

Historic Tournament!

Museums are not known for their ball skills but Colchester and Ipswich Museums is 'kicking off' an initiative to bring diverse community groups together all in aid of the beautiful game and to promote well being and engagement beyond the museum walls.

As part of the museums ongoing work in the field of health and wellbeing a community football tournament will take place on **Tuesday 24th May 6-8pm at Colchester Leisure World**. This is also part of Colchester Council's wider community engagement and also the council wellbeing project which also involves activities to improve wellbeing within the organisation.

"Happy, healthy and here" says Louise Denyer, Strategic HR Officer. Aside from Colchester Borough Council's duty of care to their employees to provide a safe and healthy working environment, we are committed to enhancing the wellbeing of our employees; minimising the risk of employees becoming ill, supporting staff through rehabilitation when they are ill and improving employee retention. A healthy workforce enables us to gain from the potential of our people and increase our capacity to deliver excellent service to our customers

From a Colchester Borough Council initiative this great project emerged to join forces with the community and involve Colchester Borough museum service staff and their community links to create something engaging and different. Colchester and Ipswich Museums have been and continue to be committed to improving their services for various groups in the community for many years now. Through our outreach and access projects many people have experienced museums and local heritage that would not normally have had the opportunity to do so.

The teams are from local mental health services, learning disability services, church sides and a team from the museums. It is hoped that this will be the start of ongoing projects between all the groups and others who would like to join in.

Cllr. Nick Barlow Portfolio Holder - Economic Development, Culture and Tourism says 'Football is an excellent vehicle to bring diverse communities together and encourage a sense of belonging and community and a create way to engage people with our wonderful museums in Colchester and Ipswich.'

It is hoped that through this event the groups may arrange further games, or other activities, with each other. We also hope that we can build on this event and look at future projects with the aim of introducing more people to the benefits of heritage and museums and create new visitors to museums, events and opening up new audiences to our past.

If you or a community group would like to be involved please contact- John Pollard Project Officer - Colchester and Ipswich Museums 01206 282925