



IPSWICH HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

SATURDAY 12TH
& SUNDAY 13TH
SEPTEMBER 2015



The Ipswich Society



heritage open days



IPSWICH
BOROUGH COUNCIL



WELCOME TO HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2015

The country's biggest and
most popular voluntary cultural event

This year more than 30 buildings or locations are open in Ipswich as part of the event as well as an historic sailing barge (built here in Ipswich) plus free guided walks - provided by Ipswich Tourist Guides and Ipswich Building Preservation Trust - plus, on the Saturday, an extended route of the popular free bus tour on a heritage bus provided by Ipswich Transport Museum.

The Ipswich Society is once again pleased to organise access to many local buildings of historical interest with the co-operation of owners and occupiers. The National Trust gives central co-ordination and a national voice to the event which attracts around one million visitors nationwide.

The Ipswich Society is grateful to all concerned for their participation. The buildings listed represent seven centuries in the history of Ipswich and will be open to the public during the weekend, with additional opening days for some venues. The Heritage Open Days event provides a chance to see inside historical buildings, many of which are not normally accessible to the general public. In this leaflet, descriptions of the buildings are necessarily brief but in most cases further information will be available at the site and/or guides will be on hand.

Opening times are correct at time of going to press but if travelling any distance for a specific building you might like to check details in advance of your journey.

1

St Stephen's Church, St Stephen's Lane

A 15th and 16th century church, now converted into the Tourist Information Centre. The exterior is a patchwork of flint, stone and brick. Inside, the windows create a pleasant, light space. In the chancel is a splendid monument to Robert and Mary Leman who died on the same day in 1637 (Robert Leman was one time Sheriff of London).

Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 10am-2pm

2

Unitarian Meeting House, Friars Street

Built in 1699 and one of the architectural gems of Ipswich. Original box pews, a magnificent pulpit carved in the style of Grinling Gibbons, Dutch 17th Century candelabra and a clock from an even earlier date. Fine entrance doors, one with a spyhole for use against visits from opponents of nonconformist worshippers.

Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday noon-4pm

Above: Willis

3**Willis
Friars Street**

Celebrating its 40th year in Ipswich, the iconic Willis Building in Friars Street will, after two years of refurbishment, be open to the public for Heritage Weekend. Guided tours of the building will be given including the swimming pool, one of the office floors and the roof garden. The Coffee Bar will also be open. Norman Foster gets the credit for the Willis building, for it was his ideas of hanging glass as curtain walls and large open plan offices that were revolutionary in the early 1970s. However architects (Sir) Michael Hopkins and Ipswich born Birkin Haward (junior) also worked on the scheme.

Sunday 10am-4pm**4****Arlington's Brasserie,
13 Museum Street**

A Grade II listed three-storey building with an attractive façade, including Doric columns, a grand classical styled staircase (1550 from the old Seckford Hall) and vaulted entrance hall. Built in 1847 as a museum, Darwin's tutor Henslow gave free lectures to the public here. Now a brasserie.

**Seven days a week
8am-10pm**

*Above: Ipswich School
Middle: Arlington's Brasserie
Below: Unitarian Meeting House*

5**Ipswich School,
25 Henley Road**

Built 1851/52 in Elizabethan style in red brick. The porch entrance and the tower provide a link with early education in the town - the former being a reproduction of the gateway to Wolsey's College in St Peter's Street, and the latter resembling Tom Tower at Christ Church, Oxford. The post-war buildings include a fine library with stained glass by John Piper. *For tours - meet in Reception off Henley Road. Leave town centre via High Street or Fonnereau Road to Henley Road - Ipswich School is on the left.*

**Saturday tours at 9, 10
and 11am**

6**Christchurch Mansion,
Christchurch Park**

A 16th Century mansion with rooms furnished from Tudor to Victorian periods. Display of 18th, 19th and 20th Century costume accessories. Join us for 'Portraits and Porcelain' guided tours on Saturday at 2pm & Sunday at 3pm. A 'Peep into the Past' tour will take place at 11am on Saturday and 2pm on Sunday.

Please book a place by calling 01473 433691

Friday-Sunday 10am-5pm

**8****Freemasons Hall,
8-10 Soane Street**

The Masonic Hall was completed in 1870 and updated in 1911 by architect George Henry Betram Gould. In the 1970s it was extended to incorporate number 8. The main items of interest are the Temple, dining room and foyer. The Temple, in particular, contains many items of Masonic interest.

Saturday 10.30am-4pm

9**Bethesda Baptist Church,
9 St Margaret's Plain**

A classical style building by the architect F G Faunch. Opened in 1913, it seats 800 and has a splendid gallery on three sides providing the best view of the interior.

Saturday 10am-3pm

10**Pykenham Gatehouse,
Northgate Street**

Built about 1470 for William Pykenham, Archdeacon of Suffolk, as the entrance to his residence on the site now occupied by the Ipswich & Suffolk Club. Timber-framed with interesting internal and external architectural features and restored 1982/3 by Ipswich Building Preservation Trust. Come along to enjoy a range of family activities including re-enactments on Saturday

**Saturday and Sunday
10am-4pm**

11**Admiral's House,
Tower Street**

Probably built in the reign of Charles II (1660-1685) with a later Georgian front. The interior is a mix of architectural styles. Once the home of Admiral Benjamin Page, visited by Wellington in 1820, it houses the Institute members' restaurant, coffee lounge (refreshments available) and lecture rooms.

**Saturday and Sunday
10am-4pm**

7**St Margaret's Church,
Soane Street**

A fine medieval church in town dating from 1300 with the tower added c.1400 and other parts in 1450. Donations from wealthy benefactors over the years have made St Margaret's fascinating, with numerous interesting artefacts. The C15 double hammer beam roof, decorated in 1695, is the crowning glory.

Saturday 9am-5pm

Above: Freemasons Hall

12

Ipswich Institute and Library, Tavern Street

Founded in 1824 by Dr George Birbeck, The Ipswich Mechanic's Institution moved into the former chemist shop at 15 Tavern Street in 1834. This hidden oasis of cultural and architectural heritage includes a popular independent library in a light airy barrel-vaulted hall, dating from 1876.

**Saturday and Sunday
10am-4pm**

13

Town Hall, Cornhill, Princes Street

Opened in 1868, this is a good example of high Victorian civic architecture with external features of classical columns, statues and sculpted heads. The grand staircase has oak balustrade and cast iron work. The Mayor's Parlour will be open. Guided tours by the Town Sergeant.

**Saturday Tours of the
Town Hall, Mayor's
Parlour and Corn
Exchange at 10.30am,
11.30am, 1pm and 2pm.
Meet in the foyer**

Right: 104 St Helen's Street

14

Christchurch United Reformed/Baptist Church, Tacket Street

Designed in 1856 by local architect Frederick Barnes in the Gothic Revival style and built in Kentish Ragstone with Caen stone quoins. The interior has a large gallery, cast iron work and a stained glass east window.

Saturday 10am-5pm



15

The Freudian Sheep Gallery, 104 St Helen's Street

Early to mid 17th Century building, probably a former merchant's house, with 19th century additions. The gallery, which has exposed beams, is currently divided into four exhibition spaces. There are two notable fireplaces, the one upstairs in a room showing the history of the fabric of the building, is rather beautiful.

Saturday 11am-6pm

Left: Ipswich Institute

16

St Michael's Church Hall Upper Orwell Street

The only church built in the 19th Century in Ipswich town centre. Designed by E F Bishopp it was first consecrated in 1881 but unfortunately destroyed by fire in 2011. It will rise phoenix-like from its ashes as a community centre. Last year St Michael's Church itself was open. This year the refurbished Church Hall is open and will have a photographic exhibition of work at the site.

Saturday 11am-4pm

17**Blackfriars,
Foundation Street**

With its remains of local septaria stone walls, this was the site of the Dominican Friars, an extensive set of buildings that included the largest church in Ipswich, with cloisters and refectory. Established in 1263, parts survived the Dissolution but were finally demolished in the mid nineteenth century. There will be an information point in the street close to the multi-storey car park.

**Saturday and Sunday
10am-4pm**

**18****Café Neptune,
90-92 Fore Street**

A source of refreshment for most of the twentieth century, it started life as one of the Merchants' Houses associated with the wharfs and quays of Ipswich. Owned by a wool merchant who made his fortune exporting cloth from the wool towns of west Suffolk. The timber frame is 16th century with an 18th century rendered front elevation, inside are some original moulded timber beams.

Saturday 9am-5pm

19**The Wheatsheaf,
26 Fore Street**

16th Century merchant's house. Formerly the Wheatsheaf Public House, it is now occupied by a recruitment agency.

**Saturday and Sunday
10am-4pm**

20**Holy Trinity Church
Back Hamlet/Fore Hamlet**

A rare Georgian Church (one of Ipswich's best kept secrets) with a surprising interior including a remarkable stained glass window commemorating the fallen of the parish in World War I. The nearest active church to the University & Waterfront.

**Thursday - Saturday
9am-5pm
Sunday Service
11am & 1pm**

21**Sailing Barge Victor,
Common Quay**

Built in 1895 in Ipswich, this is one of the oldest working Thames Sailing Barges. Commissioned for work in the linseed trade, SB Victor worked in general cargo from the 1930s. During the War she survived a bomb blast and since then has had a varied career including as a strip club and a houseboat. Restored to her traditional 19th Century rig.

**Saturday and Sunday
10am-5pm**



22

Isaac Lord (Machine Room and the Brewery), Wherry Quay

A series of Grade I and two Grade II listed buildings, a late 15th - 16th Century merchant's house and warehouse it is now a waterside venue and coffee tavern. The Maltings is a rare example of an 18th century hand malting concern. The Machine Room has been restored and the brewery is an excellent example of local craftsmanship.

Isaac's (coffee shop and pub): Open all weekend. For tours, meet in Isaac's car park.

Sunday Tours 8am & 9am

23

Old Custom House, Key Street

Built 1844/5 by architect John Medland Clark using a polychromic technique of red brick with white brick quoins. The ground floor formerly included a bonded warehouse which has been converted into the Waterfront Conference Centre. This is open and staffed by Ipswich Maritime Trust. Ground floor open only.

Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm

24

Quay Place, St-Mary-at-the-Quay

A beautiful medieval Church being restored by Suffolk Mind and the Churches Conservation Trust, with help from a £3.6m Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The Church will re-open next year as a Wellbeing and Heritage Centre known as Quay Place. Activities will include brass rubbing, an archaeology and information display.

Saturday 11am-3pm



25

St Peter's Church, College Street

Home to the Ipswich Charter Hangings which depict Ipswich through the ages. St Peter's is now a vibrant arts and heritage centre. Over the Heritage weekend special events including a craft & gift fair (Saturday) with local live music and children's activities along with being a point on the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust annual bike ride. On Sunday additional heritage displays from local groups including the Over Stoke History Group.

Thursday - Friday 10am-3:30pm
Saturday - Sunday 10am-4pm

*Left: Quay Place
Below: Ipswich Transport Museum bus outside the Old Custom House*



26

St Mary-at-Stoke Church, Stoke Street

Parts of this medieval church date from the 14th century. With an increase in parish population a large extension was added, designed by internationally acclaimed architect William Butterfield. In April 2004 the church was re-classified as a Grade 1 Listed Building. This places it in a very special category alongside Christchurch Mansion, Wolsey's Gateway and The Ancient House.

Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday noon-4pm



27

Gippeswyk Hall, (Red Rose Chain) Gippeswyk Avenue

The Avenue - Red Rose Chain's Heritage Lottery Fund supported new venue, at their Grade II* listed Tudor house Gippeswyk Hall. Inspired by the sort of barn structure which might have once stood there, creating a new purpose as a leading inclusive arts and heritage venue. Tour of the buildings and a cream tea.

Thursday to Sunday
Sunday 10am-4pm



28

Broomhill Swimming Pool, Sherrington Road

Broomhill Swimming Pool is just one of 13 Grade II listed lidos left in the UK. It is the only Olympic-plus length lido in Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex and the only modernist style public building left in Ipswich. The lido operated for 64 years before closure in 2002. Currently subject to a Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

*Leave town centre via
Norwich Road. Sherrington
Road is on the right shortly
after the double mini-
roundabout.*

Saturday and Sunday
10am-4pm

*Top to bottom:
St Mary-at-Stoke Church,
Broomhill swimming pool,
Gippeswyk Hall*



29

Broomhill Library, Sherrington Road

Awarded a Grade II listing in November 2012. The unique group value of the ‘Broomhill twins’ further strengthens the 70 year bond between the library (built 1942) and Broomhill Pool (built 1938). Both designed by County- Borough of Ipswich engineer, E. McLauchlan. Built as a WW2 bomb-proof decontamination unit and public shelter, it was converted for a more peaceful purpose in 1948, and has served as public library ever since. Located in beautiful Broomhill Park purchased by the County-Borough in 1925 (from the illustrious Sherrington family).

**Saturday and Sunday
10am-4pm**

30

Freston Tower, Freston Hill

An Elizabethan six-storey tower built in 1578 by Ipswich merchant Thomas Gooding and overlooking the River Orwell. Restored by the Landmark Trust and available as holiday accommodation.

Leave town centre via Vernon Street/Wherstead Road to Bourne Bridge, turn left onto The Strand (B1456) to Landmark Trust sign opposite layby.

**Friday-Monday 10am-4pm
Tuesday 10am-1pm**

*Above: Broomhill Library
Below: Freston Tower
Below right: Royal Hospital School*



31

Royal Hospital School, Holbrook

Created by Royal Charter in 1694, the Royal Hospital School moved from Queen’s House, Greenwich (now the National Maritime Museum) in 1933 to a newly built campus in Holbrook. With views of the River Stour and set in 200 acres, it is now a successful day and boarding school for 11-18 year olds. The tour will include the Dining Hall, the Chapel (with one of the largest organs in Western Europe) and a mosaic created by Italian artisans. Finally, the Heritage Centre, built to celebrate the school’s tercentenary in 2012.

Leave town centre via Vernon Street/Wherstead Road to Bourne Bridge and turn left onto The Strand (B1456). Fork right onto the B1080 to Holbrook, through the village to the school.

**Saturday
Tours at 10am, 11am &
noon**



Holywells Magical History Tour, Stable Block

A circular walk around Holywells Park starting at the entrance to the stable block. The walk stops at selected points to present some of the history from the Manor of Wykes Bishop, through generations of the Cobbold Family to the recently completed Heritage Lottery funded park restoration. Refreshments are available at the Stable Block Cafe. Unfortunately this walk is unsuitable for wheelchairs due to steps and some rough terrain. *Nearest Parking is at Orwell Quay car park on Duke Street, Ipswich Waterfront. Walk along Duke Street to the roundabout and turn left into Myrtle Road for entrance to the park. Alternatively catch the special Ipswich Transport Museum bus, scheduled to arrive at the Park's Cliff Lane entrance at 13:20.*

Saturday 1.45pm
(Tour approximately one hour)



AN EXHIBITION BY THE IPSWICH SOCIETY



The Fore Street Facelift 1961

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

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

Runs from Saturday 3 to Friday 16 October 2015 at The Waterfront Building, University Campus Suffolk (entrance on Fore Street).

FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

www.forestreetipswich1961.co.uk
secretary@ipswichsociety.org.uk



WALKS AND TOURS

Enhance your enjoyment of the Heritage Open Days weekend and take advantage of the free walks and tours provided by Ipswich Tourist Guides, Ipswich Building Preservation Trust and Ipswich Transport Museum.

FREE GUIDED WALKS WITH IPSWICH TOURIST GUIDES

Saturday and Sunday 10.30am

A 90-minute walking tour of Ipswich's architectural and historical heritage. Add an extra dimension to the Heritage Open Days weekend by joining one of the free town walks, led by Ipswich Tourist Guides.

The walks leave from the Tourist Information Centre at St Stephen's Church at 10.30am on Saturday and Sunday. The routes will pass many of the buildings listed.

Booking advisable but not essential.

IPSWICH BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST

Creating a future for the past

A tour of historic buildings at risk, past and present to explain the work of the organisation. The walk this year includes Curson Lodge, the Trust's most recently completed project. **Saturday 2.30pm**

Walk commences at Pykenham's Gatehouse opposite Northgate Street library.

The walk lasts approximately 1 - 1½ hours and ends at St Peter's Church by the Waterfront.

Advance reservation is advisable as places are limited.

FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING:

**Ipswich Tourist Information Centre,
St Stephen's Church, St Stephen's Lane,
Ipswich IP1 1DP**

Telephone: 01473 258070

Email: tourist@ipswich.gov.uk

www.allaboutipswich.com



IPSWICH TRANSPORT MUSEUM BUS TRIPS

SATURDAY ONLY

1	Old Custom House (Waterfront)	10.30	11.30	12.30	13.30	14.30	15.30
2	Ipswich Station (Station building)	10.35	11.35	12.35	13.35	14.35	15.35
3	Princes Street (Fire Station)	10.37	11.37	12.37	13.37	14.37	15.37
4	Norwich Road (Cumberland Towers)	10.45	11.45	12.45	13.45	14.45	15.45
5	Sherrington Road (Broomhill)	10.50	11.50	12.50	13.50	14.50	15.50
6	Henley Road (Ipswich School)	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
7	High Street (Ipswich Museum)	11.02	12.02	13.02	14.02	15.02	16.02
8	Tower Ramparts (Bus Station)	11.04	12.04	13.04	14.04	15.04	16.04
9	Soane Street (Christchurch mansion)	11.05	12.05	13.05	14.05	15.05	16.05
10	Museum Street (Arlingtons)	11.08	12.08	13.08	14.08	15.08	16.08
11	Friars Street (Willis)	11.09	12.09	13.09	14.09	15.09	16.09
12	Buttermarket (Bus Station)	11.10	12.10	13.10	14.10	15.10	16.10
13	Cliff Lane (Holywells Park)	11.20	12.20	13.20	14.20	15.20	16.20
14	Old Custom House (Waterfront)	11.25	12.25	13.25	14.25	15.25	16.25

Take a free trip back in time by travelling between destinations on an Ipswich Transport Museum veteran bus accompanied by a tour guide.

The Heritage bus will depart from the Old Custom House (Waterfront) at 30 minutes past the hour.

Timings approximate - Saturday service only. Every effort will be made to maintain the timetable below but please remember that we are using buses over 40 years old.

NOTE: The service will be provided by a heritage vehicle from the Ipswich Transport Museum. It may not be possible to accommodate mobility impaired passengers. Wheelchairs, buggies etc. must be folded and stowed in the luggage compartment. Please signal the bus clearly at any recognised bus stop en route.

For further information on Ipswich Transport Museum visit www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk



THE IPSWICH SOCIETY

The Ipswich Society was founded in 1960 and campaigns to preserve the best of the town's old buildings and to ensure new building is of similar quality.

Society members enjoy a series of winter lectures on subjects about, or affecting Ipswich and its environs and a programme of Summer outings. Members also receive a quarterly newsletter.

The Society monitors planning applications and comments on those which will have a noticeable impact on the town. Members attend Ipswich Borough Council's Conservation and Design Panel. Comments are made on regional, county and local planning documents, including the Development Plan. It also contributes to debates on local transport strategy and the balance between public transport and the alternatives.

The Society is for individuals, families and corporate organisations who care about the appearance, character and well being of Ipswich. If you would like to join please use the form below.

www.ipswichsociety.org.uk

[facebook/ipswichsociety](https://facebook.com/ipswichsociety)



The Ipswich Society

I/We* wish to join The Ipswich Society as an individual/family* member and enclose a cheque for £10/£15* as first annual subscription.

If you join during Heritage Open Days Weekend membership will continue until the end of 2016.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Date _____

*PLEASE DELETE AS APPROPRIATE Cheques are payable to The Ipswich Society and should be sent, together with the form, to

The Membership Secretary, The Ipswich Society, 11 Dalton Road, Ipswich IP1 2HT

Buildings list

- 1 St Stephen's Church
- 2 Unitarian Meeting House
- 3 Willis
- 4 Arlington's Brasserie
- 5 Ipswich School
- 6 Christchurch Mansion
- 7 St Margaret's Church
- 8 Freemasons Hall
- 9 Bethesda Baptist Church
- 10 Pykenham Gatehouse
- 11 Admiral's House
- 12 Ipswich Institute and Library
- 13 Town Hall
- 14 Christchurch United Reformed/Baptist Church
- 15 104 St Helen's Street
- 16 St Michael's Church Hall
- 17 Blackfriars
- 18 Café Neptune
- 19 The Wheatsheaf
- 20 Holy Trinity Church
- 21 Sailing Barge Victor
- 22 Isaac Lord
- 23 Old Custom House
- 24 Quay Place
- 25 St Peter's Church
- 26 St Mary-at-Stoke Church
- 27 Gippeswyk Hall
- 28 Broomhill Swimming Pool
- 29 Broomhill Library
- 30 Freston Tower
- 31 Royal Hospital School
- 32 Holywells Park

