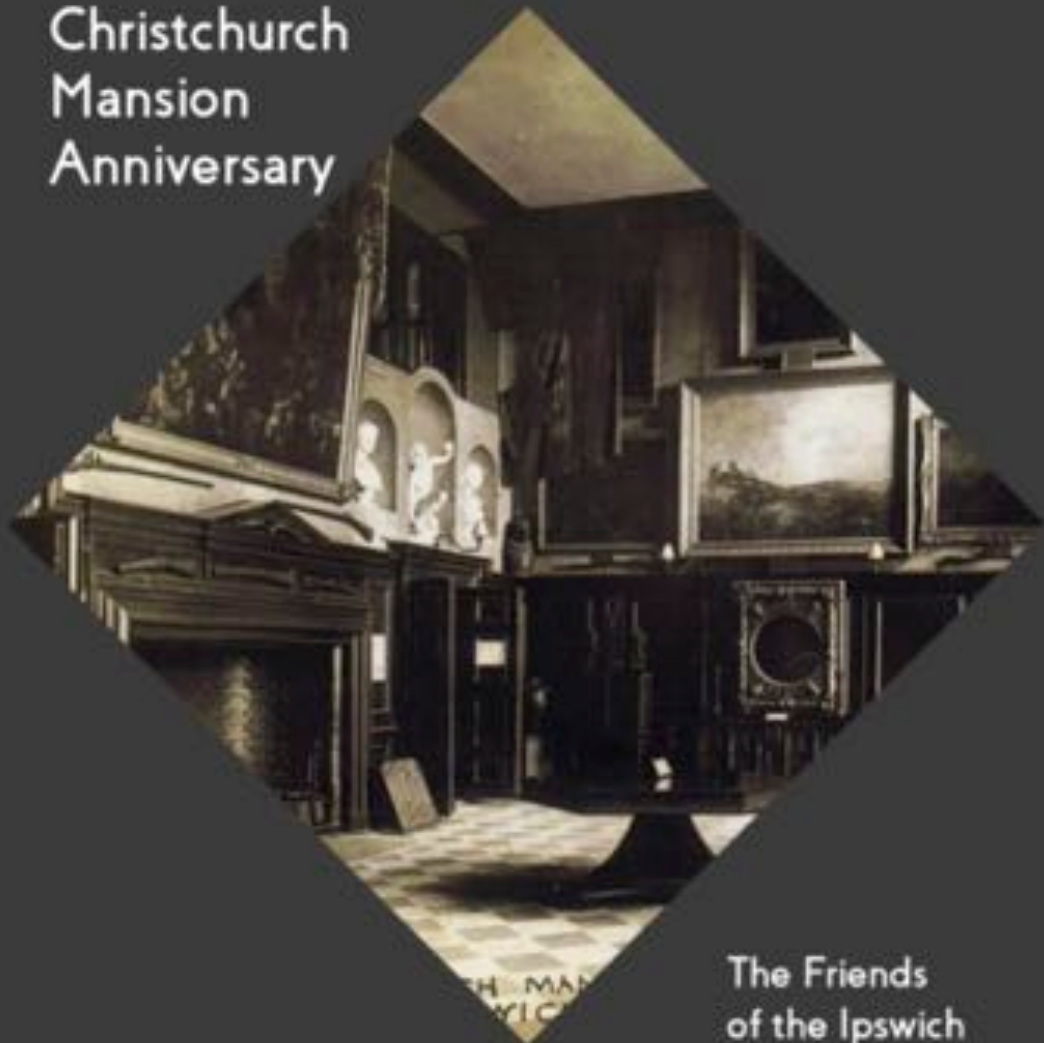




Newsletter
Spring 2020

Christchurch
Mansion
Anniversary



The Friends
of the Ipswich
Museums

We look Forward to
Promote the Past

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our spring newsletter!

It is a sign of a flourishing organization when, rather than desperately searching around for material to fill a newsletter's pages, there is just too much, and items have to be laid aside. Well, we are in that lucky situation now. It has been a busy few months for the Friends, with a number of popular and enjoyable events (see p8 for more on our Museum store visit). Your committee has been planning a busy programme for the coming year (p.14) starting on 25 March with a beautiful film showcasing the artists (old and new) of the Stour Valley. Of course big news in the past couple of weeks has been the announcement that the *Antiques Roadshow* will be filmed in front of the Mansion in July – a venue suggested to the BBC's Fiona Bruce by the FoIM's very own Paul Bruce!

We are resurrecting our *Acquisition Angels* campaign to save a beautiful item of 18th-century clothing from the Museum's collections that won't

survive without your help (p.21). Please do what you can to enable this exquisite item to join the *Unmasked* exhibition in the summer (p11).

We have recently helped CIMS with an important acquisition, of which there will be more news at our AGM on 6 May. We hope you can come along that evening to find out more about what we have done over the past year, and what we plan to do in the coming months to look to the future to promote the past.

Richard Wilson

Contents

- 3 The Mansion at 125
- 7 New members welcome
- 8 Museum Store visit
- 11 The power of stories
- 13 Mansion guides
- 14 Future events
- 18 Event booking slips
- 19 News from our Museums
- 21 Costume conservation
- 23 Antiques Roadshow
- 25 Dangerous frisbee

Cover image: The Great Hall of the Mansion, c.1911.

See p3

Landmark Anniversary

Richard Wilson celebrates Christchurch Mansion – a “Town” house for 125 years

While the structure is much older of course, the Mansion marked an important birthday on 23 February when it turned 125 years old as a landmark building belonging to the town of Ipswich and the people of Suffolk.

At the end of the 19th century it seemed as though the

Christchurch estate would all be sold off for housing. It had been placed on the market after the Fonnereau family had left in 1892, but the townsfolk voted against an opportunity to take over ownership. In 1894 it was for sale again and this time it was sold for £36,000 to a property syndicate. In June of



The ivy-clad Mansion

the same year the first plots on Bolton Lane were sold by auction and a number of houses quickly built there. Land on Park Road soon followed suit.

The future of the Mansion itself was uncertain. It was in a bad state, covered in ivy and neglected since the Fonnereaus had departed. But help was at hand. In 1894 local businessman Felix Cobbold stepped in and bought the Mansion from the syndicate to save it from demolition. On 23 October Cobbold wrote to the Corporation and offered it “as a free gift” to the town as long as “the main structure of the House be preserved in its integrity, and that in adapting the building to such purposes as the town may decide, the internal fittings, by which I mean the wainscotting of the Hall, and of the principal rooms and passages, the marble pavement of the Hall, and the main staircase, be retained as far as practicable.”

Cobbold’s offer was also conditional on the Corporation buying the surrounding parkland for the people of Ipswich. It may not be surprising that it took him three attempts to get them to agree, but perhaps the townspeople had begun to realise what they might be about to lose. In February 1895 Cobbold transferred the Mansion to the town, and in April the Corporation finally bought the central portion of the park (consisting of 51 acres) from the syndicate at a cost of £16,250.

However it wasn’t immediately obvious what should be done with the building. Its redevelopment was placed in the hands of two local men, architect John Shewell Corder and Frank Woolnough who since 1893 had been curator of the Ipswich Museum. As Woolnough reported in his 1902 *A Short History of the Mansion and Estate of Christchurch, Ipswich*, “Just at



*Frank Woolnough by
F.G. Cotman*

this time, however, the Borough Technical Instruction Committee, whose classes were so rapidly growing, were in straits to provide room for extension at the Schools in the Museum Buildings in High Street, and application was made to the Corporation for permission to utilize the... building for the purposes of Technical and Scientific Education. The rooms being numerous and of fine proportions, this was easily

manageable... The Mansion was put in thorough repair, and very little structural alteration was found necessary...

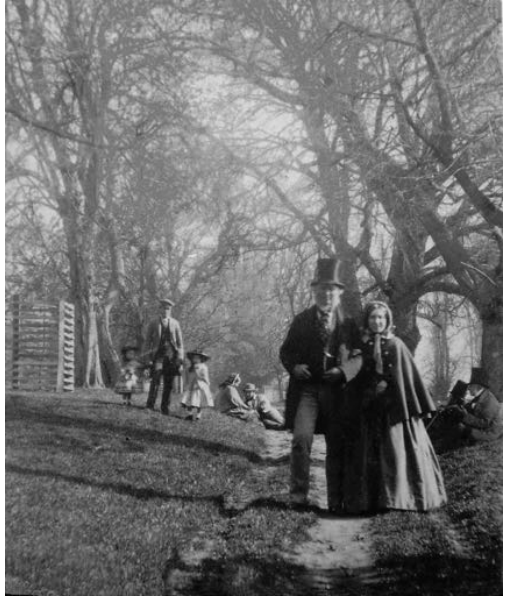
To the Engineering Classes, the most important in the school, four rooms have been apportioned, one being fitted as a Lecture Room, two for drawing purposes, and the remaining one as a practical Laboratory for demonstration and practice of Mechanics.

Other rooms were allotted for classes in Physiography, Botany, Hygiene, Physiology and Mathematics, and a Practical Physical Laboratory was fully equipped for Magnetism and Electricity, and Sound, Light and Heat as far as the advanced stages...

The large kitchen, with its adjacent offices, has been fitted with all the requisite appliances for a modern School of Cookery. Cooking range, cottage range, gas ovens, and gas-fitted demonstration bench enable the subject to be treated so as

to teach from the most economical form of artizan [sic] cookery to the highest class..."

But the Mansion wasn't just a technical school. As Woolnough continues, *"An endeavour was then made to furnish the Entrance Hall and the large rooms of the East wing as Picture Galleries, and on application being made to many of the townspeople interested in art, a number of valuable pictures were soon got together. The Committee have purchased at various times paintings which are records of buildings and parts of Ipswich which have now disappeared owing to the necessity for wider streets and improved accommodation for the ever increasing traffic and business of the town. It is hoped as time goes on that examples of all the Suffolk artists will be obtained. Amongst those already represented are Gainsborough, Henry Bright, F. G. Cotman, W. R.*



The Main Avenue in Christchurch Park c.1857 from The Burrows Collection, courtesy of SRO and Stuart Grimwade

Symonds, Fred Russell, Cleveley, Frost, &c.,... Various legacies have also been left to the town, and loan collections are occasionally on view from South Kensington Museum or the National Gallery." Those "various legacies" included £20,000 (equivalent to over £2m now) from Cobbold himself for the purchase of artworks. Some of the

Cobbold bequest remains and is still occasionally called upon to help purchase items for the Mansion.

The galleries were now “open free to the public” and the kernel of the Mansion as we know it today was in place. The enlargement of the fine and decorative art and furniture collections continued under Woolnough’s successor, Guy Maynard (1920-1952), while the Gainsborough Bicentenary Exhibition of 1927 (which also included works by Constable and George Frost) showcased the Mansion as home to a

collection of national importance. The structure was enlarged in 1924 with the addition of an entire wing rescued from the demolition of a Tudor merchant's house, and the Wolsey Art Gallery was added in 1932.

I imagine that Cobbold, Woolnough and Corder would have delighted in the transformation of the Mansion into the extraordinary museum it is today. The arrival of the *Antiques Roadshow* this summer will be a fitting celebration of their collective vision.

New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members. We very much look forward to seeing you at one of our forthcoming events:

Margaret & Alan Fairhead
Mary Anne Ellison & Steve Hooper
Thaddeus & Cindy Hosley
Wendy & Paul Lefort

Christina McKenzie
Ann Richards
Peter & Gillian Wakefield

Jean Attenborrow
Membership Secretary

A Treat in Store

Richard Wilson reports on The Friends' Museum Store visit, and lunch at Ipswich Town Football Club

In November we were privileged to have behind the scenes access to the Museums' external storage facility near the football ground, and enjoy lunch in the Sponsors' Lounge overlooking the iconic Portman Road pitch.

With numbers at the store strictly limited to 12 at a time, two tours were arranged, one before and another after lunch. Following on from our earlier fascinating visit to the Museums' costume repository, this was a very special



Lunch at Portman Road



Archaeology

opportunity to view the store that for some years has housed thousands of objects – many of them geological and architectural – that are not usually on display to the public. Our group, sporting specially purchased high vis jackets, was blessed to have both Anna Mercer (Senior Collections and Learning Curator) and Isobel Keith (Collections Information Officer) on hand to give us a history of the store and guide us through the various collections. A stimulating conversation was had over the challenges facing museums



A tour group with Anna Mercer and Isobel Keith

charged with storing items that may have huge historical or artistic merit yet are logistically difficult to display.

The football club looked after us brilliantly, with a warm welcome, fine food, and a memorable view over the famous greensward from the comfortable Sponsors' Lounge. Philip Hope Cobbold gave us a lively insight into his family's close connections with

the club dating back to its very earliest days, and our chairman gave a quick history of a particular nineteenth-century connection between Christchurch Park and the establishment of Portman Road as the centre for sporting activity in the town.

We are most grateful to all the members of the CIMS team who made this visit possible.



Under wraps: a panoramic view of items in the store collection

UNMASKED

THE POWER OF STORIES

Melanie Hollis, Collections and Learning Curator, introduces the upcoming Black Panther exhibition

In 2018, ©MARVEL Studios' Black Panther movie hit the cinemas and had a huge impact on millions of people across the globe. An example of its legendary brand of storytelling, it signalled a watershed moment in representation against a polarising political backdrop.

From 4 July 2020 to 31 January 2021, Colchester + Ipswich Museums will host the first ever UK museum display to feature the costumes of three main characters – Black Panther, Shuri and Okoye – and encourage visitors to explore the power of storytelling through

museum collections. We'll be drawing on objects from across the museum collections, including art, world cultures and local history.

We want to celebrate a variety of storytelling traditions from across the globe; to broaden the range of people who visit and engage with Christchurch Mansion; and to inspire our young people to find ways to tell their own stories. We hope to start conversations about what we consider 'culture' to be and how this affects how we view each other.

The exhibition will leave visitors with a key message:

Stories have the power to both unite and divide us.

The theme of the exhibition is how stories have been used by humans: stories are used to keep cultures and history alive; humans often leave out perspectives or important points to achieve their aims; stories are used to influence thought and behaviour, for both good and bad purposes.

Displays will explore three main topics:

- Black Panther: The film, the comic, the social context. The historic museum collections which are referenced in the film will be displayed alongside a re-telling of the story of the development of the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality/ISCRE.
- Comics as a form of storytelling: their unique

techniques, the power they hold, and the characters and themes that comics have addressed over the years.

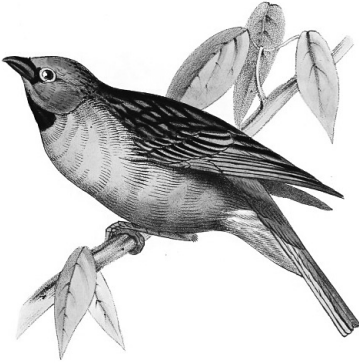
- Museum collections which reflect ways of storytelling, including British children's books, First Nations totem poles, Javanese shadow puppets and costumes from various contexts.

Our approach is quite different from many major exhibitions we've done in the past. We are working together with our local community in several ways to ensure that multiple perspectives are woven into the stories we tell.

We hope that the connection to such a significant global phenomenon will help many visitors to find new relevance in the museum collections. We intend for this exhibition and associated activities to be produced with and for families, teenagers and BAME communities.



FIREBRAND CREATIVE



Design & Brand

www.firebrandcreative.com

The **Mansion Guides** are starting the daily short tours “A Peep into the Past” on 1 March, Tues – Sat at 11am and Sundays at 2pm. These free introductions to the story of the Mansion will run through until the end of October. They are aimed at individuals and small groups but bigger groups can book their own tour at a time to suit via www.foim.org.uk. Is there something you've always wanted to know about the Mansion or the collections? Come and ask a Mansion guide and if we don't know the answer, we will certainly find out!

Ian Waite, our newest guide, will be joining the rota this season. We welcome him to the Guides' team. If you think you would like to become a guide, contact Erica on ericab@btinternet.com

EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL ART CENTRE

48 High Street, Market Square, Wickham Market, Nr. Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 0QS
01728 747050 eatac.co.uk 07960 274139

- Services offered:
- Research into East Anglian Painters working 1750 - 1950
 - Paintings investigated, analysed, assessed and authenticated
 - Valuations for Insurance, Probate, Family Division
 - Client Sales Service - we can maximise your return when selling
 - Cleaning and Restoration of oil paintings and watercolours.

Please contact John Day for complimentary advice.

Future Events, Talks & Exhibitions

For the latest information about all FoIM events, please visit our website: www.foim.org.uk

When booking for events (but **NOT** the lecture on 2 July – see details below), please use the appropriate booking slip (on page 18) and return with your payment (cheques payable to “FoIM”) to Jean Attenborrow, 3 Holly Road, Ipswich, IP1 3QN. Alternatively you can pay by bank transfer to: **Friends of the Ipswich Museums, Co-op Bank**, Account Number **65886997**, Sort Code **08-92-99** using your name as the reference and ensuring that you have confirmed your booking by emailing Jean at jattenborrow@hotmail.co.uk.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER!

Wednesday, 25 March – *Stour Surrounding*: Film Screening

6.30pm for 7pm at Christchurch Mansion

£6 for members, £8 for guests, to include refreshments

“*Stour Surrounding*” – *Artists and the Valley* is a documentary film that takes a look at artists both past and present who have responded to the landscape of the Stour Valley. In the film we hear how this special landscape – of Constable, Gainsborough, Morris and Munnings – continues to shape and speak to the work of contemporary artists today. Moving between studio interviews and beautiful footage across the valley we hear from painter and sculptor Maggi Hambling who speaks of “absorbing” the landscape, and from Simon Carter, May Cornet and several others who talk expressively about how they respond to the Stour Valley and landscape in their own individual ways.

Other contemporary artists featured include Michael Carlo, Chris Dobrowolski, Freddie Robins, Alex Robbins, Charlotte Verity and Andrew Vass. Other significant artists from the past include Peter Coker and Blair Hughes-Stanton. The film was commissioned by the “Improving the Stour Valley for Visitors” project, which is hosted by the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and is funded by The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Its creator, artist and gardener Jevan Watkins Jones will present the film. Jevan lives and works in Suffolk and is an alumnus of The Prince’s Drawing School (now the Royal Drawing School), receiving The Arts Club first prize for The Drawing Year, 2009-10.

His own recent exhibitions have included *facing-recovering*, a dialogistic drawing project with wounded and injured soldiers, *Occupied with Plants*, a project in conjunction with the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Essex for Art Exchange, and *Green Interlude* at Aldeburgh Lookout.

Wednesday, 15 April – Talk by John Sheeran

6.30pm for 7pm at Christchurch Mansion

£6 for members, £8 for guests, to include refreshments

To mark the end of the Ed Sheeran: Made in Suffolk exhibition, we are hosting a talk by his father (and the exhibition’s curator) about his life in the art world. John was appointed curator of the Dulwich Picture Gallery at the age of 22, and he subsequently oversaw the United Nations’ Millennium Art Exhibition in New York and Travels with the Prince, a high-profile exhibition at Hampton Court for Prince Charles’s 50th birthday.

An expert art historian and an entertaining speaker, John will share his insights from his many years in the art world and give us a personal view on the exhibition focusing on his son that has proved such a hit over the past months.

Wednesday, 6 May – Annual General Meeting

7pm for 7.30pm at Christchurch Mansion

Refreshments (coffee, tea and biscuits) will be available. Free, no booking required.

Members are encouraged to attend our Annual General Meeting to hear about our activities, discover how we've been supporting the Museums, and help us to shape our future. Minutes of last year's AGM are available on request by emailing contact@foim.org.uk

After the business part of the evening, Eleanor Root, Collections and Learning Curator (Community), will be discussing *Unmasked – The Power of Stories*, the next major exhibition to open at Christchurch Mansion this summer. *Unmasked* will celebrate storytelling traditions from across the globe, inspiring Ipswich's young people to find ways to tell their own stories, and broadening the range of people who visit the Mansion. It will be drawing on objects from across the Museum's collections, including art, world cultures, local history and archaeology, as well as high-profile loans. Eleanor will offer a sneak-peak at some of the objects being shown in the exhibition, many of which will be on display for the first time. In addition, Eleanor will explain the ambitious approach to community engagement that the Museum's team has taken to the planning and delivery of the exhibition and the accompanying activity programme.

Tuesday, 16 June – Visit to Glemham Hall and gardens

This event is now fully booked.

Thursday, 2 July – Diplomacy with Axe, Lance and Sword: 500 years since The Field of Cloth of Gold Tournament

This talk by Dr Tobias Capwell, Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection, is in conjunction with Art Friends Suffolk, a new charity set up to raise money for Suffolk arts and heritage.

6.30pm for 7pm at Christchurch Mansion

£20 to include refreshments. Please note: advance booking for this event is exclusively by sending a cheque (payable to Art Friends Suffolk) to Jane Paton-Smith, Barnsdale House, White Woman's Lane, Eyke, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2SY. Some tickets should also be available on the night but this cannot be guaranteed.

King Henry VIII was a great jouster, skilled swordsman and formidable wrestler. Despite this warlike image however, Henry only ever fought one field battle, in 1513 against the French. The result of the "Battle of the Spurs" was the 1520 Anglo-French peace treaty, a laudable attempt to outlaw all war between Christian kingdoms. The Field of Cloth of Gold took place between 7 and 24 June 1520 in the Pas de Calais, when Henry met the French King Francis I in a lavish courtly spectacle. The meeting took the form of an enormous tournament with jousts and supposedly friendly combats taking place over more than two weeks. Despite being one of the most famous events in Tudor history, the nature of the martial contests themselves has however remained largely mysterious. This talk delves into this oft-misunderstood subject, to uncover both the splendour and the sinister undertones of this extraordinary moment that was masterminded by Ipswich lad, Cardinal Wolsey.

Please contact emma.roodhouse@colchester.gov.uk if you have any questions about this particular event.

Stour Surrounding: Film Screening on Wednesday, 25 March 2020

Name:

Address:

Telephone:email:

Special Dietary, Access, Mobility needs, if any:

Tickets: Friends at £6 each Guests £8 I enclose a cheque for £

Please return this form to: Jean Attenborrow, 3 Holly Road, Ipswich, IP1 3QN

Talk by John Sheeran on Wednesday, 15 April 2020

Name:

Address:

Telephone:email:

Special Dietary, Access, Mobility needs, if any:

Tickets: Friends at £6 each Guests £8 I enclose a cheque for £

Please return this form to: Jean Attenborrow, 3 Holly Road, Ipswich, IP1 3QN

No grey areas, no woolly thinking, nothing complex or difficult to understand.

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

Crane Hall, London Road, Ipswich IP2 0AL



Tel: 01473 343300

ryans.co.uk

News from our Museums

James Steward, Ipswich Museums Manager, on the Town's Recent Celebrity on TripAdvisor

This week Ipswich was named as one of the world's top emerging cultural destinations, according to TripAdvisor from data collected between November 2018 and October 2019. The list of emerging destinations, compiled for the first time this year, was topped by Kaliningrad in Russia. Ipswich came in 14th being the UK's only entry in the top 25. TripAdvisor say the list was drawn up using an algorithm that compared year-on-year increases in searches and reviews for attractions. So we could draw various conclusions from this but now know that we are being more effective in engaging more closely with our visitors and the number of positive reviews on social media about their visitor experience are increasing, so we need to maintain the commitment to listening to what they have to say.

According to TripAdvisor visitors are falling for the town and it

credited the Ed Sheeran effect along with our museums as significant factors in this newly discovered love for the town, which it says has managed to keep it's historical charm intact whilst being a cultural hub of activity. This is a fantastic acknowledgement of Ipswich's cultural ascendancy and profile whilst for many this recognition addresses the fact that much of the excellent development work has, to some degree, been overlooked in favour of championing other historic and cultural tourist locations in the East of England. The growing recognition of the importance of cultural activity in the lives of people, communities and places is significant and has, I believe, contributed to an increase in museums' visitor numbers in recent years along with the positive feedback we regularly receive.

Museums are rooted in places; they create a sense of belonging

by engaging with communities and encouraging active participation. In light of the Trip Advisor commendation it's worth considering the impact that our museums have in helping to define a place and the contribution we can make to local distinctiveness and community resilience, whilst not forgetting the huge contribution our museums make to the Suffolk tourism economy. Place making should capitalise on community assets like museums where community identity, diversity and shared history are defined and celebrated. Museums also have an important role in placemaking, making people feel a renewed love and sense of pride for where they live and work, and we need to meet the challenge of increased public demand for worthwhile and compelling visitor experiences. I believe the way in

which a place demonstrably values its heritage and culture says a lot about peoples' engagement, belonging and understanding of what is special and unique about a place. Ipswich is home to passionate cultural providers, participants and audiences. We have an embarrassment of riches culturally in Ipswich with internationally recognised dance, performing arts and theatre and with more nationally funded cultural organisations than any other place in the East of England. It's not TripAdvisor lists that will tell us how well we are doing in terms of being more visible and connected culturally with existing and target audiences but securing the necessary investment to further these aims and evidencing the positive impact we make on people's lives.



Acquisition Angels – Costume Conservation 2020

We are blessed to have some extraordinarily lovely items in our collections, but not all are in perfect condition. Some require substantial work if they are ever to be displayed or, even more importantly, saved for future generations. One such item is this beautiful 18th-century gentleman's frock coat made of lavender-grey silk and decorated with rich flower and foliage embroidery in multi-coloured silks. Specialists have suggested that it dates from 1780, the age of Constable, Gainsborough and Joshua Reynolds. It was purchased by the Museum in 1967 from someone in Beccles, with 50% of the costs coming from the Victoria and Albert Grant Fund.

It is now getting on for 250 years old, so it is no surprise that it is beginning to fall apart at the seams – literally. Just like a painting of that era, detailed, painstaking, **expensive** work must be done to stop it degrading further. For without attention, this coat will eventually crumble to dust.



Sadly we can't restore everything in the collection, but we do want to save this special item, bring it out of storage and enable everyone to see its splendour. CIMS staff would like it to form a part of the forthcoming *Unmasked* exhibition, so now is the time to act. We are re-launching our *Acquisition Angels* appeal with a new tag - *Costume Conservation 2020*. We hope to raise £3,540, the cost of the work needed to preserve this coat for another 250 years. Can you help?

Any donations, large or small, will make a difference and all gifts will

be recognised in the exhibition. The easiest way to give is via the *Angels & Giving* page of our website, www.foim.org.uk, using the Total Giving button at the bottom of the page. Alternatively, please use the slip below and enclose a cheque, or make a direct bank transfer to **Friends of the Ipswich Museums, Co-op Bank**, Acct. Number **65886997**,

Sort Code **08-92-99** using your name as the reference and confirming your donation by emailing Jean at jattenborrow@hotmail.co.uk. To find out more about the campaign, please email contact@foim.org.uk or telephone our Vice Chairman Denise Fiennes on 07714 000169. Thank you for helping to make a difference.

Please print your details clearly and return this form to:
Angels, c/o Jean Attenborrow, 3 Holly Road, Ipswich IP1 3QN

NAME.....

EMAIL.....

ADDRESS.....

We have differing levels of support though all donors will receive recognition in the exhibition.

I would like to donate (please tick as appropriate):

- £150+ to become an **ARCHANGEL**
- £50+ to become an **ANGEL**
- £25+ to become a **SERAPHIM**
- £15+ per child for my children/grandchildren to become **CHERUBIM** - whose name(s) is/are
- £10+ in **MEMORY** of
- I've included a cheque payable to **Friends of the Ipswich Museums***
- I am eligible as a UK Taxpayer and consent to the Friends of Ipswich

Museums (Charity no.1184000) claiming **Gift Aid** on my behalf on any subscriptions, payments and donations I make after the date of this declaration. I agree to notify FoIM of any change of circumstances.

Name..... Signature.....

Date.....

Roadshow at the Mansion

Richard Wilson reports that the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* will be filming at the Mansion on Sunday, 26 July.



We are delighted that the *Antiques Roadshow* is to be filmed at Christchurch Mansion in July. It was our very own former chairman Paul Bruce who first suggested the Mansion as a venue, and the Borough Council has taken the idea and run with it.

First broadcast in 1979, the *Roadshow* remains one of the BBC's most popular factual programmes with around six million people regularly watching on Sunday evenings. So now is the time to rummage in the attic for your masterpiece or priceless treasure to present

to Fiona Bruce and her team. Thousands of people are expected to join them so the chances of actually being filmed may be small, but it will be a memorable day and let's hope the sun shines to show the Mansion – and Ipswich – at its very best.

Admission to the *Roadshow* is usually from 9.30am to 4.30pm though further details will be announced nearer the time. As long as you're in the queue within those times, you are guaranteed to be seen by one of the experts. Entry is free and no tickets or pre-registration are

required. Visitors can just turn up on the day, but they can also share their stories about special items they plan to bring along at www.bbc.co.uk/antiquesroadshow.

Ipswich Borough Councillor Sarah Barber, whose portfolio covers events, said: "It's a great honour for us to be selected to host an edition of such a popular and iconic show as *Antiques Roadshow*. Ipswich's long and proud history and

heritage – and the important treasure house of Christchurch Mansion – will provide a fitting backdrop to this BBC classic. We look forward to welcoming presenters and crew and thousands of visitors to the filming in the summer."

The BBC's own very useful FAQ webpage can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3R0Hn4SYBj1YZ5CY87bh60f/faq>


LAILA DAWN
hairdressing barbers beauty

SPECIAL OFFER

Half price Ladies and Gent's first haircut.

Ladies £14.00 Men £6.00

Also available, Colouring, Perming, Wedding/Prom hair.

14 St Margaret's Plain, Ipswich

Tel: 01473 809145

Text: 07506861490

Website: www.lailadawnhairdressing.com

Facebook: [lailadawnhairdressing](https://www.facebook.com/lailadawnhairdressing)

Volunteer Rowell Bell selects a very unusual and deadly weapon from India



The chakkar shown with a centimetre rule

I work as a volunteer at the Museum in the High Street where I mainly conserve and clean metal objects. Quite a few have a sharp pointed end, but the chotta chakkar is something different. Coming

originally from the Indian Subcontinent, it's a ring of inch-wide steel, about 12 inches in diameter, with a sharp outer edge. It would have been used as a throwing device, and could have

severed a man's limb from up to 50 metres away!

The chakkar is an ancient Indian projectile, varying from about five to 12 inches in diameter, which dates back to the 16th century. Also known as the chalikar, meaning circular, it is thrown or hurled either by being released after being twirled by the forefinger around the smooth inside edge or thrown Frisbee-like. Ours came to the Museum in 1931, and is perhaps some 150 to 200 years old.

The chakkar seems to have been a weapon exclusively used by the Sikh military, in

volley fire fashion, causing havoc in the front lines of the opposing forces. The Sikh warrior would carry seven or eight on his left arm and throw with his right hand. A video demonstration I have seen showed how it sliced through sugar cane without any difficulty. It doesn't matter where it hits, it will be cut through.

I'm pleased that having given it a good polish, the chakkar will be on display as part of the forthcoming *Unmasked – The Power of Stories* exhibition opening in July.

Frisbee anyone?

Woodbridge Antiques Centre

- Glassware • Silverware • Jewellery
- Porcelain • Pottery • Clocks
- Watches • Postcards • Treen

We are now looking to buy fine jewellery, costume jewellery, silver and other interesting antique or vintage items. Please contact us for more details.

7 Quay Street,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk IP12 1BX
Tel: 01394 387210

www.woodbridgeantiquescentre.co.uk

Experience our
passion
for education



IPSWICH SCHOOL



Contact us to book a personal visit

01473 408300 (Senior School)
01473 282800 (Prep School)

www.ipswich.school/admissions



Barnes
CONSTRUCTION

Supporting the
Friends of
Ipswich Museums

Tel: 01473 272222

Web: www.barnesconstruction.co.uk



THE GREYHOUND
IPSWICH

01473 252862
thegreyhoundipswich.co.uk

BELVEDERE
POLISHERS

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

Call Belvedere today and ask
about their **FREE** service.

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

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

Tel: 01473 214573
11 Dove Street, Ipswich IP4 1NG
www.belvederereproductions.co.uk

At last year's AGM, indefatigable volunteer and special Friend of the Museums Rowell Bell generously donated this beautiful Robert Burrows painting of the Bridle Way and Arboretum in Christchurch Park to the Town's collections. Inside you can see one of Burrows's extraordinary early photographs of townsfolk enjoying a stroll in the Park. But save for the Arboretum that had opened to the public (for strictly limited hours) in 1852, the rest of the Christchurch estate remained private until the 1890's.

In this edition we celebrate the deal that 125 years ago opened the Park to the public for good and at the same time bestowed on the Town the marvel that is Christchurch Mansion.



The Friends of the Ipswich Museums

We look Forward to
Promote the Past

We welcome new members to help
us support our excellent museums.

Visit our website: www.foim.org.uk

Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ipswichmuseums
Twitter: @FolpsMuseums