

Beatrix Potter Family Day @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich
Sunday 26th June

The tales of Beatrix Potter have come to life in Christchurch Mansion, with amazing costumes from the Royal Opera House Ballet. Bring a picnic and join in the fun. Hear 'Beatrix Potter' telling her stories, follow Peter Rabbit's trail through the Mansion to find all his friends, help Mrs Tiggy Winkle with the washing in the laundry and make your own animal mask. There is fun for all the family.

Drop-in 10am – 4pm
Free entry to storytelling and trail
Craft activities £1

Inventive Victorians: Discover an Age of Change @ St Botolph's Priory
Saturday 9th July 2011

An exciting fun-filled day of music, plays, re-enactment, craft activities, talks and games based on Victorian innovation. You will be able to get close to real Victorian museum objects, hear about the growth of the railways, meet Queen Victoria herself and play on the swing boats. There will also be a bric-a-brac, cake sale and refreshments available.

Drop-in 10.30am - 4.30pm
Free entry to the event and most of the activities.
£1 buys you a stamp card to take part in all craft events.

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!

10am – 5pm
£2
Not bookable

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.

This event is part of the Festival of British Archaeology and in association with BBC Hands on History Dig! bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

Tour at 5.30pm
Adults £4.50, children £3.50
Places must be booked in advance on 01206 282940, or by dropping into Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Eastern Promise! @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Saturday 23rd July

Enjoy a colourful and fun-packed Chinese themed day and help us mark the one year countdown until the Olympics. There will be plenty of activities for the whole family to take part in and you can get creative with free art and craft activities.

Drop-in 11am – 4pm

Free

Descend into the Past @ Colchester Castle

Monday 25th – Friday 29th July

Join our family-friendly tour underneath Colchester Castle. Find out more about the Roman invasion, the development of Colchester's Roman Town and Boudica's revolt against it!

This event is part of the Festival of British Archaeology and in association with BBC Hands on History Dig! bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

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

Animal Trails @ Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 26th July – Saturday 3rd September

Set off on your own expedition; use a magnifying glass or binoculars to discover the animals hiding all over the museum. Just grab a special trail sheet from the museums reception.

Drop-in Tuesday to Saturday, 10am – 5pm

50p per trail sheet

Beatrix Potter Baskets @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Tuesday 26th July – Sunday 4th September

Borrow a story basket and find a quiet place to spread out the rug and enjoy a Beatrix Potter tale. You can then head into the Mansion to look for your favourite characters.

Drop-in Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 5pm

Story baskets are £1 (+ £5 refundable deposit)

Beatrix Potter Trail @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Tuesday 26th July – Sunday 4th September

Find characters from Beatrix Potter's tales by following this interactive trail through the Mansion. Have fun as you help them solve different problems and puzzles.

Drop-in Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 5pm

50p per trail sheet

'The Servant's Lost Tools' Trail @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Tuesday 26th July – Sunday 4th September (except Mondays)

Help! It has been a hard, busy day and in their fluster the servants have accidentally left their tools and equipment around the house. They need your help finding these objects before the Master finds out. Grab a trail sheet and find the missing objects. Answer all the questions and enter your sheet into a competition to win a prize.

Drop-in 10am-5pm

50p per sheet

(Visitors can enter the draw without buying the trail sheet by giving their name and address at the front desk during the course of this event)

Jungle Safari @ Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th July

"Going on safari with the beat in your feet, think of an animal you'd like to meet." Use your imagination to create some really wild jungle animals, maybe a colourful spiral snake, a stripy zebra or a lion with crazy mane. You can also make a pair of binoculars or a camera for your museum jungle safari. What will you spot from our special 'jungle hide'? Especially suitable for little visitors with their own adult helper!

Our 'jungle hide' will be up in the museum throughout the summer holidays, so why not come back for some more jungle adventures.

Sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm.

£1.50 per child

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

Wet Wash Days @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28 July

This summer 'Mrs Tiggy Winkle' is hard at work in Christchurch laundry. Come and help her with the washing. Try using the washing 'dolly' to pound the clothes in the tub, scrub clothes on the wash board and squeeze them through the mangle, then peg them out and have a go ironing with a box iron – a really fun, hands-on experience being a human washing machine!

Sessions at 10.15am, 11.15am, 12.15pm and 1.15pm

£1.50 per child

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

Creative Carnival @ Ipswich Art School

Thursday 28 and Friday 29 July

Join Caribbean Artist DeDe, who is working on a project in Ipswich Art School this summer and be really creative making amazing colourful carnival accessories that will make a big impact!

Sessions at 10.00am, 11.30am, 2pm and 3.30pm

£2 per child

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

The Vikings in East Anglia @ Colchester Castle

Monday 1st - Thursday 4th August

Meet a local Viking settler and hear about Danelaw, the Battle of Maldon and more. He will be demonstrating his Viking weaponry and will tell you about how the Vikings settled in East Anglia and sheds light on this unsettled period of East Anglian history.

In association with BBC Hands on History Dig! bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

Meet the Viking sessions a day at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

Free (after normal Castle admission)

Clay Teacups @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Tuesday 2nd - Wednesday 3rd August

What is better on a summer's day than a cup of tea and slice of cake? Come along and get creative by making your own teacup out of clay. You can paint with any pattern you like. Come back later in the week and you can also make your own clay cup cake to go with it!

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

£1.50 per child

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

Make Do and Mend Week @ Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th August

Step back in time and meet a family who is living in Ipswich during the war. Find out for yourself what it was like living at this time as you help different members of a family. You can have a go at building an Anderson shelter or make your own gas mask, learn how to rag rug or be creative turning odds and ends into a new toy, handle objects and hear stories about life in the wars. There are different activities everyday.

Sessions at 10.15am, 11.15am, 2.15pm and 1.15pm

£1.50 per child

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

Animal Masks @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Tuesday 2nd - Thursday 4th August

Have fun using colourful foam to create your own animal mask inspired by the Beatrix Potter characters in the Mansion. Cut and shape the foam, adding details to give your animal real character! What will you make?

Sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm

£1.50 per child

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

Clay Cup Cakes @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Thursday 4th – Friday 5th August

Everyone likes cup cakes, and now you can make your own cup cake decoration out of clay. Then use your imagination to paint and decorate it in your own colours.

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

£1.50 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

Freeze Frames @ Ipswich Art School

Thursday 4th and Friday 5th August

Join our friendly drama leader to create a picture and become part of a painting. What characters might you meet or become on a Caribbean beach or roadside cafe? From a frozen scene in time you will spring into action to sounds and bring the picture to life. Suitable for ages 8+.

Drama sessions at 10.30am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm (lasts 1½ hours)

£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

Medieval Tales @ Colchester Castle

Monday 8th – Thursday 11th August

Join our colourful story teller in the surroundings of Colchester Castle and hear as they bring some stories from medieval times to life! This isn't just listening, you will all have the chance to really get involved and become part of the story.

In association with BBC Hands on History Dig! bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

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

Free (after normal Castle admission)

Go Live Week @ Natural History Museum, Colchester

Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th August

£1.50 per person. Charging begins at 11.30am

The Big Bug Show

Tuesday 9th August

Get close to some unusual insects, much larger than you are used to!

Drop-in 12pm-4pm (last entry 3.45pm)

Snakes!

Wednesday 10th August

Meet some great snakes including the large Burmese Python, a milksnake and a cornsnake. You can also meet their exotic friends, including a chameleon, scorpion and bearded dragon.

Drop-in 12pm-4pm (last entry 3.45pm)

The Owl Show
Thursday 11th August

Discover more about these beautiful birds and experience them up close and in flight.

Shows at 12pm, 1.15pm, 2.30pm
The museum will be cleared after each show.

Petting Zoo
Friday 12th August

Get close to some fascinating creatures, including meerkats, a pygmy hedgehog, cockatoo and, if you dare, one of the largest tarantulas on the planet!

Drop-in 12pm-4pm (last entry 3.45pm)

Arty Croaks @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich
Tuesday 9th August and Wednesday 10th August

Make your own 'frog pot planter', to sit among your indoor plants. Will yours be a frog prince or has it got warts and all? Be creative, using lots of different materials to bring your frog to life!

Sessions at 10.15am, 11.15am, 12.15pm and 1.15pm
£1.50 per child

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

Spring, Twirl, Whirl 3D Words Workshop @ Ipswich Art School
Tuesday 9th August and Wednesday 10th August

How can you make a word 3D? How would 'stretch' look? What shape might a 'rhythm' become? Inspired by the Royal Opera House exhibition in Ipswich this summer mould a dance related word into the action and shape it might become using our colourful moulding putty.

Sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm
£1.50 per child

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

Anglo Saxon Metal Work @ Ipswich Museum
Wednesday 10th August - Friday 12th August

Take inspiration from the intricate Anglo Saxon designs on their metal work to design your own pendant, medal, bracelet, rings and amulets. Use pliers to bend, twist and shape copper wire, incorporating colourful beads to add jewels to your work.

Sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm
£3 per child

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

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

Thursday 11th and Friday 12th August

Join the Hollytrees servant as they open up our Doll's House replica of Hollytrees for a peek inside. Hear about the duties of the servants and how houses have changed since the 19th century.

Doll's House sessions at 11am, 2pm and 3pm

Free

Time Capsules @ Colchester Castle

Monday 15th-Thursday 18th August

Have a look at our 'Buried' exhibition, with lots of objects people buried many centuries ago. Be inspired to 'bury' a time capsule from 2011 for future generations to find and maybe this will be in a museum in hundreds of years' time! Using plaster and clay, make casts of everyday objects to create your very own time capsule. Why not bring some objects from home that you would like included? You can then take it home and bury it in your garden.

In association with BBC Hands on History Dig! bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

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

£1.50 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

Victorian Toys and Games @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Tuesday 16th – Thursday 18th August

Join us to design and make your own Victorian toy or game. Come back each day and do something different if you like, or you can choose just one or two.

Tuesday: Game of skill - make a cup and ball

Wednesday: Moving toy - acrobat

Thursday: Competitive game - skittles and ball

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

£1.50 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

Cinderella Week @ Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 16th August - Friday 19th August

Help us to make preparations for the ball at Christchurch Mansion, with different activities each day, preparing food, masquerade masks, giant wigs, dancing and dressing up. Decorate your invitation and make sure you come back to see Cinderella and prince charming at the ball on Friday afternoon from 1.30pm.

Sessions at 10.15am, 11.15am, 12.15pm and 1.15pm

£1.50 per child

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

Young People's Photography Workshop @ Ipswich Art School

Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18 August

A rare opportunity to take part in an 'experimental photography workshop' with professional photographer, Sam Mellish. Hear Sam talk about his work on display in the Art School, and the techniques he uses, then put ideas and techniques in a practical photography session in Christchurch Mansion or Ipswich Museum. Participants must bring their own digital camera. Suitable for ages 14 to 18 years.

Sessions at 10am and 1.30pm (last for 2 hours)

£8 each person

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

Tutenkahmun, Stories from a Pharaoh @ Ipswich Museum

Thursday 18th August - Saturday 20th August

Come face-to-face with Tutenkahmun and let him take you on a journey back in time, as he tells you exciting and fascinating stories about the life of a Pharaoh, Ancient Egypt and the afterlife.

Sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm

£1.50 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

Roundhouse to Villa @ Colchester Castle

Monday 22nd – Thursday 25th August

When the Romans arrived, townscapes changed completely, almost overnight. Join in this fun as we look at the huge changes from mud to that new invention – concrete. By looking at giant models of a Celtic Roundhouse and a Roman Villa, as well as real objects, you will be able to see the way new technology has changed buildings and how some aspects of the old remained.

In association with BBC Hands on History Dig! bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

Sessions at 10.30am, 11.15am, 2pm and 3pm

Free (after normal Castle admission)

Peg Puppets @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Tuesday 23rd - Thursday 25th August

Be inspired by the amazing Cinderella and Beatrix Potter costumes in the Mansion this summer, then let your imagination go, creating your own 'peg puppet' to take centre stage in our theatre. What character will your puppet be? An ugly sister? spaceman? footman? fairy or pirate? You decide!

£1.50 per child

Sessions at 10.15am, 11.15am, 12.15pm and 1.15pm

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

Make Your Mark! @ Ipswich Art School
Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25 August

Make a bold mark, working with Caribbean artist DeDe, in this textile printing workshop. Take inspiration from our collections and DeDe's work and experiment with designs, colour and pattern to create your own unique bag for school or your swimming things!

£4 per child

Sessions at 10.30am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm (lasts for 1½ hours)

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

Recycled Scrapbooks @ Natural History Museum, Colchester
Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th August

Make your own scrap book out of recycled materials. Make it look fantastic by decorating it with a natural history theme. Will you use yours as a photo album, or to keep memories of your summer holiday?

Sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

£1.50 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

The Grand Tour (Museum Expedition) @ Ipswich Museum
Wednesday 24th August - Friday 26th August

Pack up your bags and imagination and step back in time to for a dramatic adventure as you join the 'Grand Tour'. Will you discover a hidden tomb in Ancient Egypt, uncover the giant bones of a long extinct animal, or be chased by a rhino in Africa. What stories and things will you bring back from your travels? Drama, action and adventure for all!

£3 per child

Sessions at 10.30am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm (lasts for 1½hours)

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
Saturday 10th September

Colchester Castle opens its doors for free for one day only. Grab this chance to see this award-winning museum.

In association with BBC Hands on History Dig! bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

10am - 4.30pm

Free for one day only

Heritage Open Days, 10th and 11th Sept

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

In association with BBC Hands on History Dig! bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

Free

ADULT EVENTS

Departure / Arrival @ Ipswich Art School

Saturday 23rd June 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Tickets Free

Come along to Ipswich Art School and find out more about how specific links have been made between Ipswich and the Caribbean. Learn about the current exchange program currently happening in Ipswich, and hear about the arrival of Bahamian artist Dede Brown. Here you'll have the chance of sharing experiences and looking at some of her artwork, along with hearing about some of the benefits and the dilemmas of 'trading places'.

You'll also have the opportunity to get involved yourself, by sharing something with the rest of the group. Maybe you have Caribbean connections, or perhaps you've visited the Bahamas?

Tickets are FREE but places are limited and booking is advised. Please contact on 01473 433681 or email julia.devonshire@colchester.gov.uk.

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

British Sign Language interpreted tour at 7pm.

£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

British Sign Language Interpreted tour at 7pm.

£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

[British Sign Language interpreted tour at 5.30pm](#)

£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.

10.30am-1pm

£10 per person (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

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

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.

All talks will be British Sign Language Interpreted.

Talks begin at 3pm

(Tea served at end of talk)

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?