

# Press release

## **It's Christmas at the Castle! Christmas market and FREE Castle open evening**

Colchester Castle  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
3pm – 8.30pm  
FREE Event

Christmas is fast approaching and I'm sure you will be looking for events for you and your family to get you into the Christmas spirit and to grab those special Christmassy treats, and we have just the event for you!

Colchester Castle's annual evening of merriment is back as it opens its doors FREE OF CHARGE on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December between 3pm – 8.30pm. Visitors can hear Christmas carols, sip on mulled wine and munch on a mince pie while taking in the museum and its wonderful displays, including the current temporary exhibition 'Buried'!

There will be the opportunity for everyone to take part in a quiz and Father Christmas will be visiting with his fairy tale grotto (£2, includes a small gift). You also have the chance to meet Sleeping Beauty and other characters in and around the Castle. Make sure you bring your autograph book along and don't forget your camera!

Then in the Castle shop you can browse through some special offers and there will be the chance to taste yummy pickles and chutneys.

Outside in Castle Park will be a wonderful Christmas market, bigger and better than ever before! There will be food and craft stalls including, vintage home ware, preserves, handbags, jewellery, cakes, wood turning, cheese and pies, Christmas wreaths, hot chestnuts and much, much more! This is the perfect opportunity to stock up on your festive treats and enjoy fun rides and entertainment (the rides outside the Castle are subject to charge).

Entertainment will be provided by Garrison Radio, St James School choir, Colchester Scout Band, Colchester and District Pipe and Drums, Tudor Dancers and the Hythe Community Choir will be singing Christmas songs and carols.

During the day on the 14<sup>th</sup> December you can pop into the Visitors Information Centre in Colchester where you can join mulled wine tasting throughout the day, there will be a lucky dip for the children (£1) and a '12 days of Christmas', where anyone spending £10 or over on retail in the Visitors Information Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> December can open a door on the 12 days of Christmas board and win a prize!

These are definitely Christmas events you will not want to miss!

Colchester Castle  
Open Mon – Sat 10am to 5pm and Sun 11am to 5pm.  
[www.cimuseums.org.uk](http://www.cimuseums.org.uk)  
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