

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

The Great Rat Hunt in Colchester

Thursday 1st – Saturday 31st May 2008

2008 is the Year of the Rat and a group of these furry friends are paying a visit to the museums in Colchester. They have decided to play a little game of hide and seek with us and we need your help in tracking them down!

Throughout May you can visit Colchester Castle Museum, Hollytrees Museum, the Natural History Museum and Tymperleys Clock Museum to see if you can spot any of them. Just pick up a sheet from any of the museums, then make your way around them, noting down the rat positions as you go.

Complete the challenge and hand your answer sheets in at any of the museums. All entries will be put into a prize draw to win one of several great prizes.

Free to enter

Admission charge applies to Colchester Castle, all other museums are free.

Chinese Kite Making @ Colchester Castle

Monday 26th – Friday 30th May

Come along to Colchester Castle and go sky high with ideas when you can make your very own kite! Using all sorts of fabulous shapes and colours you can make a kite of your own design, with the help of our friendly artist.

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

Book in advance on 01206 282940 or drop into Hollytrees Museum

£1 per person after normal entrance charge to the castle

Sorry, we are unable to accept large group bookings

Suitable for ages 4 - 12

Fantastic Fans @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Monday 26th – Friday 30th May

Come along to Hollytrees Museum and get in a flap for fans! In this fun and creative workshop you can make your very own fan. Using silk and crepe paper your fan will be a work of art as you hand paint your very own design onto it. Using images of nature as inspiration for the design of your fan you may want to paint butterflies, birds or insects – the choice is yours!

Museum admission is free

Fan making at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

Book in advance (10am – 4.45pm) on 01206 282940 or drop into Hollytrees Museum

£1.50 per person

Sorry, we are unable to accept large group bookings

Design the Emperor's New Clothes @

Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Mon 26th May – Sun 1st June

Are you a fashion designer in the making? Do you love getting creative? Then why not come along to Christchurch Mansion and create some new clothes for a Chinese emperor.

Drop-in activity, 10am – 4.30pm

50p per child, suitable for ages 6+

Free admission to Christchurch Mansion

On the Trail of Fashion @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Mon 26th May - Sun 1st June

Come along to Christchurch Mansion and discover fashion from throughout the ages in a fun and family friendly quiz trail.

Discover why the Tudor's wore those silly ruffs around their necks, and why Victorian skirts were so wide. This self guided trail will lead you to some amazing portraits that you will see like you have never seen before, so come along and take part.

Free Activity, 10am – 4.30pm

Free Admission to Christchurch Mansion

Warrior Tales @ Ipswich Museum, High Street

Tues 27th – Fri 30th May

Celebrate Local History Month by coming to Ipswich Museum and hear fascinating stories from the past.

Come along and meet our fabulous Anglo-Saxon Warrior and hear his tales of battle and everyday life. Find out who he defeated and why – you'll be amazed by his fascinating facts!

Free. Drop-in Event

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

Free admission to Ipswich Museum

Anglo-Saxon Helmet and Sword Making @

Ipswich Museum, High Street

Tue 27th – Fri 30th May

Come along to Ipswich Museum and discover more about the fabulous Anglo-Saxons. See beautiful objects in the museum and discover stories from the past before taking part in a fun and creative activity session.

Our friendly artist will help you make your very own foam Anglo-Saxon helmet and sword. What will yours be like and what fantastic things will inspire you? Come along, find out and soon you will be ready to lead your own small Anglo-Saxon army!

Bookable Activity, £2 per child. Book by calling 01473 433554

Sessions start at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30am, 2pm and 3pm

Free Admission to Ipswich Museum

Meet the Travelling Storyteller @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Fri 30th May – Sun 1st June

Come along to Christchurch Mansion this half term and hear tales that will take your imagination on journeys far and wide! Gather around our travelling storyteller to hear her fantastic stories from around the world. Discover what happened when the Emperor decided to be fitted for new clothes and more in this fun storytelling session suitable for all the family.

Free

Drop-in Event

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

Free admission to Christchurch Mansion

Meet the Georgian Tea Dealer @ Hollytrees Museum, Colchester
Saturday 31st May & Sunday 1st June

In Georgian England, like today, we loved sipping on a good cup of refreshing tea and in this fun activity at Hollytrees Museum you can meet our fabulous tea dealer. Come along and see what she has to offer as well as discover more about her tea-related products. Mistress Spencer will tell you about all the different Chinese teas that she has, and how great Chinese tea really is.

No tea will be available for sale at the event, however you will be able to smell different types of fabulous tea.

Free sessions and free admission to the museum
Drop-in 10.30 – 4.30 on Saturday & 11.30 – 4.30 on Sunday

Colchester and Ipswich Museum service

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

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