

The Friends of Colchester Museums

Sixty First Annual Report
2009-2010



The Friends of Colchester Museums

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Vice Presidents MRS JEAN BAKER
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LEN DRINKELL
ANDREW PHILLIPS
PAUL SPENDLOVE

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ANDREW PHILLIPS

Ex Officio PETER BERRIDGE (*General Manager, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service*)
TOM HODGSON (*Community History Manager*)
PHILIP WISE (*Heritage Manager*)

Museum Office Museus Resource Centre
14 Ryegate Road Colchester CO1 1YG

Sixty First Annual Report 2009-2010

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday 29th June at Lion Walk Church. The Mayor of Colchester, Councillor Sonia Lewis, took the chair. The audited accounts, see pages 8 and 9, were presented and approved.

Afterwards, PHILIP CRUMMY and two colleagues presented *The Puzzle of Mr H G Polley, Draper of St Botolph's Street*, when the audience was asked to *Hear the Evidence, Weigh Up the Facts and Decide* if H G Wells was involved. A fascinating evening ensued.

OPEN EVENING AT THE CASTLE

Besides our activities for members – including another series of well-attended lectures and some enjoyable outings – the Friends have been able to support our Museum Service in acquiring several important items for the collections during the past year. Reports on all of these are included among the following pages. What is more, members will be able to see these items at a special Open Evening to be held by kind invitation of the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service on Monday, 27th September, 2010, at the Castle.

This date is particularly significant in that it marks to the very day the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Castle Museum in 1860. In addition to the recent acquisitions, there will be an opportunity to view the spectacular temporary exhibition on 'The Medieval Mind' and an informative update will be given on the major project to re-develop the Castle, to which the enclosed questionnaire relates.

Hopefully as many Friends as possible will be able to join in celebrating this occasion and perhaps they would like to bring an interested friend or two. There will be a small charge to cover wine or soft drinks and light refreshments and booking forms need to be in the Secretary's hands by Tuesday, 21st September

2010. Please do not miss this very special opportunity to support Colchester's Museums.

MARK DAVIES *Chairman*

TREASURER'S TOPICS

Subscriptions for 2010 became due on 1st January – single £7.50, couple £12 and family £18. Please check that you are paying the correct amount if you pay by Standing Order and make the necessary adjustments with your bank if required. Please contact the Treasurer, Peter Evans on 01206 540990 if you are not sure of the status of your membership.

Gift Aid

Money continues to be raised from Gift Aid, with the claim for 2009-2010 in the region of £1,500 currently being prepared for the year ended 31st March 2010. The claim will be with HM Customs and Revenue within a few weeks. If you have yet to complete a Gift Aid form, please do so as soon as possible. The form can be backdated to cover any contributions made since 2000 or the date that you joined. You need to be a UK taxpayer but there are no other qualifications. The Friends retain your authority and use this to claim back Gift Aid on all contributions and subscriptions, even donations are claimable.

PETER EVANS *Hon Treasurer*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As at July 2010, our membership has seen a small increase over the past year with 710 signed up members compared with 695 last year. As this figure is made up of single, couple and family memberships the total number of individuals associated with our group is around 1400. Please keep spreading the word among your friends and associates about the benefits of joining the Friends as we would like our membership to grow even larger.

VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND BRITISH LIBRARY

On Tuesday 15th June we joined forces with the members of the Colchester Recalled Oral History Group, for an exciting visit to the British Museum and British Library.

Our first port of call was the British Museum where members were free to explore the various exhibits at their leisure before boarding the coach after lunch for the short transfer to the British Library.

After being cordially welcomed to the

venue by Assistant Curator of Oral History, Mary Stewart, we were free to tour the various galleries and to inspect some of the priceless manuscripts and maps on display.

The visit concluded with tea and refreshments and a presentation by Mary on the work and progress being made by the Library's sound archive department.

VISIT TO LAVENHAM

Our second excursion for the year took place on Tuesday, 22nd June when we were treated to an evening's entertainment at Lavenham.

Upon arrival we made our way to the Guildhall for an introductory talk given by the Guildhall Manager, Jane Gosling, before dividing into three groups to enjoy a range of activities for the rest of the evening.

These included a short walking tour of the town led by Blue Badge Guides, Jim Robinson

LEFT:

One of the many sculptures taken from the frieze of the Parthenon in Greece by Lord Elgin in the early 1800s and transferred to the British Museum

BELOW:

Members arriving at the British Library





and Gill Templeman, a visit to the nearby Medieval Little Hall and, of course, the chance to browse the exhibits of the Guildhall itself.

The evening concluded with some light refreshments and the chance to browse the well stocked gift shop.

ABOVE:

Introductory talk in Guildhall by Jane Gosling, who is standing in the doorway

BELOW:

Walking tour led by Gill Templeman, pictured in front of the Little Hall





VISIT TO AUDLEY END HOUSE AND GARDENS

Our final excursion for 2010 took us to Audley End House and Gardens for a day long visit on Wednesday, 14th July. There was much to see in both the house and extensive grounds and the weather was fairly kind to us, albeit at times a little breezy and overcast.

As an extra attraction on the day of our visit there was a demonstration on bee keeping and the chance to purchase some locally made honey and beeswax etc.

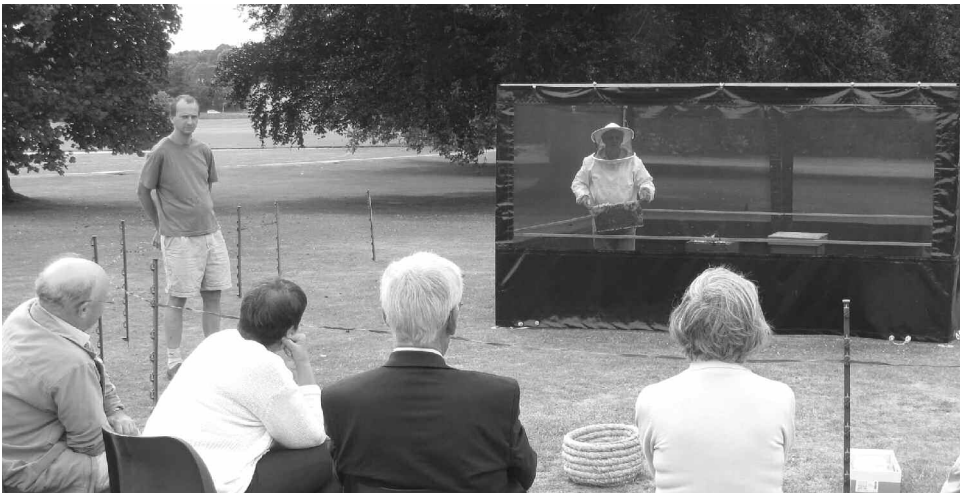
ABOVE:

The rear view of Audley End House and gardens

BELOW:

Deryck Johnson, demonstrating the art of bee-keeping to a group of members in the grounds of Audley End

Outing reports and photography by
PATRICK DENNEY *Hon Secretary*



ST BOTOLPH'S HISTORY FAIR

The Friends had a stall at the History Fair at St Botolph's Church on Saturday 17th July, where we signed up some new members and also accepted a subscription renewal.

This was an interesting day and we were able to explain our aims to a number of visitors. Our site allowed us to listen to the three different talks given by John Ashdown Hill (a member) on medieval Colchester.

If you can help the Committee by staffing the stall at the History Fair or the Museum Christmas Open Evening, please let us know.

AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT THE POPULATION OF COLCHESTER

I understand that the population of the Colchester district is now 170,000 or more.

An old history book I have just come across gives the population of British towns with populations of over 20,000 two hundred years ago. Colchester did not appear in the list.

Had we had 170,000 people in 1811, we would have been the second largest town after London.

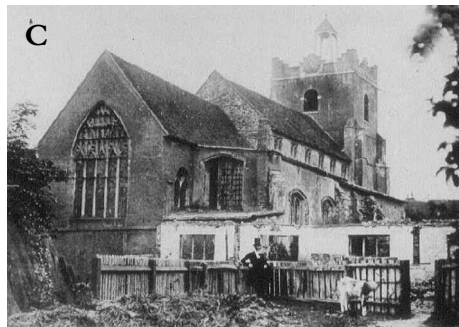
PETER EVANS *Hon. Treasurer*

Know Your Colchester?

Friends who know Colchester are invited to enter this competition to provide the answers asked about each photograph.

Send your answers to Peter Constable, 12 Claremont Heights, Colchester CO1 1ZU. Email: design.constables@btinternet.com to arrive by Friday 17th September.

The prize will be free admission to the rest of this year's lectures for the first correct answer to all three pictures.



- A. Where is this town centre view?
B. Where is this old tram situated?
C. Which of the town's old medieval churches is this?

Museum News

COLCHESTER CASTLE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

On 27 November 2009 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded the Museum

Service
£265,300
for the
project to
redevelop
Colchester
Castle. We
welcomed
Loraine
Donnelly as
the Project
Assistant on
15th March
2010 to
work along-
side myself,
the Project

Manager. This project will ensure the continued viability of Colchester Castle as a top quality visitor attraction.

The main project aims are to:

- Insulate the roof and upgrade the heating system in such a way that the building works are an example of best practice in integrating the requirements of conservation and the environment in a historic building.
- Present the archaeology and history of Colchester from the origins of the town in the Iron Age to the Civil War Siege of Colchester in 1648 in a series of exciting new displays.
- Incorporate the latest archaeological discoveries into the displays.
- Improve the interpretation of Colchester Castle so that it will be far better understood and appreciated by visitors.
- Use the Castle displays as a starting point and a link to discovering other heritage sites in Colchester.

Anne Millman was appointed as the audience development consultant on 30 April 2010. She is consulting a wide range of people, including a number of Friends of the Museum,

to gain, in detail, their views on the current displays and their input on the proposed new displays and facilities.

We have set up a task



team to focus on fundraising options as we require more than just HLF funding to complete what will be a £3m project. A bid is already in progress for European Union funding where we are in partnership with other Norman sites in England and France.

We are also continuing to talk to English Heritage about the Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building Consents that we will need before work can be carried out on the Castle.

Following a lengthy EU procurement process Redman Design were appointed as designers in early June. They have a great deal of experience in projects of this type and are working closely with museum staff to produce the Round 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund which will be submitted later this year.

TOM HODGSON
Community History Manager

COLCHESTER AND IPSWICH MUSEUM SERVICE GETS TOP MARKS FOR EDUCATION VISITS

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service has shown itself to be at the top of the class for educational visits by being awarded a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. Awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, the Quality Badge combines for the first time learning and safety into one easily recognisable badge for all organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences.

The Quality Badge was developed as part of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto, a national initiative to ensure young people are given more opportunities to have these experiences as part of the curriculum. The award is designed to make it easier for teachers to identify providers of quality educational visits. The badge will be displayed as a signal to schools that the venue has met required standards, so teachers do not need to carry out their own risk or quality assessments.

FUTURE JOBS FUND ‘STEPPING STONES’

The Museum Service in partnership with Renaissance Hub Partners secured funding at the end of 2009 for ten apprenticeships and twenty jobs across the region. Four 6-month posts have been based in Colchester and Ipswich, fully supporting this government initiative to get young people aged 18 to 24, who have been disproportionately affected by the recession, back into the workplace.

At Colchester, Ailsa Clarke took up her post on 22nd February. Working in the marketing team, Ailsa has made good progress on re-ordering the image library. The other posts have been at Ipswich in the Gallery Services and Display teams.

LYNETTE BURGESS

Learning and Marketing Manager

SAVED FOR COLCHESTER: THE 1909 PAGEANT SHRINE

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service has been to Gorrings auctioneers in Lewes, Sussex, to acquire a 101-year old theatrical prop used in the Colchester Pageant of 1909. This



wooden shrine to hold ‘the relics of St Helena’ was used in the performance in Castle Park that took place over a week in June 1909. Local businessman Ernest Mason led the prop-building committee and made this shrine. In a nice bit of symmetry, he also played the character (Walter) that made the shrine in the pageant storyline. Hollytrees House (now Hollytrees Museum) became the headquarters for all pageant-related activity and many of the props and costumes were made there. In the Museum’s collection, there are tickets, programmes and scripts relating to the pageant. Unfortunately, very few of the costumes or props seem to have survived.

CATHERINE NEWLEY

Assistant Curator of Community History

The Friends of Colchester Museums

Income and Expenditure Account for

INCOME	2009/10 (£s)	2008/9 (£s)
Subscriptions	7,348.00	6881.00
Lectures (net of expenses)	792.90	450.60
Trips (net profit – note 1)	367.40	62.00
Gift Aid	1,651.99	1705.42
Interest	39.32	763.41
Donations	152.00	198.50
Sales/Raffle	60.50	46.83
Surplus of Expenditure over Income	-	-
	<u>£10,412.11</u>	<u>10,107.76</u>

Balance Sheet as

ACCUMULATED FUND	(£s)	(£s)
Balance brought forward	36,789.91	30,621.44
Surplus/Loss for year	3,088.14	6,168.47
TOTAL	39,878.05	36,789.91
CREDITORS:		
Fees for Trips	768.00	396.00
Colchester Recalled	48.00	-
	<u>£40,694.05</u>	<u>37,185.91</u>

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1. Trips to Bury St Edmunds and Harwich.

Note 2. Charity donation for the late David
Clarke, former Museum Curator.

Note 3. Purchases – David May postcards from
Reeman & Dansie £2,187.83.

Note 4. Donation from funds £2,000
plus contributions from members.

Annual Accounts 2009-2010


the year ended 31st March 2010

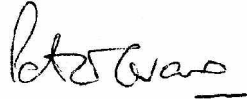
EXPENDITURE	2009/10	2008/9
	(£s)	(£s)
Operating Expenses	1,767.62	1868.31
Subscriptions and Insurance		
(British Association of Friends of Museums)	398.52	515.98
Donation (Note 2)	30.00	-
Events – Christmas Open Evening	125.00	100.00
Ipswich Friends Evening	-	-
Purchases (Note 3)	2,887.83	1000.00
Donation to Roman Circus (Note 4)	2,115.00	-
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	3,088.14	6,168.47
	<u>£10,412.11</u>	<u>10,107.76</u>

at 31st March 2010

NET CURRENT ASSETS	(£s)	(£s)
Bank		
Current Account	2,420.76	1,949.08
Building Society	37,709.29	34,972.83
TOTAL	<u>£40,130.05</u>	<u>36,921.91</u>
DEBTORS: Room Hire	264.00	264.00
Cedrics Coaches	300.00	-
	<u>£40,694.05</u>	<u>37,185.91</u>

I have examined the accounts of The Friends of Colchester Museums for the year ended 31st March 2010 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: 23rd June 2010

Signed  PETER EVANS FMAAT *Hon. Treasurer*

CHEN HONG 'THE FISH KING'

As part of the 'Eastern Exchange – Stories of the World Project' Chen Hong, a traditional Chinese artist from Beijing, was artist in residence at the Museum Service during April.

'Stories of the World' is one of the major projects of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad; exploring Chinese culture through new ways of engaging with the collections and offering different perspectives and experiences.



Chen Hong at Hollytrees Museum

Regarded as a 'cultural treasure' in his homeland, Chen Hong is an expert painter and calligrapher, particularly famous for his images of fish.

During his time with the Museum Service, Mr Chen took part in a programme of events including painting demonstrations, workshops and master classes.

These activities engaged visitors of all ages and took place in both Ipswich and Colchester, culminating with an exhibition at University Campus Suffolk (UCS) Waterfront Building.

It has been a real coup to have such a significant Chinese artist with us. His presence

has built on the links already made between the Museum Service and China which will continue to grow.

TOM HODGSON

Community History Manager

SAATCHI IS COMING TO IPSWICH

The Ipswich Art School re-opened as a gallery space on 9th July with an exhibition from the world-renowned Saatchi Collection which has never lent to venues outside London before. This six-month exhibition gives unique access to pieces of work from seven international artists: Jon Pylypchuk, Matthew Monahan, Berlinde de Bruyckere, Thomas Houseago, Alexandra Bircken, Andy Yoder and Will Ryman. This exhibition comprises of a mixture of multimedia pieces from small to very large scale that challenge their audience and stimulate visitors to explore, enjoy and experience the varied works on display.

Admission to the Art School is free and the opening hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 11am – 3pm. The building is located next to Ipswich Museum in the High Street.

BELOW: *The Bed* by Will Ryman



EGYPTIANS AT IPSWICH

The new Egyptian Gallery at Ipswich opened on Saturday 7th August. The completion of a permanent gallery within 16 months is a major achievement for the Museum

Service and is seen as the first phase of the proposed redevelopment of Ipswich Museum.

The gallery has been developed with schoolchildren at Key Stage 2 as the target audience and will be an exciting new resource for schools in East Anglia studying the Egyptians. As well as stunning objects from



Mummy mask of Titus Flavius Demetrios

the mummy of Lady Tahathor previously displayed in Colchester Castle.

CAROLINE McDONALD
Curator of Archaeology (Ipswich)

MEDIEVAL TREASURES

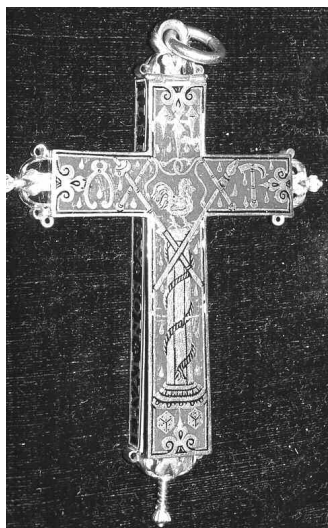
This exhibition, the second part of 'The Medieval Mind: Art Treasures from East Anglia', opened at Colchester Castle Museum on 17th July. It has seventy-nine exhibits drawn from a wider range of regional and national museums. Highlights include the Clare Reliquary Cross on loan from Her Majesty the Queen, a Flemish triptych of 'The Adoration with St Peter and St Barbara' from Norwich, the spectacular Wenlok Jug from Luton Museums and the gold pectoral cross of the last Abbot of Colchester executed for his faith in 1539.

Other treasures are being lent by the

Royal Armouries, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, the British Museum, St Edmundsbury Heritage Service and Ipswich School. Amongst others from Colchester's own collections come three rarely seen books: a Gradual or choir book of 1462, a French Book of Hours and 'On Virtue and Vice' by the early Protestant reformer John Wyclif.

This exhibition explores the ideas and beliefs of people in the Middle Ages through the marvellous variety of art objects they left behind.

The artefacts on display range from



Enamelled case for the pectoral cross worn by the last Abbot of Colchester

exquisite examples of church art to personal items owned by ordinary individuals.

The deliberate East Anglia focus emphasises the wealth of the region in the medieval period and is

designed to compliment the recently opened displays in the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

PHILIP WISE
Heritage Manager

THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Research on the suffrage movement in Colchester has led to a display in Colchester Library which opened in June and closes at the beginning of September. The display forms part

of a larger exhibition called Breaking Barriers which has been touring museums and libraries in Essex. The exhibition looks at the history of the suffrage movement across the county.



Objects from the Colchester collections are displayed and include a banner belonging to the local branch of the suffragists and a pin badge.

CATHERINE
NEWLEY

Assistant Curator of Community History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS

During the last year the Friends have contributed towards the purchase of a wide

range of items ranging from the **1909 Pageant Shrine of St Helena** (see page 7) to historic photographs, coins and archaeology.

The historic photographs, previously owned by collector **David May**, were recently purchased by the Friends at auction. The two lots relating to Colchester's history totalled over 450 photographs. One collection relates to Colchester's social history and the other is military, including some particularly rare scenes of a sports day at Colchester Garrison.

Two coins have been acquired, both of Iron Age date. The first is a **small gold coin or quarter stater** from West Mersea which is important because such coins are rare and represent the first regular coinage to have circulated in Britain at around 200BC. On one side of the coin there is a human head and on the other a horse.

The second is a **larger coin or stater** found some years ago at Hilly Fields, Colchester. It was issued by the high king Cunobelin, who reigned at Colchester on the eve of the Roman Invasion, c.AD10-40.

continued on page 15



Garrison Sports Day from the David May Collection

Colchester Castle Redevelopment: A Questionnaire for Friends

**This short questionnaire has been prepared
by Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service as part
of their consultation for the redevelopment of the Castle.**

It will take you about five minutes to complete, and all responses will be treated as strictly confidential.

Please return it to the Colchester Castle Project Assistant, Loraine Donnelly,
at Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service,
14 Ryegate Road, Colchester CO1 1YG.

- 1. Approximately how long have you been a Friend of Colchester Museums?**
(please tick one box only)

Under 12 months ☐ 1 – 3 years ☐ 4 – 6 years ☐ 7 + years ☐

- 2. Which, if any, of the following describe your reasons for joining the
Friends of Colchester Museums?** *(please tick all boxes that apply)*

And what would you say is your main reason?
(please tick one box only)

	Any reason <i>(tick any box/es)</i>	Main reason <i>(tick one box)</i>
Learn more about Colchester's heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Show support for Colchester's heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be part of a group interested in similar things	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Save money on visits to the Castle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Talks and outings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please write your reasons) _____

This questionnaire is continued on page 14



3. How strongly would you agree with the following statements

(please tick one box on each line)

	Agree strongly	Quite agree	Disagree strongly	Disagree
The Castle is an important reference point in local people's lives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colchester's history and heritage plays an important part in my own life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colchester's identity is bound up in its long history	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Museum displays should make you stop and think	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**4. What three things do you most value about the Castle Museum
at present?**

- a) _____

- b) _____

- c) _____

5. What three things would you like to see changed in the Castle Museum?

- a) _____

- b) _____

- c) _____



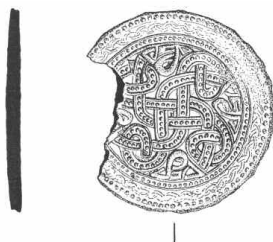
continued from page 12

On one side are the first three letters of the ancient name of the town, Camulodunum, and on the other is the abbreviated name of the king.

There have been three archaeological finds purchased recently: **a rare Anglo-Saxon metalworker's die, a medieval gold finger ring and a remarkable gold figure of St John the Baptist.**

The circular die, which dates from the 7th century, was found at Roxwell, north-west of Chelmsford. It was used for the production of gold foils applied to larger objects such as those on the Sutton Hoo shield and also items in the Staffordshire Hoard.

The finger ring, which is currently on display in the 'Medieval Treasures' exhibition at Colchester Castle, is decorated



Drawing of an Anglo-Saxon metalworker's die

with the flowers and leaves of heartsease or field pansy. In the language of flowers the pansy represented thought, perhaps of a loved one, and this association is reinforced by the ring's romantic inscription 'of, or for, the good'.

The figure of St John the Baptist was found at the site of Wix Priory, near Harwich, and is important both as a very rare survival and because of its historical associations.

The saint appears in the robes of a prophet, with his characteristic wild hair and long beard, gesturing with his right hand to a platter which he holds in his left. A scroll issues from his left hand inscribed with the words 'Ecce Agnus Dei'.

The figure was originally part of a larger object such as a shrine, casket or piece of statuary. It dates from c.1500.

PHILIP WISE
Heritage Manager

THE THREAD OF IDENTITY

This is the title of a recently published book written by Dr Ronald Ram, featuring his family from 1300 to 1900. They lived at Colchester, Great Waltham, Norwich, London, Hornchurch and Halesworth, working as farmers, clergy, lawyers and merchants.

The story explains how community and individual identity are formed, how the past can help resolve current problems and how small community groups in the past have shaped our society today.

The book serves as an encouragement to anyone thinking of studying their own family and there are several references to other families that may include your own or ones you know.

It is available from Red Lion Books at £18.99 and will be reviewed in the next issue of the Friends Newsletter, due to be published in January 2011.

PUBLIC LECTURE – JANUARY 2011 Treasure and Triumph: The Staffordshire Hoard

Colchester Archaeological Group will be holding a public lecture on Saturday 22nd January at The Castle Methodist Church, Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, starting at 2pm. The speaker is Leslie Webster FSA (Hon. Professor, Institute of Archaeology, University College, London; Hon. President, Society for Medieval Archaeology; former Keeper, Department of Prehistory and Europe, British Museum, London). She has written and lectured widely on Anglo-Saxon and early medieval subjects and is currently working on a book on Anglo-Saxon art.

The cost of the lecture for members of the Friends of Colchester Museums is £4. To book a place, please contact Anna Moore at anna.moore@fsmail.net

The Friends of Colchester Roman Wall

Following a successful launch in a packed Moot Hall on 8th July, the group is up and running. The Friends will be improving the Wall and its setting – maintenance remains the responsibility of Colchester Borough Council.

Many people have said that Colchester does not make enough of our unique historic heritage. Now is the chance for YOU to play your part. To be an official Friend, and therefore consulted in planning, an annual donation of a minimum of £25 is asked for, preferably by Standing Order. Obviously, any donation will be gratefully received and productively used.

Early targets are –

- Interpretation Boards (cost c.£1,000) at sites around the Wall.
- The removal of advertisement hoardings placed on the Wall in the past.
- Improving the setting of and access to Duncan's Gate on the northern part of the Wall near Castle Park.

Donation Forms and Standing Orders can be obtained from me at 16 Wakefield Close, Colchester CO1 2SD.

Email: spyveeh@googlemail.com
or our Treasurer, Barry Donovan at barrydonov@aol.com.

HENRY SPYVEE



Colchester Recalled

Colchester's Oral History Group, which focuses on topics of interest concerning our local history, continues its monthly meetings on Thursday 16th September 2009 in the Board Room at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, at 7pm, when MARTIN ASTEL of Essex Sound Archive is giving a talk entitled *Listening to Essex Accents*

On Thursday 14th October, JANE PEARSON's talk is entitled *Prostitution and the Colchester Lock Hospital* and the final lecture of the year is on 18th November when MIKE STANSBY's topic is *The East Anglia Railway Museum*.

This will be followed in December with the usual Christmas Party.

All are welcome. Admission is £1 per evening. The meetings begin with recordings of peoples' reminiscences, followed by refreshments and the lecture.

On each Thursday morning the archive group meets at the Museum to access and index all new tapes. Computer literate volunteers are required to help digitise the 2500+ recordings, and literate volunteers are required to listen to tapes and summarise the contents.

Complete details are available from ANDREW PHILLIPS, telephone 01206 546775.

Family History Courses starting in September 2010

FAMILY HISTORY USING THE INTERNET

Part 1 (September 2010)

Part 2 (January 2011)

A course designed to 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.

<i>Tutor:</i>	Patrick Denney
<i>Time:</i>	10 meetings on Saturday mornings at 10am
<i>Start date:</i>	Saturday, 25th September 2010 (part two continues on 22nd January).
<i>Venue:</i>	The Adult Community College, Wilson Marriage Centre, Colchester
<i>Enrolment:</i>	Wilson Marriage Centre on 01206 798488
<i>Course Code</i>	EWM6A20 (part two – EWM6A64)

PALAEOGRAPHY FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

Part 1 (September 2010)

Parts 2-4 continued in 2011

If like many family historians you have experienced difficulty in reading the handwriting found in some old English documents, particularly those from the Tudor and Stuart periods, then this series of courses will help you to get started.

Reading any old handwriting can prove difficult for the beginner and those attending the sessions will benefit from a tried and tested hands-on approach enabling the student to slowly master the skills required.

<i>Tutor:</i>	Patrick Denney
<i>Time:</i>	10 meetings on Thursday after- noons (1-3pm) or Thursday evenings (7-9pm)
<i>Start date:</i>	Thursday 14th January 2010
<i>Venue:</i>	The Adult Community College, Wilson Marriage Centre, Colchester
<i>Enrolment:</i>	Tel: 01233 746262 or visit www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk

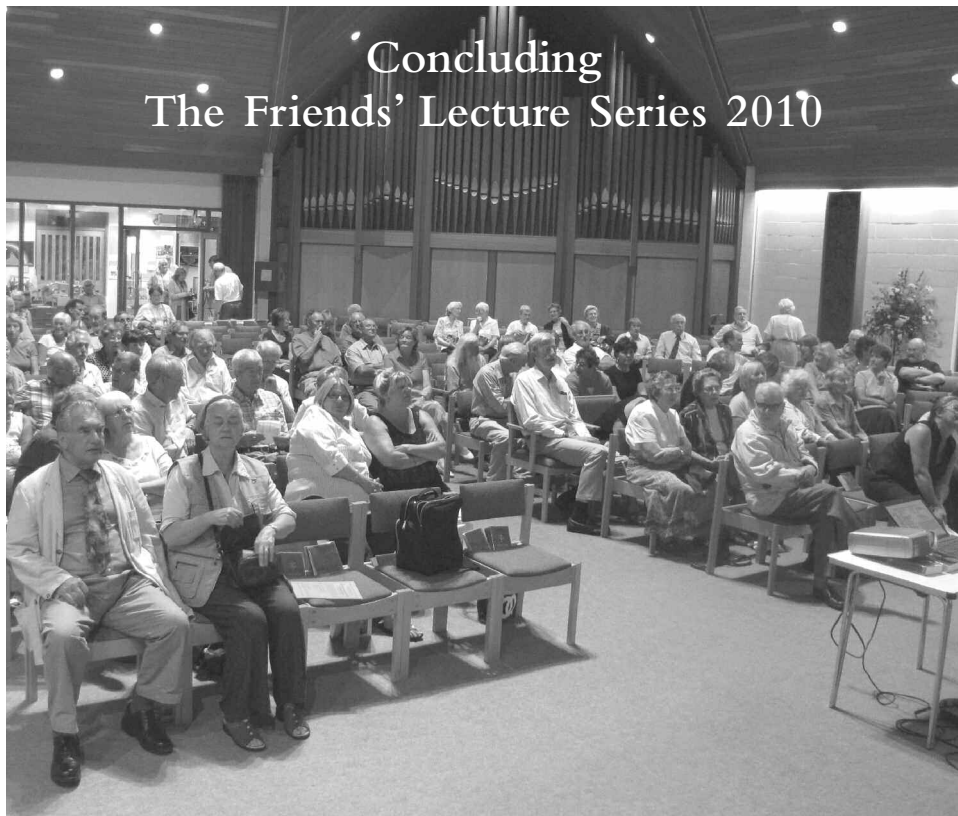
Colchester Civic Society

Founded in 1964, the society's aims are;

1. To help in preserving, developing and improving local amenities
2. To encourage and arouse public interest in the beauty, history and character of the town and its surroundings
3. To encourage a high standard of development and design in Colchester and its district.

If you are interested in helping with these aims or finding out more about the society and its other activities, including its social activities and day excursions, please contact the Membership Secretary, Miss A. C. Turner, 1 Robin Close, Great Bentley, Essex CO7 8QH. Subscription rates are £8 for single members or £12 joint members.

Concluding The Friends' Lecture Series 2010



Tuesday 7th September

EMMA ROODHOUSE

*Arts for All: An Invitation to the Fine Art
Collections in Colchester and Ipswich*

Tuesday 22nd September

PAUL DIGGENS

Behind the Scenes of Local Life Television

Tuesday 5th October

PATRICK DENNEY

Colchester Voices: Local History from Oral Sources

Tuesday 19th October

CIARA CANNING AND CATHERINE NEWLEY

*Leading the Way - the Influence of the Suffragettes
and the Girl Guiding Association on the Women of
North East Essex*

Tuesday 2nd November

MARK DAVIES

*The Old Moot Hall, the New Town Hall and a
Bottle of Champagne*

Tuesday 16th November

PETER BERRIDGE

The People of Colchester Castle

All at Lion Walk Church at 7.30pm

Admission prices per lecture:

Members £1 - Non Members £2.

For details contact:

PATRICK DENNEY on 01206 796822

STOP PRESS. *The Hon. Treasurer reports
that over £11,000 was spent on Recent
Acquisitions (see page 12)*