

The Friends of Colchester Museums

Registered Charity No. 310669

Winter Newsletter
January 2020

Officers

As Elected at The Annual General Meeting on 18th June 2019

President His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Nick Cope

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

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Honorary Secretary Mary Dale (m.dale1955@live.co.uk)

Membership Secretary Roy Anderson (royandliz@outlook.com)

Programme Secretary Jenny Jones (jonesjp@outlook.com)

Newsletter Editor Ian Ahmet (ianahmet@gmail.com)

Website Editor Alan Skinner (a.v.skinner@btinternet.com)

Other Committee Members

Harry Carlo	Mark Davies
Chris Hall	Avril Lankester
Andrew Millar	Andrew Phillips

Ex Officio Frank Hargrave (*Colchester and Ipswich Museums and Arts Manager*)
Pippa Pickles (*Colchester Museums Manager*)
Philip Wise (*Heritage Manager*)

Honorary Auditor Roy Anderson

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Winter Newsletter 2020

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our latest newsletter and the start of another year of activity. We have a full programme of lectures to look forward to beginning in April 2020, and later in the year two planned outings for our members to enjoy. On 30 June we will be travelling to the Museum of Rural Life at Stowmarket and on 16 July to the Great War Aerodrome at Stow Maries. Full details of all these events are included in this newsletter.

Our 11 evening lectures (one had to be cancelled) for the period April – November 2019 attracted a total audience of 923 giving an average of 84 per meeting – which compares with 80 for the previous year. Our afternoon series has also picked up a little this year with average attendances having risen from 37 in 2018 to 47 in 2019.

In September 2019 we said farewell to Tom Hodgson who having worked for the Museums Service for some 25 years decided that it was time to enjoy a well-earned retirement. Tom's position as Colchester Museums Manager has since been taken over by Pippa Pickles, who has herself been working for the Museums Service for a number of years. We wish Pippa all the best in her new role.

Lastly I would like to thank all members of the committee for their continued help in ensuring that the Society continues to operate as smoothly as possible. That said, however, we would very much like to encourage a few more members of the Friends to consider if they might be able to help us out in some small way. There is always plenty to do and as the saying goes 'many hands make light work'. If you are interested in joining the committee, or would like to learn more about what might be involved, please contact either myself or any of the committee members listed on the inside cover of this newsletter.

Patrick Denney, *Chairman*

TREASURER'S TOPICS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

2020 Annual subscriptions remain the same;

Single Membership	£10
Couple Membership	£15
Family Membership	£21

Unless you have set up a Bank Standing Order, please send your subscription to Peter Evans using the enclosed subscription form. Donations are always welcomed.

SEASON TICKETS

You can purchase a season ticket for the complete season of 12 evening meetings for £20 (a saving of £4 if you attend all meetings). Season tickets do not cover afternoon meetings. Please use the enclosed order form.

Peter Evans, *Hon. Treasurer*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As can be seen from the figures below, our membership figures are slightly down on the same period last year.

	December 2019	December 2018	December 2017
Single	305	305	307
Couple	216	227	226
Family	102	106	106
Other	11	11	11
Total	634	649	650

Taking into account all categories this represents a total of about 1,150 members currently associated with the group.

Roy Anderson, *Membership Secretary*

OUTINGS FOR 2020

Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket

Tuesday 30 June
2020

£29 per person



We will travel to Stowmarket in a Kings coach with pick ups:

- 09:45 a.m. Crouch Street and
- 10:00 a.m. at Marks Tey Hotel*.

We aim to arrive at The Museum of East Anglian Life by 11 am. The Museum offers a variety of things to see and do. There are 17 historic building set in 75 acres of beautiful countryside, an animal area and a river trail. An introductory talk will be given on our arrival and access buggies are available for anyone with mobility issues.

Highlights of the site include Abbot's Hall, a Queen Anne manor house which is original to the site. The land that the museum now stands on was part of the Abbot's Hall home farm. The Hall has exhibitions exploring home and domestic life as well as the temporary galleries. It is fully accessible with lifts and facilities.



In the Industrial Zone you will find buildings with displays that include crafts and a blacksmith's forge, the story of Ipswich manufacturer Ransomes and an exhibition of heavy industry in Colchester with words by Andrew Phillips. Just beyond these buildings you will find the Heritage Farm with East Anglian rare breads, an orchard and the Farm Barn. Further along is Alton Watermill, and a river and nature walk. There is a chemist display in the Jack Carter Building.

In a 13th century tithe barn original to the site there is a display of Gypsy Wagons and two buildings with displays of domestic rooms from the 1950s, 19th century displays and a school room.

The Osler Café offers reasonably priced homemade food. The specials board changes daily but there are always sandwiches, jacket potatoes and baguettes available together with freshly baked scones and cakes. If you prefer there are picnic tables where you can eat your own packed lunch.

The coach will leave the Museum at 4 p.m. for the return journey to Colchester.



Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome

Thursday 16 July 2020
£32 (including cream tea)

We will be travelling to Stow Maries by a Kings coach with pick ups:

- 09:45 a.m. Crouch Street and
- 10:00 a.m. at Marks Tey Hotel*.

We aim to arrive at Stow Maries by 11 am. There is plenty to enjoy at this unique venue with award winning exhibitions exploring the early days of British military aviation. As well as recording the history of the airfield and the men and women who served in the RFC/RAF in WWI the Stow Maries site is home to much wildlife including five species of British owls.

You can explore the fascinating site, investigate the museum exhibits and take in the atmosphere in the hangers which are home to late production and replica WWI planes.

There will be a guided tour around the exhibitions and hangars at 11.15 am. After this you will be served a traditional cream tea in the Airmen's Mess. When you have finished a sociable rest over scones with jam and cream and a drink of tea or coffee you will be free to explore the site in more detail and visit the shop.



The coach will leave Stow Maries at 2:30 p.m. for the return journey to Colchester.

***If you intend to join the coach at Marks Tey Hotel for either of these outings, please remember to add £4 for parking and give your car registration number on the booking form.**

Jenny Jones, Programme Secretary

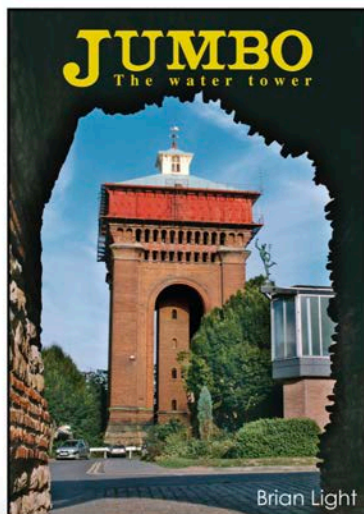
**New book designed and written by
Brian Light**

Published by the Balcerne Tower Trust.

***Jumbo, the Water Tower* is now available
at Red Lion Books, Waterstones and the
Visitor Information Centre, Colchester**

£9.99.

**All profits from sales of the book will
contribute to a future restoration of
Jumbo.**

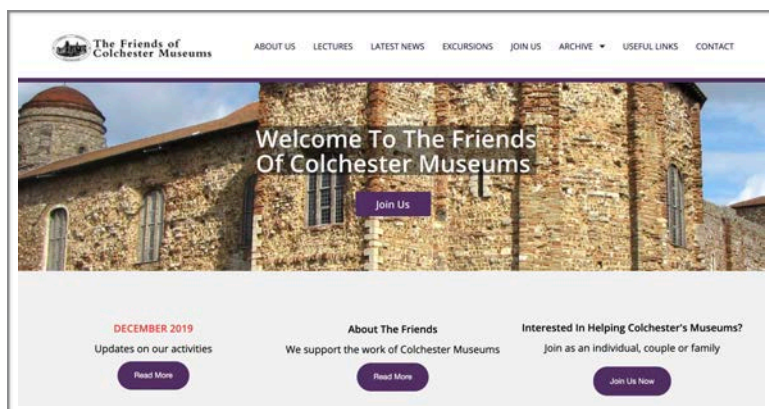


REACHING OUT – SPREADING THE WORD!

The website and our Facebook page are proving to be a valuable means of communication with members as well as a source of new interest – especially for our lecture series. The website is now approaching 2,000 users, and the Facebook page has over 280 followers.

However, we would like your help to reach even more people – especially to bring in a younger cohort to ensure the future of our organisation - so please share our details with family and friends.

Alan Skinner, *Website Editor*



WEBSITE:
www.tfocm.org.uk

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/ColchesterHistoryFriends



Colchester Recalled

Colchester Recalled is a voluntary group compiling an archive of recorded memories of Colchester and District over the past 120 years. We have to date completed more than 3,600 hours of recording, mostly interviews with over 1,500 local people.

We also arrange monthly meetings throughout the year at the Roman Circus Centre where our members (and visitors) can listen to extracts from our recordings and enjoy a talk on a local history theme. All meetings commence at 7pm. Admission £2 for members and £3 for non members.

2020 Programme

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 16th January | The Archaeology of Mersea mud– an Oral History <i>Lawrence Northall</i>
<i>A project which uncovered a mammoth tusk, ancient fish traps and the lost harbour of a forgotten fort.</i> |
| 13th February | The Water Supply of Roman Colchester: a mystery <i>Philip Crummy</i>
<i>Philip will also discuss the recent discovery of Roman Public Baths under the former Jacks store now about to become a brewery.</i> |
| 12th March | Night Mail <i>Peter Jones</i>
<i>The historic postal service by steam railway, all night to Scotland, illustrated by the famous documentary 'Night Mail' which will be shown, either side of our tea break, as part of the talk.</i> |
| 16th April | Colchester Castle: its origin, form and history <i>Peter Berridge</i>
<i>Our former Museum curator will present this talk as from his new book.</i> |
| 14th May | Colchester Gardeners, 1750 to 2020 <i>Andrew Phillips</i>
<i>A neglected history</i> |
| 18th June | A.G.M. followed by The Great Flood of 1953 <i>David Whittle</i>
<i>Plus 'Colchester: a town to be Proud of' a short colour film of about 1968, recently rediscovered.</i> |

FRIENDS OF COLCHESTER MUSEUMS

LECTURE SERIES 2020

All lectures take place at Lion Walk Church, Lion Walk, Colchester
Admission £2 (members), £4 (non-members) or with a season ticket

Evening Lectures - Tuesday at 7:30pm

7th April	Roman Public Baths and Town Houses <i>Recent archaeological excavations in Colchester town centre</i>	Adam Wightman
21st April	The Rise and Rise of New Town <i>Urban growth in the early 20th Century</i>	Andrew Phillips
5th May	The History of Boxted Airfield <i>An important US fighter base on our doorstep</i>	Richard Turner
19th May	Towards the Abyss <i>Colchester and the coming of the Second World War</i>	Paul Rusiecki
2nd June	Clacton Theatres and Memories <i>An account of local seaside entertainment</i>	Roger Kennell
16th June	A.G.M. followed by: The Thames through Time <i>how time, ice and floods made a movable river</i>	Ian and Ros Mercer
8th September	The Genteel Class of Georgian Colchester and their Homes	Patrick Denney
22nd September	The 1913 Colchester Train Crash <i>The Cromer Express comes to grief</i>	Jim Connor
6th October	Colchester's Victorian Doctors	Dr Jane Pearson
20th October	A brief history of 45 Colchester Schools	Sir Bob Russell
3rd November	Christmas in Medieval Essex <i>Christmas revels our Essex ancestors enjoyed</i>	Kate Cole
17th November	Roman Art and Architecture in Colchester	Mark Davies

Afternoon Lectures - Thursday at 2:30pm

16th April	Colchester Cannibals <i>There really were some!</i>	Philip Lyons
14th May	Reviving an Artist's Birthplace <i>The redevelopment of Gainsborough House</i>	Emma Boyd
18th June	From Salt to Satellites <i>The industrial heritage of Essex</i>	Peter Jones
17th September	The History of Perrywoods <i>The development of Tiptree's award winning garden centre</i>	Alan Bourne
15th October	Scenes Past <i>A history of photography in North Essex</i>	Chris Farnell
12th November	History of the Music Hall <i>With songs and stories</i>	Brian Ford

Further information from Jenny Jones, jonesjp@outlook.com or
 c/o Friends of Colchester Museums,
 19 Heathfields, Eight Ash Green, Colchester, CO6 3QP