



The Friends of Colchester Museums

Registered Charity No. 310669

Newsletter
&
Sixty Eighth Annual Report
2016 - 2017

Officers

As Elected at The Annual General Meeting on 20th June 2017

President His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Gerard Oxford

Vice Presidents

Jean Baker	Peter Berridge
Jean Blowers	Mark Davies
Patrick Denney	Barbara Napper
Andrew Phillips	Paul Spendlove

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247 Old Heath Road, Colchester, CO2 8BN
Telephone: 01206 796822, Email: patrick.denney@sky.com

Honorary Treasurer Peter Evans
5 Grimston Road, Colchester, CO2 7RN
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Newsletter Editor Ian Ahmet
3 Writtle Close, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 7PE
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Other Committee Members

Harry Carlo	Mary Dale
Mark Davies	Chris Hall
Jenny Jones	Peter Jones
Avril Lankester	Janita Le Fevre
Andrew Miller	Andrew Phillips
David Walton	

Ex Officio Bill Seaman (*Museums, Arts and Culture Manager*)
Tom Hodgson (*Colchester Museums Manager*)
Philip Wise (*Heritage Manager*)

Honorary Auditor Roy Anderson

Museum Office Museum Resource Centre
14 Ryegate Road, Colchester, CO1 1YG
Tel: 01206 282931/2 www.cims.org.uk

Sixty Eighth Annual Report 2016 - 2017

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At our Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday 20th June 2017, it was pleasing to report the Friends' help in acquiring more important additions to the museum collections. Through the Treasure procedure comes a Viking Age gold finger-ring of 9th/10th century date from Tendring and two interlinked Middle Bronze Age gold rings from Gt. Totham (c1275-1140 BC), for which half contributions of £300 and £400 respectively were provided. We also ensured the safe retention of a very rare medieval silver seal matrix from Boxted at the full cost of £3,000. It is set with a cornelian intaglio, or engraved gemstone, and dates to the period 1200 – 1400. What makes this particularly special and rare is that it belonged to a woman, with an inscription reading the 'Seal of Anne de Pinceney' (i.e. Pinkney).

After 144 years in existence, the Colchester and East Essex Licensed Victuallers Association was reluctantly wound up on 28th March 2017 because of diminishing numbers. Their fine Chairman's silver gilt chain of office and gavel were formally presented at the end of our AGM to the Mayor, Cllr. Gerard Oxford, for safekeeping by the Museum. We are grateful to David Clayton (past chairman) and John Parker (secretary) for facilitating this.



On Thursday 23rd March 2016, at a special Open Evening in the Castle, members enjoyed an interesting talk by Tom Hodgson on current developments. The main event was the formal handing over by Betty and



Norman Warner of their painting by local artist Frank Daniell of his wife Ethel, with a lively explanation by Mrs Warner of its discovery.

Norman Warner also kindly donated his own painting of the Hythe.



We are grateful to the Museum staff for helping to make it such an enjoyable and interesting evening, and to our Committee members for arranging the delicious refreshments.

The Friends had their usual stall for the Open Evening at the Castle Museum last Christmas for which our new Committee member, Janita le Fevre, organised a rota of volunteer helpers, while Jenny and Peter Jones arranged displays and, with Museum help, a competition for the children of 'unbreakable' objects to 'Guess what they are,' which proved very popular.

The Friends' Tuesday evening lecture programme has continued to reach a high standard though slightly down on numbers. We are grateful to Jenny Jones and other Committee members for ensuring lecturers and subjects of good quality. The same goes for our evening and day trips which have also been much enjoyed, namely to visit the Mayflower Project at Harwich on Tuesday 5th July 2016 and Hever Castle on Tuesday 19th July 2016, when two coaches were needed for the 95 people who travelled there.

Following the Committee's visit to the Heckford Close store at Severalls Business Park, it was agreed to make special arrangements for members to see these facilities in due course. We can expect the creation of a very professional and effective museum base there, despite the obvious limitations. But, it remains to be seen if the Council is wise to sell off the Museum Resource Centre without providing for a central focus from which to co-ordinate and maximise the running of such outstanding museums and heritage facilities as Colchester enjoys.

Looking to the future, the Friends need to raise their public profile, as well as provide readily available information for members, so a new website has been designed with the URL www.focm.org.uk which we hope members will find useful.

Our Officers and Committee have as always worked very hard to ensure the success of our organisation and in thanking them I wish to single out Peter Constable who is standing down after some 12 years' service. As Editor he has produced publications and other print and design work of a very high quality. His successor is Ian Ahmet who has edited the last two newsletters.

On a personal note, as this is my final report, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my time as Chairman over the past 9 years and to express my sincere appreciation to the membership, and especially the officers and committee, including the museum officers and staff, for their friendship and support. Colchester has much to be proud of in its museums and heritage.

Mark Davies, *Chairman*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I am pleased to report that membership of the Friends now stands at 644 across all categories. As you will note from the figures presented below this is slightly down on last year's total, although when then various couple and family memberships are taken

into account, then the true number of those associating is actually approaching 1,200 - which still makes impressive reading.

	August 2017	July 2016
Single	303	318
Couple	223	232
Family	107	112
Other	11	11
Total	644	673

So please continue to spread the word about the many benefits about being a Friend of Colchester Museums, and perhaps even consider treating someone to a gift membership for 2018! Thanks for your continued support.

Subscriptions:

Single Members £10,
Couple Membership £15,
Family Membership £21.

Patrick Denney, *Hon. Membership Secretary*

TREASURER'S TOPICS

If you want to buy a season ticket for the Autumn Season of 6 lectures, these are available at £10. Please send a check (payable to "Friends of Colchester Museums") and a SAE for return to Peter Evens, % 5 Grimston Road, Colchester, CO2 7RN, They will also be available at the September lectures.

If your subscription is unpaid, a reminder is enclosed. Some members still need to correct their bank standing orders as the amount of the subscription is being underpaid. If you have received a reminder about this, PLEASE DEAL WITH IT NOW.

Peter Evans, *Hon. Treasurer*

UPDATE FROM

COLCHESTER MUSEUMS

We hoped that you enjoyed our Summer programme, you might be interested in attending our joint adults event with Firstsite, on 21st October, focussed on drawing objects from the museum stores (£40 including materials, booking is essential via Firstsite).

For full details of our events please see the What's On section of the museum website (www.cimuseums.org.uk/visit/whats-on) or you can subscribe to our regular e-newsletter *Museums Extra* (if you visit the Colchester Borough Council website you can sign-up to this via the Subscribe pop-up box that appears).

We look forward to welcoming plenty of visitors to Colchester Castle for the Heritage Open Days weekend open day on Saturday 9th September – this year, an additional draw is the very recent publication of a new Colchester Guidebook showcasing the rich heritage of the town. A companion guide to the Castle Guidebook, it is available for £5 from both the Castle and Hollytrees Museum gift shops and we hope it will prove as popular as the award-winning Castle Guidebook.

for our art, archive, metalwork and natural history collections, as well as our main office base. During September we will be moving everything – collections and people – out of the Museum Resource Centre on Ryegate Road and across to Heckworth Close, although our team members will regularly be seen at the Castle and other museum venues in the town centre after the move, of course.



And finally, you may well have heard by now that the museum service has been selected as a National Portfolio Organisation by Arts Council England, which means Colchester and Ipswich Museums will received an annual grant of almost £200,000 for four years (2018-2022) to enhance activities with children, families and schools, and support the delivery of a number of 'blockbuster' exhibitions in that time period.

Thank you as ever for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at some of our events and venues over the coming months.

Jenny Ruder, Joint Services Team Leader

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September 2017 - This is the weekend when usually inaccessible buildings are open to the public, as mentioned in the article above. Some towns may start as early as Thursday 7th - check out heritageopendays.org.uk for further information.

Peter Evans



In other news - our major project this summer has been our imminent move into new accommodation at 40 Heckworth Close. The refurbishment work on site, to be completed by the end of August, includes new environmentally controlled store rooms

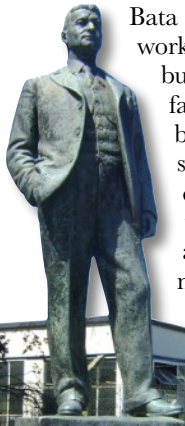
East Tilbury Bata Trip by Peter Jones



On Wednesday 5th July 38 members embarked on a visit to the Bata village in East Tilbury. The enthusiastic members of the Bata Heritage Group gave us a warm welcome and, after coffee, they gave a presentation that told how the Bata factory came to East Tilbury. It was thanks to Tomas Bata, a Czechoslovakian shoe manufacturer who thought everyone in the world should own a pair of (his) shoes, and to help him achieve this he wanted to set up a factory in the England.

Towards the end of 1931, Bata purchased 600 acres of farmland at East Tilbury. He had a very positive and progressive attitude to business and had even visited Henry Ford to learn how his car production lines worked and to see how they could be applied to the manufacture of shoes.

Unfortunately, within a month of the contracts being exchanged for the East Tilbury site, Tomas was killed in a plane crash and never got to see his UK operation at work. Undeterred, the Bata family continued with his plans and business ideas and set up the factory that at its peak employed 3000 people.



Bata cared about its staff, knowing that a happy worker is more productive. Consequently, they built numerous houses for employees and their families as well as leisure facilities including a ballroom, a cinema, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. All the architecture was based on a 1930s art deco style that makes the village so distinctive. The factory buildings are built to a standard modular design, making them very practical and versatile.



This former hotel demonstrates the modular design of the factory

The company was totally self sufficient, making its own shoelaces, shoe boxes, shoehorns, shop furniture etc. Bata even shredded car tyres to make rubber soles long before the world woke up to recycling.

Mike Tabard and Mike Ostler, two of the guides from the Bata Heritage Centre took us for a walk around the village. A tasty lunch was provided by the nearby Ship Inn, we were expertly driven by Tim from Kings Coaches and the weather was lovely - all contributing to a truly excellent day out.



Bata memorial statue, with the English spelling of Tomas' name



Trip to Battle & Hastings by Peter Evans

On the 18th July, almost 90 Friends of Museums and guests headed off to Sussex and it was a bright sunny day. For once, travel arrangements went so well that not only did we arrive back on time, but thanks to Kings Coaches, the first coach arrived half an hour early at Battle!

Battle is an attractive town based around the abbey founded by William I to commemorate the Battle of Hastings of 1066. The high altar was placed on the supposed site of King Harold's death. The Gatehouse dominates the town. The church survives in ruins, but there are massive undercrofts of other monastic buildings surviving fairly complete. We get a wonderful view of the abbey remains as we walk the battlefield spread out below.

Just down the road, Hastings has much to offer apart from the usual seafront attractions. There are two cliff railways, a recently restored pier, a castle, a museum and an art gallery (The Jerwood) that overlooks fishing boats. The old town is charming, with many different buildings that could have been built anytime before 1900. There are churches, inns, cobbled streets and George Street has many cafes, pubs and small shops, with a vaguely hippy feel to it. This part of the town will be familiar to viewers of "Foyle's War". Pretty much something for everybody.



Colchester Recalled

Colchester Recalled is a voluntary group compiling an archive of recorded memories of Colchester & District over the past 120 years. We have to date completed more than 3,600 hours of recording, mostly interviews with over 1,500 local people.



We also arrange monthly meetings throughout the year at the Roman Circus Centre where our members (and visitors) can listen to extracts from our recordings and enjoy a talk on a local history theme.

2017 Programme

14 September - **Philip Crummy** 'What actually happened at a Roman Circus'

12 October - **David Newman** 'The ancient salt industry of Maldon and the Blackwater'

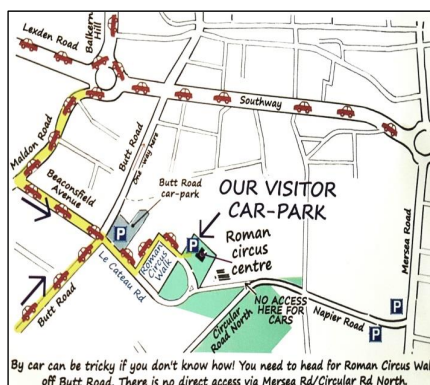
16 November - **Adrian Hutson** 'How the Battle of Maldon 991AD changed the history of Colchester & Essex'

14 December - **Annual Social & Film:** 'Archaeology Under the North Sea'

All meetings commence at 7pm

£2 for members and £3 for non members

How to find us



Visit www.colchesterrecalled.co.uk

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Monday afternoon talks at the Roman Circus Centre

- interested in archaeology and history??

Archaeologists from the Colchester Archaeological Trust to give public talks on Monday afternoons in September 2017 in the Roman Circus Visitor Centre.

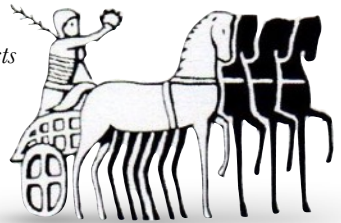
September 4th *Is your house older than mine?* Chris Lister, *Buildings Specialist*

September 11th *Why I'm potty about pots* Steve Benfield, *CAT Pottery Specialist*

September 18th *Ancient DIY* Adam Wightman, *Senior Archaeologist*

September 4th *The secret truth about Boudicca* Philip Crummy, *CAT Director*

- Talks start at 2:00pm, last an hour, and include handling artefacts
- £2 entry per person
- No booking necessary
- Free parking available at the centre
- Light refreshments for sale 12:30pm and 4:00pm
- General enquiries - info@catuk.org



Visit our website at thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk, and follow us on Facebook

Colchester Archaeological Group

Winter programme of lectures at the Roman circus visitor centre, 2017-2018

Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

- 9th October 2017** - AGM, followed by Mark Davies: 'Early personalities from CAG'.
16th October 2017 - Brenna Hassett, Natural History Museum: 'Built on bones: 150,000 years of urban life and death'.
23rd October 2017 - Lynette Bloom of History Blooms: 'Medieval medicine and the rise of the barber surgeon'.
30th October 2017 - Tim Williams, Reader in Silk Roads Archaeology: 'Along the Silk Roads: the archaeology of cities, caravanserai and endurance'.
6th November 2017 - Rachel Bynoe, Natural History Museum: 'Pathways into Ancient Britain'.
13th November 2017 - Alison Telfer, MoLA: 'By the banks of the Walbrook: recent excavations at the site of the Crossrail Broadgate ticket hall'.
20th November 2017 - Keith Wade, Ipswich Archaeological Trust: 'The origins and development of Ipswich'.
27th November 2017 - Tobias Capwell, Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection: 'Armour and the Afterlife: knightly effigies in England and Wales'.
5th February 2018 - Lee Jackson, author of *Dirty Old London*: 'Dirty old London: sanitising the Victorian metropolis'.
19th February 2018 - Lynette Burgess of Bawdsey Radar Trust: 'Can you keep a secret? The history of Bawdsey Radar and its role in WW2'.

Visit our website at caguk.net

All talks on Monday: doors open 7:00pm, talks start 7:30pm.

Admission per person - £4, £2, £1 or free, depending on status. Details on website.

Friends of Colchester Museums

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31st March 2017

INCOME	2016/17	2015/16
Subscriptions	£7,999.50	£8,290.50
Lectures (net of expenses)	£1,581.22	£1,651.20
Trips (net profit)	£1,323.75	£781.50
Interest	£443.62	£409.28
Donations	£37.00	£155.00
Castle Open Evening	£105.38	£1,002.81
Surplus of expenditure over income	-	-
	<u>£11,490.47</u>	<u>£12,290.29</u>

EXPENDITURE	2016/17	2015/16
Operating Expenses	£2,784.55	£1,353.77
Subscriptions and Insurance	£354.50	£215.00
(British Association of Friends of Museums and British Association of Local History)		
Events - Christmas Open Evening	£150.00	£220.00
Purchases (Note 1)	£2,150.00	£2,150.00
Contribution to Museum (Note 2)	£1,400.00	£1,700.00
Surplus of income over expenditure	£4,651.42	£6,651.52
	<u>£11,490.47</u>	<u>£12,290.29</u>

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1. Purchases 2015/16 - Colchester book (£150) and preparation of Castle Guidebook
Purchases 2016/17 Paintings by F. Daniell and Norman Warner (£1000), Tending gold ring (£300),
contribution to purchase of Langham ring and verrel (£850)

Note 2. Contribution to Museum Service to compensate for free admission for members

The Friends of Colchester Museums

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2017

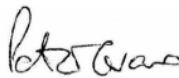
ACCUMULATED FUND	2016/17	2015/16
Balance brought forward	£32,922.57	£26,271.05
Surplus/Loss for the year	£4,651.42	£6,651.52
TOTAL:	£37,573.99	£32,922.57
Reserve (B. Colbron)	£805.60	
CREDITORS:		
Fees for trips (Note 3)	£3,270.00	£3,105.00
Season Tickets	£440.00	£450.00
	<u>£42,089.59</u>	<u>£36,477.57</u>


NET CURRENT ASSETS		
BANK:		
Current Account	£3,859.91	£4,021.51
Building Society	£37,809.68	£32,046.06
TOTAL:	£41,669.59	£36,067.57
DEBTORS:		
Room Hire (Note 4)	£420.00	£410.00
	<u>£42,089.59</u>	<u>£36,477.57</u>

Notes to the Accounts

- Note 3. Payments received in advance of annual trips
 Note 4. Payment made to Lion Walk Church for spring lectures

I have examined the accounts of The Friends of Colchester Museums for the year ended 31st March 2017 and confirm that they appear to be in accordance with the Books of Account and Vouchers produced to me for the purpose of this audit.

Signed  Peter Evans, FMAAT, Hon. Treasurer

Signed  Roy Anderson, Hon. Auditor

1st June 2017



FRIENDS OF COLCHESTER MUSEUMS AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES 2017

All lectures held at Lion Walk Church, Lion Walk, Colchester at 7:30pm
Admission £2 (members), £4 (non-members) or by season ticket

5 th September	A Message from Colchester <i>Local History Revealed through Picture Postcards</i>	Patrick Denney
19 th September	The History and Future of the Mercury Theatre	Steve Mannix
3 rd October	My Early Days Thames Barging <i>Direct from one of our last bargemen</i>	Jim Lawrence
17 th October	Bata Shoes in East Tilbury <i>Memories of a bygone age</i>	Mike Tarbard
31 st October	Seaside Entertainment at Clacton	Norman Jacobs
14 th November	The works of Major Bale <i>An artist's lasting legacy to Edwardian Colchester</i>	Mark Davies

Further information from David Walton, davidpatrickwalton@gmail.com or
c/o Friends of Colchester Museums, Museum Resource Centre

LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY CLASSES - STARTING 20th SEPTEMBER 2017

Wilson Marriage Centre, Barrack Street, Colchester, CO1 2LR

History of Colchester Part 1 - Wednesday afternoons for 10 weeks (2 - 4pm)

Course Code: EWM3B09Y17

Meeting Your Ancestors Part 1 - Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks (7-9pm)

Course code: EWM3C18Y17

To enrol - telephone 0333 0013 3257 or visit courses.aclessex.com