

The Friends of Colchester Museums

Fifty Eighth Annual Report
2006 - 2007



The Friends of Colchester Museums

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	His Worship the Mayor
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	MRS JEAN BAKER MRS BARBARA NAPPER MARK DAVIES LEN DRINKELL PAUL SPENDLOVE
<i>Honorary Members</i>	MRS R. J BRISTOW LEN DRINKELL
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	PETER EVANS 5 Grimston Road Colchester CO2 7RN Telephone 01206 540990
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	PATRICK DENNEY 247 Old Heath Road Colchester CO3 8BN Telephone 01206 796822 Email patrick.denney@ntlworld.com
<i>Honorary Auditor</i>	ROY ANDERSON
<i>Committee</i>	ANDREW PHILLIPS (Chairman) MRS JEAN BLOWERS MRS JANE REES HARRY CARLO PETER CONSTABLE PATRICK DENNEY LEN DRINKELL PETER EVANS ANDREW MILLAR
<i>Ex Officio</i>	PETER BERRIDGE (General Manager, Colchester & Ipswich Museums) TOM HODGSON (Curator of Social History) PHILIP WISE (Curator of Archaeology)
<i>Museum Office</i>	Colchester Museums Resource Centre 14 Ryegate Road Colchester CO1 1TW

Fifty Eighth Annual Report 2006-2007

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM took place on Tuesday 19 June at Lion Walk Church, under the chairmanship of Andrew Phillips, in the absence of the Mayor of Colchester.

Audited Accounts for the year were presented and approved and are featured on pages 4 and 5.

Among the business discussed, Mrs Jane Rees was elected to the Committee and the merger between the Museum Services of Colchester and Ipswich was reported, with both Friends organizations remaining as autonomous societies, albeit with liaison between the two.

Following the business part of the evening, FRANK GRACE gave a lecture entitled *Rags and Bones*, which focused on life in the Dockland Slums of Ipswich.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2007 became due on 1st January - single £7.50, couple £12, and family £18.

If you pay by Standing Order, please check that you are paying the correct amount and make any adjustments with your bank as necessary.

Please contact the Treasurer, Peter Evans on 01206 540990 if you are not sure of the status of your membership.

GIFT AID

You may be surprised to learn that we have raised £6,290 from Gift Aid claimed on annual subscriptions since the scheme started in 2000. The first year that we claimed the Inland Revenue sent us £409, and we will soon receive almost £1,500 for the year ended 31 March 2007. Most members have signed up for the scheme and it is hoped that more will do so in the future. Once you have signed a

Gift Aid form, you have no need to complete any other forms - and we can backdate claims to cover any contributions made since 2000 or the date that you joined.

To sign the form, you do need to be a UK tax payer, but apart from that, there are no other qualifications. The Friends hold your authority and can use this to claim back Gift Aid on all contributions on subscriptions. If you make donations at any time, we can claim on those as well. Many thanks.

PETER EVANS
Hon. Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (at July 2007)

Single	298
Couples	164
Families	163
Other	9
Total	634

If we were to break down the couple and family members into individual numbers, our total membership would be 1,287.

LECTURE SERIES 2007

The first part of our current Lecture Series was well received with attendances averaging in the region of 104. These evenings continue to attract widespread interest from both members and the general public and we hope that this will continue. The series continues at Lion Walk Church on Tuesday 11 September at 7.30pm, when JOHN JOWERS' lecture is entitled *Fishing: A Very Essex Industry*.

Following this are five interesting subjects taking us up to the Christmas/New Year break. Complete details, including speakers, can be found on the back cover of this publication.

Our New Year mailing will provide all the details of the programme of Lectures which will start in April 2008, so keep a look out for it coming through your door.

CHELMSFORD POLICE MUSEUM

On 15 May some 30 members enjoyed an evening visit to the Essex Police Museum at Chelmsford. We were met off our coach by our two very able guides who began by giving us a tour of the current Police Operations Centre from where all policing activities in the county are directed. Following this we proceeded to the museum area for a tour of the many exhibits and a chance to try on a selection of archive police uniforms and protective equipment.

PATRICK DENNEY



Essex Police's youngest recruit? No, Jessica Denney, one of our younger members enjoying herself during our recent visit to Chelmsford Police Museum

CHRISTCHURCH MANSION MUSEUM

On 24 July around 50 members enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining evening visit to Christchurch Mansion Museum in Ipswich. The fact that Colchester and Ipswich Museums had only recently amalgamated made the trip even more special and provided us with the opportunity to strike up some new friendships. In fact, the evening was hosted by members of the Friends of Ipswich Museums who in addition to showing us the delights of the building and its many exhibits, managed to lay

on a sumptuous buffet which rounded off a superb evening. Plans are already in hand for the Friends of Ipswich Museums to visit Colchester next year.

PATRICK DENNEY



Friends outside Christchurch Mansion with our informative guide Mary Southwood



The Wolsey Art Gallery containing works by several well-known Suffolk artists



Members of the Fonnereau family in the Green Room at Christchurch Mansion c.1730

VICTORIAN DAY

On Saturday 21 July St Botolphs' Priory and Church reverberated with a variety of Victorian sights and sounds including 'Queen Victoria'. Mouth-watering refreshments were available and the band of the Salvation Army played intermittently throughout. The enjoyable (and sunny) day included sideshows, bookstall, bric-a-brac and lunch in the grounds of one of Colchester's ancient monuments.

TREASURER'S TOPICS

The accounts shown pages 4 and 5, includes an item for advertising income for a feature in a previous edition. We are always keen to consider possible advertisements, as all profits go towards Museum projects. Please contact either myself or Peter Constable (telephone 01206 517788) for details.

The Museum often asks us to contribute towards the cost of purchases. If we agree to provide part of the cost, they are often able to claim other larger contributions from grant giving bodies.

On a visit to Much Wenlock Museum in Shropshire, I found a copy of the British Association of Friends of Museums magazine - and there was an article about the Colchester Friends, so our activities are well spread.

The Friends of the Ipswich Museums

For over ten years FOIM members have enjoyed holiday visits lasting three or four nights in the UK and Europe, including Arras, Bruges, The Hague, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Bath, Liverpool, Birmingham - and many day trips. We now extend an invitation to Colchester Friends to join us on future trips.

**Gardens and Castles of North Wales
Monday 28 April 2008 for three nights.**

Provisional information only

Setting off from our collection points and stopping en route at Ironbridge to see the bridge and visit one of the museums. Our hotel in Llanberis is at the foot of Mount Snowdon. Visits being researched include Bodnant Gardens, one of the world's finest, Plas Newydd (both NT) on Anglesea, Portmeirion, a ride on the Ffestiniog railway, and Penrhyn Castle. Cost per head under £300 with £32 approx single supplement. Includes travel, two dinners with wine and gratuities. National Trust admissions extra for non NT members.

A leaflet for members to complete to request a full brochure and application form will be sent out with your January newsletter. Meanwhile I can be contacted on 01394 380044.

ALAN SWERDLOW, *Vice-President*

Friends of the Ipswich Museums and visits leader

IPSWICH FRIENDS' LECTURES 2007

There are three lectures up to the end of the year. Doors open at 7.00pm for tea and coffee with the talks starting at 7.30pm.

Inn Signs - Town and Country by ANDREW JACKSON on Tuesday 18 September at Christchurch Mansion. Andrew will tell the story behind the more unusual inn signs that are (or have been) seen around the country. Friends £3 at the door.

The Celebrity Lecture by CARENZA LEWISON on Tuesday 16 October at Ipswich School. This talk features the excavations she organizes for young people. Tickets available from Howard King, 43 Jupiter Road, Ipswich IP4 4NT. Friends £5. Tickets also available at the September lecture and from the Ipswich Tourist Information Centre.

Do you have any pictures by what's-his-name? by ANDY ELLIS - Director of The Public Catalogue Foundation in the National Gallery on Tuesday 13 November at Christchurch. Friends £3 at the door.

The Friends of Colchester Museums

Income and Expenditure Account for

INCOME	2006/7	2005/6
Note	(£s)	(£s)
Subscriptions	6062.00	6381.00
Donations	154.50	98.50
Lectures (net of expenses)	774.20	870.00
1. Trips (net profit)	198.50	124.85
Gift Aid	1627.22	1363.78
Interest	777.89	655.76
Sales	50.00	3.00
Surplus of Expenditure over Income	4736.39	
TOTAL	£14380.70	£9497.64

Balance Sheet as

ACCUMULATED FUND	(£s)	(£s)
Balance brought forward	26644.20	20627.05
Add: Surplus/Loss for year	-4736.39	6017.15
	SUB TOTAL	21907.81
CREDITORS: Fees for Trips	529.00	494.00
Other	125.00	
	TOTAL	£22561.81

Notes to the Accounts:

1. Relates to trips to Ipswich Transport Museum and Hitchin
2. The contributions to the Colchester Museums were
 - Display Project £6000.00
 - Contributions to Museum purchases, including Charles Bartlett prints £6169.00

Annual Accounts 2006-2007

the year ended 31 March 2007

EXPENDITURE	2006/7	2005/6
Note	(£s)	(£s)
Operating Expenses	1634.29	1134.66
Subscriptions and Insurance (BAFM)	333.59	325.83
Events (Christmas Open Evening)	125.00	170.00
Exhibition Launch	118.82	
2. Purchases and Grants	12169.00	1850.00
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-	6017.15
<hr/>		
TOTAL	£14380.70	£9497.64

at 31 March 2007

NET CURRENT ASSETS	(£s)	(£s)
Cash at Bank		
Current Account	1041.21	523.12
Building Society Account	21280.60	26399.08
	SUB-TOTAL	22321.81
DEBTOR: Room Hire	240.00	216.00
	TOTAL	£22561.81
		£27138.20
<hr/>		

I have examined the accounts of The Friends of Colchester Museums for the year ended 31 March 2007 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  ROY ANDERSON *Hon. Auditor* Dated: 19 June 2007

Signed  PETER EVANS FMAAT *Hon. Treasurer*

Museum News

It has been a busy couple of months since the merger with Ipswich. We are now the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service and are all working hard to combine the wealth of museums, collections and experience into a coherent force. The cross-border links are throwing up some interesting opportunities, particularly so in that 'Constable Country' falls squarely within the museum collecting area. On which subject the museum in Colchester have some exciting news to report.

On 18 May the museum received a visit from Anne Lyles, the Curator of the Constable Collection at Tate Britain, as part of preliminary research for an exhibition of portraits by John Constable to be held in April 2009 at the National Portrait Gallery in London. The museum has a portrait by Constable of Thomas Letchmere Grimwood, Headmaster of Dedham Grammar School where he studied.

There is also a portrait of John Constable's mother Ann, the attribution of which has been in some doubt for a number of years. This painting was thought to be a copy by another artist of the original Constable portrait in the collection at Tate Britain. However, Anne Lyles, having viewed the painting, is convinced that the Colchester portrait is the original, painted in about 1805 and the Tate portrait a copy painted about 10 years later.

Strangely the Tate copy, although almost identical in all other respects, has Ann Constable facing right rather than left as in the original portrait. This a strong

clue as to the reason why it was painted. It was probably commissioned as a pair to an existing portrait of her husband, Golding Constable, in which he was facing left. So the copy of Ann Constable was painted in reverse to make the two portraits face each other – quite an achievement in its own right!.

If you want to see the original Constable portrait of Ann Constable for yourself, (pictured in black and white below), you will find it on display in Colchester Castle Museum.

TOM HODGSON
Curator of Social History



CASTLE OPEN EVENING

Colchester Castle Open Evening is on Wednesday 12 December from 4.30-8.30pm. Mince pies, mulled wine, Christmas carols and 10% off stock prices in the shop are among the features on offer.

Please come along and enjoy the free festive cheer in one of the most historic environments in North East Essex.

A MAJOR NEW MUSEUM PUBLICATION

On 2 August there was an evening reception at the Castle Museum to celebrate the publication of a book entitled *A Late Iron Age Warrior Burial from Kelvedon, Essex* by museum archaeologist DR PAUL SEALEY. Nearly two hundred guests assembled in the vicinity of the Charles Gray Room, many of them Friends of the Museum. There was a display of finds from the grave and also on view was the

donated the finds from the grave to the museum; the grave is a find of national importance and the museum service was understandably delighted and excited with their contribution

The warrior himself was an elite fighter who died c.75-25 BC and was laid to rest on a hillside overlooking Kelvedon village. He was buried with a sword, spear and shield; other grave goods included a bronze bowl imported from the Roman world and an elegant native tankard with a bronze handle.

On the Bookshelf

The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester

The third edition of this book with new information and illustrations is now available. Copies can be purchased from Red Lion Books and the Castle Bookshop. Price £28. Discount of £8 available to

members direct from the author, JESS JEPHCOTT, at Ditchling, Quilters Green, Fordham, Colchester, Essex CO6 3LZ. Tel. 01206 242228.



magnificent oil painting depicting the world of the Kelvedon warrior by Peter Froste that featured on the front cover of the book. Peter himself was present at the launch.

So too were the sons of the man who excavated the grave, Paul and Bob Bennett. This summer Paul and Bob very generously

played at our village fetes around Colchester.

The book entitled *Grandad Played the Cornet* has over 100 photographs of bands and bandmen as well as the histories of around thirty local bands. It is available price £6.95 from Red Lion Books or direct from David at d.cawdell@btinternet.com

Tea and Talks 2007

Enjoy a fantastic range of talks when Colchester and Ipswich Museums host 'Tea and Talks' in Colchester Castle. For £3.50 you have entry to the Castle from 2.00pm on the day of the talk and a cup of tea! Book all 5 talks for £14.00 and save £3.50. Booking must be made in advance by phoning Hollytrees Museum on 01206 282940 or by calling into Hollytrees in person. All talks start at 2.30pm.

3 November - *Colchester Past: Horse-drawn Carriages, Trams and Cars*

PATRICK DENNEY

Up to the First World War, the roadways were the domain of the horse. At the turn of the 20th century, the number of horses on the nation's roads had exceeded three million. However, major changes were afoot - within a decade or so horse transport was in serious decline. In its place came electric trams, cars and a revolution in personal travel.

10 November - *The Prittlewell Prince*

KEN CROWE

In 2003, as part of an archaeological evaluation following proposals to widen a road in Prittlewell, an astonished project team found the most important Saxon burial since Sutton Hoo. An almost perfectly intact princely burial dating back to the early 7th century amazed the archaeological world. Ken Crowe, Keeper of Human History at Southend Museums, describes the circumstances of the discovery, the finds and its significance.

17 November - *Mushrooms and Toadstools, Edible and Otherwise*

IAN ROSE

Drawing upon a lifetime of natural history study and photography, fungus 'fun guy' Ian Rose gives an illustrated talk on the fungus around us. Find out which ones are to be

admired from afar, and which ones you can take home for a hearty meal. See toadstools and mushrooms in a new light!

24 November - *The Roman Circus in Colchester*

PHILIP CRUMMY

The important discovery of the Roman Circus in Colchester meant the town's history had to be re-written! Recent excavations show the circus was over a quarter of a mile long accommodating about 15,000 spectators. Teams of four-horse chariots would run around the track seven times in races of about two and half miles. Philip Crummy describes how it was discovered, what it looked like, and how it was to spend a day at the races 1800 years ago!

1 December - *A Portrait of the Artist as a Disabled Man: John Vine, 1807-1867*

DR JANE PEARSON

This talk examines the significance of John Vine's life as it reveals past attitudes to disability, how disability affected his life, his work and his family. John Vine was born with rudimentary arms and imperfect hands and of diminutive stature. Nevertheless, he showed a talent for drawing as a child and earned money as a 'freak child' prodigy in fairs and shows. Using brushes with long handles held in his fingers, he settled in Colchester painting prize winning animals.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

The 60th Anniversary of the Friends of Colchester Museums takes place in 2009, and the Committee is keen to celebrate the event. If you have any ideas that you think would be appropriate, please contact me so that they can be discussed at the next meeting in October.

PETER CONSTABLE

Email: design.constables@btinternet.com

Local and Family History Courses starting in September 2007

Meeting Your Ancestors (Part One) Accredited by Cambridge University

This is a structured course which will cover all the basics of family history research. Learners will examine a variety of primary source material: - Census Returns, Parish Registers, Civil Registration, Oral History, Wills and Probate Records, Maps and Tithe Records and Photographs. Also included will be a visit to the Local Studies Library and a separate Palaeography Workshop.

Tutor - PATRICK DENNEY

Thursday evenings from 27 September 2007 (12 weeks). Parts two and three in 2008

Enrolment - Grey Friars 01206 542242 or Wilson Marriage Centre 01026 798488
Code: NGF4C04

History of Colchester

A 10 week course covering all major aspects of the town's history from the time of the Romans to the present day.

Tutor - PATRICK DENNEY

Thursday afternoons from 27 September 2007

Enrolment - Grey Friars 01206 542242 or Wilson Marriage Centre 01026 798488
Code: NGF4B02

Family History Using the Internet

This 10 week course will provide the learner with a knowledge of the main computer-based sources available for researching Family History. Although primarily aimed at the beginner, the course should also be of interest to more experienced family historians who would like to gain experience using computer-based sources.

Tutor - PATRICK DENNEY

Saturday mornings from 29 September 2007 (also available in January and April 2008)

Enrolment - Grey Friars 01206 542242 or Wilson Marriage Centre 01026 798488
Code: NWM6A05



*Another group of Friends outside Christchurch Mansion
pictured during their recent visit*

Ipswich Museum

Do not forget to visit the Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, especially for the exhibition *Abolition!*, which features Thomas Clarkson and his important work concerning Ipswich and the end of the Slave Trade.

The exhibition opens on 26 September. Admission free.

Friends' Lecture Series 2007

Tuesday 11 September

JOHN JOWERS

Fishing: A Very Essex Industry

Tuesday 25 September

WILLIAM TYLER

*Bound and Free: The End of Slavery and
The Slave Trade*

Tuesday 9 October

PETER MURPHY

The Archaeology Beneath The North Sea

Tuesday 23 October

LEIGH ALSTON

Medieval Discoveries at Charlie Brown's

Tuesday 6 November

JOHN RIX

50 Years of Farming in The Stour Valley

Tuesday 20 November

JIM ROBINSON

From Black Holes To Colchester's Glasshouse

All at Lion Walk Church at 7.30pm.

Admission per lecture Members £1

Non-members £2

For further details please contact

PATRICK DENNEY on 01206 796822

COLCHESTER RECALLED

Colchester's Oral History Group, restarts its monthly meetings on Thursday 13 September 2007 in the Board Room at the Colchester Institute at 7pm, when DAVID CAWDELL is going to talk about Colchester Brass Bands - affectionados please note!

Incidentally, this group would welcome new members, so if you are interested, please do not hesitate to attend.

To advertise in subsequent issues
at reasonable rates
please contact Peter Constable
Telephone: 01206 517788
Email: design.constables@btinternet.com