

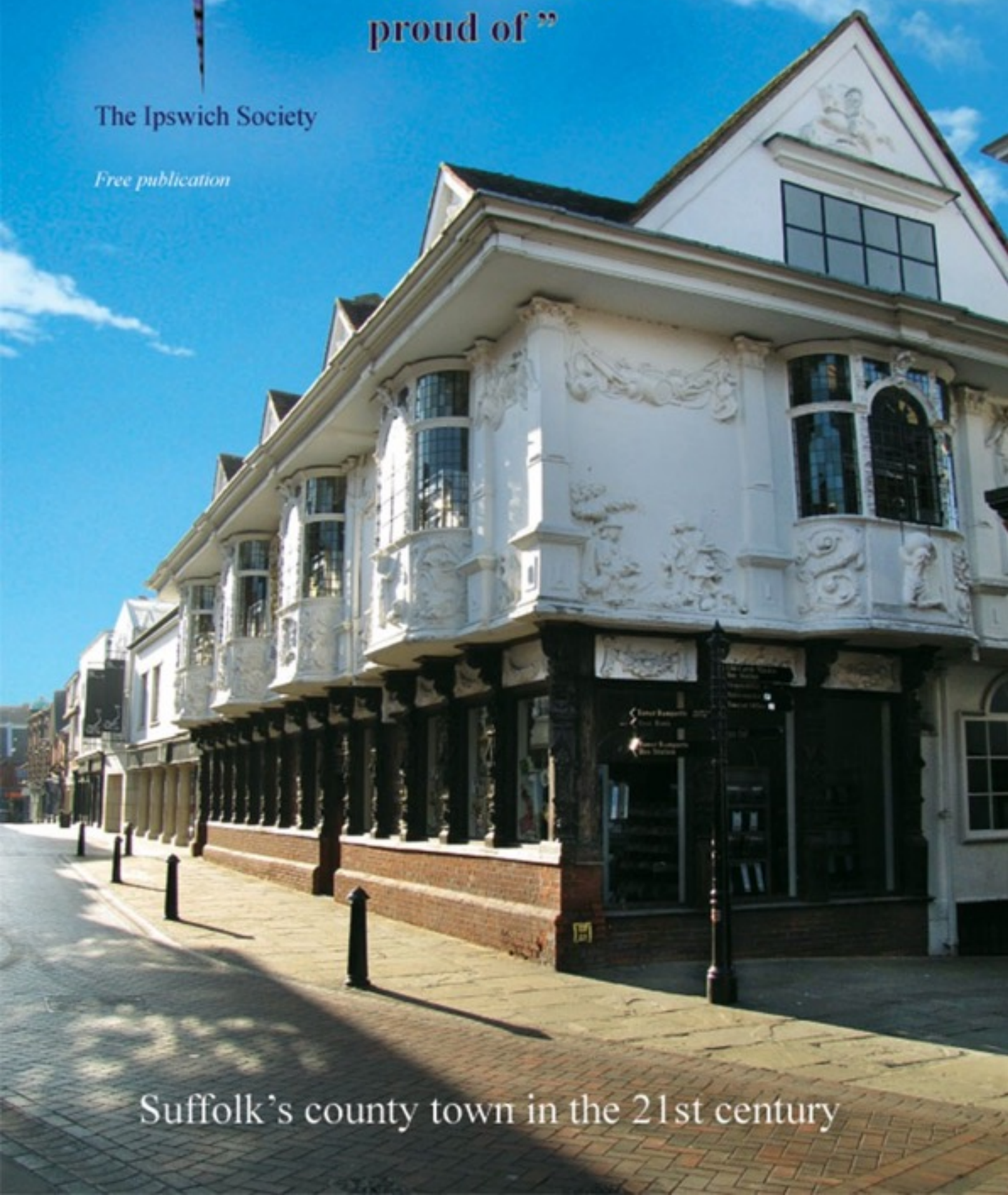


# IPSWICH

“A town to be  
proud of”

The Ipswich Society

*Free publication*



Suffolk's county town in the 21st century





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Top: St Stephen's Church  
Bottom: Cornhill from  
Princes Street

## Introduction

Welcome to this special edition of the *Ipswich Society Newsletter*, it is full of facts about Suffolk's county town and the attributes that make it different. Most residents agree that Ipswich is a great place to live, work and play; it is prosperous and healthy with some fantastic green spaces.

I was interested to learn, whilst at a conference with some of south east Suffolk's major businesses the other day, that people who move to a new job in Ipswich tend to settle in the area. There is apparently a longer residency rate than there is in other comparable towns, and if these recruits later change jobs they tend to stay local.

The current population of the Borough of Ipswich is close to 150,000 people but there are as many again within the travel-to-work area. They collectively enjoy Ipswich's rich cultural, sporting and social scene, three theatres, three multi-screen cinemas and the best range of shops in Suffolk. Ipswich is home to some 600 listed buildings, a dozen medieval churches and the brilliant Waterfront at the head of the most beautiful commercial river in the country. London is just over an hour by train and there are some 50 miles of glorious coastline.

Ipswich residents enjoy a wealth of social and special interest clubs and societies. Whether you like your social life to be inside or outside, learning or creating, walking or sporting, performing or watching, travelling or simply hearing about other people's travels, vehicles or adventures, Ipswich provides a gathering of like-minded people. Neil Salmon's article *Ipswich: a centre of cultural excellence* in this *Newsletter* provides an insight.

The Ipswich Society strives to ensure that Ipswich develops in ways that are sustainable and for the benefit of everyone. Ipswich is located on one of the best sites in the country with abundant fresh water and a gentle south-facing valley side leading down to a busy harbour. Caroline Markham's *Foundations* on page 4 explains the origins of the town in greater detail.

You are reading a special edition of the *Ipswich Society Newsletter* but I recommend the regular quarterly edition which tracks the developments in the town with comments and observations on the potential implications. With a wealth of writers, many of whom have contributed to this publication, the *Newsletter* is widely read and respected.

We are proud of our town as, we suspect, are the majority of residents and visitors. Ipswich has a long and interesting past, historic buildings abound and the Waterfront is regarded as the finest in the country.

Thank you for taking the time to read this unique publication; we have nothing to sell but the quality of life that Ipswich offers.

**John Norman**

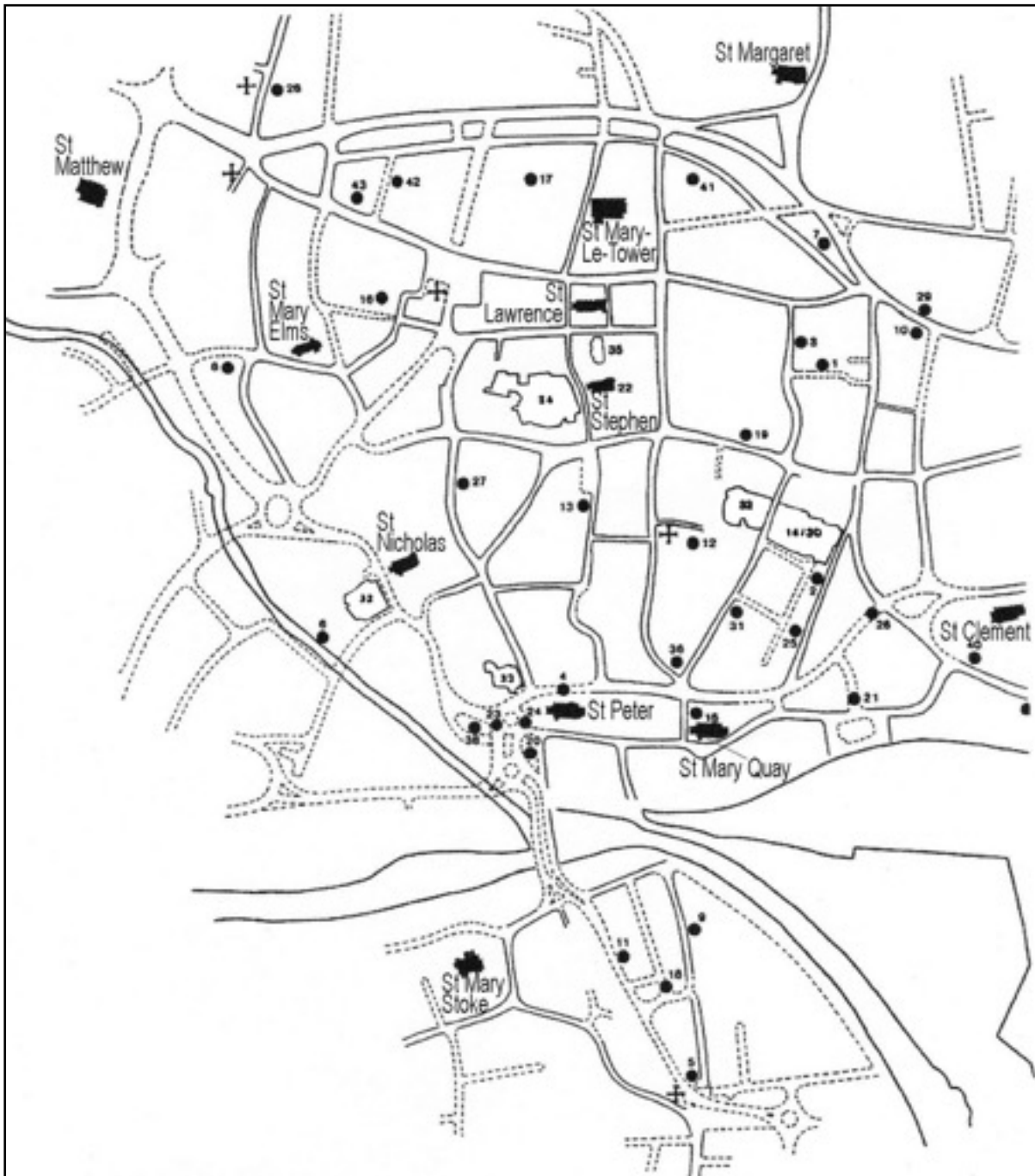
*Chairman, The Ipswich Society*





# Foundations

Ipswich is fortunate that the River Gipping has carved its way down to the Chalk – at about 85 million years old the oldest and lowest of the surface rocks here. It provides a stable foundation for the tall buildings which line the Waterfront, for the Orwell Bridge and for our new flood gates. It also supplies much of our modern water supply. Younger London Clay (Eocene, 54 million years old) and Red Crag (Pliocene, 2¾ million years old) sediments overlies the Chalk and outcrop higher up in the valley sides. The permeable Red Crag holds water, which gushes out as springs where it meets the impermeable London Clay below. Thus Christchurch and Holywells Parks have a constant and plentiful supply of natural water for their various lakes, ponds and canals, issuing from the Red Crag/London Clay junction.



*Medieval Ipswich showing archaeological sites excavated 1974-90 and the medieval street plan, route of Orwell and Gipping, the churches. (Original map: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service)*

Lining the river banks and sitting on top of the Chalk is a series of gravel terraces. A gift of the Ice Age when torrents of melt water flowed down the valley, these formed level, well-drained land for the first Anglo-Saxon settlement here. It is no coincidence that Ipswich is the oldest continuously settled town in England. It has, arguably, the best settlement site in the country and the Anglo-Saxons, arriving here in the early 7th century, recognised this and stayed, thus laying the foundations of our town. Building their early settlement at the head of the Orwell estuary, a navigable 15 kilometre inlet of the North Sea, they chose the sunny, north bank, with its plentiful water supply from the crag springs. The broad terraces and gentle slopes have provided room for growth into the large town we have today, which still benefits from its sheltered aspect.

Although not immediately evident, there are signs of our underlying geology everywhere in town. The great swathe of flat land along the river from Portman Road to Duke Street sits on the lower gravel terrace, formed some 25,000 years ago during the last cold phase of the Ice Age. The Chalk is only a few metres below the surface here and the modern steel-framed buildings here have their foundations driven into it. It allowed apartment dwellers here to experience the Ramsgate earthquake of May 2015 as shockwaves from the faulting under Ramsgate travelled northwards through the Chalk to Ipswich. Various excavations in this terrace have yielded mammoth and reindeer bones indicative of cold climate, and also evidence of ourselves – some very beautiful Late Palaeolithic flint implements.

Dredging in the estuary often yields sarsen stones – very hard sandstone from early Eocene beds on top of the Chalk. Those dredged from the dock when it was built in the 1840s were taken to Christchurch Park where they can still be seen in the rockery. Sarsens were prized for their hardness by Medieval builders and are often found in church towers locally, as for example in St Nicholas Church. Eocene ‘septaria’ from the London Clay are much more plentiful and so are common in our Ipswich church walls. Found also in Blackfriars Priory they are an attractive brown colour, but of doubtful durability. The Eocene clays provided the raw materials for the Anglo-Saxon pottery industry (the earliest finds date back to 625 AD) and for brick works in the 19th and 20th centuries – the one at Dales Road providing bricks for the Library on Northgate Street.

A visit to the spring which feeds the Wilderness Pond in Christchurch Park or the one gushing out below Nacton Road at the north end of Holywells Park will convince the visitor that they are looking at permeable rock here, i.e. the Red Crag. Fragments of fossil shells are washed out of the crag and can occasionally be seen in the spring water. One of our earliest scientists, Elizabeth Cobbold, who lived in Holywells Mansion identified these as fossils at the start of the 19th century. These small natural torrents have created the attractive slopes and hollows which enhance the landscape of our parks and outer residential areas. They provide water for the ‘ring of trees’, visible from many parts of the town, which rims the upper slopes of our sunny valley sides.

***Caroline Markham***



## Ipswich: it's got more history than most

The county town of Suffolk is England's oldest continuously settled town. It has a history of continued occupation since the Anglo-Saxons, probably as early as the 7th century when pre-existing, small, scattered hamlets amalgamated to form the nucleus of the town. The geographical key to the birth of Ipswich is its river: the lowest crossing-point of the Orwell was a ford a few metres east of the site of today's Stoke Bridge. The river acted as a trade route and merchandise could be bought and sold: Ipswich was a sea port and a market from its earliest times. The evidence for the first settlement comes from archaeological excavations in Ipswich, Sutton Hoo and, most recently, at the grand Anglo-Saxon palace at Rendlesham; these shine a light on the Ipswich of the 'Dark Ages'.

The characteristic right-angled shape of the River Orwell here, which we see represented in the Victorian Wet Dock, probably gave the town its name. *Gipeswic* (spellings vary) probably means 'the town on the corner (gip) of the estuary'. The name eventually morphed into 'Ipswich'. As the first Anglo-Saxon town with settlers originating in Germany and Holland, there is a good case to be made that the new settlement was the crucible of the Angle-ish language which evolved into the English we speak today. The new settlers were pagan, Christianity arriving in the East Anglian Kingdom in the middle of the 7th century. We know that Anglo-Saxon boats, resembling the burial ship found at Sutton Hoo near Woodbridge, exported finely-woven woollen cloaks to the Rhineland (an extraordinary voyage for such a vessel), bringing back to Ipswich quernstones for the hand-milling of grain.

The Anglo-Saxons were colonisers – unlike other invaders who attacked, robbed and destroyed, following the departure of the Romans in the fifth century – setting up as farmers, craftsmen and traders. Their largely benign reign in East Anglia (with a chequered history of invasions and imposition of power, notably by the Danes in the ninth century), continued until 1016. Ipswich became one of the most important *wic* ports, along with York, Southampton and London. Between 680 and 700 a large and deliberate expansion of the town took place, suggesting that *Gipeswic* was developed by the Anglo-Saxon kings to control the economy, to increase their wealth and power. The Chapel of St Mildred (the site of today's Town Hall) was built in around 700 and the Cornhill was established as the central market and meeting-place. An earthen rampart-and-ditch boundary around much of the town was built, part of the line of which is still preserved in today's Tower Ramparts. Areas to the west were defended by extensive marshland and to the south by the river.

The roller-coaster of Ipswich history indicates the key point that, where other towns waxed and waned – Roman Colchester, for example, remained deserted for a considerable time after being sacked by Boudicca and the Iceni tribe – Ipswich survived and thrived by turns. By the start of the 11th century Ipswich had a sophisticated political and social structure reliant on trade, fishing and farming. Having survived Viking invasions, it is a wonder that the town continued at all during the Norman invasion from 1066. The Normans created another new ruling class, sweeping away much of the old English aristocracy and Anglo-Saxon traditions. Ipswich, in a long tradition of stubborn



The Ipswich Seal c.1200

resistance, seems to have upset William I (reigned 1066-87) and he ‘wasted’ the town. For all that, the 11th century is the first time that documentary evidence for Ipswich exists with William’s Domesday inventory of his new kingdom. Ipswich was in a poor state, but clung on.

The next major step came at a time when the seething focus of activity of the town were the river quays, overseen by wealthy merchants. To the north the town developed with markets, traders, houses and an expanding economy. Movements of seamen, visitors and traders revitalised the populace. The Norman order took hold of the town and religious houses were founded, usually under royal patronage, becoming wealthy and influential. Ipswich was a vibrant place, its Anglo-Saxon street pattern ringed by the ramparts and, remarkably, largely preserved to the present day. No wonder the cash-strapped King John (reigned 1199-1216) took an interest.

While not the most popular of kings, John was responsible for the granting of the first royal charter to Ipswich. The charter was read to assembled personages in the churchyard of St Mary-Le-Tower, on 25 May 1200, the most auspicious day of the town’s history. Ipswich was unusual in compiling an Ipswich Domesday Book to record proceedings: the start of Borough records (which had their own chequered history). Once the charter was enacted the town ceased to be under royal stewardship and a new system of elected representatives, who had responsibilities as well as rights, was put in place. The twelve Portmen were given the right to graze their horses on the meadows known as Oldenholm, which later became known as Portman Marshes, eventually becoming Portman Road, the ground of Ipswich Town Football Club. So a name going back to the 1200 charter is known far and wide today because of the country’s favourite sport.

Ipswich was home to no fewer than five monasteries (two convents and three friaries) and none of them survives today. In fact, only the ruins of the church of Blackfriars Friary between Foundation and Fore Streets give an idea of how a medieval monastery looked. For three or four hundred years – until their dissolution by Henry VIII – these establishments were

influential in the life of the town. The site of Holy Trinity Priory was on or near the place where the Elizabethan Christchurch Mansion was built. Following the ownership of the mansion and extensive parklands by just three successive wealthy families over the centuries, it was a philanthropist, Felix Thornley Cobbold of the famous local brewing family who in 1892 ensured that both were saved for the Ipswich people. Few towns have such a fine mansion and park near their centre and they provide environmental diversity, recreation, culture and heritage, as well as a place of remembrance, today.



*Wolsey's Gate today*

Mention of Henry VIII, prompts the name of the town’s most famous son, Thomas Wolsey. A local boy from modest beginnings, he rose to prominence in the royal court to become, arguably, the most powerful man in the realm with an international reputation. At the height of his power as Lord Chancellor he built a feeder college in his home town to provide students for his Cardinal College (today’s Christ Church) in

Oxford. Sadly, he fell from grace when the school was barely finished and it was dismantled. Wolsey died in Leicester and the only visible trace of the school is the water-gate which opened onto the river – much wider than it is today – and now known as ‘Wolsey’s Gate’.

Medieval timber-framed buildings abound in Ipswich, despite regrettable demolitions in the 1960s and 70s, and the most famous is The Ancient House in Butter Market with its elaborate parquetry and Royal Arms. This building is a remarkable survivor having been, over the centuries, subject to subsidence, structural weakening by poorly-trained workmen and a disastrous fire in nearby buildings in the early 1990s. However, major renovation and restoration by the Borough ensures the building continues to attract townspeople and visitors alike. Twelve medieval churches can be found in the town centre, three in dockland. Apart from the six still in use as places of worship, the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust has found new uses for almost all of the others and ensured their preservation so that their spaces, history and architecture can be enjoyed by us today.



*Photograph courtesy Ipswich Maritime Trust Image Archive*

*Ransomes Quay: traction engines for export on low-loader wagons on the dockside tramway.*

The industrial revolution made Ipswich into a major centre for manufacture and trade; grouped around the Wet Dock were foundries, heavy engineering works, maltings, fertiliser factories, feed mills and more employing thousands of workers, many of whom migrated here from rural poverty.

In this short article we haven't had space to mention the town's fine Victorian and Edwardian architecture, its many green spaces and the historical gem of Isaac Lord's merchant house and complex of buildings (today it is Isaac's bars and restaurants) running down to Wherry Quay. In the 21st century the Waterfront has made the transition from heavy industry and shipping to a major attraction for leisure and learning activities, the latter provided by the University of Suffolk and the nearby Suffolk New College.

***Robin Gaylard***



## Ipswich and immigration

‘This isn’t my town any more’. An overheard statement on an Ipswich street. One which could provoke heartfelt agreement or outraged derision, citing all kinds of -isms and phobias.

Immigration and its consequences is a subject that seems at times almost incapable of being the object of rational discussion. To address it in the context of an Ipswich Society publication would appear to be an act verging on dangerous folly. What business has the Society wading into such murky and perilous waters?

The Society cares passionately about the town, not only the built environment, but also the way that it works. The human population is the town. The way it looks and functions is a reflection of the people who live here. How the population behaves in relation to their environment is therefore of direct concern to the Society.

It is an old saying and truism that we are *all* immigrants. This is worth reiterating in these days of polarised opinion. Britain’s first settlers came across the land bridge from the European mainland. Once the country became an island successive groups arrived by sea and settled, leaving a greater or lesser legacy. The Romans left a very sparse imprint on Ipswich, whereas the Anglo-Saxons bequeathed the modern day layout of the central town and the dock area, having established Ipswich’s trading potential. We also owe them for their contribution to place names, language and forms of government.

Other groups have come, settled or moved on. Ipswich is by its nature a market and a port. Its situation at the head of a navigable estuary, with river access deep into the hinterland, opens it up to the wider world. Therefore there has always been an interface between whoever has constituted the ‘locals’ at any given time and ‘others’. These ‘outsiders’ could have been from the adjoining countryside or from other British trading ports or from any of the many nations that border the North Sea, and further abroad.

The point is that, however some people experience it, Ipswich has been a more fluid society than superficial appearance would suggest. It is difficult to find a period of history when there were no new incomers. The industrial revolution and agricultural crises of the 18th and 19th centuries alone caused many people to migrate into the town. The thriving industry during this period also attracted others from elsewhere in the UK.

After the Second World War skills shortages resulted in active promotion of immigration from southern Italy and the Caribbean (the so-called *Windrush* generation). The war also left a residue of allies, refugees and ex-prisoners of war. These constitute the early Polish, Ukrainian and German communities. Interestingly, although the Jews came in the 19th Century, leaving one of the few Jewish cemeteries in the country, they seem to have moved on. There were relatively few Jewish families until recently.

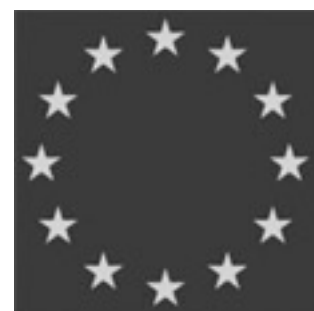


Horrors in Vietnam caused some of its 'boat people' to seek a new life here. Similar events in Turkey have led to Kurds and others finding refuge.

The Old Commonwealth has provided peoples from Asia. War and partition caused Pakistanis, Indians and Bangladeshis to seek a better life in the UK. Some of the most successful settlers have been those Asians who were expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin.

Our healthcare system could not and cannot have coped without staff from the old commonwealth, the EU and countries such as the Philippines. Many of these who have contributed so much to the general good have settled and their offspring have also gone into the caring professions.

Entry into the European Union has resulted in a major influx of people particularly from the poorer states of Eastern Europe and Portugal. It seems that this relatively large and rapid immigration has been the catalyst for much of the dismay that in the end led to the 'Brexit' vote.



With so much controversy about immigration, some of it vociferously negative or vicious, why does The Ipswich Society take a generally positive stance?

We do not disregard the ills that attend major rapid social change. There will be, amongst any incoming group, those who seek to exploit the situation. People from the existing population may fear for their jobs. The very fact of cultural difference induces anxiety for some. All of these – and other matters – are challenges and they are certainly not exclusive to Ipswich.

Whatever the short-term difficulties the advent of incomers, on past evidence, has usually led to benefit. The rich diversity displayed on our streets is extraordinary testimony. Images of the town on the Society's online Image Archive confirm the evolution of the street scene.

Whether job migrant or refugee, those who make the momentous, and often courageous, decision to settle in another country tend to have energy, ambition and sheer 'get up and go'. This desire to better themselves and their families can lend a vitality and entrepreneurial spirit to the local economy.

Certain cultural attitudes to lifestyle, architectural taste and different ways of approaching building projects for instance can create (hopefully) short-term tensions. What may appear picturesque to the tourist in the land of their origin, can appear unacceptably 'foreign'. Street life is often a major part of the culture of recent immigrants and adds vitality and colour even to rather drab parts of the town. However, to some eyes, groups of young men congregating can appear threatening. Levels of smoking and leaving of garbage give grounds for concern. We hope that, as 'integration' proceeds, some of these habits will reduce.

Forty years ago eating out in Ipswich was very limited, with only a few 'ethnic' restaurants. Now virtually every palate can be satisfied. Perhaps parts of the plethora of outlets dominated by certain demographics will prove unsustainable. Can we really support all the Turkish and Portuguese cafés and restaurants?

Our hairdressing has been well attended to by several generations of Italians who came in the 1950s. These have now been joined by a multitude of Turkish barbers. It is difficult to believe that there are enough clients to go round and one has to wonder what underpins this expansion. Meanwhile at least the buildings are occupied and the Council presumably derives income.



Similarly the convenience store, usually the preserve of incomers trying to establish themselves, seems to have prospered. The way in which the often shabby shops have been renovated sometimes leaves something to be desired. The violently coloured window advertising does not sit well in most settings. As to their sustainability, again one has to wonder how the income is generated.

More difficult to quantify, but probably the most important consequences, are the attitudinal changes that these demographic shifts are bringing. A greater awareness of and acceptance of “difference” has entered many people’s lives. The young who have been brought up in a more multi-ethnic, socially fluid, sexually accepting environment find change easier. The older generations seem to have found it more difficult. The Brexit vote suggested that older people were more likely to wish to leave the EU and return to previous ways.

The much derided ‘snowflake’ generation, whatever their irritating foibles (each generation has them!), perhaps has it ‘right’ in their greater openness.

***Chris Wiltshire***



*A composite view of Christchurch Park: the view of the cenotaph from the Mansion and the round pond.*



## An Ipswich Waterfront walk, 2015

Standing in front of DanceEast, with the northern quays on the left, the walk takes one on to the Island site with New Cut hidden behind a sturdy concrete sea defence. Passing a car park, artistically abandoned buoys and a beautiful stainless steel sundial one enters the Ipswich Haven Marina.

The vista which opens up of the northern quays is one which, on first sight, may be surprising for this part of Suffolk. The striking singularity of the tower blocks, both finished and unfinished, is difficult to comprehend for a market town. The extreme panorama presented extends from the muscular Genesis project in the west to the Persimmon towers over your shoulder to the east.



The Last Anchor Bar is on our route, directly opposite the Grade II listed Old Custom House which reveals itself from this distance to be an even more handsome and solid structure. Built in 1844 by J.M. Clark, this classical building has been fully restored in recent years and braces itself between a new development and the Home Warehouse with its spectacularly glazed frontage.

From the viewpoint over the water the juxtaposition of the twenty-first century pale, creamy luxurious boats and the rugged dark hues of nineteenth century industry is for the visitor very arresting. However, the central prospect of the 16th century and Victorian buildings on the north shore with the tower of the church of Saint Clement surrounded by tall trees is one that should be savoured. The intrusion of rising gables to the right (east) on the modern apartments, reflecting earlier architecture, is a clever and welcome contrast as one scans the dockside towards the swooping Waterfront Building of the University of Suffolk.

At End Quay – to the right of our vantage point and the corner on the walk – a softer greener Ipswich is perceptible: this dock is in a bowl surrounded by distant trees and parks on higher ground around it. This is more county town. The spaces between the bustling, modern developments, from The Mill via the four star hotel, past the elegant flats, the University building, the James Hehir building to the Orwell Quay development are punctuated with enticing greenery, glimpses of attractive towers and old church roofs. Along the way also, there are elegant eateries, coffee shops, bars and comfortable open spaces before Eagle Wharf hoves into view, where timber is still unloaded every fortnight from large green Scandinavian vessels.

Further along the walk south, Fairline Yachts, a builder of million pound motor yachts, occupies a new structure on the right which adjoins the remarkable curved roof of the iron-framed public warehouse which was constructed in 1882. The world famous Spirit Yachts are

also here – slender and graceful craft can often be seen alongside their quay. The quay which leads to the lock has at its feet hard and glinting tramway rails, embedded in the ground as guides.

At the end of the walk is the Prince Phillip Lock where, as sentinels, two enormous redundant blue Babcock cranes stand; cable-free, stately, fascinating and useless except as mammoth monuments to the bustling activity that was once so much part of the dock.



The lock gates confront one with a sight of the Ransomes & Rapier swing-bridge and lock gates themselves – a complicated and restricted area. Also revealed at the end of New Cut, adjacent to the lock, the Ipswich tidal barrier scheme and its smart contemporary control tower announces the multi-million pound project to upgrade the town's flood defences.

Looking north, back up the Wet Dock, the expanse of water becomes very apparent and it is impressive. When it was created in 1842 it was described as: 'the biggest enclosed dock in the kingdom'. There is a great deal of space for the manoeuvring of craft and great deal of water for people to enjoy.

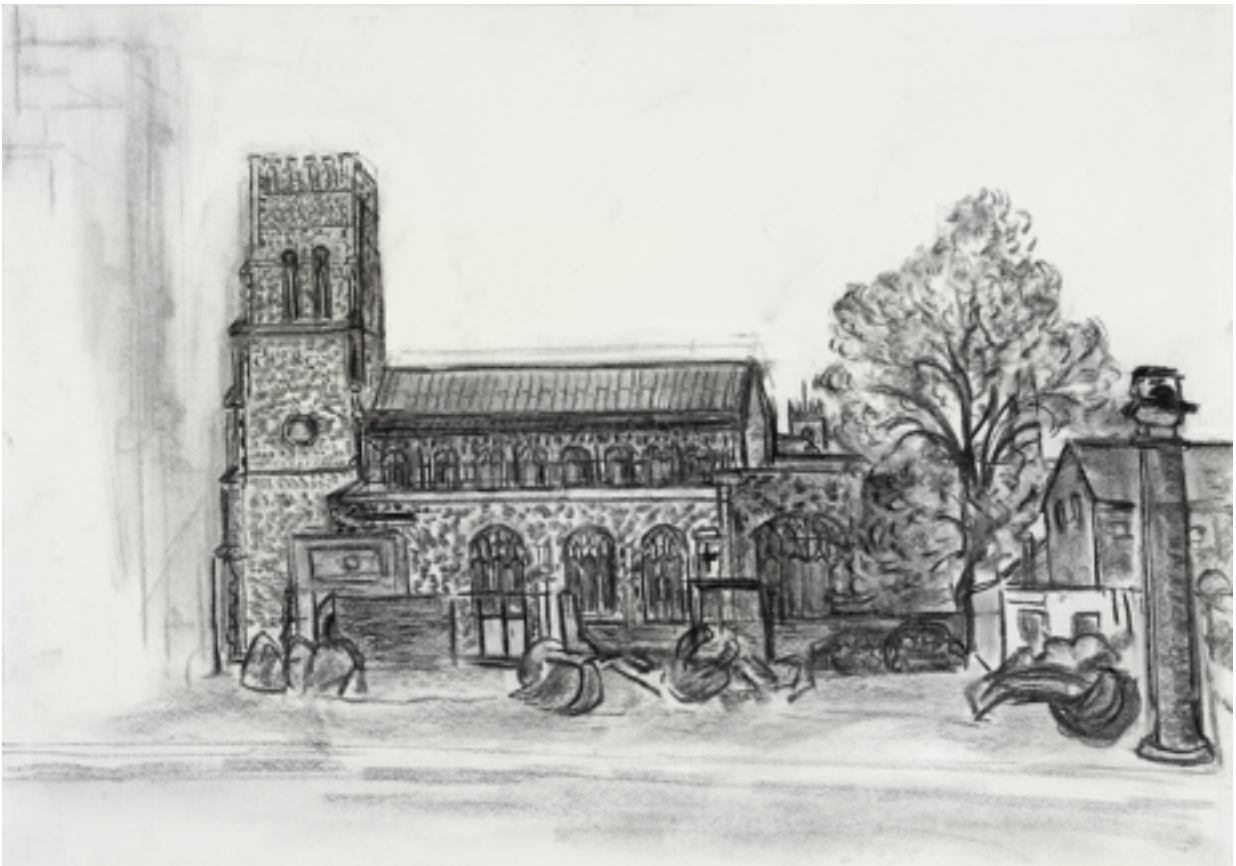
*Tony Marsden*



*Neptune Quay 1895. Photograph courtesy Ipswich Maritime Trust Image Archive*



Charcoal drawings by Valerie Irwin. Above: *St Peter's Dock with the Wet Dock beyond, from Stoke Bridge, October 2005.*  
Below: *St Mary-At-Quay Church, south aspect visible like this for just one day: 30 April 2006.*  
<https://www.valerieirwinarchiveproject.com>





## The Ipswich Society: planning and the built environment

The Society is neither a conservation nor a preservation organisation; it seeks to ensure that we keep and maintain our historic building stock, conserve our high quality areas and keep a watching brief on long-term ('strategic') development proposals as well as planning applications.

We are lucky in Ipswich, as a small (135,000 population) Local Planning Authority (LPA) with some 700 listed structures and just over a thousand new planning applications per year, to have a full Planning Department including an Enforcement Officer and two young and enthusiastic full-time Conservation Officers. (Perhaps this is because the Borough's Chief Executive, Russell Williams, is a Strategic Planner by trade.)

We are consulted on and review the Local Plan including its development policies and zoning areas. It is vital to get these right before the Local Plan is approved at a hearing by a Senior Planning Inspector which we attend. The rationale is that these are the rules for all planning applications for the next years and both sides have to abide by them. There is the overarching central Government direction, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states: 'Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework must be taken into account in preparing the development plan, and is a material consideration in planning decisions.'

We look at every single planning application and discuss those considered significant at the Society's Executive Committee each month. We are members of the Ipswich Conservation and Urban Design Panel where we review all important applications including confidential preapplications, listen to architects' presentations and contribute to the advice the Panel gives to developers, planners and the Planning Committee; we attend the monthly meetings of the Borough Planning and Development Committee and speak as necessary.

Additionally, we hear from Society members and discuss their individual concerns about proposals. All of these inform our decisions on what action to take: whether to write a letter of support or objection, to contribute to the Panel, to communicate with developers or planners, to speak at the Planning Committee or, indeed, to do nothing.

We take a great interest in all our buildings; The Society's Local List, an illustrated spiral bound 150 page book of the mid-1980s, was used for many years by the Borough. It has been superseded by their own online list to which we are a major consultee. The Ipswich Local List provides the same protection to structures not in a Conservation Area as if they were, i.e. they can't be demolished or altered without planning permission. We are currently reviewing the list and will have provided new additions, suitably annotated and illustrated, by April 2019. Appraisal of further parts of the Borough and reappraisal of existing Conservation Areas is a continuous process to which we contribute. Occasionally, we put forward or support buildings for national listing by Historic England.

We are on good terms with our friends, the highly professional planners at the Suffolk Preservation Society, in commenting on important developments around our borders with rural Suffolk. Their comments are helpful and influential.

The Ipswich Society is interested in all aspects of the built environment and our contributions bring about change to the plans of developers, speculators and the Local Authority.

I'm always available for a chat and advice; if I don't know the answer, I'll know somebody who does who can help you. I can be contacted via our Hon. Secretary (details on inside back cover).

*Mike Cook*

## The hidden architecture of Ipswich

**St Mary at the Elms.** This is one of twelve medieval churches in Ipswich town centre, six of which (including St Mary Elms) are still used for worship. The Norman doorway in the south porch of St Mary Elm is probably the oldest standing structure in Ipswich. Around the back of the church, in the churchyard is Ipswich's oldest continually inhabited cottage.



*St Mary at the Elms Norman doorway*

**Blackfriars monastery.** Just off Foundation Street are the ruins of St Mary's Church. The religious order was established in 1263 when Henry III purchased the property. The church, at 177 feet long, was the biggest in Ipswich. It was originally constructed using septaria which is found in the bed of the Orwell. Look carefully and you will find the holes of marine worms. It was demolished soon after the suppression in 1538.

**Pykenham's gatehouse,** 1471. The gateway and lodge to the Archdeacon's House in Northgate Street opposite the Library. Restored by the Ipswich Building Preservation Trust in 1983 and today used by The Ipswich Society and other organisations as a meeting room. Open to the public on the first Saturday of the month; May through September.

**Ancient House,** Butter Market. 16th Century. Probably the most visited of all of Ipswich's historic buildings and possibly the most decorated house in the East of England. Our recommendation is that you go inside and take a look at the wall paintings on the stairs and the decorated ceiling on the first floor. There is extensive additional pargeting in the courtyard in the centre of the building.

**Isaac Lord.** The Isaac Lord complex is a remarkable series of listed buildings situated between Fore Street and the quay. The merchant's house, in Fore Street has been dated by dendrochronology as having timbers felled before 1440. The road surface under the archway entrance from Fore Street is surfaced with two strips of timber blocks between the granite setts ensuring the wheels of carts didn't disturb the merchant's family upstairs.

**Christchurch Mansion,** 1548. Christchurch Mansion has the unusual distinction of only having been owned by three families. It was built in 1545-48 by the Withypolls; in 1645 it passed by marriage to Leicester Devereux and in 1735 the house and 70 acres were purchased by Claude Fonnereau. In 1894 Felix Cobbold purchased the house and immediately presented it to the people of Ipswich for use as a museum and art gallery.



*Pykenham's Gatehouse*

**Wolsey's gate** was the watergate to the College founded by Thomas Wolsey in 1528, the river being much wider and shallower back in the sixteenth century with the majority of

visitors arriving by sailing vessel. The quay, a revetment of stakes and wattle was close to what became College Street.

**Unitarian meeting house**, 1700. Possibly the finest non-conformist meeting house in the country. The four columns holding up the roof are reputed to be ships' masts. The east door has a spy-hole such that worshippers could keep an eye out for unwelcome visitors.

**Custom House** by architect John Medland Clark, Common Quay on the Wet Dock. It was opened in 1845 to provide offices for the Dock Commissioners as well as the Customs and Excise. As well as the bonded warehouse on the ground floor there was a police station, a lock-up and a gentlemen's toilet.

**Willis**. Today the headquarters of Willis Towers Watson, it was built in 1975 and designed by Norman Foster, ably assisted by Michael Hopkins; it was listed Grade I in 1991. Between the black glass building and the Unitarian Meeting House stands the Willis Column, etched on each of the four sides with anniversaries commemorated in the year 2000.



*The Willis Building under construction 1974-5*

**Coach & Horses**, Upper Brook Street, a coaching inn from circa 1732 until it closed in 1975. Today the building is used by charity shops. Inside the lobby is a sample of the linen-fold panelling and other features including the original stairs. Look out for the Cyclists' Touring Club's 'Winged Wheel' sign on the front of the building.

**Arlington's restaurant**. When Museum Street was cut through from Westgate Street in 1847 a large house, Seckford's Great Place, was demolished. The stairs were removed and used in the new museum designed by Christopher Fleury. Although the building has over the years enjoyed a number of different uses, the staircase is still in place.

**Public art**. Ipswich is particularly rich in public works of art, given its lack of 'breaches statues' of 'great men' found in many other towns. There are two works of public art we can recommend:

- i) *Giles family*. The cartoonist Carl Giles, who worked for the *Daily Express*, created the majority of his drawings in Ipswich (and used Ipswich's streets and buildings as the background in a fair number of the cartoons). Giles drew the Giles family, amongst whom the most enigmatic matriarch was Grandma. Miles Robinson, a local sculptor, was commissioned to create a statue of Grandma and other members of the family; she stands in the middle of Giles Circus and looks directly at the office in which Giles worked.
- ii) *Question Mark*, University of Suffolk, Ipswich Waterfront. A plain but moving piece by Langlands & Bell in Portuguese marble and Uruguayan granite which simply suggests 'Question everything'. Good advice about the piece you have just read.

**John Norman**



## Ipswich: triumphing in adversity

Let's take a look at how Ipswich, England's oldest continually-inhabited settlement, has changed over time. Given the excellent location of Ipswich – close to the North Sea coast with direct access along the fantastic River Orwell – it is of no surprise that the Port of Ipswich was the driver behind its early growth, leading to the Wet Dock being the largest of its kind when built, a UK leader no less! A crown today still enjoyed by the Port of Ipswich, perhaps overshadowed by the Port of Felixstowe, is that it is still the UK's largest agricultural port, a sector so important to wider Suffolk. The ambition of the Victorians cannot be under-estimated, as some of our most loved buildings testify: the Town Hall and Corn Exchange, the Custom House alongside the Wet Dock and elegant buildings throughout the town centre. Indeed, these buildings complement one of the finest-preserved Anglo-Saxon street patterns in the UK: a link to the Suffolk Coast, perhaps, given the importance of nearby Sutton Hoo. Perhaps the Sutton Hoo site was attractive in owing to the important function Ipswich served at this time?

The Corn Exchange is a well-used entertainment venue serving a far wider catchment than just 'Ipswich', alongside not only East Anglia's largest theatre in the Regent, but as part of the region's leading collection of arts and culture provision.

In 1974 East and West Suffolk amalgamated (to form SCC) and Ipswich lost its County Borough status and became a 'district council'. A map of Ipswich in 1955, with its current boundary dating to Victorian times, shows that, as a County Borough, Ipswich had space to plan its development accordingly which is a luxury it doesn't enjoy today. This is even recognised by neighbouring districts with the now long-established Ipswich Policy Area – or Ipswich Housing Market Area – a recognition that the area outside of the town is hugely inter-dependent, as the commuting figures illustrate well. It is also well-used by neighbouring authorities to build unpopular housing developments on the edge of the Borough, not least with the emergence of the East Suffolk Local Plan. This looks set to place a significant proportion of its housing on the doorstep of Ipswich. Whilst Suffolk is proud of several of its economic gems – the Port of Felixstowe and Adastral Park – although sitting within the district of Suffolk Coastal, there is no doubt that the skills, industrial heritage and population provided by Ipswich were critical in these becoming established as they are today.

The 'Greater Ipswich' area is bombarded with housing growth by Babergh, Mid-Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal District Councils whilst relying on Suffolk County Council to provide infrastructure improvements: a recipe for disaster especially given the shortcomings of a planning system which Mid-Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal have been responsible for over the past ten years. It really isn't a huge surprise that Ipswich has suffered since the 1974 local government reorganisation with this set-up, undoubtedly held back from reaching its full potential by a lethal combination of competing politics and negative attitudes which still persist, even with the gradual recognition that a strong Ipswich creates a strong Suffolk.

So, let's acknowledge Ipswich and some of the fantastic assets the region has access to. We're really very lucky in Ipswich to have wonderful parks such as Christchurch and Holywells within a short walk of the town centre. In that town centre, there is a vast array of national and independent retailers who, I know, will welcome visitors. This, alongside the Victorian gem of the regenerated Waterfront, means that Ipswich really has a unique offering within the east, if you look a little beyond some of the problems associated with an urban centre.

In summary, the current local government structure is completely stacked against Ipswich. Having worked within the planning and development realm for over ten years, I am happy to celebrate the rich heritage of the town and its many attractions despite that imbalance.

*Anthony Palmer*



## Ipswich: commercial town

Ipswich is a commercial town, the beating heart of Suffolk, the centre of health care, education, public administration and private enterprise. Its rationale for being, the Port is still a major contributor to the local economy, the largest importer/exporter of agricultural products, building materials (bricks, cement and aggregate) and Scandinavian timber.

Ipswich grew from its very beginnings as a commercial centre, with the entrepreneurs of trade and industry providing an unbroken line of prosperity – from the Saxon potters and the leather workers, the merchants (Tooley and Smart) exporting the cloth produced in the wool towns of West Suffolk, the ship builders (the Bayleys and the Barnards), turning Suffolk oak into Ships of the Line and Merchantmen taking explorers across the Atlantic and around the world, to those who made the most of Britain's Victorian opportunities (the Ransomes and the Cobbolds).

Ipswich is the administrative centre of Suffolk with the main offices of the County Council, the offices of the newly merged Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and a substantial proportion of the administrative work of Suffolk Police. As would be expected the entire Ipswich Borough Council is based in the town with a public facing 'Service Centre' in the town centre, vehicle based services at Hadleigh Road and desk based functions in Grafton Way.

Suffolk's main hospital is in the town together with the majority of NHS services, which include an Accident and Emergency Unit and the ambulance service operates from the hospital site.

In the 1970s a number of the major insurance companies chose to base their country offices in Ipswich and although ownership has changed these companies are still major employers. Willis Towers Watson occupy the Grade I listed Willis Building (architect Norman Foster) and AXA are in local architect, Birkin Haward's tower block in Civic Drive.

The BT research centre is on the old Martlesham airfield some five miles from Ipswich (and is a major employer of graduates and research scientists on the site) there are numerous spin-off IT companies which have been established in Ipswich, either by ex-employees, or by entrepreneurs employing IT professionals.

Although the Port of Ipswich is no longer as prominent as it once was, having almost completely moved from the Wet Dock to Cliff Quay and to the West Bank Terminal, it is still a substantial contributor to the local economy.

Associated British Ports are the largest exporter of grain in the UK and the

largest importer of bricks, much of it through Ipswich. Both of these products are indicators of substantial movement in their respective sectors. Agricultural imports include bulk quantities of fertiliser and construction materials include cement, aggregates and timber.



Over the past quarter century Ipswich has become the base for a number of major logistics companies, involved in both moving containers and sorting the contents into mixed loads for onward transportation to distribution centres. Fred Olsen Cruise Lines are based in the town and Ipswich is also home to worldwide shipping companies, predominantly moving containers from China to Europe.

As can be imagined this diverse activity leads to high levels of employment and – although Ipswich, being the major commercial centre of Suffolk is not without its social and economic problems – most residents enjoy full employment and the cultural and social activities.

*John Norman*

# Snippets

## Ipswich Transport Museum

Ipswich Transport Museum is Ipswich's secret visitor attraction: a collection of over 100 vehicles (and similar exhibits) all made or used in the Ipswich area. They show how people used to go about their daily lives and remind us of the time when these things were designed and built locally.

The museum includes the Ipswich Engineering collection comprising items from local companies with an international reputation: Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, Ransome & Rapier, Cocksedge, Cranes and Compair Reavell. On display are lawn mowers, fork-lift trucks, electric vehicles, cranes and intricate models.

The collection started 50 years ago with just one vehicle, today you can see buses and bicycles, prams and a police car, lawnmowers and lorries, fire engines and a funeral hearse as well as a vast collection of associated artefacts, small objects, display material and ephemera. It is run entirely by volunteers, many of whom are engineers, enthusiastically restoring items that are being added to the collection.

## Freightliner

Ipswich based Freightliner is the most frequent rail haulier out of Felixstowe docks, currently operating 22 trains a day in each direction to destinations as diverse as Glasgow, Cardiff and Birmingham. Each train can carry up to 60 TEUs (Twenty foot Equivalent Units) more commonly known as containers.

Their depot is close to Ipswich station (in the sidings known as Top Yard) where they have plans to expand their maintenance and refuelling facilities.

## Blue Plaques

Amongst Ipswich's famous sons and daughters many are commemorated with Blue Plaques. The Ipswich Society has been erecting these plaques (similar to those erected in London by English Heritage) since the turn of the century. Suggestions for additions to the scheme are made by members of the public, usually those with family connections.

Our hope is that the plaques will make the streetscape and our history more interesting. Most of our plaques are in and around the town centre where they form a 'trail' which reveals to visitors some of the previous inhabitants of the town.



## Heritage Open Days

Every September all across Europe buildings that are not normally open to the public throw open their doors and allow visitors to take a peek inside. In Ipswich, Heritage Open Days is an event organised by The Ipswich Society and between 30 and 40 buildings (and a boat) are open to the public over the weekend.

The Society produces a sixteen page booklet listing the buildings available to visit together with the times they are open. Normally the open weekend Saturday corresponds with the Historic Churches Bike Ride which means most of Ipswich's medieval churches are also open to visit.



## Ipswich: a centre of cultural excellence

*This is an updated version of Neil Salmon's article in The Ipswich Society Newsletter, July 2004.*

I was motivated to bring together this information about the great tradition of cultural excellence in Ipswich as a result of joining the Borough Council's Culture and Learning Panel on which I represent our Society. I suppose that most of us are aware of several distinguished arts organisations operating in Ipswich, but the impact of such a list surprised me – as I hope it will you.

Culturally, Ipswich has long had an 'image problem'. It is a town with neither cathedral nor castle. Its successful growth in the 19th century and first half of the 20th century was based on manufacturing industry, often seen as an indicator of materialism and unsympathetic to culture in the artistic sense. Even now there are some townspeople – and many more from the wider county – who scorn 'lowbrow' Ipswich, going elsewhere for all their enjoyment of the arts. Such a view, in my opinion, is the result of ignorance, prejudice or at worst snobbery.

The truth is that Ipswich has had a rich tradition of artistic provision for many generations. For a middle-sized town Ipswich has been – and still is – the scene of an extraordinary range and depth of artistic achievement, well above average on a national scale, I suspect. I list below a selection of distinguished cultural organisations. I am conscious that this list omits amateur theatre groups; and we should, of course, remember the superb professional contributions made by the New Wolsey Theatre, Pacitti Company (SPILL Festival), Red Rose Chain and DanceEast.

- **Ipswich Choral Society** was founded in 1824, the second oldest in the country, but always looking to widen its repertoire; it currently has around 80 members.

- **Ipswich Museums & Galleries** run by the Borough Council is a suite of venues: Ipswich Museum (the original museum was opened in 1847) has varied displays of exhibits and collections of international importance, for example in geology; Christchurch Mansion, itself a fine exhibit, is the home to extensive collections of art works and includes the Wolsey Gallery; the Art Gallery in the former 1930s Ipswich School of Art stages excellent exhibitions in its extensive spaces.

- **Ipswich Art Society**, originally the Ipswich Fine Art Club, was founded in 1874 and created a gallery for its exhibitions in 1880. It organises talks, activities and exhibitions, including their Summer Open Call Exhibition.

- **Ipswich Symphony Orchestra** (formerly Ipswich Orchestral Society) was founded in 1902, one of the longest-established amateur orchestras in the country. It has performed with many internationally-known soloists and organises annual Summer and Family Concerts.

- **Ipswich & District Photographic Society** was founded in 1888 and IDPS continues to be one of the largest photographic societies in East Anglia and one of the leading photography clubs in the country.





- **Ipswich Chamber Music Society** formed in 1925, the first such society in East Anglia. Over many years the society has welcomed many of the leading British ensembles and many distinguished foreign ones.
- **Ipswich Bach Choir** was founded in 1929 and originally performed Bach's music exclusively, but now encompasses choral works from the 19th and 20th centuries.
- **Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society** was established in 1929 and performs a G&S operetta each year as well as other music during its charity concert season.
- **Ipswich Film Society** began in 1935: the third oldest in the country, and a regular user of the excellent Ipswich Film Theatre since 1975, is still well-supported.
- **Ipswich Operatic & Dramatic Society** put on its first production in 1954. In addition to its successful musicals, IODS has also performed in aid of local and national charities.
- **Trianon Music Group** started in 1959 and comprises both choir and orchestra which together can number nearly two hundred performers with a wide range of ages.
- **The Wolsey Orchestra** started as a chamber orchestra in 1972 but has since expanded to the size of a full symphony orchestra with ever-increasing standards.
- **Ipswich Chamber Choir** was formed in 1984 to perform major choral works best done by some 26-32 singers, all very experienced.



Malayalee Dancers



Art exhibition at St Clement Church

- **Ipswich Co-operative groups** including the Co-op Juniors continue to be part of the local cultural and educational scene.
- **Orwell Art Club**, Ipswich, established in 1947, is a visual arts club organising working sessions, demonstrations and talks at the Co-op Education Centre and staging annual exhibitions.
- **Peppery Productions**, founded in 2000, this group has hosted over 100 gigs with some of the biggest names in world music. It is a key player in the annual Global Rhythms music festival, in Christchurch Park.
- **Arts La'Olam** is an Ipswich-based organisation bringing global music and arts to the heart of the community since 2002; it participates in the Global Rhythms music festival each summer, usually following Music in the Park.
- **Ipswich Arts Centre** is the youngest group on the list, which is working hard to establish a wide-ranging arts centre in the last of the town's redundant churches to find a new role: the Church of St Clement between Fore Street and Grimwade Street.

In my opinion we should cherish these existing organisations. There is, of course, scope for new initiatives and it would be good to see the return of a summer Ipswich Arts Festival, as many of the above organisations don't operate at this time. I hope that this article will help to correct the town's seriously misleading public image.

*Neil Salmon*

## Ipswich and The Ipswich Society – some recollections

My first impressions of Ipswich were formed before I ever visited the town. I was completing my teaching practice term in Cambridge and learned that there was a post available in Ipswich, at Northgate Grammar School for Boys. My Head of Department, Jack Roberts, told me ‘You’ll love Ipswich: there’s a great Tudor mansion in a stunning park right in the heart of the town, Suffolk is lovely, the sea is nearby, and the English Department is the best in the country – I should know, I used to work there.’ How right he was on all counts. I was fortunate to secure the post and in September 1969 began work as a full-time teacher of English. We could just afford an inter-war semi in Whitby Road for £3,000 – on a starting salary of under £1,000 a year! We moved in July and began exploring the town and county. There was plenty to satisfy my passion for historic sites and buildings, a fascinating Wet Dock, a human scale and modest pace of life which made it an ideal location for a family, especially when more children arrived and we moved to a vast decaying Victorian semi in Christchurch Street.

Northgate was a wonderful school to begin a career. So many of the teachers had a profound commitment to learning and to the life and culture of Ipswich. One in particular – Peter Underwood, a Geography teacher – introduced me to The Ipswich Society, and it has been a part of my life ever since. Peter was Chairman of the Executive Committee and had led the Society since its founding in 1960. Very soon I became a member of the committee. Peter was a delightful colleague. He was an old boy of both the pre-war Northgate and Ipswich School. He just managed to train as an RAF pilot in Canada as the war ended and once he had completed his degree took up school teaching in his home town. His love for Ipswich was deep and extensive and together with like-minded friends he helped found the Society to promote the built environment and celebrate the town of Ipswich and its people.

Already the Society had established a reputation for integrity and judgement. The Fore Street scheme – a refurbishment and re-decoration to welcome the Queen as she opened the new Civic College in 1960 – demonstrated what a community could achieve in urban renewal. More recently the Sailors Rest in St Nicholas Street had been saved from demolition at the public enquiry when members of the Society demonstrated its fitness for restoration. The Executive Committee included architects and civil engineers whose expertise enabled planning applications to be scrutinised and appropriate comments forwarded to Ipswich County Borough Council. All this was in a context in which ancient buildings were still at risk of demolition. The post-war spirit of clearance and renewal was still burning fiercely in Ipswich, as the new Civic Drive inner-ring road demonstrated all too plainly, but the winds of change were in the air as the conservation movement gathered momentum.

Within a few years Peter stepped down as Chairman and I took on the role. Local Government reorganisation had taken place and Ipswich had lost its County Borough status in 1974 – a move which



*The royal retinue in Fore Street, 1960 (still from the Ipswich Society film)*

saw major responsibilities moving to Suffolk County Council. However, new legislation enabled our Borough Council to introduce Conservation Areas; also improvement grants provided an incentive for owners to repair and refurbish the housing stock. The Society was fortunate in having established a very positive working relationship with the officers and members of the Borough Council, whichever party was in power, and this relationship has proved to be one of the most significant ways in which the Society has been able to pursue our commitment to the built environment of the town and the life of Ipswich people. One very significant marker of this relationship was the appointment of Peter Underwood to the Council's Conservation Advisory Panel, a role which he undertook with great distinction for many years.

There was still a move to complete the programme of slum clearance which had been vigorously pursued in the pre-war and immediate post-war period. Hundreds of Victorian terrace houses had been cleared and new estates, most recently the Chantry, had re-housed the people displaced, some clutching their £50 compensation for the loss of their homes. The Samuel Road clearance was the last gasp of this programme which was driven by criteria relating to fitness for human habitation. Increasingly these tick-box judgements were at odds with the growing belief that many of the houses concerned could be brought up to modern standards rather than cleared away, with all the social consequences of the destruction of communities. I remember vividly the distress of one eighty years old resident who had been born in the house she was about to lose. The Ipswich Society worked hard to promote the case for refurbishment where it was clear that improvements could be achieved. A few of the terraced houses in the Samuel Road area were saved; many were demolished. Cobbold Street lost some houses but gained a tiny residents' car park. Some of the flats which replaced the terraces were of very poor design; later ones demonstrated a greater sensitivity to their neighbours and a more thoughtful sense of place. This was probably the last clearance scheme in Ipswich, and it underlined the urgency of making the case for top quality design alongside sensitive conservation.

Ipswich was changing rapidly in these years and the Society was active in many projects and activities. The Borough Council was able to assist in the setting up of the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust and the Ipswich Building Preservation Trust, both of which were strongly supported by the Society and within which many members gave their time and expertise. There had been a real possibility that the redundant town centre churches might be de-roofed and reduced to managed ruins, and there were still other secular listed buildings at risk of decay and neglect in the streets of the town. Even before the churches came into the care of the Trust, committee member Don Chipperfield was up a ladder securing metal plates to protect the vandalised stained glass windows of the redundant St Lawrence Church. The new Building

Preservation Trust restored Pykenham's Gatehouse, one of the oldest secular buildings in the town, dating from 1471. This provided a headquarters for the Trust and later for The Ipswich Society itself.

At the enquiry into the mode of crossing the Orwell for the southern by-pass, the Society promoted the case for a tunnel to minimise the environmental impact. Of course, we can now admire the span of the Orwell Bridge which creates a fine frame for the river entry to the town. We launched a 'Better River for Ipswich' campaign



*Volunteers working on the Society's Riverside Walk project, c.1974.*

and mobilised volunteers to plant trees and create a setting for the sarsen stones dredged from the river bed. We raised funds to restore the crumbling Brett Fountain in the Arboretum as a contribution to the programme of restoration of other landmarks such as the Martyrs' Memorial and the Cenotaph. A Town Trail was published and later a Dock Trail to support the Maritime Ipswich '82 project, the latter linked to our provision of cast plaques to commemorate significant buildings and people.

Recruitment drives raised the membership to over 700 by 1981 thanks to the unfailing efforts of Tom Gondris and a team of volunteers. The Newsletter went from strength to strength and an illustrated Annual Review was created. The programme of activities included foreign trips, river cruises and, of course, illustrated winter lectures from experts in their fields. In 1981 we celebrated our twenty-first birthday and shortly after the Society inaugurated the Conservation Awards which have become such an important part of our calendar – helping us to publicise our commitment to excellence in design and environment.

Of course, there were disappointments. It is hard to believe but, following the failure of various bookshop ventures, the Ancient House itself was for a number of years empty and neglected. I remember writing several times to the then owners (a London-based property company if my memory serves me) who steadfastly ignored our concerns. Only when the Borough Council were able to purchase the property through the good agency of John Field and Geoffrey Ramsdale could it resume its pre-eminent place among the architectural treasures of the town. This story, however, was not confined to the era of forty years ago. Today the machinations of property development and asset management in combination with difficult economic conditions produce blight on the scale of the abandoned County Hall and the stalled developments around the Wet Dock, including the sad shell of the Cobbold Brewery, not to mention the disaster of the abandoned Co-ops in Carr Street.

Since the 1980s the Society has built its membership to over 1000, talks and activities are well supported and over-subscribed, and the expertise and influence of the committee continues to grow. The town has many new developments to be proud of, and there are now very few listed buildings 'at risk'. There is a flourishing voluntary sector, well represented on the Ipswich Heritage Forum, including the Archaeological Trust, the Friends of the Mansion and the Museum, the Maritime Trust, and the Ipswich Transport Museum, to name but a few.

There are huge challenges to be faced including the implications of the retail revolution and the continuing regeneration of the waterfront, but the town itself and its peoples new and old should celebrate its achievements and the quality of the townscape and its hinterland, not to mention its historical significance and Anglo-Saxon heritage. It is a brilliant hub, both in itself and as a springboard to the delights of East Anglia. It has a vibrant population, a council that genuinely cares for the people and the place, and a new university poised to make a major contribution.

The Ipswich Society can take its place as one of the mainsprings of enthusiasm and energy to maintain and develop Ipswich as the rightful County Town and a great place to grow up, live, and work.

**Bob Allen** (a current Vice-President and Chairman of the Executive Committee 1975-1982)



*Tolly Cobbold brewery, Cliff Quay, 1960s*



# THE IPSWICH SOCIETY



## Membership Application Form

Date .....

To: The Membership Secretary, 32 Cowper Street, Ipswich IP4 5JB

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Post code .....

email: ..... Phone: .....

To comply with the **Data Protection Act 2018**, please tick the box to show that you agree to the information you give being treated in the strictest confidence and used only within the Ipswich Society to further its objectives.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES:** Individual **£10** Family **£15** Non-profit organisation **£25**  
Commercial organisation **£50**

- I enclose £ ..... **cheque/cash** to cover the first year's subscription.
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A/c number: **80489018**. Sort code: **204451**.
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Please consider setting up a **Standing Order** which will be much simpler in the future for both you and the Society.

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the sum of £ ..... at once and then annually on the 2nd January until further notice.

Name .....

Address .....

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*Top: Ipswich Waterfront,*

*Bottom: Ipswich Town Hall*





# IPSWICH

"a town to be proud of"



The Ipswich Society

*Clockwise: Architecture in Butter Market with the tower of the Church of St Lawrence behind; Riverside sculpture The Navigator by John Atkin; the Charles II royal arms (c.1661) on The Ancient House; Herring gull in Arras Square; Neptune Quay and the Wet Dock with the tower of St Clement Church visible prior to the construction of the Salthouse Hotel extension.*

*Front cover: The Ancient House, early morning.*

