



**The Friends of  
Colchester Museums**

*Registered Charity No. 310669*

**72nd Annual Report 2021-22  
and Autumn Newsletter 2022**

# OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Tim Young	
<i>Chairman</i>	Ray Cantrell ( <i>raymond.cantrell@ntlworld.com</i> ) 52 Guildford Road, Colchester, CO1 2RZ	
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<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	Mary Dale ( <i>m.dale1955@live.co.uk</i> )	
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Roy Anderson ( <i>royandliz@outlook.com</i> )	
<i>Programme Secretary</i>	Joy Hopkinson ( <i>joyhopkinson1010@gmail.com</i> )	
<i>Committee</i>	Bill Abbott	Mark Davies
	Liz Anderson	Chris Fardell
	Harry Carlo	Geoff Fenn
	Michael Connell	Chris Hall
<i>Ex Officio</i>	Frank Hargrave ( <i>Colchester and Ipswich Museums and Arts Manager</i> ) Pippa Pickles ( <i>Colchester Museums Manager</i> ) Philip Wise ( <i>Heritage Manager</i> )	
<i>Honorary Auditor</i>	Roy Anderson	
<i>Museum Office</i>	Museum Resource Centre 40 Heckworth Close, Colchester, CO4 9TB Tel: 01206 282931 <a href="http://www.cimuseums.org.uk">www.cimuseums.org.uk</a>	

For up to date news and information, please visit  
the website for The Friends of Colchester Museums

[tfocm.org.uk](http://tfocm.org.uk)

## THANK YOU

As you may be aware we stood down from our roles of Programme Secretary and Chairman at the recent AGM. We had both been quite heavily involved in the FOCM in recent years and both felt we needed a break.

It has been good to see that FOCM has survived the pandemic and that our numbers are very similar to pre Covid levels. We wish Ray, the new Chairman, and the FOCM every success for the future.

Jenny and I were quite surprised and very grateful to receive a book token each as a leaving present. We really were not expecting anything at all and would like to thank the committee and the Friends of Colchester Museums for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you from us both

*Jenny and Peter Jones.*

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## INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is the first edition of the newsletter since I took over from Peter Jones as Chairman at the AGM. I am aware of my limited experience in the FOCM but am also aware of the competence and helpfulness of the committee, many of whom know much more than I do about the activities.

As Chairman, I hope to continue with the existing activities while looking for additional ways of helping Colchester's museums, as well as providing funding for acquisitions.

*Ray Cantrell*

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## SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

At present we have no social media presence. Also Alan Skinner, who has very kindly continued to run our website since he stood down from the committee, would like to be relieved of this.

If any member would like to take on responsibility for either or both of running the website or setting up and running a presence on social media please would they please contact me on *raymond.cantrell @ntlworld.com*

## TREASURER'S TOPICS

At the Annual General Meeting, it was agreed that subscriptions should increase from 1st January 2023. This is the first increase since 2015, and only the second this century.

Rates are rising as follows -

Single membership from £10 to £13

Couple membership from £15 to £20

Family membership from £21 to £28

This is to keep up with the increases in the admission charges at the Museum.

## CHANGES TO YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR BANK

If you have arranged a standing order with your bank, please contact them to amend the amount that you pay (We cannot arrange this for you.) If you manage your account yourself on line, kindly make the adjustment now rather than wait until later this year. Details are enclosed with this newsletter.

## SEASON TICKET

If you want to attend the Autumn season lecture, you can buy a season ticket at the reduced rate of £10, which would give you a saving of £2 if you attend all talks. Please contact me regarding payment; details inside newsletter cover.

*Peter Evans*

Hon Treasurer

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

	<i>August 2021</i>	<i>December 2020</i>
Single members	255	275
Couple	171	204
Family	65	93
Others	8	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>582</b>

Membership still includes free entry to the Castle. For details on how to join, contact our membership Secretary Roy Anderson or see our website.

## BEQUEST FROM JANET FULFORD

Janet was our Secretary from 2013 until she died in 2021 but had been a member for a long time before that. She re-drafted our Constitution and kept us up to the mark when she took the minutes. Professionally, she was an architect but was interested in all forms of local history. Janet was a long serving borough councillor from 1970 to 1994, and was Mayor 1984/5 and later an honorary alderman.

She had a bubbly personality and although never serious at committee meetings, was very businesslike.

She kindly included us with some other local organisations in her will and you will see in the accounts that the bequest totalled £4724.11. This was very generous of her and the committee wants to buy something special, so that we can add her name to it.



*Peter Evans*

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## SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES IN COLCHESTER

Pamela Cox, a Professor at the University of Essex, is the author of several books on social history and has presented programmes for the BBC about the lives of shop workers, and also a history of domestic servants in Britain. She is a councillor for New Town and Christ Church, and Portfolio Holder for heritage and culture on the Council. She has asked if The Friends can help in producing a list of significant Colchester anniversaries that will come about in the next ten years.

If anyone has suggestions for inclusion in such a list please could you email them to Joy Hopkinson on:

*[joyhopkinson1010@gmail.com](mailto:joyhopkinson1010@gmail.com)*

We are hoping to invite Pam as a speaker next year.

**THE FRIENDS OF COLCHESTER MUSEUMS**  
**Income and Expenditure account**  
**for year ended 31st March 2022**

INCOME	2021-2022	2020-21
Subscriptions	£7082.50	£5867.50
Zoom talks	£505.60	£0.00
Interest	£383.28	£475.08
Donations	£649.00	£924.00
Surplus of Expenditure over income		£2,888.91
	<b><u>£8620.38</u></b>	<b><u>£10,155.49</u></b>

EXPENDITURE	2021-22	2020-21
Operating Expenses	£2600.94	£1,708.53
Subscriptions and Insurance (British Assoc. of Friends of Museums, and British Association of Local History)	£220.00	£346.96
Events - Christmas Open Evening	£99.00	£0.00
Purchases ( <i>Note 2</i> )	£4250.00	£6,500.00
Contribution to Museum ( <i>Note 3</i> )	£1,093.79	£1,600.00
Surplus of income over expenditure	£365.65	
	<b><u>£8620.38</u></b>	<b><u>£10155.49</u></b>

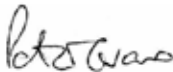
**Notes to the Accounts**


- Note 1 Due to the Pandemic only Zooms took place in 21/22
- Note 2 Purchases: Gasworks painting £1750 Gold ring £2500
- Note 3 Payment to Castle Museum in lieu of free admission for members
- Note 4 Held for next season of talks
- Note 5 Bequest received from the Estate of Janet Fulford
- Note 6 Transfer of funds from The Friends of the Roman Wall for  
Roman Wall Information boards

**The Friends of Colchester Museums**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31st March 2022**

ACCUMULATED FUND	2021-22	2020-21
Balance b/fwd	£38,043.53	£40,942.44
Surplus/loss the year	£356.65	-£2888.91
TOTAL	<b><u>£38,400.18</u></b>	<b><u>£38,053.53</u></b>
Reserves		
J Butcher		£55.00
B Colbron	£805.60	£805.60
Fulford bequest (note 5)	£4724.11	
Roman Wall (note 6)	£5538.02	
CREDITORS		
Fees for trips (note 1)	£1125.00	£1186.00
Room hire	£5.00	
Season tickets (note 4)	£560.00	£260.00
	<b><u>£51,157.91</u></b>	<b><u>£43,855.04</u></b>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	2021-22	2020-21
BANK		
Current Account	£6437.03	£6212.53
Building Society	£44,720.88	£34,037.60
TOTAL	<b><u>£51,157.91</u></b>	<b><u>£40,260.13</u></b>

I have examined the accounts of The Friends of Colchester Museums for the year ended 31st March 2021 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

## **EVENING LECTURES, APRIL - JUNE 2022**

### **Essex Rock: Geology Beneath the Landscape (12 April)**

The new evening Lectures got off to a brilliant start at Lion Walk. Seventy people were there and it was great to meet up with old friends again, face to face, so much better than zoom.

The talk by geologists Ian and Ros Mercer took on a complex subject: the 500 million year history of Essex, or more accurately the ground beneath our feet in Essex. They told us many things: how, thanks to continental drift, the county was once in Antarctica; of when the Thames ran into the sea at Clacton; and how long a million years is to geology - the blink of an eye. And evidence of land and climatic change can also be found above ground, in the materials used to construct our buildings - including the Roman wall.

A complicated subject was made clear; an excellent evening.

*Michael Connell*



### **The Rise of Modern Colchester, 1940 - 1990 (26 April)**

Andrew Phillips took an audience of 100 on an interesting and entertaining walk down memory lane. We travelled from the coldest recorded winter in 1946, when the sea froze, through new post-war housing developments and the rise of cars and new roads to the construction of horrendous 1960s concrete buildings.

We looked at the changes in shopping, from the first self service Co-Op to the huge Sainsbury's store in Tollgate. Many of the old facades have been kept in the High Street, with new building constructed behind. We were told how the council accommodated firms such as Tesco in St John's Street and the Royal London in Middleborough with designs for grand buildings.

This enjoyable talk ended with the development of Culver Square in 1987 and brought back many memories for us all.

*Jenny Jones*



### **A History of Photography in North Essex (10 May)**

Chris Farndell, a former scenes of crimes photographer, spoke about the beginnings of modern photography and the associated rivalry between the French and the British. The French pioneer Louis Daguerre won this battle in 1839, as the "Daguerrotype" techniques required a much shorter exposure time. However, the Englishman William Talbot came into his own later.



As photographic equipment was not available to the general public, photographic studios emerged across the country: there were at least 18 in Colchester in the late 19th century. Photographers considered themselves artists - decorating the backs of photographs lavishly to advertise the studio and sometimes colour painting black and white prints.

The dramatic importance of photographs in our lives was also appreciated, poignant examples having been found in prisoner of war camps and on the scenes of battle. A fascinating talk!

*Joy Hopkinson*



### **The Friends to the Rescue (24 May)**

The talk given by Philip Wise was interesting and informative, a resume of 25 years of Friends' gifting of artefacts to the museum. He began with a potted history, from our foundation in 1948 by Mr Sparling, and then focused on items given since 1988, everything from a gold coin of great antiquity and beautiful mediaeval silverware to more contemporary paintings.

But perhaps the most unusual were the casket used in the 1909 Colchester Pageant (maybe the biggest item) and the wide selection of local postcards from the David May collection.

It was impressive to see the selection, beautifully photographed and presented. Philip also hinted that a further important item was in the offing and would be announced quite soon.

Overall, this is something to be proud of: Friends should celebrate our achievements more often!

*Geoff Fenn*



### **The Calm Before the Storm (7 June)**

Paul Rusiecki told us about the events leading up to World War Two and about how they affected Colchester. He reflected on the views of local politicians and newspapers of the time, and explained how the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, went from hero to villain in a short space of time as a result of his appeasement policy.

At an early stage of the conflict, children were evacuated to Colchester, and local schools had to make provision to accommodate them. Ironically, it wasn't long before Colchester was considered too dangerous, and children were moved away from the town.

Paul gave an excellent and informative talk that held the interest of the audience. It was difficult not to relate the events of 1938/39 to what is happening in Ukraine today and we only hope that history does not repeat itself.

*Peter Jones*



## **A Brief History of 45 Colchester Schools (21 June)**

Sir Bob Russell's talk, peppered with his unique humour, took us through both senior and junior schools in Colchester. From mass murderer (Boudica) to the discoverer of magnetism (Gilberd) the origin of many of the schools' names was discussed... some obvious and others not. For example, Kendall Primary School was originally built in Kendall Road but later moved to Recreation Road, while retaining its name. We also looked at the role of Grey Friars and the current Sixth Form College on North Hill as buildings from which schools moved to different and permanent sites.

Many of us who have lived in Colchester for a long time had memories reawakened by this great tour of the local education centres. Thank you, Sir Bob.

*Jenny Jones*

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## **BRIGHTLINGSEA MUSEUM**

Brightlingsea has had a Museum since 1989. Until 2018 this was housed in a building which had become increasingly damp, cold, difficult and expensive to heat, with limited space. Access was difficult, because of steep steps and stairs.

In 2013 the Museum was left a substantial bequest by Claude Dove, its former Chairman, and this enabled the Trustees to look at options for new premises. In 2015 the former Police Station in Brightlingsea was purchased, in part due to its excellent location. Refurbishment of the property began in 2017, with the addition of an extension to provide an Exhibition Gallery. The works were completed in 2018 and at the same time a successful bid was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This enabled interpretive designers Maltings Partnership of Derby to assist the Museum in transforming the new premises into a museum with innovative and exciting exhibitions. The pandemic caused significant delays to opening and restricted the number of visitors, but 2022 now sees our first full year of opening. The Museum is becoming established as an attraction, with as many as 100 people coming through the doors on a busy day.

Our Reception area is welcoming with a sense of fun, based on the seaside attractions that are so important to the town's heritage. Merchandising is housed in a replica beach hut and a wide glass frontage enables regular themed window displays. A variety



of exhibitions, including the work of local artists, are also presented in this part of the Museum.

Just off the reception area there is a room dedicated to research and study. This has a collection of books and publications about Brightlingsea and access to digitised museum records is possible via two computers. An interactive computer also has theme-based collections of images. These mini exhibitions include pictures of

the railway (Brightlingsea Station was close by) shops and pubs, past and present, and the varied natural history of the vicinity.

The exhibition gallery follows a one way system and begins with a “History of Brightlingsea in 10 Objects,” ranging from a Roman mortarium to a World War Two Aldis lamp. The remainder of the displays focus on the town’s long and rich maritime history and outlines its connection with the sea and the River Colne.

This story is told with the use of a wide range of media and interactives, thought provoking text and the museum’s collection of stunning images. Themes include shipbuilding, fishing and oysters, the heydays of racing and cruising yachts - when the vessels of millionaires and royalty were moored locally and overhauled each winter. It was said that the approach of spring in Brightlingsea was heralded not by the smell of violets, but the odour of varnish! Exhibits emphasise the importance of the town as a Naval Base, from the days of Henry VIII to the time of HMS Nemo in WW2.

The Museum also has a dedicated space for temporary exhibitions which enables material from the museum’s social history collections to be displayed, as well as providing an opportunity and facility for local organisations to celebrate their work or special events.



Many of the Museum’s features include activities that aim to engage and interest children; its ethos is to encourage visitors of all ages and interests, both through its displays and by providing free admission to the Museum which is fully wheelchair accessible. It is also very keen to be seen as a community asset and will of course give a warm welcome to any Friends of Colchester Museums who call in.

Entrance times vary throughout the year; these and other points of interest can be accessed through a very informative website:

**[www.brightlingseamuseum.co.uk](http://www.brightlingseamuseum.co.uk)**

## RECENT COLCHESTER MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

‘Decoding the Roman Dead’ opened in late July 2021, focusing on the results of a major research project in partnership with the University of Reading and funded by Arts Council England, which explored Colchester’s Roman cremation burials. The exhibition is believed to have significantly contributed to the recovery of visitor numbers at the Castle and won the ‘Best Engagement and/or Collaboration Project’ category at the Society for Museum Archaeology (SMA) Awards in November 2021. The associated research for the project has been written up in a joint academic paper between the Museum Service, the University of Reading and Durham University. It is anticipated that this will be published during 2022 in a leading academic journal of archaeological science.

Following a challenge to the interpretation of the Colchester Hoard which had been linked to the Medieval Jewish community (potentially propagating a damaging stereotype), the service has worked with the Jewish Community to improve the display and identify other objects in the collection that more accurately represent this community. This included work with children from the local Synagogue and the service will be consulting with relevant academics in the reassessment of other objects in the collection.

‘Access Champions’ were recruited from within the museum service and trained by consultants, Access For All. With the consultants’ support they conducted Access Audits for all of the museums. As a result, the team has made modest physical improvements together with much improved access information on the website, and has now been nominated for an award ‘Kids in Museums, Best Accessible Museum’.

We have also recently welcomed our Curating for Change trainee. The “Curating for Change” project has been created by Accentuate, a programme striving to bring about equity for D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people in the cultural sector. The Accentuate programme is a specialist programme which is part of the organisation Screen South.

The exposure under glass of a Roman mosaic in Lion Walk in Colchester has been commissioned, with the work anticipated for completion later in 2022.

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## THE WITCHCRAFT AND MAGIC EXHIBITION

(July 2022 - 6 January 2023)

This summer, Colchester Castle launched a new programme of displays, trails, tours and events exploring the fascinating yet horrific story of the Essex witch trials. The exhibition will be included amongst the permanent displays of Colchester Castle, which has a strong connection to the witch trials, as many of the accused spent time

within its walls as prisoners. The programme is in partnership with the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic (Boscastle, Cornwall) and the University of Essex, who have loaned items for the displays. The displays explore true stories from the 1400s to the 1800s, a period in which four separate laws were created in England to punish people who were believed to have supernatural powers. Sharing the stories of some of the people who were accused it will become clear that, under each of the four different Witchcraft Acts, your fate could have been entirely different. The displays also touch upon modern superstitions, helping the visitor understand that many of us continue to believe in the supernatural even if we don't realise it.

Finally, the programme has a series of events, trails and tours which will explore the wider concept of magic. These will include input from our partner organisations, and others such as the Salem Museum of Witchcraft. As with the displays, these activities will encourage the visitor to question their own beliefs and provide an opportunity for creative work and discussion.

**[www.colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/wickedspirits](http://www.colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/wickedspirits)**

Funding for this exhibition was strongly supported by Friends of Colchester Museums, who donated £1500 to the ArtFund, ArtHappens campaign; this resulted in a £3000 pledge, as it was match-funded. Thank you!

We have recently run a training course for new guides for the city and castle and are looking to further extend this. We are interested to hear from anyone who would like to undertake training to become a castle guide. If you would like further information, please contact:

*alisonmortiboys@colchester.gov.uk*

*Pippa Pickles*

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## **FRIENDS' GIFT TO COLCHESTER MUSEUM**

We were made aware that a rare gold pocket watch was coming up for auction at Cheffins sale room in Cambridge, and purchased it with a successful bid of £950. This was the work of Colchester watchmaker Nathaniel Hedge and once belonged to William Sparling, who was Mayor of Colchester in 1805 - so it has strong local connections.

Peter Jones told the Press: "I am so pleased that the Friends of Colchester Museum were able to purchase this for the museum collection. It is hard to believe that Colchester was once one of the country's top centres of clock and watch-making excellence, but looking at this beautiful watch you can see why."

And he presented the watch to Colchester Mayor, Tim Young, at our recent AGM. Mr Young said, “It was pleasure to hold this wonderful watch, which once belonged to one of my predecessors.”

Our latest acquisition (hinted at by Philip Wise in his talk last May) will go on display as part of the collection at Hollytrees Museum.

The watch is a full hunter, in which an outer case completely surrounds the watch itself. The gold-coloured dial has Arabic numerals, and hour and minute hands. The watch movement is signed ‘Hedge Colchester’ and the case has the hallmarks for London, 1805. The inside of the outer case is engraved, ‘THIS WATCH BELONGED TO WILLIAM SPARLING SOLICITOR THREE TIMES MAYOR OF COLCHESTER DIED 1815’.

The ‘Hedge’ who made this watch is Nathaniel Hedge IV (1735-1821), a member of the prominent Colchester family who were associated first with the manufacture of cloth in the town and later, for over a hundred years, with the making of clocks and watches.



Hedge had two shops, one after the other, in Colchester’s High Street and in 1807 went into partnership with a fellow clockmaker Joseph Banister (1778-1875) who bought him out in 1818. The ‘Mayor’s Watch’ was made relatively late in Hedge’s career when he was already 70 years old.

Sparling, a Colchester solicitor, was mayor in 1805 and again in 1813. The watch was therefore either purchased by or presented to him during his year of office. There are however two inaccuracies about the watch’s inscription – firstly, Sparling was mayor twice not three times and secondly he died, according to his tomb in the churchyard of St Martin’s, Colchester, in 1816 not 1815.

Before this latest acquisition there were only two watches made by Nathaniel Hedge IV in the Colchester Museums' collections – one with a very elaborately decorated gold case and the other with a case of pinchbeck, an alloy of copper and zinc. Both of these watches are dated 1775, considerably earlier in Hedge's career than the 'Mayor's Watch,' which is also distinguished by having a plain gold case.

*Philip J Wise*

Heritage Manager

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## THE COLCHESTER QUIZ

*By Gill Bird*

### How well do you know Colchester?

1: Who is credited with building Colchester Castle?

- A) William the Conqueror
- B) Thomas Beche
- C) Eudo Dapifer

2: Who granted Colchester's first charter?

- A) King Stephen
- B) King Richard I
- C) King John

3: Where was the surrender to the siege of Colchester conducted?

- A) The Kings Head
- B) The Red Lion
- C) The Odd One Out



4: When did Colchester North station open?

- A) 1839
- B) 1843
- C) 1845

5: How long did it take to build the Jumbo water tower?

- A) 18 months
- B) 20 months
- C) 24 months

6: What was the name of the architect who designed the Town Hall?

- A) Gilbert Scott
- B) Frederick Burper
- C) John Belcher



7: When was the Colchester War Memorial unveiled?

- A) 1919
- B) 1921
- C) 1923

8) In which church is the Natural History Museum located?

- A) St James
- B) All Saints
- C) St Martin

9: Where was Jane Taylor living when she wrote “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star?”

- A) East Stockwell St
- B) Maidenburgh St
- C) West Stockwell St



10: Which is furthest north?

- A) Colchester
- B) Ottawa
- C) Kharkov

*Answers inside back cover*

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## IN MEMORY OF JEAN BAKER

It is sad to record the death at the age of 96 of our oldest and probably least known Vice-President, Jean Baker. Jean was a remarkable woman and a veritable force of nature. Anyone in education in Essex in the 1970s was likely to come across her, as I did at the Colchester Institute where her second son, Clyde, came to do his A Levels. After discovering that he had inherited her dyslexia, she cut through all obstacles with drive and determination and obtained pioneering therapy for him at Barts Hospital and subsequently founded the Essex Dyslexia Society. She went on to win a scholarship to study at Essex University, going on to train and practise in Colchester as



a pioneering language therapist at the progressive Holmwood House School in Colchester.

Jean remained an active Friend of the Museums and helped us in many ways, besides giving many generous donations. Even when MS took its toll of her mobility, she was still battling for children and raising money for the National Children's Home.

Her funeral brought our chairman, programme secretary, treasurer and myself back into contact with Clyde, his brother Glyn and their families. Their mother was, they said, 'determined, stubborn, generous, intelligent, infuriating, loving, kind and resourceful.' We need more people like that.

*Andrew Phillips*

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## **FOCM PREVIEW: "WICKED SPIRITS"**

### **Colchester Castle, Tuesday 2nd August, 7.30pm**

Our Chairman, Ray Cantrell, gave a welcome and thanked the Museum for their invitation; he also congratulated them on receiving the 2022 Award for the "Powers of Stories" exhibition, and only regretted that this was for an event held in Ipswich!

Frank Hargrave, Museums Manager, thanked the Friends for their contribution of £1500 (doubled to £3000 through Crowd Funding) which got the Museum "over the line" in funding and enabled the "Wicked Spirits" exhibition to go ahead.

Museum Curator Ben Paiter then gave a fascinating presentation, outlining the processes through which an exhibition presenting stories of persecution was prepared and implemented.

He thanked Essex University for releasing a copy of "Malleus Malleficorum," a mediaeval document which led to a succession of witch hunts across the world; access to this made the exhibition possible. Other institutions were approached to help: The Museum of Witchcraft in Cornwall and the Museum of British Folklore were each able to contribute exhibits and provided an invaluable partnership opportunity in mounting the exhibition. Colchester Museum met with them to decide how stories about witchcraft could best be told, presenting case studies which showed how attitudes changed over the centuries and resulted in hundreds of lives being lost in England alone.

The aim was to present detailed information about historical events, including witch trials, using strong academic support. The curators checked carefully throughout to ensure that this was done with regard for accessibility, accuracy and respect. But there was also a desire to be creative, using objects such as witch bottles and animal familiars to bring the displays to life. We would also be reminded of the ways in

which witchcraft has transformed into superstition; could it be that only one magpie was exhibited to us?

Ben outlined the care with which the material for each display case was prepared and visitors from partner museums assisted in evaluating this. Many adaptations to the Museum were necessary in order to get the exhibition under way for the opening on 15th July.

The museum was satisfied to have taken part in this hugely collaborative project. Ben ended by inviting the Friends to visit the exhibition to see how the many and varied features that he had outlined had been arranged and presented.

After his talk, a beautiful hare made by Pippa Pickles in felted textile was raffled and raised £125 for the funds of FOCM.



*Michael Connell*

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## **COLCHESTER ROMAN FESTIVAL**

At the end of July, the Colchester Roman Festival was held in Lower Castle Park and Colchester Museum had a tent with various artefacts and also activities for children. Mary Dale responded to their request to FOCM for help and attended for both days, and I joined her for one of them.

It was certainly not restful, as small children spilled quantities of sand from the trays when attempting to undertake an archaeological dig; and older ones posed challenging questions about the tomb of a Roman centurion and associated objects.

But it did have its rewards and is certainly another way that the Friends can continue to support the Museum, in addition to our main role of raising funds to buy and present exhibits. It is certainly likely that volunteers will be welcomed at next year's Festival!

*Ray Cantrell*

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## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2022

Once again, Colchester's heritage sites are open to visitors who wish to explore the secrets and stories contained within. Between 9th and 18th September, you can visit locations and take part in events in central Colchester and also surrounding areas - including Boxted Airfield Museum, Munning's House in Dedham and the East Anglian Railway Museum, Wake's Colne. Full details can be found at:

**[www.visitcolchester.com/HODS](http://www.visitcolchester.com/HODS)**

also, leaflets are available from Colchester libraries, museums and the Information Centre. The 2021 event was limited because of Covid, so this is a very special, wide ranging re-opening by Colchester Museums.

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**Have you checked out our website?  
[tfocm.org.uk](http://tfocm.org.uk)**

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### Answers to Quiz

1C, 2B, 3A, 4B, 5B, 6C, 7C, 8B, 9C, 10A.

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**FRIENDS OF COLCHESTER MUSEUMS 2022**  
**Autumn Lecture Series**

£2 per talk or £10 for all six talks

**EVENING LECTURES – Tuesday at 7.30 pm**

- |                |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
| <b>6 Sept</b>  | <b>Colchester in the 20th Century</b>          | <i>Colchester Film Makers</i><br><i>As recorded in old films</i>                                 |
| <b>20 Sept</b> | <b>Colchester Cemetery</b>                     | <i>Sharon Mooney</i>   |
| <b>4 Oct</b>   | <b>Essex Lighthouses</b>                       | <i>Peter Jones</i><br><i>Maritime Safety off the East Coast of England</i>                       |
| <b>18 Oct</b>  | <b>The History of St Leonards-at-the-Hythe</b> | <i>Joy Hopkinson</i><br><i>The rise and fall of one of Colchester's finest medieval churches</i> |
| <b>1 Nov</b>   | <b>The Changing Face of Ordnance Survey</b>    | <i>Peter Walker</i><br><i>One Inch Maps of Essex</i>   |
| <b>15 Nov</b>  | <b>Money Talks</b>                             | <i>Tom Hodgson</i><br><i>British history and daily life seen through coins</i>                   |

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Please note that we are again holding the talks  
on Tuesday evenings in Lion Walk Church.

Further information from Joy Hopkinson, Programme Secretary  
[joyhopkinson1010@gmail.com](mailto:joyhopkinson1010@gmail.com)