

Autumn Family Events Programme 2010

The 'Relic' Medieval Trail @ Colchester Castle

Until Sunday 30th January 2011

As part of 'A History of the World', in partnership with the BBC, here is a chance for visitors to explore the medieval parts of the Castle and displays. Grab a quiz booklet from the reception desk, and take part in the challenges. This is no ordinary quiz or trail - you will be challenged with your memory, physically, in discovery, by reasoning and by riddle! You will find yourself looking more closely at the Castle than you ever have before, and get a chance to really explore parts of our medieval displays.

£1 per trail copy (**after normal Castle admission**)

Drop-in Mon-Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun 11am – 5pm

Ammonite Explorer Day @ Ipswich Museum

Saturday 25th September

Meet the Museum's ammonites - exotic fossil sea-creatures with names to rival those of the dinosaurs. Most have travelled for over 100 million years to be with you for the day!

Learn how they act as Jurassic clocks, what ate them, and how some arrived in Suffolk as Ice-Age stones. Take a field trip to Ipswich Museum, meet museum and GeoSuffolk geologists, and get very, very close to ammonites!

Free

Suitable for all ages

Drop-in 10am - 4pm

Hawstead Panel Art Attack @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Saturday 2nd – Sunday 31st October

Come along to Christchurch Mansion any day this month and create your very own Hawstead Panel to add to the wall.

With the original 17th Century paintings as inspiration, use a range of materials to create your own masterpiece. Add it to the wall and by the end of the 'Big Draw' there should be a giant panel room made up completely of your creations!

Free

Suitable for all ages

Drop-in 10am – 5pm

African Big Draw @ Ipswich Museum

Saturday 2nd October

Marking both Black History Month and the Big Draw, this fun event welcomes you to drop in and draw! A great collection of African objects will be out of stores to help you to focus your artistic eye – be inspired and get drawing!

Free

Suitable for all ages

Drop-in 10am - 4pm

African Drumming @ Ipswich Museum

Saturday 9th October

The celebrations for Black History Month continue, as for one day only, local drummer Mark Trewartha runs these popular workshops. Explore different instruments, techniques and rhythms in these fascinating sessions, whether it be with your family or by yourself.

Fun **family** workshops begin at 10am and 12.30pm at last 90 minutes

Suitable for ages 6+

£5 per child (6-15yrs) £8 per adult, adults must have children with them

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping into Christchurch Mansion

Medieval Fun Day @ Colchester Castle

Saturday 23rd October

Join in a fun day as Colchester Castle goes medieval. As well as our medieval displays and 'The Medieval Treasures' exhibition, visitors will also get a chance to make medieval plaques and meet a host of medieval characters. Visitors can also take a tour with a medieval guide, taking in the Great Stairs and the roof.

£1 per adult, 50p per child for the tour

All attractions (except the tour) are free **(after normal Castle admission)**

Drop-in 10am - 4pm

Robert Dodynghryst: Agincourt Veteran @ Colchester Castle

Monday 25th – Friday 29th October

595 years ago this week, Henry V led the English to victory against the French in the Battle of Agincourt, a major battle in the Hundred Years War. This victory brought France to its knees. The battle was also notable for England's prolific bowmen. Join veteran Robert Dodynghryst, Archer of Richard de Vere 11th Earl of Oxford, as he talks about the battle, and shows some of the armour and weapons the English had.

Free **(after normal Castle admission)**

Drop-in sessions at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

BSL interpreted sessions: Tuesday 26th October at 11am and 1pm

Big Draw: The Servants of Hollytrees @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Monday 25th – Friday 29th October

Celebrate the Big Draw by getting to know our Hollytrees servants. You can help to create a servant scene, which will build up as the week goes on. You will also get a chance to make your own little servants to take home.

£1.50 per person

Booked sessions at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01206 282940 or by dropping into Hollytrees Museum

Mr Beetle @ Natural History Museum, Colchester

Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th October

Come along to the museum for some story-telling and sing-a-long with Mr Beetle. This fun session explores the perils of being a small but important mini-beast in the world today, packed with humour, six legs, wings and a ukulele! Mr Beetle is a unique and wonderful way of exploring natural history.

Free

Drop-in sessions at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3pm

Pick 'n' Mix Pictures @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Monday 25th – Thursday 28th October

The Big Draw celebrations continue throughout half term, with the chance to take part in two very different drawing challenges!

The wrong trousers: help to complete William Wollaston's wardrobe by adding your own fashion design to the group art work! Which outfit will he wear today?

Pick 'n' Mix pictures: use a viewfinder to select one thing from each painting in the Wolsey Art Gallery to include in your own picture – how will you mix it up?

Free

Suitable for all ages

Drop-in 10am – 4pm

The Big Draw with Slack Space: Pen and Ink Wash @ Colchester Castle

Tuesday 26th October

Join artist Michele Webber as Colchester and Ipswich Museums joins forces with Slack Space. Come to the Castle and join in some pen and ink wash art using medieval-style dib pens.

Free **(after normal Castle admission)**

Suitable for all ages

Drop-in 10.30am-1pm and 2pm-4pm

Opening up the Doll's House @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th October

Join a Hollytrees servant who will talk about their duties in Victorian Hollytrees. These were the days before vacuum cleaners and central heating, and a servant's work is never done! Visitors will also get up close to the famous Hollytrees Doll's House – a miniature replica of the house. The servant will take rooms out so visitors can get an even closer look!

Free

Drop-in performances at 11am, 2pm and 3pm

Go Live Week @ Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 26th – Friday 29th October

Join some weird and wonderful creatures in the museum this week – get up close and personal, and learn some fascinating animal facts!

Tuesday 26th October: Rainforest Layers

Explore the range of exotic creatures that would be found in our planet's rainforests.

Wednesday 27th October: African Animals

Tying in with Black History Month, today you can see a variety of animals from Africa.

Thursday 28th October: Invertebrates

Find out more about creatures which lack a bit of backbone – various invertebrates for you to admire!

Friday 29th October: Snakes Galore

Whether you love them or hate them, today is your chance to make friends with a range of different snakes!

40-minute sessions begin at 10.15am, 11.15am, 12.15pm, 1.45pm, 2.45pm, 3.45pm

£1.50 per person over 2 years

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping into Christchurch Mansion

The Big Draw with Slack Space: Nature Banner @ Natural History Museum, Colchester

Wednesday 27th October

Join artist Lisa Temple-Cox as Colchester and Ipswich Museums joins forces with Slack Space. Taking inspiration from the museum displays, visitors can take part in creating a Nature Banner, a long piece of artwork created by visitors, on which you can draw your favourite objects, or something with a natural history theme. Let your imagination go wild! Visitors will also be able to create their own drawing to take home.

Free

Suitable for all ages

Drop-in anytime 10am-1pm and 2pm-4.30pm

A Giant in the Gallery @ Ipswich Art School

Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28th October

The giant has woken up on the wrong side of his bed this week – he can't find any of his belongings! He really needs your help to replace his lost things – can you make something GIGANTIC for him to use? Workshop leader and materials provided. Children must be accompanied at all times.

£2.00 per child

Suitable for ages 3+

90-minute sessions at 10.30am, 1pm and 3pm

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping into Christchurch Mansion

Make/ Map/ Mark Workshop @ Town Hall Gallery, Ipswich

Wednesday 27th October

Hosted by Helen Rousseau as part of the Big Draw this workshop will introduce you to some of the processes and outcomes explored in the project respond/reply. Learn through practical exploration of imagery, text and collaborative working practices.

Free

11am - 1pm & 2pm - 4pm

Suitable for families with children suitable 6+ years

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping into Christchurch Mansion

The Big Draw with Slack Space – Objects and Image @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester Thursday 28th and Friday 29th October

Join artist Verity Mansfield as Colchester and Ipswich Museums joins forces with Slack Space. This Big Draw workshop will give you the opportunity to become part of the history of Hollytrees by helping to build a library of personalised books that reflect your favourite objects in the museum. Using a combination of observational drawing and drawing from memory with an informal, experimental approach to the art of the book.

Free

Suitable for all ages

Drop-in any time 10.30am-1pm and 2pm-4.30pm

Sutton Hoo Character @ Colchester Castle Saturday 27th November

The Sutton Hoo burial site is one of the most important Saxon burial grounds ever discovered. One of Sutton Hoo's characters is in Colchester today to tell visitors about his life. Visitors can hear all about life at the time, and get close to weaponry and armour.

Free **(after normal Castle admission)**

Drop-in anytime 10am – 1pm

Ice Age @ High Street Museum Saturday 4th December

It's all a bit chilly... well, it **IS** winter! Why not warm up at Ipswich Museum today, as we bring you some wonderfully Christmassy activities, inspired by the Ice Age! You'll be in good company with the woolly mammoth and our cavewoman storyteller, and though not quite prehistoric, Santa will also be in the museum for one day only!

£2 per stamp card (covers craft activities and storytelling)

Drop-in storytelling sessions at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

Craft activities drop-in 2-4pm

£2 per child for Father Christmas drop-in between 10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm

Suitable for all ages

Deck the Halls @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester Sunday 12th December

'Tis the season to be jolly, so come along to Hollytrees for its annual afternoon of Christmas decoration making. What better way to get the season under way than enjoying the unique atmosphere of Hollytrees?

Grab a stamp card from the front desk, then find all five activities around the museum and have fun. You will go home with a 'fa la la la la, la la la la' in your step.

Drop-in 12.30pm-4pm

£2.50 per stamp card

Tudor Christmas @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich Sunday 12th December

Join us for a fabulously festive celebration – Tudor style! Meet costumed characters and enjoy the dulcet tones of the Tudor minstrels, make your own fruity pomander and join in other craft activities, all inspired by our 16th Century ancestors. Father Christmas will also be in the house for one day only!

Drop in 10am - 4pm
Suitable for all ages
Tudor music and characters: Free
Craft activities: £1.50 per person
Father Christmas: £2 per child
BSL interpreter available 10.30am – 3.30pm

Christmas Open Evening and Market @ Colchester Castle **Wednesday 15th December**

The annual evening of merriment is back as Colchester Castle becomes a Christmas fantasyland. Visitors can hear Christmas carols, sup on mulled wine and munch on a mince pie, while Santa will be visiting with his grotto. Surrounding the castle will be the Christmas market, with Christmas stalls, fun rides and entertainment. There is also a guarantee of snow at the front of the castle! Free (£2 to visit Santa's grotto and receive a gift)
Rides outside the castle are also subject to charge
Drop-in 3pm-8.30pm
BSL interpreter available 3pm-8pm

The Roman Invasion @ Colchester Castle **Saturday 19th February**

Join in for a day of reaction to the Roman invasion. It was a tough period for the country, with new rulers, and there was a lot of opposition! The day includes performances from Boudica, Caractacus (son of King Cunobelin), and also a Roman and Briton giving their own take on their new lives.
Free (after normal Castle admission)
Drop-in 10am – 4.30pm

Medieval Crime and Punishment Trials @ Colchester Castle **Monday 21st – Friday 25th February**

Forget ASBOs and orderly court rooms – welcome to the world of medieval crime and punishment. Join in as we put people up for trial, medieval-style – maybe you will be up for something! You will find out not only how the court system ran back then, but also discover the punishments to certain crimes.
Free (after normal Castle admission)
Shows take place at 11am, 12pm, 2pm and 3pm

Animation Stations @ Christchurch Mansion **Monday 21st – Thursday 24th February**

Take part in a 2½hr workshop with professional animators. You'll make models, animate scenes and create a film that tells the story of Christchurch Mansion. Everyone's work will be edited onto a finished DVD for you to keep.
£8 per child, plus £1 **on the day** for your own copy of the finished film.
10am - 12.30pm (5-7 years)
2pm - 4.30pm (8+)
These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping into Christchurch Mansion

Egyptian Pottery Workshops @ Ipswich Museum **Tuesday 22nd – Friday 25th February**

Take inspiration from the enchanting Egyptian gallery and work with an artist to create your own pot or mini canopic jar.
£2.00 per child
Workshops at 11am, 12pm, 2pm and 3pm
Suitable for ages 6+
These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping into Christchurch Mansion

School Report Quiz Trail @ Ipswich Art School

Tuesday 22nd – Saturday 26th February

Have a go at this fun quiz trail and discover more about the artists who studied and taught at Ipswich Art School.

Free

Drop-in 10am – 5pm

Spray-paint Stencils @ Ipswich Art School

Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd February

Join our friendly artist in this fun workshop. Create your own stencil, then mix paints and use spray techniques to produce your own unique artwork.

£1.50 per child

Workshops at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm

Suitable for ages 6+

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping into Christchurch Mansion

Make Your Own Mini-sedan Chair @ Hollytrees Museum

Monday 21st – Friday 25th February

One of the first things you see as you enter Hollytrees Museum is the sedan chair, an early version of a modern taxi. Now is your chance to make your own toy miniature sedan chair to take home – a great souvenir of your visit to Hollytrees.

£1.50 per person

Sessions at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01206 282940 or by dropping into Hollytrees Museum

Discover Colchester's Hidden Heritage....

Celebrating Heritage Open Days!

In and around Colchester

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September

FREE

Visitors can discover some of Colchester's most beautiful and hidden historic buildings over a whole weekend of fun – **absolutely free**. Celebrating Heritage Open Days, Colchester and Ipswich Museums in partnership with Colchester Borough Council, Colchester Civic Society and English Heritage will be offering more than 30 sites to visit and activities to enjoy.

Heritage Open Days offer visitors the unique opportunity to explore and enjoy hidden, curious, and always fascinating buildings that aren't usually open to the public. All activities and buildings are completely free of charge to enjoy and for those that fancy it a vintage bus, courtesy of Eastern National Vehicle Owners Club, will take visitors between some of the buildings.

Over the weekend visitors can enjoy seeing behind the scenes at Colchester Town Hall, take guided tours of the 15th century Sparling Benham and Brough, visit the Colne Light Ship, see the town's Roman Theatre and much more.

On Saturday 11th September only visitors can enjoy the rare chance to visit Colchester Castle, absolutely free. This incredibly popular day in Colchester's events calendar allows visitors to explore 2000 years of stunning history, absolutely free.

Clive Stacey, Learning Officer at Colchester and Ipswich Museums, said, "Colchester has much to offer from over 2000 years of history. Visitors can see a burial tumulus from the Iron Age (pre-Roman) period, see inside buildings dating back hundreds of years, visit a mill with working water wheel, and board a barge and ship at Colchester's port. The Castle museum will open its doors

for **free** on Saturday 11th September, and on Sunday visitors can take themed walking tours of Roman and Civil War sites. Other attractions include a treasure trail, behind the scenes tours of the Mercury Theatre, tours of the magnificent Town Hall, and a chance to get a bird's eye view of Colchester from the top of the tower of the Arts Centre. It really is a town with a lot to discover, and it is made possible by the passions of volunteers, local businesses and public bodies."

Cllr. Nick Barlow, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Portfolio Holder for Colchester Borough Council said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for people to see Colchester and its buildings from a completely different angle, as well as getting a chance to see places that are normally hidden away."

To find out which properties are open and what activities will be taking place pick up a leaflet and map from any of Colchester's museums or Colchester's Visitor Information Centre.

Properties

Saturday 11th September

Colchester Town Hall, Tymperleys Clock Museum, Peake's House, Roman Theatre, 'Camulodunum to Colchester' Trail, Colchester Castle Free Day, St Helen's Chapel, Sparling Benham and Brough, Audley Chapel, St Martin's Church, NEEDFAS in Hollytrees Museum, St John's Abbey Gatehouse, Mercury Theatre, Lexden Tumulus, Quaker Meeting House (St Mary's House), St Botolph's Church, Bourne Mill, Colchester Royal Grammar School, Roman Church Remains, St John's Orthodox (Garrison) Church, Colchester Cemetery, Vintage Bus Service, St Leonard-at-the-Hythe Church, Headgate Theatre, St James the Great Church, Vintage Bus Display, 'Discover Colchester' at Slack Space, University of Essex Latin American Art Collection, Colchester Library – Discover Historic Colchester, Sailing Barge 'Fertile', Colne Light Ship.

Sunday 12th September

Colchester Town Hall, Peake's House, Roman Theatre, Costumed Themed Walking Tours, St Helen's Chapel, Audley Chapel, St Martin's Church, NEEDFAS in Hollytrees Museum, St John's Abbey Gatehouse, Lexden Tumulus, St Botolph's Church, Bourne Mill, Roman Church Remains, Colchester Cemetery, Headgate Theatre, St Mary at the Walls Church (Colchester Arts Centre).

To find out more about Colchester and Ipswich Museums bumper programme of events visit

www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

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