

New event listings from Colchester and Ipswich Museums!
Please find below our new fun family events programme, running from April – July!

Ostara to Easter @ Colchester Castle

Monday 2nd – Thursday 5th April

Join in this fun session with our storyteller and hear how people have celebrated Easter over the last 2000 years and where Easter traditions came from.

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

Free (after normal admission to the castle)

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Treasure Trail @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Tuesday 3rd - Friday 13th April

A fun quiz trail, tracking the treasures within Christchurch Mansion. There's another trail at the High Street Museum too, that's double the fun!

Drop-in 10am - 4.30pm (Tues to Sun)

50p per sheet

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Gold Trail @ Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 3rd - Friday 13th April

A fun quiz trail, discovering the treasures of Ipswich Museum. There's another trail at the Mansion too, if you just love quizzes!

Drop-in 10am - 4.30pm (Tues to Sun)

50p per sheet

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Easter Tree Making @ Natural History Museum, Colchester

Tuesday 3rd – Thursday 5th April

Create your own Easter tree and decorations to brighten up your home.

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

£2 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

Eggstastic Mosaics @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Tuesday 3rd – Thursday 5th April

Using different materials, work with an artist to design and make your own funky mosaic egg.

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

£2 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

Drama Daze @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th April

Join a trained leader for this fun, half-day workshop – use costume, props and learn lines, working towards a group performance for your family at the end of the session. Suitable for ages 8+.

10am -12.15pm (performance 12.15-12.30) or 2-4.15pm (performance 4.15-4.30)

£6 per person

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

Spring Week @ Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 3rd – Friday 6th April

Put a spring in your step with these wonderfully seasonal craft activities – a different one every day and especially suited to little visitors - as long as they bring an adult helper!

Tuesday – Hungry Paper Caterpillars

Wednesday – Jewelled Butterfly Wristbands

Thursday – Hoppy Frogs

Friday – Bug Bookmarks

Sessions at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

£2 per child, per craft

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

Balloon Modelling @ Ipswich Art School

Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th April

Why not try your hand at making a masterpiece – from balloons! Join our balloon specialist for a lesson and see what you can create!

Drop-in 10am -12.30pm or 1.30pm-4pm

£2 per person

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Archery School @ Colchester Castle

Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th April

Join our master for a lesson in archery. Use a real bow and arrow to practice your skills. Will you hit the target? Suitable for ages 8+.

Sessions at 11am, 12pm, 2pm and 3pm

£2 per person (after normal admission to the Castle)

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

Have a go at Archery @ Colchester Castle

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th April

Fancy a go at one of the most traditional of weapons? Do you want to test your shooting skills? Come along and take a few shots at the target. Suitable for ages 8+.

Drop-in 10.30am-1pm and 2pm-4pm

50p for 3 arrows (+ normal admission to the Castle)

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Animation Stations @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Tuesday 10th – Friday 13th April

Take part in a 2½ hour workshop with professional animators. You'll make models, animate scenes and create a film that tells the story of the Mildenhall Dish's discovery and bring the characters on the dish to life.

Everyone's work will be edited onto a finished DVD for you to keep.

10am -12.30pm (5-7 years)

2pm - 4.30pm (8+ years)

£8 per person, plus £1 on the day for your own copy of the finished film.

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

The Explorer's Big Dig @ Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th April

With the marvellous Wickham Market Coin Hoard at the museum, why not listen to the explorer's tales of discovery and get hands-on in our excavation pits - who knows what treasures you might uncover?

Tales at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm

Big Dig drop-in 10am-12.00pm and 1pm-4pm

£3.00 per child (covers both activities)

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

This event is suitable for people with a visual impairment

Create a Coin @ Ipswich Museum

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th April

Take inspiration from the coins themselves to design and make your very own coin. Work with an artist to study the coins' symbols and produce an embossed metal token to take home as a memento of your day. Suitable for ages 6+.

Sessions at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm and 3pm

£3 per person

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

Scrappy Fashion @ Ipswich Art School

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th April

These hands-on, half-day workshops will give you a chance to work with an artist to create and embellish a unique outfit from old and unwanted clothes and objects. Suitable for ages 7+.

Sessions at 10am -12pm and 2pm-4pm

£3 per person

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

Torchlight Tours @ Ipswich Museum

Friday 18th and Saturday 19th May

See the museum in a new light – by torchlight! Bring your own torch and discover museum treasures in a new light as you are guided through the galleries after hours in these rare Torchlight Tours! Suitable for ages 8+.

Tours at 6pm, 7pm and 8pm

£4.50 adults, £3.00 children

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

Jubilee Day @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Sunday 3rd June

Join the celebrations for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee – make a crown in the Mansion, then head outside for the Ipswich Borough Council 'Big Lunch' event on the front lawn (just remember to bring your own picnic).

Drop-in 10am -1pm and 2pm-4pm

£1 per crown

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Castle Adventure @ Colchester Castle

Saturday 2nd June, Monday 4th – Saturday 9th June

Join a costumed tour guide for this fun look at Colchester Castle. Climb the largest Norman staircase in Europe and marvel at the views from the roof.

Tours at 10.30am and 11.30am

£1.50 per adult, £1 per child

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Meet a Roman Soldier @Colchester Castle

Wednesday 6th June

A Roman soldier gives you a chance to view armour and weapons as you hear about his life in the army.

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

Free (after normal admission to the Castle)

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Clay Sundials @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Wednesday 6th and Friday 8th June

How would you tell the time before clocks and watches were invented? Work with an artist to create your own clay sundial.

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

£2 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

Tales from a Tudor Traveller @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Wednesday 6th - Friday 8th June

Join captivating storyteller Mike Doddsworth as he brings to life the funny and fascinating stories of a travelling Tudor merchant.

£2 per child

Tales at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

This event is suitable for people with a visual impairment

Quirky Aquarium @ Ipswich Museum

Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th June

Can you tell your squid from your starfish? Find your sea legs in this fun activity by creating your own watery creature to hang out in our quirky aquarium and test your underwater know-how with our mystery objects.

Drop-in 10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm

£2 per child

There is no need to pre-book for this event

One Man's Rubbish... @ Ipswich Art School

Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th June

Take inspiration from the Saatchi exhibition and try your hand at creating a quirky sculpture – work with an artist to turn something old into something new!

Sessions at 10.15am, 1.30am, 1.30pm and 3pm

£2 per person

These events are very popular so **booking is essential**, book in advance by calling 01473 433691

Keep Napoleon Out! @ Colchester Castle

Friday 8th June

Take a trip back 200 years in this fun hands-on activity. Dress in the finery of a dragoon and take part in a 'sabre-sword' drill with fellow-visitors.

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

Free (after normal admission to the Castle)

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Snakes and Co @ Natural History Museum, Colchester
Friday 8th June

Come and meet a whole host of animals including snakes and many of their reptilian, arachnid and amphibian friends.

Drop-in 12pm-4pm
£1.50 per person (2yrs and under free)
There is no need to pre-book for this event

In the Prisons.... @ Colchester Castle
Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th June

Meet Nick the Gaoler and his wife as they describe the harsh life of prisoners in their cells. Would you survive gaol fever? These plays take place in the actual prisons of Colchester Castle!

Performances at 11am (Sat only), 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm
Free (after normal admission to the Castle)
There is no need to pre-book for this event

Treasures from China @ Colchester Castle
Saturday 30th June

As Colchester Castle opens this amazing new exhibition, explore the Chinese treasures and join in the free celebrations that are part of the Carnival Day in the park.

Drop-in 10am – 4.30pm
Treasures of China exhibition is normal admission to the Castle
There is no need to pre-book for this event

Tardis Trail @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich
Friday 15th June – Sunday 8th July

Get your time-travelling hat on and try out this multi-era quiz trail! Discover some interesting things about the Mansion, its long history, and the treasures it holds.

Drop-in 10am – 4pm (Tues - Sun)
50p per sheet
There is no need to pre-book for this event

On the Trail of Saatchi @ Ipswich Art School
Friday 15th June – Sunday 8th July

Have a go at this quirky quiz trail, which will help you to explore the Art School and its latest exhibition.

Drop-in 10am – 4pm (Tues-Sun)
50p per sheet
There is no need to pre-book for this event

**Open Access Young People's Saturday Art Club @ Ipswich Art School
Saturday 23rd June**

For one day only Ipswich Art School's Young People's Saturday Art Club opens its doors for drop-in sessions. Have a go at some creative activities – club members will be on hand to show you the ropes. Suitable for ages 7-16yrs.

Drop-in 10.30am -12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm

£2 per person

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Ipswich Art School Gallery Pop-up Print Shop

Sunday 1st July @ Music Day, Christchurch Park, Ipswich

Sunday 8th July @ The Indian Mela, Christchurch Park, Ipswich

Use a basic screen-print stencil technique to make a poster or decorate a T-shirt. Make a statement, celebrate your favourite band or just experiment with good old fashioned graphic design.

Drop-in 12pm – 2pm

£5 per item, £3 if you bring your own t-shirt

There is no need to pre-book for this event

Artists as Parents as Artists @ Ipswich Art School

Saturday 7th July

This fun interactive talk combines art and play, inviting family members of all ages to share their ideas about making art and viewing it in public spaces. As parents of young children, artists Townley and Bradby will draw from the current Saatchi show and take you through some of the ideas and challenges around children's involvement in artistic production. Adults and children are welcome.

2pm - 3.30pm

£3 on the door (under 16s £1.50)

£10 family ticket (up to 5 people)

There is no need to pre-book for this event