

Please find below adult events at Colchester + Ipswich Museums from
September – December.

Please scroll further down for Art Classes and Tea & Talk events that are
happening in October.

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

Gold Hoard Week @ Ipswich Museum

Monday 10th – Friday 14th October

Come along and help our conservation team as they get ready to move the Wickham Market Hoard. In these unique sessions, you will work alongside our conservators in the museums laboratory to help clean and pack the coins ready for them to go on tour. Your day will start with an introductory talk about the Iron Age and conservation from the Curator of Archaeology and Conservators and then you can get to work!

These sessions are suitable for people over 16 years only. Tea and Coffee will be provided but you need to make your own arrangements for lunch.

10am - 4pm

FREE Event

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling Caroline McDonald on 01473 433543. Places are limited to one booking per person. Under 18's will require parental permission.

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

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?