

Memorials, Drinking Fountains and the Ice House

Ipswich War Memorial (The Cenotaph)

The Memorial is situated close to the Fonnereau Road Entrance and the Boer War Memorial. Both memorials are within sight of Christchurch Mansion, to the west of the Mansion, across an open grass area. A service of Remembrance is held in front of the memorial every year in November.

The Memorial was designed by Edward Adams, ARIBA, 1922-23, and was unveiled on 16 May 1924. The design was highly praised and featured in architectural magazines of the day. The names of 1,481 men and women from Ipswich who fell in World War 1 are recorded on the original memorial. Over 600 Ipswich people died in service during the Second World War and their names were added on new plaques which were unveiled on 16 May 2004.

The Boer War Memorial

The Suffolk Soldiers Memorial for the South Africa Conflict (The Boer War) is between the Round Pond and Fonnereau Road entrance close to the Ipswich War Memorial.

The Memorial was designed and made by Albert Toft (1869-1949) and originally stood on the Cornhill where it was unveiled on 26 September 1906. It was moved to Christchurch Park in about 1924 and placed close to the Ipswich War Memorial. There are memorials by Albert Toft in Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds that are similar to the one in Ipswich, but this is the only one in which the soldier has his head bowed. The same names are displayed on all three memorials as these soldiers were all from the same regiment.

Ipswich Martyrs' Memorial

The Martyrs' Memorial stands close to the Reg Driver Visitor Centre near the Bolton Lane entrance.

This monument was constructed in remembrance of nine Protestant martyrs from Ipswich and nearby villages, who were tortured and burned to death for preaching their beliefs in the mid sixteenth century. It was designed by H.T. Edwards of the Art Memorial Company and was unveiled on 16 December 1903. The memorial was at first intended to be placed on the Cornhill as this was the site of six of the executions, but as this was not possible it was situated in Christchurch Park where it stands today.

The Brett Drinking Fountain

This Grade II listed structure can be found just inside the Henley Road entrance in the Upper Arboretum, across the road from Ipswich School.

John Brett (1801 - 1874) wrote to the Mayor of Ipswich and the Corporation of the town in October 1862 offering to donate a drinking fountain to Ipswich after seeing children playing in the Arboretum and noticing that there was no drinking water for them. The Mayor accepted the gift and the fountain was commissioned, it cost £64 to construct. The Brett Drinking Fountain was described as being 'in the highly ornamental Italian style'. It was unveiled on May Day in 1863. This drinking fountain was the first feature to be restored in the Park under the Heritage Lottery Funded restoration project, with Suffolk Masonry Services carrying out the restoration work.

The Burton Drinking Fountain

This Grade II listed structure is by the side of the Ancient Avenue close to the play area.

This drinking fountain was restored in 2006 ahead of the Heritage Lottery funded restoration project. It was donated to the town by Sir Bunnell Burton (1859 - 1943) in 1895 and has always stood at its present location. Descendants of Sir Burton still live in Ipswich today.

The Ice House

The Ice House is situated north of the Mansion, not far from the Bolton Lane entrance to the Park. Walk from the Mansion past the Round Pond and the Visitor Centre, take the footpath that forks right, leading towards the Kiosk and the Westerfield Road entrance. As you reach the top of the steep slope the Ice House entrance is to your left.

The Ice House was built c.1735 by Claude Fonnereau who had just purchased Christchurch Mansion and, with his son Thomas, was responsible for many alterations and improvements to the Mansion and Park. In winter ice was collected from the ponds in the park, cut up and stored in the ice house. Storage underground in this closed brick chamber would have kept the ice frozen all through the summer. The ice was used to help keep food fresh and for medicinal purposes.