



What role did Ipswich play in the World Wars?

Miss Mary Caroline Coulcher C.B.E.

Mary Caroline Coulcher was born in Rickinghall Superior, Suffolk on 19th November 1852. Her father, Reverend George Coulcher, was the Rector of Wattisfield. In 1870, Mary Coulcher moved to Ipswich and founded the first St John Ambulance organisation in the town.

St John Ambulance organisation

The St John Ambulance organisation was founded in 1877 to provide first aid training so that people could provide on-the-spot treatment in emergencies.

It is a charitable organisation that is still operated by volunteers. In 1877, the volunteers were organised into a Brigade to provide first aid and an ambulance service at public events. At the time, St John Ambulance was providing the only ambulance service in the country and would be the only provider until 1948 when the NHS was founded.

Mary Caroline Coulcher made many contributions to the town of Ipswich including being the first female town councillor from 1909 to 1912 and also helping fund the purchase of the town's first motorised ambulance.



• Gippeswyk Hall, Ipswich

During World War I, Mary Caroline Coulcher ran Broadwater Hospital and the isolation hospital at Gippeswyk Hall.

After the war, she was awarded an O.B.E and a C.B.E. These awards were given by King George V.

She died at the age of 72 on the 15th of June 1925.

Mary Caroline Coulcher's VAD (voluntary aid detachment) card gives more details about her role during World War I.

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|
| Surname | Coulcher | Suffolk/22 |
| Christian Names | Mary Caroline | O.B.E., C.B.E. Nov 19 1852 |
| Permanent Address | Beechholme | Ipswich |
| Date of Engagement | 7. 2. 11 | Rank see next |
| Date of Termination | still serving | Rank |
| Particulars of Duties | see next | |
| Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served | | |
| Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and when | | |
| Honours awarded | O.B.E., C.B.E. | |

| PERIOD OF SERVICE, ETC. | |
|--|---------------|
| From | 7. 2. 11 |
| To | still serving |
| Commission or Department or County | Suffolk |
| Lady District Superintendent S.I.A.B. No 10 East | |
| Commandant Suffolk 22; Acting Commandant | |
| Hon. Treasurer & Secretary Ipswich Centre | |
| From | 21. 10. 14 |
| To | 12. 2. 19 |
| Commandant of B | |
| From | 20. 3. 15 |
| To | 6. 9. 15 |
| Comdt Gippeswyk Hall | |



Mary Caroline Coulcher's VAD (voluntary aid detachment) card



Surname *Coulcher* *Suffolk/22.*
O.B.E., C.B.E. Recd 25 JUL 1919
 Christian Names *Mary Caroline* (*Mr., Mrs. or Miss*)
 Permanent Address: *Beechholme*
Ipswich
 Date of Engagement *7. 2. 11* Rank *see over.* Pay *Voluntary*
 Date of Termination *still serving* Rank *-* Pay *-*
 Particulars of Duties *see over*
 Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served *whole time*
 Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where
 Honours awarded *O.B.E., C.B.E.*

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Mary Caroline Coulcher's VAD (voluntary aid detachment) card

PERIOD OF SERVICE. Etc.

From *7. 2. 11* To *still serving* | Commission or Department or County *Suffolk*
Lady District Superintendent S. J. A. B. - No 10 Eastern District
Commandant Suffolk/22 ; Acting Commandant Suffolk/24
Hon. Treasurer + Secretary Ipswich Centre St. J. A. A.
 From *21. 10. 14* to *12. 2. 19* *Commandant of Broadwater Hospital Ipswich.*
 .. *20. 3. 15* .. *6. 9. 15* *Comdt Gippeowych [Isolation] Hospital Ipswich*

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? What role did Ipswich play in the World Wars?

Miss Mary Caroline Coulcher C.B.E. - Comprehension

Use the information provided to find the answers to these questions. Circle or highlight them in the text or on the documents.

1. When and where was Mary Caroline Coulcher born?

2. When did Mary Caroline Coulcher move to Ipswich?

3. How old was May Caroline Coulcher when her voluntary aid detachment began?
Check the date of engagement on her VAD card.

4. Where was she living at the time?

5. What dates was Mary Caroline Coulcher the Commandant of Broadwater Hospital?

6. What dates was Mary Caroline Coulcher the Commandant of Gippeswyk Hospital?

7. How much was Mary Caroline Coulcher paid for carrying out these important roles?

8. Explain the impact that Mary Caroline Coulcher had on Ipswich.





What role did Ipswich play in the World Wars?

Miss Mary Caroline Coulcher C.B.E. - Answers

Use the information provided to find the answers to these questions. Circle or highlight them in the text or on the documents.

1. When and where was Mary Caroline Coulcher born?

Mary Caroline Coulcher was born in Rickinghall Superior, Suffolk on the 19th of November 1852.

2. When did Mary Caroline Coulcher move to Ipswich?

Mary Caroline Coulcher moved to Ipswich in 1870.

**3. How old was May Caroline Coulcher when her voluntary aid detachment began?
Check the date of engagement on her VAD card.**

Mary Caroline Coulcher began her voluntary aid detachment on the 7th of February 1911 when she was 58 years old.

4. Where was she living at the time?

She was living at Beechholme, Ipswich at the time.

5. What dates was Mary Caroline Coulcher the Commandant of Broadwater Hospital?

Mary Caroline Coulcher was Commandant of Broadwater Hospital between the 21st of October 1914 and the 12th of February 1919.

6. What dates was Mary Caroline Coulcher the Commandant of Gippeswyk Hospital?

Mary Caroline Coulcher was Commandant of Gippeswyk Hospital between the 20th of March 1915 and the 6th of September 1915.

7. How much was Mary Caroline Coulcher paid for carrying out these important roles?

Mary Caroline Coulcher's pay is described as being voluntary so she would not have been paid.

8. Explain the impact that Mary Caroline Coulcher had on Ipswich.

Mary Caroline Coulcher had an important impact on the town of Ipswich. She founded the St John Ambulance organisation in the town, was Ipswich's first female councillor, helped fund the first motorised ambulance and ran two important hospitals during World War I.



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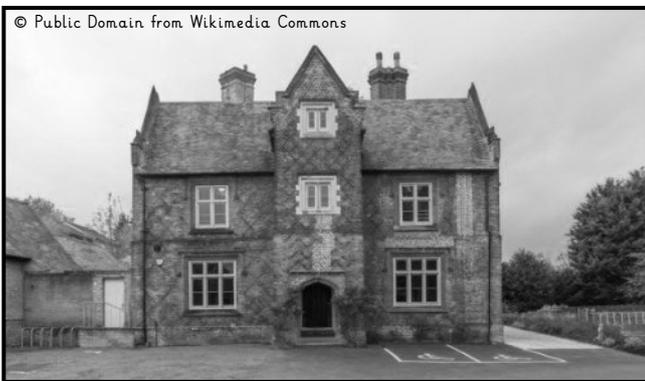
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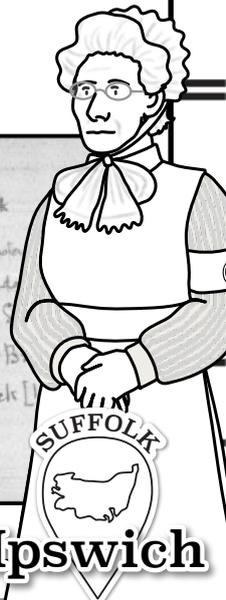
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| | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Surname | Coulcher | Suffolk/23 |
| Christian Names | Mary Caroline | O.B.E., C.B.E. Recd 25 JUN 1918 |
| Permanent Address | Beechholme Ipswich | |
| Date of Engagement | 7. 2. 11 | Rank See No. 4 |
| Date of Termination | Still serving | Rank |
| Particulars of Duties | See No. 4 | |
| Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served | | |
| Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and when | | |
| Honours awarded | O.B.E., C.B.E. | |

| PERIOD OF SERVICE, ETC. | |
|--|------------------|
| From | To |
| 7. 2. 11 | 70 Still serving |
| Commission or Department or County of Suffolk | |
| Lady District Superintendent S.J.A.B. No 10 East | |
| Commandant Suffolk, 23; Acting Commandant | |
| Hon Treasurer & Secretary Ipswich Centre | |
| From | To |
| 21. 10. 14 | 15 12. 2. 19 |
| Commandant of B | |
| 20. 3. 15 | 6. 9. 15 |
| Comdt Gippeswyk Hall | |

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Historic England

Ipswich

Mary Caroline Coulcher's VAD (voluntary aid detachment) card



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Hospital
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Hospital
Ipswich



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Ipswich



Teacher's Pet



Historic England



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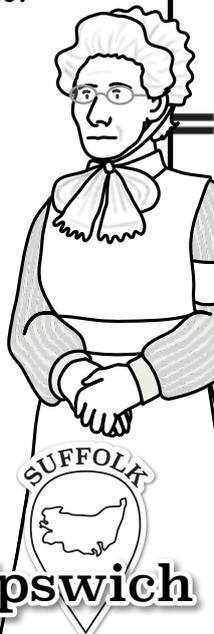
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Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



Historic England



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.