



The Ipswich Society



NEWSLETTER

July 2015

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200th
issue

Editorial

Breasting the tape almost effortlessly at the 200 issue mark, I deliver this special edition of the Society's *Newsletter*. Now with added full colour (but only for this special issue). The Society seems to be as busy now as it ever has been – although the head of steam in 1961, with the Society a mere yearling – must have been something to behold.

See our back page for news of The Fore Street Facelift 1961 exhibition in October. A pair of tickets for the Members' Launch Evening is enclosed with this issue. The remarkable photograph below gives a flavour of the exhibition: the offices of Meux brewing company. The wall of the associated maltings still stands to the left; it remained in place (hiding the Wet Dock from those travelling down Grimwade Street) until the building of the Bellway Flats (Neptune Square) in 2000. Note the panorama of an almost *empty* Wet Dock behind which the three chimneys of Cliff Quay power station are just visible. The photograph must have been taken from a high window of the rebuilt Salvation Army hostel (built 1987-9).

Huge thanks, as ever, to all contributors; letters, images and articles are always most welcome.

Robin Gaylard



New members

Chairman's remarks

Following the turmoil and reordering of positions amongst the Conservatives on Suffolk County Council (Mark Bee stepped down as leader to be replaced by Colin Noble), one cabinet member, Christopher Hudson, member for Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew who lives in Framlingham, was given responsibility for 'Ipswich'.

Christopher Hudson's first public statement in his new post (which includes being deputy leader of the Conservatives on Suffolk County Council) was that SCC would make a contribution towards the repaving and new layout for the Cornhill. This scheme is therefore back on the local political agenda. It is, in simple terms, a scheme that is likely to cost over £3 million but will see the Cornhill transformed with level access to the Town Hall.

Ipswich Borough Council have already committed £800k and this recent announcement from SCC of a further £800k means that Government funding can now be sought for a similar amount, leaving local businesses to make up the difference. The majority of this private funding is expected to come from national players with a local presence, businesses that will benefit from the increased footfall the improvements are expected to bring. This idea is reliant very much on an *'I'll contribute if you will'* brotherly pact which Ipswich Central will instigate.

Suffolk County Council's commitment to a financial contribution now makes the changes to the Cornhill much more likely to happen and a number of Ipswich Society members (and key committee members from other organisations) have phoned me to ask "what's next?". Will there be a public consultation? Will these major changes need planning permission or are they regarded as Highways work? Will the reduced surface area of the new Cornhill curtail the activities we have enjoyed since pedestrianisation?

These are questions I cannot answer with any authority. The drivers of change are a mixed bunch, Ipswich Central (the BID partnership), Ipswich Borough Council, SCC and the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) which is hardly local given that the majority of members are Norfolk based. The LEP is the source of the Government funding mentioned above. I will keep you posted as things develop.

The AGM in April was by all accounts a successful occasion, with the exception of the roving microphones that would not work on the evening, despite us having been in to the University earlier in the day to check everything was in place. We seem to be fated with audio equipment whenever we get together. The summer brings coach outings and they are as popular as ever, most are full within days of the *Newsletter* appearing through the letter box and members need to respond quickly if they intend to join us.

The planning and organisation of our major exhibition on the Fore Street improvements in 1961 prior to the Queen's visit (see back page) are moving forward apace with one major omission. We would very much like to hear from anybody who was there, in Fore Street or thereabouts on July 7th 1961 to witness the Queen passing along the redecorated street. If we have their contact details we can invite them to the opening of the exhibition on Friday 2nd October.

Have a good summer and I hope to see you all at the Exhibition.

John Norman, Chairman



THE CASE IS ALTERED



Pub names – The Case is Altered

No sooner had the April issue of this *Newsletter* come through the letterboxes with its piece on the Duke of York pub than a member of the Society, Louis Musgrove, pointed out that an article by him in the *Newsletter* four years ago (April 2011) had brought to light a visit to Ipswich by the same Duke of York in person in November 1797. This was accompanying the British troops returning in a prisoner exchange after an unsuccessful venture to the Netherlands. The Duke was in

Ipswich again several times for large reviews of troops on Rushmere Heath. But the critical one, that almost certainly confirms that he was the subject of both the naming of the Duke of York pub in Woodbridge Road and the writing of the nursery rhyme, was in 1811 when he reviewed 10,000 troops on the Heath to celebrate his re-appointment as Commander in Chief. It was reported in *The Reformists' Register* No.5, 26 October 1811, as part of an attack on the Duke by the satirist William Hone in which Ipswich features: “The Ministerial Papers are at their old work again and are endeavouring to procure County Meetings to congratulate the Regent on his reappointment of the Duke of York to the office of Commander-in-Chief. Only one place in England, we believe – the Borough of Ipswich – has yet disgraced itself by such a proceeding, and there, we are informed, the people at large were hostile to the measure, which was carried into effect by a set of interested Courtiers.”

Just up the hill from the Duke of York on the same stretch of the Woodbridge Road in Ipswich is another pub with an interesting name, perhaps with military connections also – The Case is Altered. There are half a dozen or more explanations for that name. The most likely one, given the nearness of Harmony Square Barracks, is that it is a corruption of the Spanish La Casa Altera (the other house) or alternatively, as suggested in *English Inn Signs*, La Casa de Saltar (the dancing house) where the soldiers enjoyed themselves.

The more likely but duller version is that the name reflected a significant change in the building, its landlord or sometimes his financial circumstances. There are a number of instances of its use scattered round the country. They reflect a famous saying by a distinguished Elizabethan lawyer, Edmund Plowden. He was a Roman Catholic and a leading jurist under Queen Mary, but on her death refused to accept the post of Lord Chancellor under her Protestant successor Elizabeth. Instead of executing him, she continued to use him for legal advice. He particularly defended fellow Roman Catholics. In one case, a man was accused of attending a Mass held in a private house. Plowden discovered that the Mass had been conducted by a layman, acting as an agent provocateur to entrap Roman Catholics. He immediately argued “the case is altered: no Priest, no Mass” and the man was acquitted.

A variation of this tells of a West Country pub sign showing a farmer and a lawyer sitting at a table with a bull in the background. The farmer says his bull has gored and killed the lawyer’s cow. “Well,” said the lawyer, “the case is clear, you must pay me her value.” “Oh,” said the farmer, “I have made a mistake. It is your bull that has killed my cow.” “Ah! the case is altered, quoth Plowden”. It became a popular saying of the time and was used as the title of a play published in 1609 by Ben Jonson.

Another book, *British Inn Signs*, maintains there was a The Case is Altered in Woodbridge itself with a totally different origin; it was built, after the Reformation, on the site of a former nunnery where a Father Casey used to take confessions and was given as a name a garbled version of ‘Casey’s Altar’. There was no obvious trace of it in the tithe records of 1836. Fifty years ago, a colleague in Charrington’s Brewery in London insisted that ‘case’ refers to the wooden cases that held the metal type used then by printers. The printers off Fleet Street where there was a pub of that name were certainly good customers but otherwise it is difficult to see a connection. Perhaps it just shows that pub tales must be treated with a degree of caution. But it takes on more meaning for the future with The Case is Altered in Bentley, just south of Ipswich, which successfully re-opened last year as a community pub.

Tim Voelcker

[Ken Wilson also wrote to the Editor pointing out Louis’s 2011 article.]

Planning matters

Momentous political events may have taken place in Britain since our last edition but it is not yet apparent what changes will take place in the planing system. Eric Pickles has been knighted and replaced as **Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government** by the more pragmatic Greg Clark. Whether there will be more national changes remain to be seen...

The **Northern Fringe** is on hold whilst the developers produce a transport strategy that extends beyond Valley Road and they improve the general design quality to the the level that's been laid down.

I have recently toured a 6,850 home new town outside **Haarlem in the Netherlands**; the differences that struck me were the provision of bus and cycle ways (you can't drive a car directly out of the complex during rush hour), the higher ratio of public to private space, mostly by having smaller gardens and the variety of, largely, excellent designed apartments and flats. Mind you I don't expect to see a canal at the bottom of every street! Many of their ideas could be incorporated in the Northern Fringe to everybody's advantage.

The **St Margaret's Green proposal** for a care home has been refused; but the air quality problem remains. The solution is extremely difficult.

The Council has bought **the old Sugar Beet factory site**, with a loan, to ensure that a mixed housing and employment development takes place. Babergh refused permission for such a development a few years ago as it's their last remaining employment zone; it will be interesting to see their response to a new similar proposal.

Meanwhile the Council is pushing ahead with a new office building on the site of the car showrooms and garage in **Princes Street** and, opposite, Birketts will build new corporate offices on the site of Riley's billiard hall. These will be strong economic drivers to the town centre and its dependent businesses.

The fight for retaining and improving **the retail offer in the town centre** continues. All the time applications arrive to change the use of buildings on the edge to what we understand as town centre use; an expanded Lidl in London Road, the bowling alley on Boss Hall to be a furniture store, a small site on Europa Way to be an Aldi and an Iceland on the Co-op site at Derby Road /Felixstowe Road. B & M have been trading on Ransomes Euro Park for three years without planning permission, selling up to 45% non-bulky goods. They have now been granted permission to sell up to 20% non-bulky which will be closely monitored. Further, they have agreed to open a store in the town centre in the next two years.

The new owners of the **Buttermarket** have been granted planning permission to insert 16 screens with 2500 seats, a restaurant and a gym. TK Maxx will move to the ground floor and the car park will be open till late. Cineworld say that Ipswich will have an unsustainable number of screens but it's better than a failing shopping centre.

The proposal for a **bridge "across the Wet Dock"** is at present nebulous and until we can see what it crosses and how and what it connects to it is impossible to make any meaningful comment. We look forward to the promised £2m survey and reading its results.

Mike Cook

Thursford Magic

Those that know me know that I am a bit of a ‘humbug’ when it comes to all the build up and hype before Christmas, but also a bit of a softy when it comes to Christmas Spectaculars at Thursford, so when the chance to go came along, I jumped at it.

Each year June Peck valiantly endeavours to fill a coach for the day out. A cold but bright Saturday in December found us boarding a coach and setting off to Thursford in Norfolk via Norwich. The plan was to have lunch and spend a couple of hours in Norwich before setting off again for the evening performance of the spectacular.

The village of Thursford is 24.5 miles northwest of Norwich and 16.3 miles southwest of Cromer and is home to a museum which houses the world’s largest collection of steam engines and mechanical organs, together with old-fashioned fairground rides such as the 1896 Gallopers, sets of ride-on horses which speed round to the sound of the organ music and the Venetian Gondola which is a switchback ride. It was founded by George T.H. Cushing who was born in 1904 and at the age of eight visited the local travelling fair that came to his village, he got the taste and smell of the fair rides and his obsession took root.

During November and December each year the venue is transformed into a winter wonderland where the musical show takes place. Arriving after dark is magical, the whole place is set alight with masses of fairy lights and Christmas figures, festive music plays and the little shops are packed with goodies and people. Coaches pull into the car park at an alarming rate from all over the United Kingdom; it’s quite something to spot the destinations that they have come from. There is an afternoon and evening performance accommodating about 50 coaches per performance.

The cast is composed of 130 professional singers, dancers and musicians and a comedian. In the 3 hour show they perform all kinds of music and dancing, including the brief running of the Venetian Gondola ride. Each year the entertainment is slightly different but still truly magical.

After the show it was time to head home. Fortunately our coach was easy to find and we were quickly loaded and away, not arriving back in Ipswich until well after midnight but fortunately we did not encounter any traffic or adverse weather and we did not turn into pumpkins!

Many thanks to June for the organisation and booking of the tickets which have to be booked a year in advance, so next year if you would like to go there will be another chance. Just contact June!

Smartie



THURSFORD 2015

June Peck has tickets for the Thursford Christmas Spectacular again for December 12, 2015; members can ring her if they are interested – 01473 421296.

Snippets 1

Walton's and Civic Centre coat of arms

Walton's shop [see back cover of Issue 199] was in St. Matthew's Street, numbers 42-44 and is listed for the first time in the 1932 Ipswich street directory, and was still listed in the 1975 one (which was the last one published). It must have disappeared soon after that, for the changes at the west of Berners Street.

Something else that has disappeared is the mosaic coat of arms that was on the west-facing side(?) of the Civic Centre. It might have been on the side over the upper entrance. Does anyone remember it? It certainly was taken down much earlier than the mural in the lower entrance. I queried what had happened to it while I was a member of the Conservation Panel, but really can't pin-point the year. It was supposedly going to be repaired but was never replaced on the building. *(From Ruth Serjeant)*

UK Supermarkets will add four million square feet of new retail space during 2015. 29% will be traditional (i.e. large) stores, 54% smaller stores (Aldi, Lidl etc. between 3,000 and 15,000 square feet) and 17% convenience stores (Tesco Express and Sainsbury's Local – less than 3,000 square feet – and these avoid restricted opening hours on a Sunday).

However, the demise of larger stores means that Pension Funds will take a hit (86% of large supermarkets are rented from property companies). It is reported that the value of a typical out-of-town superstore dropped by 25% last year.

In terms of growth, Aldi are adding one million square feet to their portfolio (about 60 new stores), M&S Simply Food: 600,000 square feet, ASDA: 550,000 square feet and Lidl are adding 350,000 square feet. Tesco are scrapping plans to open 49 new stores. The market place is changing.

The Future of Ipswich

Ipswich Central's ambitious vision for enhancing the town centre was the subject of Terry Baxter's excellent contribution to our AGM. Since then, SCC's agreement to match IBC's funding for a re-constructed Cornhill is a welcome sign of collaboration. While the creation of new levels on the Cornhill is controversial, there are many other striking ideas, e.g. opening up the east side of Upper Brook Street enabling big new premises to be built to attract important new shops; development of a 'Link Quarter' between the Old Cattle Market and Star Lane; 2000 new homes in or near the centre of town.

Shopping Centres

The Tower Ramparts re-vamp has begun – a welcome investment by the owners, even if the new name, Sailmakers, is not welcomed by everybody! We hope the lift will be prominent because it is vital for a shopping centre with (unusually) two equally important levels. The Buttermarket Centre – 16 cinemas, 6 restaurants, etc. – has planning permission. Several shop units, some prominent ones at the front, are currently empty but are awaiting the arrival of shops from elsewhere within the centre. New Look, Laura Ashley. Boots and Holland & Barrett are to remain in their current locations and TK Maxx will occupy the ground floor of the department store.

Viridor Credits grant for St Lawrence Church

A grant of just over £65,000 from Viridor Credits, under the Community Landfill Funding scheme, has been granted to the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust towards a total estimated cost of £100,300. Works receiving support under this scheme must be within 10 miles of a landfill site – Masons, Great Blakenham near Ipswich. The Trust is very grateful to Viridor Credits for this major grant towards essential repair works on the external south wall of this important Ipswich historic building.

Ipswich is fortunate in having twelve medieval churches – one of the largest collections of such buildings in one town in the country. St Lawrence makes a significant contribution to the historic townscape of Ipswich; it dates from the 15th century and its tall, highly-decorative west tower is a well-loved and important feature in our town centre.

All of these buildings have a long history and contain important features. St Lawrence is a Grade 2 star Listed Building and, being declared redundant in the 1970s, was acquired by the Borough Council and put under the care of the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust, established to look after them.

The church has strong connections with Cardinal Thomas Wolsey – his uncle, Edmund Daundy, undertook a number of significant works on the church and its tower houses the oldest ring of five bells in the Christian world. Their sound would have been familiar to Wolsey when he was a boy.

In addition to ensuring their upkeep the Trust is also charged, under its chairman, Dr John Blatchly, with finding appropriate new uses for these wonderful historic buildings. The use of St Lawrence by the company Realise Futures as a community restaurant was welcomed by the Trust as this ensures that a large number of people, both visitors and locals, visit and use the building on a regular basis. This grant from Viridor Credits will allow the Trust to undertake essential repair works on this important Ipswich building.

John Field, Board Member, Ipswich Historic Churches Trust and Project Co-ordinator

Civic Voice benefits

The Ipswich Society has recently renewed its annual membership of Civic Voice. This is the national charity for the civic movement in England which aims to make places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and to promote Civic Pride – all values the Ipswich Society supports and identifies with.

Membership of the Civic Voice has a number of benefits, one of which is aimed at the entire membership and that is day passes giving free access to a National Trust property (subject to a small number of restrictions). National Trust passes can be obtained by writing to Gill Roxburgh, Civic Voice, 60 Duke Street, Liverpool, L1 5AA. You will need to enclose a stamped addressed envelope with contact details and state that you are a member of The Ipswich Society. The pass is transferable so you can even give it to family or friends if you are already a member of the National Trust.

Go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk for a list and map giving details and locations of properties to visit.

Our Chairman visits two very different houses

Luckily the first visit was to a new house at Wrabness in Essex. I say luckily because I'm not sure such a property would have added to the ambience of Suffolk. I refer to Grayson Perry's dream home, a Disney-like structure the locals refer to as the Gingerbread House. 2003 Turner Prize winning artist Grayson Perry has created, in a new building, a work of art; in its own way it is a tribute to Essex and to Julie, a mythical Essex girl.

On the south bank of the Stour with distant views of the Royal Hospital School and the cranes at Felixstowe Port sits the most unusual house ever. Under a copper roof, still shining gold, with walls clad in weird ceramic tiles it is as disjointed and ill-fitting as it is possible to be. An ostentatious celebration of two troubled lives – the mythical Julie and the cross-dressing artist Grayson – they are both society misfits, even for Essex.

The sensible facts in this story are that the building was commissioned by 'Living Architecture', an organisation which builds and then runs self-catering holidays in quirky new buildings. The Balancing Barn at Thorington, and Dune House on the beach between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness are local examples. Charles Holland of FAT Architects designed the building and it was built by Rose Builders of Lawford (probably the most unusual contract they have ever undertaken).

Julie's House is at the mouth of the Stour, the water is saline and the birds wade in and out with the tide. Some distance further upstream close to the source of the river is the pretty village of Clare, just on the Suffolk side of the county boundary. In Clare the Priory is from a different age; it offers a retreat from modern living, from the noise of the traffic and from life's ever present canned music.

A substantial part of the Priory complex has been demolished, including the Church, which was 168 feet long, a substantial building which would have held a large congregation. Also missing are the Cloisters, although some walls survive; still standing are the Lodgings (the house) from the late 14th century, retained after the Dissolution as a private house and the refectory. The house was returned to the Augustine Friars in 1953 for use as a retreat.

So what brought me here, and what comparisons can be made with my earlier visit? The friars' dormitory was a separate building which has undergone many changes of use over the years including the loss of its first floor when it became the church. The Priory re-established itself here after the house came back into community use in 1954 and this 'new' church has been too small for successful worship ever since. Until, that is, Inkpen Downie architects from Colchester were commissioned in 2001 to design an extension. The fact that this extension has been so long in gestation can be explained by the array of stakeholders with a vested interest, from English Heritage to individual users via heritage and amenity groups to local conservation bodies.

The result is stunning. Having been involved with the Suffolk Association of Architects annual Awards for over 20 years, this is probably one of the most outstanding extensions I have ever seen. The architect has created a usable space that is so calm and peaceful, so full of light but almost without noise. The loudest noise to be heard on the Sunday afternoon of our visit was the birdsong outside.

So if you are inspired to visit architectural gems in the region, avoid the crowds of tourists in Black Boy Lane, Wrabness and wander peacefully by the River Stour in Clare.

John Norman

"We are overjoyed with what you have given us" *Father Bernard Rolls.*

Clare Priory is a special site because of its intrinsic loveliness, its venerability and its religious and cultural associations.

Editing the Newsletter – or, 23 Years of Pleasure!

I am delighted to accept Robin's invitation to write a piece commemorating the 200th Issue of the *Newsletter*. Having started as Editor with the 100th Issue in 1990, I should have liked to get this far myself but I fell two years short. No regrets about that however, because the dear old *Newsletter* was due for a fresh boost, which Robin has provided admirably.

Contributors

In my first issue I said that I was the volunteer for the hot seat, as my predecessor Fiona Powell put it, but "I shan't regret my decision if members are willing to write." That proved to be the case. Thanks to scores of members over the years, I was never short of material and hardly anyone failed to meet my deadlines. It helps an editor that our Society has so many interests – we can write about anything which might benefit our town. But we do also have many wonderfully helpful members, not just writers. I'd like to single out Beryl Jary. Having given up as Secretary, Beryl continued to organise distribution of the *Newsletters*, nearly half of which were hand-delivered by members, before the recent and understandable decision to simplify the process and use our secretarial agency and Royal Mail.

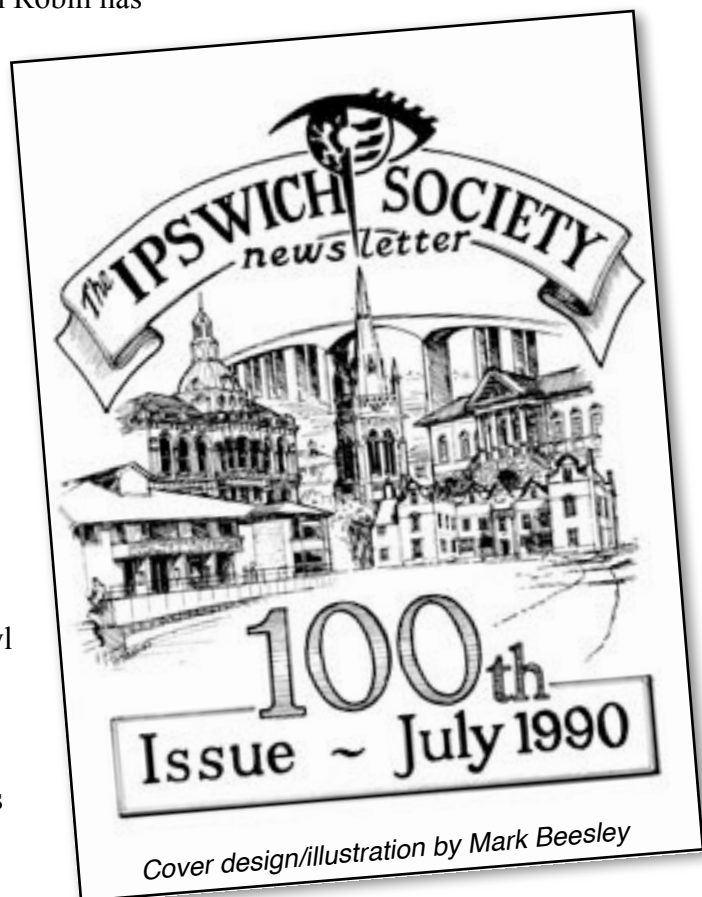
Production methods and design

Long before my time as Editor, the earliest issues of the *Newsletter* were typed on 'skins' and duplicated on a Roneo machine. That was usual fifty years ago. (I remember from my National Service in the RAF the fear of making typing mistakes because of the time consuming business of painting on the correcting fluid – known in the RAF as 'boob juice'.) Those first issues used foolscap paper (remember the word?) stapled in the top left hand corner, but it's



proved only too easy to lose the top page or two, especially if the staples rusted. If that all sounds rather amateurish, well it was. But we should remember the limitations of technology then. Moreover, this work for the Society was done by working people – 'hardworking people' in political terminology – people like Peter Underwood, Adam Gordon, John Brown and Tony Hill. When I first joined the Society's Committee it included only one retired person: now all of us are more or less retired. Discuss!

But in 1990, *Newsletter* production was already in the computer era, so to continue what had been achieved I bought my Mac Classic largely for that purpose. Even so, I have



remained a dinosaur by today's standards, using my Mac and later my laptop as merely a wonderfully versatile typewriter, with every single letter, dot and comma (and my favourite, semi-colon) put in by my two trusty fingers. I even resisted accepting anything on floppy disk, CD or memory stick because of a neurotic fear of 'viruses' (whatever they are). It was all laborious but it did have the advantage of my being able to edit and correct as I went along. Today, of course, Robin receives and uses electronic information as it comes in; but he is fully aware of the further need for checking and proof reading!

The rôle of the Newsletter

With well over a thousand members for some years now, for many members the only real contact with the Society is through the *Newsletter*. It is very gratifying that our outings attract so many members and that our Winter Talks, Awards Evenings and AGMs are usually well attended. But that probably involves no more than half of the membership, so the *Newsletter* is the main source of information across a wide range of Ipswich-centred issues.

I've always insisted on the capital 'T' for The Ipswich Society because I see the Society's multi-faceted interests as being at the heart of the town's concerns, a position from which we often liaise with our sister-societies with their more specialised interests. So, I envisage our *Newsletter* as being far-removed from a parish magazine. After all, we are writing about a big town – not a city admittedly, but a big town with urban pleasures and urban problems. Consequently it has often seemed to me necessary to look outwards as well, to other big towns and their ideas. A tiny example – some twenty years ago I recall being struck by the local authority's recycling instructions in our son's kitchen in Germany, and I quoted them in the *Newsletter* before recycling became important here. (A member politely pointed out that I'd made a mistake in copying the German exhortations.) Looking outwards was also the main reason for those fact-finding visits to what our original organiser, Don Chipperfield, called 'the Mainland' – our 21 successive annual visits, 1975-1998, to Holland, Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg, often with local planners or civic society members as guides. The *Newsletter* reported them in full and, I hope, widened members' understanding.

The *Newsletter* has reflected the changing issues in the town and the Society's changing emphases, but some features have remained the same. It is surely a valuable service to members if topical snippets are included – subjects large or small picked up from the local press or from personal observation or from the 'grapevine'. For my part, I hope I've been "a snapper-up of unconsidered trifles". But the most important continuity comes from our response to planning matters. The *Newsletter* has made generous space available for the Society's comments on specific and strategic planning matters. Dozens of planning monitors have made vital contributions to our coverage, ably handled now by Mike Cook.



I'm pleased to say that the *Newsletter* has always been more positive than negative in its tenor. Groucho Marx's satirical song, "Whatever it is, I'm against it" could easily be the slogan of a civic society. (Terry Baxter in his recent talk at our AGM guessed that 90% of the letters to the *Ipswich Star* would be against anything new in Ipswich. I know what he means!) Towns like ours do have problems and societies like ours do need to keep a watchful eye on developments; this is the point of Bernard Reynolds' logo on our masthead. But persistent negativity and sourness in the long run damages the town we all love. *[continues*

Regrets

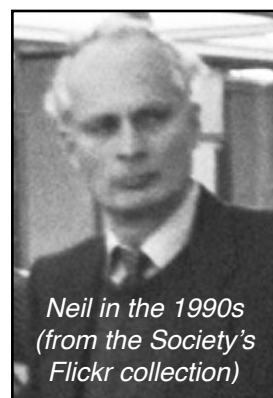
I wish I'd been more conscientious in commissioning contributions. For example, I started including brief annual reports from sister-organisations because they deserve to be known about beyond their own ranks; and our members are likely to be interested in the Ipswich Building Preservation Trust, the Historic Churches Trust, the Museums, the Archaeological Trust and the Maritime Trust. I only did justice to the latter, thanks to the late Di Lewis.

I wish I'd made more use of photographs. In 1990 reproduction was poor, but when I changed our printer to John Kemmett's Simplith Printing he scanned our photos with much better results. (And I should add that after he retired he continued to be a great help.) Robin, of course, uses many of the modern possibilities of photography and I salute him for that.

I wish we'd had rather more controversy. Our Awards for the best Regional Community Publication (1992 and 1993) were mainly for its lively debate. That didn't always continue partly because it often proved difficult to get members to send in Letters to the Editor – perhaps understandable as that Editor didn't receive emails!

Finally, I wish I could mention all the names of the people who have helped to make our *Newsletter* a useful and interesting publication. At least, I hope you have found it so.

Neil Salmon



*Neil in the 1990s
(from the Society's
Flickr collection)*

2015 has seen a dramatic change in the way in which the Society presents itself to the public of Ipswich and a wider audience across Britain and, very possibly, across the world.

The Ipswich Society has had a very useful and handsome website for some years now. Most members, I'm sure, are familiar with it and the services it provides. It has proved to be extremely useful for general enquiries about the Society and as a resource for researching the content of some of the *Newsletters* published by the Society over previous years. The website contains a full and detailed account of such things as events which take place during the course of the year and matters concerning planning which is at the core of our aims. In the links section there is a very useful starting point for exploration of probably one of the most popular aspects of the Society's activities and that is our Flickr website.

This collection of digitised images has been in existence since 2012 and is maintained on a regular basis with additions made as they come to the Society; for example, the donated slide collections of a number of members such as Brian Jepson, Peter Underwood and Norman Collinson are available to be viewed and commented on.

The popularity and the utility of this image archive has led to the most promising electronic feature of the Society which was launched in January this year: our Facebook page. Maintained by committee member Tim Leggett, this webpage has proved to be a lively and informative organ for sharing both Society matters and features of interest about the town that appear in local newspapers and in the other media.

The ability of readers to engage with Society matters and with the well-being of the town makes it an extremely illuminating and stimulating read. You should look now.

There's never been a better time to use the internet to scrutinise the work of the Society and to celebrate the outcomes that we successfully manage. It is also fascinating to note that, even as we gain greater command over the internet, the applications we are using are themselves developing and changing. Since my winter lecture on the subject of the slide archive in January the Flickr website has changed immensely; it is now vastly more comprehensible and quite subtle in the way it can sort and find images. We must all keep up!

Just a final reminder: if you want to get onto Facebook or Flickr you only need to go to the Society website and use the link to take you onwards (all free, no log-in required).

Tony Marsden

Colour Section



Ipswich Society Flickr Collection

Thames sailing barges gather at Common Quay for the annual Pin Mill Barge Match, 1970s

Luzmira Zerpa, lead singer of the band Family Atlantica playing at Global Rhythms in Christchurch Park 11 July 2014 (Reg Driver Centre in the left background)



UCS Ipswich & Coastal Grand Prix cycle event at the Waterfront, 2013 by Tim Leggett



The Holywells Park refurbishment project has sympathetically reinstated the Orangerie as a venue and restored the clock tower above the stables café with all four faces now bearing a clock. Photographed in April 2015, new paving, planting and masonrywork will complete an excellent picture. Congratulations to all involved in making this one of the finest parks in Ipswich.

RG



Rainbow over the Buttermarket Centre with St Nicholas Church in the foreground on 24 March 2015, photographed by Caroline Markham from her balcony during a hailstorm.



June 2015: Ruby Red Willis at 40 photographed by John Norman

Letters to the Editor

A tale of three cities

from John Ireland, Acting Chairman, River Action Group

May I add to Mark Ling's comparison of Ipswich, Cambridge and Norwich? Each town has a river running through the middle, but ours does not compare with the other two as favourably as we may hope it will do in the future.

Cambridge has the Cam with The Backs. Beautiful, but not a public thoroughfare, although accessible to the public by courtesy of the Colleges. There is an attractive riverside path below Magdalene Bridge with a pub and restaurant. Public boating is available.

In Norwich the Wensum has an attractive public riverside path right through the city centre, where there are plenty of places for refreshment. Boating, including boat hire, is available.

Ipswich has the Gipping across the road from the historic waterfront. The public footpath and cycleway beside the river links urban Ipswich with the countryside beyond. The path is attractive for much of the way, but there are pinch points. There is a pub, but (as yet) no public boating. Some areas suffer from littering, graffiti and other abuse.

If Ipswich's river is the poor relation it should be said that the Gipping started from a low base. The river and its corridor have been neglected since the closure of the navigation rights in the 1930's, and it has taken the considerable efforts of IBC, Greenways and Sustrans, acting through the River Action Group over the past ten or fifteen years, to restore such amenities as we now have. The path is becoming a favoured commuting route to avoid busy streets, but of course there is much to do before our river scene can match those of Cambridge or Norwich as a tourist attraction. Be assured that the River Action Group is working on it.

from Trevor Hart, Saltaire, West Yorkshire

Mark Ling's piece accompanying the last issue of the *Newsletter* arrived at an opportune time for me – I was about to pay my first visit to Ipswich town centre for about 15 years, and with sufficient time to explore it properly, so it provided something of a prompt for me to take a critical look, with the state of the town centre being something of a 'litmus test' for the wider range of matters Mark was considering. Of course, rather than being based on the same sort of objective information used by Mark, my verdict had a more impressionistic foundation, but this is what the 'interested visitor' would rely on: if the verdict was good, they may well return.

In my case, had I not got other reasons for returning – it's my home town and I still follow the football team (though more frequently at away grounds) – I don't think I would be putting it on my list of places to come back to in a hurry. Apart from the rather sad state of Carr Street and the adjoining end of Fore Street, the main centre looks nice enough but it is dominated by mid-range multiples: that doesn't quite make it one of the 'clone towns' disparaged by the New Economics Foundation, but what is on offer doesn't give a compelling reason to come to Ipswich rather than go elsewhere. Most of the 'individual' shops, which can add something distinctive to a town – research I've carried out in England's 200 or so smaller towns suggests that their 'differentiating' effect is a significant attractant – are clustered towards the dock area, along with many of the restaurants and wine bars, and rather detached from the retail core. Looking at the traders represented there, this was probably how they liked it, in the sense that

the style of the core would do little for their prospects: however, the view of one was that very little, if any, of their trade came from Ipswich residents. This rather put me in mind of Liverpool, where the regeneration of the Albert Dock provided some additional character but which was not an integrated part of the city, spatially or culturally. The building of a new retail centre at Paradise Street (*Liverpool One*) provided a ‘bridge’ between this area and the main retail core, but this new space seems to have partly succeeded by sucking key retailers and life out of other parts of the city.

I believe that current plans for Ipswich see a need for more floorspace which, given that it has about twice the national average level of vacant floorspace at the present time, is a little worrying. The example of Liverpool is by no means the only such case of the success of additional development being accompanied by the emergence of a new ‘declining’ area in a town, and past experience with the 80+ untenanted units in Greyfriars should cause great caution when considering development proposals: after all, it is doubtful that the increased spending of the forecast growing population could support the quantity of floorspace that is currently vacant, never mind a significant addition. Clearly, some change is necessary if Ipswich is to raise its status, as the *Strategic Perspectives* study suggested was required, but my feeling was that this change should be qualitative rather than quantitative.

On a more positive note, I was greatly impressed by the condition of the bottom part of Fore Street – somewhere my mother considered ‘dingy’ even in the heyday of the town – and other buildings towards the dock area, where restoration and infill had made it an attractive area. And, to end on a statistical note, it is worth remembering that success can come with a sting in the tail, in the form of increasing property prices. Average prices in Norwich are 10% higher than Ipswich and those in Cambridge 130% higher – and ‘forecast to rise even further’ according to the *Financial Times* at the weekend I was visiting. House prices in Ipswich, viewed from the perspective of a resident of a northern town many times worse off than Ipswich in the deprivation stakes, currently seem reasonable.

April 22nd.2015 trip to Eltham Palace from Jean Smart

Just a word of appreciation to the organisers of Ipswich Society day excursions:-

I recently visited Eltham Palace with June Peck and 55 other members and we had the most marvellous day. Eltham Palace is an English Heritage property and one of the best kept secrets celebrating ancient history together with the Courtaulds’ investment in style, panache and Art Deco; the property just oozes the ambience of the 1930s. If this trip runs again book your seat F-A-S-T, it’s just a wonderful day out.

Our latest Blue Plaque

Edward Ardizzone, a pupil at Ipswich School, loved the working activities of our dock. This interest in ships often surfaced in the many children’s books he wrote and illustrated. The plaque was unveiled in the sunshine on 14 March by Deputy Mayor Hamil Clarke, in the presence of Edward Ardizzone’s grandson, Daniel, and members of the Ipswich Maritime Trust and our Society.



Snippets 2

Croydon's

Tesco has backed out – as part of their national retrenchment. The imposing interior staircase is still intact despite the clearance which was started. However, the building can't be Listed because the existing structure is entirely of the 20th century. No news yet about what was to be Tesco's big site on the riverside in Commercial Road (Grafton Way), near the railway station.

Window on the Waterfront

Ipswich Maritime Trust's latest display in the window at the (Cranfield's) Mill includes the drawings of the port by Edward Caley in 1837. He was soon to be in charge of the creation of the Wet Dock under the eye of Henry Palmer, engineer and designer. Caley was then aged 20 when the work began. 'Aspiration' might be new political jargon, but it certainly existed in early Victorian days! The Trust is enjoying good co-operation with the Port authorities.

Hanseatic League

Ipswich was a 'warehouse port' for the great trading ports of the Baltic in the later Middle Ages. Ipswich could join the Hanseatic heritage group (currently based in Lübeck) as is the case already in Kings Lynn. Such a move would help to re-enforce the growing popularity of Ipswich for visiting boats. Visitors used to come from Holland and Belgium but increasing numbers come now from Germany, Scandinavia and France.

Other welcome visitors

It's instructive how a major cultural attraction can work wonders. The year-long loan of Constable's *Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows 1831*, together with a new Constable purchase and other loans has already attracted 20-30% more visitors, more of whom come here now after visiting Flatford.

Gateway to the Waterfront

This could be a suitable name for an area which is currently our greatest eyesore (yes, even worse than the 'Wine rack' - and that should be progressed later this year). Starting from the Stoke Bridge end, the three sites of St Peter's warehouse (burnt out), Paul's concrete silo and Burtons have all been derelict for years. We welcome IBC's purchase of the latter at a knock-down price and hope it will stimulate concerted action to develop this big site. It is crucial to the attraction and reputation of the whole Waterfront.

Bernard Reynolds

It was heartening to see the Reynolds exhibition at UCS arranged by his family in March. His originality and craftsmanship were remarkable and no less striking 18 years after his death. He must have been a founder member of our Society and it is his clever logo on the masthead of our Newsletter.

Population growth

If you think that Ipswich is a sleepy static town you might be surprised that in the last decade it has been the 8th fastest growing town in the UK, 'beaten' only by Milton Keynes, Peterborough, Swindon, Luton, Cambridge, London and Northampton. Even more surprising perhaps is that Ipswich is ranked 10th for employment, proportionately.

Pevsner updated, two new volumes of Suffolk buildings

When Nikolaus Pevsner wrote the first Suffolk edition of *Buildings of England* he had spent just six weeks in the county, driven around in his Wolsey Hornet by his long suffering wife, Lola. Despite this brief visit, Pevsner's guide has become the definitive work when searching for historical or architecturally important property in Suffolk. Originally published in 1961 it was revised by Enid Radcliffe in 1974 and has just been updated, extended and rewritten by Essex-based James Bettley. This time it has taken six years of detailed research, interviews and inspections to produce the latest edition. The result is two volumes, Suffolk East and Suffolk West, not split along the old county boundary but divided by the A140.

The new edition has been extended to some five hundred properties in a detailed gazetteer with a compelling introduction and telling, quality photographs. Furthermore the research has been Dr Bettley's own work. Pevsner had assistants to prepare schedules for his visits and to write preliminary notes. Pevsner also used local historians, notable amongst them H. Munro Cautley with his knowledge of Suffolk churches to provide expert descriptions.

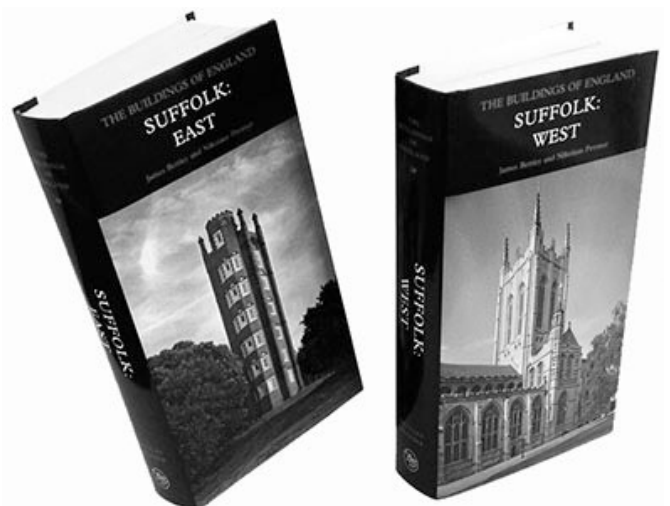
James Bettley lives near Maldon and completed the Essex guide in 2007. Like all busy people he has numerous responsibilities and commitments: librarian at Chevening House in Kent, a member of the Church Buildings Council (CBC), and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians. The finished volumes are the result of extensive research and visits to the buildings listed (in almost every case he attended by invitation and was able to talk to the owner and look around the inside). Bettley took 40,000 photographs for his own use, a reference and reminder for when he turned his notes into manuscript, but these are not the published images.

When pressed for a favourite place James, not surprisingly, opts for Lavenham, Long Melford and Glemsford – not because they are full of the listed buildings that make them tourist 'hot spots' but because they were industrial towns, both in the Middle Ages and in Victorian times. Glemsford had mills producing horse hair matting; Long Melford – a foundry and extensive maltings; Lavenham, like Long Melford, produced horse hair chair seats and coconut matting. All three were involved in the wool and cloth trade, evidenced in their fine churches. It is because of discoveries like this that James Bettley suggests that the practical research was great fun: going to new places, unsure who you would meet or what you would find.

These two volumes are fascinating, in places more readable than the original and certainly much more comprehensive (and I suspect more accurate). They include some of the recently built properties I have been to inspect for the Suffolk Association of Architects: the Wilderness at Darsham, the Sliding House at Huntingfield and the Balancing Barn at Thorington are all included – a truly comprehensive encyclopaedia of Suffolk buildings.

John Norman

[We hope that Dr Bettley will give a Winter Illustrated Talk to the Society in the autumn. -Ed]



Margaret Tempest: the Ipswich girl who could draw like an angel

Margaret Mary Tempest was born at 28 Fonnereau Road on the 15 May 1892 to Charles and Frances Tempest. This was an address within one hundred yards of the Ipswich Art School in the High Street. Charles was a stock and share broker and was something of a wit – if his 1911 census return is anything to go by. This was the first census where the returns were completed by heads of households. In the section headed; ‘*Infirmity’ most people left a blank space - the official examples given, sensitively, included ‘Imbecile’, ‘Feeble minded’ and ‘Lunatic’. Charles wrote of himself, with his tongue firmly in his cheek: ‘Short sighted, slightly bald’.

Charles was a man of some means and was also held in considerable regard in the town; he was elected mayor in 1926. The Tempests lived at number 28 until sometime between 1901 and 1911 when they moved to 34 Park Road (Parkside). During that period Margaret also attended Ipswich Art School and she may have been a contemporary there of another star in the Ipswich artistic firmament – Leonard Squirrell. Margaret later moved to London to study at the Westminster School of Art from which she graduated in the summer of 1914 on the eve of the Great War. She went on to the Royal Drawing School but was already planning the formation of a society of women illustrators with twenty other talented girls from the School of Art. They planned to teach, sell art and work and to that end a studio was rented; an old barn at 59a Park Walk, Chelsea, SW10. The war came and temporarily curtailed their plan but the landlord promised to keep the barn for them until the hostilities ceased.

In 1919 they moved in and commenced decorating and refurbishing the rooms. A floor was laid of ‘chicken coop roofing felt’ according to Caroline Richmond in an article in *Kensington and Chelsea Today*. Margaret was not only a founder of the group but also its Honorary Secretary and Book-keeper. The group designed a very distinctive letterhead and installed a telephone.



Letterhead of the Chelsea Illustrators

Margaret told the *East Anglian Daily Times* in 1971: ‘People say that women can’t work together but we did for twenty happy years’.

Between 1919 and 1939 they put on annual exhibitions and ran a successful business, selling their work and producing commercial material including Christmas cards. It was during the twenties while taking the Group’s work round to publishers that Heinemann offered her the first Little Grey Rabbit story by Alison Uttley: *The Hare, the Squirrel and the Little Grey Rabbit*. Her attention to the detail in the little animals’ lives, their personalities and particularly her concern with the design of the books, made them extremely attractive. It was Margaret’s idea to surround all the pictures with the coloured borders which make them so distinctive. Her style reflected some of the artists whom she admired from an early age particularly Kate Greenaway.

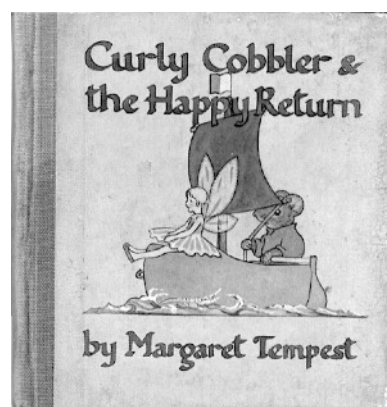
She began illustrating Little Grey Rabbit books in 1929 and continued to do so into the 1960s, by which time 34 titles had appeared. Illustrator and author did not hit it off personally and in her recently published diaries Alison Uttley described Tempest as ‘a humourless bore, seldom

does a smile come, her eyes cold and hard...she is absolutely awful'. However Uttley didn't have much good to say about any illustrators or authors.

Alex Paton, Margaret Tempest's step-grandson, said that she had a particular affinity with children and 'at their frequent visits she would sit each on her lap, ask which animal they liked best, and proceed to draw it for them'.

One of Margaret's later famous collaborators in the Chelsea Illustrators group was the renowned writer, M.M. Kaye, author of *The Far Pavilions* and *The Jewel in the Crown*. She was known as Molly Kaye under which sobriquet she wrote and illustrated children's books. Tempest also illustrated two of Kaye's books: *The Willow Witches Book* and *Gold Gorse Common* after World War II.

Tempest wrote and illustrated children's books of her own, with characters called *Curley Cobbler* and *Pinkie Mouse*. She illustrated books by Elizabeth Laird, Rosalind Vallance and Myfanwy Evans, who married the artist John Piper, and at least fifty other authors including Cynthia Asquith and Rose and Gail Duff. She published pictures in early editions of Susan Coolidge's *What Katy Did* and *What Katy Did at School*. She also found time to design picture postcards for the Medici Galleries.



Between the wars she lived in London during the week, and apart from her illustration work she taught drawing to the children of most of the aristocratic houses in London. Margaret also taught for one day a week in a boys' prep school where a young Peter Scott was a pupil.

She came back to Suffolk on many weekends to indulge her great passion for sailing. This she often did with her brother, Frank, around the Suffolk coast. She was eventually elected Commodore of the Pin Mill Sailing Club. Frank Tempest joined the firm of Kerseys as a solicitor and partner with Mr Kersey in 1924. The company still have an office in Lloyds Avenue.

In 1939 Margaret returned to the Ipswich area permanently and she married her cousin, the widowed Sir Grimwood Mears, a former Chief of Justice in Allahabad, in 1951. They moved into number 3 St Edmunds Road soon after the death of her brother Frank in January 1951 who had been the previous occupant of that house.

Sir Grimwood died in 1963 at the age of 93 and Lady Mears continued living in St Edmunds Road. She was a long-time member of the Ipswich Art Club only retiring from the committee in 1974. She was still exhibiting artwork at that time at the age of 82.

Margaret Tempest (Lady Mears) died in 1982 aged 90 and by then she had become afflicted with Parkinson's Disease and could no longer draw. She was a prolific illustrator and a truly distinguished daughter of Ipswich, one who deserves the recognition of an Ipswich Society blue plaque.

Merv Russen

Eltham Palace: an Ipswich Society outing, 22 April 2015

For the first of this year's series of outings we went to Eltham Palace in the Borough of Greenwich. The palace started life as a manor house, built in the 1290s by Antony Bek, Bishop of Durham and a courtier and trusted minister of Edward I. In 1305 he presented it to the future Edward II. The building was greatly enlarged in the 14th century and became the favoured royal residence on account of its 1,000 acre park, ideal for hunting.

Henry VIII and his sister spent their childhoods there. In the 1470s Edward VI built the impressive Great Hall, one of the largest surviving medieval halls in Europe (as is Westminster Hall); this hall was used for entertainment and for Court administration, indeed Cardinal Wolsey had to go there once on church business. By now the palace complex had grown to its apogee with numerous buildings including a chapel; it was one of the six main royal residences in England. However, in the 17th century it started to decline after the Civil Wars and was used as a farm for 200 years with the Hall, the last remaining building, becoming a barn.

Much later, in the 1930s, Stephen and Virginia Courtauld took a 99 year lease on Eltham from the Crown. He enjoyed his share of the wealth of the family firm, but without working for any of it. Instead he pursued his intellectual and artistic interests and also grew prize-winning orchids in the greenhouses. Virginia was of Italo/Hungarian parentage, loved entertaining and could afford to indulge her passion. The house was designed for entertainment and to display Stephen's art and furniture collections.

Architects Seely & Page designed two wings in a V shape with an entrance hall joining the two arms of the V. This hall is the masterpiece of the house and makes a striking first impression: triangular in shape, lit by a circular glazed dome above. The walls are lined with Australian black bean veneer with some marvellous Swedish marquetry, as smooth as silk. This room still contains 30s-style furniture and carpet and in a concealed corner there is a phone which guests could use to make outside calls. In the south wing (ground floor) are a drawing-room, Virginia's boudoir and Stephen's library, all with beautiful woodwork. In the north wing is the dining-room: thoroughly Art Deco, as is all of the house. In addition to upstairs bedrooms is the heated quarters for Virginia's pet lemur; I hope it was house trained – the guests hated it.

The south wing adjoins the Great Hall and from the Minstrels' Gallery, a Courtauld addition, one can view it in its majestic simplicity. From the Screen Passage one can walk into the Hall and admire its twenty windows at clerestory height and its hammer beam roof.

The house had all the latest 30s mod cons and the garden had all the 'must-haves'. The Courtaulds redesigned the gardens, refilling the moat to make a feature of it with a large rock garden to the east. It's a gardener's paradise and beautifully maintained by English Heritage, as has been the house since 1995. Surprisingly, the Courtaulds only lived in the house for eleven years. A coachful of members thank June Peck for a marvellous visit and Paul, our Soames driver.

Richard Worman



John Norman's Ipswich Icons

The 200th edition of The Ipswich Society Newsletter would not be complete without a mention of John Norman's *Ipswich Icons* which has been a favourite feature every Saturday in the *East Anglian Daily Times* for nearly three years, as well as appearing in the *Ipswich Star* and as a web publication most weeks – and is still going strong.

For the few who have not seen these fascinating weekly snippets of Ipswich past, the Society's Chairman, John Norman, has been contributing a full page with accompanying photographs, delving into corners of Ipswich history which can only intrigue as well as educate his readers. As with Giles in the *Sunday Express*, it has become one of those essential little components which make the week-end, which would not be complete without it.

Such is John's passion for Ipswich and in turn The Ipswich Society, he has always generously had his work published under the Society's banner, using it as a tool to promote his beloved Ipswich Society.

John told me that he had

originally agreed to do a series of 100 but at the time of writing he is up to 140 with no sign of him giving up quite yet. He admits that inspiration has sometimes been hard to find, but writer's block has not caught up with him so far as he continuously trawls Ipswich Library, the Suffolk Record Office and his own library at home for more stories.

John would not claim to be an historian but just someone who loves to explore the past history of his home town. He has been corrected at times, as historians tend to be, and when accused of using Wikipedia as one of his sources he remarked with a twinkle in his eye, "I was the one



FEATURE



Learn about the society

The Ipswich Society was founded in 1911 by a community of people who care about the appearance, character and well-being of the town, its past and its future. Members work to preserve the best of the town's old buildings and to ensure that new buildings are of a high quality. From the start we have had close links with Ipswich Borough Council and other bodies in the town, including the Mayor of Ipswich, who presides at our AGM and other important occasions. The society encourages the conservation of the town's best buildings and its most distinctive streets scenes but also welcomes well-planned and sensitive new development. Members review planning applications and help make written comment and attend development control meetings.

Ipswich is a town of great historical interest, and the society is keen to see that this is recognised and widely appreciated. The Ipswich Society supports efforts being made to create a prosperous economy, without which local people and the built environment will both suffer. The society's executive live criterion about strategic matters that affect Ipswich locally, regionally and nationally.

The annual awards, presented to November, recognise the achievements of architects, developers and contractors for buildings, public spaces and restoration projects that are worthy of merit.

The Ipswich Society provides the local organisation for heritage open days (usually held in early September) when members of the public can see inside interesting buildings that are not normally open.

An annual subscription rates are £6 for an individual and £10 for a family. Chairman: John Norman. Treasurer: John Norman. Membership Secretary: Gill Galt. Membership Secretary: Gill Galt. Membership Secretary: Gill Galt. Ipswich, IP1 2PT.

Follow us on Twitter @ipswich200

Ipswich Icons

Uncovering the hidden history of Suffolk's county town with The Ipswich Society

This week we look at 26 Fore Street

Former pub a 'plain' twin of famous town landmark

John Norman

This week we will compare two very similar buildings, one of which is world famous and well photographed. The other is by comparison plain, almost invisible and just out of the town centre. This overlooked building is equally significant, including in its own right a chequered history of different uses, and the Ancient House in the Market Street in the Market Street, probably the most decorative building in the county. The 'plain' twin is the former Wholesale Public House at 26 Fore Street, and I suggested in the meeting, but simply lacking the most decorative architectural details that was added to the Ancient House in 1902. I speculate that the architect designed and built the front elevations of both of these buildings at the same time. The Ancient House has an older core, parts of the 14th and 15th centuries, but the front wing with its tall windows was constructed some time between 1600 and 1610. The front wing of the former Wholesale pub also dates from this period, but is very similar in style to the 'Wholesale' building, which is much more modest. Both are two stories with attic and roof, although most of the cells in the Ancient House was lost in the underpinning carried out in 1981. Similar features include the oriel windows on the first floor and the oriel windows on the upper light in the rear window. Oriel windows feature in a number of buildings across town and are frequently referred to as Ipswich windows.



The former Wholesale pub in Fore Street, above, and left, the Ancient House in the Market Street.

Twenty-six Fore Street was built for an Ipswich merchant in the second half of the 17th Century, which made through the part was particularly healthy Ipswich's main town. The floor of the building had developed with the Suffolk being much in demand by the west of Northern Europe. The ships returned from the continent with wool, wine and manufactured goods. As the Suffolk cloth industry grew

Former pubs in Fore Street

- From Fore Street into town...
- 14 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 15 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 16 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 17 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 18 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 19 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 20 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 21 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 22 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 23 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 24 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 25 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902
- 26 Fore Street - built by Duke Street in 1902

to trade until the 18th when local furniture maker Brett & Co acquired the lease. It continued as a furniture store until 1902 and the arrival of H O Cox (later Dealer) who used the building as a motor scooter showroom. You will remember that 'showroom' was the 'Brett's' building as a motor scooter showroom for young people (Meds) in the mid 1950s. They still have an interest in part of the building but today it houses a number of businesses including 'The Job' recruitment agency. Some Fore Street is now being built as 'Blackbirds'.

who wrote the Wikipedia entry in the first place." Whether he was being serious or not I am not sure, but I know he is happy to be corrected when wrong. "That is how you learn." he said, and with so many of his stories still in living memory, he has to be thorough in his research.

History is like Chinese Whispers and can change along the generations. It has been said that history is not always what you remember but what you want to remember. Local stories have sometimes been embellished along the way, and like the Loch Ness Monster and the Ipswich Underground Railway, you want believe it and so are easily taken in. This then gets recorded as fact and eventually becomes fact in many people's eyes. John tries to avoid this, but even the most notable historians are sometimes caught out.

John and his *Ipswich Icons* have now become icons of Ipswich in their own right and perhaps one day we might talk him into publishing the whole series 'en bloc'. These may then, in turn, be part of the Suffolk Record Office and Ipswich Library collections to which future historians will refer.

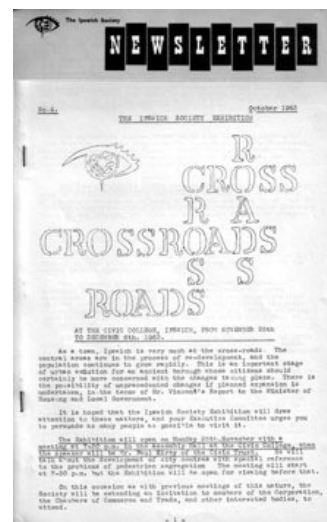
We thank John for the enjoyment, nostalgic memories and for the insights of Ipswich history he has shared with us and long may he continue his revelations of this unique town. Few are more passionate about Ipswich than John Norman.

Tim Leggett



Our back pages

The front cover of *Newsletter* number 4, dated October 1963, boasts an outline graphic of the Society's logo and the word 'Crossroads' in acrostic form (not easy on a Roneo stencil). 'The Ipswich Society Exhibition at the Civic College, Ipswich, From November 25th to December 6th, 1963' is the title.



“As a town, Ipswich is very much at a cross-roads. The central areas are in a process of re-development, and the population continues to grow rapidly. This is an important stage of urban evolution for an ancient borough whose citizens should certainly be more concerned with the changes taking place. There is the possibility of unprecedented changes if planned expansion is undertaken, in terms of Mr. Vincent's Report to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.”

Mr. Paul Kirby of the Civic Trust will speak at a special Society meeting on 25 November in the Assembly Hall, Civic College on the development of city centres with special reference to the problems of pedestrian segregation.

This issue includes The Ipswich Society window sticker. “If you could display it at home, at business premises or on your car (near-side rear window please!) and be ready to answer questions which it may provoke, you would be helping the Society to prosper.”

A summary of the lecture of 27 June by Mr. L.G. Vincent on ‘The planned expansion of existing towns’ follows. The problems of an ever-growing London and of population growth in the South-East highlight that the policy of building new towns and adding overspill to existing towns is only “playing with the problem”.

Population increase is caused by a combination of re-housing after slum-clearances, growth in family-units and increasing minimum standards of in-door space requirements. “During the next twenty years the one-third of Britain's population living in the south-east of England will need two-and-a-half to three million more dwellings.” An expansion into larger towns including Ipswich is a possibility. “There are two theoretical degrees of expansion, 50% and 100% respectively, and in the case of Ipswich, this would mean a town of 200 or 300 thousand people, including natural increases.”

“The town centre is the key to expansion and present a big problem. Much capital would be needed, and a long-term outlook would be necessary to get the appropriate complete reorganisation. In Ipswich the natural fall of the land towards the river suggests a multi-level solution to the problem of segregating pedestrians and vehicles.

“It must be emphasised that planning is for people. The ‘main endeavour is to create an environment in which they can live a full and useful life, with increasing provision for a rise in the standard of living and an increase in leisure’.”

Elsewhere, the establishment of The Ipswich Society Reference Library is announced and indeed it continues to grow in 2015.

R.G.

The Ipswich Society

www.ipswichsociety.org.uk

email: secretary@ipswichsociety.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 263322

This Newsletter is the magazine 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

Tuesday July 14: Ipswich town centre walk arranged by John Norman, starting at the TIC at 7.30pm. This event is free and open to all but please reserve a place with David Stainer on 01473 258070.

Wednesday 15 July: Prickwillow Drainage Museum outing with guided tour of Ely – a few places left, please ring Jessica Webster on 01473 218809.

Tuesday August 18: Evening tour of Holywells Park, with Park Manager, Nick Wilcox (see insert).

Thursday 3 September: Elton Hall, Peterborough outing (see outings insert).

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September: Heritage Open Weekend organised in Ipswich by the Society. Many interesting and historic places in the town will be open to the public. Look out for the special booklet (also downloadable from our website) nearer the time.

Wednesday September 16 7.30pm: Winter Illustrated Talk at Museum Street Methodist Church (entrance in Black Horse Lane) – John Norman, 'About The Ipswich Society'.

Friday 2 October, 7.00pm: Fore Street Facelift Exhibition, Members' Launch Evening at the UCS Waterfront building. Exhibition, speakers, short film, refreshments. (Exhibition runs from October 3 to 16 2015). See the back page and tickets included in members' copies of this Newsletter.

Wednesday October 21 7.30pm: Winter Illustrated Talk at Museum Street Methodist Church – James Bettley, 'An update on Pevsner' (James' new Suffolk volumes are reviewed on page 20).

Wednesday November 18: The Society's Annual Awards Presentations.

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| Newsletter deadlines & publication dates (the latter may vary by a few days) |
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| Deadline for material: 1 December; | Publication date: 22 January; |
| 1 March; | 2 April; |
| 1 June; | 17 July; |
| 1 September; | 9 October. |

AN EXHIBITION BY THE IPSWICH SOCIETY



The



Fore Street Facelift 1961

IN PREPARATION FOR THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II TO IPSWICH, 21ST JULY 1961

Architect drawings, contemporary photographs, a short film of the project and memorabilia relating to the work carried out on the buildings and paving in one of the town's most historic streets

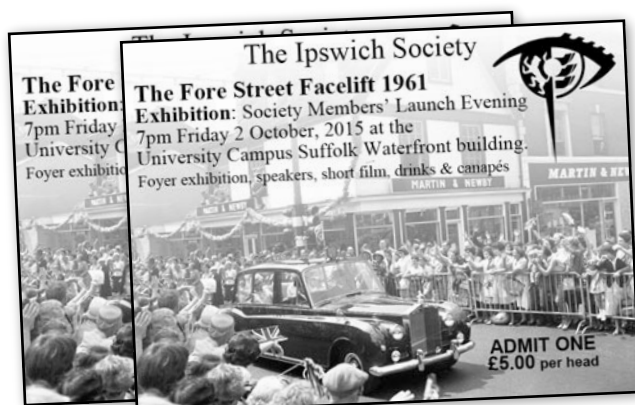
**Runs from Friday 2 to Friday 16 October 2015 at
The Waterfront building,**

University Campus Suffolk (entrance on Fore Street)

Society members' launch event: Friday 2 October 2015, 7pm

Speakers, short film, drinks, canapés.

Bring the tickets inside this issue...



The Ipswich Society