



The Friends of Colchester Museums

Registered Charity No. 310669

Winter Newsletter 2019

Officers

As Elected at The Annual General Meeting on 19th June 2018

President His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Peter Chillingworth

Vice Presidents

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

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Programme Secretary Jenny Jones

Newsletter Editor Ian Ahmet (ianahmet@gmail.com)

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Other Committee Members

Harry Carlo	Mary Dale
Mark Davies	Chris Hall
Avril Lankester	Andrew Miller
Andrew Phillips	David Walton

Ex Officio Frank Hargrave (*Colchester and Ipswich Museums and Arts Manager*)
Tom Hodgson (*Colchester Museums Manager*)
Philip Wise (*Heritage Manager*)

Honorary Auditor Roy Anderson

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Winter Newsletter 2019

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our latest newsletter and the start of yet another year of activity. As usual we look forward to a full programme of lectures and other events for you to enjoy, full details of which are all included later in the newsletter. With regard to our new lecture series, beginning in April 2019, we are pleased to confirm that once again you will be able to purchase a season ticket, covering all the talks, which will allow you to gain entry at a slightly reduced rate (see Treasurer's Topics below).

In September 2018, we began our autumn series of evening lectures with a talk about Essex Towns & Villages delivered by Patrick Denney which was attended by an audience of 135 which set the scene for yet another successful programme.

This was followed by a talk given by Chris Fardell on the subject of Essex crime prevention, Jim Lawrence who spoke once again about his life as a bargeman, Kath Wood who spoke about the renovation of the concrete murals in our underpasses, Peter Jones who told us all about the coming of the railway into Essex and finally Mark Davies who gave a very interesting talk about the discovery of various coin hoards in the town over the years.

In total these talks were attended by a combined audience of 549. And in addition to the above we also staged three afternoon events which attracted another combined audience of 126. So we look forward to more of the same in the coming year.

One **important announcement** that I need to make concerns the new General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect on 25 May 2018. In short, we as an organisation have to comply with various new procedures regarding the way in which we handle our members' personal details, and as most of you will be aware we have had to ask you all to sign a special new Consent Form on which you have to confirm your agreement to our holding your personal details on file. Unfortunately, a sizeable number of members have yet to complete the form and this is to ask that if you have yet to do so please can you complete and return the form at your earliest opportunity.

To help with this we have included a copy of the form to all those members that it applies to. We would like to thank all our members for bearing with us on this matter and hopefully it will never have to be repeated.

On 13 December Harry Carlo and a number of other volunteers manned the Friends' stand at the annual Open Evening in the Castle. The event was deemed a success with large numbers in attendance, many of whom I'm sure enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies on offer – the wine being donated by the 'Friends'.

On a final note, in addition to our new website (www.tfocm.org.uk) which has been up and running since earlier in the year, we also now have a Facebook page which is likewise proving to be quite popular. Thanks to our website editor, Alan Skinner, for organising this.

Patrick Denney, *Chairman*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I am pleased to include details of our latest membership figures which show that numbers have remained fairly steady over the past year. Thanks once again to all of our members for their continued support and we look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

	December 2018	December 2017	December 2016
Single	305	307	327
Couple	227	226	237
Family	106	106	114
Other	11	11	11
Total	649	650	689

Patrick Denney, *Membership Secretary*

TREASURER'S TOPICS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions remain the same;

Single Membership	£10
Couple Membership	£15
Family Membership	£21

Unless you have arranged to pay by Standing Order, please send your payment directly to Peter Evans.

Your annual membership card for 2019 is enclosed.

A few members have not corrected their standing order instructions since the membership rates increased in 2015. If this is the case, no membership card has been enclosed. Please contact me to let me know what rate of membership you require. My contact details are in the front of this newsletter.

SEASON TICKETS

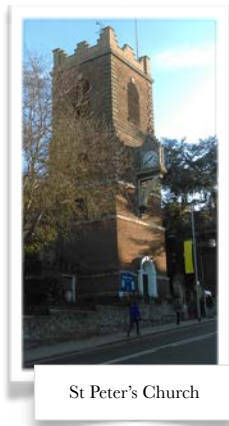
Season tickets of our meetings are again available. These give members 12 meetings for the price of 10. If you require a season ticket, please use the order form enclosed.

Peter Evans, *Hon. Treasurer*

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

This year saw another successful series of openings and events to celebrate Heritage Open Days in Colchester.

In 2018 the national festival was spread over eight days with something going on locally on each day. The total visitor figures of over 7,600 were comparable to those of the last three years and it was particularly gratifying to see the popularity of many of the town's venues, with St Peter's Church on East Hill being especially well-visited.



In 2019 Heritage Open Days will be 25-years-old. To mark this anniversary the national organisers have decided to run the festival over ten days from 13-22 September. The Museum Service has already begun organising next year's event and the Castle 'Free Day' will be Saturday 14 September.

One of the great strengths of Heritage Open Days is the opportunity to explore new historic buildings and sites for the first time. If any readers have any suggestions for venues or events in Colchester and the surrounding area then Philip Wise, the museum's Heritage Manager would love to hear from you. He can be contacted via email, philip.wise@colchestergov.uk

Philip Wise, *Heritage Manager*

OUTINGS FOR 2019

Chatham Dockyard Day Trip

Thursday 18 July 2019,

£38 per person

Kings coach from:

Crouch Street (8.30 am) or

Marks Tey Hotel (8.45 am)

£1/car for those

parking at Marks Tey

Hotel, payable with your booking fee.



The Chatham Dockyard displays 400 years of history and is the most complete dockyard dedicated to the age of sail. The site covers 80 acres with over 100 buildings; 3 historic warships, an RNLi historic lifeboat collection, a Steam, Steel and Submarines Gallery and the Ropery. Rope has been made in Chatham Dockyard for almost 400 years and used to rig the mightiest vessels.

The galleries and attractions are generally accessible to all visitors but accessibility to the ships is restricted for visitors with mobility difficulties. Alternate virtual tours are available. Two tours are included in the price of your ticket – The Ropery and the HMS Ocelot Submarine. You will need to book these tours at the Plan Your Visit area on arrival at the Dockyard.

For refreshments you can purchase British favourites such as fish and chips at the Mess Deck or sandwiches, pies etc at the Wagon Stop Cafe. Alternatively there is a picnic area where you can eat your own food. We will board the coach for our return journey at about 4.30 pm.

Castle Park Tour with Town Guides

Following the evening lecture on 4 June about the History of Castle Park we are hoping to arrange guided tours of the Park during the day on 2 or 9 July 2019. Further information about these tours will be given at a later date. There will be a small fee to cover the cost of the Town Guides, etc.

Jenny Jones, *Programme Secretary*

INVITATION TO COLCHESTER CIVIC SOCIETY EXCURSIONS

We are again invited to join the Civic Society on their programme of events. All trips leave from East Hill. Further details available from Jo Edwards 01206 868254 or their website: www.colchestercivicsociety.co.uk.

Museum of Brands

Sunday 24th March 2019, 8.30am, £54.00 inc morning coffee & afternoon tea & cake

A blue badge guided tour of City of London, looking at medieval street names, Livery Companies, then the Robert Opie Museum of Packaging - "10,000 memories in an afternoon"

Bury St Edmunds Guildhall

Thursday 18th April 2019, 8.15am,

£35.00, with guided tour

The Guildhall dates back to the middle ages but has recently been restored and reopened. After tea or coffee at the Guildhall, you are free for lunch. In the afternoon you can join a guided tour of the town or have some free time.

Farley Farm and the Ditchling Museum and Art Gallery

Thursday 8th August 2019, 7.45am,

£48.50 including cup of tea and cake

Both the house and the gallery are home to 20th century art – Lee Miller, Frank Brangwyn, Eric Gill and others including the calligrapher of London Underground, Edward Johnson, plus craftsmen of the Arts & Crafts movement who lived locally.

“The Great Stink trip”

Reconvened date: 20th October 2019

This trip was set up for earlier this year and was sold out but was cancelled by the owners as asbestos was discovered on site.

It included a tour of the magnificent and beautiful “cathedral of sewage”. It is now safe to visit and if you booked you will be contacted with more details in due course.

Details of other trips, including West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, will follow.

CLAUDIUS: AN EMPEROR WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY FATE

On 20th November 2018, Colchester Museums sent seven objects to the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon in France. They were to be part of a major exhibition which opened on 1st December and will be running until 4th March 2019.

LINKING COLCHESTER AND LYON

The link between Lyon and Colchester is established through Claudius. Claudius was born in Lugdunum (Lyon), formerly the capital of Roman Gaul (now modern-day France and Belgium). Claudius launched the invasion that led to the eventual conquest of Britannia in AD 43 and thus the establishment of Camulodunum (Colchester) as its capital.

THE OBJECTS

The objects loaned for the exhibition include five coins, minted during the reign of Cunobelin who had ruled from Colchester before the Claudian conquest. The coins are notable for their imagery of horses and wheat, the most prominent commodities of the region. More significantly, these coins include the first instance of the name “Camulodunum” being written down.

Another object loaned for the exhibition is part of a Roman lamp that was produced in Lyon but found in Colchester. The lamp depicts Minerva, the Roman goddess of war.



Roman lamp fragment

It dates to Camulodunum’s earliest phase of habitation and was likely used by a soldier during the establishment of the town.



Iron dagger scabbard

The final object is an iron dagger scabbard, with gold and enamel inlay. It would possibly have been belonged to someone who was part of the early expeditionary force that arrived with Claudius in the 1st century AD. Its elaborate design suggests that it would have been owned by someone with a rank much higher than a common soldier.

Ben Paites, *Collections and Learning Curator*



Roman coins from the reign of Cunobelin

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

Please visit www.cimuseums.org.uk for details of what’s on over the coming months.



All Saints and High St
circa 1905

SPRUCE UP AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Some of you may have noticed the work taking place in the churchyard at the Natural History Museum. Although the site has been a green oasis on the High Street for many years, as this postcard from about 1905 demonstrates, you can have too much of a good thing.

The undergrowth and ivy, which had taken a hold on the building, have been cut back revealing parts of the walls and graves that had not been visible for a few years. This has allowed repairs to be made to the tower to maintain the fabric in good condition.

The clearance work will continue and the main area will be mowed on a regular basis to keep the undergrowth at bay and give visitors the opportunity to explore the churchyard.

Tom Hodgson, *Colchester Museums Manager*

FROM THE COLCHESTER AND IPSWICH MUSEUMS MANAGER

I am delighted to have started work in Colchester, a place which is actually quite familiar to me - at least in terms of its ancient history if not its modern counterpart. I can tell you a lot about Gosbecks for instance but would be far less confident telling you the way to the station. Fortunately much of its history is written into the town's DNA, not least in its fabulous museums and I am enormously lucky to be joining a hugely dynamic team that can boast some many recent successes such as the castle redisplay that has brought it to life in such an imaginative way and to such a high standard.

I hope that I will prove suitably able to support the work of the fantastic team in Colchester - I have worked in museums now for around 15 years, most recently as director of Norton Priory Museum & Gardens, a 42 acre historical site in Cheshire. My familiarity with Colchester stems from my PhD studies of ritual and religion in the Late Iron Age which was focused on the east of England and in which Colchester, or at least Camulodunum featured significantly.

Frank Hargrave, *Museums and Arts Manager*

MUSEUM EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

12th February - **We ♥ Valentines at Hollytrees Museum**

Join us to discover the origin of Valentine's cards. Create your own fabulous version, to keep or give to someone special.

Sessions at: 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm | Booking required, call 01206 282941 | Suitable for ages 4+ | Price: £5

13th February - **Creature Encounters! at Natural History Museum**

Meet some extraordinary animals and discover more about the animal kingdom. Which mammals, birds or reptiles will you meet?

Sessions at: 12pm, 1.15pm, 2.30pm | Booking required, call 01206 282941 | Ages 2 and under free | Price: £5

14th February - **Medieval Archery at Colchester Castle**

Ready your arrows and see if you can hit the target this half term with our exciting archery sessions.

Sessions at: 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm | Booking required, call 01206 282941 | Suitable for ages 7+ | Price: £5 (after admission to the Castle)

14th February - **The Magic of Valentine's at Colchester Castle**

Come along after hours and meet our curators as they explore the magic of Valentine's. Celebrate the history of love with a complimentary glass of Prosecco.

Session: 5pm - 7pm | Booking essential, call 01206 282941 Suitable for ages 18+ | Price: £7.50



Colchester Archaeological Group

Winter Lecture Programme 2019

At Roman Circus House at 7:30pm

14th January - **The History of Stained Glass Windows**

Christopher Parkinson, CVMA

21st January - **Ancient Wanderings; Journeys into Prehistoric Britain**

Dr James Canton, University of Essex

28th January - **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) at Westminster Abbey**

Erica Carrick Utsi

4th February - **Verulamium**

David Thorold, Keeper of Prehistory to Medieval St. Albans

11th February - **The Angel Roofs of East Anglia**

Michael Rimmer, Author

18th February - **The Minister Church of St Peter and St Paul, West Mersea**

Daniel Secker, Researcher

25th February - **Beeleigh Mill Restoration Group**

Paul Chaplin

4th March - **The Thomas Plume Manuscripts and Library**

Helen Kemp, University of Essex

Members - entrance per meeting £2, student members free

Non-members - entrance per meeting £4, students £1

Visit www.caguk.net

Registered Charity No. 1028434

Colchester Recalled

Colchester Recalled is a voluntary group compiling an archive of recorded memories of Colchester and 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. All meetings commence at 7pm. Admission £2 for members and £3 for non members.

2019 Programme

17th January	Life & Times of a Punch & Judy Man	<i>Adrian Hutson</i>
14th February	Setting Up Women's Refuges: an Oral History	<i>June Freeman</i>
14th March	The Birth of Wartime Radar - the Bawdsey Story	<i>Lynette Burgess</i>
18th April	The Long History of Colchester Royal Grammar School	<i>Trevor Hearne</i>
16th May	The History & Restoration of the Stour Valley Navigation	<i>River Stour Trust</i>
20th June	A.G.M. followed by Colchester Castle Understood	<i>Peter Berridge</i>

From our Archives



Members of the Friends pictured on a visit to the Botanical Gardens at Cambridge in 2011

FRIENDS OF COLCHESTER MUSEUMS LECTURE SERIES 2019

All lectures take place at **Lion Walk Church, Lion Walk, Colchester**
Admission £2 (members), £4 (non-members) or with a season ticket

Evening Lectures - Tuesday at 7:30pm

9th April	Paxmans 1918 - 2018 <i>Colchester's greatest company</i>	Andrew Phillips
23rd April	Pictures of Peter Froste <i>Archaeological reconstruction paintings of Colchester</i>	Philip Crummy
7th May	The Bling Exhibition <i>The Castle's 2019 exhibition on all things shiny</i>	Glynn Davis
21st May	Colchester and the Great Flu Pandemic of 1918-19	Dr Paul Rusiecki
4th June	History of Castle Park	T.B.C.
18th June	A.G.M. <i>followed by:</i> Wind and Water <i>A brief history of milling</i>	Peter Jones
3rd September	A Portrait of Victorian Colchester <i>Based on old photographs and documentary evidence</i>	Patrick Denney
17th September	Maldon Salt Works <i>The history of salt extraction on the Blackwater</i>	David Newman
1st October	The True History of Tymperleys	Mark Davies
15th October	The Thames Through Time <i>River Thames in North Essex</i>	Ian and Ros Mercer
29th October	The History of The Avenue and Lexden	Dr Fab Casale
12th November	Oysters and Oilskins <i>The clothes of Victorian East Coast Fishermen</i>	T.B.C.

Afternoon Lectures - Thursday at 2:30pm

25th April	Bourne Mill <i>Nearly 1000 years' history of the only National Trust property in Colchester</i>	Richard Scott & Simon Whitney
16th May	Pluto's Belch <i>How ancient cultures explained earthquakes</i>	Frances Boardman
13th June	The Avenue of Remembrance <i>Stories behind the bronze plaques on the trees</i>	Liz White

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