

Forthcoming Events at Colchester & Ipswich Museums

Under 5's Jungle Party

Ipswich Museum

Tuesday 3 July

10am – 12.30pm

On the first Tuesday of every month, 'Mini Mammoths', a session for under 5's takes place at Ipswich Museum. Each month we explore a different gallery, using a mixture of stories, craft activities, trails and handling objects to enable children to actively investigate and discover more about the amazing things in the museum. Both children and parents can enjoy exploring the museum together, talking about the things they have found. From the deep sea creatures to a journey down the Nile to see treasures from Ancient Egypt, the adventures are endless.

This year our giraffe will be celebrating his 103rd birthday at Ipswich Museum so on Tuesday 3 July 'Mini Mammoths' are having a special Jungle Party for him, and for this session only, all the local Ipswich nursery groups and their cuddly animals have been invited to come and join in the fun too.

Throughout the museum there will be a variety of different jungle activities including: jungle drumming with our visiting drummer George Fothergill, the chance to make a giraffe crown, a hide and seek animal trail, face painting, story telling, 'jungle snack' – and of course some dressing up and jungle dancing! Many local nurseries are bringing children to the party, so with over 100 under 5's in the museum, it is going to be a great birthday celebration for our giraffe. Booking for the Jungle party is essential – please ring 01206 282931 or email: museums@colchester.gov.uk if you would like to come or would like to know more about this or 'Mini Mammoths'.

Councillor Bryony Rudkin, Culture Portfolio Holder for Ipswich Borough Council said: "This is a magical opportunity for children and their parents and grandparents to have fun at the Museum. There is so much to see in High Street and this is a great way of letting young ones use their brilliant imagination and transform the Museum into a world of adventure."

Over the last 2 years we have been developing new resources to help younger visitors actively explore the museum. The introduction of an 'activity cart' and animal costumes in the Natural History gallery at Ipswich Museum has proved especially popular and lions, giraffes and monkeys can often be seen exploring the gallery with magnifying glass and torch in paw!

Ipswich Museum

High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3QH

Open: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm

Free Admission

www.cimuseums.org.uk

Treasures of China Exhibition

Colchester Castle

Opens to the public on Saturday 30 June 2012

The international Treasures of China exhibition opens at Colchester Castle on Saturday 30 June 2012. It will showcase seventy treasures from Nanjing Museum, the second largest museum in China.

Visitors will be able to explore the rise of Imperial China from the earliest Stone Age tombs to the time of the last Emperor as they let us them on a journey through 4500 years of Chinese history.

Stunning objects include a 2000 year old, life size jade suit from the tombs of the Han Dynasty rulers, an exquisite gold cicada sitting on a jade leaf worn by a Ming Princess nearly 600 years ago and the luxury items and ornaments that adorned the palace of the last of the Imperial families as the tumult of the twentieth century changed China forever.

Alongside this rich history we are celebrating Chinese crafts and the enduring appeal of animals in Chinese culture.

Cllr. Tim Young, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Community Safety & Culture for Colchester Borough Council said, "This exhibition will provide visitors to Colchester a genuine, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience these fascinating objects which have never been seen before anywhere in the UK and Colchester Castle will be the only place visitors can experience them before they go back to China in January 2013."

Share with us this unique window into Chinese culture and take part in the cultural festival to celebrate London 2012 and to celebrate the spirit of international partnership.

Peter Berridge, Museums Manager at Colchester and Ipswich Museums added, "We are so pleased to have the young people from The Gilberd School in Colchester at the heart of this exhibition. They have visited Nanjing Museum in China and from that experience have helped to select objects and to shape the show. They have brought a new perspective and ideas and we hope they are as proud of their work as we are".

This unique project has been made possible because of the support of Essex County Council and Jiangsu Provincial Government in China who have had a strong affiliation for 24 years which has brought many benefits to both regions.

County Councillor Jeremy Lucas, Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Environment and Culture said, "I am delighted that we have been able to bring this exhibition to Essex, following the highly acclaimed showing of miniature terracotta soldiers, which was a key part of the Essex-Jiangsu Festival in 2008. These two displays have provided the opening and closing of Essex's contribution to the Cultural Olympiad - one of the largest in the country and adding a new dimension to our long-standing relationship with Jiangsu Province."

Treasures of China is part of *Eastern Exchanges*, a major festival celebrating the culture and colour of the east to mark the London 2012 Games. For the next two years museums across the region will be delivering a major programme of international

exhibitions and events which will unlock the secrets and stories of China, India and Pakistan. At the heart of *Eastern Exchanges* are the region's young people, creating exciting new ways for visitors to experience our great museums. *Eastern Exchanges* is part of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad^[i] programme *Stories of the World*^[iii].

Colchester Castle

Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex

Opening times: Monday - Saturday: 10am-5pm and Sunday: 11am-5pm

Telephone: 01206 282939

<http://www.cimuseums.org.uk/treasuresofchina.html>
