



About The Ipswich Society

The Ipswich Society was founded in 1960 and is a community of people who care about the appearance, character and well-being of the town, its past, its present and its future.

We are quite a large civic society; we are well-recognised and our opinions count for something in the town. Ultimately we rely on our members for our standing in Ipswich and for our funding - we do not take advertising, nor sponsorship. You can find details of how to join us inside.

The Society encourages conservation of the town's best buildings and most attractive street scenes but also welcomes well-planned and sensitive new developments. As well as our wealth of heritage buildings and places, we focus on sustainable transport, essential for a healthy local economy; also we examine and comment on the various plans and other documents produced by Ipswich Borough Council. We also monitor Suffolk County Council relating to the development of Ipswich and its surroundings.

The Society publishes a respected quarterly Newsletter, holds Winter Illustrated Talks and, during the summer, arranges visits to places of interest. Our three main events are the AGM where the activities and achievements of the year are discussed, the November Awards Evening where certificates are presented for particularly good examples of new development and we organise the annual Heritage Open Days in the town.

Visit our website. Merely scan the QR code to take you directly to everything else you need to know about what we do at the Society. Enjoy your days in our fine town.



image by Richard MacRae

Ipswich Heritage Open Days 2023

September 9th & 10th

Some venues 16th & 17th

Organised by



Welcome to Heritage Open Days 2023

The Ipswich Society is proud to coordinate the Heritage Open Days event in our town on behalf of the town and all our great participants.

The buildings available to visit represent seven centuries of Ipswich history. There are more than twenty-five buildings open this year, along with free guided walks around some of the town's best locations.

In several buildings you may find refreshments on offer and we would recommend the town's independent cafés for any food and drink requirements you might have - or pack a picnic and make a day of it in one of our beautiful parks.

The annual Heritage Open Days have established the event as a great opportunity to explore the town and discover Ipswich's hidden heritage, but please check carefully the listing for each venue or event. Opening times were correct at the time of going to press but sometimes last minute changes are unavoidable. If you are travelling any distance and hoping to see a specific building, we would recommend that you check details in advance of your journey.

Tell us about your trip -on social media: #HODIpswich2022 c send an email to hodipswich@gmail.com.

The Ipswich Society is grateful to individuals and groups who have joined us in this endeavour, for their preparation and participation in the events.



Ipswich Society Blue Plaques



Have a good look around the façades of our streets, you may be pleasantly surprised as you scan the upper floors of our buildings.

The Ipswich Society has installed nearly thirty blue plaques around the town, our version of the English Heritage Blue Plaques scheme began in the capital.

We started at the turn of the millennium what continues to be an important and relevant tribute to the distinguished people who were born in the town or who subsequently made Ipswich their home.

Find out more on our website.

Ipswich Institute and Library, Tavern Street IP1 3AA

Have you ever walked past the elegant doorway almost hidden between the shops on the north side of Tavern Street and wondered what was behind the blue door?

Now is your chance! On Saturday, the 9th of September the Institute will be opening both buildings, 15 Tavern Street and Admirals House in Tower Street to non-members.

Come and find out more about this Ipswich institution which has been part of the community since 1824. Explore our members library, enjoy refreshments in our on-site Page's Café, get to know about our leisure learning courses and trips and discover the history of Admiral's House where the Duke of Wellington one stayed - all ages are welcome.

Open:
Saturday 9th only: 10am to 3pm.



Images of the Institute Reading Room



The Admiral's House, Tower Street IP1 3BE

Parts of the Admiral's House originate in the reign of Charles II (1660 to 1685). Behind the later Georgian frontage, the interior is a delightful mix of architectural styles.

As the home of Admiral Benjamin Page, it was visited by the Duke of Wellington in 1820. It now houses the Ipswich Institute members' restaurant, coffee lounge and lecture rooms.

Open:
Saturday 9th only: 10am to 3pm



Ipswich Maritime Trust Window, Albion Quay, Ipswich IP4 1FF

Is this the only 24/7 museum in the UK?

Rain or shine, day or night, the Ipswich Maritime Trust's Window Museum on Albion Quay (between Stoke Bridge and the Old Custom House) gives an insight into Ipswich's astonishing maritime heritage, right back to Anglo-Saxon times.

The Window houses a changing display of fascinating material from the IMT's archives - which you too can access by scanning the QR code.

The current exhibition is celebrating Thames sailing barges, and includes models handcrafted by the bargemen who sailed on them, and evocative black and white photos.

For further information, and specific requests, email us on museum@ipswichmaritimetrust.org.uk



Regent Theatre St. Helen's St, Ipswich IP4 1HE

With nearly one hundred years of history, East Anglia's largest theatre remains the beating heart of live entertainment in Ipswich. This Grade II listed building continues to provide a grand backdrop to a mixed programme of live music, comedy, dance, musicals and more.

Since its opening a 'cine-variety hall' in 1929, the theatre has played host to many internationally renowned acts including The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Ian Drury and the Blockheads and Tina Turner.



Guided tours, bookable via our website, will lead you behind the curtain and see parts of the building not normally open to the public.

Open:

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th, 10am, 12pm, 2pm & 4pm

www.ipswichtheatres.co.uk

Mutual House, Suffolk Building Society, Princes Street IP1 1QT



Go behind the scenes at the 1901 Parr's Bank - a Grade II listed building was designed by prominent local architect Thomas Cotman. It features two storey oriel windows, quatrefoils and is finished with rooftop pinnacles. These original features, including the original high ceiling, were lovingly restored in 2016. For Heritage Open Day 2023, you can view Suffolk Building Society's earliest record keeping in its ledger started in December 1849 and still used today. See handwritten passbooks, wartime microfilm, war damage

claims to computer punch cards and microfiche from the 1970s and 1980s.

To coincide with the Wolsey 550 project there's another rare chance to see the Society's earliest Tudor deed beautifully scripted on parchment.

The Society's archivist will be running guided walks to Ipswich town centre buildings used during the Society's 170-year history, including as venues for land ballots.

Open: all day with tours on Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th, 11.30am & 2.30pm.

Ipswich Society Heritage Open Days Walks

Wednesday September 13th, 10.30am: Ipswich Maritime Walk led by Tony Marsden, start point Stoke Bridge.

Friday September 15th, 10.30am: Blue Plaques walk led by Tony Robson, start point Christchurch Park, Soane Street entrance.

Both need booking via secretary@ipswichsociety.org.uk

Christchurch Mansion, Soane St, Ipswich IP4 2BE

6



Christchurch Mansion is built on the site of Holy Trinity Priory. It was completed in 1550. Elizabeth Withypoll inherited the house from her father, Edmund, she married Leicester Devereux the 6th Viscount Hereford, a descendant of the Earls of Essex.

The property remained with the Devereux family until 1735 when a French Huguenot named Claude Fonnereau acquired the house. The family lived there until the end of the 19th century.

The Mansion was acquired with demolition in mind, but Felix Thornley Cobbold bought the house and gave it to the people of Ipswich on condition the Corporation bought the rest of the park to go with it.

Thanks to Felix Cobbold, Christchurch Mansion has been a museum and art gallery since 1896 and his portrait has pride of place in the Great Hall.

The Mansion now houses a rich and important collection of art, furniture and objects from the 16th to the 20th century boasting the largest collection of works by John Constable outside London.

Guided tours: Saturday 9th, 10am & 2pm; Sunday 10th, 2pm & 4pm

How to join The Ipswich Society

If you scan the QR with the camera on your phone you'll be taken straight to the Membership page where all the information is to hand.



Bethesda Baptist Church, St Margarets Plain IP4 2BB

7

Baptists have been meeting at St Margarets Plain since 1782.

The current Grade II listed church was built in 1912 with a bequest from a congregation member.

The architect Fred Fauch created the magnificent façade with four Cornish granite columns rising through two storeys and a modillion pediment forming a prominent ultimate feature to the view up Northgate Street.



The central six panel door with a rusticated arch and two outer doorways with contrasting features are approached by a broad flight of steps across the whole front.

Inside, for adult members who wish to be baptised, there is a total immersion pool under the dais at the front of the building.

Open: Saturday 9th only, 10am to 4pm

Ipswich School, 25 Henley Road IP1 3SG

8

The earliest record of Ipswich School dates from 1399. The school moved to Henley Road in 1851.

We see a Tudor inspired tower, reminiscent of Christchurch's Tom Tower at Oxford; also an Elizabethan-style, red brick porch entrance recalling Wolsey's Gate in College Street.

The library features stained glass windows: John Piper's Four Seasons. A large portion of the school has Grade II listed status, with much new in addition being built over time - an indoor swimming pool, a great rarity was constructed in 1884.



The Headmaster's study houses the Town Library, on behalf of Ipswich: books dating back to the fifteenth century. For tours meet in Reception off Henley Road.

Open: Saturday 9th only – tours at 9am, 10am and 11am.

The Old Bell Inn, Vernon Street, IP2 8BX



Probably the oldest hostelry in Ipswich and said to have sold beers for at least five hundred years. Awarded a Commendation in the 2017 annual Awards Ceremony. The building ceased trading as a pub in 2006 and lay unused for some time until the property was bought by its present owner. The Gwinnells have most sympathetically renovated much of the building.

Now a Funeral Directors, there are reception rooms, chapel of rest and mortuary on the ground floor.

Converting an old pub into a Funeral Parlour was a stroke of genius, an ideal use when nothing much else (in this location) would have worked.

It marks a striking gateway point to the riverside and an impressive exit landmark in an extremely complicated and busy hub.

Open: Saturday 9th September, 10 am – 3 pm

Ipswich Society Heritage Open Days Talks

Friday September 8th, 7pm: John Field talks on Secrets of the Ipswich Medieval Churches at the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House. Organised by the Friends of the IUMH

Tuesday September 12th, 1pm: Phil Roberts talks on Cardinal Wolsey at the Museum Street Methodist Church

Wednesday September 13th, 7.30pm: John Norman talks on Ipswich's Tudor Buildings at the Museum Street Methodist Church

Thursday September 14th, 10.30am: John Warren talks on the Ipswich Dissenters at the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House.

The entrance to the Methodist Church is in Blackhorse Lane

Ipswich Town Hall, The Cornhill IP1 1DH



Since the first Royal Charter in 1200 Ipswich has had a civic building on this site.

On the front of the Town Hall there are three heads representing King Richard I, who promised a charter, Cardinal Wolsey, the town's most famous son and King John, who granted a charter. Above these heads are four statues representing Commerce, Agriculture, Law & Order and Justice.

The current building dates from 1868. A "mock Venetian style" is full of Victorian splendour, with interior marble, granite and pierced plasterwork; grand staircases, old court rooms, council chambers and the Mayor's Parlour.

The Corn Exchange at the rear dates from 1882 and is now home to two intimate cinemas, as well as being a multi-purpose venue with the county's premier Grand Hall, which cannot fail to impress as an arts and entertainment space.

The fifty minute guided tours start in the Town Hall foyer and are conducted by the Town Sergeant of Ipswich.

Guided Tours: the Town Hall, Corn Exchange & Mayor's Parlour

Open: Saturday 9th, tours at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm & 2pm;

Sunday 10th, tour at 10.30am 11.30am & 1pm.

St Margaret's Church, Soane Street IP4 2BE

11



This Grade I listed building, built in about 1300, stood just outside the old town ramparts. In the fifteenth century, the roof was raised, thanks to donations from wealthy merchants. Many of their initials and trademarks feature in the hammer beam roof.

In the seventeenth century the interior changed to reflect the rise of the Puritans: painted walls were whitewashed over, angels on the wooden roof beam ends were removed and the decorations on the sides of the 15th century font were damaged. In 1694 panel paintings on the ceiling were commissioned to commemorate the accession of William and Mary.

In the eighteenth century, the tower clock, which required winding each week, was installed. The next century saw the top of the tower raised, and additional bells added to the existing peal, bringing the total to eight. During WW2 a bomb destroyed many of the windows. The medieval roof and painted panels were restored in 1994 and in 2017 a grant saw the bells refurbished, an electric winding mechanism fitted to the clock and a new ringing gallery built.

Self-guiding leaflets will be available and tour guides will be on hand for questions. Please note that on Sunday, the church is open for services please be respectful of the proceedings.

Gallery tours: 15 people max, at 2pm on both days

Open: Saturday 9th, 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10th, 1.30pm to 5pm.

Martlesham Heath Control Tower Museum IP5 3UZ

12

Behind Parkers Place, off Eagle Way, Martlesham Heath.

Visit the 1943 vintage Control Tower and inspect the Museum in the Tower; learn about the unusual history of RAF Martlesham Heath from 1917 through two World Wars to 1963 and explore our underground shelter also view the resurrected Anderson shelter.



Our annual Classic Car and Vintage Military Vehicle gathering - with many other attractions, singing and dancing can also be experienced - refreshments available at various stalls.

For more information look on www.mhas.org.uk, or call Howard on 01473 274300 before the event, or email: mhasmuseum@mhas.org.uk

Open Sunday 10th: 11:00 to 4:30.

Fore Street Baths, Fore Street IP4 1JZ

13

Fore Street swimming baths were opened to the public in 1874. The great local businessman and philanthropist, Felix Thornley Cobbold, contributed considerably towards the building costs knowing the advantage of a fit, healthy and happy workforce for their well being and his profits.

The imposing façade of the building, facing on to Fore Street, is constructed in stone. The central portico bears the simple inscription 'BATHS' above the entrance. The double doors are flanked on either side by three 'porthole' windows. The rest of the structure is constructed, more economically, of brick with a tiled roof and lengthy glass skylight running the length of the pool area.



Open: Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th, 9am to 4pm.



This iconic building, is now nearly fifty years old.

It was designed by architect Norman Foster, now Baron Foster of Thames Bank. His revolutionary ideas to hang a glass curtain wall outside and create large open plan office spaces were groundbreaking and trailblazing in the early 1970s. Architect, Ipswich born Birkin Haward Jr and the late Sir Michael Hopkins also worked on the project.

Former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan opened the Willis Building in early June, 1975.

In 1991 the Willis Building was Listed Grade I becoming the youngest building to be given this status in Britain. At the time it was one of only two listed buildings under 30 years of age. This Ipswich landmark is well worth a visit.

In 2016 the Willis Group merged with the American firm Towers Watson to become Willis Towers Watson (WTW) and the combined company now has 45,000 employees worldwide.

Guided tours will lead you to the original (now hidden) swimming pool, one of the office floors as well as the roof garden, where refreshments are available from the restaurant.

No booking necessary for the tours.

Open: Saturday 9th, 10am to 3pm; Sunday 10th, 11am to 4pm.



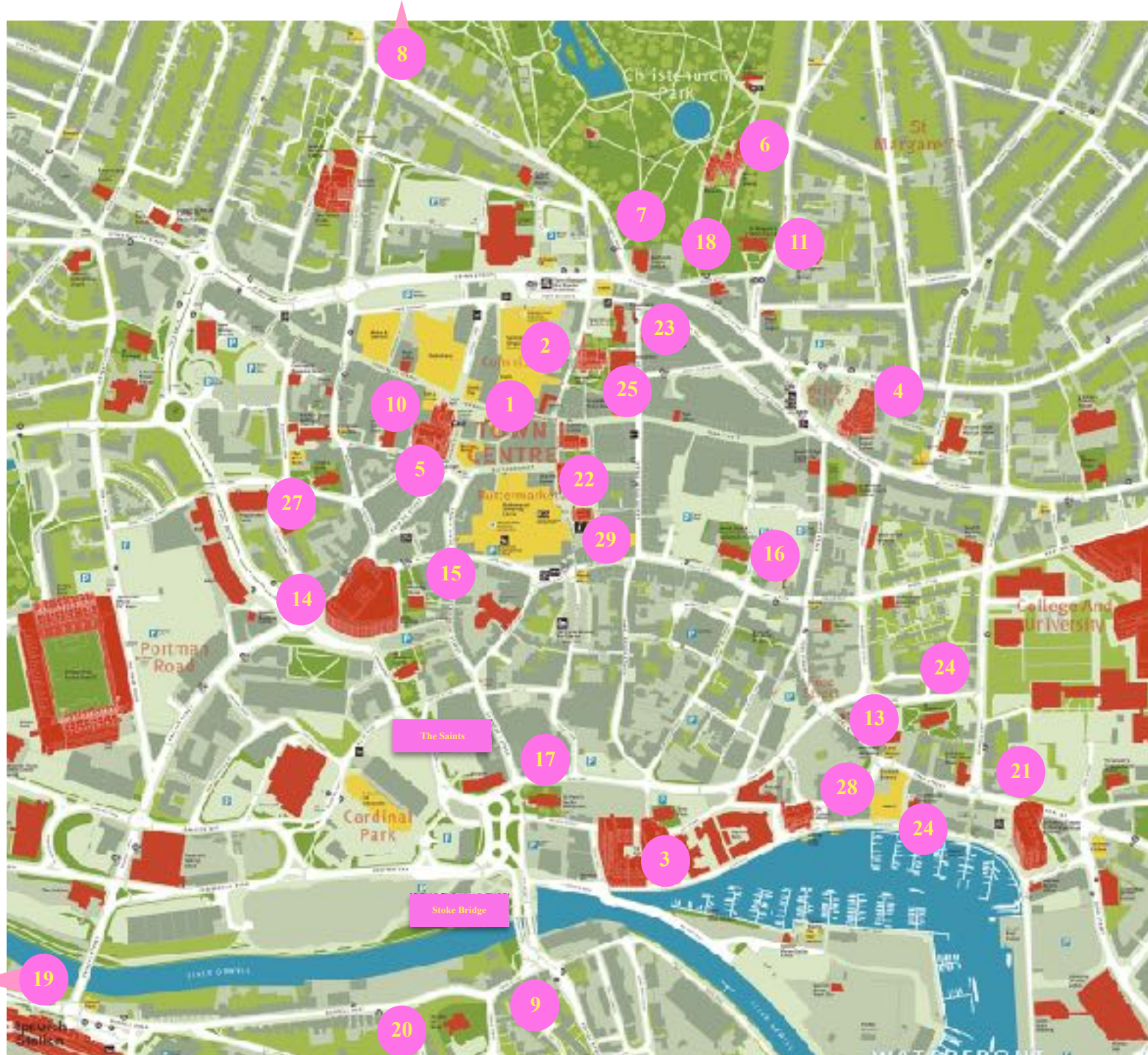
Grade I listed and regarded by many as the finest timber framed meeting house of its kind in Britain, it is typical of those built by Protestant Dissenters. It was first opened in 1700 and has been in continual use for worship ever since.

The building remains almost exactly as when it was built, with four wooden pillars supporting the double hipped roof. The pulpit is in the style of Grinling Gibbons. The congregation sits in the original box-pews. There are special historic features such as wig pegs, the organ, a Dutch brass chandelier and a spy hole used by the congregation to check for approaching mobs during a time of religious upheaval.

In the Ipswich Society Awards 2021 the building, having been extensively renovated and repaired, was given the Award of Distinction.

A Sunday service starts at 10.30am, all are welcome.

Open: Saturday 9th, 9am to 5pm & Sunday 10, 12pm to 4pm.



Locations of our venues

1. Ipswich Institute & Library
2. The Admiral's House
3. Ipswich Maritime Trust
4. Regent Theatre
5. Mutual House
6. Christchurch Mansion
7. Bethesda Baptist Church
8. Ipswich School ★
9. The Old Bell Inn
10. Ipswich Town Hall
11. St Margret's Church
12. Martlesham Control Tower ★
13. Fore Street Baths
14. The Willis Building
15. Unitarian Meeting House
16. Christ Church
17. St Peter's by the Waterfront
18. The Masonic Hall
19. Gippeswyk Hall ★
20. St Mary at Stoke Church
21. The Hold
22. The Ancient House
23. Pykenham's Gatehouse
24. St Clement's Church
25. St Mary le Tower Church
26. Suffolk Energy from Waste ★
27. St Mary at the Elms Church
28. Isaacs
29. St Stephen's Church
30. Rushmere Hall School ★

Beyond the scope of our map ★

Christ Church United Reformed/Baptist Church, IP4 1AU

16

This beautiful church was formed by a group of Independents in 1686.

The Tacket Street site was purchased in 1718 and the first Meeting House was constructed.

The core of today's meeting house was constructed in 1857. The walls are brick with a Kentish ragstone facing.

The churchyard served as the local 'burial ground' until Ipswich Cemetery was opened in 1855. Records indicate that there have been over 1,000 burials at Christ Church.

The Chapel was mentioned by Dickens in one of his works. He didn't like it as he felt it was far too fancy for a Nonconformist chapel.

Open: Saturday 9th only, 9am to 5pm.



Masonic Hall, 8–10 Soane Street IP4 2BG

17



Ipswich Freemasons Hall has been home to the town's masonic lodges since 1879. The hall is a Grade II Listed building adjacent to Christchurch Park. An extension was added in the early twentieth century.

In the early 1970's improvements were made, including integrating number 8 Soane Street to provide additional accommodation. The building has become a jewel in Suffolk's masonic crown with a beautiful temple and panelled dining hall, a modern bar and a high-quality catering reputation.

The building is also home to a number of very interesting historical masonic artefacts which are in continuous use. With a history stretching back centuries, Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest charitable organisations.

Open: Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th, 9am to 4pm

St Peter's by the Waterfront, College Street IP4 1BF

18



Probably built on the site of the town's first church.

In the 12th century it was part of an Augustinian Priory. Today's church is predominately 14th Century. The church closed in 1973 and today it is a heritage and concert venue. It houses the Ipswich Charter Hangings, depicting eight centuries since the granting of the Royal Charter in 1200.

There is also a Tournai marble font (AD 1150), an important artefact, just one of a handful imported into England from Flanders.

In the 15th century, Thomas Wolsey intended the church to be the chapel for his college. All that remains of the college today is the Water Gate which adjoins the churchyard, commonly known as Wolsey's Gate.

Open: Saturday 9th, 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10th, 10am to 5pm.

*On Saturday 9th, GeoSuffolk will display a selection of geological specimens showcasing Cardinal Wolsey's "Harwich Stone".

Gippeswyk Hall, (Red Rose Chain) The Avenue Theatre IP2 9AF

19



Following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, the pastures of St Peter's Priory were sold off and around 1600 the Tudor Gippeswyk Hall was built.

The front has a three-storey porch with stone dressings to the windows over a four-centred arch above the door, all typically Elizabethan.

The Hall has been truncated and extended over the centuries but retains the

style of a Tudor building. In the 20th Century Gippeswyk Hall had a number of commercial uses but in 2015 the newly-created Avenue Theatre was opened and is now home to the Red Rose Chain, an independent theatre company.

The Award of Commendation was given to this theatre extension in 2015. to Gippeswyk Hall.

Open on the **second** weekend - 16th September 11am - 4pm



The Ipswich Society on Facebook

Scan the QR code and see the range of material we keep on our Facebook pages for your use and interest.

See a regularly updated roundup of news and events as they affect you and the town.



St Mary at Stoke Church, Stoke Street IP2 8DA

20



This Grade I listed church stands above Stoke Bridge. A church has existed here since the 10th century and is probably one of the St Marys mentioned in the Domesday Book.

The building, as seen today, is made up of the small 14th century medieval church and a large Victorian extension built in 1872.

Built in knapped flint and freestone with slate roofs and pierced 19th century ridge tiles to the nave and chancel, it has a brick parapet to the tower. The nave and chancel are decorated with stone bands and a chequerboard decoration in the gables. The porch has flushwork decoration.

The interior is plastered and painted. The north aisle has a very fine hammer-beam roof with two tiers of purlins; the hammer-beams are carved with figures holding shields depicting the symbols of the passion.

Tours will be available on request, no need to book.

Please note that on Sunday, the church is open for services please be respectful of the proceedings.

Open: Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th, 10am to 4pm.



The Hold, 131 Fore St, Ipswich IP4 1LN

21



The Hold is the new home for Suffolk Record Office.

A culmination of several years of research and consultation, the new centre replaces the previous facilities at Gatacre Road, as well as providing the university with a much-needed two hundred seat auditorium.

The Hold also contains two seminar rooms, new public search rooms, an exhibition area and document strongrooms with capacity for the next twenty years.

Construction work on The Hold started in 2018 and opened to the public in October 2020. It provides a 'bridge' between the two parts of the University: the Waterfront and Campus North, by creating a space residents and students can share. There is a central atrium (or 'street') running through the building, which includes a small shop and a coffee bar. The exhibition space will display something different every three months.

Current Exhibition: ***Wolsey's Ipswich***

This exhibition explores the life and legacy of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey during the 550th anniversary of his birth. Suitable for all, free of charge.

Open Tours will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th, at 10am, 11am, 12 noon, 2pm and 3pm.

Scan the QR code to book your place through The Hold "what's On" page.



The Ancient House, 30 Buttermarket IP1 1BT

22



First owned by Sir Richard of Martlesham in the fifteenth century, it was later occupied by a string of merchants, including in 1567, George Copping, a draper and fishmonger. Copping commissioned the panelling in the ground floor and built the 'long gallery'.

The Sparrowe family acquired it in 1603 and remained owners for the next three hundred years.

Around 1660 The Sparrowes added the elaborate pargeting on the front and side of

the house showing the four known continents of the period: America, Africa, Asia and Europe.

In the late 1970s, Ipswich Borough Council purchased and renovated The Ancient House, saving it for posterity.

The foundations were underpinned, dry rot & infestations were eradicated, floors were strengthened, plasterwork pargeting was restored, windows were releaded and features were exposed, including what appears to be the roof of a grand hall.

Most recently it has been unoccupied and finding a single tenant has proved to be very difficult.

Open: Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th, 10am to 4pm. Guided tours on demand by Ipswich Tourist Guides.

Pykenham's Gatehouse, Northgate Street IP1 3BX

23



A striking timber and brick gateway that is all that remains of a grand residence built for the Archdeacon of Suffolk.

William Pykenham held the office between 1472 to 1497 and had the gatehouse built, making it one of the earliest secular buildings in Ipswich.

From the street, you can see the brickwork exterior of the gatehouse with its crow-stepped gable. The rear elevation has a timbered and plastered finish. It is thought that the upper room might have housed Pykenham's library, perhaps he retired here after dinner to read.

Today, a small door to the right enables access to the interior. During a major restoration project in 1982-3, which preserved most of the original fifteenth century timbers, the original staircase (now blocked at the lower level) was discovered.

Now a Grade I Listed building it is used by the Ipswich Building Preservation Trust as its headquarters.

Open: Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th, 10am to 4pm.

St Clement's Church, St Clement's Church Lane IP4 1JN

24



A beautiful medieval church, the main structure dates from the late fourteenth century. Long known as The Sailors' Church, it has served merchants, sailors, dock-workers and their families for more than five hundred years.

The church was restored in the nineteenth century but during WW II, it was extensively damaged. Subsequent restoration included the reglazing of all the broken windows. In 1995 St Clement's was badly damaged by fire but repaired by the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust.

The Church has the only remaining complete ring of six bells cast by the

Ipswich bell founder John Darbie. Five of the bells are dated 1660 with the largest dated 1680. During the rehanging of the bells in 1884, a clock and mechanical chiming mechanism, a 'carillon', were installed; they were the gift of Felix Thornley Cobbold.

Recent refurbishment has included a new floor and the installation of toilets under the tower. There is great potential for a variety of uses in the future with interest from education and a possible use as an arts centre.

Open: Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th, 10am to 4.30pm.

The Image Archive of the Ipswich Society

Take a look at some of the nearly eleven thousand images from the last hundred and fifty years of the town.

Just scan the QR code to start your viewing of one of our eighty-nine albums.



The Saints, in the footsteps of Thomas Wolsey

Heritage Open Days are celebrating Ipswich's wealth of sixteenth/seventeenth century buildings in support of the Wolsey 550 project.

The Ipswich Society, together with property owners in 'The Saints' are pleased to present Ipswich's finest independent shops and public houses situated in Tudor buildings.

Between St Peter's Church and the town centre most of the old buildings are on the east side of the street, the buildings to the west were demolished around 1900 to increase the width of the road for the twin tram tracks, those opposite have been here for nearly 500 years. Although much altered in the 19th and early 20th century these buildings have traces of Tudor fabric and interesting historical features. Some of the proprietors welcome visitors inviting you to step inside, search out the unusual and ask questions.

St Peters Street shops

Love One at number 21 and **Applaud Coffee** at number 19 share a seventeenth century two storey building with further accommodation in the roof space. The coffee shop has a Tudor fireplace on the ground floor and late medieval studwork upstairs, both worthy of inspection. Number 23 (**House in the Town**) isn't listed but next door, number 25 (**Mauds Attic**) and numbers 27-29 (**Revival**) are all of late medieval origins, with modern shop fronts, the former timber framed with brick cladding to the first floor. Numbers 31-33a also have their roots in the seventeenth century, the former has an example of a plastered ceiling decorated with fleur-de-lys.



The Thomas Wolsey

Further north up the street, is the public house in a seventeenth century building and is worthy of inspection.

Outside, note the decorated barge boards and the oriel bay windows with vertical glazing bars, inside, on the first floor in an outstanding panelled meeting room with a heavily decorated ceiling.

A guide dressed as the Cardinal will show guests around the seventeenth century building. The Thomas Wolsey are extending their opening hours from 10.00 am both days - for coffee. and cake

Tracing Thomas Wolsey's journey between Stoke Bridge and the centre of town would not be complete without a visit to St Peter's Church - the Church and the gateway to Wolsey's College. In 1528 Wolsey commandeered this church for use as his college chapel and moved the congregation to St Mary Quay, some yards eastwards. Two years later Wolsey was dead and the college closed.

Black Horse Inn, Black Horse Lane.



We don't know where in Ipswich Thomas Wolsey was born but the baptism is recorded at St Mary at the Elms. His father was a butcher and inn keeper, probably in an inn on the site of today's Black Horse Public House.

Robert Wolsey's inn was demolished,

and a merchant's house built in its place it was licensed in 1569. The front door of the Black Horse is oak panelled and studded- an excellent example of Jacobean craftsmanship and as you step in, on your left, is a Tudor doorway. The pub retains, both inside and out, a great deal of its sixteenth century charm.

Street Market

A street market is planned for St Peter's Street on Sunday 10th September.

Silent Street

The former Claude Cox bookshop at 3 – 5 Silent Street, part of Curson Lodge will be open for Ipswich's Heritage Open Days.



The current church is the fourth to occupy the site, the first was recorded in the Domesday Book, of 1085.

The church was almost totally rebuilt between 1850 and 1870; only the south chancel and nave arcades were retained, while a larger church was built around them.

There is a great deal of very high-quality woodcarving and good stained glass. There is a highly decorated 15th Century font, the earliest known panorama of Ipswich on a memorial to William Smarte who died in 1599; a seventeenth century pulpit; wrought iron stands for the swords and maces

of the borough and some significant memorials to members of the Cobbold family.

Please note that on Sunday, the church is open for services at 8.00, 9.30, 10.30 & 15.30. Please be respectful of the proceedings which you are, of course, very welcome to take part in.

Open: Saturday 9th, 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10th, 8am to 4.30pm.



Since 2014, this award-winning energy-from-waste facility has been putting Suffolk's household waste left after recycling to good use, generating enough electricity to power 39,000 houses.

Run in partnership by SUEZ and Suffolk County Council, this facility plays a big part in the sustainable management of waste in the county.

The facility processes nearly three hundred thousand tonnes of waste each year, generating electricity for the national grid and bottom ash for the construction industry.

Join us for a guided tour of the facility which will explain the energy-from-waste process from start to finish. You will also be able to visit our control room and purpose-built visitors centre. There will be waste and recycling themed activities available for children and refreshments will be provided.

Ten spaces on each tour, booking is preferred.

Just scan the QR code to go to the booking form at Eventbrite.

Please note the details of times and restrictions on their website.



St Mary at the Elms Church, Elm Street IP1 2EF

27



First mentioned in 1204, as a possession of the Augustinian Priory of Holy Trinity, the present church building was probably from the early twelfth century - the date of the south door. It was known as St Mary at the Elms by the 14th century.

The south porch was added in the fourteenth century and the north aisle in the late fifteenth century. The tower was built in the early sixteenth century. Restoration work was carried out in 1848 and 1860. In 1883 the east end of the church was demolished and extended.



The interior is plastered and painted and a niche holds a copy of a late medieval English devotional image. The nineteenth century chancel roof stands on carved corbels and the south door and its ironwork are from the early twelfth century. The Victorian gothic font, is carved with scenes of the gospel and ecclesiastical figures on the stem.

In 2007 the newly carved three sculptures over the south porch were nominated for an Ipswich Society Award.

Please be respectful of any services that may be taking place when you visit.

Open: Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th, 8am to 6pm.

Isaacs on the Quay, Wherry Quay, Ipswich IP4 1AS

28

This famous watering hole on the waterfront is one of the most popular food and drink ports of call in the town.

Once the place where malt would have been produced by the little seventeenth century malting belonging to Isaac Lord.



For many later years the Isaac Lord company dealt in grain, animal-feed and coal.

The distinctive building continues to expand as new parts are renovated and added. The establishment expands along the quayside and beyond and along Wherry Lane.

The Isaacs bars and restaurants opened in 2007, since then many parts of Isaacs are accessible to the public to view. In the upper rooms restored machines and

other internal detail of Isaac Lord's days as a commercial business can be seen.

The establishment has received numerous Ipswich Society awards for restoration, renovation and new building, demonstrating how crucially important the company considers the intricate history of the place to be.

Open: Saturday 9th Sunday 10th

St Stephen's Church, St Stephen's Lane, Ipswich, IP1 3NU.

29



A church of St Stephen is mentioned in Domesday, but the current building dates from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Late Perpendicular and Tudor in style it is the smallest of the remaining medieval churches in Ipswich.

Made redundant in 1978 it was restored and became the Tourist Information Centre from 1994 until March 2020 when it closed.

In June 2023 St Stephens reopened to the public as a live music venue after a joint restoration project between Ipswich Borough Council and Sounds East CIC funded by the Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund and IBC.

The deconsecrated church hosted one of the stages for "Brighten The Corners" Festival which saw over seventy acts perform.

Later in the year the venue will open a daytime cafe and creative space hosting record fairs, creative markets and more.

The venue capacity of over two hundred provides an essential stepping stone for local, regional and touring bands to progress to other places such as The Smokehouse and The Baths.

Renovation works carried out included the installation of new flooring throughout, secondary glazing, a new bar, mixing area for sound and lighting engineers, toilet pods, electrical and data cabling. Repair and restoration work has been carried out on the former light well and the ceiling of the Chancel with redecoration throughout..

Open: Saturday 9th, 11am - 4pm



Rushmere Hall School Lanark Road, Ipswich, IP4 3EJ

30



Rushmere Hall School was designed 1947 -1950 by renowned Ipswich Architect, Birkin Haward of Johns Slater and Haward. This extensive three form entry primary school remains remarkably unaltered after seventy years of educational use endorsing the design capabilities

of the architect.

The JS&H practice went on to design virtually all of Ipswich's primary schools up until the mid-1970s.

The School won a Festival of Britain Merit Award in 1951 and is Historic England listed Grade II. The building consists of traditional brick cross walls with precast concrete wall panels supporting a lightweight steel frame (asphalt coated) roof.

Past students are particularly welcome to come back into school and remind themselves of their childhood years.

Former teacher and historical researcher, David Kightley will be on-hand to answer some of your questions.

Open Saturday 9th, 10am - 3pm and Sunday 10th, 10am - 3pm

Light refreshments will be available.

