



The Friends of Colchester Museums

Registered Charity No. 310669

Summer Newsletter &
Sixty-ninth Annual Report
2017 - 2018

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	

Chairman Patrick Denney (patrick.denney@sky.com)
247 Old Heath Road, Colchester, CO2 8BN
Telephone: 01206 796822,

Vice Chairman Peter Jones

Honorary Treasurer Peter Evans (peter.evans7978@btinternet.com)
5 Grimston Road, Colchester, CO2 7RN
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Honorary Secretary Janet Fulford (jif301@btinternet.com)

Membership Secretary Patrick Denney (patrick.denney@sky.com)

Programme Secretary Jenny Jones

Newsletter Editor Ian Ahmet (ianahmet@gmail.com)

Website Editor Alan Skinner

Other Committee Members

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

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

Honorary Auditor Roy Anderson

Museum Office Museum Resource Centre
40 Heckworth Close, Colchester, CO4 9TB
Tel: 01206 282931 www.cimuseums.org.uk

Sixty-ninth Annual Report 2017 - 2018

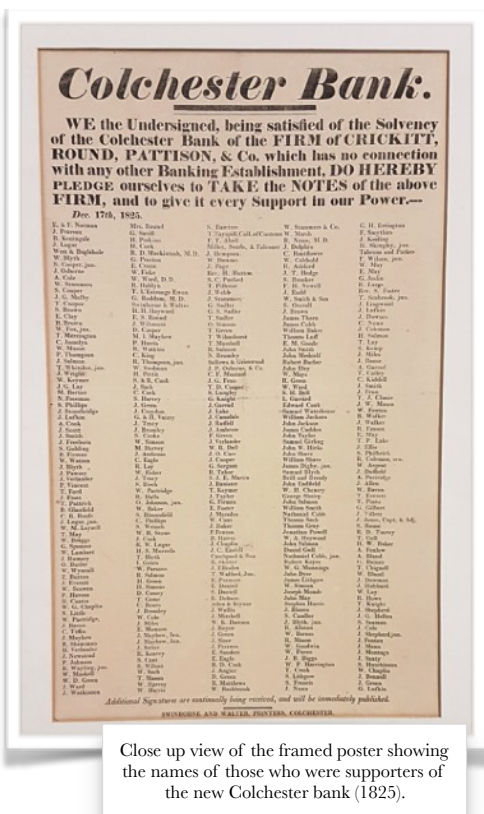
FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On Tuesday 19 June 2018 we held our sixty-ninth Annual General Meeting at Lion Walk Church with 47 members attending this part of the proceedings. After the formalities had been completed the numbers in attendance swelled to just under a hundred to hear an entertaining lecture from one of our Vice-Presidents, and former Chairman, Andrew Phillips.

This was the culmination of another successful lecture series which had begun back in September 2017. Over the past 12 meetings our speakers have entertained us with a wide range of subjects, with an average of 85 persons in attendance at each meeting. In addition to this our three new afternoon lectures attracted another 98 members and friends.

Plans are already in place for our 2018-19 lecture series which will begin with a talk on Tuesday 4 September entitled 'Essex Towns and Villages'. And, of course, this will also prove to be the 70th anniversary year since the formation of the Society in 1949.

The Annual General Meeting concluded with a presentation of a framed poster depicting supporters of a new Colchester bank in 1825 to the Museum Service. The framed poster was spotted at an antiques fair in Braintree by one of our members (Georgia Tamblын), and purchased on behalf of the Friends by our Treasurer Peter Evans at a bargain price of just £15!



Close up view of the framed poster showing the names of those who were supporters of the new Colchester bank (1825).



The Chairman (Patrick Denney) presents the poster to Tom Hodgson of Colchester Museums.

The poster, which contains a number of well-known local names, may indeed prove useful for future researchers and will now be archived in the Museum's collection.

CASTLE MUSEUM OPEN EVENING

The Friends had their usual stall at the Castle Open Evening in December 2017 which was again looked after by Janita le Fevre who organised a rota of volunteer helpers. These included Peter and Jenny Jones who organised the displays and some activities for the young ones. Although the attendance figures were much lower than for previous years, maybe due the bad weather on the day, our presence was nevertheless deemed a success.

OUTINGS 2018

A large number of members joined one or more of our arranged outings to Ingatestone Hall, Languard Fort, Felixstowe and Hatfield House. More information about these trips can be found below but I would like to record my thanks to our Programme Secretary, Jenny Jones, for organising these trips.

NEW WEBSITE - www.tfocm.org.uk

In March 2018 our long awaited website finally went live. This has been a long time in the making and I would particularly like to thank Mark Davies and Roy Anderson for their combined work and efforts in the planning stage of the project. I would also like to thank our current Website Editor, Alan Skinner, who has stepped in to help manage the site in the future. We now have an impressive website which will only get better in time as more content is added over the coming weeks and months.

THANKS TO THE COMMITTEE

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the help and assistance received from all members of the committee during the past year. Firstly, to our outgoing Chairman in June 2017, Mark Davies, who provided a steady and experienced hand over the group during his several years of office – and, of course, Mark is still very much a serving member of our committee. Thanks also to Jenny and Peter Jones, Peter Evans, Janet Fulford, Ian Ahmet, Harry Carlo, Avril Lankester, David Walton, Mary Dale, Chris Hall, Andrew Phillips, Andrew Millar and Janita le Fevre – the latter

of whom is sadly resigning from the committee as she is moving away from the area. But we do welcome to the committee Alan Skinner who, as previously mentioned, will be looking after our new website.

Patrick Denney, *Chairman*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I am pleased to report that membership of the Friends now stands at an impressive 633 across all categories. The breakdown of the figures are as follows:-

	August 2018	August 2017
Single	294	303
Couple	223	223
Family	106	107
Other	10	11
Total	633	644

Taking into account all categories we have a total of 1,174 members associated with the group which is fairly impressive by today's standards.

Subscriptions:

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

Patrick Denney, *Membership Secretary*

TREASURER'S TOPICS

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

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

If you have not returned one of the revised Gift Aid Declaration sent out in December, please do so and send it to me. There is a copy on our website or I can send you one.

Peter Evans, *Hon. Treasurer*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

I am sure that many of you over the past weeks and months have been bombarded with emails and letters relating to the new data protection laws which came into effect on 25 May 2018. This means that as a group we have had to make a number of changes in the way that we manage your personal information – particularly with regard to our securing your active permission to hold your personal details on our databases. Basically this means that we now have to formerly ask your permission to maintain your records on file and you, in turn, are required to ‘opt-in’ to this arrangement by signing a declaration to that effect.

We have thus included with this annual report a special consent form for your attention. Please can we ask that you complete this form at your earliest opportunity and return it to the Treasurer, Peter Evans, either by post or email. This will be a one off exercise and will allow us to continue to maintain your personal records on file and to send you future newsletters and reports etc. Unfortunately, failure to complete and return the form may mean that we will no longer be able to keep you informed of our activities. A full copy of our Data Protection and Privacy Policies are available to download from our website – www.tfocm.org.uk under the ARCHIVE section, or a hard copy can be requested from the Membership Secretary.

Patrick Denney, *Chairman*

UPDATE FROM COLCHESTER MUSEUMS

WE ARE COLCHESTER

The latest exhibition at Hollytrees Museum is “We Are Colchester”. It explores the ways in which objects reflect a person’s identity, whether through choice or unintentionally.

The stories of six Colchester residents are told through their personal items, whilst a selection of objects from the museum’s collection are brought out to show how people have used objects to reflect their identity throughout the town’s history.



Come along and add your own stories through our engagement wall, as we try to understand how diversity can be seen in the people of Colchester today.

This ground-breaking exhibition is expected to provoke thought and challenge visitor's assumptions about people's identity and social stereotypes. *The exhibition is free to visit and runs until Saturday 5 January 2019.*

COLCHESTER IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Colchester Castle is currently hosting an exhibition called “Colchester in the First World War”.

On 4 August 1914 Britain declared war. No-one in Colchester could have grasped the impact this would have on their lives and their town.

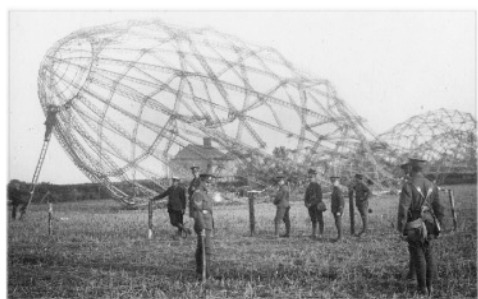
Over the next four years, the Army trained thousands of soldiers for war. At times there were as many soldiers at Colchester Garrison as civilians in the town.



Colchester was close to the front line. Evacuation plans were prepared in case the Germans invaded the Essex coast. The Borough also took precautions against the new threat of air raids. Men and boys went away to war, leaving behind jobs that were then filled by women. These included

agriculture, munitions and nursing which were essential to the war effort. Although households were encouraged to practice food economy, in the last year of the war rationing was introduced to ensure fair supplies for all.

The exhibition focuses on three themes: Colchester under attack; the war effort in the town; commemoration and remembrance. The objects on display include: an evacuation card, issued to all Colchester households in May 1916, with instructions on what to do if the Germans invaded;



a fragment of the Zeppelin airship, L33, brought down near Colchester on the night of 24th Sept 1916; a high explosive shell made by Paxmans; and the souvenir booklet produced for the unveiling of the Colchester War Memorial in 1923.

The exhibition runs until Sunday 6 January 2019.

FAREWELL

Bill Seaman retired as Museums and Heritage Manager in August. He achieved much over six years, adding his touch to the redevelopment of Colchester Castle, in the form of the chariot ride and the light projection, and steering the museum service to achieve Arts Council funding and National Portfolio Organisation status for at least the next four years. Bill will be keeping himself busy with many different projects in Norfolk where he lives.

His successor will be Frank Hargrave. Frank currently lives in Chester and is the director for Norton Priory Museum and Gardens in Runcorn. As well as successfully running the venue Frank led a £4.5m redevelopment of it and comes with a solid museums background along with experience of driving up visitor numbers, income and opportunities working alongside a range of key partners. He's really excited about moving down to the Eastern Region and working with the museum team and partners such as yourselves.

Frank won't be joining us until mid-October so in the meantime I shall be the key contact overseeing things for Colchester Museums.

Tom Hodgson, Colchester Museums Manager

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2018

This year, for the first time, Heritage Open Days takes place over eight days from the 6th-9th September and 13th-16th September 2018. Over thirty historic properties across Colchester will be open including Colchester Castle on Saturday 8th September from 10am - 5pm (Last entry at 4.30pm). Other planned activities over the two weekends include accompanied guided walks, talks, tours and exhibitions.

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture which sees historic places country-wide throw open their doors to celebrate their individual heritage, community and history.

It provides a great way to discover Colchester's fascinating history and see inside venues that are usually closed to the public, all for free.

This year two new properties are opening: the Lepra Museum in the Octagon Building, Middleborough and the Abbey Field Centre within the former Victorian garrison.

Lepra is a UK-based specialist leprosy charity, working to beat leprosy. The **Lepra Museum** documents the charity's 95-year history, featuring information, stunning photography and artefacts from their overseas work with people affected by leprosy throughout the 20th Century and up to the present day. You can learn about the lives of people affected, the cure which changed the face of leprosy treatment, and how, in 1996, Blue Peter viewers helped to build Lepra's Health and Research Centre in Hyderabad, India.

Built around 1862 as a gymnasium, the **Abbey Field Centre** is one of the earliest surviving military buildings from the Victorian garrison. It is a two-storey building designed to accommodate an entire regiment of between 1,000 and 1,500 men. The gymnasium has remained empty for some years, but following extensive repairs has recently been taken over by the Mercury Theatre as a rehearsal space and for community programmes.

Copies of the Colchester Heritage Open Days event programme are available from Colchester's Visitor Information Centre, Colchester Castle and from selected venues who are participating in the weekend.

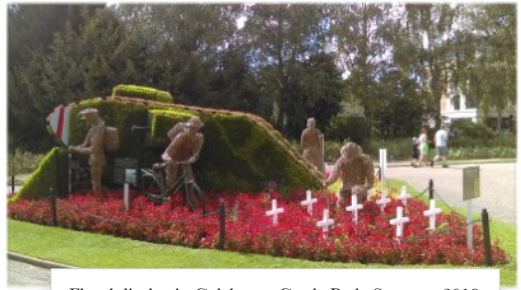
Alternatively, an electronic version is also available to download from the Visit Colchester website:

www.visitcolchester.com/HODS2018

Heritage Open Days in Colchester is coordinated by Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service with support from local heritage organisations, including the Colchester Civic Society and the Colchester Catholic Heritage Group.

COLCHESTER REMEMBERS

An exploration of the memorials of the Great War



Floral display in Colchester Castle Park, Summer 2018

As part of Colchester Borough Council's commemoration of the end of the Great War in November 1918, Philip Wise from the Museum Service will be looking at the town's war memorials. These range from the well-known at Castle Park to less familiar examples from the town's historic buildings. The stories behind their creation will be explored and their designs considered in the context of the art styles of the time.

The talk accompanies the temporary exhibition 'Colchester in the First World War' currently on display at Colchester Castle. It will be given in the Castle's Charles Grey Room on 3 November at 3.00 pm. It is a free event, following admission to the Castle, but donations will be requested.

Philip Wise, *Heritage Manager*

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

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

Ingatestone Hall by Peter Jones



Helicopter of the Queens Flight

The June outing this year was to Ingatestone Hall the family seat of the Petre family. Our entry to the house was briefly held up due to the departure of the Countess of Wessex who was on a visit to Essex. She departed in a helicopter of the Queen's flight from the field alongside our coach.

The house is a 16th century Grade I listed building that was built by Sir William Petre on land he purchased for £850 resulting from the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the house has been owned by the family ever since. Sir William, although of humble origins, became Secretary of State eventually serving four Tudor monarchs. Although a catholic sympathiser he managed to retain his position and his head through all the religious upheavals of the 16th century. Our party was divided into two groups with a guide who took us on a tour of the house pointing out the various additions and alterations to the house including two priest holes. The fitting conclusion to the tour was the Long Gallery that contained pictures and mementos and 400 years of Petre family history.

We then retired to the tearooms to enjoy tea and some wonderful cakes.



The Gatehouse, a Grade II listed building of brick and timber, topped by an unusual clock with only one hand and the family motto: "Sans Dieu Rien", Without God Nothing.

Landguard Fort by Peter Jones

Our second trip was to Landguard Fort located on the peninsular below Felixstowe. The purpose of the fortification was to guard the entrance to Harwich harbour, which for centuries, was Britain's most important east coast port. The fort has seen continual development over the years. Henry VIII built the first defences here in 1543. Future developments and improvements were usually being determined by the invasion threat at the time. There were major rebuilds in 1628 and 1666 and the fort saw action the following year, successfully repelling an invasion by 1,500 Dutch marines. Along with Harwich Redoubt it was part of the defences against the French in the Napoleonic wars. Substantially enlarged during the Victorian period it again saw service in both world wars, finally being vacated by the army in 1957.



Our party was divided into two groups each with a guide who took us on a trip through time showing us what the various rooms were used for and a selection of the defenders' weapons. One particularly impressive gun from the 1860s (see left) weighed 38 tons, and used 160lbs of gunpowder to fire an 812lb shell. It was crewed by 17 men, had a range of 2000 yards and could only manage one shot every 4 minutes. As someone in our group said "I wouldn't like to have been standing next to that when it went off!"

The guides were very knowledgeable and made the trip very interesting for us. After the tour we adjourned to a nearby café for a well-deserved lunch. There was a short period of time before departure and some members went into the Felixstowe Museum, next to the fort. This was well worth the effort, a surprising diverse collection of military, industrial and domestic items depicting the town's long history.



Hatfield House by Patrick Denney

On Wednesday 18 July 2018, around sixty Friends enjoyed a hot but most enjoyable day at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. The original Palace of Hatfield, which still stands in part next to the present house, was the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth I and was apparently her



The impressive north facing view of Hatfield House.

favourite residence.

The present Hatfield House was built in 1611 by Robert Cecil, First Earl of Salisbury, and has been the Cecil family home ever since. The interior of the house is magnificent with many of the rooms open to the public. The house is set within a large park which visitors are free to roam at will and explore some of the wonderful old trees, a few of which are believed to be well over a thousand years old.

History records that it was here on 17 November 1558 that the young princess Elizabeth was sitting under an oak tree reading from the book of Psalms when a messenger arrived from London to inform her that she had become Queen.



This life size statue of James I, which stands over the mantelpiece in the King James Drawing Room, was presented to the house by the king himself.

**Friends of Colchester Museums
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2018**

INCOME	2017/18	2016/17
Subscriptions	£7,554.00	£7,999.50
Lectures (net of expenses)	£1,177.60	£1,581.22
Trips (net profit)	£791.00	£1,323.75
Interest	£475.44	£443.62
Donations	£141.00	£37.00
Castle Open Evening	£0.00	£105.38
Surplus of expenditure over income	-	-
	<u>£10,139.04</u>	<u>£11,490.47</u>

EXPENDITURE	2017/18	2016/17
Operating Expenses	£2,860.74	£2,784.55
Subscriptions and Insurance (British Association of Friends of Museums and British Association of Local History)	£407.00	£354.50
Events - Christmas Open Evening	£152.87	£150.00
Purchases (Note 1)	£3,000.00	£2,150.00
Contribution to Museum (Note 2)	£1,430.00	£1,400.00
Surplus of income over expenditure	£2,288.43	£4,651.42
	<u>£10,139.04</u>	<u>£11,490.47</u>

Notes to the Accounts

- Note 1. Contribution to purchase of Medieval seal matrix from Boxted
Note 2. Payment to Colchester Museums in lieu of admission

The Friends of Colchester Museums

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018

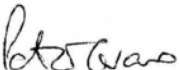
ACCUMULATED FUND	2017/18	2016/17
Balance brought forward	£37,573.99	£32,922.57
Surplus/Loss for the year	£2,288.43	£4,651.42
TOTAL:	£39,862.42	£37,573.99
Reserve (B. Colbron)	£805.60	£805.60
CREDITORS:		
Fees for trips (Note 3)	£3,336.00	£3,270.00
Season Tickets (Note 4)	£340.00	£440.00
	<u>£44,344.02</u>	<u>£42,089.59</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS	2017/18	2016/17
BANK:		
Current Account	£6,058.90	£3,859.91
Building Society	£38,285.12	£37,809.68
TOTAL:	£44,344.02	£41,669.59
DEBTORS:		
Room Hire (Note 5)		£420.00
	<u>£44,344.02</u>	<u>£42,089.59</u>

Notes to the Accounts

- Note 3. Advance payments for excursions
 Note 4. Season tickets for 2018 lectures
 Note 5. Payment made to Lion Walk Church for spring lectures in 2017

I have examined the accounts of The Friends of Colchester Museums for the year ended 31st March 2018 and confirm that they appear to be in accordance with the Books of Account and Vouchers produced to me for the purpose of this audit.

Signed  Peter Evans, FMAAT, Hon. Treasurer

Signed  Roy Anderson, Hon. Auditor

2nd June 2018



FRIENDS OF COLCHESTER MUSEUMS AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES 2018

Evening Lectures held at Lion Walk Church at 7:30pm

Admission £2 (members), £4 (non-members) or with a season ticket

4 th September	Essex Towns and Villages	Patrick Denney
18 th September	Colchester Military Hospital	Paul Byrne
2 nd October	Further Barging <i>More voyages along the Essex coast</i>	Jim Lawrence
16 th October	A Concrete Legacy in the Underpass <i>The murals of Colchester's Henry and Joyce Collins</i>	Katherine Wood
30 th October	Life and Times of the Eastern Countries Railway <i>How the railway came to Colchester</i>	Peter Jones
13 th November	A Wealth of Cash <i>The story behind Colchester's coin hoards</i>	Mark Davies

Afternoon Lectures held at Lion Walk Church at 2pm

Admission £2 (members), £4 (non-members)

There are three really interesting lectures lined up for you in the autumn in our new Thursday afternoon series. Don't miss out on these talks as they are sure to be entertaining and informative. The numbers of people attending the first three talks in the spring gradually increased. Please try to attend so we can continue this trend and hopefully plan further afternoon talks for 2019.

13 th September	Growing up in the Dutch Quarter in the 50s and 60s	Roy Waters
25 th October	Transport of Delight <i>Colchester Buses - a Century of Service</i>	Alan Skinner
22 nd November	Town Crier's Livery	Robert Needham

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