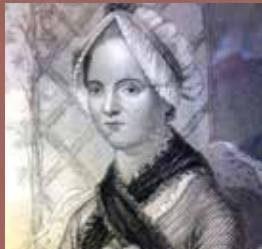




IPSWICH WOMEN'S HISTORY TRAIL



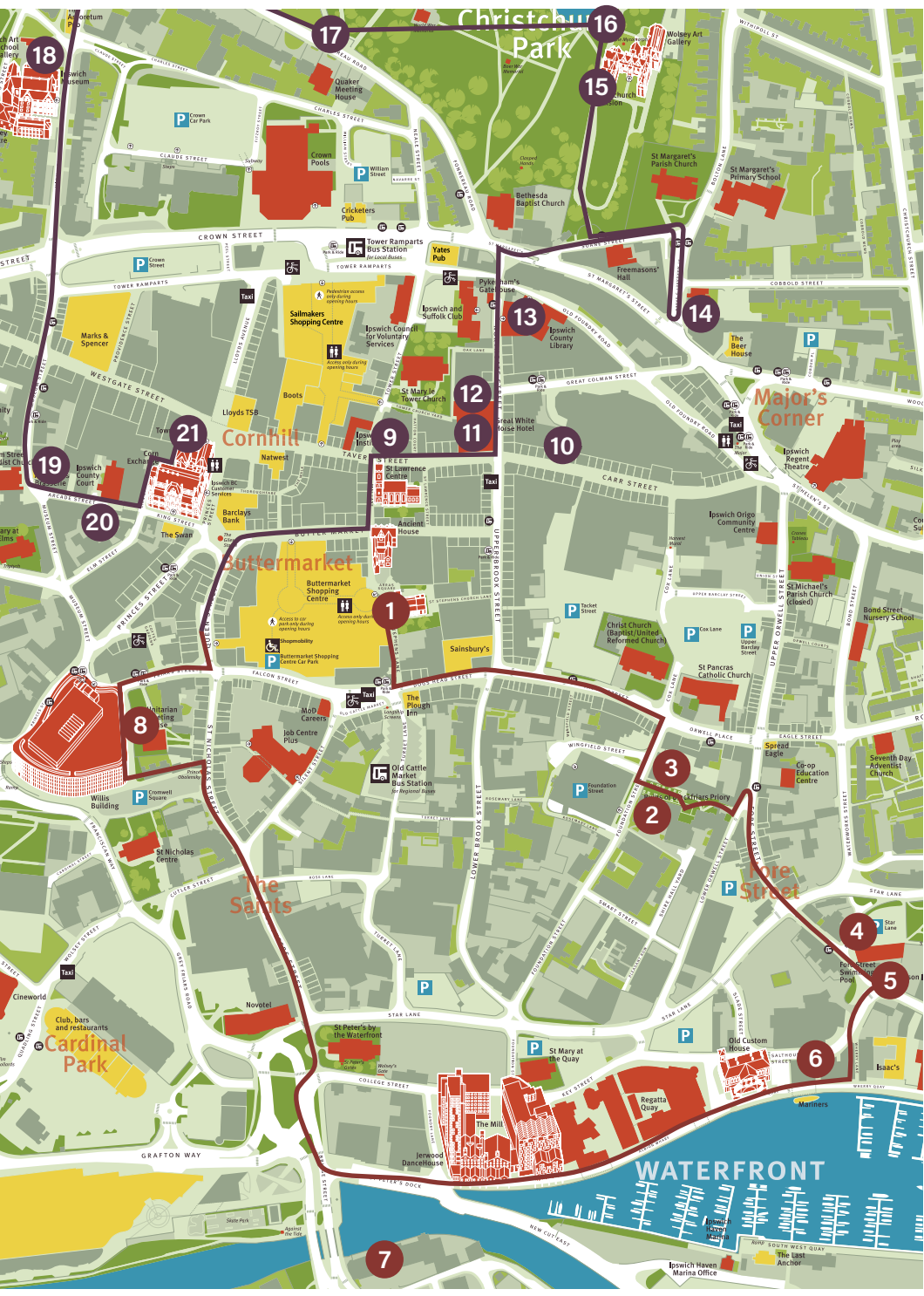
IPSWICH WOMEN'S HISTORY TRAIL

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF INSPIRATIONAL IPSWICH WOMEN

This walk is an opportunity to discover how women have contributed through the ages to all aspects of Ipswich life. Although many of their achievements have been and remain unrecognised, we have found each of these women to be remarkable.

The walk can be done in either two stages **(1-9)** and **(10-21)** or as one complete walk.





WALK ONE

1 ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH



CLARA REEVE

Clara Reeve (1729-1809) was a well-known novelist who published 24 volumes over 33 years. She lived in Carr Street and supported herself by writing, despite the disapproval of her family (her father was a curate). She was especially concerned with educational opportunities for young girls and the use of education for the common good. Her most famous novel *The Old English Baron* was reprinted thirteen times and is still in print. It may have influenced Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Sir Walter Scott in 1819 included Clara Reeve in a collection of prefaces for the 'Novelists' Library'. Clara lived and died modestly. She is buried in St Stephen's Churchyard but without a headstone.



JUDITH HAYLE

Judith Hayle, a needlework teacher, was also buried at St Stephen's in 1706. Judith was baptised in 1649 and lived most of her adult life in the parish of St Stephen's. Her occupation was not unusual but her importance lies in the fact that she is the only identified 17th Century English teacher of needlework. Samplers, worked from 1691 to 1711 by a group of young women, all identify Judith or her daughter Rebecca Thomson's guidance, as their name or initials appear in the work. The samplers are held in public and private collections, including the Victoria and Albert Museum. Judith's will and the inventory of her possessions show that she provided well for her family, probably running a millinery shop from her house.

It has not been possible to identify the graves of these two women.

2 TOOLEY'S COURT, FOUNDATION STREET



ALICE TOOLEY

Alice Tooley was a businesswoman, who after her husband's death became a freewoman of Ipswich. Henry Tooley was one of the town's richest merchants. They traded mainly in cloth from their property on St Mary's Quay. None of their three children survived adolescence. When Henry was away, Alice supervised shipments, collected debts, made payments and kept everything running. Henry died in 1551, and left most of his money to the townspeople of Ipswich, including the Foundation for the almshouses. Alice saw these become a reality before her death in 1556. Alice and Henry's tomb is at St Mary at the Quay church (access limited), but the brass is not currently on display.

The almshouses were rebuilt on the same site in the 19th Century.

3 RUINS OF BLACKFRIARS PRIORY, FOUNDATION STREET



NINA LAYARD

Nina Layard (1853-1935), poet and archaeologist, is credited with the first excavations of the Old Dominican Friary in Blackfriars, Foundation Street in 1898. Her work on the Valley Brick Field in Foxhall Road has recently been restored to its rightful academic significance. In 1906, her paper on the Hadleigh Road Anglo-Saxon site was presented to the Society of Antiquaries of London by a male colleague, as women were denied admission to the meeting. She is said to have sat behind a curtain for the event. In 1921 she was one of the first of four women admitted as a Fellow to the same society. She was a founder member and first woman president of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia.

4 BY ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH

(VIEWED FROM SIDE OF FORE STREET BATHS)

HARRIET ISHAM GRIMWADE

Harriet Isham Grimwade (1843-1893) was Ipswich's first publicly elected woman. She began charitable work in her mid-20s at the Tanners Lane Mission - a centre for poor working-class families. In 1871 she became secretary of the new Ipswich Women's Suffrage Society. Later she founded the East Suffolk Girls' Home at 14 Church St (this no longer exists, but was near St Clement's Church) which expanded in 1883 to accommodate 50 girls at 158 Foxhall Road (Hope House, pictured below). Elected onto the School Board in 1880, she served for six years during which time she was responsible for cookery classes. She took an active role in the 1885 Great Liberal Demonstration when Liberal candidates spoke before the General Election.



5 90 FORE STREET



EDITH MAUD COOK

Edith Maud Cook (1878-1910) was a balloonist, parachutist and early woman pilot. Born in Fore St where her father was a baker, she was possibly inspired at age 10 by a balloonist at a local celebration. She made 300 balloon ascents for entertainment. She would hang on to a trapeze bar suspended underneath the balloon as it was lifted, then descend using her parachute. In 1909 she started to train as an aviator in France - one of the first British women pilots. But the next year when making a descent at Coventry she was fatally injured when the parachute was dragged off a factory roof. A great woman pioneer aviator, she sadly died before getting her pilot's licence. She broke down class barriers, and had immense courage.

6 WATERFRONT AND ST MARY AT THE QUAY CHURCH



EMMA POWNDER

Emma Pownder (d. 1564) was a contemporary of Alice Tooley, and was also married to a shipping merchant, Thomas. For many years after his death, she was allowed to continue his business as a freewoman of Ipswich. A brass of Emma and Thomas and their children can be seen at the Waterfront in Saint Mary at the Quay Church (limited public access).

7 DOCK STREET (VISIBLE FROM FRONT OF OLD CUSTOM HOUSE)



ELIZA ACTON

Eliza Acton (1799-1859) wrote the first domestic cookery book. Her house cannot be identified, but was by the Maltings on the other side of the docks, where her father worked at St Peter's Brewery. Aged 17, Eliza opened a 'boarding school for young ladies' at Claydon. She published a successful volume of poetry in 1826 after an unhappy love affair with a French army officer. Later she lived in Kent. Apparently her publisher, faced with more poetry, suggested a cookbook instead! She collected 1,100 recipes by interviewing chefs and in 1845 published *Modern Cookery for Private Families*. For the first time measured ingredients were listed as well as method. It was an immediate success. Suffolk's Delia Smith has adapted some Acton recipes in her cookbooks, including 'Eliza Acton's Rich Rice Pudding'.



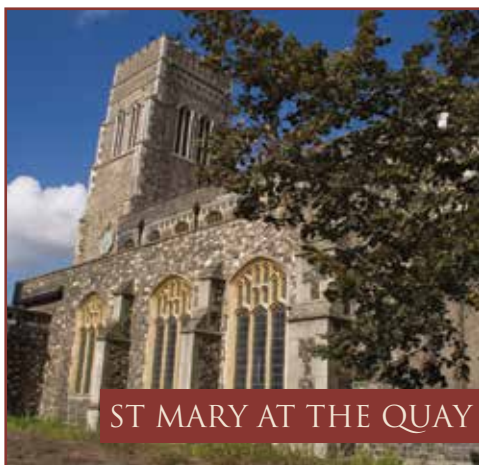
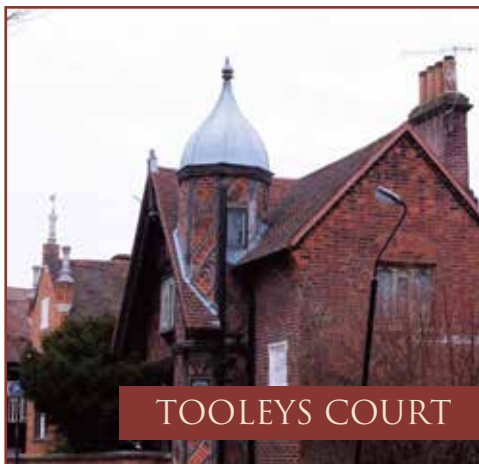
8 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE, FRIARS STREET



REV WINIFRED ELSIE MAY BROWN

Rev Winifred Elsie May Brown (1919-2015) became the first woman church minister in Ipswich in 1943, when appointed by the Ipswich Unitarian congregation. Although most churches only allowed male ministers at that time, she was the 19th female Unitarian minister in the country. She joined a congregation which had experienced differences between its members. Rev Winifred Brown was 24 at the time, and the task of unifying a divided congregation was a difficult one. She went on to teach English and in 1950 her book on 18th Century Christian writers was published.

The 300 year-old Unitarian Meeting House is considered the finest Dissenting Meeting House in the country. It is open to the public at set times during the summer months.



WALK TWO

9 & 10 TAVERN STREET

SARAH TRIMMER

Sarah Trimmer (1741–1810), one of the founders of the Christian Sunday School, lived in this street (exact location unknown) until she was 15. Influential in education and literature for children, she became one of the best-selling authors of her time.

Before turning into Northgate Street, it is worth noting that the Lyceum Theatre was just a step away in Carr Street. Mary Ann Kelly was unusual as a woman manager there prior to World War One. The Lyceum, now demolished, was one of many theatres in Ipswich, changing programme every few days. We do not know if Mary Ann Kelly was the manager in 1911 when two suffragette propaganda plays were performed there.

11 3-5 NORTHGATE STREET (NEXT TO THE WHITE HORSE HOTEL)



OLIVE TURNEY

Many women took over traditional men's jobs during the World Wars. Ransomes employed 2000 women on munitions work, making 690 planes during the First World War. Olive Turney worked as a taxi driver for Egertons at this address, and later became a lorry driver for Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies. During 1918 she wrote a diary (available at Suffolk Record Office) including observations of people, the role of women, taxi driving, road conditions in Ipswich, strikes and the war in Germany. We do not know what happened to Olive at the end of the war – in her diary she commented how reluctant women would be to give up work.



12 FORMER ASSEMBLY ROOMS 3-5 NORTHGATE ST



SOPHIE YOUNGMAN

This was the site of the Ipswich High School for Girls when it first opened in 1878, and Sophie Youngman (1849? – 1911) was its first headmistress. The Girls' Public Day School Company was set up in 1870 with the aim of providing good and affordable education, a wide curriculum and for the first time, to educate girls to examination standards. Within a few years girls from the Ipswich school were taking Cambridge exams and proceeding to Higher Education. For example, in 1893, four pupils went to London School of Medicine. Mildred Sims, Ipswich's first woman doctor, was an early student. For 21 years Miss Youngman led and developed the school, changing local prejudice and public opinion about schooling for girls. The school still awards a prize in her name.

13 COUNTY LIBRARY, NORTHGATE ST



LILIAN JANE REDSTONE

Lilian Jane Redstone (1885 – 1955) was born in Woodbridge and had a long and distinguished career as an archivist and preserver of records. She was the first Ipswich and East Suffolk Joint Archivist and her work is regarded as being the foundation of the Suffolk Record Office, with many of the archive indexes bearing her name. She received an MBE in 1919 for her work during World War One in the Historical Records Section of the Ministry of Munitions. During World War Two she worked to salvage and preserve documents, moving them to places of safety. An adviser to academics worldwide, particularly The Chaucer Society in the USA, she was author of a number of publications including *Ipswich through the Ages*.

14 MANOR HOUSE, 6-10 ST MARGARET'S GREEN



ELIZABETH KNIPE COBBOLD

Elizabeth Knipe Cobbold (1764-1824) was a well-educated woman who published poetry from an early age. Aged 27, she married John Cobbold of the well-known brewing family, and became mistress of the Manor House and step-mother of his 14 children. They had a further seven children. Cliff House (Cliff Quay) and Holywells Mansion were also family homes. She was a champion of the arts, history and science and she supported many local charities. Her elaborately cut Valentine cards remain of local historical interest and can be viewed at the Suffolk Record Office. Elizabeth supported Margaret Catchpole, her servant, through Margaret's trials, imprisonment and transportation.

A portrait of Elizabeth is in Christchurch Mansion.



MARGARET CATCHPOLE

Margaret Catchpole (1762-1819) was the Cobbolds' servant. She became a Suffolk folk heroine, capturing the public imagination through her widely reported exploits of riding a stolen horse to London and later escaping from Ipswich Gaol - for which she was twice sentenced to death. Her death sentence was commuted to transportation to Australia, where she supported herself as overseer of a farm, midwife and smallholder. Margaret learnt to read and write in England, and she is described in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* as a 'true convict chronicler...with a gift for recording events'. She wrote about Aboriginal people and wildlife and the brutality of life there. Her enduring fascination is based on her history and bravery, and her story has been fictionalised many times.

A portrait of Margaret is in Christchurch Mansion.

15 CHRISTCHURCH MANSION



When looking at the portraits of Elizabeth Cobbold and Margaret Catchpole, you may also wish to go and see the Hawstead Panels, which were created around 1600 and later reassembled in the Mansion. The small "painted closet" was originally at Hawstead Place, near Bury St Edmunds, the home of Sir Robert and Lady Elizabeth Drury. This unique and intriguing piece was most likely painted by Lady Drury, an unrecognised amateur artist - she was certainly involved in its design.



16 CHRISTCHURCH PARK – MONUMENT TO THE MARTYRS



The memorial to the nine Ipswich martyrs, unveiled in 1903, was erected by public subscription in response to local newspaper articles by Nina Layard. The martyrs died during Queen Mary Tudor's purge of Protestants. Three of these were women. Agnes Potten and Joan Trunchfield, two young mothers, were burned at the stake on Ipswich Cornhill, accused of bringing food to the jailed Presbyterian rector Robert Samuel. They spent more than five months in prison and were reported to have met their deaths with peace and fortitude.

The third, Alice Driver [1528-1558] of Grundisburgh, was arrested for helping the fugitive Alexander Gooch, a weaver from Woodbridge. Her ears were cut off when she likened Queen Mary to Jezebel. Alice is reported to have shown more spirit and wit than weakness during her trial and displayed great wisdom in challenging her accusers. Aged only 30, Alice was chained by the neck on the pyre before burning. Her last recorded words were 'here is a goodly neckerchief, blessed be God for it'.

17 26 FONNEREAU ROAD



MILDRED SIMS

Mildred Sims (1869 – 1915) was the first woman doctor in Ipswich, practicing between 1898 and 1911. She was born in 1869 at Orwell Lodge and attended the Ipswich High School. She graduated from Glasgow University in 1896 as a Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery; then qualified as a midwife in Dublin and worked in Glasgow before returning to Ipswich. Mildred lived in Fonnereau Road with her husband John Dillwyn Sims, and had a practice at 13 Queen Street. She was well-known for treating patients unable to pay, served on several committees and took particular interest in the medical welfare of children in institutional homes in Ipswich. Whilst practicing in Ipswich, Mildred did significant work in London where she moved in 1911.

18 IPSWICH ART SCHOOL, HIGH ST



ANNA AIRY

Anna Airy (1882-1964) was one of the first women officially commissioned as a war artist in the 1st World War, producing outstanding works depicting scenes in munitions factories. Anna moved to Playford in 1933 and in 1945 became the first woman President of Ipswich Art Club (now Society), a position she held until her death. Described as one of the most talented and versatile artists of her generation, Anna's influence was immense. She was a powerful and commanding figure. To commemorate her interest and support of art students, an annual Anna Airy Award competition was established which is open to young artists.

The Art School produced many of the artists who were members of the Art Club, which purchased in 1880 the building on the other side of the museum to exhibit their paintings.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

19 OLD MUSEUM ROOMS, 13 MUSEUM STREET



CONSTANCE ANDREWS

Constance Andrews (1864-1947) was the most prominent Ipswich woman to campaign for Votes for Women. In 1909, she founded the Ipswich branch of the radical suffragette organisation, the Women's Freedom League (WFL). After briefly having an office at Friars Street, the WFL moved to Arcade Street in 1911. Constance organised an action next door at the Old Museum Rooms on Census night, 3rd April 1911, when up to 30 women partied throughout the night to avoid filling in their Census forms (*If women don't count, don't count women*). The next month, Constance was sentenced to one week in Ipswich gaol for refusing to buy a dog licence (*No Vote, No Tax*). She was met out of prison by a large crowd who processed through Ipswich for a celebratory breakfast at their Arcade St office.

Their sister organisation, the Women's Social and Political Union, had their local office at 4a Princes Street, and a shop selling merchandise at 2 Dial Lane. Grace Roe came to Ipswich from London in 1910 to start the branch. She was a life-long committed suffragette imprisoned many times for her beliefs, and later became one of the Pankhursts' most trusted activists.



KATHLEEN WALNE

Kathleen Walne (1915-2011) was a very talented and successful watercolour artist. She has been described as having produced some of the most unusual and exuberantly colourful English watercolours of the last century. Kathleen grew up in Rushmere Rd and attended Britannia School. At the age of 14 she won a scholarship to the Ipswich Art School. There she met and later married fellow Suffolk artist Frank Ward. They moved to London where it was felt that Kathleen's talent might garner more recognition and in 1935 she had a solo exhibition at Wertheim's Gallery. Kathleen had a long life of painting, and now her works are displayed in the collections of Art Galleries as diverse as The Salford Museum and the Auckland City Art Gallery in New Zealand.

20 2 ELM STREET



JEAN INGELOW

Jean Ingelow (1820-1897) was a celebrated, best-selling author in Victorian times. Although her fame declined to almost nothing after her death, her books remain in print, and there is still a Jean Ingelow Society in America. She was highly regarded by such eminent authors as Tennyson and Ruskin. Her work includes poetry, children's stories and novels. Born in Lincolnshire, she moved to Ipswich at the age of 14, when her father became manager of the Ipswich and Suffolk Banking Company in Elm Street. Living here for 10 years over the bank, she began her first experiments as a writer. After the bank failed and the family moved out, the arch was created and Arcade Street was built on the site of the Ingelows' garden.

21 TOWN HALL



MARY WHITMORE

Mary Whitmore (1884 -1974) was the first woman mayor of Ipswich. Her interest in politics started with the suffragette movement when the Ipswich branch of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was formed. She became a Labour councillor in 1930 and Mayor in 1946, and was very active in, and chaired, a number of Public Health Committees. She was one of the founder members of the local Workers Education Association, (WEA) and secretary from 1929 - 39. Mary was a socialist, pacifist, and internationalist. In 1948, at a civic function, she was particularly welcoming of the many people from the Caribbean who had just arrived in Ipswich. She was awarded the MBE in 1951 for her contribution to public services.





The Ipswich Women's Festival Group aims to research and promote women's achievements - organising events and developing resources such as this local women's history trail. We would like to thank the former Ipswich Women's History Group for the work previously done by them and the many others whose knowledge we have drawn on in creating this trail.

If you wish to get in touch please email us at ipswomfes@gmail.com or contact us via our website www.ipswichwomensfestivalgroup.co.uk

Many of these women are celebrated with a Blue Plaque. For more information visit www.ipswichsociety.org.uk

PICTURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Suffolk Record Office: Clare Reeve; Nina Layard; Olive Turney; Constance Andrews; and Lilian Redstone
(from the Suffolk Records Society volume of Suffolk Farming in the 19th Century)

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service: Elizabeth Knipe Cobbold; Margaret Catchpole; Alice Tooley

Ipswich Unitarians: Winifred Brown

Ipswich High School for Girls: Sophie Youngman

Ipswich Arts Society: Anna Airey

DMA Smith: Kathleen Walne

Ipswich Borough Council: Mary Whitmore; Edith Maud Cook

Martin Cooper: Egerton's

© Victoria and Albert Museum, London: Judith Hayle

We have used an original illustration of an Eliza Acton dessert

The line-drawing of the Monument to the Martyrs is copied from the first Women's History Trail

With many thanks.