have not already done so do buy a copy at the Art School shop.

You may have noticed in the appeal literature for the new gallery that, as a registered charity, the Friends are fundraising on behalf of the appeal. We have set up a separate bank account for this purpose. Any individual or organisation contributing to the appeal is offered complimentary membership of FOIM for the year

should they wish. We hope they will renew at a later date as full FOIM members.

At this year's AGM we adopted a new Constitution. The text is on our web site. We also welcomed several new members to the committee. In her first few weeks our new secretary Delly Newson set up a facebook page (www.facebook.com/ipswichmuseums) which is already attracting interest particularly from younger people.

We are very keen to increase membership, especially younger members, and hope to plan some special events with this in mind. We are producing a new full colour poster and leaflet to encourage membership. Jerry Latham and I have had considerable help in the layouts from the museum service designer Maggie Hayward, herself an Art School graduate. If you all introduce another member we would really be able to achieve so much more - we even have a gift membership package - see the web site or contact Jerry Latham direct.

Looking back over the last thirty years we have made grants to the service of over £243,000. As some of that funding helped generate awards from other bodies - Art Fund, Heritage Lottery, V&A grants

etc - the total of the purchases we have supported comes to an astonishing £1.35 million, something of which we can all be very proud.

Much of this information has come from our archives, which brings me to the need to find a member who would be interested in taking on the fascinating responsibility of receiving a batch of old papers etc, sorting and cataloguing them with a view that the archive would be deposited at the Record Office for safe keeping. You will have read about the record books recently discovered in the last Newsletter on page 21. If this interests you please let me know.

One of our recent grants was of £16,000 for the new Egyptian Gallery at the Museum. It was good to read a professional peer review in the May issue of Museums Journal 'interpretation is multi-sensory, from the background sounds of daily life to the subtle scent of lotus flowers ... the afterlife gallery literally sparkles with gold leaf, mirrors and lights. It emphasises the wow factor of these remarkable artefacts and the culture they represent.' Caroline McDonald, our curator of archaeology, said that the gallery is 'unashamedly targeted at schools and families, with an emphasis on 7 to 11 year olds'. The team is congratulated for the amount achieved with a budget of £240,000

which included the cost of making the gallery accessible. *Have you been yet?*

We have three trips for 2011 - our five day holiday to Luxembourg has already happened - see article on page xx. In the summer we have a day out to the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket and the Mechanical Music Museum at Cotton. In September we go to Stratford on Avon for one night with a visit to Compton Verney. Tina Campbell will be arranging our trips from next year - watch out for further information and see her request for administration support on page 10.

The committee devises a wide and interesting range of activities for members and provides guided tours for visitors. Talks continue to be successful, informative and social events: our vice-President Paul Bruce is always looking for suggestions for speakers. I look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Best wishes

Alan Swerdlow
FOIM Chairman

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of the work of FOIM. ☎: 01394 380044
e-mail: alan@whr.demon.co.uk

Peter Berridge's Column

Increasing Visitor Numbers

I will just start with one of the main themes that I covered in the last newsletter which was the increasing number of visitors to museums and galleries in Ipswich. The total visitor number recorded in 2010/2011 was 148,800 which represents a 32% increase from 2006/2007 the year before the creation of the joint museum service, when the figure stood at 112,814. Very clearly things are going in the right direction and in 2011/2012 it can be securely predicted that the numbers will go above 150,000 but how much higher we will have to wait and see.

There are a number of factors that will help to contribute to increased visitor numbers. The first of these is the growing numbers coming to the Ipswich Art School. Last year of course it did not open until July so there is simply the effect of an extra three months but even so we have seen numbers gradually rising as more and more people become aware of the new space.

Popular Exhibitions

In the Town Hall the Ipswich Town Football Club exhibition is proving to be very popular and is clearly attracting new audiences into the building. In the Town Hall there is

also the splendid exhibition from the Royal Opera House (ROH) representing the work of the Sir Frederick Ashton. Personally I think it is excellent to present these two contrasting exhibitions in one building. The ROH exhibition is also carried over into Christchurch Mansion where, around the building, you can find costumes from several ballets but with the highlight being the Beatrix Potter ones. So if you would like to meet Mrs Tiggywinkle or Peter Rabbit, especially if you have children or grandchildren, you really do need to go and take a look.

The Iron Age Coins

At the same time that you are in Christchurch Mansion to see the costumes you will also be able to see the 840 Iron Age gold coins that have just been acquired for the museum collection. As reported on page 14 in this newsletter we were successful in raising the £300,000 to purchase the coins and in doing this we were greatly aided at the outset by a contribution of £10,000 from the Friends. That was particularly important in demonstrating a strong local commitment to the Heritage Lottery Fund who awarded us the majority of the necessary funding. The coins will be on display in

Christchurch Mansion until October after which they will form part of a travelling exhibition going to Colchester Castle, the Fitzwilliam Museum and Norwich Castle. They will finally, of course, form part of the permanent exhibitions at Ipswich Museum. Putting the coins initially in Christchurch Mansion for several months will also have the added benefit that they will attract some people that would not perhaps normally think of visiting the building. Sometimes it is just a matter of getting people to take that first step over the threshold and after that they realise what they have been missing and are happy to visit again and, very importantly, encourage others to as well.

Art School Developments

There is also another very exciting development that I cannot tell you any more about at the moment except to state that, in support of our fund raising efforts to purchase the Art School, a national institution has offered to lend us a very important object to put on display for three months. Still quite a lot of work to do to finalise the details on this and not quite sure which building it will be displayed in, though perhaps Christchurch Mansion, and so you will have to wait to hear more about this.

Having mentioned the Art School fundraising campaign I will end with a short update. As you may

remember in terms of purchasing the building we need to raise around £300,000 before March 2012. I can now let you know that we have now raised over £230,000 towards the purchase (as well as a considerably larger sum for associated work and projects) and as I have been writing this I have been informed of a generous donation of £500 from the Ipswich Society and news of a grant giving body that seem prepared to give a five figure sum and quite a high one at that. Frustratingly we will not know the definite amount for a couple of days so cannot include it here. There is also another fundraising enterprise going on at present that will certainly generate a significant sum and our current estimate is at least £15,000. Consequently as you can probably work out we are getting extremely close to achieving the necessary purchase price. In achieving this we have, of course, had the major support of the Friends in a range of ways ranging from practical hands on work in a number of areas to also making a significant financial contribution. Therefore I can end once again with a very big thank you for your continuing support to the museum service.

Peter Berridge
Museum Service Manager

Friends News

Introducing Delly, our new Secretary

Hello all,

I'm Delly and I have recently taken over the role of FOIM Committee Secretary. Having been a visitor to the galleries and museum in Ipswich all my life I was very excited to join the Friends about a year ago. When I saw the need for a secretary I jumped at the chance to become more involved!

I have been enjoying my role as Secretary since this year's AGM and so far I am finding it hugely rewarding. I have recently opened a facebook page for the Friends and hope you will join up (www.facebook.com/ipswichmuseums).

This is a forum for all your thoughts, ideas, comments and even photographs! I hope this will become a vibrant place for your feedback as well as an easy way to check what's on and coming soon. Over 40 members are using the page so far. You don't have to be a member of the Friends to use it, so do encourage relatives and friends to have a look too.

I met a few of you at the AGM and for those I haven't met yet I hope to



hear from you or meet you all soon.
Keep in touch !

Delly Newson
FOIM Secretary

GET HOOKED ON CARAVANS WITH



SHARMAN CARAVANS LTD
(EST 1974)

For All Your Caravanning
• REPAIRS • SALES

- SERVICING • ACCESSORIES
- NEW & USED CARAVANS

LUNAR MAIN DEALER

View all our stock on our website
www.sharmancaravans.co.uk

01473 713284/728238

The Caravan Centre, Colchester Rd, Ipswich



**BRAND
NEW
SHOP**

Membership Secretary's Report

There have been three new Corporate Members since the last newsletter:

Elmy Cycles,
J M Finn & Co Ltd
Sharman Caravans.

and 12 new Members:

Mr G Pulham,
Mr & Mrs L Hodgson,
Mr & Mrs D Cooper,
Mrs L Marshall,
Ms D Roderick,
Mrs S Pitts,
Mr C Taylor & Mr T Collinge,
Ms A Paton,
Ms S Kitt,
Mr & Mrs S Morgans
Mr & Mrs J Taylor,
Ms I Lane.

We extend a very warm welcome to them all, and hope to meet them at future events.

There are several unpaid subscriptions, and those people will find enclosed a renewal letter - I will be very happy to hear from you in due course.

Barbara Cole

From our new Visits and Events Organiser

Future Visits

I am currently working on ideas for next year's visits. I am hoping to

begin with a day in Hadleigh with the possible inclusion of a concert at the Old School. Also thinking of a trip to Kent to the new Turner Contemporary Gallery, with the inclusion of the Naval Dockyards at Chatham, or Rochester, need to work on this one! I will also be considering entries in "An Invitation to View" . In view of current inflation I intend to keep journey time at a maximum of 2 - 3 hours. In the past there has been comprehensive coverage of a great deal of the country but I intend to make the visits as interesting as possible. If anyone has any burning ambitions to visit somewhere I am happy to check out all ideas.

Trips and holidays administration

The Friends committee is looking for a member to shadow Barbara Cole in helping with the administration of our occasional trips and holidays. Barbara will stop doing this part of the Membership Secretary's role this autumn so there is adequate time to learn the ropes. From next year I will be taking over from Alan Swerdlow in devising and leading our popular trips and holidays. Back-up involves receiving enquiries and sending out detailed particulars of these events. Then when members decide to come on a trip you would receive their booking forms and deposits, making up a database of names and other details and later receiving

balance payments. Cheques are banked and final confirmation letters sent out. The role would suit a member with computer skills who would need to have access to the internet.

Alan or Barbara would be happy to provide further detailed information should you think this might suit you or contact me for a chat.

Tina Campbell

From the Mansion Guides

The Mansion guides present:

"A Peep into the Past" – a short 30–40 minute tour suitable for individuals and small groups Tues – Sats at 11 am, Sundays at 2 pm

through until November. No charge but donations in the FOIM box welcomed. No booking required.

On both Heritage Days 10 and 11 September, our guides will be in the Mansion throughout the day to show visitors around.

A selection of full tours on various themes for larger groups is available by arrangement at £4 per head – all proceeds to FOIM funds. Find out more about the collections and the families of the Mansion. E-mail Erica Burrows for further details: ericab@btinternet.com

Erica Burrows
Guides Co-ordinator

Friends Visit to Luxembourg, May 2011

Jerry Latham reports the recent Friends' visit to Luxembourg organised by Alan Swerdlow.

Sun 15 May: The Journey

To avoid delays our driver Gary diverted us onto a Kent byroad through beautiful countryside. This was vastly better than counting traffic cones on the motorway. At the coast we cocooned ourselves in the Eurotunnel carriage and after pupation we exited on the other side transformed as Le Shuttle. We dried our wings in the French sun and flew onward. We had a well located hotel but the beds were so large they seemed to follow the curvature of the earth.

Mon 16 May: Exploring Luxembourg

Our driver Gary's birthday treat to us was a coach tour of the city passing both heritage and financial sites. Then we were cast out to continue on foot. Luxembourg is built on five hills, as our guide said "two more and they could call it Rome". Here 150,000 commuters arrive daily from the surrounding countries. They enjoy high pay and low income tax and can return home to a lower cost of living. This suits Luxembourg which receives

the taxes but does not have to support the commuters - but the reverse must be true of their home countries.

We were deluged with the history of Luxembourg and I found writing this on the move impossible so I had to rely on my memory. This became full after about 30 seconds.

Unfortunately my second problem is that my memory retention is measured in nanoseconds. Hence the history lesson is brief. I do remember that Luxembourg was heavy in religious goings on and changed hands numerous times. But I am confident our guide never mentioned the Sioux or the Gilbert and Ellis Islanders. Its Monarchy has a habit of abdicating thus enabling power to be handed over to a successor. Seems like a good plan. This could work in the UK if



The Gorge at Luxembourg

the incumbent had the option to bypass one generation.

Luxembourg city is riven by a ravine which is a gorgeous gorge running through the city. (I attend Alliteraters Anonymous). We passed the Prime Minister's residence (it is No. 4 here). It is a much more relaxed regime as the PM can often be seen puffing a cigarette outside and chatting to passers by. I believe he even inhales.

We drove through the financial district where due to recent mergers there are fewer banks but strangely still the same number of employees. We were told that some of the recent architecture is only designed to last 50 to 60 years. Planned architectural obsolescence, what an idea! Perhaps this condition should be appended to many successful planning applications in the UK.

The Modern Art Museum has a wonderful minimalist internal space but I failed to connect with some of the exhibits. One exhibit had different shaped blocks and model trees fixed to a moving conveyor belt. These, and suitable positioned projecting lights, were used to cast shadows on the walls of a darkened room. This produced a moving city skyline. I was only moved after I used my hands to project a large scale duck shadow on the wall.

We walked down into the gorge that



After the Wine Tasting

runs through the city. It was like entering a time warp. From the bustle of a commercial city we descended into an oasis of calm. The slow meandering river passes through the rocky sided gorge that is stepped with terraces of vines and vegetables. From above, the gorge had the appearance of a model village. Most unusual to be in a city yet looking down on a canopy of trees dotted with dolls' houses. An incomparable idiosyncrasy.

Tue 17 May: Remich and the Moselle

After a coach trip to Remich we boarded a boat for a very pleasant meander on the Moselle. No better way to view the countryside. On our return we explored the town. Being unsure where to go we followed the arrows which eventually and appropriately led us to a small chapel dedicated to St Sebastian.

Within spitting distance we enjoyed a wine tasting tour. A lovely Dutch lady gave us a very good and humorous wine tour of Caves St Martin where we learnt of the life cycle of Crémant de Luxembourg (champagne by any other name). The cycle culminated in us downing some. Many many bottles were purchased.

Wed 18 May: Trier

Trier is the oldest city in Germany.



The Porta Nigra at Trier

We were a little late but with the guides on board we had a speedy coach tour round town. 100,000 live in Trier of which 28,000 commute to Luxembourg.

At one stage Trier governed half of the Roman Empire. The impressive Basilica contained Constantine's throne room. It had double glazing and the hypocaust included wall heating. Interestingly, the nave where Constantine sat had smaller windows than adjacent ones. This created an optical illusion of it being further away but only to enhance Constantine's stature by juxtaposition. I can think of two diminutive European heads of state who may be interested in this optical illusion. There was so much we did not see.

Later in the afternoon we visited the Museum of National History and Art back in Luxembourg. The building is partly carved into the rock face but it is sumptuously appointed. It is an important

Drawing by Rosario Zinna:
Interior, Museum of Modern Art, Luxembourg City, based on a photograph by Jerry Latham

Photographs on page 11 and top of page 12 by Jerry Latham. Lower photograph on page 12 by Alan Swerdlow.

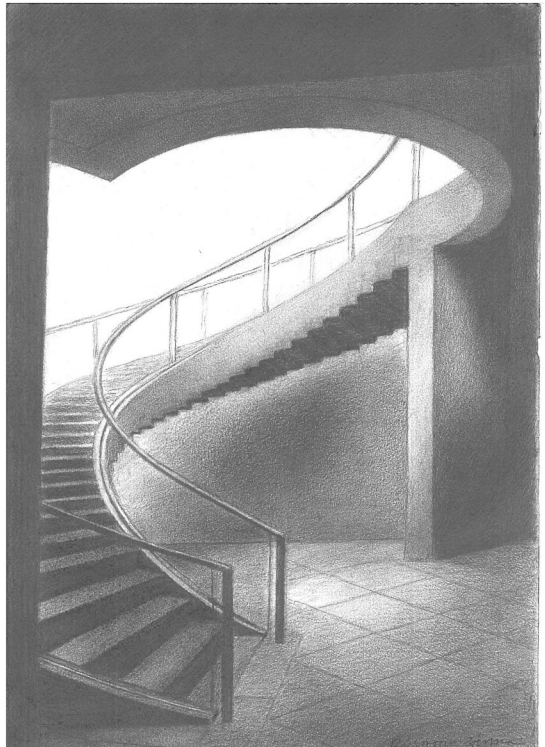
museum. Some serious money has been spent on their museums. Oh for 10% of it for Ipswich.

and Finally

Many thanks to Alan for successfully guiding his motley crew on one of the last of his 'Swerdlows'.

The unexpurgated version of this report (including brief mention of Strap on Calf Enhancers for footmen & postillions) will appear on the web site where it should only be read after the watershed, or is it behind the watershed?

Jerry Latham



The Gold Standard

Caroline McDonald reports how the Iron Age hoard of gold coins was purchased for Ipswich. Her report was written three days after the press launch in June.

To shamelessly paraphrase Masterchef's Greg Wallace, 'Archaeology doesn't get more exciting than this'.

Back in 2008 two metal detector users uncovered 840 gold coins of the Iceni tribe that had lain undisturbed in a field near Wickham Market for 2000 years. Buried some 40 years before the Iceni queen Boudica led her famous revolt against the Romans, it would prove to be the largest and most complete collection of Iron Age coins found in over 150 years.

The coins join a roll call of national treasures found in Suffolk that include Sutton Hoo, the Mildenhall Treasure and the Hoxne hoard all of which now reside in the British Museum. As part of the official treasure process the museum service had until 21 June to raise the £300,000 purchase price – and I'm beyond delighted to report that we did it! Not only did we persuade every funder we approached to give 100% of the asking amount but we achieved this in a record time and raised the money with a week to spare.

We would like to extend special

thanks to the Friends for their generous £10,000 contribution which has made a huge difference in being able to save this national treasure. It has been an exciting couple of weeks with a truly thrilling result.

A sneak preview of the coins was arranged at speed with the DCMS (Department of Culture, Media and Sport) and you may have seen 200 of them in the Anglo-Saxon gallery (out of context but in a very strong case!). Now the entire hoard of 840 gold coins can be seen in all their glory in Christchurch Mansion until October when they will join the 'Buried!' exhibition at Colchester Castle.

They are astounding. They certainly deserve their position as a national treasure and they certainly pulled in the media when the Heritage Lottery Fund held their official launch to the press on 21 June. They were covered by both local TV news channels as well as BBC radio. People are already visiting the mansion especially to see them.

Colchester and Ipswich Museums has an excellent reputation for attracting external funding but more

importantly securing the coins for Suffolk will mean they can be better appreciated by the communities who now tread where our Iron Age ancestors once trod before us.

The Iceni's tribal territory covered what was to become Norfolk, north Suffolk and parts of Cambridgeshire. Their near neighbours were the Trinovantes of a future Essex and south Suffolk and it may be the tension at the tribal boundary that led to the burial of the coins.

At the time the Trinovantes were ruled by Cunobelin, leader of the Catuvellauni tribe of Hertfordshire. He had successfully imposed his influence on the Trinovantes and had based his capital deep in Trinovantian territory at Camulodunum (which was to become Colchester). His expansion plans turned towards the Iceni and it may have been during this unnerving period that the Iceni people living near the tribal borders felt compelled to bury their wealth.

They were perhaps not to know Cunobelin would not make a successful advance but the emotion that led them to place their gold in the earth was real enough. Were the coins an offering to the gods to keep them from harm? Perhaps it was a war chest with which to pay warriors or was it the wealth of one individual who was placing it in the ground for safe-keeping during

troubled times? Ultimately we will never know the reason or why it was never recovered.

Whatever the motivation, there was the notion that the coins would be safe deep within the Suffolk soil. Such was the conviction of that idea that they remained safe for 2000 years. Now Ipswich Museum takes the baton from our British ancestors in order to keep them safe for evermore.

Caroline McDonald
Curator of Archaeology

Coes - A world of Fashion

MENS • WOMENS • CONTEMPORARY
CASUAL • BUSINESS • LEISURE • SPORTS
FORMAL • CHILDRENS • SCHOOL
WEDDING & EVENINGWEAR HIRE
and so much more!



Coes Ipswich 20-28 Norwich Road IP1 2NH
Open Tues - Sat 9 am - 6 pm (Closed Mon) Customer car park at rear of shop
Tel Ipswich (01473) 256061 Fax (01473) 254531 email info@coes.co.uk
Menswear branches also at Beccles Dovercourt Felixstowe Lowestoft & Maldon

www.coes.co.uk

Inside the Frederick Ashton Exhibition

*Emma Roodhouse tells us about how the **Frederick Ashton, the Ballet & Suffolk Exhibition** was planned and installed in three venues in Ipswich. It runs until 9 October 2011.*

Planning the Exhibition

It's not everyday that you get to be in Margot Fonteyn's dressing room and then meet Peter Rabbit face to face. I was fortunate enough to have this unusual experience when working with the Royal Opera House collections team on the current exhibition **Frederick Ashton, the Ballet and Suffolk**.

This is a new temporary exhibition that has come about through a partnership between the Royal Opera House, ourselves and DanceEast. It is also a first in having an exhibition across different venues from the Town Hall Galleries, Christchurch Mansion and Jerwood Dance House.

So how did it come about and why are there life size mice now appearing in the Green Room at the Mansion? The Royal Opera House has an initiative called 'On the Road' which is a way to bring opera and dance out of London and connect with audiences across the UK. They have been working specifically in the North West and Eastern regions on bringing productions and big screenings to these areas. And as part of that we have been having discussions with the Royal Opera House collections

team for a while on being able to show more about the great choreographer Frederick Ashton because of his Suffolk links.

Frederick Ashton (1904-1988), was the Founder Choreographer of The Royal Ballet, and although he was born in Ecuador to English parents, his mother's family, the Fulchers, had for many years farmed the land around Yaxley here in Suffolk. He would maintain links with this area, buying property in Yaxley and later Chandos Lodge in Eye.

The exhibition presented a great opportunity to showcase costumes and artworks associated with Frederick Ashton here in his native Suffolk: a landscape he often looked to for inspiration and which became a retreat for him. But the wealth of material related to Ashton was tremendous as he had such a prolific career over 100 ballets. It was the task of Cristina Franchi, Exhibitions and Heritage Publications Manager, at ROH, and Samya Waked, Exhibitions Assistant, to wade through this. And it therefore seemed natural to look at presenting the story of Ashton in the different venues across Ipswich.

At the Town Hall

The Town Hall Gallery 3 becomes the focus to look at Ashton in Suffolk. It displays photographs from Ashton's long career with The Royal Ballet as well as set and costume designs by Sophie Fedorovitch for *Dante Sonata* and John Piper for *The Quest*. Of course one highlight of the gallery is a chance to peek into Margot Fonteyn's dressing-room, and view the costumes from *La Fille Mal Gardée* and *The Dream*. Paintings of the Suffolk landscape that Ashton loved are also on display from the Ipswich art collection.

At Christchurch Mansion



Cinderella's costume being installed in the Library

At Christchurch Mansion you can immerse yourself in the story of two different ballets that Ashton choreographed: *Cinderella* and *The Tales of Beatrix Potter*.

Cinderella, Prince Charming and the Step-sisters can be seen in the Library, Rococo Room and State Bedroom. The costumes were worn by Margot Fonteyn, Michael Somes, Robert Helpmann and Ashton himself. And you can also finally come face to face with animals from the *Tales of Beatrix Potter*, something our staff found a little surprising at first when encountering a six foot hedgehog in the form of Mrs Tiggly-Winkle.

Ashton choreographed the *Tales of Beatrix Potter* for film in 1971 and it has since been made into a stage production that is hugely popular. He danced the part of Mrs Tiggly-Winkle and you can certainly see Ashton's sense of fun in the production. Ashton is buried in Yaxley churchyard and we have produced a leaflet highlighting some of the other Suffolk places he had connections with. But when you go out exploring more about Ashton in the Suffolk landscape don't forget to look out for the little hedgehog in the churchyard.

Thanks to the Royal Opera House

We are really thankful to the ROH collections team for being able to bring the story of Ashton back to



Beatrix Potter "heads" waiting to be installed

Suffolk and to the costume conservation and display work carried out by Judith Doré and Bernard Doré. You can appreciate the amount of walking around and

stairs we had to climb in order to get everything in place across three venues.

Emma Roodhouse
Art Curator

Ipswich Museum Celebrates Henslow's 150th Anniversary

John Stevens Henslow was a founder and President of Ipswich Museum from 1850-1861.

To mark the 150th anniversary of the death of the Reverend Professor John Stevens Henslow, Ipswich Museum will host a small display in his honour.

Henslow is famously remembered as Charles Darwin's tutor and the man who encouraged Darwin to

accept the position on the HMS Beagle voyage. But he is also deeply entwined with the early days of Ipswich Museum, the development of the collections and placing the Museum at the forefront of the eminent scientific community of the time.

Henslow was a great enthusiast for scientific education. He ensured that the museum provided free lectures for the working classes and encouraged moral and social improvements to the lives of his parishioners at Hitcham. His practical application of science helped to improve local farming methods and his curiosity about the small black stones known as 'coprolites' led to the development of the huge fertiliser industry bringing wealth and jobs to the region.



Some of the letters written by Henslow to the Museum Curator George Knights, remain in the museum collection. These letters, written in a hurry and reopened to add up to three postscripts, give a fabulous insight into the energy and enthusiasm with which Henslow approached his museum work.

On display will be some of the objects Henslow collected and donated to the museum as well as the documents which tell us about Henslow's life and personality. The display will be open from the end of May 2011 until May 2012.

Henslow's legacy remains at Ipswich Museum to this day where the original 1847 cabinets are still in use and the cases are still arranged according to his design.

Ann Ainsworth
Assistant Curator of Natural History

Recent Aquisitions and Loans

Joan Lyall tells us about additions to the collections and loans for exhibitions.

Acquisitions

We have recently accepted into the collections a Tarantula, probably the common pink toed tarantula,

Avicularia avicularia, which was found in a consignment of wooden broom handles from Brazil. Although it did not survive the long journey it will support the existing

foreign invertebrate collection and was imported (unknowingly) by a local Ipswich firm.

A presentation cup relating to the **Nautilus Rowing Club** (shown below) also had a long journey to the museum, this time from La Quinta, California. It was presented to the Nautilus Rowing Club, Ipswich on 30 May 1868 as the prize for Club Fours.



An Official **Souvenir of the Franco-British Exhibition** with a supporting newspaper cutting has been entered into the library records and includes an image of an Ipswich timber framed house. The accompanying newspaper article by Jhn Blatchly details the background to this house,

Parminters, which was originally situated on the corner of Cox Lane and Carr Lane, Ipswich, and was demolished in 1907 and then transferred to the exhibition held at White City, London in 1908. After the exhibition closed the house was moved to Northamptonshire but sadly was destroyed in a fire shortly afterwards.

A fragment of a **clay pipe**, the bowl, which is stamped 'Goodwin Ipswich' has been donated to us by an Ipswich resident and had been found in the depositor's garden.



Loans Out

Anglo-Saxon artefacts belonging to the Ipswich Collections are on display at **Sutton Hoo** until the autumn in the exhibition 'Our People of the Past' including two girdle hangers from Hadleigh Road cemetery (AD 550-640), a silver toilet set from Coddendam cemetery (AD 600-700) and a string of beads from grave 123 at Hadleigh Road.

The **Bowes Museum** in Barnard

Castle, County Durham has borrowed **Still life with Fish** by Charles S. Keene for their exhibition *Henri Fantin-Latour and the Impressionists*.

The Dunwich Seal from Ipswich Museum is on display at **Dunwich Museum** along with other seals and tokens on loan from the British Museum.



In February Danielle Sprecher, Curator of Costume, and I delivered the **Uniform of Private Robert Smith** of Melton in Suffolk, of the 7th Hussars worn at **Battle of Waterloo** to The Royal Pavilion, Brighton. We were given a personal guided tour of the Pavilion before lunch then assisted with the mounting of the costume and

watched as it was placed on display.

Ipswich Maritime Trust has placed the model barge 'Orwell' in their current window display at the waterfront in Ipswich.

The very beautiful and elaborately embroidered man's Tudor cap will be going to **Luton Museum** soon.

The gilt and enamel Processional Cross and the Rattlesden Figurine from Ipswich Museum are now on loan to **Falaise Castle, Normandy** which was the birthplace of William the Conqueror.

Loans In

The Royal Opera House have been working over the last few weeks with us to install the exhibition *Frederick Ashton: The Ballet and Suffolk* and it is especially thrilling to see the costumes from the Beatrix Potter ballet and Margot Fonteyn's dressing room.

The celebration of Ipswich Town playing in Europe and in particular winning the UEFA cup has resulted in some of the Collections Management Team visiting behind the scenes at Portman Road to collect the objects and then to prepare them for display at the Town Hall.

Joan Lyall
Documentation Officer

Ipswich Museum Staff News

Bob Entwistle

As many of you may have heard, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service's esteemed Regional Conservation Officer Bob Entwistle has been absent from work for the last couple of months having been diagnosed with a serious heart condition. This has necessitated valve replacement surgery at Papworth. Fortunately, this has been very successful and we are delighted that Bob is back home in Ipswich and has been recovering

really well. Indeed, where most people would be taking the time to relax and recover, he is now champing at the bit to get back to the joys of the conservation lab (but then, who wouldn't?). However, as he has to convalesce a few weeks longer, for the time being he is having to content himself with sitting in the sun and learning Mandarin Chinese. When he returns, we are all expecting him to be fluent, and in the meantime, all wish him a continued speedy recovery.

Emma Hogarth
Conservator

BELVEDERE
POLISHERS

Does your table/furniture have cup marks and other unsightly signs of wear?

Call Belvedere today and ask about their FREE service.

- Competitive prices
- Insurance work
- Furniture repairs
- Collection and delivery
- Furniture designers and manufacturers

Guarantee
If for any reason you are not happy with the job we have done then we will do it again free of charge for you and give you half the cost back.

Tel: 01473 807719

11 Dove Street, Ipswich IP4 1NG
www.belvederereproductions.co.uk

John Gowen,

Documentation Trainee

John writes:

I have recently joined the staff team at Ipswich Museum as a Documentation Trainee on the 'Skills for the Future' programme. I was born in Suffolk have recently relocated to live here in Ipswich. Regular visits to museums as a child led to my choice of studying History at the University of Kent in Canterbury. It was here at University I began to have a special interest in Medieval History, with my dissertation involving religion in medieval times. So being there has been a wonderful opportunity to see



combining language classes with courses focused on the rise and fall of the Soviet Union. A trip to Moscow in February 2010 was a wonderful way to bring my studies to life, with arctic conditions included! After braving a blizzard in Red Square to see Lenin's Mausoleum, I visited an old Soviet sculpture park, where little could be seen except for Marx's eyebrows bristling out from under a snow drift!

After finishing university I gained work experience at the Guardian News & Media Archive, a fantastic experience that cemented my commitment to forging a career in the Archives and Museums sector. Subsequently I left London for Suffolk and began working for Ipswich Building Society.

Having lived in Suffolk all my life, it means a great deal to me to be based at Ipswich Museum. It was a great thrill, on my first day, to handle some of the gold coins

the marvellous collections of medieval artefacts held at this museum. Whilst at University I worked in retail and a supermarket which led to the offer of a permanent post. I always knew a career in retail was not for me while this post at Ipswich Museum offers everything I could have hoped for when leaving University. I hope this will help me learn many new things about the workings of a museum and help me forge a long career in museums.

Sylvia Cox,

Heritage Documentation Trainee

Sylvia writes:

Having recently taken up the post of Heritage Documentation Trainee at Ipswich Museum, I would like to introduce myself to the Friends. In June 2010 I graduated from University College London with a First-Class Honours degree in History. After studying Russian language at high school, I pursued this area of interest at university,



found at Dallinghoo and I am looking forward to contributing to the preservation and promotion of our local history in the year ahead.



Charles Partridge: Bringing a taste of Nigeria back to Suffolk

A ground-breaking partnership between the British Museum and Colchester and Ipswich Museums has brought together the collections, photographs and writings of Charles Partridge, the first researcher on the Cross River district and the Igala people in Eastern Nigeria.

This has led to the creation of a new display in the Ethnography Gallery at Ipswich Museum highlighting Partridge's collections and photographs; this includes exceptional field film footage of recent masquerades in the same area of Nigeria. It is perhaps the

fullest coverage of art from this region anywhere in the world.

Colchester and Ipswich Museums has also created a travelling exhibition based on Charles Partridge's photographs which will tour Nigeria.

This project has sought to reunite these sources and has seen partnerships between Colchester and Ipswich Museums, the British Museum, the leading researcher Jill Salmons, and two museums in Nigeria.

Philip Wise
Heritage Manager



For a more personal approach to all of your business & personal insurance needs

Tel: **0844 573 9390**

e-mail: info@ryan-group.co.uk

Offices at 21-23 Princes Street & Crane Hall, London Road, Ipswich

www.ryan-group.co.uk

£49,900 Heritage Lottery Fund awarded for Curry and Culture



The Bangladeshi Support Centre and Colchester and Ipswich Museums have been working together over the last few months to gather funds for a new and exciting project. They have successfully been awarded £49,900.00 from the Heritage Lottery Fund's "Your Heritage" scheme towards their "Curry and Culture" project.

Over the last fifty years Suffolk's Bangladeshi population has grown to an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 people. Since the 1950s and 60s, many Bangladeshi migrants have worked in local factories, before moving into the commercial and catering industries. However, no research has been done into the economic and cultural contribution

of this group to the wider Ipswich and Suffolk communities.

This funding will create the position of a Curry and Culture Project Co-ordinator, who will be working over the next three years with volunteers to record and disseminate the economic and cultural contribution of the Bangladeshi community in Ipswich and Suffolk.

Staff at the Bangladeshi Support Centre have recognised that the surviving early migrants are now in their 70s and 80s. If we do not record them now, they will be lost.

Amy Cotterill
Community Outreach Officer

Flashback and Future: a young people's project at Colchester and Ipswich Museums

Flashback and Future is a film currently showing in the atrium space of the Ipswich Art School.

The film is the culmination of a 12 week project with Colchester and Ipswich Museums in which eight young people aged 14 – 16 years, responded to the invitation to become museum volunteers, to interpret the museum collections and their stories in a way that would appeal to other young people. The group was inspired by Brian Whelan's 'Transmetropolitan' and decided to use this as the focus of their interpretation.

Using skills gained through a dance workshop with Dance East, a drama workshop with staff at the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds and a drumming workshop, the young people designed and created their own film, linking collections across the different museums in Ipswich. The aim of the project was to empower the young people to take the lead interpreting the museum collections in a creative way that would appeal to other young people.

The project is part of a wider youth engagement project with five museums in Suffolk funded by Your Heritage and managed by the County Museums Development

Officer, Lyn Gash, and the Association for Suffolk Museums. We hope to use this project as a building block for providing regular opportunities for young people to engage with the Ipswich collections. This summer there will be photography workshops by Sam Mellish to support the Summer Show as well as an opportunity for young people to consult the service on upcoming exhibitions and activities.

Rachel Macfarlane
Learning Officer

THE LINDEN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

GERALDINE & FRIENDS SINGING GROUP

PIANOFORTE
SINGING

CLASSICAL GUITAR

PRIVATE TUITION and GROUP SINGING

Specialist in teaching Adults and Young Singers

Young Pianists considered from 5 years of age

Mrs Geraldine Patey

36 High Hall Close
Trimley St. Martin
Felixstowe
Suffolk
IP11 0TJ

Telephone: 01394 275125

Member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians

Summer at Ipswich Art School

The work of four different artists will be on view in the Art School from 25 June to 1 October 2011.

A Cultural Exchange between Ipswich and the Bahamas

This summer Ipswich has a chance to make a connection with the Bahamas through the work of two different artists who will be in residence from June - August . This is part of an international exchange residency between Ipswich and the Caribbean and is Colchester & Ipswich Museums' contribution to the Eastern Exchanges project, part of Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) national *Stories of the World* programme. *Stories of the World* is a major project of London 2012's Cultural Olympiad, which explores stories of collections from all over the world.

Ipswich Museum has a fantastic world collection and this is an opportunity for artists to draw inspiration from the collections, create new work and bring an international voice to the museum. And to do this through working with local schools, communities and our visitors. The Bahamas was chosen as an area to work with because of existing contacts with the National Gallery there and its lively arts scene.

Artists from the Bahamas were invited to apply for the 3 month residency here in Ipswich and we

were eventually able to appoint **Dede Brown** as the Material Response artist in residence. Dede studied at the Savannah College of Art & Design, Savannah, Georgia and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Interior Design, Minorng in Photography. She is a multi-disciplinary artist who has skills in design, photography, painting and installation. Recently she has been asked to create a sculpture for the new International Airport in the Bahamas. And she works at Popop studios, one of the main artist enclaves in Nassau.

As part of the exchange we also needed to appoint a UK artist from this region who would be up for the challenge of a two month residency in the Bahamas and one month back in Ipswich. **Bettina Furnee** was able to take on that challenge and has already spent time over there meeting with artists and devising new work that links into the Museum collections here. She even started taking a poll of what Bahamians see as their most important objects and the Church and cars featured highly.

Both artists will have a chance to display their work in Ipswich Art School during the summer. And it will be our first artist in residence

scheme at the Art School so something to watch out for how things develop. Dede will be getting to know Suffolk and we hope you will have a chance to meet with her and see how the Bahamas can be brought over to Ipswich.

**Emma Roodhouse
Art Curator**

Darren Johnson

Award-winning artist Darren Johnson will be showing his work in response to the *'Frederick Ashton: The Ballet and Suffolk'* exhibition. Darren creates innovative performance work, fusing movement based performance with visual and sonic art, pushing for new directions in cross art-form

working.

Sam Mellish: Roadside Britain

Sam Mellish has captured life along the fascinating trunk roads of East Anglia in this photography exhibition



© Sam Mellish

'Roadside Britain: On the

Road'. Sam has also inspired and worked with a group of young people from Suffolk to create their first photography exhibition *'First Exposure'* to bring to a new audience in Ipswich.

Other Exhibitions

**Ipswich Town in Europe
Town Hall Galleries, Ipswich**

21 May – 3 September 2011

An exhibition to celebrate Ipswich Town Football Club in European Football over the last 50 years and marking the 30th anniversary of the Football Club's victory over AZ 67 Alkmaar in the UEFA Cup in 1981.

Amongst the collection of memorabilia on display are two of John Wark's hat-trick balls from the cup winning campaign, as well as the Club's official replica of the UEFA Cup and Eric Gates' cup

winner's embroidered home shirt from the following season.

Buried! Hidden Secrets from the Past, Colchester Castle

23 July 2011- 29 January 2012

Normal Castle admission charges apply (FOIM members free on production of membership card)

Our history is buried in strange places, not necessarily under your feet! Come along and discover where and why our ancestors hid what was valuable to them. From coin hoards and offerings to the

gods to items of clothing used to protect houses from evil forces! You'll be amazed by what has been discovered and the stories that can be told!

This is a mixed collection of fascinating things that have been waiting to reveal their buried stories and capture the imagination of all who come to experience it. It

certainly will get you talking and thinking about our past.

There are many stunning local objects on display from across the region and also a rare chance to see other collections from Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, Braintree Museum and Epping Forest Museum all in Colchester!

News in Brief

Outreach Work with Suffolk Social Services

During the Easter Holidays, the Community Outreach team ran a workshop with Suffolk Social Services for looked-after children in Christchurch Mansion. The young people worked with artist Alison Stockmarr to create Easter cards, bunting and baskets. The baskets were put to good use when the day finished with an egg-hunt in Christchurch Park.

Amy Cotterill
Community Outreach Officer

Stories of the World: China Trip

In February, ten students from the Gilberd School went with staff from the museum to visit our partner museum in Nanjing, China. Here the young people engaged with

local history and culture, enabling them to help Caroline McDonald, Curator of Archaeology, to select objects for an exhibition at Colchester Castle in 2012.

The group visited the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and Summer Palace. They have made a film documenting their experiences which will be screened later this year and form part of the exhibition. They are also working towards Bronze Level Arts Awards, which are a nationally recognised qualification.

The young people were selected through a project with the Community Outreach team. The project was funded by the British Museum and is part of the Cultural Olympiad Stories of the World programming.

Amy Cotterill
Community Outreach Officer

Colchester Castle Update

Update from April 2011

Our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the second stage of the project to redevelop and re-interpret Colchester Castle was delivered on Monday 11 April, and an acknowledgement has been received from the HLF.

The museum has been working with Redman Design (a Yorkshire firm), on plans for an exciting and accessible fresh new approach to interpreting our past through collections and stories. The story of Colchester will be told from its foundation over 2000 years ago to the Siege of Colchester in 1648. The history and features of Colchester Castle will be revealed and interpreted to give people a much better sense of the scale and importance of this unique building. The Castle displays will also be used as a starting point and a link to discovering other heritage sites in Colchester like the Town Walls and Roman Circus.

At the same time the museum shop and other public facilities will be improved. A second lift will be installed to make it easier for all visitors to find their way around the building. The roof will be insulated for the first time and a new under-floor heating system will be installed to improve the building's

energy efficiency.

The HLF will make their decision on whether to approve the £4.2m project in July this year. They are being asked for 77% of the costs with the match funding coming from Colchester Borough Council, the EU, Renaissance museum hub funding and the Friends of Colchester Museums. One or two other organisations will also be approached for smaller sums in the next month. If the project is approved Colchester Castle will then close for redevelopment in January 2013 with re-opening planned for March 2014.

Tom Hodgson
Community History Manager



**Do you want to receive
Museum Service events'
listings by post?**

This can be arranged if you
contact

Mary Halliwell, 31 Queens Road,
Felixstowe IP11 7QU

Membership Details

Membership rates are:

Joint/Household	£15
Single	£12
Student (under 25)	£3
Corporate	£100

We look forward



www.foim.org.uk

to promote the past

These are the minimum fees. We would not dream of preventing anyone paying more. A membership form can be downloaded from our website or contact our Membership Secretary; Barbara Cole, 35 Pownall Road, Ipswich IP3 0DN, 01473 287716. Those interested in becoming corporate members should contact us direct via the website.

More information about being a member is given on page 2. Members also have free entry to Colchester Castle Museum.

Membership as a Gift

Have any of your friends or relatives promised to consider joining the Friends but have not yet done so?

All you have to do is send the appropriate subscription (payable to FOIM) together with contact details of the recipient to Jerry Latham, who will prepare a gift pack for you to send.

Our Corporate Members

The Arlingtons Brasserie
Barnes Construction
Belvedere Reproductions
W D Coe Ltd.
Dummett Copp
Elmy Cycles
J M Finn & Co
Jimmy's Farm
Ipswich Building Society
Ipswich School

The Linden School of Music
NFU Mutual
Notcutts Nurseries Ltd
Ryan Insurance Group
Sharman Caravans Ltd
Stan Gaskin
Suffolk New College
Titchmarsh & Goodwin
Watson & Hillhouse Ltd

THE FRIENDS OF THE IPSWICH MUSEUMS COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2011 – 2012

President:	Gay Strutt
Vice President:	Paul Bruce
Chairman:	Alan Swerdlow ☎ 01394 380044 Email: alan@whr.demon.co.uk
Vice-Chairman:	Jerry Latham
Secretary:	Delly Newson
Treasurer:	Peter Stockdale
Membership Secretary:	Barbara Cole, 35 Pownall Road, Ipswich IP3 0DN ☎ 01473 287716
Newsletter Editor:	Mary Halliwell, e-mail: j.halliwell165@btinternet..com
Guides Co-ordinator:	Erica Burrows
Corporate Members	Stuart Curtis
Visits and Events:	Tina Campbell
Members:	David Kergon, Sheila Brooks Kathleen Daniel
IAA Rep:	Ferial Evans Rogers
Ipswich Society Rep:	Ken Wilson
Ex-officio Member:	Peter Berridge, Museum Service Manager

We welcome new members to help us support our excellent Ipswich Museums. Details of membership are given on page 31 and on our website: www.foim.org.uk.

Meet us also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ipswichmuseums.

All members of the Committee can be contacted via our Website or
c/o Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH