# The Friends of Colchester Museums

## Newsletter and Sixty Third Annual Report 2011-2012

Registered Charity No. 310669



# The Friends of Colchester Museums

### OFFICERS as elected at the Annual General Meeting 2012

President	His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Christopher Arnold			
Vice Presidents	Mrs Jean Baker Mrs Barbara Napper Mark Davies Patrick Denney	Len Drinkell Andrew Phillips Paul Spendlove		
Honorary Members	Mrs R J Bristow	Len Drinkell		
Honorary Treasurer	PETER EVANS 5 Grimston Road Colchester CO2 7RN Telephone 01206 540990 Email: peter.evans7978@btinternet.com			
Honorary Secretary	JANET FULFORD 301 Mile End Road Colchester CO4 5EA Telephone 01206 851593 Email: jif301@btinternet.com			
Membership Secretary	PATRICK DENNEY 247 Old Heath Road Colchester CO3 8BN Telephone 01206 796822 Email: patrick.denney@sky.com			
Newsletter Editor	PETER CONSTABLE 12 Claremont Heights, Essex Hall Road, Colchester CO1 1UZ Telephone 01206 517788 Email: design.constables@btinternet.com			
Committee	Mark Davies <i>(Chairman)</i> Mrs Jean Blowers Ms Avril Lankester Mrs Jenny Jones Len Drinkell	Chris Hall Andrew Millar Andrew Phillips David Walton		
Ex Officio	PETER BERRIDGE (General Manager, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service) TOM HODGSON (Community History Manager) PHILIP WISE (Heritage Manager)			
Honorary Auditor	Roy Anderson			
Museum Office	Museum Resource Centre 14 Ryegate Road Colchester CO1 1YG Telephone 01206 282931/2			

## Sixty Third Annual Report 2011-2012

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday 12th June at Lion Walk Church. The Mayor of Colchester, Councillor Christopher Arnold took the chair.

The audited accounts, see pages 6 and 7, were presented and approved. Amongst the other items agreed was the election of Patrick Denney as a Vice President in recognition of his past services: the election of Avril Lankester and Jenny Jones to the Committee: and the appointment of Mark Davies as a Trustee.

Afterwards, Peter Berridge gave a lecture on the 'Treasures of China' exhibition which was about to open at the Castle Museum, and would remain on view for the rest of the year.

#### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

During the past year the Friends have been able to maintain a satisfactory level of support for Colchester's museums, as may be seen from the reports which follow. It is particularly pleasing that we could help in the acquisition of several significant items for the collections. Such a positive expression of direct support is really our main *raison d'etre* as well as providing worthwhile activities for our members to enjoy. Happily, the number of new members continues to increase steadily which may be seen to reflect the strong value that people place on our museums and local heritage.

#### Open Evening at the Castle Museum on Tuesday 25th September 2012

As a follow-up to the lecture given by Peter Berridge after our AGM in June, members will be able to view the current spectacular exhibition on 'The Treasures of China' at a special Open Evening at the Castle. There is a small charge of  $\pounds 2.00$  per person to include wine or soft drinks and members are asked to book for this event by completing the enclosed form which should be sent to the Treasurer by Tuesday 18th September.

#### Viewing the Castle at Easter 2013

When the Chinese exhibition ends on 6th January 2013, the Castle Museum will be closed to the public for the next 15 months while the major redevelopment programme takes place. Once all existing displays have been removed the internal features of the historic Norman structure and its various later additions will be visible without encumbrance for the first time since 1935. A special viewing of the Castle is to be given to the Friends around Eastertime, details of which will be circulated to members in the next Newsletter in January 2013.

MARK DAVIES Chairman

#### TREASURER'S TOPICS

Subscriptions for 2012 became due on 1st January – single  $\pounds$ 7.50, couple  $\pounds$ 12 and family  $\pounds$ 18.

We have been in discussion with the Saffron Building Society about the interest paid on our deposit account. Their advice means that we can change our accounts with them so that we receive a higher level of interest. This is particularly helpful as it is difficult for charities to get a good return on investments without tying up the money long term.

PETER EVANS Hon Treasurer

#### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that our membership has continued to increase during the year, with a current total of 756 in all categories. This compares with 721 for the same period last year, and 710 for the year before that. We would like to thank all our members for their continued support.

PATRICK DENNEY Membership Secretary

#### VISIT TO FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE AND SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH

We were privileged to visit Framlingham Castle on Tuesday 26th June, as it is rarely open during the evening.



Friends on the walls of Framlingham Castle

Fortunately, the evening was dry in this one of the wettest months of the year, enabling us to appreciate the Suffolk countryside from the battlements. The Castle was a major seat of the Howards, the Earls and Dukes of Norfolk, who until the Dissolution buried their dead in Thetford Priory.

The group of important monuments to the Howards is described by Pevsner as 'one of the best series of mid 16th century Early Renaissance monuments in England'. Our guide Jacqueline Price gave us an excellent talk about the interior of the building and its contents.

The town was decked in bunting for the Queen's Jubilee, making it look really festive, and as on Tuesday evenings bell-ringing rehearsals take place, we were greeted not only by the bunting, but also the wonderful sound of the church bells!

Report and photograph by DAVID WALTON

#### VISIT TO QUEX HOUSE AND THE TURNER CONTEMPORARY, MARGATE

On Tuesday 10th July the Friends crossed

the Queen Elizabeth Bridge to Kent, the 'Garden of England.'

Our destination was Quex House Museum and Gardens, home to the Powell Cotton family. After refreshments we divided into two groups to be escorted around the House and Museum. After which we were allowed to wander through the extensive Gardens and Park. Lunch in the restaurant was enjoyed by many of the party.



The beautiful grounds of Quex House

Afterwards we travelled to the Turner Contemporary at Margate where exhibits included Rodin's sculpture 'The Kiss' and some work by Tracey Emin as well as by Turner himself. We also had the opportunity to wander around the pretty little town of Margate and take in the bracing sea air.

> DAVID WALTON Photograph by PETER EVANS

# THE MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL FUND

The Mayor's Charities for 2012-2013 are the ABF Soldiers Charity, Headway, Colne Valley Youth Orchestra (one of his objectives is to raise the profile of music in the borough), Grassroots and The Guides Association.

For complete details contact the Mayor's Office, telephone 01206 282206. Email: mayor@colchester.gov.uk

# THE FREEBURGESSES OF COLCHESTER

Under Colchester's charter, the freeburgesses had the hereditary right to elect Members of Parliament and to run the Town Council. This meant that they could be bribed, or at least well entertained, if they voted the 'right' way. However, not supporting the right candidate could cause problems, and a freeman - they were all men - could loose his job, house or business if he did not do so. Freemen, therefore, had great power locally.

The Mayor's Office at the Council holds records of the admittance of freemen and these are of great benefit for family history research. 'Free' families can trace their ancestors easily. All the other rights, which at one stage included exemption from local taxes or being charged with some crimes in the Borough, have long gone, although there are a few pounds to claim as income from investments.

To be 'Born Free', it was necessary to be a male aged over 21 and to have a father or grandfather who was a freeman when you were born. This is where things have recently changed. Originally it was held that changes to sexual equality rights did not extend to hereditary rights of this sort, which in Colchester's case dated back to 1189. In 2009 new legislation was passed that basically said that if a male could claim such a right, then a female could as well. Nationally, the Federation of Freemen of England and Wales had been trying to bring pressure on the government to make changes, but the Act came as a surprise.

The effect was that daughters and sisters of freemen could now request to be admitted to the Freedom of Colchester, and their sons and daughters could as well. Some towns have decided to use the titles Lady Freeman or Freewoman, but Colchester reverted to Freeburgess, which is the term mentioned in many old documents.

The result has been that the Mayor of Colchester has admitted over 40 new freeburgesses, female and male, over a period of 6 months, with more waiting, all as a result of the change in the law. It means that families such as Langley, Bennell, Balls, Youngs, Williams, Newton, Devall and others are able to pass their traditions and rights on to their new generations. In some cases, the old family name had died out. The new freeburgesses have come from all over England, and indeed from Scotland to swear their oath in front of the Mayor, see picture below.

PETER EVANS



#### FRIENDS OF CASTLE PARK

If you love our beautiful Castle Park, you may be interested to learn about a small group of volunteers and supporters known as Friends of Castle Park.

The friends are, as the name suggests, a friendly bunch who act as advocates, consultants, champions and fundraisers and occasional gardeners(!) for all things Castle Park. Our park is the home of so many different animals, buildings and plants and is, of course, enjoyed by people from all different walks of life. We're always keen to recruit more friends members and celebrate the park in each and every way we can think of. Did you know the sundial from Tymperley's is due to come back to its original home in Castle Park? But where will it go? Join Friends of Castle Park and help us advise where to put it. You can be as active or as passive as you want, it all helps.



To join send a cheque to Elisabeth Baines, 37 Valley Road, Wivenhoe, CO7 9LZ or visit our website www.friendsofcastlepark.com. Membership amounts to the princely sum of just  $\pounds$ 5.00 for individuals or  $\pounds$ 7.00 for families ANTHONY ROBERTS, *Chairman* 

#### BUILDINGS OF COLCHESTER THROUGH TIME

Patrick Denney's new book is a welcome addition to his previous histories of the town and in it he takes a detailed look at many of Colchester's buildings. In the process he tells us who owned them together with their present use and where possible relates their appearance today with old photos of how they were in days gone by.

A helpful map at the beginning identifying the buildings illustrated, allows one to take ones time in exploring our heritage and would be invaluable when walking round the town on ones own, perhaps following the tour described in his earlier book 'COLCHESTER' or the tourist trail.

The beautiful photographs not only show the whole building but pick out small details, showing different porticos, varying finishes and embellishments, and explain the differences in the classical columns, types of pointing in brickwork and help identifying the age of Georgian buildings through window positions. The glossary at the end further clarifies the technical terms.

This is a valuable addition to our knowledge of the buildings in Colchester, by not only describing the way they now appear, but developing the story of how people through the ages lived and worked and adapted

their buildings to their own time, status or the fashion of the day.

Book review by JANET FULFORD



#### COLCHESTER RECALLED

Colchester's Oral History Group restart their 2012 programme on Thursday 20th September in the Board Room at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road at 7pm.

All are welcome.

 $\pounds$ 1 per person per evening including refreshments.

#### Thursday September 20th

CIARA CANNING: Making History at the Museum. Since she came to Colchester Museum Ciara has explored the Colchester world of disadvantage and disability with remarkable consequences.

#### Thursday October 18th

JOHN MORGAN: *Medieval Arms & Armour*. An illustrated talk – literally: he will be wearing it and using it! A Very Special Evening.

#### Thursday November 22nd

Members Evening. A second time for this popular event: 1. RAY ALLAN: *My Titanic Story;* MICHAEL SHERMAN: *The Severalls I Knew;* PETER EVANS: *Tales from The Borough Treasury.* 

#### Thursday December 13th

*Our Seasonal Special:* Wine, Mince Pies, Patrick's Quiz and a SpecialVideo.

#### Thursday January 17th 2013

ROSALIND WATLING: *Upstreet, Downstreet: Rowhedge Recalled.* Exploring the oral history of this riverside community.

#### Thursday February 21st

SONIA LEWIS: *My Year as Mayor*. Sonia was Mayor of Colchester 2010-11. She has had time to digest and can now tell us what it was like.

#### Thursday March 14th

PHILIP CRUMMY: *Living with a Roman Circus.* Our popular archaeologist brings the big archaeology story up to date.

#### Thursday April 18th

ANDREW PHILLIPS: 24 hours in Colchester – 5,000 pictures. A big picture show from the archive collected on October 21st 2011.

#### Thursday May 16th

Members Evening 2. Three more speakers from our own members recount an extraordinary story from their life.

#### Thursday June 20th

AGM and JIM LAWRENCE: *My Early Days in Barging.* The almost legendary Jim, who sailed the brown sailed barges. A Very Special Evening.

Monthly meetings take place on Thursday evenings from September to June.

The Annual subscription is  $\pounds 7$  per person or  $\pounds 12$  for a couple.

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

#### FURTHER NOTE TO THE ACCOUNTS - see pages 6 and 7 Gift Aid

It appears that we are unable to claim Gift Aid from HM Customs and Revenue at present, as the benefits of membership, which include admission to the Museum and a reduced entry fee for our lectures, are too high. Whilst this is the case, those members that make an Annual Tax Return should continue to declare that they have completed a Gift Aid declaration in favour of the Friends of Colchester Museums.

It is possible that we can continue to claim gift aid if members are happy to offer a donation in lieu of the annual subscription, but this needs to be confirmed.

PETER EVANS Hon Treasurer

## The Friends of Colchester Museums

### Income and Expenditure Account for

INCOME	2011/12	2010/11
	(£s)	(£s)
Subscriptions	7923.50	7,134.50
Lectures (net of expenses)	829.00	663.00
Trips (net profit - note 1)	227.00	252.94
Gift Aid (note 2)		1,974.18
Interest	9.37	33.27
Donations	251.00	308.00
Special Open Evening		118.02
Surplus of income over expenditure		4041.32
	<u>£9239.87</u>	<u>£,14525.23</u>

### Balance Sheet as

ACCUMULATED FUND		(£s)	(£s)
Balance bought forward		35836.73	39878.05
Surplus/Loss for year		2165.08	-4041.32
	TOTAL	38001.81	35836.73
CREDITORS:			
Fees for Trips		1593.00	657.00
		£39594.81	<u>(</u> 36493.73

#### Notes to the Accounts

Note 1. Trips to Coggeshall and Cambridge

Note 2. We can no longer claim Gift Aid against Subscriptions

Note 3. Purchases - Duncan Beckett Sign £20.00, Squirrell Painting £3125.00,

Spurgeon Figure £181.50, Iron Age Gold Coin £1200.00

## Annual Accounts 2011-2012

### the year ended 31st March 2012

EXPENDITURE		2011/12	2010/11
		(£s)	(£,s)
Operating Expenses		1795.46	2012.22
Subscriptions and Insurance			
(British Association of Friends of Museums)		602.83	498.01
Events - Christmas Open Evening		150.00	150.00
Purchases (Note 3)		4526.50	11865.00
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		2165.08	nil
<b>A A</b>		£9239.87	£,14525.23
at 31st March 2012			
NET CURRENT ASSETS		(£s)	(£s)
Bank		(23)	(23)
Current Account		1348.70	2512.99
Building Society		38026.11	33716.74
6 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	TOTAL		£,36229.73
DEBTOR: Room Hire		~ 220.00	~ 264.00
		£39594.81	£,36493.73
		5.57571.01	<u>L</u> J01/J./J

I have examined the accounts of The Friends of Colchester Museums for the year ended 31st March 2012 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.

PETER EVANS FMAAT Hon. Treasurer Signed Dated: 23rd June 2012 Signed

## Museum News

### COLCHESTER CASTLE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The redevelopment project at Colchester Castle is progressing well. The design layout has now been finalised and the gallery spaces have been modelled in 3D, which is very helpful in showing how the internal structure of the Castle will be far more open to view than at present. The next phase of the display design is detailing and testing ideas for interactives which will happen in the early autumn.

There has been close co-ordination throughout with the Building and Heritage Services Manager at Colchester Borough Council, to ensure that relevant information is being fed into the building works tender which will be advertised in September. The tender process for the design works will get underway in December.

The design and content of the pilot wider heritage interpretation panels for the Balkerne Gate, Duncan's Gate and the Roman Theatre have been signed off. They are now going into production and we are looking to install them in October. Once the panels have been installed, there will be a period of evaluation and the feedback received will inform the final design.

A recruitment drive is underway for the younger people user forum as the numbers will decline after the summer as some current members leave Colchester. The 16-24 age range of this group means that it will always have a transitory membership as many are still in full time education and are moving between school and college or university. You can find out more about the user forum by checking out the 'Get Involved' section the website www.cimuseums.org.uk or by calling 01206 282434.

# LEARNING AND OUTREACH IN COLCHESTER

The Learning Team has introduced a new gallery-based alternative tour for children who



An artist's possible representation of the reception area

are unable to access the vaults beneath Colchester Castle. This makes use of spaces in the galleries, such as the Iron Age roundhouse, chariot, fighting figures and the Roman villa, to bring the story to life. A bag of handling objects and images has been put together, giving children the opportunity to examine the evidence as they move through the museum.

In January and March 2012 visitors to Colchester Castle took part in poetry workshops in partnership with the Mozaic Stanza Group. The workshops were led by Sheena Clover of Mosaic and Clive Stacey of Colchester and Ipswich Museums. Inspired by various objects, rooms and the building itself, they produced works based on the experiences and stories revealed during the workshops. Here is one of the poems that were produced. All the poems will be mounted and put on display at the Castle in the coming months.

#### THIS IS THE POT THAT BOUDICCA BURNT. By Judith Wolton

I am the miner who dug the clay from the Colchester soil damped it in cloth and sold it to the potter.

I am the potter who kneaded the clay, squeezed out the air, threw a lump on my wheel, made a cooking pot to be fired.

I am the kilner who carried the pot on a wooden board, placed it with others deep in my kiln and fired it. My thumb marked the glaze.

I am the trader who bought the pot, Tried for a high price, enhancing its value and waited to tempt a buyer. I am the steward who bought the pot for my lady's kitchen; The lid fitted well despite a thumb mark and cook is pleased with the shape.

I am the slave who was washing the pot just as Boudicca roared through burning and pillaging, wrecking our house I dropped the pot, in all the turmoil, it disappeared in the debris.

I am the archaeologist who found clay fragmentsparts of a pot from Roman times, charred by Boudicca's angry fire. I passed the parts to the conservator.

I am the conservator who took these fragments wrapped them in cloth, stored them well and passed them to the curator who works in the Castle.

I am the curator who spun magic with these fragments fired my listeners' minds with dreams of ancient days – a thumb mark and fear of Boudicca.

The Community Outreach Team have been working with artist Alison Stockmarr and a group of adults with learning disabilities from the Dacon Trust to create Easter decorations using recycled items. The team also continue to work their work with Reminiscence. We now have nine 'Memory Boxes' available to hire from Colchester, with a tenth currently being prepared. The Community Outreach Team continues to work with Age UK in delivering sessions locally.

**EXHIBITIONS IN COLCHESTER 'Coming to Colchester':** This exhibition at Hollytrees Museum explores some of the reasons why different people have chosen to

make Colchester their home. It also looks at their legacy in Colchester's buildings, including the Roman Wall, Norman Castle, the Dutch Quarter and the Garrison. The objects on display include items representing some of these people and visitors can listen to contemporary stories of immigration. 'Coming to Colchester' opened on 28 April and runs until 2 December.



**'Treasures of China':** This exhibition at Colchester Castle showcases 70 art treasures from Nanjing Museum, China. Ten young people from the Gilberd School in Colchester travelled across the globe to China as part of



the official Cultural Olympiad project, 'Stories of the World'. Working with both Colchester and Ipswich Museums and Nanjing Museum, China the young people have actively engaged with Chinese culture and have helped to create this exhibition.

The exhibition explores the rise of Imperial China from the Stone Age to the time of the last emperor, taking the visitor through





4,500 years of Chinese history. Stunning objects include a 2000-year-old, life-size jade suit from the tombs of the Han Dynasty rulers, an exquisite gold cicada sitting on a jade leaf worn by a Ming princess nearly 600 years ago and luxury items and ornaments that adorned the palace of the last of the imperial families. Alongside this rich history is a celebration of Chinese crafts and the ensuring appeal of animals in Chinese culture. A delicate jade mouse joins a pottery pig and three wise monkeys immortalised on a lacquer plate.

The exhibition opened on 30 June and will be on display until 6 January. The hosting of this major international exhibition at Colchester Castle demonstrates the opportunities made possible by a twenty-four year friendship between the county of Essex and Jiangsu Province, China.

#### **NEW ACQUISITIONS**

Some notable new acquisitions at Colchester over the last few months include:

**Colchester High Street:** A watercolour by Leonard Russell Squirrell (1893–1979) painted in 1956.

Squirrell was born in Ipswich and spent most of his life there. He studied at Ipswich School of Art, where he later taught, and won a scholarship to the Slade. Referred to as 'The Last of the Norwich School', Leonard Squirrell was a very prolific artist, producing watercolours for a number of commercial companies, including the Great Eastern Railway. This acquisition was generously funded by the Friends of Colchester Museum. See illustration overleaf.







#### Figure of Charles Haddon Spurgeon:

Spurgeon was an internationally famous 19th-century Baptist preacher who lived in Colchester as a young man and was converted in a chapel in Artillery Street. There is a street named after him in the town and a bust in the Town Hall. This acquisition was generously funded by the Friends of Colchester Museum.

**Merovingian gold coins:** These two gold coins, or tremissis, were minted in the seventh century AD in the Merovingian kingdom which covered all of modern France and Belgium, and much of western Germany. Often it is possible to identify from the inscriptions where and by whom the coin was issued; one of these coins was minted by Piontus at Coutances in Normandy. The coins were found to the south-west of Colchester.

# LAUNCH E-NEWSLETTER 'MUSEUMS EXTRA'

In July, Colchester and Ipswich Museums

launched a new free monthly e-newsletter 'MUSEUMS EXTRA'. It gives you updates on our seven venues, events, projects, collections and a behind the scenes look at the museum and the people that work there!

Visit http://museums.colchester.gov.uk to see the first issue, there are articles on the stunning 'Treasures of China' exhibition which opened at Colchester Castle on 30 June, the Mildenhall Great Dish that will be arrive in Ipswich in July, the summer events programme for adults and families, our annual St Botolph's fun day event in Colchester, hints and tips from our conservation team about looking after your photos and much, much more!

So sign up now, either email laura.hardisty @colchester.gov.uk or log on to the museums website http://www.cimuseums.org.uk/ contact-us/enews.html or click the subscribe button on the newsletter itself.

We hope you enjoy it!



## Local & Family History Courses - September 2012

The Adult Community College Wilson Marriage Centre Colchester

HISTORY OF COLCHESTER Part 1 Starting Friday 28th September for 10 weeks 2pm-4pm Code EWM5B06

#### MEETING YOUR ANCESTORS

Part 2 Starting Tuesday 25th September for 10 weeks 7pm-9pm Code EWM4C01

#### FAMILY HISTORY ON THE INTERNET Part 1

Starting Saturday 29th September for 10 weeks 10am-12pm Code EWM6A13

# READING OLD HANDWRITING Part 3

Starting Thursday 27th September for 10 weeks 1pm-3pm Code EWM4B16

To book any of these four courses telephone 01206 789488 or view essex.gov.uk/adultlearning

#### Colchester WEA Castle Methodist Church

#### MEETING YOUR ANCESTORS

### Part 1 Starting Friday 28th Septmber for 10 weeks 10.15am-12.15pm Code A5 PD

Telephone Jean Roberts on 01206 576506



**Tuesday 4th September** PATRICK DENNEY Medieval Colchester: Religious Houses, Godly Devotion, Crime and Punishment

#### **Tuesday 18th September**

PETER BERRIDGE Offensive Privvies, Pet Foxes, and Rude and Ignorant Gaolers: the Last Days of the Prison in Colchester Castle

**Tuesday 2nd October** ANDREW PHILLIPS Aspects of Victorian Colchester

**Tuesday 16th October** NORMAN JACOBS *Essex Seaside Heritage*  **Tuesday 30th October** ADRIAN WRIGHT *Railways to the Coast* 

**Tuesday 13th November** HOWARD BROOKS *Recent Archaeological Work in Colchester* 

All at Lion Walk Church at 7.30pm Admission prices per lecture: Members  $\pounds 1$  - Non Members  $\pounds 2$ .

For further details please contact: David Walton The Friends of Colchester Museums 14 Ryegate Road, Colchester CO1 1YG Email: waltodav@gmail.com Telephone 07796 592296