

IPSWICH HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

SATURDAY 10TH &
SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2016





WELCOME TO HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2016

**The country's biggest and
most popular voluntary cultural event**

A warm welcome to residents and visitors to what's on offer during the 2016 Heritage Open Days weekend here in Ipswich co-ordinated by the Ipswich Society. We have more than 30 buildings open plus locations to visit along with free guided walks around some of the town's sites and buildings of interest. As well as favourites like Willis, there are also buildings open for the first time. This year we also say 'Farewell Pigs' from the Pigs Gone Wild trail.

On Saturday 10th September there will be the ever popular free bus tour on a heritage bus provided by the Ipswich Transport Museum. A great opportunity for stopping off at many of the places open to visit, bring the youngsters! Several open buildings will have refreshments. Alternatively, why not walk around the Saints and Blackfriars areas and sample some of the independent cafés.

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 non-conformist worshippers.

**Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday noon-4pm**

*Above: Willis
Front cover: Holywells Park*

3

Willis Friars Street

This iconic building is now over 40 years old. 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.

**Saturday and Sunday
10am-2pm**

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 Seckford's Great Place) 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**



5

Ipswich Museum, High Street

This fascinating and unique museum gives you the opportunity to meet the famous woolly mammoth, the elegant towering giraffe and other wonderful curiosities from the natural world.

Saturday 10am-5pm

6

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.*

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



*Above: Ipswich School
Left: Unitarian Meeting House*



9

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. Bellringing demonstrations at 11am & 3pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

10

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 10am-4pm
Sunday 11am-3pm**

7

Ipswich Cemeteries Cemetery Road

Ipswich Cemetery opened in 1855 and will be offering historic tours taking in the history of some of the headstones and families buried in Ipswich, as well as around the Crematorium facilities. Staff will be on hand to answer questions and give advice on family research. Our stonemason will be demonstrating his skills and offering the opportunity for you to try stone masonry. Take the opportunity to visit the Temple of Remembrance.

Saturday 11am-3pm

8

Christchurch Mansion, Christchurch Park

A 16th Century mansion with rooms furnished from Tudor to Victorian periods. "A Peep into the Past" is a free short tour. Come along and talk to our knowledgeable guides about the house and the collections. The Visitor Team will be in costume between 10am and 4pm interpreting some of the characters whose portraits are on display.

Tours 11am and 2pm
Please book a place by calling 01473 433691

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



*Above: Christchurch Mansion
Left: Temple of Remembrance*

11

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



12

Pykenham Gatehouse, Northgate Street

A rare opportunity to visit one of the earliest domestic buildings in Ipswich. It has seen the comings and goings of some 20 generations of Ipswich people - at first through the north gate and along the street with the brook, and more recently past the imposing library built opposite it during the last century.

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

13

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**

*Left: Pykenham Gatehouse
Below: Ipswich institute*

14

Town Hall, Cornhill, Princes Street

Opened in 1868, this is a good example of high Victorian civic architecture with external 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**

15

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. NB: This year take the opportunity to speak to a record office staff member about how to use Suffolk Record Office's archives for your family and local history on Saturday. There will be a display on the history of the Ipswich Institute.

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



16

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

17

St Clement's Church, St Clement's Church Lane

Built mainly in the 14th and early 15th Centuries, this handsome church was known as the 'sailors church'. The walls and the elegant tower reveal the attractions of dark knapped flintwork. The roof was refurbished after a fire in 1996. Now developing as an arts centre.

Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm



18

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 geologists on site to show you the septaria.

Sunday 10am-4pm

*Right: The Wheatsheaf
Below: Tooley's Court*

19

Tooley's Court, Foundation Street

'Let gentle Smart sleep on in pious trust, Behold his Charity, respect his dust' Behold his Charity indeed, for it is the Foundation of these almshouses that William Smart, together with a legacy from Henry Tooley and other Tudor merchants left to the town. Tooley died in 1550 and the almshouses were begun, aided by Smart's bequest in 1598.

Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm

20

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



21

Spread Eagle, Fore Street

Welcome to the oldest pub in Ipswich that is still operating, one of only two Grain Brewery pubs. This distinctive Grade II listed building was built in the sixteenth century but has been much altered during the intervening 450 years, repaired, restored and adapted to suit the trading needs of the day. Open for refreshments.

Saturday and Sunday 10am-closing time

22

Fore Street Pool, Fore Street

An elegant Victorian design with a fully glassed roof. Officially opened on in 1894 by the Mayor of Ipswich Samuel Anness. The first year saw over 42,000 people use the facility. The population of Ipswich was only 57,000 at the time. In 2009 the pool underwent extensive refurbishment. Fore Street currently ranks within the top 20 of historic operational pools in the country.

Sunday 11am-4pm

23

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.

Saturday 9am-5pm

*Above: Sailing Barge Victor,
Right: Fore Street Pool*



24

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. Access to Victor may be subject to pre-booked sailings.

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



25

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.*

**Saturday and Sunday
Tours 9am & 10am**

26

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 included a bonded warehouse which has been converted into the Waterfront Conference Centre. Staffed by Ipswich Maritime Trust. Ground floor open only.

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

27

St Mary-at-Stoke Church, Stoke Street

Parts of this lovely medieval Ipswich church date from the 14th century, which, until the railway arrived in the parish in 1846, served the small hamlet of Stoke, with its single aisle box pews offering 100 seats. With the great increase in parish population a large extension was designed by William Butterfield, an internationally acclaimed architect of the Victorian era. He designed hundreds of notable buildings, St Mary's was the only church in Ipswich to receive his Midas touch. In April 2004, the church was re-classified as a Grade 1 Listed Building. One of just two such churches in Ipswich. This places St Mary's in this very special category alongside Christchurch Mansion, Wolsey's Gateway and The Ancient House. Guides on hand at most times. Visitor and historic guide booklets available.

Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday noon-4pm

Above: St Mary-at-Stoke Church
Right: Quay Place



28

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

Open again this year and nearing completion, there will be a Merchant Adventurers heritage dressing up box and photo booth, also a knot and rope interactive display telling the story of rope walks in Ipswich and the evolving knots used in building, agriculture and maritime life. A play table to encourage storytelling about the wharfs, quays and business along the Waterfront.

Saturday and Sunday
9am-5pm



29

St Peter's Church, College Street

With historical displays about the Church from the 12th century to the present day and home to the Ipswich Charter Hangings, depicting Ipswich through the ages. St Peter's also houses a rare Tournai marble font, a magnificent East Window and many architectural features. Information about the building, parish and town will be on display with additional information provided by the Over Stoke History Group. We will also be a point of call for the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust bike ride on Saturday.

Thursday - Friday
10am-3:30pm
Saturday 9am-5pm

30

Gippeswyk Hall, (Red Rose Chain) The Avenue Theatre

The Heritage Lottery Fund supported the Red Rose Chain in their quest for a new venue behind the Grade II* listed Tudor 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
10am-4pm**



31

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.

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

*Left: Gypeswyk Hall
Below: Broomhill Swimming
Pool*

32

Broomhill Swimming Pool, Sherrington Road

One of 14 Grade II listed lidos left in England. The lido operated for 64 years before closure in 2002. The pool has the last Wicksteed diving stage in the country. Fusion Lifestyle's Heritage Lottery Fund bid was successful, securing a stage 1 development grant of £180,000. The project plan includes a fitness suite, terrace café and heritage rooms, and indicates a mid-2018 reopening.

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

33

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**



34

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 9am, 10am &
11am**



35

Holywells Park Tour Stable Block

Explore the heritage, myths and landscape from medieval times to present day with a history walk starting by the stable block. Includes flights of steps and rough terrain so is unsuitable for wheelchairs. Refreshments are available at the Cafe.

Parking at Orwell Quay (Anchor St) or Duke St. Use the park's Myrtle Rd entrance. Or catch the Ipswich Transport Museum bus.

**Saturday 1.45pm
(Tour approximately one hour)**

36

Martlesham Heath Control Tower

The Control Tower museum tells the history of one of the country's most important airfields between 1917 and 1969. Our Open Day this year is Sunday 11th September and there will be lots of extra attractions and special displays together with a Spitfire giving a flying display.

The museum is located at the rear of Parkers Place, off Eagle Way, Martlesham Heath IP5 3UX to the east of Ipswich and is on bus route 66 operated by First Buses. www.mhas.org.uk

Sunday 11am-4pm



*Above: Holywells Park
Left: Royal Hospital School*



TA TA TROTTERS

FAREWELL, PIGS!

Suffolk's biggest ever mass participation art event, Pigs Gone Wild, has come to an end. The interactive trail took over Ipswich for 10-weeks, where the town centre and waterfront saw larger-than-life, spectacularly decorated pig sculptures on every corner.

The 'Ta Ta Trotters' exhibition will be a chance for everyone to admire the pigs once more and say goodbye, before they go to auction to raise funds for St Elizabeth Hospice.

The exhibition will be held in the Grand Hall of the Corn Exchange on the Heritage Open Days.

Saturday 10 September 10am to 5pm

Sunday 11 September 10am to 4pm

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 will look at a variety of properties preserved by the Trust since 1978 including a former pub comprising two dilapidated cottages converted to single residence, and an early exemplar project in a tucked away corner of the town

Saturday 10.30am and 2.30pm

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

The walk lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Advance booking essential as places are limited.

Contact Ipswich Tourist Information Centre

Telephone: 01473 258070

Email: tourist@ipswich.gov.uk

Any remaining places can be reserved at the Gatehouse on the morning of Saturday 10th September.



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



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 2017.

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, 32 Cowper Street, Ipswich IP4 5JB

Buildings list

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

