

The Friends of the Ipswich Museums

# Newsletter

## AUTUMN 2012



John Nash **Granaries, Ipswich**

image supplied by Colchester and Ipswich Museums  
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*we look forward*

# FOIM

*to promote the past*

*The Friends of the Ipswich Museums*  
Registered Charity Number: 275527  
[www.foim.org.uk](http://www.foim.org.uk)

## 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 (CIMS).

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

The Friends provide guided tours of the Mansion, including free *Peeps into the Past* at the Mansion throughout most of the year. 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 the Ipswich Arts Association.

Contributions to the Spring 2013 Newsletter should be sent to the editor by 2 Jan 2013.

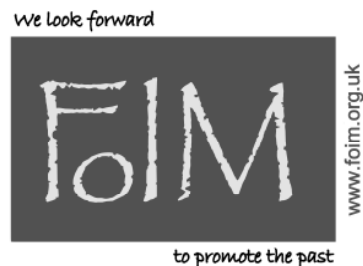
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FOIM is a subscribing member of the Ipswich Arts Association. Please visit their website [www.ipswich-arts.org.uk](http://www.ipswich-arts.org.uk) for further information.

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### Editor's Notes

For this issue your FOIM committee have been very busy arranging a number of events, including a Christmas Party with a 1930s flavour, a visit to the newly refurbished William Morris Gallery and Chelmsford Museum, three lunch time talks and a number of tour/talks in the Mansion and Museum. For May 2013 Alan Swerdlow has arranged a trip to Yorkshire.

We have set the publication date so that readers will have plenty of time to book for events and have a timely reminder of subscription renewals.

This has meant that we are going to press just as the new structure for the museum service is being announced. A special article by Beverley Jones explaining the changes will be found on page 7 and the changes are also referred to by Alan Swerdlow (page 4) and Peter Berridge (page 8).

With this issue I complete 10 years as Editor. Until this issue I have also organised the distribution of the

newsletter. As I am now working more slowly than I did 10 years ago I asked for a volunteer to take over the distribution. I was delighted when Maria and Roy Suttle volunteered. Roy and Maria have been Friends for many years. Maria retired as a Duty Officer for the Museum Service in May, while Roy is a former treasurer for the Friends.

Finally may I recommend the stunning *Treasures of China Exhibition* at Colchester Castle which continues until 6 January. It was good to see the accompanying video which shows how Colchester school pupils visited Nanjing and chose some of the exhibits.

Mary Halliwell



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### Legacies

Last year we received the good news that Vera Gwendoline Mary Auckland had remembered the Friends in her Will with a generous legacy. We now have the funds and the Museum service is of course aware of the gift: we expect to be able to announce shortly exactly what this donation has allowed us to acquire.

If you too would like to remember FOIM in your Will you can be assured that any gift we receive will be used to enhance or conserve the collections of the Ipswich Museums. If you are considering a legacy, please speak to your solicitor. Our registered charity number is: 275527.

## Chairman's Letter

Since the last Newsletter much has been decided about the future of Colchester & Ipswich Museums (CIMS). Members have expressed understandable concern about aspects of the changes, redundancies, loss of specialist expertise and the inevitable contractions when there are financial cuts. It has been difficult for me and the committee not to overstep our remit in these matters. The Friends of the Ipswich Museums have as their core responsibility to raise funds to support the many aspects of the work of the museums. We are not political nor are we a board of museum trustees. But we should, and must, make our feelings clear. We always have a member of the CIMS staff at our committee meetings but for the one in July we held the final part in private allowing a frank and open discussion.

The staff recruitment process will have been completed by mid-September and the new structure is launched on 1 October. Peter Berridge, Museums Manager, has taken the decision to leave the organization and seek opportunities outside CIMS. From the start of plans to join the two museum services into one Peter kept the FoIM committee fully up to date. He made time to meet our chairmen and committee on a regular basis. He led the present proposed High Street developments including the arrangements to acquire the old Art School building. We thank him and wish him well.

As I am writing this to meet our copy deadline, it may not be possible to include further 'stop press' information.

Any further news may be available on our web site.

### **Meeting with Councillor Bryony Rudkin**

At the invitation of Councillor Rudkin I attended a meeting on 5 September at Grafton House to talk about the strategy for the future HLF bid. CIMS intend to develop a Campus Master Plan. We discussed the Art School Gallery programme, and the architectural potential for the entire site. CIMS will be inviting every member of the Friends to a consultation event that will feed into the plans for the development of the Ipswich Museum site: I hope as many of us as possible will attend. I see this as a way to gain the best range of ideas to feed into any proposed moves to reorganize the various buildings on the site. We also talked about offering a certificate to volunteers, particularly the group of young people who help the service: a way to record the skills learned.

### **Friends of Christchurch Park**

Richard Wilson, Chairman of FoCP, came to our September committee meeting to talk about their work. I hope that we might co-operate in developing better links between our two groups. It was a useful discussion and we agreed that there was scope for joint activities and cross marketing of events. This could lead to meetings with other Friends groups operating in the town.

### **Legacies**

We have been consulted about the proposed bequest of a collection of works of art. These would clearly have

to comply with CIMS acquisitions policies. In recent years we have benefitted from several monetary gifts enabling FoIM to provide crucial funds for important purchases. Such funds greatly enhance the money we raise through our subscriptions and any surplus on activities. As the donations we provide indicate local support they often pump-prime grants from outside bodies.

### **Christmas party**

You will find details of our Christmas party in this mailing. While Christchurch Mansion has been a popular and seasonal venue we thought that having the old Art School as this year's location would give those members who have never visited it the chance to see the building, the development of which is being supported by FoIM. As a change, we have themed the event in keeping with the architecture. Do join us – it should be a very happy evening. Parking is easy – a short walk from the rear section of Crown Pools car park.

### **Talks**

Another part of this mailing is a leaflet on the series of talks Paul Bruce has arranged. The talks are of high quality, the venues providing a chance for social interaction and add to the interest of the day. Ideas for future speakers and topics will be welcomed by Paul.

### **Yorkshire 2013**

Although I thought I had retired from arranging members holidays, I offered to plan what I think will be a really interesting trip to Yorkshire. Based at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate, we visit the wonderful new Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield which houses an outstanding collection of work and archive material by Barbara Hepworth.

Her nine Family of Man sculptures (1970) are in the grounds of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park which we also visit. Three of these bronzes adorn the grounds at Snape Maltings so you will have a chance to see the complete set. We visit three stately homes and have some free time in Harrogate.

### **Annual Dinner 19 October 2012**

At the time of writing, this new event has not yet taken place but a good number of members have signed up to attend. It promises to be an entertaining evening with our guest of honour Lord Phillips of Sudbury as after dinner speaker. There will be a report in the next Newsletter.

### **The Pacitti Company**

This innovative arts project has taken residence in the Victorian Wing Studios between the museum and the art school. Some of you might have attended the premiere of their fascinating film 'On Landguard Point'. Their director Robert Pacitti is the creator of the Spill Festival of Performance, an artist-led festival of experimental work 31 October to 4 November in Ipswich. Have a look at the website for more information:

<http://www.pacitticompany.com>

### **Independent museum statistics**

We are not independent museums but I thought the following figures were interesting:

- There are over 1,200 independent museums in the UK
- They attract 9 million visitors a year
- They provide nearly 6,000 jobs supported by 100,000 volunteers
- The sector is worth up to £930 million to the economy.

**British Association of Friends of Museums**

We have been members of BAfM for many years. I used to be area representative in the eastern region and attended several annual conferences. There is to be a regional BAfM meeting on 18 October at Harlow. The topic is highly relevant to our local situation '*Coping with Divestment and other potential changes in your museum's funding*'. Harlow Museum has recently gone through the process of being transferred from public to private status.

Best Wishes

Alan Swerdlow  
FoIM Chairman

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of the work of FoIM 01394 380044 or e-mail [alan@whr.demon.co.uk](mailto:alan@whr.demon.co.uk)

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**Email list**

If you would be happy to receive occasional e-mail news from the Friends please send your details to Jerry Latham via our website [www.foim.org.uk](http://www.foim.org.uk)



**Our Cover Picture**

Alan Swerdlow chose our cover picture. He writes:

I have loved John Nash's splendid 1920s watercolour of Granaries in Ipswich since I first saw it nearly 20 years ago, so when Mary Halliwell our Newsletter Editor asked for an idea for the cover image this was one of my suggestions. I decided to see if I could locate the spot Nash must have placed his easel. I took a photograph (see back cover). No ships, and not much remains of Paul's buildings but there are clear visual clues. What an exciting place it must have been, but the present view is no less interesting.

## **Restructuring of Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service**

*Beverley Jones from Colchester Borough Council was involved with the recent staff changes. She consulted with members of the Museum Service and Maggie Appleton, who acted as specialist outside adviser. Maggie has 18 years experience in the heritage and museums sector and is on the Heritage Lottery Fund Board. Alan Swerdlow asked Beverley to write this short article for us.*

### **The Financial Situation**

As I am sure you are aware, earlier this year Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service was unsuccessful in securing Arts Council England funding and this meant the loss of £734,000 annual grant income for the joint service. Despite the loss of this external funding Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service remains the third largest museum service in the East of England and as such is able to attract major grant funding in the future and host many highly respected exhibitions and collections.

We were, however, very successful in gaining over £434,000 of Arts Council Transition Funding for this financial year. The transition funding has been based on providing us with an opportunity to build a sustainable and resilient service for the future.

### **Restructuring**

First and foremost we needed to restructure the service. We took the view that this needed to be a process that redesigned the service from scratch, building in the posts and roles needed to not only deliver core Museum functions but to also equip us to deliver the aspirational and innovative projects that are key to the success of the service.

For Ipswich this meant ensuring that we have the skills and capacity to deliver the planned major redevelopment of the Ipswich

Museums on the High Street and for this reason have developed the new role of Ipswich Development and Major Projects Manager. I am sure you will be delighted to know that Jayne Austin has been successfully appointed to this role. We have also maintained a local dedicated team of specialist staff who hold specific knowledge of Ipswich based collections. This team includes an Arts Curator, Assistant Curators of Natural History and Human History, Documentation Officers and a Conservator, as well as the wider team of six other collections specialists to draw upon across the service.

### **Providing Sustainability**

Secondly the Transition Funding provided us with an opportunity to support key projects which are aimed at providing sustainability and resilience for the future, such as the Volunteer Co-ordinator post at Ipswich, Audience Development work for the Ipswich redevelopment project and the Treasures of China exhibition which develops and maintains our links to Nanjing Museum in China (and brings vital additional income to the service!)

With the internal recruitment phase of the restructure completed we are now able to share the final structure with our key partners and stakeholders. The new structure will go live on the 1 October this year and we are attending the next FOIM Committee meeting to ensure that Members have all the detail and the key contacts that you

may need in the future.

### **Staff Changes**

Whilst it has been a challenging time for our staff we have been delighted and inspired by the sheer passion and enthusiasm that has been displayed and communicated as part of this recruitment process. To date there has been the loss of 15 members of staff across the two towns but only one member of staff has been subject to a compulsory redundancy decision.

We can also now let you know that Peter Berridge, the Museum Manager, has made the difficult decision that it is time for him to move on. He has, however, agreed to stay for a period to help bed in the new staff structure and to ensure an effective handover to a successor. An advert for a new Museum Manager role is soon to be

placed and because of the strong reputation of the museum service we are confident in attracting high calibre candidates with the right mix of arts, heritage and leadership skills that are needed to take the Joint Museums Service forward over the next few years.

### **Future Commitment**

Both Colchester Borough Council and Ipswich Borough Council remain committed to working together to deliver excellent and innovative Museum Services, building on the success of the joint service that was established over five years ago.

**Beverley Jones**

**Head of Environmental and Protective Services, Colchester Borough Council**

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## **Peter Berridge's Column**

I need to start by letting you all know that I will be leaving Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service. The precise date is open and I may well stay until the end of March 2013. I took this decision more than three months ago after a great deal of thought. For a variety of reasons it seemed a good point to leave even though a number of major projects that I am very committed to are still underway. About a year ago I was asked if I intended any further career moves, but I thought it best to wait until the redevelopment of Colchester Castle and the even bigger development of Ipswich Museum were completed. I realised that while progressing and completing these two projects I would of course be involved in developing and progressing other projects such as a major re-

display programme of Christchurch Mansion. This of course made me realise that there was never going to be a nice neat end point at which to consider leaving as there would always be multiple schemes and projects, all at different stages of development, going on at the same time. So hence, in part, the decision to go now. What I will be doing in the future is uncertain though I want to do something slightly different and I am exploring some interesting options at present though I am keeping a fairly open mind.

Turning to other matters, there is a statement from Beverley Jones elsewhere in the Newsletter, setting out the current situation in regard to the restructuring of the museum service. While there is no need to



repeat any of this, it is worth clarifying and emphasising a few things. Firstly it does seem that that has been some misunderstanding or misinformation concerning some aspects and in particular around levels of staff involved in collections care at Ipswich. It is therefore important to state:

- ♦ there will in fact be more, rather than fewer, collections specialists based in Ipswich than existed before the creation of the museum partnership with Colchester. In addition this group has a larger team of collections staff to draw on, which means that collections care will continue to improve in future as it has done over the last five years.
- ♦ the restructuring has been specifically designed to create a stronger staffing structure and that can provide for the longer terms sustainability of the organisation. One of the new posts created is for a manager who will be entirely devoted to the longer term development of the Ipswich museums, with an equivalent post being created for Colchester.
- ♦ Another significant new post, which will operate over both Ipswich and Colchester, is a Commercial and Business Manager. Having someone who will be able to focus on increasing our opportunities for commercial income is clearly going to be essential in the current very tough economic climate, in order for us to operate any kind of cultural activity.

My last point is to highlight the fact that, at the beginning of this process, several months ago, the worst case scenario was the compulsory

redundancy of thirteen people (across the entire museum service, which then comprised over eighty staff). But now, at the end of it all, only one member of staff is facing compulsory redundancy. I am absolutely certain that through a combination of the restructuring and the key achievements over the last few years in Ipswich (such as the stunning new Egyptian Gallery, the successful fundraising for, and the completion of, the purchase Ipswich Art School) that firm foundations have been laid for a strong and exciting future for museums in Ipswich. I know that things are in good hands and I am sure that everyone within the Friends will get fully behind the new team.

Finally, while this may not be my last article for the Friends' Newsletter, it seems an appropriate moment to say goodbye – even if I have to repeat it in a few months' time. So I will finish by saying what a pleasure and a privilege it has been to be associated with such important and inspiring collections and buildings, and to thank you all for your continuing support as the Friends of the Ipswich Museums.

**Peter Berridge**  
Museum Manager

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## Friends Diary

Date	Event	Booking
Friday 2 November 2012	Evening tour of the Mansion with wine "Past Lives"	at Mansion 01473 433554
Saturday 10 Nov 2012	11 am tour/talk at Mansion "Curious Christchurch"	at Mansion 01473 433554
Saturday 24 Nov 2012	11 am tour/talk at Mansion "Wedding Gifts"	at Mansion 01473 433554
Wednesday 5 Dec 2012	Friends Christmas Party at Art School	form enclosed
Thursday 24 Jan 2013	Day trip to William Morris Gallery and Chelmsford Museum	form enclosed
Wednesday 30 Jan 2013	Lunchtime Talk: Jeremy Greenwood	form enclosed
Saturday 9 Feb 2013	11am tour/talk at Museum "A Cabinet of Curiosities"	at Mansion 01473 433554
Saturday 16 Feb 2013	11 am tour/talk at Mansion "The Power of Flowers"	at Mansion 01473 433554
Wednesday 27 Feb 2013	Lunchtime Talk: David Jones	form enclosed
Wednesday 27 Mar 2013	Lunchtime Talk: Pippa Cross	form enclosed
Wednesday 10 April 2013	Woodbridge tour/talk 2pm with tea	details next newsletter
May 2013	3 night trip to Yorkshire	form enclosed
Wednesday 19 June 2013	Summer garden party at the Mansion	details next newsletter

## Friends News

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### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

There have been 8 new Members since the last newsletter:-

Mr Ben Gummer MP

Mr R Daines      Mrs S Fowler

The Rev'd Helen Gardner

Mr & Mrs J Buis      Miss A Lester

Mrs C Veale      Mr D E Heckels

Mr Heckels was originally given a one year's membership as an Art School Sponsor and is now a full member.

We extend a warm welcome to them all, and I hope to meet them soon at the next New Members Event.

The Membership remains fairly stable, 345 - but we seem to remain about the same and would welcome more new members so that we can give more support to our beautiful museums at this difficult time. As I said at the AGM, if we could all try to bring in one new member, we could double our membership this year – please try.

We appreciate all who help in so many ways – the donation boxes at both museums continue to bring in much needed funds, which is very encouraging in view of the present financial difficulties.

**Barbara Cole**  
**Membership Secretary**

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### GUIDES NEWS

#### Eastern Angles visit to the Mansion

The local theatre group, Eastern Angles recently performed a play about

Margaret Catchpole. Prior to the performance they visited the Mansion. Liz Latham is pictured above with members of the Eastern Angles' Community Chorus, who came to hear her talk about Margaret Catchpole and the Cobbolds linking with their recent successful production of this famous story



#### Bob Entwistle's talk for the Guides

In September, the Guides were given an illustrated talk by Bob Entwistle, conservator for Ipswich Museums for many years. He showed us various items in the collection that he has worked on and demonstrated the damage that can be done by wrong handling or neglect. We were much impressed by the breadth of Bob's work – protecting the natural history collection from attack by insects and decay, preserving fabrics, restoring watches, paintings, furniture and even vintage motorcycles. We are very grateful to him for sharing his great expertise and knowledge.

**Erica Burrows**  
**Guides Co-ordinator**

## FRIENDS VISIT TO KENT 27-28 September 2012

A rare species was spotted on the coach – five newcomers. All very welcome.

In the submarine at Chatham dockyard I left my DNA flapping on the Julestay Crossing valve. At the Ropery our guide (with hair like unkempt hemp) gave us a ropery tour. On the destroyer's bridge I was asked if I knew what the steel funnel attached to the bridge was. I suggested a voice tube as I could hear the faint echo of 'Left hand down a bit'. It's a long way to the heads they explained - it was a pee station. Unnerving, having been told that on arctic duty metal must not be touched with bare flesh as skin would be left behind.

'Cut and Shut' jobs were performed on damaged ships during WWII. HMS Nubian's stern and HMS Zulu's bow were joined giving 'berth' to HMS Zubian. I can imagine 'better' examples.

Rochester's restored Restoration House and fabulous gardens were magnificent.

Lots of Gainsborough and Constable paintings. Then to Rochester cathedral to hear their magnificent



RNLI Lifeboat collection at Chatham Dockyard

organ. I left vibrant.

Next day to Tunbridge Wells. The Art Gallery and Museum exhibited some good water colours depicting Tunbridge through the ages. In the museum a case showing the making of a cricket ball. However, the mystery remains of how they make a ball that can hit the middle of all opponents bats but at best only hits the edge of my bat.

At All Saints church in Tudley most of our party walked round with arms raised and extended. A new form of veneration? In fact photographing Chagall's glowing windows.

Leeds Castle has hosted royal sleepovers although Henry VIII would not recognise it now. More recently it has entertained cocktails parties for the famous, influential and nouveau-riche who would probably recognise it if they could remember it.

Many thanks to Alan, our reincarnated host.

**Jerry Latham**

Restoration House, Rochester—Miss Haversham's "Satis House" in Great Expectations

## Friends Events

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### SPECIAL TOURS AT THE MANSION

FoIM have arranged five special tours for November and February. These tours must be booked in advance through the Museum Service on ☎ 01473 433554

**Past Lives:** Fri Nov 2, 19.00-21.00

'The library is the room I love most and when I die it will be here that I haunt', so said a lady of the Fonnereau family in a poem she wrote about her home in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Join your guide on a meander through the rooms of the Mansion at night and 'meet' some of the former occupants of the house through portraits and items in the collection, then enjoy a glass of wine and light refreshments in the Great Hall. Cost : £8.00 including refreshments, £6.50 for Friends.

**Curious Christchurch:** Sat 10 Nov at 11.00



Have you ever wondered about ISSO? What about Frvgalatem sic ...or that thing on the dining table (see picture).

Join us to find some answers to these and other frequently asked questions. Cost : £4.00, £3.00 for Friends.

**Wedding Gifts:** Sat 24 Nov at 11.00

Happy Ever After? A quirky look at some of the items in the collection relating to marriage. Cost : £4.00, £3.00 for Friends.

**A Cabinet of Curiosities:** Sat 9 Feb at 11.00

A tour of Ipswich Museum lasting about one hour. Discover the history of one of the earliest public museums in the country and why it is in High Street and not Museum Street! Take a walk around the Museum with a Guide from the Friends and find out how some of the exhibits came to be here. Cost : £4.00, £3.00 for Friends. (Suitable for older children.)

**The Power of Flowers:** Sat 16 Feb at 11.00

Tour/talk at the Mansion lasting about one hour. Cost : £4.00, £3.00 for Friends. Find out how artists across the ages used flowers to reflect the lives and fashions of their day on this tour of the Mansion with a guide from the Friends.

Cost : £4.00, £3.00 for Friends. (Not suitable for children.)

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### OTHER TOURS

The Mansion Guides are available every day until November to take visitors on a short tour of the house. If you would like to join these free tours, just turn up at 11 am Tuesday to Saturday or 2 pm on Sundays. Larger groups and full tours by arrangement – email [ericab@btinternet.com](mailto:ericab@btinternet.com) or visit our website [www.foim.org.uk](http://www.foim.org.uk).

Tours can be arranged for your club or society for general or special tours of the Mansion, or of the Museum. Costs start at £3 per head for daytime tours, £5 per head for evening tours. Contact as above.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY 2012

We have a change of venue this year for our Christmas Party, which will be held on Wednesday 5 December at the old Art School Gallery, High Street, from 7 pm.

In keeping with the art deco building, the entertainment will be by **Portrait** and will have a flavour of the 1930s. You will also be able to view the current exhibition, **New East Anglian Painting**. There is on-street parking around the Art School or you can park at nearby Crown Street car park. Tickets are priced at £12, which includes food and drinks. We hope you can join us for an evening of good food, good wine and good company with Friends old and new. Tickets are available from Barbara Cole using the enclosed form.

collections of textiles, ceramics, furniture, stained glass, books and fine art are newly displayed and the building has been made fully accessible, with lift access to the entrance and all floors.

After lunch (available in the Gallery Tea Room) we drive back to Chelmsford where we will have a short introduction to the Museum and tea and biscuits before returning to Ipswich.

Cost for trip is £25. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter.

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### THREE LUNCHTIME TALKS

All talks commence at noon followed by lunch. Booking is required, see Talks Leaflet enclosed with this newsletter.

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### DAY TRIP TO THE WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY AND CHELMSFORD MUSEUM



William Morris—Chrysanthemum design

A day trip has been organised to visit two municipal museums on Thursday 24 January 2013. In the morning we visit the newly refurbished William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. Its

#### Wed 30 Jan 2013: The Artist Andrew Wyeth

Jeremy Greenwood will talk about the much loved American artist Andrew Wyeth (1917-2009) who is little known in Britain. He worked primarily in tempera.

This talk will be held at Priory Park. Cost £13.00 for Friends, £14.50 for others.

#### Wed 27 Feb 2013: William Withipoll: Duels, Elopements Astrology and the Theatre

David Jones will talk about the dramatic life of the last Withipoll to own Christchurch Mansion. David has recently discovered a possible link with the playwright Ben Jonson.



This talk will be at Ipswich Museum.  
Cost £12.50 for Friends, £14.00 for others.

**Wed 27 March 2013: Making a film about Alfred Munnings**

Pippa Cross spent her schooldays in Ipswich and then studied English at Oxford. She now runs an independent film company. Her talk will be about the film which she has recently made about Alfred Munnings' early life.

This talk will be held at Priory Park.  
Cost £13.00 for Friends, £14.50 for others.

Wakefield, Harewood House and Keddleston Hall.

Please use the enclosed form to indicate that you would be interested in joining this trip. You will then be sent the final booking form as soon as it is available.



The Saloon,  
Keddleston Hall

**VISIT TO YORKSHIRE**

**20-23 May 2013**

Alan Swerdlow has planned a three night visit to Yorkshire staying at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate. Visits will include the Hepworth Gallery at



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## Ipswich Museum Development Update

*Jayne Austin tells describes how changes in Ipswich are being planned.*

### **Audience development**

A person is to be engaged to work with me on audience development. This will be part of the overall preparation work for the Ipswich Museum development and in particular the Heritage Lottery Fund application. The audience development work will involve a series of consultation events that will feed into the plans for development of the whole of the Ipswich Museum site. The Friends of Ipswich Museums will be invited to one of these events as an exclusive group to contribute their thoughts on the priorities for inclusion in the development. Money from the Arts Council Transition Fund will be used to support this activity.

This consultation work will also help in the preparation of the brief for the 'Campus Master Plan'. A Campus Master Plan is a tool used by planners and architects, and will give an overview of the Ipswich Museum Development and how it fits into the wider area surrounding it. This will include the street scene and public realm around the museum and how this facilitates links to Christchurch Mansion and other leisure facilities within Ipswich.

The Master Plan will be informed by a brief that will state what should be included in the Ipswich Museum development. It will provide a strategic overview and design philosophy by pulling together all the strands of the project and developing a coherent design solution to fit all of these requirements.

### **Artistic programme**

A consultant will shortly be engaged to help develop the artistic programme for Ipswich Museum, with a particular focus on the Ipswich Art School Gallery. Money from the Arts Council Transition Fund will be used to support this work. The consultant will build on the work of the artistic programming advisory group and carry out further consultation to help with their recommendations. Once the programme is established the Museum Service will be able to seek arts funding to support its delivery. Proposals for the artistic programme will also feed into the Master Plan for the development of the Ipswich Museum site as a whole.

**Jayne Austin**  
**Ipswich Development Manager**



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## Recent Acquisitions for the Ipswich Art Collection



***Eyeline*** by Simon Gales (above) is a painting of a farmer's field in Suffolk, close to the farmhouse where the artist grew up. The girl is Gales' daughter and he changed the painting a number of times, including depicting himself as a young boy, before finally settling on this image.

Simon Gales attended Ipswich Art School in the 1980s and was taught by Lawrence Self. He went on to Goldsmith's College and achieved a first class honours in fine art. He was then selected as one of twenty-five contemporary artists to take part in an unprecedented and highly publicised sale at Christies where his work achieved prices up to four times the estimate. Since then he has taken part in touring exhibitions, such as 'A Spiritual Dimension', an Arts Council show that was on display at Christchurch Mansion in 1989, as well as solo shows at the Albemarle Gallery and Bruton St, London. Gales' work is represented in the collections of the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green and the London Transport Museums, in which his poster designs are displayed.

This work was painted specifically for the Ipswich collection to reflect the

artist's Suffolk upbringing and the county's landscape. We do not have any works by this artist in the collection and so this is a very welcome donation.

The Museum Service has also recently acquired a group of six paintings by the

contemporary artist Brian Graham (b. 1945). Graham draws his inspiration from archaeological sites in Britain showing evidence of our earliest ancestors, including several in East Anglia. These new works are atmospheric and evocative paintings which are Graham's homage to the courage and determination of Britain's first inhabitants and to the landscape of the British Isles. These were included in an exhibition entitled 'Starting from Scratch' which was held at Colchester Castle Museum earlier this year. As well as two paintings of Essex sites, the group includes images of the 'Valley Brickworks, Foxhall Road, Ipswich', the 'Brickearth Pits, Hoxne', the 'Brickyard, Elveden' and the 'Brickearth Pit, High Lodge'.

Brian Graham's work is in the collections of London's Natural History Museum, Huddersfield Art Gallery, Dorset County Museum and University College, London. He has regularly exhibited at the Hart Gallery in London and lives in Dorset.

**Emma Roodhouse,  
Art Curator,  
Philip Wise,  
Collections and Curatorial Manager**

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Membership rates are:

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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.

Members have free entry to Colchester Castle Museum.

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All members of the Committee can be contacted via  
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## In this issue:



**Trodden Weed**, 1951 by Andrew Wyeth –see details of Friends Lunchtime Talk on page 14



Ipswich Waterfront in September 2012— the location of the granaries painted by John Nash—see cover and page 6



*Eyeline* by Simon Gales has recently been acquired for the Ipswich Collection see page 17

plus Friends activities and more museum news

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We welcome new members to help us support our excellent Ipswich Museums. Details of membership are given on page 18

We use the website to advertise events which are notified too late to be printed in the Newsletter.