



# The Ipswich Society NEWSLETTER

[www.ipswichsociety.org](http://www.ipswichsociety.org)

July 2019 Issue 216



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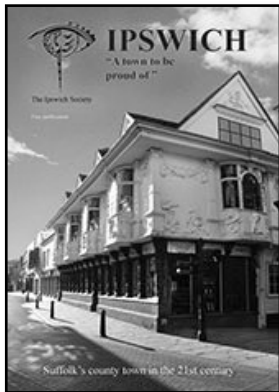
*'A dappled shade  
across the door of  
St Clements this  
morning.'*  
Photograph by  
Graham Smith  
12.5.2019



## Editorial

Following a number of admiring comments about our cover photograph on the April 2019 issue, I should have included a credit for the photographer: our Chairman, John Norman. A technical slip ‘lost’ the caption during final preparations. The lofty view of

the Wet Dock northern quays from Isaac’s to Neptune Marina was actually taken by John, not from a hot air balloon above the water, but from the roof of the Winerack when two intrepid members of the Society’s Executive Committee were taken up there during an early phase in the completion of the block. The perspective fooled a lot of people, including your editor.

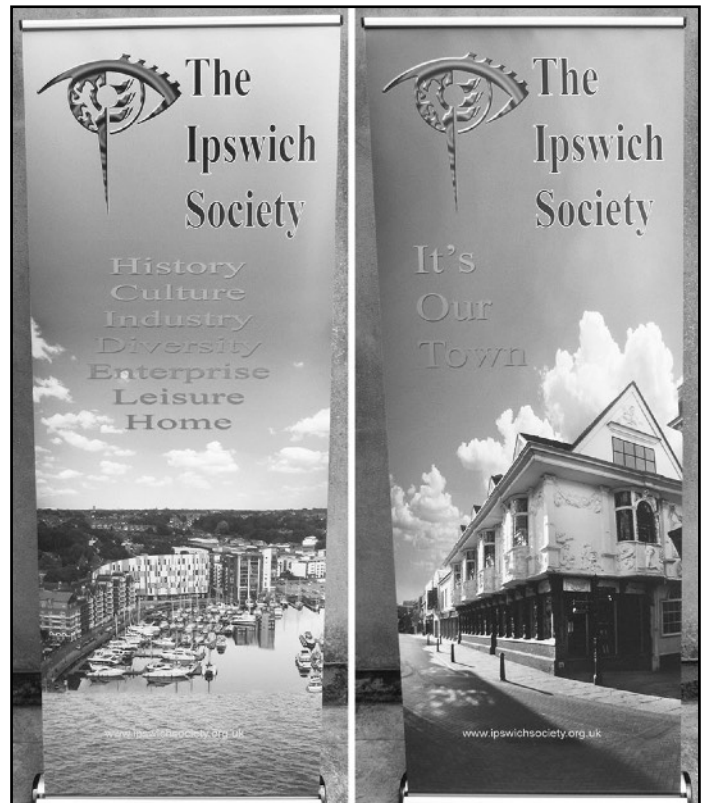


It is also worth mentioning that this very same image became an important feature on one of a pair of new Ipswich Society pull-up banners which were on show for the first time at our AGM in April. The other photograph – as featured on the front cover of our publication *Ipswich: a town to be proud of* – is a view of The Ancient House and Butter Market taken on a very early summer morning by our Vice-Chairman, Tony Marsden.

Photograph detail below: Where can this be seen? See *Letters to the Editor* on page 17.

**Robin Gaylard**

[N.B.: ‘Street Scene’ returns next issue.]



**New members**

# Chairman's remarks

## Unintended consequences

You will read elsewhere in this *Newsletter* [page 14] about 'Developers' converting the roof space in terraced houses into bed-sitting rooms (and then the whole house into one of multiple occupancy). The relaxation of the Planning Regulation was to enable a growing family to extend their home without the hassle of applying for planning permission or the expense of moving house.

It is almost impossible in this day and age to define 'family' when it comes to allowing 'permitted development' under this Planning Regulation. Hence those who can spot the loophole stretch the regulation beyond its intended purpose.

Another example of unintended consequence is the permitted development or installation of Telephone Call Boxes in the public highway. Back in 2003 it seemed like a good idea to allow British Telecom (who were, by and large, the only provider of TCBs) to install them where they were needed, again without the hassle of planning permission.

Some time later, in an attempt to make it worthwhile to retain these call boxes, advertising was allowed on the large glass panels (facing out to be read by passing motorists). The set of three TCBs on Major's Corner were installed simply to provide an advertising hoarding.

Move forward to the second decade of the 21st century and there are, of course, more companies with the statutory power to install TCBs on the highway. And, guess what? We have a rash of applications (not for permission – that is taken as read, but simply to inform the local authority that it is happening).

These are not telephone boxes, but simply a free-standing wall with a poster on one side and the telephone and computer screen on the other. Evidence from other towns suggests that the telephone hardly ever works, but the advertising does! Frequently the poster is a TV screen displaying rolling advertisements which can be changed to suit the passing pedestrians. Coffee shops at 8.30 am, retail shopping in the mid-morning and fast food in the late afternoon, particularly when the fast-food outlet is but yards away.

The local authority can, and will, object when the application is in a Conservation Area or close to a listed building, as will the Ipswich Society.

You may by now have read of the changes afoot to the gateway site off Bridge Street: the Stoke Bridge entrance to the Waterfront. St Peter's Wharf has been repaved and now it is the turn of the buildings adjacent. All are owned by the Borough Council and they eagerly await a developer:

- i) on the car park – site of the demolished BOCM maltings building with the small cottage-like Benet Aldred merchant's house at No. 4 College Street;
- ii) to demolish the last remaining silo and build something new, perhaps of similar height; these first two could be developed as a single project;
- iii) the former Burton's factory – a concrete-framed building the other half of which, Cardinal Lofts, received an upward extension ten years ago;
- iv) the former Allied Mills (Cranfield's) weigh-bridge single storey building which has the problem of asbestos and other builder's rubbish dumped inside. This detritus is to be removed and the building brought back into use.

We wish the Borough well with this challenging project.

**John Norman**

## Planning matters

**2 Park Road.** Inevitably, in view of the extant permission granted on appeal twelve years ago, the slight enlargement and the larger car park was granted. The effect on the Conservation Area will not be great but time will tell how much traffic is generated.

**Mulberry Tree.** An application for conversion to a community centre for the Kurds including a prayer room; the scheme was well-supported by the Kurdish community nationwide. Locally, it received a record number of almost entirely irrelevant objections, which is dismaying.

**28-32 Museum Street.** These Listed buildings, Birketts former offices, have all been bought by one developer. No. 20, once a Regency town house, will be converted to four apartments and no 28-32 into nine. This will lead to some undesirable but unpreventable internal detail loss as part of the internal changes. The remainder will be re-let as offices to raise cash-flow whilst difficulties with conversion are resolved.

**Ravenswood, Nacton Road.** Erection of Day Centre and 24-bed residential accommodation for Headway Suffolk: this development is to be welcomed as it will provide a welcome new facility to Ipswich for the rehabilitation of neurological injuries.

However, the architecture is utilitarian which could well be avoided. There are many instances countrywide of fine modern architecture in similar establishments, for example Maggie's Cancer Centre or our own children's hospice by Roger Gillies.

**Old Post Office Cornhill.** The Borough, as owners, propose an internal refurbishment before inviting offers of use. These include removal of modern interior fittings, ceilings and partitions; removal of roof dormer on east elevation; removal of modern door canopy on east elevation; reduction of redundant boiler chimney; application of lead weathering to cornices; replacement and extension of birdproof netting.

**Church of St Matthew.** Installation of protective plastic coated wire mesh over the north aisle late 19th century stained glass, facing Civic Drive by The Stained Glass Window company of Over Stoke, Ipswich.

**6-10 Cox Lane & 36-46 Carr Street,** the former central Co-operative store. This proposal has no design, nor access plan online at present, so we can only surmise that Joe Fogle is going to convert the upper floors to apartments.

**Grafton Way.** The old lower yard, the former B&Q and Tesco Extra site, continues to evolve. This plan would build some 173 town houses in terraces with views of the river, retail space, public space, a pedestrian and cycle way from the skate park to Princes Street bridge with access. Though broadly acceptable, there are many details which should be improved. We will be negotiating to improve the outcome.

**Dove Street/Rope Walk Corner,** motor cycle parking. Suffolk New College wishes to build a small classroom-block similar to the one recently approved on the opposite corner. Whilst the style is fine, we feel that they should not be permitted to build out to the line of Dove Street as this blocks the line of sight from St Helens Street along the south face of the new building; instead they should be asked to rotate the building eastwards to occupy more of the car park.

**Westerfield House.** The extension to the existing care home which has, at its core, a 18th century house to form a large ‘Care Village’ for all stages of later life was granted permission. This is a relatively new concept for the UK and the design by KLH is modern. The applicants requested permission for two houses on Humber Doucy Lane for the managers.

**9-13 St Matthews Street.** Conversion of rear part of shops and first and second floors and adding third and fourth floors to provide two 1-bed and eleven 2-bedroom flats, designed by KLH; permission was granted.

**133-139 Valley Road.** Permission has been granted to build seven dwellings at the rear of these typical 1920s detached houses. Their design (one 3-bed chalet bungalow, three 4-bedroom and three 5-bedroom houses, all with accommodation in the roof spaces) is disappointing. We objected to the over-tall houses and their exceptionally ordinary design with nothing to distinguish them from their predecessors.

**Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs).** Under the latest legislation a formal planning application is no longer required to convert offices into HMOs; however, Listed buildings, and those in Conservation Areas and others still do. Numerous projects are underway. We are concerned about **Westerfield Road**, the conversion of the uneconomic Ormonde House rest home to student accommodation and **160 Norwich Road**, an 1834 house, Listed Grade 2, formerly an SCC hostel; both projects are by the same developer. We believe that the Borough’s Planning Department, particularly its Enforcement Officer, are keeping a close eye on all such developments. *See the HMOs article on page 14.*

**Erection of modern Telephone Call Boxes.** We will object to these proposals to erect these devices outside Superdrug in Carr Street, Sainsbury’s in Upper Brook Street, on the Island site, in Dogs Head Street and outside the Ipswich Building Society (Parr’s Bank) in Princes Street. They are close to the pavement edge, will cause pedestrian obstruction in heavy footfall areas, are unnecessary as everybody has a mobile phone and will become advertising and graffiti hoardings, untended. This application is by J.C. Decaux, the UK’s largest outdoor advertising company. The Society successfully persuaded IBC to remove all but one large outside advertising hoarding around 1980; we mustn’t let go of our heritage.

*Mike Cook*

Category	Costs
Advertising & Marketing	£4,500
Contracts	£9,400
Equipment	£2,300
Filming	£1,500
Ground investigations	£2,694,200
IT	£4,300
Key stakeholder fees	£28,700
Legal	£158,300
Meetings & events	£10,500
Postage	£3,500
Printing	£3,900
Professional fees [see table]	£4,437,600
RIBA competition	£77,900
SCC staff costs	£541,500
Surveys & data	£114,700
Training	£6,400
Travel	£9,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,108,700</b>

Category	Company	Costs
Professional fees	Ardent Management Ltd	£113,600
	Concertus Design & Property Ltd	£2,800
	Foster + Partners	£179,100
	ITO World Ltd	£16,800
	Jacobs	£23,200
	Mace Ltd	£62,500
	Meeting Place Communications	£6,800
	WSP	£4,032,800
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>£4,437,600</b>

## Upper Orwell Crossings final costs

Source: Architect’s Journal 2 June, 2019  
Thanks for Lisa Wall for bringing it to our attention.

## The Cardinal Works site, College Street

This large site is located between the Grade I listed medieval churches of St Mary at Quay and St Peter's. On its south side is Wolsey's Gate, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade I listed building, and the Grade II listed 1-5 College Street.

The site has been an eyesore for many years, having been cleared of buildings, prior to possible development. It fronts on to College Street which runs along the original bank of the River Orwell for virtually the whole length of what was the waterfront of the Anglo-Saxon town.

This alone makes it one of the most archaeologically important areas in the town but it is also the site of medieval and later structures of great significance to the town as revealed by documentary evidence and evaluations of the site by trenching in 2000 and 2004.

The evaluations showed that the site spans a dip in the underlying natural topography, marking the course of the brook which ran south from Christchurch Park to the Orwell and gave its name to Brook Street. Alongside this stream course there is a high potential for waterlogged deposits and the preservation of organic remains.

The historical development of the site can be summarised as follows:

### Early Middle Saxon (AD 640-730)

This area was the focus for 7th/early 8th century occupation centred on a river crossing (later Stoke Bridge), with contemporary cemeteries excavated south of the Butter Market and at Stoke Quay.

### Middle Saxon (AD 730-870)

The site spans almost the entire area immediately behind the Anglo-Saxon waterfront which may have been the location of associated structures such as houses and warehouses. Traces of timber buildings, a ditch and pits were found in the evaluation.

### Danish/Late Saxon (AD 870-1000)

The evaluation revealed occupation at this period including two post-and-slot buildings with clay floors.

### Early Medieval (AD 1000-1200)

Traces of occupation revealed in the evaluation included a cellared building and pits.

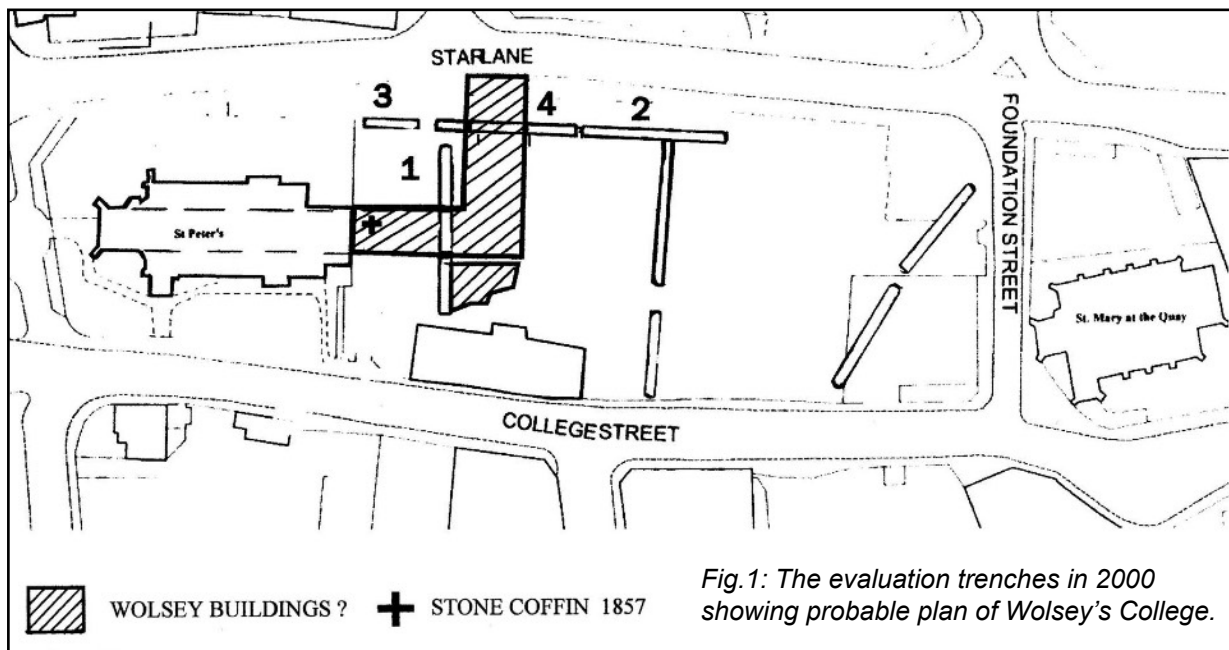
### Medieval (AD 1200-1500)

The western half of the site includes part of the Augustinian Priory of Saints Peter and Paul (c.1130-1528). The evaluation revealed traces of the Priory's septaria walls, a mortar floor with tile impressions and associated burials, including some in stone-lined graves (at least 600 burials may be anticipated).

Two major, 1 metre deep, robbed-out wall foundation trenches – running east-west and aligning with the chancel of St Peter's Church – probably indicate the eastern end of what had been the priory church reused as part of Wolsey's College.

### Late Medieval Transitional (c.1500-1600)

A College (St Mary's Cardinal College) was founded in the Priory precinct by Cardinal Wolsey in 1528 but was suppressed and demolished in 1530. Wolsey's Gate, the water gate to the precinct, is the only surviving above ground remnant of the College.



The evaluation revealed substantial traces of the College, including north-south walls, 2m wide, running north from the east end of the priory church (Fig.1). This appears to authenticate the only possible illustration of the College (Fig.2)

Post Medieval

The eastern part of the site includes the sites of two successive Quaker Meeting Houses, dating to 1734 and the 19th century and their associated burial grounds which contain many named Ipswich dignitaries. Successive historic maps show the development of buildings on the site, including St Peter's Iron Works.

The Future

All these remains are extremely vulnerable to any development of the site.

Preservation *in situ* in the context of large-scale development is virtually impossible as there are no known construction techniques for large buildings which do not involve extensive ground disturbance.

Even shallow disturbance of the site is problematic as the walls of the Priory and Wolsey's Collage and many burials lie immediately below the existing concrete slabs on the site and the foundations of the 19th century meeting house are less than 30 centimetres below current ground level.

The cost of excavating deposits to compensate for the impact of development has been raised as a significant factor affecting the viability of implementing previously consented schemes. The last planning consent (for the 'St Peter's Port' development) included a bond for £2m to cover the costs of archaeological work.



**Fig.2: The only known possible illustration of Wolsey's College.**



While it is quite reasonable that ‘the polluter pays’, the current system of developer-funding being site specific does render the development of certain sites unviable, i.e. where development costs are high and potential returns from the investment do not compensate.

What then can be done with such sites? On the assumption that government continues with its policy of protecting heritage assets, three options are available:

1. finance the archaeological work from other sources leaving a site for development which is free from constraints;
2. wait for the economic conditions to improve to the point that the costs and returns are in balance;
3. leave the sites undeveloped (as public open space) preserving the archaeology *in situ* for future generations.

Set against the current trend of urban retail decline and unsustainable house prices, it probably requires central government to intervene with grant aid if such town centre sites are to be regenerated.

All the Anglo-Saxon remains are of international importance as they have the potential to answer major questions about urban origins in north-west Europe. The later remains are of significant local interest. They are valuable in their own right and for their potential to enhance heritage-based tourism to the town.

**Keith Wade** [*former County Archaeologist*]

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## Snippets



**Fish flies no more.** Sad news: the flying fish which stood atop of Wm Rush, Fish, Game and Poultry shop in Norwich Road, (internally, the decorative ceramic tiles are mainly intact) has been destroyed. In the process of re-roofing the property the contractor accidentally broke the terra-cotta feature and we understand it is irreparable. The upper carved beam in the gable bears the date 1891 with a merchant’s mark. The property today is the Maharani Indian and Bangladeshi restaurant. >





**The Brave New World comes with a brave price-tag**

Given the recent coverage of Extinction Rebellion demonstrations, confronting the way in which we exploit the planet’s resources is a challenge to us all. If you thought that the internet and digital technology were the answer to everything... ‘Computer systems draw a huge amount of energy. Already it’s estimated that computer use around the world is responsible for more greenhouse gas emission than the entire airline industry. If energy-intensive processes... keep expanding, that’s only going to get worse.’ *New ways of seeing, Radio 4, 8.5.2019.*

**The Ipswich Society tiptoes further into social media**

Neil Thompson has started an Instagram account for The Ipswich Society. Here’s an invitation to members to subscribe to Instagram and follow ‘theipswichsociety’. Downloading the app, either from Apple or the android store is free and very easy.



**Brickmakers Wood takes the next step forward**

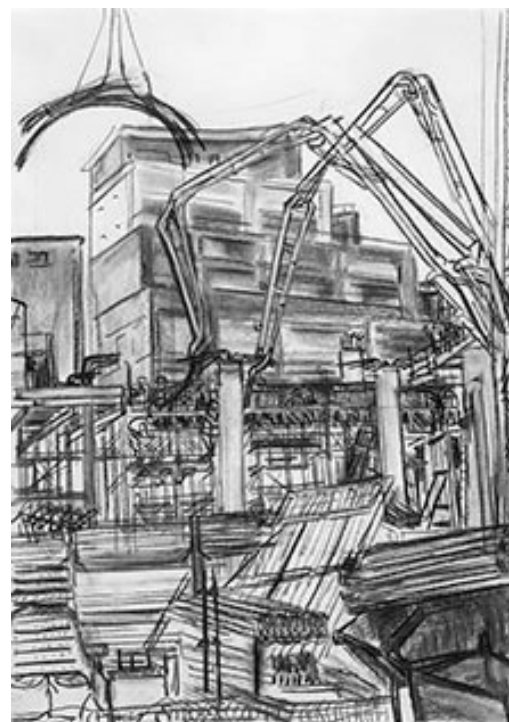
Following launch events in Sudbury and Ipswich Jo and Rob Brooks, who run Brickmakers Wood in Ipswich, among other excellent ventures, sought to put their projects on a sounder financial footing, to be able to support more and engage with the local community, through a Community Share issue. At the end of May, The Eden-Rose Community Ltd reached its minimum target of £40,000 (match-funding from Co-operatives UK and Locality doubles this amount). This is a major boost to the community woodland in Ipswich. See our *Newsletter*, October 2018 (Issue 213). (<https://ercommunity.co.uk>)



### Ten years of DanceEast: ‘Studios from Silos’

To celebrate ten years since DanceEast moved into the Jerwood Dance House on Albion Quay, occupying the first four floors of The Mill tower block, an exhibition of Valerie Irwin's charcoal drawings of the Waterfront Regeneration (2005-2009) relating to this Cranfield's site will be staged, 24th July to 8th September 2019 in The Whistler Gallery at Dance East. See *Newsletter*, January 2019 (Issue 214).

49 drawings have been especially selected to focus on the building of the Dance House. For the first time in an exhibition of work from *The Change in Charcoal Collection* the drawings will be for sale, the proceeds going to support the work of the Valerie Irwin Archive Project in preparing them for safeguarding and preservation at the NewSuffolk Record Office, The Hold.



19.12.2007: construction of the large studio on the second floor of The Jerwood Dance House

#### Pedants' corner

“This sentence is likely ruffling some feathers and probable end in tears.”

So, in the ongoing scenario (is that a thing?) of the above, the reality is – going forward – that the probably direction of travel is likely a minefield to avoid. Just sayin' ... (At this point the Editor had to lie down for a while.)

## Ipswich Society Annual Awards 2019

It's that time of the year when we begin to look around our fair town for new developments, for renovations, for improvements to the building stock we become so used to.

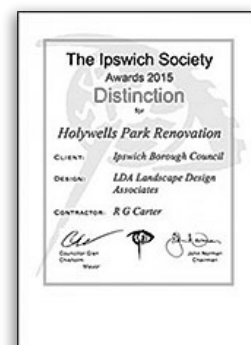
Each member knows his or her area very well, each member will be able to make observations about the building progress in the area around where they live and in the area of the town they pass through daily. We depend upon the acuity of our membership and the local knowledge for producing a list of the properties and street scenes which are worthy of consideration for our Annual Awards.

Very soon we will be contacting our adjudicators who kindly make themselves available during the autumn to consider the nominations from our membership.

If you become aware of a completed project in your locality, evidence of a change in street scene or renovation of an existing building or careful redecoration, refiguring of a site, then please contact our Vice-Chairman Tony Marsden whose email address is available on our website and on page 23 of this *Newsletter*.

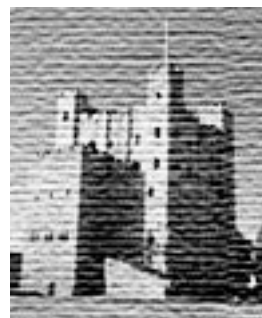
The full specification for the Annual Awards is available on the website if you care to scrutinise it prior to contacting us. We await your nominations!

**Tony Marsden** (Vice-Chairman)



## Medway Mosaic: an Ipswich Society outing 12 April 2019

After a slightly delayed start, due to the Orwell Bridge closure earlier, we set off with our excellent coach driver, Jeremy, making good time, to meet our guide, Liz, at Gravesend.



Liz directed us to Higham where we had lunch at The Falstaff Inn which was opposite Gad's Hill, the house where Charles Dickens lived from 1857 to 1870 when he died. His father had shown him this house when he was a child and told him that if he were to work hard he might come to live in it one day.

Rochester Castle

After lunch we began our coach tour of the Hoo Peninsular which separates the estuaries of the Rivers Medway and Thames. We travelled through the Kent Marshes and fruit growing areas and had spectacular views of the two rivers.

We stopped at the lovely 13<sup>th</sup> century St James' Church in the village of Cooling which is constructed of ragstone, flint and chalk. The churchyard provided Dickens with the inspiration for the opening chapter of *Great Expectations*. Our guide read us a paragraph from this and it was very atmospheric as we stood in the cold wind imagining Pip at his family's grave and being surprised by Magwitch!

We then continued our journey to Rochester which has grown from a small Saxon village to an interesting and historic city. We had a walking tour in the footsteps of Dickens, through the lovely Victorian High Street. We saw buildings featured in his books including the grand Restoration House, (Miss Havisham's home). We finished the tour at the beautiful Cathedral, the second oldest in England dating to AD604. Here we had free time to enjoy its splendour and explore the city.

Several members stopped for tea and cake in a café in the High Street where a few of our party were locked in the loo! Happily they were quickly released and made it back to the coach in good time. All in all, a very enjoyable and interesting 'Mosaic'. Our thanks to June Peck for organising such a lovely day for us.

**Lorna Beckton**

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### New blue plaque

Arthur Frederick Edwards, GC (1895-1984) was awarded the George Cross in 1971 having received the Edward Medal in 1916 (now in the Ipswich Museum). The award was for bravely assisting, with three other soldiers, in the rescue of wounded at Faversham Powder Mills store, Kent, when serving as a Bombardier in the Royal Artillery in April 1916.

Arthur was educated at Ipswich Grammar School and Bishop's Stortford School. He became a director of the department store, J&J Edwards, which was based at 33-35 Tavern Street from 1900-68. The retailer was founded by Arthur Edwards' father, James F. Edwards, and his uncle.

The plaque was proposed by James Goodwin, great nephew to Arthur Edwards, who lives in Ipswich; it was officially unveiled on May 8 2019.

**Tony Robson**



## John Wiggin photographs on our Image Archive

A collection of early photographs have been donated to The Ipswich Society's online Image Archive by an old friend of the Society, Nick Wiggin. They were taken by his Great-great-grandfather, John Wiggin (1818-1879), a keen scientist experimenting with early photography who was appointed as Gas Analyst for the Ipswich Corporation and Public Analyst for the Eastern District. He made a whole range of over-the-counter medicines and also produced veterinary and agricultural products including his 'Seed wheat protector'. A pioneering photographer and Ipswich chemist, John Wiggin took photographs using wax paper negatives and glass negatives from the early 1860s. Wiggin & Son chemist's shop was a fixture on the eastern corner of Berners Street and St Matthews Street in Ipswich from 1840 and, after major road-widening and rebuilding in the early 1960s, on the opposite corner and set back. The shop sold pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, photographic equipment, lantern slide equipment, chemistry sets and other products. Nick Wiggin was, of course, the last of the family line to run a pharmacy from those premises. The images were scanned digitally by David Kindred.



*A very early photograph of The Ancient House in Butter Market by John Wiggin. The Wagon & Horses Inn on the left had a history dating back to the 16th century. The lettering reads: 'LATE COACHMAN TO THE YARMOUTH STAR. PORTER & FINE ALES... GOOD STABLING &c.'*





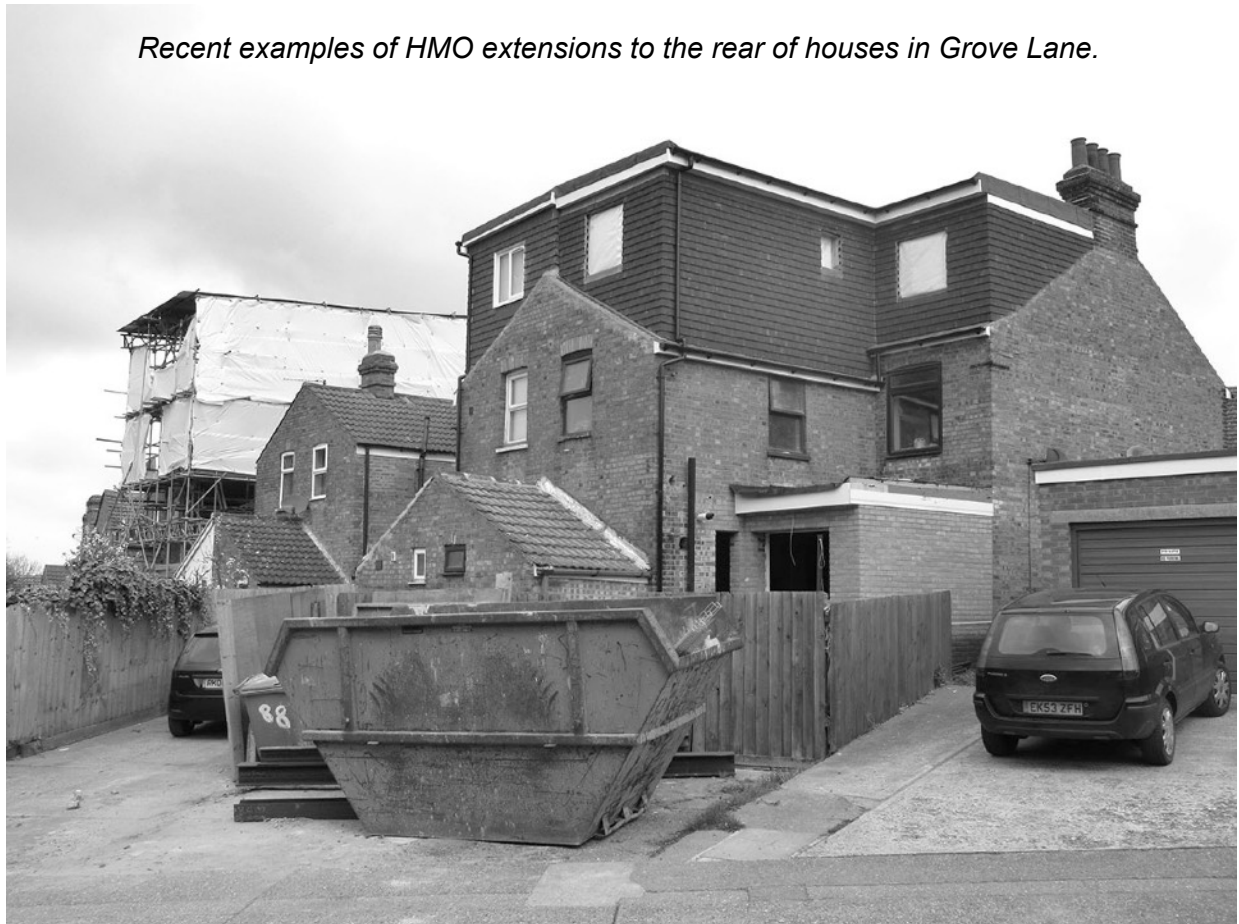
*The 1835 East Suffolk & Ipswich Hospital (later Anglesea Road Wing of Ipswich Hospital) at the top of Berners Street. The addition of a third storey in 1869 altered the proportions of the building.*



*Rowing four with cox on the Orwell in front of the Cobbold Brewery. [<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ipsoc/albums>]*

## Houses in Multiple Occupation 21<sup>st</sup> century style

During the middle third of the nineteenth century there was a dramatic increase in the number of people moving into the towns and cities in the UK. Ipswich was a prime example; between 1831 and 1881 the population rose from 18,200 to 50,000, a three fold increase.



They were leaving seasonal agricultural employment to work in the emerging factories and manufacturing industries. Unsurprisingly they needed somewhere to live and row after row of terraced housing was hastily built in St Clement's Parish (convenient for dock side employment) and on the hillside where Crown Car Park now stands.

Generally these poorly constructed houses lasted some 50 to 70 years before the slum clearance programme, between the wars, cleared these extensive sites.

These houses may have been poorly built but they were (relatively) expensive to rent (the ordinary working man couldn't afford to buy). The solution was to share, one family in each room. In addition single men would squat in the back yard (there were no back gardens) in what became known as 'hovels'.

As in all shanty towns they were built from scrap materials, procured from the immediate locality (usually the nearby factory, foundry, or in the case of St Clement's, the brickyard). The host properties, a group of terraced houses and their associated hovels shared one toilet (in an outhouse) and the well (water supply).

The combination of high density and poor sanitation increased the incidents of contagious diseases and it wasn't until the mid 1870s when the town began to install a proper sewage system that we got things under control.

>

Roll the clock forward 150 years and history is in danger of repeating itself. Unscrupulous commercial landlords are buying single terraced houses and by using ‘permitted development rights’ add a room (or two) in the roof space. If this addition is on the rear elevation it does not require planning permission!

Why I suggest that these developers are ‘unscrupulous’ is because the changes being made to what was a two up, three down property are grossly unacceptable in terms of size, occupancy and dominance. The host property, once the extension has been completed, has the potential to house nine single bedsits: a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

Such an increase in the middle of a terrace puts incredible pressure on the neighbours. The noise, the comings and goings of the tenants and the number of cars being parked in the street are all too much. Long established families move out, another property becomes available for conversion and the problems multiply.

Despite close monitoring the Borough Council can do nothing to prevent these conversions, although they are talking to the Local Government Association. The Health & Safety Executive has stopped work on at least one where building site safety was being compromised and in a number of other cases private prosecutions are likely because of damage to the neighbouring property, usually associated with the party wall.

**John Norman**

The Universal Gazetteer  
A concise description  
**Ipswich**  
1822

It has declined however, from its former consequence; the manufactures of broad cloth and canvas are at an end; and its present commerce chiefly depends on the malting and exportation of corn to London, and timber to the different dockyards.

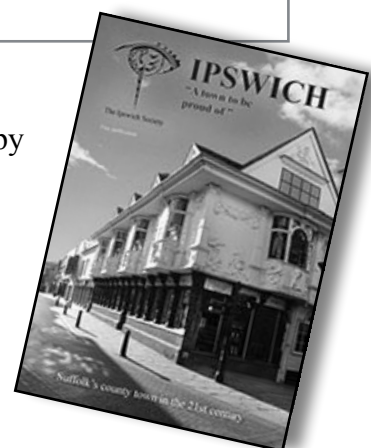
It has a substantial coasting trade, and a small share of foreign commerce, and has lately sent ships to Greenland. Vessels of great burthen are obliged to stop at some distance below the town, and passage-vessels sail on every tide from hence, to Harwich and back, similarly to the Gravesend boats; and the beautiful scenery along the winding banks of the Orwell render it a delightful excursion, and much frequented.

The market has been lately built on a very extensive and handsome scale, and a new town hall. The new county gaol is a very fine building. Here is also a new theatre. Markets on Tuesday and Thursday for small meat, on Wednesday and Friday for fish, and on Saturday for provisions of all kinds. And annual races in July.

***Ipswich: a town to be proud of***

If you are unable to attend one of the Society’s events to pick up your copy of its new publication *Ipswich: a town to be proud of*, please contact our Hon. Secretary (contact details on page 23) and we will do our best to deliver a copy to you – within the Ipswich area only, please.

So far, it’s been very well received.



## There's nothing new

Chris Wiltshire writes: 'I attach a leaflet scan of a document which was sent me by a dear friend who lives in Beaminster in Dorset a lively small market town set in lovely surroundings.

The image was published in their local museum newsletter. It reads like a very current article on the plight of the town! Note the date...'

**AN APPEAL**

TO THE

**Monied and Influential Classes in Beaminster.**

ON BEHALF OF THE TRADE.

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*"Property has its responsibilities as well as its rights"* This celebrated sentiment,—offensive as it proved to certain parties when it was first enunciated, in Ireland,—is nevertheless a *truth* of general application. One of the obligations attached to property is, to encourage by fair employment and custom, the industrious classes of the *same* town and neighbourhood. If these are withheld, how can the dependent tradesman,—the grocer, the draper, the ironmonger, the stationer, the wine merchant, &c. &c. be expected to bring up his family in credit, or to meet the various burdens—such as poor rates, church rates, way rates, gas rates, &c. together with the public taxes,—which are incessantly demanded of him?

Now it is thought that the practice, on the part of the more opulent inhabitants of this town, of expending their custom either in London or in some larger town in the vicinity, is rather on the increase, and it is felt to be both unneighbourly and unkind, not to say *unjust*.

It may indeed be alleged that retail prices are somewhat lower elsewhere; or that other places afford a greater variety of articles for selection. As to the *first*, it is, most probably, altogether a mistake,—for, in the present day, when commercial houses have such frequent and rapid communication with even the smaller towns of the empire, prices will be found to be pretty nearly equalized. Besides, though Beaminster is not a large place, it affords a sufficient number of dealers in the common articles of life, to provide a proper degree of competition. As to the *second*, it is surely but poor encouragement to tradesmen to furnish their shops well, if the custom of the rich is *systematically* transferred to distant places.

What has been said applies, perhaps, still more strongly to the case of the inferior artisan and mechanic—the shoemaker, carpenter, mason, tailor, &c. He too has a *moral* and *social*, though not a *legal*, claim to the support to which his skill and labour entitle him, from his neighbour who may chance to derive his income from land, from the funds, from the accumulation of former years, or from the exercise of the *liberal* professions.

Besides, it is an evil which is seen to be its own punishment. In consequence of the limited circulation of money, failures multiply—shops are forsaken—houses stand tenantless—visual spaces of unbuilt ruins offend the eye—pauperism is increased—rates are augmented—property of every description is depreciated—and the whole community suffers under the effects of—what is the regular curse of Ireland—a *commercial* Absenteeism! "Live and let live!"

***An Inhabitant of Beaminster,***  
***but NOT a TRADESMAN.***

BEAMINSTER, December 24th, 1845.

*Grateful acknowledgement to Beaminster Museum.*



## Letters to the Editor

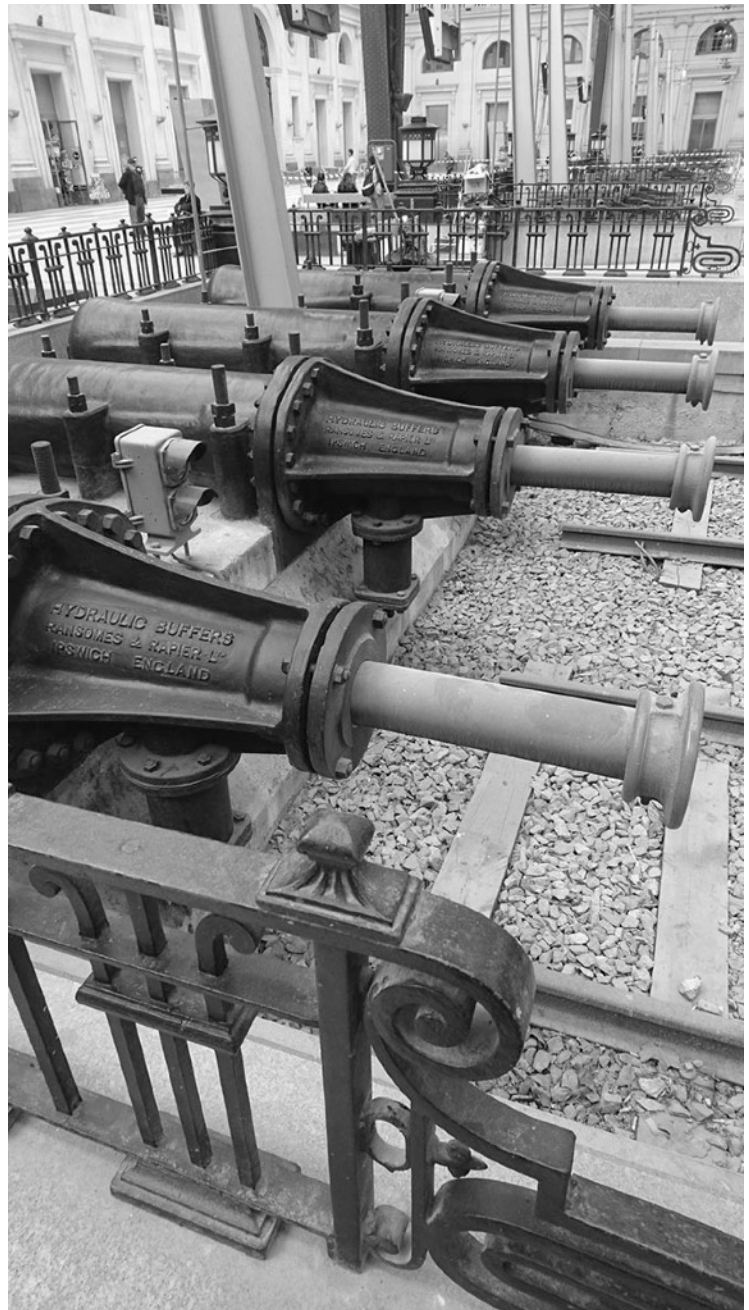
### Ipswich engineering history from Barry Girling

Although it might not completely fit the ideals of the Society, the celebrated engineering works of Ipswich should not be forgotten. I am endeavouring in the final edition of my book *Ipswich: memories of a special town*, kindly sponsored in part by the Society, to include reference to the illustrious recent past. As I have been fortunate, in particular, to obtain the recollections of a few Ransomes & Rapier stalwarts, this will be the company to carry the banner for the town's engineers. A cross-section of employees, with associated information will be given. If this snapshot is not completed now it will soon be too late. Sadly, to my knowledge – and I am open to correction – no marker or plaque exists to define the sites of the great Orwell and Waterside Works where once thousands were employed. Concerning Rapiers, the only local tangible connection left seems to be their war memorial in Bourne Park.

[*Ipswich: memories of a special town* was reviewed in our July 2018 issue.]

### Ransomes and Rapier Buffers from Bernard Stafford

Here are snaps taken last week of the very impressive set of hydraulic buffers in the lovely Estacion de Franca Station in Barcelona, arrayed like a row of cannons. "Hydraulic Buffers Ransomes and Rapier Ltd Ipswich England" is cast in relief on each barrel.



**Not everyone wants to fly the county flag from Mark Ling**

The former County Borough of Ipswich has a right to self-government stretching back to a charter from King John in AD1200, but in 1974 it was forced into a tripartite County Council with East Suffolk and West Suffolk authorities, and Ipswich was “Suffolkated”.



For 45 years we have rarely had anyone from Ipswich on the all-powerful County Council cabinet. Meanwhile, neighbouring districts dump housing and retail centres on the town, yet take no responsibility for the impact on our ancient centre or its creaking infrastructure.

I see little reason to celebrate “Suffolk Day” on June 21.



**Ipswich Windows in Hadleigh!** Not sure if the date on the leaded lights is 1616 or 1676.— Sylvia Patsilides. [*The Grade I Listing of 66 High Street in Hadleigh confirms it as '1676.'*]

# Graffiti

In April's *Newsletter* (Issue 215), Graham Smith's article *Attention to detail - does it matter? Yes!* drew attention to the potential impact that sub-standard repair and installation work has upon the town streetscape. He gave examples, with photographs in some cases, of paving repairs, pothole repairs and the erection of street signs and bollards.

Graham's article prompts me to raise the issue of graffiti, and I am not talking about street art, but untidy tagging and mindless, sometimes offensive, scrawls and sprayings. It certainly detracts from the streetscape. It is vandalism, and is classed as criminal damage. It costs money to remove, but leaving it in place may encourage more graffiti. It does not make our town look good.

Ipswich has a Graffiti Team which quickly respond to reports of graffiti on public property – that is, property owned by Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) also highway signs, lamp-posts and the like. This service is available to private individuals, although there may be a charge depending on individual circumstances. Offensive graffiti is removed very promptly. The Graffiti Team has specialist equipment.

There is a fair amount of street furniture in private ownership. Apart from post-boxes, there is a large number of, often, green cabinets in place on our pavements owned by fixed and mobile telecommunications providers and other utilities. Unfortunately, their smooth surfaces can provide an ideal 'canvas' for graffiti. The owners have a responsibility to clean off any graffiti, but it is often difficult for members of the public to identify the owner and report it. Even if you do identify the owners and manage to contact them, some are better at arranging a clean-up than others.

Ipswich Borough Council has enforcement powers, so, if the graffiti is reported to IBC in the first place, as well as being able to identify the owner and advise that a clean up is required, it will log any report and make sure that it does actually take place. If IBC does not know about the graffiti, it can hardly follow it up. The Graffiti Team cannot clean up these street cabinets and similar street furniture itself, unless there is a formal agreement in place with the owner.

Graffiti can be reported by:

- 1) telephoning Ipswich Borough Council – Cleaner Ipswich on 01473 433000;
- 2) via the online *Report it!* tool on the IBC website. Visit <https://my.ipswich.gov.uk/en> and then click on *Report It* followed by *Report Graffiti*. You can attach photograph(s).

Don't assume someone else has already reported it!

**David Owens**



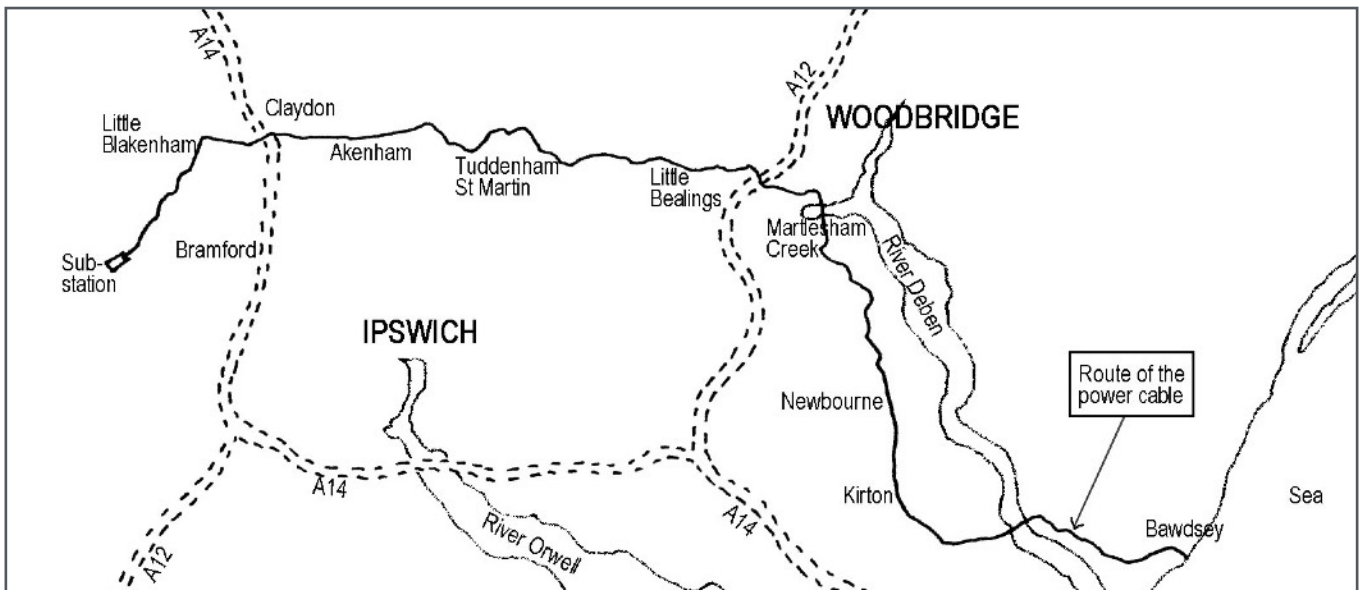
## The East Anglia One underground power cable

Scottish Power Renewables are installing 100 wind turbines in the North Sea, clustered in a wind farm: East Anglia One. Situated 40 kilometres off the Heritage Coast the power will come ashore at Bawdsey. For connection to the National Grid and onward distribution to our homes and businesses they have installed a multiple array of underground cables which stretch between the coast at Bawdsey and Bramford, encircling north and west Ipswich en route.

The 37 km trench was dug and the cable installed by Murphy, a civic engineering contractor whose first job on the site was to construct a haul road, a hardcore track alongside the cable trench on which they could run their site vehicles without clogging up local roads and upsetting the neighbours.

Since I first learnt of this temporary piece of expensive infrastructure I thought it would make, once the work is finished, a good 'off-road' cycle route. What a waste it would be if they were to dig out all of that carefully compacted road-stone only to bury it elsewhere as landfill?

The cable route crosses the Bawdsey peninsula and immediately dives under the River Deben to Falkenham. From there, the haul road is all but continuous to Claydon where the cables have been pushed under the A14 and under the River Gipping and into Bramford. The distribution station is on top of the hill where the pylons converge.



My suggestion for a cycle route has caused some interest in both Suffolk County Council and at Sustrans but no action has been taken. So, when the sun came out in mid-March, I decided to cycle the route to confirm for myself what a wonderful asset was sitting on our doorsteps.

I cycled out of Ipswich towards Claydon, along the old Norwich Road (buses and cycles only); to the construction site that marks the end of the visible trench. It was here that Murphy's sited their horizontal drilling machine to push the cable underground and unseen through to Paper Mill Lane. My destination, unlike the cable was not Bramford but east to Akenham, Witnesham and eventually Felixstowe. Because of all their expensive drilling equipment the



site was secure so I cycled along the bridle path to Rise Hall and the isolated St Mary's Church at Akenham.

I was immediately struck with the wonderful situation that this potential route offered; just half a mile from the urban sprawl of Whitton and I was deep into the Suffolk countryside. I cycled across Henley Road and on towards Witnesham.

Following the cable trench as it avoids the Fynn Valley Golf Course, it struck me just how many people were out enjoying the tranquillity of the Suffolk countryside. Being a sunny Sunday morning, there were golfers, plenty of those BMX cyclists in a coppice at Claydon, a scattering of horse-riders on the bridle paths, model aeroplane enthusiasts in a farmer's field close to Cockfield Hall and scores of walkers enjoying their Sunday morning stroll.

There were twenty or so fishermen dipping their hooks into a small lake close to Akenham and a guy with his dog and ferret on the edge of a wood. Most surprising of all were the donkeys – two alongside Waldringfield Road and another two pulling a donkey cart along Wash Lane, Witnesham. I was simply amazed at the variety of activity taking place on the peripherals of Ipswich, a town that continues to surprise.

Into the Fynn Valley at Bealings and across the A12 at Seckford, I skirted Martlesham Creek and up the hill towards Waldringfield. From here the route is undulating, through Hemley and Kirton Marshes until I reached the river wall at Falkenham where the cable disappears under the Deben to resurface at Bawdsey.

I simply cycled down to the ferry and then turned right into Felixstowe. This route has the potential to be a substantial asset for Ipswich and for Suffolk: a cycle route that could rival the Marriot Way in Norfolk or the Crab and Winkle out of Canterbury.

***John Norman***



*Chairman of Ipswich Society in trail bike power cable mercy dash shock.*

## **Broomhill Pool news**

Broomhill Pool will re-open in 2021; the not-for-profit charity trust, Fusion-Lifestyle have raised seven million pounds (£3.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £1.5m from Ipswich Borough Council and £2m from themselves). They have signed a 50 year operating lease with the Borough and have carried out numerous surveys and have Listed building consent and planning permission. This has cost around £250,000. Detailed plans will now be produced by our local consultants – headed by KLH architects – and contractors appointed. It is hoped that work will start next year and the time-scale is for the pool to be open for business by spring 2021.

The aim is to restore the pool to its 1938 state, except that the former male changing rooms on the east side will be replaced by a two storey new-build fitness suite: open all year round. The clock tower, the buffet, the underwater area and some overhead lighting will be restored together with the Listed and unique diving-boards (though only the lower boards will be able to be used for safety reasons).

The water will have the chill taken off; initially it will open for the traditional summer period but it is hoped that this will be extended in the future. The facility will provide around twenty-two full-time equivalent posts. The pool closed in 2001 so it will have taken twenty years to get it restored.

***Mike Cook***

### ***Note on the above news***

Twenty years ago, three Ipswich Society delegates were sent by then Chairman Jack Chapman to the three new Scrutiny Committees (for the Corn Exchange, the Regent Theatre and Broomhill Pool) to help get each facility back on track. Neil Salmon and I took the Regent and the Corn Exchange; Mike Cook was allocated Broomhill, became Chairman of the new Broomhill Trust and the rest is history. The Regent and the Corn Exchange were sorted within months, Broomhill took twenty years. Well done, Mike.

***John Norman***

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## **A view over the centre of Ipswich 1983-85 (see back page)**

Fore Street runs along the bottom of the photograph with Lower Orwell Street branching off to the south – the line of the town rampart.

The excavation of the Blackfriars Church, the only surviving *in situ* remnants of the five monastic establishments in Ipswich, was carried out by Keith Wade and the Suffolk Archaeological Unit in 1983-85 as part of the School Street (to the left of the church site) area, based on earlier work by archaeologist Nina Frances Layard.

Across Foundation Street, construction of the multi-storey car park is underway with Rosemary Lane running between it and Haven House to the left and ‘Peninsular House’ to the right.

At the upper left the building work has started on the Novotel with Jewson’s buildings behind it. The distinctive shape of the Willis Building with its roof lawn can be seen at the upper right.

# The Ipswich Society

Registered Charity no. 263322

[www.ipswichsociety.org.uk](http://www.ipswichsociety.org.uk) | <https://www.facebook.com/ipswichsociety> | email: [secretary@ipswichsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ipswichsociety.org.uk)

This Newsletter is the quarterly journal of Ipswich's civic amenity society established in 1960  
(views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society).

## Dates for your diary

### Society Outings

*July 16:* Metro Land.

*August 28:* Euston Hall and Dad's Army Museum, Thetford.

*September 26:* Buckingham Palace.

**Winter Illustrated Talks** at Museum St Methodist Church (entrance in Black Horse Lane); all talks start at 7.30pm and free tea, coffee and biscuits are provided afterwards. All are welcome.

*Wednesday 18 September:* 'The story of St Michael's Church in Kesgrave' by Chris Brighten.

*14 and 15 September:* Heritage Open Days, organised by The Ipswich Society.

*21-31 October:* Ipswich Transport Museum / Ipswich Society Exhibition at the University of Suffolk Waterfront Building.

**Suffolk Industrial Archaeology Society** runs a programme of events; indoor meetings are held at the Ipswich Transport Museum (<https://industrial-archaeology.org/index.php/>). New members welcome.

*Wednesday 11 September:* Thomas Pinner on 'Motoring heritage structures';

*Wednesday 9 October:* Howard King on 'Martlesham Heath airfield'.



## A view over the centre of Ipswich 1983-85

Aerial photography by Brian Mateer, whose extensive album of work is on our online Image Archive [<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ipsoc/albums/>]. See page 22 for notes on this photograph.

