

The Friends of the Ipswich Museums

Newsletter SUMMER 2014



© CIMS on behalf of Ipswich Borough Council

we look forward

FoIM

to promote the past

Our cover : Cornhill, Ipswich by
Leonard Squirrell, watercolour 1933,
also known as "Our Town in 1933"

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.

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 and the Ipswich Arts Association.

Contributions to the Autumn 2014 Newsletter should be sent to the editor by 1 September 2014.

Contents

Editor's Notes -----	3
Chairman's Letter-----	4
Bill Seaman's Column-----	7
George Rowe Seminar -----	8
Friends Diary -----	9
Friends News-----	10
Book Review-----	13
BAFM Conference -----	14
Herman Van der Mijn -----	15
5 Paintings by der Mijn -----	16
Conservation Corner -----	18
Gardening Report -----	20
2014 AGM Report -----	21
Corporate Members -----	22
The Committee-----	23
Membership Information-----	23
Advertisements:	

3, 4, 5, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23

Our advertisements are all from Corporate members.

Please support them.

Have you visited our website:

www.foim.org.uk ?

We are also on Facebook.

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

Front cover picture: This well known watercolour by Leonard Squirrell has been chosen to advertise Paul Bruce's study session in October, see page 10.



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

The Friends have enjoyed several events since the last newsletter and there are more to come in the next few months, including this year's short holiday which will be in Kent. There are still a few places left (see page 9).

On 11 June I joined the coach party which went to view the newly refurbished Colchester Castle. The new displays are very well laid out and include some loan items from Ipswich in the medieval section. I was very impressed by the collection of Roman glassware. I plan to return to have

another look. I will be taking an attendant's advice to arrive around 2.30 when all school parties should have departed.

Adrian Parry tells us more about the Leathes collection (page 15). This time he tells us what he has found out about the artist Herman van der Mij. Joan Munns has reviewed a recent book published about our Hawstead Panels (page 13).

Mary Halliwell
Editor



IPSWICH SCHOOL

World War One Virtual Exhibition

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One, Ipswich School has created a new online gallery.

How many men in this picture of the school's 1913 football team do you think lost their lives during the war?



Find out by visiting: www.ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk/worldwarone

Come and see our school at the **Ipswich School Open Day**
Saturday 27 September 2014 ● 09.30-12.00

Chairman's Letter

The Committee has agreed to contribute £2,500 towards an artistic programme for the Art School. The Arts Council have awarded a grant towards an 18 month programme and a part time artistic director will be appointed. Some of the previous exhibitions have been disappointing and visitor numbers have been low. Having worked so hard to acquire this building, we want to see it used to best advantage and also to see more of our own collections on display. The committee feel the best way to help achieve this is by offering financial support. The **Once Upon a Time** exhibition was delightful and the new

Tidal Margins exhibition has been very well received. I am glad that so many members were able to attend the launch recently. We hope that the grant will result in stimulating exhibitions to make the best use of this space.

FoIM have allocated funds to help with a further display of costume – so look out for this in the Mansion over the coming months.

It has already been mentioned that the Museum Service has been in negotiation with a private vendor to acquire a small oil sketch by Constable. The Friends have agreed to make a significant donation to the purchase, but the acquisition will be subject to funding from other sources and this is a long-winded and on-going process.

The Events diary has been pretty full so far this year with talks and tours by the Mansion guides on various aspects of the collections together with a successful seminar by Chloe Veale, nee Bennett, on an almost forgotten Suffolk artist, George James Rowe. See separate article on page 8.

Recent Lunchtime Talks

The lunchtime talks have been popular at the Galley Restaurant in Woodbridge. Although the venue is a bit squeezed, the food has been excellent and the topics interesting. The talk by John Day about 19th century Suffolk artists was so popular we were a bit like sardines but

The image is a faded poster with a decorative top border. The text is mostly illegible due to low resolution. At the bottom, the phone number 'Tel: 01473 807719' and the website 'www.foim.org.uk' are visible.

we all managed to squash in for a fascinating talk. The lunchtime talk in March by Michael Staff about growing up in Thorpeness brought back a lot of happy memories of childhood days out for many of us. The behind-the-scenes glimpse of life in this purpose-built holiday town in the off season was delightful. Thanks to Paul Bruce for organizing these talks and managing to get speakers on such diverse and interesting topics.

Our 2014 AGM

The AGM held on 8 April was well attended and Jayne Austin brought along a 3D model of the proposed Museum redevelopment, which was on view before and after the meeting. She also showed a short film to illustrate the events which took place around the **Unlocked** project, a scheme to bring various children's and adult groups into engaging with the collections through dance and other educational activities. Phillip Wise gave an illustrated talk about the Anglo-Saxon Rendlesham finds, which have been linked to Sutton Hoo and a royal residence at Rendlesham. Several items have been acquired for the Ipswich collection with the help of donations from the Friends.

The business part of the AGM was kept as short as possible and the committee re-elected with minor changes.

However, we were sad to hear that Barbara Cole, our stalwart membership secretary for nearly 20 years, will step down at the next AGM. Barbara has done a wonderful job and been a great

asset to the Friends. If anyone feels able to take on this role, please contact Barbara for more information. We are always keen to recruit new members to the committee and if anyone would like to take part, please let me, or a member of the committee, know.

Friends of Christchurch Park

In March, I was invited to talk about FOIM by the Chairman of the Friends of Christchurch Park, Richard Edgar Wilson, at their AGM. I did a short presentation, helped by Brian West, one of the Mansion guides, about what we do and some of the things we have helped to fund. FoCP are always very supportive of our activities and advertise our events in their newsletter. They do a lot of good work helping to keep the Park in good order and organizing bird walks etc.

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

Colchester Castle

In June, we were invited to an evening viewing of the newly re-opened Colchester Castle by the Friends of Colchester Museums. Thirty-two Ipswich Friends, most of whom travelled on a bus organized by FoIM, attended on a very warm evening. I enjoyed seeing some extremely fine medieval items from the Ipswich collection which are on loan and the overall impression was very favourable, although some of us failed to get to grips with the interactive tablets. However, the interactive chariot race proved very popular!

Future Events

On Sat 12 July at 2 pm I will be doing a tour of the Mansion on the theme of "Wedding Gifts." This is a not-too-serious look at some of the items in the collection associated with marriage. On Sat 9 August at 2 pm, Joan Munns is leading a tour "Faces in the Mansion" talking a closer look at some of the portraits. The last in the series of Saturday themed tours at the Mansion is on Sat 13th Sept at 2 pm when Marjorie Carter will be taking a tour of the clock collection. Numbers are limited so please book via the Mansion on 433554.

On Wednesday 24 September, Robert Burlinson, one of our Mansion guides, who is also a Town Guide, is taking us on a walk through Ipswich to highlight the influence that the Priory, the Mansion and the Museum have had on

the town. We will finish up at Arlingtons for afternoon tea (details on page 9).

On 11 October, Paul Bruce will be holding a Study Session on one of our favourite Suffolk artists, Leonard Squirrell. Details on page 10.

Following a suggestion by Bill Seaman at the AGM, we will be arranging a "Behind the Scenes" visit to the reserve collection stores. Bob Entwistle, our expert conservator, probably knows the collections better than anyone and will take small groups of Friends on a visit to the stores, details in next newsletter .

A new website is being designed and don't forget we do have a facebook page, to which I occasionally add pictures, so check it out from time to time.

As usual, if anyone has suggestions for events or wishes to discuss the work of FoIM, please contact me on e-mail ericab@btinternet.com or leave a message at the Mansion.

Erica Burrows
FOIM Chairman



Wanted for April 2014

Membership Secretary

Duties: enrol new members, collect subscriptions, maintain a list of current members.

Please contact Barbara Cole if you would like to know more

Bill Seaman's Column

I was very pleased to see so many Ipswich Friends at a recent open evening at Colchester Castle organised by the Friends of Colchester Museums. It was good to be able to demonstrate the changes at the Castle and to discuss the opportunities to develop some of these ideas in the ambitious projects in Ipswich.

The first of these is the development of Ipswich Museum. We had very positive feedback from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the initial submission made to them in the Autumn and although their limited funding went to other projects this time we have been encouraged to submit a new application in November. It has been heartening to see the way the local press and people of Ipswich have rallied in support of their museum and the Friends have a vital role to play in gathering comments and building support in the community for their museum. This can be done via the Ipswich Borough Website— see box below for details.

A significant part of the development will be to integrate the Ipswich Art School into the rest of the High Street campus. *Once Upon A Time*, the exhibition of Children's art, was a great success with many very positive comments about both the exhibits and the venue which will inform future plans for the space.

Tidal Margins 3 is the current exhibition. This is a fascinating and engaging display of art, sculpture, poetry and prose inspired by the Suffolk Coast. I find it totally absorbing and it directly links me to the otherworldliness of East Anglia's vast and changing coastline. A perk of the job is that after I've battled through the flood of emails I can spend a few precious moments in this exhibition. If you haven't already I do recommend you see if it also works for you.

In the meantime at the Mansion we are preparing for a prestigious year-long display of Constable's major work *Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows* which will hang in the Wolsey Art Gallery from early February 2015 to January 2016 - Dates to be confirmed shortly. The work will be supported by a series of events throughout the year including the celebration of Constable's birthday on 11 June. Ipswich Museums are in a significant partnership with the Tate, National Museums of Wales, National Museums of Scotland and Salisbury Museum and this is a golden opportunity to raise the profile of the Mansion and its many treasures to a wider regional and national audience.

Bill Seaman
Museum Manager

To tell us your opinion use link:

<https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/high-street-campus-appeal-public-support?>

(note: the web site is under development and details may change)

George Rowe Seminar at Christchurch Mansion

11 May 2014



From L to R: Chloe Veale, Emma Roodhouse and Rowland Rhodes
Emma is holding the Rowe self portrait which Roland has just presented to her.

About 20 Friends enjoyed a fascinating talk by Chloe Veale about this under-appreciated 19th century artist, who lived most of his life in Woodbridge, and was a friend of Churchyard and Fitzgerald. Chloe has made a study of the artist and his work and has produced a book called “A Twilight Landscape” – a reference to the artist’s studies of scenes at dusk. John Day kindly lent several works from his own collection for display and afforded us a very generous offer to acquire a chalk sketch by Rowe for the Ipswich collection.

Rowe remained unmarried and on his death bequeathed his work to his sister, who was living in America. The collection ended up in the Putnam

Museum, Iowa, and was sold in 2008 to private collectors. The Rountree Tryon Galleries of London acquired a work by Rowe from the Iowa sale and made a surprise discovery of a pencil sketch self-portrait of the artist behind the frame, which Rowland Rhodes of Rountree Tryon brought along for us to view. We had a very pleasant surprise when Rowland generously presented it to the Ipswich collection at the end of the talk. The sketch shows Rowe with a look of concentration and aptly he almost seems to be emerging from the twilight. How appropriate that he is now back home.

Copies of Chloe’s book are available from the Mansion Shop.

Friends' Diary

DATE	EVENT	BOOKING
Sat 12 July 2 pm	Wedding Gifts Items in the collection related to marriage	£2 Mansion Reception Tel 01473 433554
Sat 9 August 2 pm	Faces in the Mansion Looking at Portraits	£2 Mansion Reception Tel 01473 433554
Sat 13 Sept 2 pm	The Mansion Clocks Tour of the clock collection at the Mansion (Heritage Day Event)	Free but must be booked Mansion Reception Tel 01473 433554
17 -19 Sept	Friends' Kentish Cornucopia 3 nights in Kent visiting Down House, Standen and Turner Contemporary	Already booked—some places still available—contact Jean Attenborrow
Sat 20 Sept 3 pm	Meet the Mansion Guides: informal chat for potential new guides Education Room Christchurch Mansion	Free: To book your place email ericab@btinternet.com
Wed 24 Sept 2 pm	Ipswich Town Walk With afternoon tea (booking form included)	Booking form enclosed £8
Sat 18 Oct 2 pm	Study Session Leonard Squirrell By Paul Bruce	Friends £5, others £7 Book via Mansion Tel: 01473 433554 Tea and biscuits included
Wed 5 Nov Noon	Lunchtime talk by Brian Jepson "Retired Architect goes Painting": Galley Restaurant, Woodbridge	Booking form enclosed £15



Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope when booking events by post

Jean Attenborrow can be contacted by e-mail or phone:
jattenborrow@hotmail.co.uk, phone: 01473 213025

Friends News

Friends Annual Events

The 2014 Christmas Party will be on 10 December.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting will be on 14 April.

Membership Secretary's Report

There have been 13 new Members since the last newsletter:-

Mrs J Hawkins Ms S Bruce
Mr D Cliffe Mr & Mrs B Cartwright
Mrs L Roper Ms C Kyle
 Mr & Mrs R Martin
 Mrs Heath & Family
 Mr & Mrs M Richardson
 Mr & Mrs P Bevan-Thomas
 Mr & Mrs R Perkins & Family
 Mr & Mrs Dominic & Lisa Wall
 Miss A Hoesl & Mr B Cooper

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

We now have 315 Members and 15 Corporate Members, a total of 330.

As several of you will know from my announcement at the AGM, I will be retiring after the next AGM, when I will have completed 20 years as Membership Secretary. I have enjoyed every minute of it, especially meeting and having contact with so many of you, but I feel that the time has come, as family commitments are taking up more

of my time. If anyone feels that they would be interested in the job, I will be happy to explain what it entails.

Barbara Cole
FOIM Membership Secretary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Special Tours with the Mansion Guides

Three special tours have been arranged with led by the Mansion Guides over the Summer months (see Diary page 9). Numbers will be limited, so booking is recommended— contact Mansion Reception (01473 433554).

The diary includes those tours already planned. More may be arranged before the Autumn Newsletter is distributed, please watch our Website and notices in Mansion.

Daily Tours with the Mansion Guides

A steady stream of visitors continue to enjoy the daily free tours at the Mansion. These will continue until Sun 2 November.

Leonard Squirrell Study Session : Sat 18 Oct at 2pm

Paul Bruce will be undertaking a study session on the highly acclaimed artist Leonard Squirrell on Saturday 18th.October at Christchurch Mansion.

Paul intends to discuss his life and works, including the Borough

collection and works from private collections. One of the features will include looking at early sketches which, several years later were used for his finished paintings.

The session will be open for discussion and any questions which may occur during the afternoon.



**Lunchtime Talk by Brian Jepson:
Wed 5 Nov 2014**

Brian, a retired architect, will be talking about his paintings, two of which are shown in colour on the back page. The talk will start at noon in the Galley Restaurant, Woodbridge and will be followed by lunch. A booking form is being distributed with this newsletter.

OBITUARIES

Norman Scarfe

1 May 1923 – 2 March 2014

The last FOIM holiday that Norman joined was our May 2008 visit to North Wales. I recall having a wide-ranging conversation with him standing on the bridge at Ironbridge, a stop-off as we travelled west. He had been a member for over 20 years and came with the Friends on visits to Dublin and Hull/

Leeds.

Norman, who died age 90, had a distinguished career as an historian and writer. Having been on the D-Day landings in 1944, his first book was a personal account of the events and for many years after he made annual visits to Normandy where he had fought. After the war, a medieval history degree from Magdalen College, Oxford, led him to a teaching post at the University of Leicester where local and regional history studies were being developed.

There he met Paul Fincham his partner for the next 60 years. They were active in the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, the Suffolk Records Society - of which Norman was a founder, and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. He also helped in the founding of the Museum of East Anglian Life. His distinctive writing style lent itself perfectly to his work on the Shell Guide to Suffolk and his later Guides to Essex and Cambridgeshire. In 1994. Norman was appointed MBE for services to the history and culture of Suffolk.



In 1991, while researching his translation of the 18th century diaries of the young French aristocrats Francois de la Rochefoucauld and his brother, Norman and Paul stayed with Jeremy and me in Liverpool – long before we ever thought we might come to live in Suffolk ourselves. We had the pleasure of taking them to see some of the landmarks visited by the Frenchmen in Liverpool and Lancashire.

Alan Swerdlow

David Kergon

We were very saddened to hear of the death of David Kergon on 20 May. David was a volunteer guide and “greeter” at the Mansion for several years and served on The Friends’ Committee as Treasurer. He also had the important role of procuring and serving the wine for the Friends Christmas party – thus always ensuring a convivial atmosphere!



David after winning the 1968 Seaman Historic Trophy Race

One of his great passions was racing

and motor vehicles. David and his friend Bill Morris were both apprentices at Smiths Industries in London when they discovered that a famous ERA car that had apparently been owned by a Thai Prince was for sale. Though it had been dismantled, and was in Africa, they reimported and restored it, and successfully raced the car for many years. A book about their exploits was published in 2011.

David had a particular interest in the Suffolk connections with Jamestown, USA and Bartholomew Gosnold, who founded the first settlement at Jamestown. He had a long association with Otley Hall (once the seat of the Gosnold family). He first visited it in the 1970s, and subsequently worked for one of the previous owners, who ran his business from the Hall. This entailed travelling to some interesting and far flung places for the company. Ian Beaumont, the current owner of Otley Hall, wrote the following:

David returned to the Hall as a guide in 2008 and worked regularly for us until his last tour at Christmas 2013. His love of the Hall and his long association with it shone through on every tour he led. Easy going, dapper, charming and always with a twinkle in his eye, visitors frequently remarked on how much they had enjoyed their tour with him. I’m sure they would have been amazed to see him, after the tour, donning his motorcycle leathers, mounting a substantial bike and roaring away down Hall Lane – and always with a spare

piece of cake tucked in a pocket for later. We will miss him greatly.

He was a gentleman, generous with his time, always amiable, and with a good story. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Gina and his family.

Erica Burrows

Our Website

Jerry Latham our Web Editor is currently undertaking a redesign of our web site (www.foim.org.uk). He would like to know your views on any improvements you would like to see to make the site more useful and attractive to existing and potential members.

Please remember to tell us your e-mail address if you want to be kept informed. Your comments are always welcome on any aspects of the various services we offer.

Vacancies for Guides

Have you ever thought of becoming a volunteer guide at Christchurch Mansion?

At present there are some vacancies in the team. If you are thinking of applying and would like to know more about what we do, come and meet the Mansion Guides on Sat 20 September 3 pm at Christchurch Mansion for a cup of tea and informal chat.

Book Review: The Painted Closet of Lady Anne Bacon Drury,

H.L Meakin, Ashgate Publishers, £70, 328pp, ISBN 978-0-7546-6397-3

Visitors to the tiny painted Hawstead Room in Christchurch Mansion find themselves in a panelled chamber, which is a very rare example of early 17th century domestic decorative architecture.

At its creative heart, is Lady Anne Bacon Drury. Rich, highly educated and very well connected, Anne married her father's ward, Robert Drury, and lived near Bury St. Edmunds in Hawstead House and subsequently in Hardwick Hall until her death in 1624. This 'painted closet', a private room next to her bedchamber, is a visual commonplace book of '*rare intellectual sophistication*'. The Latin mottos, which support each picture and group of

panels, are clear indications of a woman to whom classical literature was perfectly familiar.

The images, derived from classical, biblical and the then popular emblem books, may seem surreal to the modern eye.

However, in this fascinating book, probable political and religious subversive messages are revealed. Criticism of James I and anti-Catholic comment mingle with philosophical thinking and the contemporary view of smoking tobacco. All jostle for space in this series of vibrant naïve painted panels. '*Little windowsto be selected by her [Anne Drury's] eye as she looks*

up from writing or reading’.

The room retains some of its secrets. Professor Meakin is honest in the need for occasional further examination and she has reserved work on the plant images for a future publication. This, however, is an important and definitive

study of a very special room.

It is an expensive book, but if you can access a copy, sit back and immerse yourself in the mind of a remarkable seventeenth century lady.

Joan Munns

The British Association of Friends of Museums Conference at Christchurch Mansion, 14 April 2014

Since retiring as FoIM Chairman, Alan Swerdlow has been appointed for a second term as area co-ordinator for BAfM South East – Eastern Counties: Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. He set up an area day conference at Christchurch Mansion on 14 April, courtesy of CIMS.

Thirty delegates attended from across the region. The programme provided inspiration to help Friends’ groups develop and extend their work, influence and activities.

Members were welcomed by Erica Burrows and Jayne Austin. Speakers included Jean Knight from BAfM Council, Amy Cotterill, Museum Development Officer for Essex County Council, and Stuart Hopley, Development Manager, Heritage Lottery Fund East of England. A session on learning and professional development was led by Dr Ian Baxter, Head of Suffolk Business School, and Dr Geraint Coles, Lecturer in Heritage Management &

Cultural Tourism, both from University Campus Suffolk.

After a sandwich lunch, provided by the Mansion café, guided tours of the collections were provided by FoIM guides. Alan gave an illustrated talk about trips and holidays as a way to involve members and raise funds based on the years he arranged these events for FoIM.

Jean Knight lead a discussion covering such topics as why so few groups attend the BAfM annual conferences, how to recruit committee members and attracting volunteers – particularly young people.



Herman Van der Mijn and His Family

This is the third of a series of articles contributed by Adrian Parry, in which he summarises the research he has done on the Leathes picture collection at Christchurch Mansion. This article is about the artist Herman Van der Mijn's from whom William Leathes commissioned paintings.

[For those readers unfamiliar with Herman Van der Mijn's paintings, descriptions are given on pages 16-17]

In this article, I will be using the correct spelling of the family name, not the form currently used. It is MIJN not MYN. Dr A. Staring, writing to Pat Butler in the 1960s, gives his first name as Heroman not Herman, but I will continue to use the latter name because it is the one in general use.

Herman Van der Mijn (1684-1741), the son of a clergyman, was born in Amsterdam. He was originally intended for the Church but preferred painting, and was placed with Ernst Van Stuyen (1657-1712), a flower painter. Herman's main interest was portraiture and history, however. He is known to have painted more than twenty paintings for William Leathes, though some of them may have been by one of his sons.

He is known to have been in Antwerp in 1712. In 1716 he was summoned to the court of the Elector Palatine in Dusseldorf, where he spent some time. He went to Paris in 1718, but was back in Antwerp by 1720. He and his family and his sister Agatha, who was a still-life artist, came to England in 1722 or 1723.

No mention is made of his wife, but apparently there were eight children, all of whom were artists.

I know of only six:

1. Gebhardt (Gerard): Born 1706. Worked in London and Amsterdam.
2. Cornelia: Born 1710. Painted portraits and flowers.
3. Andreas: Born 1714. Resided for some time in London. Exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1764 and 1768.
4. Frans: Born 1719 in Amsterdam. Portrait painter, but after a period of work in his native country, he came to London where he practised for many years. Died in London 20th August 1783. There are, incidentally, four portraits from another source attributed to Frans in the Ipswich collection.
5. Joris (George): Born in London in 1723. After the death of his father, he went to Amsterdam where he painted small portraits and genre pieces.
6. Robert; Born 1724 in London. Painter of portraits, landscapes, and fruit and flower pieces.

Andreas, Cornelia Frans and Robert all exhibited at the Free Society of Artists in London in the 1760s.

Adrian Parry

Sources

Benezit Dictionary of Artists, English edition, 14 vols (Paris: Editions Gründ, 2006)

Bryan's Dictionary of Painters and Engravers, revised by George Williamson, 5 vols (London: G. Bell, 1920)

Five Paintings by Herman van der Mijn at the Mansion

These notes have been extracted from the catalogue issued when all the pictures acquired from the Leathes Collection were displayed together in February and March 1992. All the paintings are currently on display in the Queen Anne Room.

The five paintings form a group depicting female love and chastity.

VENUS AND CUPID (two Versions)



In Greco-Roman mythology, Venus, goddess of love and fertility, was mother of Cupid, the god of love, passion and desire.

The first picture (illustrated) shows the motherhood of Venus and her watchfulness over her sleeping child. Cupid represents desire, which is dormant in naked innocence, but love

itself is kept awake by the torch which Venus holds, and which illuminates the inner regions of the bedchamber. The flowers in Cupid's hand are probably rose and myrtle, symptoms of Venus' love.

In the second smaller picture with the same title, Cupid is awake and the two embrace tenderly, signifying chaste or modest relationships. The embrace is a greeting, for Venus has been conveyed to Cupid in her gilded and draped chariot. The chariot itself is surrounded by misty clouds, to signify that it is invisible to human sight, and the two swans which have drawn it through the air are shown resting from their flight. A distant landscape shows the coming dawn when Venus appears as the morning star.

DANAE

Danae is shown in her bedchamber, as the golden rain falls from the roof into her lap. Her attendant, an old woman, holds out her apron to catch the gold. The fruit and the jewelled vessel in the foreground signify fertility of the union of Jupiter and Danae; the overall image is

of a divine and chaste conception.

In Greek mythology, Danae was the daughter of Acrisius, King of Argos. It was prophesied that Acrisius would be killed by his own grandson, and so he had Danae locked in a bronze tower to keep her lovers away. But Jupiter came to Danae in the form of a shower of golden rain, and lay with her. Their child was Perseus (slayer of the Medusa) who accidentally killed his grandfather with a discus. (*Ovid, Metamorphoses, IV*)

TAMAR AND AMNON

Tamar is shown bringing the cakes to Amnon, who is declaring his love for her. Tamar's dress of varied colours signified that she was a royal princess and virgin. The picture symbolises virginity in danger and highlights the innocence of the maiden in the fate which is about to befall her.

Amnon loved his half-sister Tamar. Both were children of King David of Israel. In order to possess her, Amnon pretended to be sick, and asked that she should bring his food to the bedchamber. Tamar took in two cakes which she had made, and despite her resistance,

Amnon raped her and drove her out of his house in hatred. (II Samuel, XIII, v 1-19)

DEATH OF SOPHONISBA

Sophonisba is shown on her deathbed surrounded by her husband's courtiers and her personal attendants. She has already drunk the poison and is dying.

In the background, a figure, perhaps Massinissa, peers out into the scene. Below the bed, a "putto" or Cupid-figure holds a flower which has lost most of its petals, to signify the fatal duty of her love.

Sophonisba was the daughter of Hasdrubal, a general of Carthage, which was at war with Rome. She married a prince of Numidia (an ally of Rome) and persuaded him to break off his allegiance to Rome. Another Numidian leader, Massinissa, captured her and was married to her. The Roman general Scipio demanded that she be sent to Rome as a prisoner; but instead Massinissa sent her a cup of poison which she drank, preferring to die than surrender to Scipio. (*Livy, Histories, XXX*)



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

tel: 01473 343390

email: info@ryan-group.co.uk

Crane Hall London Road Ipswich IP2 0AL

www.ryan-group.co.uk

Conservation Corner

Bob Entwistle tells us recent work which has been done on the clock collection, an ancient serpent and preparation for future displays.

Three Clocks

Recently the museum was happy to receive the donation of a long case clock by Samuel Cansdale of Ipswich (active 1825 -1857). The clock had been overwound. The workings were dirty, and the finial decoration was missing from the top.

For many years the museum has been fortunate to have the support of Edward Manson from Woodbridge and his friend David Samways from Ipswich. The former is a clock maker and restorer and the latter an engineer. They have both collaborated on projects for the museum and given their time pro-bono.

Edward cleaned and repaired the workings and the pendulum which was bent and broken. The workings were returned and replaced in full working order. Then Edward asked a friend of his about the finial decoration. His friend, persuaded by Edward and at no charge to the museum, made new finials for the clock.

Earlier in the year

without finials

The Cansdale clock with new finials



and due to all the heavy rain, part of the roof collapsed in the museum. Although the collapse was small a large chunk of the internal cornice fell from the ceiling and hit our Robert Ransome clock. This clock came from the Ransome works and must have been used by the workforce to regulate their breaks and knocking off times. It had been in the Mansion stores for many years and was in a very dirty condition. Edward and David restored the clock and its case when it was initially brought over to the museum for display.



When I told David and Edward the clock had been damaged, they offered to repair it. Luckily or unluckily, depending on your point of view, since the damage had been caused by an accident, it was covered by insurance. The small amount that was offered covered the repairs. The clock case had been damaged, the glass cover had been broken, and the door bent and the dial had moved. David and Edward came to the museum and repaired the clock in situ. It is now ticking, but very very quietly, in the corner of the Victorian Ipswich Gallery near to the clock by

Cansdale .

One last clock tale is the original clock used at the Museum Reception Area. The clock, made by Read of Ipswich had been ticking away in the museum from at least 1888, possibly earlier in the old museum. It was put into store and replaced by a plastic clock in the 1970s.

After having the front hall re-decorated, I thought it was about time it was



returned to its rightful place. Edward again volunteered to repair the clock. Repairing the broken catch (which had been closed with a large chunk of putty) and cleaning the works. The clock is now one of the first things seen by visitors to the museum and it is still keeping accurate time, just as it did in 1888. No batteries needed.

..and a Serpent

The museum has quite a few musical instruments in its collections. Some are sort of “extinct”. Our serpent is one of them. They were to be found in church

bands from the 1600’s but fell out of fashion in the early 19th Century.

The church, where it used to be played, is celebrating a significant anniversary in

July and has asked for it back for a one day loan.

The Serpent is made from wood with brass keys and an ivory mouthpiece with ivory decoration. Although in a good condition such a lovely old instrument deserved to be treated with a bit more respect.

It came to the lab and was cleaned by the volunteers. I consolidated the friable surface and the interns Caleb and Hilary, helped by Carrie from the front of house made it a box to travel in and for future storage. The box is made from Correx fluted plastic, and the serpent is held in place with specially cut Plastazote inert foam.

Current Work

At the moment we are cleaning objects for our Great War exhibition and gearing up for an exhibition of fashion accessories in the Mansion from late August.



Robert Entwistle

Senior Conservation Officer

The Memorial Garden - First Year Report.



Above: Bamboo everywhere

Left: Sheila clears ivy

Right: Mary removes bamboo



Mary Halliwell and I have just completed our first year of restoration in the memorial garden. Three sides of the garden have been cleared of ivy. Mary has conducted a concerted attack on the invasive roots of the bamboos and I have removed the invasive Alkanet plants although I have had to remove the seedlings on a weekly basis! We have replanted shrubs which appeared on the original planting plan but had disappeared during the years of neglect. Other plants have been introduced to give more colour, particularly daffodils which gave a wonderful display in the spring.

Our next big task is to remove the ivy from the bed nearest the road which will greatly add to the already large number of bags of rubbish we have removed - approximately forty so far! We look forward to the next year.....onwards and upwards!

Sheila Brooks



It's
not too
late to
apply..

Suffolk New College offers a wide range of academic and work related training opportunities including vocational programmes, AS/A levels and Apprenticeships in an adult learning environment with state-of-the-art equipment & resources located in central Ipswich.

www.suffolk.ac.uk

Report of the 2014 AGM

Our 2014 AGM was held at Christchurch Mansion on 8 April 2014. This brief report is included in the Newsletter for those unable to be present. A full report will be circulated with the papers for the 2015 AGM.

The President and 40 members of FoIM were present, together with Bill Seaman, Philip Wise and Jayne Austin, of Colchester & Ipswich Museums Service, and John Devlin of Ipswich Borough Council. There were nine apologies for absence.

The minutes of the AGM of 9 April 2013 were approved with no matters arising.

The Chairman, Erica Burrows said her full report was printed in the Notice papers for the meeting. There were no questions from the floor.

Copies of the **Trustees' report and the annual accounts** for the year ending 31 December 2013 were circulated before the meeting. The Treasurer, Peter Stockdale, presented the accounts. He gave details of the receipts and payments for the year which resulted in an increase of about £2,000 in the balance. Ken Wilson, the Independent Examiner had previously signed off the accounts and has agreed to continue as Independent Examiner for the next year.

Barbara Cole presented her Membership Secretary's report saying that the number of members is down slightly on last year. She asked everyone to always be alert to all opportunities to recruit new members. She announced that after 20 years as

Membership Secretary she intends to retire at the next AGM.

Bill Seaman (CIMS): reported that it had been incredibly busy year. The High Street development, while uppermost, is not the only matter consuming his time. He explained that a model of the High Street site (on show at the AGM) has been most useful in giving an understanding of the project, a prime object of which is to allow more items to be accessible.

He mentioned the importance of caring about "the here and now" and CIMS are acting on this. He cited the newly decorated toilets as a good example. The museum stores are quite exceptional and he invited FoIM to arrange a tour sometime in the future. The "Unlocked" Project is using the collection in new ways.

He praised the "Once Upon A Time exhibition" in the Art School as a great success. The Art School is not an easy space to use.

Finally he mentioned the opening of



Colchester Castle Museum after its major redevelopment project, which has been a very valuable experience for the CIMS team.

President's Address:

Gay Strutt congratulated Erica on her successful first year as Chairman. She is encouraged by the obvious good rapport between FoIM and CIMS. Finally she thanked the committee for their work on behalf of FoIM.

The **Election of Officers and Committee Members** resulted in two changes since the 2013 AGM: John Lapsley replaced Jerry Latham as Vice-

Chairman and Joan Munns did not stand for re-election. The elections were proposed 'en bloc' by John Day, seconded by Geraldine Patey and approved by the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.06 pm and was followed by two presentations from museum staff.

Jayne Austin talked about the High Street Campus Project and Philip Wise gave a talk about the archaeological finds from the lost Anglo Saxon royal palace at Rendlesham. Philip is working on plans for the museum to acquire two further objects from the finds.



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

tel: 01473 343390

email: info@ryan-group.co.uk

Crane Hall London Road Ipswich IP2 0AL

www.ryan-group.co.uk

Our Corporate Members

Barnes Construction
Belvedere Reproductions Ltd
Dummett Copp
Gough Hotel Group
Glasswells
Ipswich Building Society
Ipswich High School for Girls
Kersey Solicitors

Linden Muzik
Ryan Insurance Group
Suffolk New College
The Dove Street Inn
The Ipswich School
Watson & Hillhouse
W D Coe Ltd

The FOIM Committee 2014-2015

President:	Gay Strutt
Vice President:	Paul Bruce
Chairman:	Erica Burrows
Vice-Chairman:	John Lapsley
Secretary:	Gary Butler
Treasurer:	Peter Stockdale
Membership Secretary:	Barbara Cole
Newsletter Editor:	Mary Halliwell
Members:	Sheila Brooks, Jerry Latham Kathleen Daniel, Jean Attenborrow
IAA Rep:	Ferial Evans Rogers
Ipswich Society Rep:	Ken Wilson
Ex-officio Member:	Bill Seaman, Museum Service Manager

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



NEXT BEER FESTIVAL
AUGUST...WED 27th to SUN 31st
OVER 60 BEERS + CIDERS +KAREN'S BBQ

OPEN EVERY DAY FROM MIDDAY
HOME COOKED FOOD AVAILABLE UNTIL LATE !
5 MINS FROM REGENT THEATRE...
IDEAL FOR PRE SHOW REFRESHMENTS
LARGE NON SMOKING BEER GARDEN
SUMMER BBQ's

MONDAY STEAK NIGHT
4.30pm—9.30pm
8oz RUMP STEAK or CHICKEN FILLET.
Served with chips, peas, onion rings,
salad and mushrooms.
ONE MEAL £8.95....
TWO OR MORE....£7.50 A MEAL !

Tel : 01473 211270 76 St.Helen's St. Ipswich
www.dovestreetinn.co.uk

Membership Details

Membership rates are:

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

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.

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.

In this issue:



The Museum Garden from High Street, see page 20

Looking after the Serpent, see page 19



Willy's Lot and East Coast by Brian Jepson, see page 11



www.foim.org.uk

check out the Friends of Ipswich Museums on facebook

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