

Easter weekend – Friday 21st March – Sunday 23rd March

Colchester Castle

Master Obadiah Ringwood – Barber surgeon from the 1640s, with Prudence Ringwood, herbal medicine lady.

History has been very unkind to early men of medicine. They are portrayed as charlatans who knew little of the workings of the human body and often amputated needlessly with no regard for their patients suffering.

Master Obadiah Ringwood, a barber-surgeon from the time of the English Civil Wars (1640s) endeavours to prove that for the most part these slurs are untrue. After extensive research of primary source material and the construction of one of the finest collections of replica surgical tools, a presentation has been prepared to show just how able these early surgeons were.

Master Ringwood's talk lasts for around 30 minutes, during which he sets the scene with a short history of the surgeons guilds and then demonstrates hair cutting; shaving; bleeding; tooth drawing; cosmetic surgery; clystering; boil treatments and several others.

The presentation is delivered in a very light-hearted manner so that the audience is in no way upset.

Master Ringwood will be on hand after each performance to talk to visitors and answer any questions.

Presentations take place at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm on Friday and Saturday

12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm on Sunday

Free after normal admission to the castle

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Colchester and Ipswich Museum service

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