2000 25th Anniversary 2025

Ipswich Charter Hangings

In June 2025, a celebratory event at St Peter's by the Waterfront Arts and Heritage Centre brought together people who had contributed to the creation of the Charter Hangings, those who had sponsored and supported the work, and others involved in their promotion.

Isabel Clover, Brian Theodore Ralph, Roger Burke, Mike Motteram

Mike Motteram, the newly elected chair of Ipswich Arts Association, explained how Isabel Clover, a lecturer at (then) Suffolk College and known nationally for her ecclesiastical designs and embroidery, had been commissioned to create an embroidered hanging.

Isabel then spoke about their creation and some of the challenges faced in designing and creating the Hangings. She set out to give an overall feel for each historical period, but she also wanted to illustrate as much of the life and activities of the town as she could. In the panels, you'll find the Ransome's lawn mower, the Ancient House, and a corporation trolley bus on the Cornhill.

The audience was also treated to a dramatic reading of the Charter, allowing Ipswich the freedom to trade, by Brian Theodore Ralph.

Isabel Clover and embroiders who worked on the panels

Finally, Roger Burke from the Ipswich Rotary Club in Massachusetts shared some entertaining anecdotes about how Rotary clubs in both countries arranged for the hangings to travel to America.

The Mayor's visit to the Charter Hangings

The Mayor, Councillor Stefan Long, has also taken the opportunity to visit the Charter Hangings during their celebratory year.

Mike Motteram, Isabel Clover, The Mayor of Ipswich Councillor Stefan Long

Isabel took great pleasure in talking him through the eight panels explaining the significance of the buildings, activities and artifacts that can be seen in each one. The Mayor was equally delighted and fascinated to find out so much about the long history of the town he represents.

Isabel Clover and The Mayor of Ipswich

The Ipswich Charter Hangings can be viewed at St Peter's by the Waterfront - Arts and Heritage Centre. stpetersbythewaterfront.com
May - September:
Tuesdays, 10am-4pm; Wednesdays, 12pm-2pm & Thursdays,10am-4pm.
October - April:
Wednesdays from 12pm-2pm.

Jayne Gould & Jayne Andrews