

**The Friends of
Colchester Museums**

Registered Charity No. 310669

Newsletter - January 2013

The Friends of Colchester Museums

OFFICERS as elected at the Annual General Meeting 2012

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<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	PETER EVANS 5 Grimston Road Colchester CO2 7RN Telephone 01206 540990 Email: peter.evans7978@btinternet.com	
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	JANET FULFORD 301 Mile End Road Colchester CO4 5EA Telephone 01206 851593 Email: jif301@btinternet.com	
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	PATRICK DENNEY 247 Old Heath Road Colchester CO3 8BN Telephone 01206 796822 Email: patrick.denney@sky.com	
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	PETER CONSTABLE 12 Claremont Heights, Essex Hall Road, Colchester CO1 1UZ Telephone 01206 517788 Email: design.constables@btinternet.com	
<i>Committee</i>	MARK DAVIES (<i>Chairman</i>) MRS JEAN BLOWERS MRS AVRIL LANKESTER MRS JENNY JONES HARRY CARLO	LEN DRINKELL CHRIS HALL ANDREW MILLAR ANDREW PHILLIPS DAVID WALTON
<i>Ex Officio</i>	PETER BERRIDGE (<i>General Manager, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service</i>) TOM HODGSON (<i>Colchester Development Manager</i>) PHILIP WISE (<i>Collections and Curatorial Manager</i>)	
<i>Honorary Auditor</i>	ROY ANDERSON	
<i>Museum Office</i>	Museum Resource Centre 14 Ryegate Road Colchester CO1 1YG Telephone 01206 282931/2 www.cims.org.uk	

Newsletter 2013

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2013 are now due for renewal. Charges are £7.50 for a single member, £12 for a couple and £18 for a family. Please note that a remittance form to attach to your payment is enclosed with this Newsletter. It would greatly assist our Treasurer if members could send their payment promptly as this will lighten his workload considerably in the coming weeks.

If you would like to begin paying your subscription by Standing Order (which also helps to reduce administration activities), please complete the enclosed Standing Order Form. Please send all payments, and any arrears, to the Treasurer, Mr Peter Evans, at his address shown opposite.

If you no longer wish to remain a Friend of Colchester Museums, please return your Membership Card to the Treasurer.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This edition of the Newsletter contains a varied programme of lectures on local topics for the coming year which it is hoped members will find interesting. As the Castle Museum will be closed for the next fifteen months while the major re-development programme takes place, careful thought is being given to providing members with some extra events during this period.

The first of these events is a special visit to the Castle to look at the historic structure of the building without its contents. This will be the first time since the museum was opened in 1935 - with its new roof spanning the central court - that the Castle will be visible unencumbered. The date is Sunday, March 24th 2013 at 5.45pm for 6.00 lasting until 8.00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, for which there is a small charge of £1.50 (application form enclosed). Tom Hodgson and

your chairman will be taking groups around the Castle at suitable intervals. Details of other events will be circulated at the beginning of April 2013.

Many members have recently expressed considerable concern about the decision (albeit informal, we are told) of Colchester Borough Council's Cabinet to sell the Museum Resource Centre next to the Castle in Ryegate Road. It is not yet clear what the proceeds from the sale will be put towards or indeed how the various Museum services currently provided there will be continued, if at all. The implications are potentially very serious indeed for the future of Colchester's museums, if reasonable continuity is not guaranteed.

The MRC came into operation in 1981 with initial costs of converting the former Alston's warehouse (previously E. N. Mason and Sons' Arclight Works) provided by admission charges accumulated from the Castle. Its purpose was to enable the historic buildings occupied (not without some difficulty) by our museums to be more fully accessible to the public. Because of its close proximity, various other public and non-display functions that would normally be carried out in the museums themselves have been co-ordinated there for the past thirty years.

To date we have only been given the barest of details, which have also been provided in the local press. However, we have been invited to attend a meeting with the portfolio holder, Cllr Tim Young, the Head of Environmental and Protective Services, Beverley Jones, and other officers in early February. This will hopefully provide some clear indication of the Council's commitment to the future of Colchester's museums which, needless to say, are highly regarded within our local and national heritage.

MARK DAVIES

TREASURER'S TOPICS

Your annual Membership Card is enclosed with this newsletter. Please send us your subscription together with enclosed form, or alternatively let me have a completed Standing Order Form. Quite a lot of members pay through their bank already but we can never be sure exactly who has paid until the Friends' bank statement arrives. Subscriptions for 2013 are £7.50 for a single member, £12 for a couple and £18 for a family.

Please note that all cheques should be made payable to '**The Friends of Colchester Museums**' both for subscriptions and fees for trips. Please do not make cheques payable to me or any other committee members.

We have made our first payment to the Colchester Museum Service under the arrangement that we have made to help towards the cost of the refurbishment project. As the Museum Service has support of the Friends, it has been very helpful to the success of the grant application. Our total contribution will be £30,000 and we have made the first payment of £10,000. Further payments are due in 2013 and 2014.

P. S. If you have set up a Standing Order please ask the bank to quote your name on the credit. I cannot identify the payment without it. Many thanks.

PETER EVANS *Hon Treasurer*

VISITING OTHER MUSEUMS

The Norfolk Museums Service re-opened the Bridewell Museum in Norwich in 2012. It is packed full of exhibits about Norwich and well worth a visit. I have yet to visit the Museums in Yarmouth, run by the Norfolk Museums and others, but they sound very interesting.

Chichester in Sussex has built a new Museum called the Novium, which I have also visited. It has been the subject of some criticism, partly because of the building itself,

but also because of the layout of the Museum. There is much that is good in the Novium, especially the ground floor that includes the remains of a Roman bath house, that was found in situ. The Peterborough City Museum has also reopened after a refurbishment with help from the Lottery Fund. Admission is free and it now features a Victorian Operating Theatre. Unlike Norwich, Peterborough and Colchester, Chichester does not seem to have a friends' organisation.

COLCHESTER 24 – BOOK REVIEW

For 24 hours over 21st and 22nd October 2011, some 200 photographers took about 6,000 images of Colchester at work, at play, at school and in hospital. Some photographers were professional (employed by the Police and the army), others were highly experienced and award winning amateurs, and the others included me.

Of course, this is an important social record. It had been done exactly 25 years ago as '*Just Another Day*' and the pictures from then already show a different town. This time, however, the 2011 pictures have been edited down to about 200 by Andrew Phillips, assisted by Anthony Cody. Andrew has written the captions – you can tell from the style and the humour.

There are views that you will never have seen of a town that you think you know thoroughly, some of the most unusual being views of High Street at night taken from ground level and above. There is the army at work and play, including a pop group made up of male and female paras. There are the Police and other professionals at work, and many if not all of your favourite shops.

Things do move on. The Mayor who opened the 1986 exhibition is now our Member of Parliament and introduces the book. A baker photographed making bread last October is now retiring. Some buildings I

photographed (sadly not included in the book), have either been demolished or turned into a housing estate, all in a year. There will be more changes as time passes.

The iconic image of punks from 1986 is shown in this book on page 4 together with photographer, George Royffe, now aged 100. This time it could be the 6th form students on page 79, the schoolboy on page 76, soldiers in training on page 21 or the butchers shop on page 44. You can buy the book and decide yourself.

PETER EVANS

'Colchester 24' by Andrew Philips and Anthony Cody is published by Amberley and is available at all local book shops at £14.99.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I am pleased to report that membership of the Friends now stands at a total of 776 across all the categories. This is an increase of 20 over the year. The breakdown is as follows - Single 340, Couples 252, Family 175 and 9 others. I would like to thank all members for their continued support.

PATRICK DENNEY *Hon Membership Secretary*

THE ST BOTOLPH'S HISTORY FAYRE

It will be happening as usual on a Saturday in the Summer, but the date has yet to be chosen. Please check the museum's website (www.cimuseums.org.uk) for further details.

OUTINGS 2013

Tuesday 11th June

Evening Trip to Kentwell Hall,

Long Melford

We depart from Sheepen Road Car Park at 6 pm.

Cost £19 inclusive of travel, entry fee, and guided tour of the Hall. Refreshments of tea or coffee and cake will be available at extra cost.

We will depart from Kentwell Hall by 9.30 pm for the return journey home.

Kentwell Hall is one of England's finest moated Tudor houses and still remains a lived in family home. Visitors will see much of the house including rooms used by the family.

It is not just a Tudor house but one saved from years of neglect by the present owners' commitment. For the last 40 years a non-stop effort has been made to save Kentwell Hall, re-create its gardens and form a traditional style farm. In this sense it is very much a house of today even if some of the works have accentuated the house's Tudor origins.

To book your place please contact and send your payment to Peter Evans, 5 Grimston Road, Colchester CO2 7RN.

Cheques to be made payable to **Friends of Colchester Museums**.

Tuesday 9th July

Day Excursion to Dover Castle, Kent

Cost £29 to include coach and entrance fees to Dover Castle.

We leave from Crouch Street, adjacent to the former Cinema, at 9am. We can also pick up from Tollgate, by Boots the Chemist. We expect to return to Colchester by 7pm.

Dover Castle was garrisoned from 1066 to 1958 and during the day you can visit the original defences and the works carried out for the last war. Apart from this, there are the views of the English Channel and, of course, English Heritage has provided a restaurant and shop for visitors.

The heart of the medieval castle is the Great Tower (1180-1185 and later). The entire interior has been recreated as it would have appeared in Henry II's time. There are interactive displays and projected figures telling the story of the castle. Your tour will include the Great Hall, the Royal Chapel, the armoury and the kitchens. You can access the roof of the Great Tower and see the whole castle complex, which includes an Anglo Saxon church.

The Castle played an important part in the

1939-45 war. Tunnels that were built from the middle ages until the 18th century were reused in 1940 and can be visited along with the underground hospital. Displays and film presentations tell the story of the war and Operation Dynamo - the evacuation of Dunkirk.

More information is available by visiting <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/>

Whilst the aim of the day is to visit the Castle, the town of Dover is only a short distance down hill from the Castle gates and there is a bus stop nearby.

To book your place please contact and send your payment to Peter Evans, 5 Grimston Road, Colchester CO2 7RN.

Cheques to be made payable to **Friends of Colchester Museums**. Please say if you wish to use the Tollgate pickup point.

Visit to Hampton Court Palace, Wednesday 3rd July

This outing is being hosted by the Colchester Recalled Oral History Group, with an invitation extending to members of the Friends who may wish to join them. Please note that places are limited so an early reply is recommended.

There is much to see at Hampton Court, including Henry VIII's kitchens – designed to feed at least 600 people twice a day, the magnificent medieval Great Hall, the beautiful gardens featuring splendid flower displays and fountains, and including the famous Great Vine, planted in 1768 by Capability Brown – and, of course, much more.

The trip will cost £28 per person and will cover coach travel and your entrance fee. To book your place, please contact Patrick Denney at 247 Old Heath Road, Colchester, CO2 8BN (Tel: 01206 796822). Cheques should be made payable to **Colchester Recalled Oral History Group**. The coach will depart from

St John's Street bus terminal at 8am, and will also be picking up from Tollgate (please indicate your preference when booking).

We will leave Hampton Court at 5pm and should be home between 7-7.30pm.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September

This is the weekend when Colchester's interesting but inaccessible buildings are opened to the public. If you feel that you can help by manning a building for a session (normally about 3 hours), please contact Ann Turner on 01206 250894 for details.

PETER EVANS

EVERY ONE A HERO

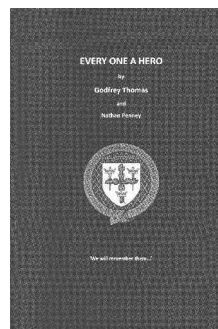
EVERY ONE A HERO is a closely researched and well-presented book by local historian Godfrey Thomas, which covers each theatre and period of the two world wars and places into this context those former students of Colchester Royal Grammar School who gave their lives for their country.

A surprising revelation is that Admiral Ramsey, who was responsible for the planning behind both the Dunkirk evacuation and the D Day invasion was an Old Colcestrian.

Copies can be obtained by sending a cheque for £12 (which includes postage) payable to the author, Godfrey Thomas, 14 Rosebank Road, West Mersea, Essex CO5 8NH or in person for £10 at CRGS

Reception during normal school hours. After costs have been covered, profits will be donated to HELP FOR HEROES.

HARRY CARLO



Museum News

NEWS BULLETIN - COLCHESTER CASTLE DECEMBER 2012

The building works are currently being finalised to RIBA stage G. There has been close liaison between NPS, Museums and Redman Design to ensure a seamless link between the building and design works.

Expressions of interest have been received from suitable contractors for the building works and tenders have been issued for return on 3rd December 2012.

Steady progress has been made in developing the detail of the proposed new displays, including showcase modelling, interactives, AVs and graphics. Draft text has been produced for all the overview panels and a list of new illustrations to be commissioned has been started. The advertisement for these works will be placed in November and the appointments will be made by 31st May 2013.

There have been ongoing meetings with our various consultation groups. The proposed interactives have been discussed with Portal, the Teachers Advisory Panel and the Castle's younger and older people's user forums. The museum has been working with the CBC Comms Team to identify a range of methods to engage people and keep them informed about project progress, events and opportunities to get involved during the closure period.

The location positions for interpretation of the internal and external features of the Castle have been established. The contract to create the virtual reality modelling of Colchester Castle, which forms part of the EU funded work for this project, has been awarded to Virtual Past who are based at the University of East Anglia.

The wider heritage pilot panels work is still progressing and Planning Consent is being sought for all sites. The panel production

contract has been awarded to Border Signs and Graphics. The panels will be delivered in two stages – with the pilot panels installed in January 2013 and the remaining panels in 2014.

The opportunities for mobile phone apps have been discussed with both user forums. A meeting to bring all parties interested in the heritage of the town together is being explored to coincide with the opening of the empty Castle in March 2013. The Art Department of Colchester Institute have expressed interest in displaying some of the Castle collections in the Minorities during the closure period and this is being followed up.

There will be opportunities to view the emptied Castle between 9th March to 7th April 2013. A series of talks and other events have been planned for this period as follows:

Public opening dates for the Castle are: 10th, 14th, 24th, 29th March 2013.

There will also be public events in the Castle on:

19th–22nd March – Beer Festival.

1st April – Medieval Fair.

MUSEUM EVENTS

Warm and woolly pictures for cold days @ Natural History Museum Tuesday 19th – Thursday 21st February

It's February and it's cold, so have fun creating artwork that is woolly and snug! Come and make colourful, fuzzy felt pictures of hibernating creatures using a wet felting technique. Fun for all ages.

10.30 (RESERVED FOR BUSY BEETLES ON TUESDAY), 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm.

£2 per person.

Book your place on 01206 282940.

LIMITED SPACES – BOOK EARLY

Carve Your Name in Clay! @ Hollytrees Museum

Tuesday 19th – Friday 22nd February

Create your own personalised clay plaque – for yourself or a present for a friend. Use cutters and clay tools to add names and decorations and patterns, then paint your masterpiece.

Sessions at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

£3 per person.

Book your place on 01206 282940 or by dropping into Hollytrees Museum.

British Birds of Prey – live! @ Natural History Museum

Friday 22nd February

Come along and meet some native birds of prey. Although common to our island, they are often out of view, keeping their lives to themselves. Enjoy this unique opportunity to get close to a kestrel, buzzard and barn owl and hear about their lives in the wild.

Shows at 12pm, 1.15pm, 2.30pm.

£2 per person (ages 2 and under free).

No need to book.

The museum will be cleared after each show.

Grymm Tooms Travelling Victorian Museum @ Hollytrees Museum

Saturday 16th March

Come and meet Professor Grymm and celebrate the Victorian age of discovery. Marvel at the many of the wonders in his travelling museum – strange natural history specimens, amazing tribal artefacts and even a mermaid! Enjoy the wonder of a magic lantern show or take a look at medical advancements of the time – if you dare.

Free event, drop in 10.30am – 4pm.

Magic lantern shows last approximately 30 minutes and take place at 11.30am, 1pm and 2.30pm.

CASTLE CLOSURE EVENTS

Please check our web site -

www.cims.org.uk

and other publicity for full details

Tea and Talk - Colchester Voices:

Memories of Life in the Early 20th century with Patrick Denney @ Colchester Castle.

Sunday, 10th March 2013.

3pm.

£4 (£3.50 for Friends).

Book your place on 01206 282940 or by dropping into Hollytrees Museum. Tickets must be paid for in advance.

Tea and Talk – The Siege of Colchester

by Tom Hodgson @ Colchester Castle.

Sunday 24th March.

3pm.

£4 (£3.50 for Friends).

The summer of 1648 was one Colchester has never forgotten. It is the closing stages of the Civil War and a band of Royalists enter the town, leading to Cromwell's Parliamentary forces besieging Colchester for 76 wet, soggy and miserable days. Find out more about this major event in this talk.

Book your place on 01206 282940 or by dropping into Hollytrees Museum. Tickets must be paid for in advance.

The Colchester Castle Beer Festival @

Colchester Castle.

Tuesday 19th – Friday 22nd March.

4pm – 10.30pm (last orders – visitors must depart by 11pm).

A unique chance to enjoy local ales from the Colchester area inside Colchester Castle as it becomes the oldest alehouse in town. This event will not be repeated.

This event is being organised in partnership with CAMRA.

Ages 18 and over only.

Archery activity Tuesday-Friday, £1 for 3 shots.

Medieval Day @ Colchester Castle

Monday 1st April

10am-4pm

Come along to Colchester Castle for this unique medieval experience. Watch knights in combat in the arena, take tours of the castle, hear storytelling, take part in crafts and wonder at the birds of prey. All this and more.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Museum Service continues to acquire objects and natural history specimens for the collections in Colchester.

We have recently had a very diverse range including the following:

Three Toys: These are a box of plasticine dating to 1929/30, a set of snap cards and a wooden toy.

These belonged to a little boy called Hughie who lived on Baden Powell Drive in Colchester and died sometime in the 1930s.

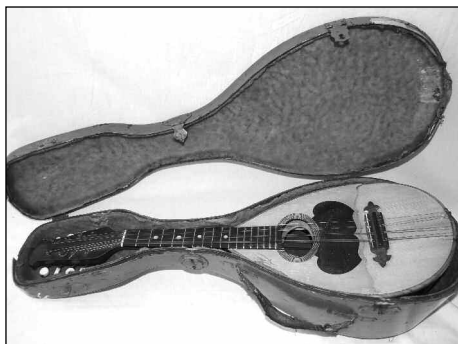
His mother kept these items as his favourite toys.

Lavatory

Flush Pull: This ceramic flush pull came from a house in St Andrews Road, Clacton.

It was on the outside privy and probably dates to the 1950s.

It was made by Beard & Son Ltd, an ironmongers located in St John Street, Colchester.



A Mandolin in Blue Case: This was made in Paris in 1914.

It was owned by a British soldier, who served on the Western front during the Great War and played it to entertain his comrades in the trenches.

Female Parrot Crossbill: This bird (*Loxia pytyopsittacus*) was found dead in a garden in Little Oakley near Harwich and it is presumed that it flew into a window.

Not normally found in this area, this species arrives from Europe in those years when the continental corn crop has failed and will often breed here.

This specimen will be added to the study skin collection.

Dr Bowden Collection: This collection of diptera (or flies) and other orders were left to the museum in the will of Dr Bowden, an eminent entomologist and fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

The British collection was donated to the Colchester museum collection while the foreign specimens have gone the Natural History Museum in London.

The majority of the British diptera were collected from the Colchester area where Bowden lived for many years. It is a complete collection of all diptera species found in Britain and makes an invaluable contribution to the entomology collections at Colchester.

Portrait of Mrs Charles Gray: This is attributed to William Hoare (1707–92), a prominent English portraitist, painter and printmaker of the 18th century and a founder member of the Royal Academy.

Hoare was born near Eye in Suffolk and studied in London and Rome. He established himself in Bath where he was the leading portrait painter until the arrival in the town of Thomas Gainsborough in 1759.

This pastel painting of the wife of Charles Gray, Colchester's MP from 1742–55 and again from 1761–80, is typical of his work.

PHILIP J WISE
Collections and Curatorial Manager



Local History Courses at the University of Essex

A HISTORY OF COLCHESTER

Part Two

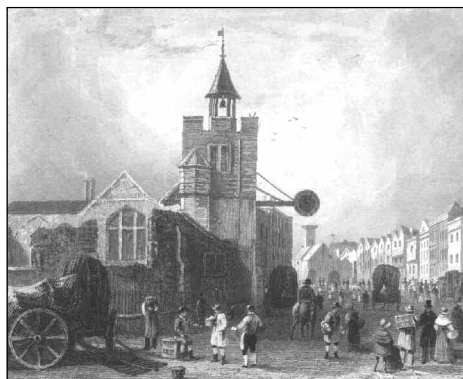
Tutor: Patrick Denney

starting Monday 22nd April 2013

This module explores the history of Colchester from the late seventeenth to the late twentieth century, analysing key events, (such as

the Great Plague, Industrial revolution and the World Wars) and their impact on the town. The module includes a walking tour of Colchester and is taught by one of the town's leading local historians. The module can be taken on its own and also by students who have taken *The History of Colchester Part 1*.

The module is taught once a week for 10 weeks, from 7.00 - 9.00pm at the Colchester Campus of Essex University. You can take the module purely out of interest (without doing any assessed coursework) or complete a piece of assessed coursework and gain credits towards a Certificate of Continuing Education in Local History Studies. The module costs £105. For a registration form, telephone 01206 872190, email: history@essex.ac.uk or write to Lisa Willis, History Department, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ.



COLCHESTER RECALLED 2013

Colchester's Oral History Group restart their programme on Thursday 17th January in the Board Room at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road at 7pm. Meetings take place on Thursday evenings from September to June. £1 per person per evening including refreshments. All are welcome.

Annual subscription £7 per person or £12 for a couple.

Thursday 17th January

ROSALIND WATLING: *Upstreet, Downstreet: Rowhedge Recalled.*

Exploring the oral history of this riverside community.

Thursday 21st February

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 14th March

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

Thursday 18th April

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

Thursday 16th May

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

Thursday 20th June

Annual General Meeting followed by
JIM LAWRENCE: *My Early Days in Barging.*
The almost legendary Jim, who sailed the brown sailed barges. A Very Special Evening.

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

COLCHESTER CIVIC SOCIETY

Helping to make Colchester a town worth living in

The Society was founded in 1964 to help preserve and develop heritage and amenities, to encourage and arouse interest in the beauty, history and character of the town and encourage a high standard of design and development in Colchester. This means, in particular, an involvement in current planning and licensing applications. If you have an interest in these issues, you are welcome to join.

The Society also has a strong social programme of events. There are a number of visits to buildings and places of interest that link in with the aims of the society, recent visits including Portcullis House, (part of the Palace of Westminster), the recently renovated Myddleton Place, Saffron Walden and Colchester's new Magistrates Court building. Plans for 2013 for members include • repaired Stockwell Arms in Colchester • the Shard, and nearby buildings in London • the Cutty Sark and ride the Emirates Cable Car • Wimbledon and the Lawn Tennis Museum. Plus historic houses and other places of interest.

Membership costs £8 for single members and £12 for couple membership. Please contact
Miss Ann Turner, Membership Secretary,
1 Robins Close, Great Bentley CO7 8QH
Telephone 01206 250894 for details.





The Friends' Lecture Series 2013

All at Lion Walk Church at 7.30pm

APRIL

- 9th** JOHN CONSTABLE'S SUFFOLK:
Man in a landscape
Roger Simpson
- 23rd** CARING FOR COLCHESTER'S HEALTH
1820-1880 60 years from the
foundation of Essex County Hospital
Jane Pearson

MAY

- 7th** TRAM STORY OF COLCHESTER
1904-1929 How we got around the
town before buses
Peter Jones
- 21st** THE SHIPWRECK THAT GREW INTO
LILIES
The extraordinary Colchester
nurseryman, Isaac Bunting
Prue James

JUNE

- 4th** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 7PM
THE RISE AND RISE OF NEW TOWN
Andrew Phillips
- 18th** PIONEER WOMEN DOCTORS OF
COLCHESTER
including the story of Dr Ruth
Bensusan Butt
Dr Elizabeth Hall

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd** COLCHESTER AT WAR -
Life on the Home front
Patrick Denney
- 17th** LOOKING FOR RICHARD III
An update on th project
John Ashdown-Hill

OCTOBER

- 1st** PRESENTING TV HISTORY
Behind the scenes with the famous
BBC presenter
Dr Pamela Cox
- 15th** GREY FRIARS -
Colchester's forgotten corner and
newest hotel
Alan Skinner/Joan Gurney
- 29th** SAVED FOR COLCHESTER -
Significant acquisitions by
The Friends of Colchester Museums
Mark Davies

NOVEMBER

- 12th** A YOUNG COLCESTRIAN -
A life sacrificed for his country
Geoffrey Markham

Admission per lecture: Members £1.
Non members £2. Further details from:
David Walton, Friends of Colchester Museums,
14 Ryegate Road, Colchester CO1 1YG or
email: waltodav@gmail.com
Telephone: 0779 659 2296.