**Ip1**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Boss Hall Brooch and grave goods***  1600 years ago Boss Hall Road was yet to exist, but for one special Anglo-Saxon lady it was home and it was where she was laid to rest in one of the richest graves ever to be discovered in our town. |
| ***Footman's bags***  Did you work here? Which departments do you remember shopping in? Footman Pretty was the great department store of the town, opening in XXXX |
| ***Trade tokens***  These trade tokens, largely from the 1600s, tell us a story of ingenuity - of local business people finding ways to adapt and survive at a time when money was limited by the government largely to paper form. The tokens were produced by business owners as a local currency, for people to use when purchasing goods, produce and service in the town. They are all identified as belonging to named individuals who operated in the town and give us an insight into the lives of people of working class. There is a female business owner represented. |
| ***Cobbler's tools, to be displayed with shoes and bag:*** |
| ***Ladies shoes, paper bag***  Made by Alderton's, "his business was successful and quickly grew too big for its original premises. In 1857 he opened his new retail outlet at larger premises, 44 Butter Market (a shop that still sells quality shoes). Again trade was brisk and the business prosperous. Existing customers recommended Alderton’s footwear to their friends and family and all were welcomed into the shop. An important factor in the increased demand for shoes was the condition of the highway. Until the end of the 18th Century the majority of roads had been crudely constructed, and quickly rutted...." His was the first shop in Ipswich to be lit with electricity. "Alderton’s continued trading for 140 years until, in 1992, there was an unfortunate fire. The double jettied building next door suffered an electrical fault and together with numbers 44 and 46 was destroyed. When Number 44 reopened it became Jones’s Shoe Shop which had moved from 18-20 Butter Market." (Ipswich Star, John Norman, Ipswich Society) |
| ***Atys, Syrian god on jet plaque***  This small piece of jet has an image of a Syrian god carved onto it. It was found in the remains of the Roman villa at Castle Hill – one of the largest and most important Roman homes in Suffolk. We think the owners were administrators for the area, but they also had a decent farm. So Roman occupants with religious influences from across the continents. |
| ***Bramford Road flints***  Ipswich was an area of significant prehistoric life - the river was a great natural resource for humans and their prey. Evidence of human activity goes back thousands of years, our clues being large amounts of worked flints found when IP1 was developed for housing. |
| ***Pansy Wash's driving license*** |

Local girl Pansy was a driver during the second World War and these are the documents to prove it. There’s also a reference recommending her for driving work once the war had ended.

|  |
| --- |
| **IP2**  ***The Ipswich Torcs***  “A hoard of Roman era gold was discovered during building work in Holcombe Crescent in 1968, with the initial find consisting of five Romano-British gold torcs (decorative neck rings). The items show design features associated with the Iron Age La Tène culture, & are thought to date from around 75 BC” |
| ***working mens hats***  With Ransomes expanding to premises west of the river, so more locals were employed in the making of farming and industrial machinery, as well as lawnmowers and other engineering projects. The end of shift would see large waves of employees leaving the works and returning to nearby homes.  ***Ropemaker***  This is an ordinary object, representing the ordinary work that ordinary people in the town have done for much of its history. This ropemaker was used to spin several thin lengths of cord into one thicker, stronger rope. Ropewalk, on the east side of the town near the university, was a long, narrow area where people used to spin this rope. This was the oldest rope walking area in the town, but there were also areas in London Road (IP1), Wherstead Road (IP2) and Cliff Quay (IP3). Ipswich people have been heavily involved in the rope-making trade for hundreds of years, because the docks has always been a busy place, full of ships needing new ropes, sails and materials. |
| ***Roman coins***  Found in Speedwell Avenue when the council housing was built. There is a range of coins, suggesting contact with people who had travelled to other countries. |
|  |
| ***Roman Samianware pot marked ‘Chantry’*** |
| Carved Blue Coat Boy figure |

**IP3**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Ransomes Lawnmower***  Many people worked (and work) for Ransomes over the centuries, producing gardening and industrial equipment down on the docks and then out at Nacton Road works. This is one of the objects which represents innovation. |
| ***Racecourse post and bell***  This wooden post and steel bell once stood at the start/finish line of the Ipswich racecourse |
| ***50th Wedding handmade tablecloth***  White cotton tablecloth decorated with drawn threadwork and crochet. "Jean and Ted, 1944-1994". This adds to other pieces we have in the collection made by Jean Patterson and the work is of high quality. Jean made this when she was 70 (born in 1924). It is a nice example of the continuation of these skills and is a lovely example of commemorative needlework. |
| ***Holywells tie and badge***  Holywells High has now become Ipswich Academy. Sharing memories of school days, teachers, friends and childhood is a popular engagement route. |

**IP4**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Carved oak spandrels***  "The Old Custom House and Crane on Common Quay, as they were in the 18th century. It is believed that the Old Custom House stood here for 500 years before it was demolished in 1843 to make way for The New Custom House which we see today. The collonade was known as The Sailor's Walk since it was where the mariners used to promenade or sit when in port. The ornately carved timbers were preserved by the Ipswich Museum when The Old Custom House was demolished." Wikipedia: "The Lion and the Unicorn are symbols of the United Kingdom. They are, properly speaking, heraldic supporters appearing in the full royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom. The lion stands for England and the unicorn for Scotland. The combination therefore dates back to the 1603 accession of James I of England who was already James VI of Scotland." |
| ***Saxon Ipswichware***  Pottery production was a big deal in Saxon Ipswich. Mass pottery production, skilled locals copying and improving on imported goods. Reknowned and traded throughout the country. This object represents innovation. |
| ***Tea dealer token R Manistre*** |
| ***Gaumont theatre programmes***  Ipswich Gaumont theatre programmes – the theatres and cinemas of Ipswich have played a huge role in the lives of locals past and present and these might stimulate lots of conversation. They also feature local business ads. |
| ***Lyceum theatre programmes***  Lyceum theatre is no longer there, but played a huge part in the artistic and entertainment scene. Many adverts from local businesses make these good social objects. |
| ***Theatre Royal silk playbill*** |