

‘The Big Garden – The Big Picture’ Exhibition Displays Local Talents

**A Rec-Create Project in partnership with Colchester Borough Council
and Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service**

**Private Exhibition Launch Saturday 21st June – 6pm until 8pm
Press photos and interviews available**

Exhibition open to public from 23rd June

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service’s outreach team is delighted to be supporting a brand new exhibition in Colchester following a successful Rec-Create project earlier this year. Rec-Create aims to bring cultural and recreational activities to rural areas of Colchester Borough and last February and March this was highlighted through a series of free photography workshops.

The free photography workshops took place at the Big Garden in Highwoods Country Park and were led by local photographers Harland Payne. The free sessions were open to visitors of all ages and helped to develop photography skills as well as offer top tips for taking the perfect picture. Of the thousands of fantastic images that were taken of the Big Garden, during the series of workshops, a new exhibition has been developed that will be on display in two beautiful locations in Colchester.

The outdoor exhibition of photography, ‘The Big Garden – The Big Picture’, opens with a private launch (not for the general public, by invitation only on this day) on Saturday 21st June. The public can enjoy the exhibition in the outdoor surroundings of the Big Garden at Highwoods Country Park on Mondays and Tuesdays 10 – 3 and alternate Saturdays.

The exhibition will then move to the Natural History Museum, High Street, Colchester in its wildlife garden from Friday 4th – Friday 25th July, 10am – 5pm and can be enjoyed absolutely free.

Ruth Gillan, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Services Community Outreach Officer said “The Big Picture project worked with everyone from photography club members to complete beginners. Harland Payne have been wonderful at reducing down the thousands of images into a manageable exhibition and we thought it would be in keeping with the whole idea of the Big Garden if we staged the exhibition outdoors. We

hope that by bringing it to the Natural History Museum garden, the Big Garden will be enjoyed more by the people of Colchester and hopefully introduce more people to the heritage and diversity at Highwoods Country Park.“

Press Photo/Interview Opportunity

Private launch of the exhibition at the Big Garden, Highwoods Country Park
Saturday 21st June 6pm – 8pm

Notes to Editors:

Whilst the exhibition is at the Big Garden in Highwoods Country Park it will be open Mondays and Tuesdays 10am – 3pm and alternate Saturdays, starting 28th June, 10am – 3pm.

Visitors can view the exhibition outside these times with prior arrangement by calling the High Woods Country Park Visitor Centre on 01206 853588.

For further information/images please contact Sharon Carter, Assistant Marketing Officer on 01206 282938.

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

Our vision is to create a museum service that is a source of pride, inspiration and fun.