

## **Museums in Colchester**

### **Create a Kaleidoscope @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Come along to Hollytrees Museum and enjoy a fun and creative workshop, where you can put your craft skills to the test.

In this session you can make your very own kaleidoscope and be amazed at the wonderful coloured patterns you will be able to produce. You will be provided with all the materials you need to create your masterpiece including mirrors, cardboard and rainbow coloured paper.

**Admission to the museum is free, sessions are £1.50 per person.**

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

**Book in advance on 01206 282940, or drop into Hollytrees Museum.**

**Sorry, we are unable to accept large group bookings.**

**Suitable for ages 4-12.**

**British Sign Language interpretation on Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at 11am & 1pm.**

### **Revealing Roman Colchester @ Colchester Castle**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Come along to Colchester Castle and meet some fantastic characters from the past. In this fun and interactive session you can meet a Roman soldier and a Briton as they talk about their lives in Roman Colchester. Find out how they feel about the recent invasion of Britain and the turning of Colchester into a new Roman city.

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

**Admission fee to Colchester Castle applies, performances are free.**

**British Sign Language interpretation on Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Feb and Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> at Feb 11am & 1pm.**

### **Meet the Romans @ Colchester Castle**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Come along to Colchester Castle and meet some fantastic Roman characters to help you learn more about the past! Meet a Roman gladiator at performances throughout the day, and meet a Roman slave girl – you'll love hearing about what life was like for them. With lots more to enjoy including craft activities and special guest **Jonty from Big Brother 8**.

**Admission fee to Colchester Castle applies, all other activities are free.**

**Meet the Roman Gladiator 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.**

**Meet Pacata the Slave Girl 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm.**

### **Meet the Ancestors Day @ Colchester Castle**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 10am – 4.30pm**

Enjoy a fascinating day of activities when you can learn more about how to explore your past. Special guest **Julian Richards of the BBC's 'Meet the Ancestors'** will be giving a special talk and you can learn more about how to research your family with top tips from the Essex Record Office.

You can see a live demonstration of a facial reconstruction and even have the chance to construct your own face in clay in a fun workshop. Plus lots more.

**Admission fee to Colchester Castle applies, all other activities are free.**

### **Science in a Suitcase @ Colchester Castle**

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Expect the unexpected, as two unconventional comical scientists unpack their cases revealing unique and bizarre experiments. Using everyday objects from plungers to bullwhips they blend mime, music and physical comedy to demonstrate their eccentric discoveries.

**Admission fee to Colchester Castle applies, performances are free.**  
**Performances at 12pm, 2pm and 3pm.**

### **Crops to Shops @ Hollytrees Museum, Natural History Museum and Colchester Castle Park**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**A family event in association with National Science and Engineering Week and the Year of Food and Farming.**

Food glorious food! But how does it get to our tables? You can find out in this fun packed family day hosted by Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service and Colchester Castle Park Rangers.

Find out about food through history, enjoy craft activities, see butter making and beer brewing, as well as learn more about how bees make honey. See a working tractor and other modern farming machinery, as well as historical farming machinery and a beautiful Suffolk Punch horse. **With special guest Jimmy Doherty from the BBC's 'Jimmy's Farm'.**

**Free for all the family!**  
**Drop-in 10.30am – 4.30pm.**

### **Living the Past @ Colchester Castle**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Step back in time at Colchester Castle and learn more about how people coped with the harsh times of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Many people in this time, whether poor or rich, consulted a 'wise-woman' or 'cunning man' and now you can meet one!

Meet Cunning Will Becket and learn more about some of the potions, cures, charms and superstitions that people used in Tudor England. However, make sure you don't upset him or he may just cast a spell on you.

**Admission fee to Colchester Castle applies, sessions are free.**  
**Sessions at 10.30am – 1pm and 2pm – 4.30pm.**

### **Tea Caddies @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

As we approach the Beijing Olympics, what better way to celebrate one of China's greatest contributions to the British way of life – a good cup of tea! In the beautiful surroundings of Hollytrees Museum, you can get crafty by making your own tea caddy. You will be supplied with all the materials you need to make your caddy and you can take it home with you as a special memento of your day.

**Booked sessions at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.**  
**£1.50 per person. Book in advance on 01206 282940, or drop into Hollytrees Museum.**  
**Sorry, we are unable to accept large group bookings.**  
**Suitable for ages 4 and up.**

### **Make a Mask @ Colchester Castle**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

Taking inspiration from our 'Life Beyond the Label' exhibition, you can create your own mask to show the person you are behind your face in this fun workshop. Will you make your mask a big happy face, a cheeky face or perhaps you may want to show your hobbies and interests? Whatever it may be let your imagination bring out the real you! All material for the mask-making will be provided.

**Drop-in 10.30am - 1pm and 2pm – 4.30pm.**

**Admission fee to Colchester Castle applies, sessions are £1 per person.**

**Suitable for ages 4 upwards.**

## **Museums in Ipswich**

### **Chinese Festival @ Ipswich Museum, High Street**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

As the Chinese New Year approaches, why not come along to Ipswich Museum and enjoy some traditional Eastern activities to help celebrate it? During this celebration of Chinese culture there will be lots of fun activities for all the family to enjoy.

Children can make their own beautiful paper lantern in a traditional style. There will be lots more to enjoy on the day and don't miss the chance to help decorate a large foam dragon and watch as it leads a procession through the museum at 3pm.

**Drop-in 10am - 4pm.**

**Free admission to the museum.**

**Paper lanterns £1 per person. All other activities are free.**

### **Ratty New Year @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Come along to Christchurch Mansion and help celebrate the forthcoming Chinese New Year – the Year of the Rat!

This day of rat-tastic fun will have plenty to enjoy for all of the family. Listen to the Pied Piper tell his unique tale of how the rats came running to his pipe in a fun storytelling session. Explore and learn about some of the curious instruments that people through history have designed to try and kill rats, as well as enjoy a 'smack the rat' game for your chance to win a small prize.

**Drop-in 10am - 4pm.**

**Free admission to Christchurch Mansion.**

**Smack-the Rat Game – 50p for 3 tries. Make your own Rat Mask - £1 per child.**

**All other activities are free.**

### **Explore the Victorian Classroom @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

This half term come along to Christchurch Mansion and take part in a school lesson just how it would have been more than 100 years ago! Would you have been a good Victorian schoolchild? Find out by trying copy-writing on slates, adding some sums and staying on the right side of the Victorian schoolmistress.

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

**FREE admission to museum and free event.**

**Suitable for ages 4-16.**

**Booking is advised as spaces are limited.**

**Book by calling Christchurch Mansion on 01473 433554.**

**British Sign Language interpretation on Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Feb and Wed 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am & 1pm.**

### **Portrait Speed Dating @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

When you visit Christchurch Mansion this half term why not have a go at our portrait speed-dating trail? Come along and pick up an activity sheet from the main hall, then try and find the paintings that match the images around the mansion. Take the challenge and see if you can find out how old they are! Date the portraits by completing the activity sheet to enter our competition to win free tickets to Colchester Castle Museum.

**Drop-in 10am – 4.30pm.**

**Free activity and free admission to museum.**

### **Safari Origami @ Ipswich Museum, High Street**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

Get wild this half term and have a go at creating some animal origami! In this fun activity session you can follow simple instructions to fold and decorate your own origami butterfly, snake or frog. If you are feeling really adventurous, you can even try your hand at making a tiger or a pig.

**Drop-in 10am – 4.45pm.**

**Free activity and free admission to museum.**

### **Animal Face Painting @ Ipswich Museum, High Street**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

Are you a tiger, a snake or maybe even a bear? Whatever animal lurks within you, you can let it come out by coming along and having your face painted at Ipswich Museum this February. There are so many fantastic animals on display in the natural history gallery in the museum that you won't be short of inspiration.

Whether you have a favourite animal in mind, or feel inspired by the beautiful beasts on display at the museum, our professional face painter will fulfil your wishes.

**Admission to museum is free. £1 per face painted.**

**Drop-in activity 10am – 12.45pm and 1.45pm – 4.45pm.**

### **Terrific Tudors @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

**In association with National Science and Engineering Week**

Come to Christchurch Mansion and discover some of the ways the terrific Tudors engineered materials to meet their daily needs. Meet a Tudor leatherworker who will show you how leather was crafted to make durable objects and why not come and make your own clay Tudor jug, plus find out why the Tudors preferred beer to water!

In the kitchen at the Mansion you will be able to learn about herbalism and folklore from our enchanting Tudor traveller. There will also be a chance to find out how the Tudors built buildings strong enough to last over 400 years.

**Drop-in 10am-4pm**

**Free admission to the Mansion**

**Make your own Tudor Jug, 11am, 12am, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm - £1.50 per person**

**Booking is advised as spaces are limited, book by calling 01473 433554**

**All other activities are free**

### **Hatch a Creature! @ Christchurch Mansion**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

What is hatching this spring at Christchurch Mansion? Perhaps fairies in the nooks and crannies, or monsters in the kitchen and scullery! Whatever wonderful creatures are in your imagination – you can make them in a fun activity session, with the wonderful surroundings of Christchurch Mansion to inspire you. Using environmentally friendly craft materials you can let your imagination run wild as you create your own crazy creature!

**Drop-in 10am – 12.45pm & 1.45 – 4.30pm.**

**Free activity and free admission to Christchurch Mansion.**

### **ZooLab Week @ Ipswich Museum, High Street**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

Wake up from a winter of hibernation and discover an array of fantastic animals with ZooLab at Ipswich Museum, hosted by an expert and friendly ZooLab ranger.

Throughout the week you can meet, touch and learn more about all kinds of animals and insects. See a corn snake, a tarantula and a scorpion – if you are brave enough! However, if you just fancy a cuddle then why not say hello to a rabbit, guinea pig or gerbil. There will be plenty of other creatures to meet too, so come along and discover your wild side.

**12pm - 3pm, drop-in activity.**

**£1 per person, tickets on sale between 10am and 2.45pm.**

**Free admission to Ipswich Museum.**

### **The Birds @ Ipswich Museum, High Street**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Get crafty this April at Ipswich Museum and make your very own bird – complete with flapping wings! Our chirpy freelance artist will be on hand to give you all the advice you need to create your masterpiece. You will be provided with all the materials you need to create your flapping bird, including cardboard and wonderful things to decorate your bird.

**Drop-in 10am-12.45pm and 1.45pm - 4.45pm**

**£1 per person.**

**Free admission to Ipswich Museum.**

### **The Bees @ Christchurch Mansion**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Ever wondered how bees make honey? Well come and find out for free at Christchurch Mansion. An expert beekeeper will be on hand to answer all of your buzzing questions and show you a real bee hive. There may even be the chance to see some live bees, if our British weather is being kind!

There will also be the opportunity to buy some honey and wax blocks, and children can have a go at rolling their own wax candle to take home for 50p.

**10am – 4.30pm.**

**Roll your own wax candle, 50p per child.**

**Free event and free admission to Christchurch Mansion.**

### **Bumble-bee Wind Turbines @ Christchurch Mansion**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Come along to Christchurch Mansion this Easter and have a go at making your own bumblebee wind-turbine. They are too small to create enough energy to run your house, but they will look lovely in a houseplant or a garden plant! Remember to put it somewhere breezy so you can watch the bumblebee's wings spin.

**Drop-in 10am-12.45pm and 1.45pm – 4.45pm.**

**50p per child.**

**Free admission to Christchurch Mansion.**

**PLUS...**

**Tuesday Story-time @ Christchurch Mansion**

**Every Tuesday (excluding Easter) from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Don't miss an enchanting programme of storytelling sessions at Christchurch Mansion throughout March, April and May. The sessions which last 45 minutes – 1 hour are ideal for children aged 2 – 6 and can be enjoyed **absolutely free**.

Sessions start at 1.30pm and can be enjoyed in comfortable surroundings, with mats and cushions to sit on. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Out of the Box – Bringing Costume to Life**

Don't miss your chance to see some of Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service's most beautiful costume as they come out of their boxes! Hosted by the costume curator you will see all kinds of items from beadwork to needlework and childrenswear.

**Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich**

**3 April 2008, 2pm – 4pm**

Accessories – bags, hats and shoes.

**24 July 2008, 2pm – 4pm**

Beadwork

**7 August 2008, 2pm – 4pm**

Embroidery

**21 August 2008, 2pm – 4pm**

Childrenswear

**Hollytrees Museum, Colchester**

**31 July 2008, 2pm – 4pm**

Beadwork

**10 April 2008, 2pm – 4pm**

Accessories – bags, hats and shoes.

**14 August 2008, 2pm – 4pm**

Embroidery

**28 August 2008, 2pm – 4pm**

Childrenswear

Click here for more information [www.colchestermuseums.org.uk](http://www.colchestermuseums.org.uk)