

Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service

Adult Events

July –Dec 2011- Enjoy and get involved!

Roman Glass @ Colchester Castle

Thursday 7th July

The Romans invented this extremely useful material. Could you imagine life without it? Join our Heritage Manager as he shows off some of the museum service's collection of Roman glass objects, usually not on display to the public.

Drop-in 2pm-4pm

Free (after normal admission to the Castle)

Inventive Victorians: Discover and Age of Change @ St Botolph's Priory, Colchester

Saturday 9th July

A themed day examining Victorian inventions and developments. Hear talks by local historian Patrick Denney, see some rare Victorian objects and talk to curators and archaeologists about the Museum's Victorian past, tour Priory ruins and discover railway history through plays and the East Anglian Railway Museum.

Drop-in 10.30am-4.30pm

Talks and plays throughout the day

Free

Discount Day at the Castle @ Colchester Castle

Saturday 16th July

We have caught the carnival fever at the Castle and are reducing the entrance fee to £2 a person, for one day only! Discount vouchers will not be valid on this day.

10am – 5pm

£2 per person

Beautiful Butterflies @ Natural History Museum

Thursday 28th July

See some preserved native butterfly specimens as they go under the magnifier. Talk to the curator about how to see them in the wild and encourage them into your garden.

Drop-in 2pm-4pm

Free

Belle of the Ball @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Thursday 18th August

Join our Costume Curator and view some of the museum's amazing ball gowns and evening suits, brought out of our stores especially for this event.

Drop-in 2pm – 4pm

Free

Bahamian Artist Exchange @ Ipswich Art School

Tuesday 30th August

Come and find out more about an exciting Bahamas/Ipswich artist exchange taking place this summer. See and hear more about the ideas and art produced and ask questions from the artists involved from both sides of the Atlantic.

7pm – 8pm

£3 per person

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

Rock and Roll Memories @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Saturday 3rd September

Take a trip down memory lane with games, objects and music, topped off with tea and biscuits. The session will use objects from our reminiscence collection and looks at daily life, holidays and the dreaded classroom. Just bring yourself and your stories.

11am – 12pm (lasts 1 hour)

£2.50 per person (includes tea, coffee and biscuits)

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

Photography Tour and Talk @ Ipswich Art School

Thursday 8th September

Join photographer Sam Mellish for a talk about his exhibition *Roadside Britain*, on display throughout the summer, which documents traditional roadside services across Britain. Hear about the influences and stories that inspired the images.

7pm-8pm

£3 per person

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

Costumed Tudor Tour @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Friday 9th September

Enjoy an evening tour of the Mansion with a costumed guide. See some hidden Tudor features of this fantastic building and a chance to enjoy a drink in the Great Hall

Tours run 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Free

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

Castle Free Day @ Colchester Castle

Saturday 10th September

Colchester Castle opens its doors for free for one day only. Grab this chance to see this award-winning museum. This event is part of Heritage Open Days 2011.

10am – 4.30pm

Free

Heritage Open Days in Colchester

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September

Historic buildings and events across Colchester. See publicity nearer the time for the full listings and times. Join our mailing list to be the first to find out!

Various times at different sites ranging from 9am – 5pm

Free

Fashion Forever @ Colchester Castle

Saturday 24th September

Find out how costumes and textiles are looked after from our Costumes Curator and Conservator. Get practical advice about looking after clothes and textiles, from wedding dresses to uniforms. Bring your own textiles for extra practical advice.

10.30am-1.00pm

£10 per person, includes castle entry (tea and coffee included)

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

Making Metals Last @ Ipswich Museum
Saturday 8th October

Join our conservator and hear about looking after metal objects. From trophies to jewellery and ornaments, learn how to keep them looking good and make them last.

10.30am - 1pm

£10 per person

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

The Life and Times of Agatha Christie @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich
Thursday 20th October

Peter Berridge, Museum Manager presents a lively and intriguing insight into the work of this prolific author. Enjoy a glass of wine or a soft drink during this relaxed evening.

7.00pm – 8.30pm

£6 per person

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

In Focus @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester
Wednesday 26th October

See and handle examples of some of the earliest cameras. Understand how they worked before the age of computers and digital photography and see photographs by one of Colchester's first Victorian photographers, Benjamin Monson.

Drop-in 2pm-4pm

Free

Skeletons and Bones @ Ipswich Museum
Thursday 27th October

What lies beneath? A chance to see the museum's collection of animal bones and teeth, looking at a variety of exotic animals and insect specimens.

Drop-in 2pm-4pm

Free

Dark Tours @ Colchester Castle
Thursday 27th October and Thursday 3rd November

An after hours tour of the Castle's dark and gruesome history into the vaults, roof, prisons, and around the museum. Hear stories of witches, martyrs, plague and death. Over 16's only. Unfortunately the tour is not wheelchair accessible.

Tours at 6pm, 7pm, 8pm

£4.50 per person

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

This tour involves stairs – unfortunately the tour is not wheelchair accessible

Fashion Forever @ Christchurch Mansion
Saturday 19th November

Find out how costumes and textiles are looked after from our Costumes Curator and Conservator. Get practical advice about looking after clothes and textiles, from wedding dresses to uniforms. Bring your own textiles for extra practical advice,

10.30am – 1pm

£10 per person (tea and coffee included)

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

Making Metals Last @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Saturday 3rd December

Join our conservator and hear about looking after metal objects. From trophies to jewellery and ornaments, learn how to keep them looking good and make them last.

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Victorian Christmas @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Sunday 4th December

Step back in time and experience a Victorian Christmas. See craft demonstrations and buy unique Christmas gifts. Meet historic characters, enjoy music and carols and get a close look at some amazing coins lost down the sofa of time!

10am – 4pm

Free

Christmas Open Evening @ Colchester Castle

Wednesday 14th December

A seasonal treat as Colchester Castle opens its doors for FREE! Come and soak up the Christmas atmosphere with festive entertainment and browse around the vibrant Christmas Market outside.

3pm-8.30pm

Free

Festival of British Archaeology

Gruesome Prison Tours @ Colchester Castle

Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st July

Discover the gruesome side of Colchester Castle on an after hours tour of the Castle Prisons. Suitable for a family audience.

Tour at 5.30pm

Adults £4.50, children £3.50

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

Uncovering the Burnham Bronze Age Hoard @ Colchester Castle

Wednesday 20th July

Join our Finds Liaison Officer and Conservator and learn about the discovery of the Burnham Bronze Age hoard. Discovered by metal detectorists in 2010, it has led to an excavation and continuing research and conservation work.

2pm - 3pm

Free (after normal Castle admission)

A Walk Through Secrets of the Past @ Colchester Castle

Saturday 23rd July

Discover the secrets from beneath your feet and behind your walls in this guided tour of the Castle's new BURIED! exhibition.

Tours at 2pm and 3pm

Free (after normal Castle admission)

Descend into the Past @ Colchester Castle

Monday 25th – Friday 29th July

A family friendly tour beneath Colchester Castle. Find out more about the Roman invasion, the development of Colchester's Roman Town and Boudica's revolt.

Tours take place at 10.30am and 11.30am each day

£1.50 per adult, £1 per child (after normal Castle admission)

Please book your place on arrival

Colchester Castle: Up Close @ Colchester Castle

Tuesday 26th July

This after hours tour is an archaeological insight into the Castle's development. Based on recent research, see parts that raise questions and cast light on things we hadn't thought of, from Roman to Medieval. Bring a torch to see the detail!

6pm and 7.30pm

£4.50 per person (after normal Castle admission)

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

Top 10! @ Colchester Castle

Wednesday 27th July

Talk a walk with our Archaeology Curator to discover his top 10 objects, and find your own favourite! Explore the stories behind these incredible objects including one of the earliest wood carvings in Europe and the tombstones of Roman soldiers.

2pm – 3pm

Free (after normal Castle admission)

Archaeology Beyond the Ground @ Colchester Castle

Friday 29th July

Join Colchester and Ipswich Museums Conservators to discover what happens to archaeological objects after an excavation.

2pm – 3pm

Free (after normal Castle admission)

Conservation in Action @ Colchester Castle

Friday 29th July

Take a guided tour of Colchester Museum's archaeology with our resident conservator for a new perspective on our displays.

3pm – 4pm

Free (after normal Castle admission)

Art Classes

Experience a range of media in these adult art classes at Ipswich Art School

Classes at 6.30pm – 8.30pm and are suitable for beginners.

£10.00 per class

Enjoy all 3 classes for just £25.00

Classes must be booked on 01473 433691 or by dropping into Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich (Tue – Sun, 10am – 4.45pm)

Places must be booked and paid for in advance.

Still Life Masterclass @ Ipswich Art School

Wednesday 12th October

Join our professional artist who will demonstrate a variety of techniques for drawing still life. You can then work with the artist to experiment with pencils, graphite sticks and charcoal to produce your own unique piece of work. This class is linked to the national Big Draw initiative to spark your creativity.

Painting Portraits @ Ipswich art School

Wednesday 19th October

Inspired by the Behind the Mask exhibition in the Ipswich Art School this session will use the mask collection to explore faces and expressions. Learn some effective techniques from our professional artist working in paint to create a portrait full of personality.

Ceramics: Tile making and Slip Decoration @ Ipswich Art School

Wednesday 9th November

Our professional ceramicist will demonstrate techniques such as marbling, feathering, sgraffito and slip resist. Use plaster press moulds to make a dish or a bowl to decorate with the slip techniques you have learnt. A rare opportunity not to be missed!

Tea and talks @ Colchester Castle

A cup of tea and a talk in the surroundings of Colchester Castle.

Talks begin at 3pm

(Tea served at end of talk)

All Tea and Talks will be BSL interpreted.

Ticket holders can enter the Castle from 2.30pm at no extra charge (otherwise normal admission).

£3.50 per talk

(£3 for Friends of the Museum)

Enjoy all 5 for just £15

(£13 for Friends of the Museum)

Talks can be booked on 01206 282940, or by dropping into Hollytrees Museum (Tue – Sat 10am – 4.45pm Sun 11am – 4.45pm)

Tickets for all talks must be booked, paid for and collected in advance.

The Storm and Flood of 1953

Saturday 29th October

The 31st January 1953 saw the coastal regions of East Anglia hit by one of the area's greatest natural disasters of modern times. The fury of the storm and severity of the flood that night will be shown in relation to weather and tidal conditions. Discover the main events affecting the seas and coasts around Britain, especially in East Anglia, including the possibility of a repeat – or more series – flood.

Adrian Wright , former Head of Geography, Colchester Royal Grammar School

Richard III

Saturday 5th November

Richard III – child murderer, usurper, hunchback, cold, calculating; Shakespeare's ultimate villain. Shakespeare's Richard is pure imagination designed to satisfy a Tudor monarch. So what else is propaganda or conjecture and what is truth? Join a member of the Richard III Society for an afternoon sorting fact from fiction. What exactly happened one summer over 500 years ago is still debated today.

Frances Sparrow, Local Historical Guide

Beggars, Tramps & Paupers: Poor Law Records for Family History

Saturday 12th November

Under the Poor Law Act of 1601 the Parish became firmly responsible for administering local poor relief. Parish officers wielded great power over the poor and decided, in many cases, where people were born, where they lived, worked, married and even where they died. This talk explores some of the surviving records and reveals one or two real life 'Oliver Twist' characters.

Patrick Denney, Local Historian

The Image of Witches

Saturday 19th November

Discover how visual images are used to investigate Early Modern ideas about Witches. Hear about the differing witch beliefs across Europe. What are Witches? Why have Witches been commonly associated with women, old age and poverty? This talk will show some background history on the Witch-Hunt that led to the burning and hanging of many men and women.

Carrie Willis, Colchester and Ipswich Museums

Elvis Ate My Hamster off the Mildenhall Great Dish!

Saturday 26th November

Unearthing the Mildenhall treasure of Roman silverware at the height of World War II was one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the century. However, conspiracy theories have been built on claims and counterclaims as to exactly how it was found and where. The mystery even inspired the author Roald Dahl to compose a short story. This talk will take an overview of the discovery and discuss the latest theories surrounding the story of the treasure. Will fact be stranger than fiction?

Caroline McDonald, Curator of Archaeology

www.colchester.gov.uk

www.visitcolchester.com