

The Friends of the Ipswich Museums

Newsletter AUTUMN 2013



Our cover :
Ball Gown donated
by Lady Munnings

we look forward

FoIM

to promote the past

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, 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 and Museum, 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, the Ipswich Arts Association and the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce.

Contributions to the Spring 2014 Newsletter should be sent to the editor by 1 Feb 2014.

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Our advertisements are all from corporate members, please support them.

Cover Picture: Ball gown painted by Sir Alfred Munnings PRA for his wife, Violet—see page 17

Have you visited our website? www.foim.org.uk? We use our website to advertise events notified too late to be included in the Newsletter.

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 www.ipswich-arts.org.uk for further information.

Editor's Notes

Recently the FoIM Committee has been very active sorting out a large number of events for you. Unfortunately this has resulted in a later distribution date for the newsletter because I needed to wait for details of all the visits, talks and tours to be finalised. I hope everyone will find something which appeals to them. Please be aware that if you wish to come to the Christmas Party, which will be at the Mansion this year, you need to decide quickly so that the caterer can be given adequate notice.

Bill Seaman, our Museum Manager, keeps us up to date with the ambitious developments planned for the Ipswich Museums. He is very enthusiastic about our excellent collection, much of which is in storage.

I was very pleased to be offered three articles by FoIM members. One of our past chairmen has offered a series of short articles about the Leathes Family. The first appears on page 15. There are more to come.

The second article was offered by a "Mansion Guide" who wrote a short piece on an exhibit which particularly appealed to her (page 13). I am hopeful that other guides will follow her example.

The third article is by Anthony Cobbold who tells us about the Cobbold Family History Trust on page 21.

Mary Halliwell
Editor

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Legacies

If you 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

It was suggested by John Lapsley, our Corporate Membership rep, at our last committee meeting that it may be beneficial to FoIM to join the Chamber of Commerce. This has proved to be a very useful forum to promote the Friends and canvass for new corporate members. It has also kept us in touch with how the Town is being developed, giving us an opportunity to promote our Museums as much as we can. This will be particularly important in the context of the Heritage Lottery Bid being put forward by the Museums Service. Bill Seaman updates us on this on the next page.

Mansion Information for Visitors

The room books at the Mansion are in need of a revamp. The Mansion Guides are helping to compile a list of the 10 most interesting or important items for every room. Emma Roodhouse will collate these to produce new room information cards.

A future plan is to offer a list of the 10 "must-see" items in the Mansion for visitors with limited time. I have found this an almost impossible task with so many interesting items on display – anyone who would like to make their own suggestions, please email me. ericab@btinternet.com

We are still in the process of producing a brochure or guide book for the Mansion. This is something we have lobbied about for some time and Claire Sanders, the CIMS retail manager, is endeavouring to progress this with the help of Friends and Staff. I hope we might have something positive to report in the next newsletter.

New Displays

We now have the display of items relating to Benjamin Britten on show in the Mansion, together with the sumptuous ball gown which once belonged to Lady Munnings, wife of the artist Sir Alfred Munnings. Bob Entwistle has provided information (page 17) about the painstaking conservation work carried out on this elaborate costume, which Lady Munnings wore to the Chelsea Arts Club Grape Festival ball in 1933. FoIM are pleased to have funded the costume displays over the last few months, and hope we can do more to help get our collections seen in the future.

Friends Activities

Since our last newsletter, The Friends have enjoyed another Woodbridge tour (page 11) and a visit to Houghton Hall (page 12). We have also had two Study Sessions taken by Paul Bruce which have given us the opportunity to look closely at the work of artist Anna Airy and the walnut furniture in the collection. In November, we have a Suffolk Artists talk with Mary Halliwell planned and a talk by Mary Crehan on textiles followed by lunch. We have two more lunchtime talks planned in the New Year and a visit to the East Anglian Masterpieces exhibition (page 10).

On 11 December at 6.30 pm Marjorie Carter will give an illustrated talk about the families who once lived in the Mansion. Marjorie, who is one of the Mansion guides, recently gave a similar talk for Ipswich Arts Association and has kindly agreed to do it again for us under the title "Squabbles and Scandals". Stay

and have a glass of wine with us afterwards in the Great Hall. There will be another chance to walk around the Mansion with Joan Munns looking at the role and language of flowers in art on 11 January – “A Blooming Good Tour!” On 25 January Liz Latham will be doing a talk and tour of the Museum called a “A Cabinet of Curiosities.”

A trip to Bath is taking place in the Spring and we are arranging a mid-summer speaker’s dinner in June. More details to follow.

East Anglian Daily Times

I hope you have seen Ferial’s occasional articles in the EADT about some of the items in the collection. We hope this will prompt more people to visit our museums and attract some new members.


Christmas Party 2013

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Friends Christmas Party on Wed 4 December starting at 7 pm. The party is being held at Christchurch Mansion this year and we will be entertained by **Village Voices** who will be singing some old favourites and some up to date pieces for us. There will, as usual, be plenty of good food and wine, so do join us for some festive good cheer and good company.

Erica Burrows

Chairman

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of the work of FoIM. My email address is ericab@btinternet.com

 01473 785152

Bill Seaman’s Column

Incredibly, six months have passed since I arrived and it has been both a fascinating and demanding time. With major projects in the developmental stage for Ipswich Museum and in delivery at Colchester Castle, I’ve been really pleased to be involved with ambitious and exciting projects from the outset. The Service, quite rightly, has high aspirations and is committed to giving greater access to its magnificent collections and buildings. It is achieving this while working through the consequences of a major staff restructuring largely precipitated by the loss of revenue funding from the Arts Council. I am proud and heartened by the positive attitude of the museum staff and the belief and vision of IBC officers and FoIM Members.

This is a significant time for the Ipswich Museum development with the submission of the Stage One bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund due at the end of November. There are exciting prospects for the Museum with plans to join up the currently separate buildings and to encourage a cross-over of audiences and experiences between the on-site arts and museum partners.

One of the privileges of working in museums is the access to the stored collections. My visits to the museum stores in Ipswich are voyages of discovery; rich and multi-layered with a surprise around every corner. Ipswich has collections to be proud of and I believe that this type of experience should be freely available to all our visitors. We plan to create object rich



priorities it's important that we work strategically. To this end the welcome project funding from the Arts Council this year is being directed to develop new ways to connect the people of Ipswich to their collections through a range of activities including digital technology. This is directly informing our thinking for the Ipswich Museum Development as well as funding research into a new collections' management system for Ipswich Museums. This timely review will inform the methods we use to undertake essential documentation of the collections

displays and accessible collections' galleries in the expanded public spaces on site. This will ensure that many more objects are enjoyed and valued by the people of Ipswich and visitors to the town.

The capital investment in the High Street Campus will represent a step-change in the content and quality of Ipswich's heritage offer. The linked buildings, magnificent collections and creative spaces will have an impact on more people's lives, give a voice to non-traditional museum-goers and make a growing contribution to the cultural regeneration of Ipswich. It will build a national reputation as a first-class visitor attraction and innovative museum that brings together culture, heritage and the arts. This transformation will require significant investment – the largest since the museum was built in the High Street in 1881. Your Chairman has already made valuable contributions to the planning and I look forward to working with the Friends in promoting this development and in supporting the fundraising campaign.

With limited resources and clear

prior to their relocation and display. We are also intending to submit a Grants for the Arts bid to Arts Council England to augment the temporary exhibition programme in Ipswich Museum with a particular focus on the Art School building. This is a characterful but challenging space to fill and additional funding will enable us to try out a number of alternative uses of the building, again to inform our future plans.

Plans in the pipeline include an exhibition to Nanjing Museum in China in 2015 and also the much anticipated Constable's **Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows** which we will display in pride of place in Christchurch Mansion, also in 2015.

So much is happening and plans for the future are bold and exciting. I look forward to working with FoIM to progress these plans and may I thank you for your continued and invaluable support.

Bill Seaman
Museum Manager

Friends' Diary

Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope when booking events.

Date	Event	Booking
Sat 16 Nov 2013, 11 am	Suffolk Artists Mansion Talk with Mary Halliwell,	Book at Mansion Reception 01473 433554 Friends £4, others £5
Wed 27 Nov 2013, Noon	Textiles and Memories Lunchtime Talk with Mary Crehan at Alnesbourne Priory	There are a few places left for this talk. Contact Barbara Cole if you wish to book
Wed 4 Dec 2013, 7 pm	Christmas Party at Mansion with entertainment by Village Voices	Booking form distributed with this Newsletter
Wed 11 Dec 2013, 6.30 pm	Squabbles & Scandals Evening Talk at the Mansion with Marjorie Carter, including a glass of wine	Book at Mansion Reception 01473 433554 Friends £6.50, others £8
Sat 11 Jan 2014, 11 am	A Blooming Good Tour! Mansion Tour with Joan Munns looking at the use of flowers through the ages. limited to 15	Book at Mansion Reception 01473 433554 Friends £4, others £5
Sat 25 Jan 2014, 11 am	A Cabinet of Curiosities A guided tour of Ipswich Museum with Liz Latham, limited to 12	Book at Mansion Reception 01473 433554 Friends £4, others £5
Wed 26 Feb 2014, noon	The Suffolk Way of Life, as recorded by Ipswich Artists of the 19th Century Lunchtime Talk with John Day in Woodbridge	Booking form distributed with this Newsletter
Wed 26 March 2014 noon	A Personal View of Life at Thorpness Lunchtime Talk with Michael Staff in Woodbridge	Booking form distributed with this Newsletter
Tues 18 Feb 2014	Day Trip to Masterpieces: Art & East Anglia Exhibition at Sainsbury Centre Norwich	Booking form distributed with this Newsletter

14-17 May 2014	Short Break to Bath	Booking form enclosed
June 2014	Midsummer Dinner with Speaker	details in Spring Newsletter
September 2014	Ipswich Town Walk	details in Spring Newsletter

Friends News

Membership Secretary's Report

There have been 11 new Members since the last newsletter:-

Ms M Curwen

Mr & Mrs L Dann

Mr & Mrs K Fletcher

Ms M Hayward

Mr & Mrs S Henley

Mr & Mrs J Mayfield

Mr & Mrs M Mills

Mr & Mrs R Pace

Mrs A Parobij

Mrs A Tooke

Mr & Mrs R Young

And 2 new Corporate members – Gough Hotels (The Angel, Bury St Edmunds and The Salthouse, Ipswich) and Glasswells Ltd.

We extend a warm welcome to them all, and look forward to meeting them in the near future.

We now have 322 Members and 15 Corporate Members, but unfortunately we have had 35 unpaid subscriptions, which have now been deleted.

Subscriptions are due on 1 January 2014. A Subscription renewal form is

enclosed for those who do not have a standing order.

I am happy to receive cheques, however standing orders are preferred as they reduce administration efforts.

Barbara Cole

FoIM Membership Secretary

Wrong email addresses?

Our Webmaster writes:

When I sent out the last 'Friends' group email I had a number of failures. This can be for a number of reasons but we could be holding an incorrect email address. To eliminate this possibility would the following members please email me at contact@foim.org.uk so that I can pick up correct email addresses. That is assuming you wish to receive my occasional missives.

Dr. Ann Bannister

Mrs Sheila Barnes

Mr & Mrs K Fletcher

Patrick Anderson

Mr & Mrs T Sherwen

Mary & Bob Nightingale

Jerry Lathan

Hawstead Panel

Booklet

In 2006 the Friends published a 16 page illustrated A5 booklet describing the Hawstead panels at the Mansion.

In October this year we ordered a second edition. We have taken the opportunity to modify the story of the panels in the light of the latest historical research carried out at Florida University. A few errors have also been corrected.

Copies will soon be available at the Mansion, or may be obtained by post from Mary Halliwell, 31 Queens Road, Felixstowe IP11 7QU. Please send a cheque for £2.50 made out to "FoIM".

Sailing Barges - The Dunkirk Story

by Barbara Butler

(Published with the support of Ipswich Maritime Trust)

£9.95 plus £3.00 post and packing

from:

**Barbara Butler,
High View,
Tuddenham Lane,
Witnesham, IP6 9H**

barb-witnes@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone 01473 785067

Or from:

Ipswich Tourist Information Centre

Museum Notes in EADT

Ferial Evans-Rogers has recently been writing short articles about items in the Ipswich Museums collection for the East Anglian Daily Times. Her first article was about one of the chests in the Mansion. Other articles have described the Dolls' House at the Mansion and the Great Bass Rock display in the Museum.

Rosario Zinna Exhibition

Rosario Zinna has an exhibition of his pencil paintings at Woodbridge Library throughout December. Dr Zinna, a keen member of FoIM, has frequently provided illustrations for the Newsletter. In the past he has contributed a number

of cover illustrations. In our last edition he contributed a picture to the report of the FoIM visit to Yorkshire.

A New Book about Sailing Barges

Barbara Butler, a FoIM member, has just published a book "Sailing Barges - The Dunkirk Story". In Feb 2012 Barbara and Gary Butler presented a lunch time talk "With Pudge to Dunkirk" for the Friends.

Details of how to obtain her book are given above.

Forthcoming Friends' Events

Special Tours/Talks with the Mansion Guides

There will be a series of special tours and talks led by the Mansion Guides over the Autumn and Winter months. For details see Friends' Diary on page 7. Numbers are limited, so booking is recommended— contact Mansion Reception (01473 433554).

The list includes those tours already planned. More will be arranged, so please watch our Website and notices in the Mansion. Costs will be £4 for Friends and £5 for others for daytime tours and £6.50 and £8 for evening tours.

Christmas Party

The 2013 Christmas Party will be held on Wed 4 December at the Mansion. The **Village Singers** will entertain. Booking is required. Booking forms should be returned to Barbara Cole by 20 November.

Masterpieces : Art & East Anglia Exhibition

A coach trip to the Sainsbury Centre at Norwich has been arranged for Tuesday 18 Feb to visit the Masterpieces: Art & East Anglia Exhibition. Several items

from Ipswich are on loan to this exhibition.

We will also be able to see the permanent display of items from the Sainsbury collection. Refreshments will be available in the on-site Café.

A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Lunchtime Talks

Paul Bruce has arranged lunchtime talks on Wednesdays: 27 Nov, 26 Feb and 26 March—for details see Diary on Page 7.

Some places are still available for the November talk. Contact Barbara Cole if you would like to go. Booking forms for the February and March talks are enclosed with this newsletter.

Short Break in Bath

A short holiday has been arranged in Bath from 14 to 17 May 2014. An expression of interest form is being distributed with this newsletter. The closing booking date for this holiday is 2 December.

Future Plans

Plans for 2014 include a midsummer dinner with a speaker in June and an Ipswich Town Walk. Details will be given



Dummett Copp
PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

Friends Tour of Woodbridge

In April a group of Friends enjoyed a guided walking tour of Woodbridge with Dr Bob Merrett from the Woodbridge Society.

Our party of twenty-four met at the swimming pool. From here we walked to the railway bridge and surveyed the River Deben with our guide Bob Merrett. He told us about Kingstone Point which became Kyson Point, the best or first sandy landing beach, where tributes and goods were brought to the local king.

We walked up Quay Street, passing buildings that had once been warehouses, to the Thoroughfare, beyond which the early town of Woodbridge was established. We came to a junction known as Cross Corner. A cross stood here until the reign of Edward VI, I do not know why.

We enter Cumberland Street – a very interesting and attractive mixture of houses. Some were big and some were very small with lovely window frames and doors. Poets, painters and army officers from the local barracks lived here. Their names live on in the house names, e.g. Marston House and Barton Cottage.

Turning right back towards the town centre, we pass into Turn Lane. Flowers and vegetables in pots and small back gardens are plentiful. We pass the gates of the Abbey School. These grounds belonged to the Augustinian Priory set up in 1195. This date heralded the beginnings of Woodbridge as a settlement. In Turn Lane we see the old Quaker Meeting House and the Quaker Cemetery. This is maintained as a wildflower meadow. At the end of Turn Lane was the convent of the Carmelite nuns. They were a closed (enclosed) order, who communicated by way of a

spinning device in the wall.

Now we enter Church Street and go towards St. Mary's Church. The church has lovely flint decorations and was built by an obviously wealthy town and parish. In the churchyard is a memorial to William Wilberforce's brother. Before reaching the church we see the house built by Thomas Seckford in the abbey grounds. This building is now the Abbey School.

Up the steps, we arrive at the Market Square and the Shire Hall. A water fountain here was provided by surplus funds from the Seckford Charity. It has a very ornate top covering like a crown.

At the Shire Hall or Sessions House, quarter sessions, and later a Magistrates Court was held until 1986. We crossed to the lovely town museum, just inside which a very dignified figure sat in the uniform of the Seckford Almshouses, but many of us were looking forward to tea and cake and a sit down at the Bull Inn across the road.

Pamela Stephens



An old postcard
of the Shire Hall

Friends Visit to Houghton Hall

The Friends organised a coach trip to the Houghton Revisited exhibition on 12 September. Jerry Latham reports on the trip.

I was nominated to write this article as we boarded the coach for the return journey to Ipswich. If only I had paid more attention, whilst wandering around, as to what might interest others. Therefore, this report contains my impressions interlaced with a sprinkling of artistic licence.

At the appointed time most sat on a wall in Ipswich awaiting Soames. Then, to Jean's consternation, she discovered that two of our members had boarded the wrong Soames coach in Woodbridge and were Wymondham bound. Not a problem for Jean. The two coach drivers were in contact and all ended well as they arranged an in-flight passenger exchange. Then followed a gentle incident free 2 hour cruise to Houghton Hall via some pleasant backwater roads of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Houghton Hall is a well appointed Palladian pad. Just hold a mirror to one half and the other half looks just the same as the reflection. So why build both halves? However, it is an impressive building in massive grounds that contain very grand gardens.

We were batched up into two groups. However, we were not Captain's Pick so we formed the second group. We took a short walk and found a sunken oasis of calm in the middle of the walled gardens. This became our picnic site and we consumed our lunch in peace and the sun.

Then it was our turn for the house. Our first conundrum was do we use the handy guide booklet provided or pay £40

for the weighty full guide. Soul searching was not employed I continued light of hand and undisturbed in the wallet department.

First impression was that the interior was a mixture of three dimensions and trompe l'œil. With my propensity for clumsiness I had to take care at doors and stairs to determine if I was approaching the real thing. At one point I very nearly fell down a painting of some stairs.

Then to the prime reason for the visit - to view the paintings purchased by Robert Walpole, sold to Catherine the Great and now released from the Hermitage to be reunited with their original rooms. I can admire the quality of the painting but, not being from that era, I cannot say that I like their taste. They may be fine examples of every school of art of the time but for me viewing them is an academic exercise. My overall memory is that the rooms were dark and the paintings likewise. I find the subjects, either religious or portraits, neither thought provoking nor awe inspiring.

On a brighter note the house was little used and had been kept mainly in the dark. As a result the tapestries in the Green Velvet Bedchamber were still full of bright reds and blues. Most tapestries I have encountered have died the death of a thousand sun beams, but not these. The house also had many other rooms too numerous to remember here.

Jerry Latham

Stars at the Mansion: No 1, Lowestoft Porcelain Disk

This is the first of a new series of articles proposed by the Mansion Guides in which they plan to describe an item in the Mansion which particularly appeals to them



the technical skill of European manufactures. Hard-paste porcelain was the closest that they could achieve.

For fifty years, Lowestoft produced a wide variety of such items decorated with images from a distant culture with a distinctive Suffolk slant. Idiosyncratic chickens strut across a plate decorated by a member of the Redgrave family, an English ship sails gently past a shore populated by Chinese fishermen and a 1791 birth plaque for a Suffolk child is embellished by an oriental landscape.

A ceramic disk, approximately 6 cm in diameter, sits quietly in a display case at the Mansion. It commemorates an important family event. The birth of a daughter Elizabeth, to the Ruthen family, in February 1791. On the reverse, it is decorated with a blue and white Chinese style landscape.

Christchurch Mansion is full of such stories. Please come and enjoy them.

A personal and affordable commission for the Lowestoft pottery, which provided a whole range of wares for its mainly middle-class customer base. Operating from 1757 – 1799, this easterly outpost of the first industrial revolution was tiny compared to its larger cousins in Worcester, Stoke-on-Trent and London. However, it mirrors exactly the eighteenth century trend for all things Chinese. For this was the age of tea and porcelain.

Chinese porcelain such as the two contemporary 'oxblood' glazed vases in the Queen Anne room were beyond

A Mansion Guide





Drake Memorial Garden Restoration Report

In May of this year Mary Halliwell and I commenced restoration work on the memorial garden situated between the Museum and the Art School. Our first task was to begin the removal of the ivy which was choking the existing shrubs and plants – a very long job which is still being undertaken! Early on we were visited by Nicholas Stanley of IBC parks department. We were able to talk to him about the condition of the lawn edges which were in bad repair. He kindly organised replacement turf to be laid adjacent to the beds. The turf suffered in the hot weather but with plenty of watering is beginning to recover.

Perennials, kindly supplied from Mary's garden, have been planted to introduce some colour in the flowerbeds; these also had us busy watering on our weekly visits. After some detective work Mary was able to acquire the original planting plan which had been drawn up for the family, and this has been a great help in the identification and placing of the original shrubs.

Now that some of the ivy has been cleared and the bamboo and ornamental grass has been taken in hand, the Acer and Osmanthus shrubs can be seen and appreciated. We have cleared the ivy from the old tree stump and hope that it will become home to the insect population. There is still a great deal of ivy to be removed and it will be exciting to discover what may still be hidden. So far we have removed thirty two bags of garden rubbish – with many more to go!

Sheila Brooks



William Leathes

This is the first of a series of articles about The Leathes Picture Collection. First we learn about William Leathes. Ipswich Museum now owns many of the paintings William collected in the 18th century,

Over the fireplace in the Great Hall in Christchurch Mansion hangs the portrait of William Leathes (1674-1727) and his secretary Mathew Avison. Their portrait by Herman Van der Mijl (1684-1741) was painted circa 1710. The portrait hangs on, arguably, the most prominent wall in the Mansion, so why, and who was Leathes anyway? There is no entry for him in the Dictionary of National Biography.

In 1992 thirty-five pictures from the Leathes collection, started by William Leathes, was given to Ipswich. Apart from several family portraits, there was a number of Dutch and Flemish paintings in this collection. An inventory made in 1852 records 132 pictures, some of which have subsequently been sold or kept by members of the family.

William Leathes was born on 13th January 1674 at Aughnatrisk, near Lisburn. He went into the army, joining Brigadier Stearns Regiment, the 1st Royal Irish Regiment of Foot. In 1694 he was appointed one of the conductors of the "trayne of Brass Ordnance and Equipage" to Flanders. In 1698 he was appointed one of the twelve bombardiers of the Office of the Master General of the Ordnance attached to Dover Castle and the Cinque Ports. The Master General was John Churchill, Earl of Marlborough, who in 1702 became Duke of Marlborough.

During Marlborough's campaigns on the Continent, Leathes served as

paymaster to the train of artillery. Whilst serving in the Netherlands he became involved in collecting pictures, tapestries, lace and other commodities for acquaintances and for himself. He was raised to the rank of Captain on 1st January 1706, a rank he held for the rest of his military career. He was present at the Battle of Malplaquet in 1709.

In 1714 Cadogan, one of Marlborough's generals, was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the



© CIMS, on behalf of IBC

States General of Holland, and Leathes became his assistant. In 1715 Leathes was appointed Secretary to the British Mission to the Austrian Netherlands, taking up the post in January 1716. The position was subsequently upgraded to Resident. He was constantly moving between the continent and England, although he was in poor health. He left Brussels for England for the last time on 22nd April 1722, retiring as Resident in 1724, after manning the Embassy from England through subordinates for two years. He died, unmarried, in London on 30th June 1727.

He had estates in England and Ireland, though his main estate was at Great and Little Oakley near Harwich.

I am indebted to Richard Leathes for the biographical information concerning William Leathes.

Adrian Parry
Past Chairman of FoIM

Information for this article was obtained from Richard Leathes and Leathes family records in Ipswich Record Office.

New Costumes in the Mansion

Recent additions to the costume display at the Mansion include items belonging to Benjamin Britten and his sister (to coincide with Ben's 100th birthday) and Lady Munnings' hand painted ball gown.

Items relating to Benjamin Britten

There is a small display of costume in the Victorian Wing which includes Ben's sister Beth's wedding gown and coat which were given to the collection in the last year. Beth, an expert dressmaker, had made the garments herself.

There is also a jacket and slippers belonging to Ben, on loan from the Britten Pears Foundation. All these items will be on display until February.

Bob Entwistle asked Anna Peck to carry out some basic repairs on the dress and coat. Both garments had been much altered but were in good condition. Some rips and small tears were sewn. The coat had lost a few buttons. The buttons were replaced using purchased plain buttons covered in calico and painted to match. The buttons blend in perfectly but are easy to spot once pointed out.



Benjamin Britten with his sister Beth, just before he gave her away in marriage



Lady Munnings wearing the Dress in 1933

Items relating to Lady Munnings

There are two items donated by Violet Munnings on display in the Rococco Room. One is a ball gown which she wore to the Chelsea Arts Ball in 1933. It was hand painted by her husband Alfred Munnings, PRA. An elaborate Indian shawl given by Lady Munnings is also on display.

Anna Todd conserved the ball gown. She reports:

The main damage to Lady Munnings' dress had been caused by ultraviolet light. This causes the dyes in the fabric to fade and the silk fibres to become brittle and break.

This had left the silk shredded and split with many unsupported loose threads.

The aim of the conservation treatment was to support the silk fabric and make the dress safe and secure for short-term

display.

The treatment consisted of first realigning all the loose threads and then supporting them with lines of conservation stitching. These lines of stitching were spaced at 2cm intervals across the skirt and bodice. This stitching added support and prevented further splitting of the silk. The process was labour intensive and time consuming.

As I worked on the dress it became evident that the silk was extremely fragile and in places was turning to dust. A further level of treatment was required if the dress was to be displayed for longer than a few weeks. FOIM agreed to pay for this.

This second treatment was to stitch very fine, conservation grade, nylon net over the surface of the dress.

First the net had to be dyed so it would blend with the corresponding surface it was to cover on the dress. Four different colours had to be dyed: A red and a blue for the bodice and a blue/green and yellow for the skirt.

Once dyed the net was stitched on the skirt and bodice, sandwiching the silk between the net and its lining. The net acts as a barrier and an extra layer of protection to prevent further loss of silk fibres.

Finally a mannequin was padded and shaped to fit the dress and correctly support it whilst on display. The dress remains very fragile, and cannot be permanently displayed. The entire conservation treatment took in excess of 350 hours.

Bob Entwistle, CIMS Conservator
Anna Todd, Freelance Textile
Conservator

Once Upon a Time... Children's Book Illustrators of East Anglia

25th January – 4th May 2014 at the Art School Gallery



Twins, Janet and Anne Johnstone

An exhibition celebrating children's book illustrators of East Anglia opens at the Art School Gallery in January. From **Bill and Ben** to **Percy the Park Keeper**, come and see the original artworks that have inspired generations.

In 2011 Ipswich was given a large selection of work by the Johnstone twins. This exhibition highlights their careers and importance in the world of illustration.

Janet Grahame Johnstone (1928-1979) and Anne Grahame Johnstone (1928-1998) were twin sisters and are best

known for illustrating Dodie Smith's classic book, **The Hundred and One Dalmatians**. They lived in Badingham, Suffolk with their mother Doris Zinkeisen, also a significant artist from the 1920's/30's. They were prolific artists and illustrated:

Andy Pandy,
Bill and Ben
Folk Tales of the World
Midnight Kittens
Starlight Barking
Waterbabies
Miracle in the Wilderness

My Book of Enchanting Nursery Rhymes
Peter Pan and Wendy
Santa Claus is Coming to Town
Tales of the Greeks and Trojans

The exhibition will also highlight other children's book illustrators with links to Ipswich Art School and East Anglia .

Margaret Tempest's drawings for Little Grey Rabbit and Fuzzypeg the hedgehog are in the Ipswich collection.

Helen Oxenbury (**We're all going on a Bear Hunt**) and Michael Foreman (**War Boy**) both went to the Art School .

Illustrators included will be:

Edward Ardizzone
Nick Butterworth
Michael Foreman
Kathleen Hale
Richard Holland
Janet and Anne Graham
Johnstone, John Lawrence

Diana Mayo
Helen Oxenbury
Pam Smy
Helen Stephens
Margaret Tempest.

Emma Roodhouse



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Some visits possible

UNLOCKED: Collections + Creativity

Rachel Macfarlane tells us how items from Ipswich's World collection are being used for a number of community projects.

The Project

In April, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service secured Strategic Support funding from Arts Council England for the Unlocked Project.

The project will showcase a new way of experiencing the collections at Colchester and Ipswich Museums. It will focus on the archaeology collections at Colchester and the world collections at Ipswich. Community groups, young people, and families will share their reactions to the objects through a variety of art forms working alongside contemporary artists who will support this activity. Improved documentation will capture these new perspectives, link to online media and unlock the collections to new audiences.

Information Assistants Will Heppa and Lisa Barrass have selected and made accessible an interesting selection of 30 objects from the museum stores. The objects are now the focus of a number of exciting community projects led by Community Engagement Officer, Marie Taylor.

World Exploration Day at the Museum



During the Summer Holidays a World Exploration day was held at the Museum. As part of the Unlocked Project visitors of all ages were shown a number of unlabelled items and asked to

- say what they were
- suggest how to tell others about them if they were no longer in a museum.

A 10 year old boy suggested the hat from the Partridge collection (shown below) was made for Bill Oddie by Queen Victoria , while a 39 year old woman thought Indiana Jones wore it in a film.

A 16 year-old boy thought the hat could be shown off by marching around the town.

You can see more visitor comments about this and four other objects on the Unlocked page of the Museum Service website: <http://www.cimuseums.org.uk/collections/unlocked-project.html>

An Invitation

We invite you to take part and unlock your own creativity this autumn. Online Media Assistant, Lexie Tuthill will be launching a number of ways to get involved via Facebook and Twitter. The project runs until March 2014.

Check out the Unlocked page on the museum website for more information

**Rachel Macfarlane,
Unlocked Project Officer**

Smile Felix?

The Cobbold Family History Trust has just launched a Friends campaign. Ipswich has reason to be very grateful to Felix Cobbold, for his gift of the Mansion plus a later bequest for purchasing art works.



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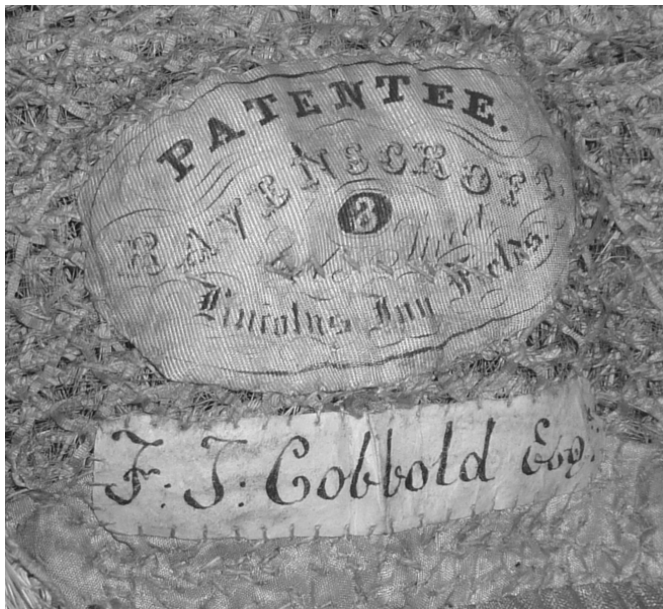
Few, if any, members will be unaware of the Hon. John Collier's fine portrait, funded by public subscription, of the donor of Christchurch Mansion, prominently there displayed. Although the portrayal of Felix Thornley Cobbold (1841-1909) is a little severe he was a kindly man; giving children's parties and frequently entertaining at home, and a

generous one too, as testified by his many bequests.

Perhaps surprisingly, because he never married, he was also a family man being the first to have recorded his delving into the Cobbold family tree. His original work, supplemented by that of his nephew, Clement (1882-1961) forms the basis on which FoIM member, Anthony Cobbold has built The Cobbold Family History Trust over the last 10 years. Whilst making no claim to be a professional, Anthony is an avid collector of all things related to the Cobbolds and, importantly, the mainly East Anglian families into which they married.

Some fascinating material, including Felix's

barrister's wig with his name neatly stitched inside, has been collected, and to enhance its chances of survival has been donated to the Trust which recently became a registered charity (1144757). To provide an endowment fund to kick in when Anthony has gone the Trust has now launched its own 'Friends' campaign and readers are invited to apply for the campaign leaflet even if they have no intention of joining



because it is well produced, interesting and entirely without obligation. Ring 01752 894498, go to www.cobboldfht.com or send an SAE to 14 Moorfields, Ivybridge PL21 0XQ.

Perhaps the thought that his work is being continued, and by public subscription, would have brought a smile to Felix's face?

Anthony Cobbold

The Wig label - the wig and its storage container are shown on the back page.



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All members of the Committee can be contacted via
our Website www.foim.org.uk
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Membership Details

Membership rates are:		Barbara Cole, 35 Pownall Road, Ipswich IP3 0DN, 01473 287716.
Joint/Household	£15	Those interested in becoming corporate members should contact us direct via the website.
Single	£12	
Student (under 25)	£3	
Corporate	£100	Membership as a Gift 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.

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:

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Friends waiting for the coach for
Houghton Hall in Ipswich (see page 12)



Felix Cobbold's Wig and Wig
Box (see page 21)



Michaelmas daisies in the
Museum Garden (see page 14)

www.foim.org.uk

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Registered Charity Number: 275527

We welcome new members to help us support our excellent Ipswich Museums.
Details of membership are given on page 23
We use the website to advertise events which are notified too late to be
printed in the Newsletter.