

Celebrate Colchester's Rich Heritage

With Colchester's FREE heritage open days!

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September
Various locations in and around Colchester

Residents and visitors alike will get the exciting opportunity to delve into Colchester's rich heritage as part of the Heritage Open Days weekend. A wonderful range of buildings and activities are taking place in and around the town- **all completely free of charge!**

The Open Days give you a chance to discover the town's fascinating history. Buildings that are usually closed to the public throw open their doors and invite you to come and explore their intriguing stories.

There is a whole range of things to take in and appreciate around the town; this includes the majestic Colne Lightship, a vintage bus display, the area's stunning churches and chapels alongside performances and tours that will really bring local history to life.

On Saturday 10 September you can come and visit the award winning Colchester Castle Museum free of charge. With over 2000 years worth of captivating history on display and the fascinating 'Buried!' exhibition to enjoy, its no surprise that this is an extremely popular event.

Laura Hardisty, Marketing Officer for Colchester and Ipswich Museums 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. There is such a diverse range of things to see and do, there really is something for all the family to enjoy."

Councillor Nick Barlow, Portfolio Holder for Commerce and Sustainability said: "Colchester really is a town with a lot to discover. These events are only made possible by the dedication and passion of volunteers, local businesses and public bodies.

"I would encourage younger and older people alike to come along and see what superb sites the town has to offer"

Over this weekend there will also be the opportunity to see an exhibition of professional photographs of the Colchester-based 16 Air Assault Brigade's Afghanistan tour. Based in the Grand Jury Room at the Town Hall, Corporal Rupert Frere's photography gives an insight into the challenges faced by British soldiers in the demanding environment of Afghanistan.

To find out more about Colchester and Ipswich Museums bumper programme of events visit www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

Find out more about your local history with... Heritage Open Days

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September

Discover hidden heritage over a whole weekend of
FREE activities in partnership with English Heritage



Discover + local heritage + whole weekend + free + open days + impressive
buildings + enjoy + activities + historic + fun + what will you discover?

B1508
Sudbury

A134
Bury St Edmunds

Heri



A12 London
Chelmsford

WESTWAY
P



COWDRAY AVENUE A133



BALKERNE HILL A134

HEAD STREET NORTH HILL NORTH STN ROAD

ST PETER'S STREET

NORTHGATE STREET

SHORT CUT ROAD

NUNN'S ROAD



MAIDENBURGH STREET
RYEGATE ROAD

HIGH STREET

CULVER STREET WEST

CULVER STREET EAST

SIR ISAAC'S WALK

ELD LANE



LEXDEN ROAD

ST JOHN'S STREET



SOUTHWAY A134



B1022
Tiptree
Maldon

MALDON ROAD

BUTT ROAD
P

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18

24

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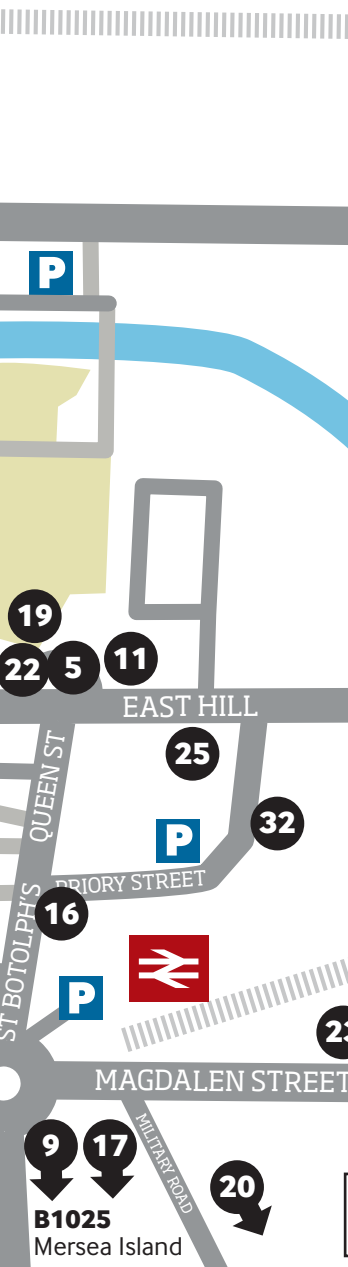
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Stage Open Day 2011 Properties

Properties Open

1. Town Hall and Colchester Magistrates Court
2. Holy Trinity Church
3. Peake's House
4. Roman Theatre
5. Walking Tour Starting Point
6. Colchester Castle Museum
7. St Helen's Chapel
8. Sparling Benham and Brough
9. Audley Chapel
10. St Martin's Church
11. NEEDFAS (North East Essex Decorative and Fine Arts Society) in Hollytrees Museum
12. St John's Abbey Gatehouse
13. Mercury Theatre
14. Lexden Tumulus
15. Quaker Meeting House (St Mary's House)
16. St Botolph's Church
17. Bourne Mill
18. Colchester Royal Grammar School
19. Colchester History Alive (outside Castle)
20. St John's Orthodox Church – Former Garrison Church
21. Colchester Cemetery
22. Vintage Bus Service
23. St Leonard-at-the-Hythe Church
24. Headgate Theatre
25. St James the Great Church
26. Vintage Bus Display
27. Colchester Baptist Church
28. University of Essex – Sculpture collection and heritage
29. Colchester Library – discover historic Colchester
30. Old Heath Community Fun Day at the Hythe
31. Colne Light Ship
32. St James the Less and St Helen Church
33. St Mary at the Walls Church (Arts Centre)
34. St Giles Masonic Centre



 = **Further out of town**



More information

For more information on the museums, events and exhibitions please visit www.colchestermuseums.org.uk or www.ipswich.gov.uk/museums.

Why not stay up-to-date on the latest news and events from the museums? Join our mailing list to receive email updates.

Call **01206 282434**, email museums@colchester.gov.uk or speak to a member of staff.

Colchester Castle

Sat 10th September

FREE

10am to 4.30pm

Christchurch Mansion

Fri 9th September

FREE

Tours at 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Colchester Castle

23rd July 2011 to 29th January 2012

Mon-Sat 10am to 5pm,
Sun 11am to 5pm

Ipswich Art School

8th October 2011 to 4th March 2012

FREE

Tue-Sun 10am to 5pm

Visit for Free

Don't miss out on this chance to explore Colchester Castle as it throws its doors open free of charge for one day only! This is your chance to see the 'Buried! Hidden Secrets from the Past' exhibition – so make sure you visit!

Costumed Tudor Tour

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

Please book by calling **01473 433691**.

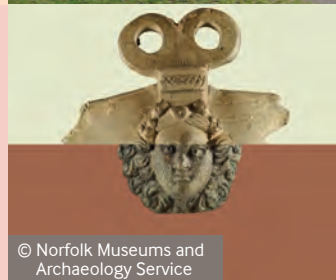
Buried! Hidden Secrets from the Past

Our history is buried in strange places, not necessarily under your feet! Discover where and why our ancestors hid what was valuable to them. You'll be amazed by what has been discovered and the stories that can be told!

Behind the Mask

This exhibition of artworks by Chinwe Chukwuogo-Roy, is inspired by the masks in the African collections at Ipswich Museum.

**Africa + traditions + masks
+ capture + respond + art**



© Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service



Saturday 10th September				
Map Code	Venue/Activity	Address	Description	Times/Info
1	Town Hall	High Street, CO1 1FR	Impressive building with exciting design by John Belcher, 1898-1902. The tower is surmounted by a bronze figure of St Helena, 162 ft above the street. Tours of private rooms including the courts and mayoral suite.	Tours start at 10am and 11.30am, 1pm and last approximately 1 hour
1	Colchester Magistrates Court	High Street, CO1 1FR	After 150 years Colchester Magistrates Court will soon be moving to new premises. To commemorate this milestone Colchester Magistrates Court in the Town Hall will be holding a 'Mock' Sentencing and Remand Court between 11am and 1pm. The public are invited to watch local Magistrates deal with a typical court list.	11am – 1pm
2	Holy Trinity Church	Trinity Square, CO1 1JB	Built by the Saxons around 1000AD, the church tower is the oldest standing building in Colchester. Features triangle arches, a small doorway and recycled Roman bricks.	9am-5pm. The tower is not accessible to climb, but visitors can look inside
3	Peake’s House	East Stockwell Street CO1 1HQ	A timber framed house, originally three buildings, the earliest dating from the late 14th century.	11am – 4.45pm
4	Roman Theatre	Maidenburgh Street, CO1 1UB	Remains of a theatre which originally seated 3000 people. Destroyed by Boudica in 60AD.	9.45am – 4.30pm
5	Walking tour of Colchester	Depart from the War Memorial, Castle Park gates	Discover hidden stories of historic Colchester with a Town Guide.	11.30am. Limited to 20 people. Please book at the Visitor Information Centre. Lasts 1.5 – 2 hours
6	Colchester Castle Museum	Castle Park, CO1 1TJ	Don't miss out on this chance to explore this award winning museum as it throws its doors open free of charge for one day only. This is also your chance to see the Buried! exhibition.	10am – 4.30pm
7	St Helen’s Chapel	St Helen’s Lane, CO1 1UR	Medieval chapel first mentioned in 1076. Saxon in origin, on Roman foundations, rebuilt several times. Now used as a Greek Orthodox Church.	10am – 1pm, 2pm – 4.30pm
8	Sparling Benham and Brough	3 West Stockwell St, CO1 1HQ	A superb 15th century half timbered building with remarkable wood carvings, formerly a Merchant’s House and an Inn.	Tours at 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm
9	Audley Chapel	Berechurch Hall Road, CO2 9NU	16th century burial chapel of the Audley family, with fine hammer-beam roof, unique monuments and other original features.	10am – 4pm
10	St Martin’s Church	West Stockwell Street, CO1 1HQ	A medieval church with impressive 14th century roof, wall painting and Norman tower, which was badly damaged in the 1648 Siege of Colchester.	10am – 5pm
11	NEEDFAS in Hollytrees Museum	High Street, CO1 2PG	The North East Essex Decorative and Fine Arts Society (NEEDFAS) are a voluntary group who have worked on the costume collection at Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service. Meet members of the group who will talk about and show off some of their handiwork in the surroundings of Hollytrees Museum.	1pm – 4pm
12	St John’s Abbey Gatehouse	St John’s Green, CO2 7HA	An early 15th century gatehouse with flint flushwork, vaulted roof and battlement flanked by pinnaced corner turrets. Historical associations with Richard III and the English Civil War.	10.30am – 4pm
13	Mercury Theatre	Balkerne Gate, CO1 1PT	A rare chance to take a backstage tour of this wonderful theatre. Built in 1972, it has been hosting some of the country’s biggest names ever since.	Entrance by tour only. 10am – 12pm tours every 15 minutes
14	Lexden Tumulus	At 30 Fitzwalter Road, CO3 3SY	A surviving Iron-Age burial mound, the resting place of a Trinovantian King. An opportunity to talk to Caroline McDonald, Curator of Archaeology, handle some objects and find out more about this fascinating burial.	2pm – 5pm
15	Quaker Meeting House	6 Church Street, CO1 1NF	A Grade 2 listed building dating from 1803, originally the home of William Mason, a leading solicitor in the firm serving painter John Constable. The house fell into disrepair in the 1960s, until the Colchester Quakers bought it in 1971, preserving the frontage and rebuilding the inside to their purposes.	10am – 4pm Refreshments will be available
16	St Botolph’s Church	Priory Street, CO2 7EE	Ruined nave of the first Augustinian priory in Britain. Built c1100-1170. Norman Revival parish church by William Mason, 1836.	10am – 4pm
17	Bourne Mill	Bourne Road, CO2 8RT	Built as a fishing lodge in 1591 with stepped Dutch gables, it was later converted to a mill for cloth manufacturing and then flour milling. Working water wheel. Day includes a 1940s event, with home guard, outdoor games, music, cars and nostalgia, as well as stories of Bourne Mill and Colchester through the war.	10am – 5pm
18	Colchester Royal Grammar School	Lexden Road, CO3 3ND	A chance to look at this historic school, including the library and its Jacobean fireplace, as well as the hall (and its church organ) and the gardens. 20 minute talks will take place in the hall.	10am – 12pm Talks at 10.20am, 10.50am and 11.30am
19	Colchester History Alive	Outside Colchester Castle, CO1 1TJ	Performances depicting events in Colchester from the last 2000 years.	10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm
20	St John’s Orthodox (Garrison) Church	Military Road, CO1 2AN	Grade 2* listed church, run by the Russian Orthodox Church. Built in 1855 to provide services to soldiers going to the Crimean War, this timber church could hold services for 900 people and is the last of its kind.	Entrance is by tour only Tours at 2.30pm, 3.30pm and 4.30pm
21	Colchester Cemetery	Mersea Road, CO2 8RU	Take a guided tour of the cemetery, hearing about its history. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	11am by tour only. Lasts approximately 1.5 hours
22	Vintage Bus Service	Buses depart at the War Memorial, Castle Park Gates	SERVICE A will link the town centre and King Edward Quay at the Hythe, stopping at Bourne Mill and St Leonard’s Church. SERVICE B will link the town centre with the Hythe and the University of Essex.	Service A departs every half hour from 9.45 – 16.45 Service B departs hourly from 10.30 – 14.30
23	St Leonard-at-the-Hythe Church	Hythe Hill, CO1 2LW	Mainly 14th century church with impressive tower. Bullet holes from civil war still visible in south door, and sailor’s graves in churchyard. The church also boasts a mural.	11am – 4pm
24	Headgate Theatre	14 Chapel Street North, CO2 7AT	Built in 1844 as a Congregational Church, this building has also been the Labour Party Headquarters and a ladies health club. Acquired by Colchester Borough Council and refurbished as a theatre by the Theatre Arts Action Trust, it opened as ‘the home of Amateur Theatre in Colchester’ in 2002.	10am – 4pm
25	St James the Great Church	East Hill, Colchester CO1 2QL	Dating from the 12th/13th century and restored in the late 19th century. Features 18th and 19th century paintings, 17th century brasses and the original organ from St Nicholas’ Church on the High Street, which was demolished in 1955. John Ball, the radical priest and leader of the 1381 Peasants’ Revolt, used to preach here.	9am – 5pm
26	Vintage Bus Display	King Edward Quay, the Hythe CO2 8JB	Colne Estuary Preserved Buses show a display of vehicles from over 70 years.	9.45am – 4.45pm
27	Colchester Baptist Church	Eld Lane CO1 1LS	Built in 1834 on the site of a previous Baptist church dating from 1711. Former members include the father of James Paxman, founder of the engineering firm.	10am – 4pm
28	University of Essex Sculpture Collection and Heritage Tours	University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, CO4 3SQ	Take a guided tour of the University’s fantastic sculpture collection and wider heritage.	Tours at 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm Meet at the vintage bus stop, North Towers
29	Colchester Library - Discover Historic Colchester	Trinity Square, CO1 1JB	Want to know more about the Heritage Open Day properties and discover historic Colchester? Visit the library where a large map on the ground floor will pinpoint the properties open this weekend in Colchester. Then make your way to the Local History section for a display of books relating to these properties.	9am – 5.30pm
30	Old Heath Community Fun Day	King Edward Quay, the Hythe CO2 8JB	A fun day of music, stalls and refreshments on the historic Hythe quay.	12pm – 5pm
31	Colne Light Ship	King Edward Quay, the Hythe, CO2 8JB	Launched in 1954 as a Light Vessel, she served as a navigational light ship. Now used by the Colchester Sea Cadets. Access is via a gangway, and there are steep steps around the ship.	10am – 6pm Refreshments and bar available
32	St James the Less and St Helen Church	51 Priory St, CO1 2QB	Built in 1837 and designed by leading Roman Catholic Architect and scholar John Joseph Scholes, this was the first post-reformation Catholic Parish Church in Colchester. Built in white brick in the Norman style, without a tower but with Gothic style turrets. Early 20th century extensions and a new chapel in 1987.	10am – 4.30pm Refreshments available

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1	Town Hall	High Street, CO1 1FR	Impressive building with exciting design by John Belcher, 1898-1902. The tower is surmounted by a bronze figure of St Helena, 162 ft above the street. Tours of private rooms including the courts and mayoral suite.	Tours start at 10am, 11.30am and 1pm and lasts approximately 1 hour
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4	Roman Theatre	Maidenburgh Street, CO1 1UB	Remains of theatre which originally seated 3000 people. Destroyed by Boudica in 60AD.	9.45am – 4.30pm
5	Costumed Themed Walking Tours	Depart from the War Memorial at the Castle Park gates	Take a themed tour of some of Colchester’s hidden gems, with a costumed Town Guide.	11am – Siege of Colchester 3pm – Roman Colchester
5	Roman Wall Walk	Depart from the War Memorial at the Castle Park gates	Take a guided walking tour of the longest stretch of Roman wall in the country, with a Town Guide.	5pm
7	St Helen’s Chapel	St Helen’s Lane, CO1 1UR	Medieval chapel first mentioned in 1076. Saxon in origin, on Roman foundations, rebuilt several times. Now used as a Greek Orthodox Church.	2pm – 4.30pm
10	St Martin’s Church	West Stockwell Street, CO1 1HQ	Medieval church with impressive 14th century roof, wall painting and Norman tower, which was badly damaged in the 1648 Siege of Colchester.	10am – 5pm
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14	Lexden Tumulus	At 30 Fitzwalter Road, CO3 3SY	A surviving Iron-Age burial mound associated with Addedomaros, a King of the Trinovante tribe.	2pm – 5pm
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33	St Mary at the Walls Church	Church Street, CO1 1NF	A late 19th century church with medieval tower badly damaged during the 1648 siege of Colchester.	12pm – 4pm. Guided tours of the tower at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm
34	St Giles Masonic Centre	St John’s Green, CO2 7EZ	Consecrated as a church in 1116, St Giles was closed in 1954. It is now home of the oldest Masonic Lodge in Essex. The building retains many features.	Guided tours every hour 11am – 4pm, includes the Lucas Chapel. Refreshments available