

Schools Service

at Ipswich Museum and Christchurch Mansion



RENAISSANCE
EAST OF ENGLAND

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

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



“ First hand experience of artefacts and displays puts learning into context – better than looking at pictures! ”

Schools Service

Our education programme has been devised in consultation with Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service's Teachers Advisory Panel.



RENAISSANCE
EAST OF ENGLAND
museums for
changing lives

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

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



Contents

- 2-3** Information on the museums and access
- 4** Key Stage 1
Castles as Homes
- 5** Key Stage 1
Toys and Homes
- 6-7** Key Stage 2
Romans
- 8** Key Stage 2
Victorian Lives
- 9** Key Stage 3
Castle Under Siege
- 10** **Special Needs**
- 11** **Loan Box Service**
- Back Cover** **Booking information and map**

Welcome to Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service and its schools service for Colchester. Last year thousands of pupils took part in the variety of experiences that we offer, from building a Roman villa to dressing up in Victorian costume!

This booklet shows the different sessions and resources that we offer, all of which support the National Curriculum. All of our sessions are flexible, can be tailored to meet the needs of your group and are available in alternative Key Stages.

Access

All museums have full wheelchair access except for visits to the Roman vaults and the roof at the Castle Museum – innovative alternative tours can be organised to accommodate this. Handling objects are available for visually impaired students and those with learning disabilities. Subtitling is available for most of the audiovisuals in Hollytrees and the Castle Museum.

Key to Symbols

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|  | Lunch room available |  | Toilets |
|  | Coach parties welcome |  | Lift |
|  | Access information available |  | Playground |
|  | Adapted toilets |  | Gift Shop |
|  | Disabled access |  | Picnic area |
|  | All year round weather attraction | | |

INFORMATION AND BOOKING LINE:

01206 282937

bookings.information@colchester.gov.uk

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, Museum Resource Centre, 14 Ryegate Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1YG

For more information about Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service visit:

www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

About Colchester's Museums



Colchester Castle Museum

A visit to Colchester Castle Museum takes you through 2000 years of some of the most important events in British history. Once capital of Roman Britain, Colchester has experienced devastation by Boudica, invasion by the Normans and siege warfare during the English Civil War.

The Castle is the largest keep ever built by the Normans. It was constructed on the foundations of the Roman Temple of Claudius, which can still be seen today. It interprets an internationally important Roman and Iron Age British (Celtic) collection, as well as the history of Colchester through to the end of the English Civil War.



Tymperleys Clock Museum

This museum is home to a fine display of Colchester made clocks and watches from the outstanding Mason collection. It is situated in a beautifully restored 15th century timber-framed house with a medieval style herb garden in its grounds.



Hollytrees Museum

Hollytrees is a beautiful Georgian town house in the grounds of the award-winning Castle Park. Built in 1718 it has been owned by some of the wealthiest families in Colchester. Now a fascinating museum with wonderful hands-on activities, it shows what home life was like in Colchester over the last 300 years with fun and humour in mind.



Natural History Museum

With its hands-on, family friendly atmosphere the Natural History Museum is the place to find out about local biodiversity. Displays feature habitats ranging from an intimate town garden to the wide open salt marsh with examples of the wildlife you can find. Our giant stag beetle display is a must-see, too.

Children can find out what they can do to help wildlife by visiting the accessible wildlife garden with its raised beds featuring a range of plants from woodland to sand dunes.



KEY STAGE 1

Castles as Homes at Colchester Castle

Whole Day Visit

Colchester Castle is an exciting and unique place to visit for groups studying 'Castles' or 'Homes' as a topic. The story tour, led by an Education Assistant, takes children up the Great Staircase and onto the roof to explore hidden features of the Castle. From the roof there are fantastic views right over Colchester and the surrounding countryside. There is an opportunity to imagine the Great Hall in Norman times and handle objects used in the Castle. This helps children experience what it was really like living in the Castle.

The Castle building itself is the most appropriate resource for the visit. A special engaging activity trail focuses pupil's attention on the Castle, highlighting its construction and many interesting features. Displays and activities in the Norman and Saxon Gallery give pupils an exciting and dramatic interpretation of the coming of the Normans and their way of life. In our Activity Room a carousel of simple hands-on activities, which are teacher led, explore the lives of different people who lived and worked in the Castle.

Organisation of your visit

During the day you will have the opportunity to do the following:

1. Museum led story tour of the Castle
2. Explore the galleries
3. Hands-on activity session (teacher led)

“ It increased the enthusiasm and understanding of the topic through hands-on activities, a good guide and the castle experience itself ”

St Nicholas School



Toys and Homes

at Hollytrees Museum

“ The children enjoyed the variety of toys *Great Totham School* ”

Whole day museum visit including a teacher led activity

Hollytrees Museum shows what life was like in Colchester over the last 300 years. It is ideal for young children. Its galleries include 'Running the Home' and 'Childhood', where children can play with a variety of old toys.

All of our schools sessions are based around an amazing dolls house model of Hollytrees house in 1881. Each of the rooms can be taken out, so that everyone gets a bird's eye view of what life would have been like for a rich Victorian family and in contrast the servants working in the house.

This interactive session also gives children an opportunity to play with a variety of old toys and handle and investigate a range of household objects that would have been used by people living in Hollytrees.

During the session all children will be able to dress up in Victorian costumes provided by the Museum. Will they be transformed into a poor child or a rich child?

To make a whole day visit, we offer a simple teacher led puzzle cube craft activity and 'Toys Trail' to complement this hands-on session. All materials for these activities are provided.

Organisation of your visit

During the day you will have the opportunity to do the following:

1. Session led by museum staff in which pupils:
 - Explore the doll's house of Hollytrees
 - Handle and compare old and new household objects or play with toys from the past
2. Explore the galleries
3. Puzzle cube craft activity (teacher led)



You can choose between toys or homes for this session or a mixture of both.



KEY STAGE 2

ROMANS

at Colchester Castle



“ It has reinforced and made sense of previous knowledge, as well as them gaining new and more accurate information ”
Rainham Village Primary School

Colchester was the first capital of Roman Britain and our wide-ranging collections reflect its prosperity during the Roman period. The Castle houses collections of internationally important Iron Age and Roman artefacts that are displayed in an easy-to-follow style, with many hands-on activities.

Galleries to visit:

Life in Celtic Britain, Roman Invasion, Building of the Roman Town, Roman Homes, Roman Beliefs. Hands-on activities include: trying on a Roman helmet, feeling a chain mail, coin brass rubbings, handling real Roman pottery and dressing up.

Planning your visit:

We offer three different packages for a visit to the Castle Museum:

Package A:

Do-it-Yourself visit

This service is aimed at teachers who would prefer to structure their own visit, and gives access to the galleries.

Package B:

Go underground into the foundations of the Roman temple

With this package you receive a timetable for the day which includes a story tour of the Roman vaults underneath the Castle Museum. You are led by an Education Assistant who involves the pupils in finding out about the Iron Age settlements in this area, the Roman invasion and the Boudican revolt.

Package C:

Go underground into the foundations of the Roman Temple plus build a Roman Villa and Iron Age Roundhouse

With this package, you not only go on the story tour in the Roman vaults, but you are also booked into our Activity Room for an hour. We have a model Roman villa and Iron Age roundhouse that the pupils build, as well as hands-on archaeological activities. This session is led by the teachers themselves and as part of the package, we run FREE training sessions before your visit that show you how to run this session and the best ways to organise your visit around the galleries.

Supporting resources: Loan Boxes

Our 'Romans' loans boxes contain many original Roman artefacts and provide an excellent resource to support project work in the classroom. For details about hiring a box see page 11.



KEY STAGE 2

Victorian Lives

at Hollytrees Museum

Whole day museum visit including a teacher led activity

- **Explore what it was like to live in Hollytrees in the past**
- **Discover what it was like for children living in Victorian Britain**

Hollytrees Museum shows what home life would have been like in Colchester over the last 300 years. The session is based around a dolls house model of Hollytrees House as it was in 1881. Each of the rooms can be taken out, so that everyone gets a bird's eye view of life in the house for a rich Victorian family and the servants working in the house. As children interrogate the 1881 census they discover who was living in the house, investigating the real lives of the family and the servants.

An interactive session in the 'Running the Home' gallery, provides an opportunity to handle and investigate a variety of original household objects used by those working in the house. All pupils will have the opportunity to dress up and handle Victorian costume, including a corset, bustle, top hats and tails. Will your pupils be transformed into a rich or poor person?



Organisation of your visit

During the day you will have the opportunity to do the following:

1. Session led by museum staff in which pupils:
 - Explore the doll's house of Hollytrees
 - Analyse the census from Hollytrees House in 1881
 - Handle Victorian household objects and Victorian costume
2. Explore the galleries, including the fantastic 'Childhood gallery'.
3. Zoetrope activity (teacher led)

KEY STAGE 3

Castle Under Siege at Colchester Castle

Whole Day Visit

Colchester Castle is the largest Norman keep ever built and retains many of the features of a traditional Castle. In 1216 the Castle was besieged by King John and his army. But was this the best strategy of attack and how likely was it to succeed?

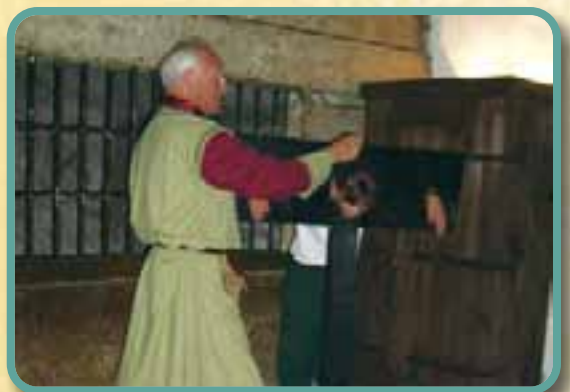
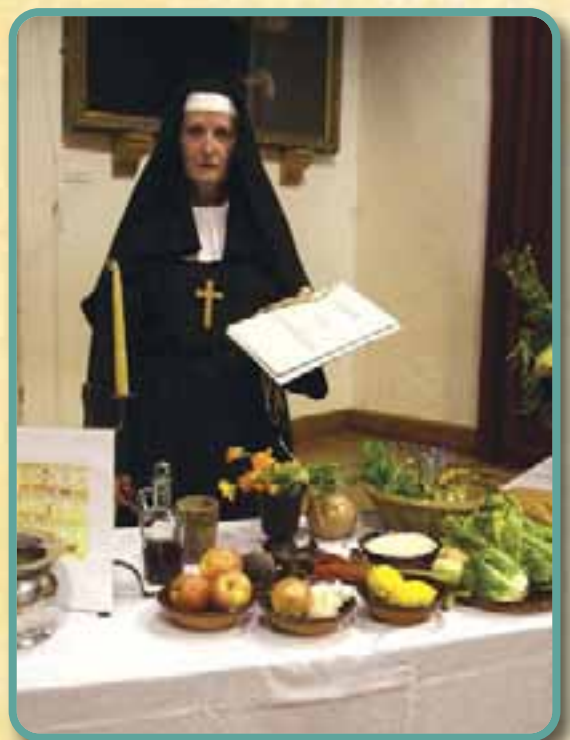
During their visit, a costumed storyteller will take pupils from the Castle vaults to the roof, examining evidence of Castle defences, assessing possible methods of attack. From a Medieval nun they will find out more about illness, medical beliefs and practices in medieval times, and the impact of a siege on living conditions and illness in the Castle. When they step into the prisons they will experience the harsh conditions encountered there, and hear tales from the Goaler of those held.

This stimulating day will challenge students to gather, assess and interpret evidence presented through a rich mix of re-enactment, trails and self-led discovery.

Organisation of your visit:

During the day you will have the opportunity to do the following:

1. Guided tour by a costumed storyteller.
2. Meet a medieval nun and find out about medical beliefs and practises.
3. Visit the Castle prisons and hear tales from the Goaler.
4. Exploring the castle defences.
(Teacher led)



“ Very good on life in the castle and medieval medicine, crime and punishment **Finsborough School** ”

Special Needs and Your Visit

at our museums

At Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service we aim to make our schools sessions as accessible as possible. On occasions when this is unfortunately not possible, suitable alternatives are offered for your pupils.

KS1 Castles as Homes & KS3 Castle Under Siege

The Castle tour, offered as part of these sessions, includes walking up the Great Staircase and onto the roof. Unfortunately there are no alternative means of access to this area.

If booked in advance one of our Education Assistants will run an alternative session with objects to handle and the option of viewing a specially made film of such tours of these areas.

KS2 Romans

The 'storytour', offered as part of this session, takes place in the Roman vaults which are accessed only by a steep staircase. The low entrances require adults and some tall children to crouch to go through.

If booked in advance one of our Education Assistants will run an alternative session with objects to handle, and a filmed version of the 'storytour'.

The Castle has disabled access toilet facilities as well as an accessible lift.



KS1 Toys and Homes & KS2 Victorian Lives

All areas of Hollytrees Museum are accessible for school groups. There is no accessible toilet but there is a public accessible toilet adjacent to the museum which operates via the RADAR system for which we hold a key. If you feel you have any children with specific needs that we can help you with please let us know in advance and we will do all we can to meet their needs.

Special schools

The interactive and sensory nature of our sessions and museums ensure they are rich learning experiences for all children. All sessions can be adapted to make sure they are appropriate for the specific needs of your pupils. Please take time to talk through your visit with a member of our learning team when planning your visit.

For full access information you can download our access leaflet at www.colchestermuseums.org.uk and clicking on 'downloads'. Alternatively we can post one to you, please just ask when you book.

Loans service

Historical Loan Boxes

Help bring history alive in your classroom by introducing real objects from the past.

Children can act as detectives, asking questions to find out what the objects tell us about life in the past.

- Who would have used it?
- How was it made?
- Do we use something similar today?
- What was it used for?

Topics

We have loan boxes with a mixture of real and replica household objects from the following topics:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Ancient Egypt | • Siege of Colchester (17th century) |
| • Ancient Greece | • World War Two |
| • Roman | • Seaside holidays |
| • Tudor and Stuart | • Object timelines (Contains games and activities specifically for use with under 5's) |
| • Victorian Clothing | |
| • Victorian Childhood | |
| • Victorian Kitchen | |

In the boxes you will find a range of objects with information notes about them. Some boxes such as the Roman or Siege of Colchester even have replica clothing in them.

Sensory Loan Boxes

We have also developed boxes of archaeological artefacts and activities to support groups or individuals with visual, hearing or learning disabilities. Groups have the opportunity to:

- Smell Roman herbs
- Feel original Roman pottery
- Investigate Celtic tools

The sensory loan boxes can also be booked to use during your visit to the Castle Museum, free of charge if they are available.

How to Hire a Loans Box

Historical and sensory loans boxes

Length of Hire: half a term

Cost of Hire: £20.00

plus £10 refundable deposit

Boxes need to be collected from and returned to Colchester Castle Museum.

To book a box or for more details, please contact the Bookings & Information Officer on **01206 282937**.

Or email bookings.information@colchester.gov.uk



How to book

To book a visit to any of Colchester's museums, please contact:

Bookings and Information Officer

telephone: 01206 282937

e-mail: bookings.information@colchester.gov.uk

Details to consider on booking:

- Preferred dates for visit
- Number of children in your group
- Age of children
- The topic you are studying
- Your ideal arrival and departure times
- Any special requirements
- Please note a charge applies to pre-school groups

Once you have booked a visit, you will be sent a booking form and timetable for your visit. Supporting materials for visits to the Castle Museum can be downloaded from our website:

www.colchestermuseums.org.uk
(click on 'downloads')

We book up four to six months in advance at the Castle Museum so allow plenty of planning time for your visit.

Please phone 01206 282937
for current prices or check out:
www.colchestermuseums.org.uk
(click on 'education')



Key

- 1 Castle Museum
- 2 Hollytrees Museum
- 3 Natural History Museum
- 4 Tymperleys Museum

 Drop-off Point

 Coach Parking

There is a drop-off point for coaches in Cowdray Crescent, which is convenient for all the museums. Coaches can then park in the coach park on Sheepen Road.

Don't forget to visit our museums in Ipswich too!

**Ancient Egyptians Tudors
Toy Story Victorians WW2**

Call 01473 433570 for more information today.



Enhance your history topics with a schools' workshop at Christchurch Mansion and Ipswich Museum.

This leaflet shows the different workshops and resources that we offer for Key Stages 1 & 2, all of which support the National Curriculum. Our workshops are flexible and can be tailored to meet the needs of your group.

In each workshop real objects have been specifically chosen to help the children read the clues from the past in our handling sessions. Specially created replicas and interactive exhibits have also been made for the children to get 'hands-on' with. Workshops are led by our Museum Education Assistants in the museum galleries and education rooms.





Christchurch Mansion

TOY STORY

Key Stage 1

Workshop: 1 hour 15 minutes

Spin the 100 year old zoetrope and compare modern and old toys. A giant puzzle timeline helps children see the changes in toys and childhood over the last 150 years. The children can bring their own toys from home or school to compare with the toys in our galleries. Find out what toys were made of before the days of plastic.



‘Just the right amount and variety of activities and well paced.’

Rougham Primary School

VICTORIAN HOME

Key Stage 1 & 2

Workshop: 2 hours

Handling real Victorian mystery objects the children discover the differences between the lives of the Victorian servant and master. Children will have the chance to dress up in replica clothing and find out how Victorian knickers worked.

‘The whole trip was excellent and a very good experience for us all.’

Morland Primary School

RUFFS and STUFF

Key Stage 2

Workshop: 10am – 2pm

In the Tudor chambers of the Mansion children unlock the mysteries of Tudor life using actual Tudor objects and portraits, learning how the lives of the rich and poor were very different. Children can discover the contents of an explorer's chest, try on Tudor clothing and see if they can wattle like a Tudor builder. The children become portrait detectives and unlock the secrets of the Tudor portraits.

‘Workshop leaders were excellent. Focused well on the Tudor period. Hands-on activities very good.’

Cedarwood Primary School



Ipswich Museum



IPSWICH AT WAR

Key Stage 2

Workshop: 2 hours

Examining a range of 'lost property' bags children work out which bag belonged to which Ipswich wartime character and handle 1940s objects, including a Morse Code machine. Children search a model house to find out what

life was really like in the 1940s and what changes had to be made for the war effort.

'We had a fantastic session – the children learnt so much more and were 'buzzing' with all they had done!'

Kingsfleet Primary School



ANCIENT EGYPTIANS

Key Stage 2

Workshop: 10am-2.00pm

Real Egyptian artefacts and custom-made interactives let the children discover what life and the afterlife was like for the Ancient Egyptians. The Sensory Obelisk lets children hear, smell and touch

Ancient Egyptian life. Masks and dressing up allow children to become Pharaohs and gods.

'Provided excellent hands on activities.'

Chelmondiston Primary School

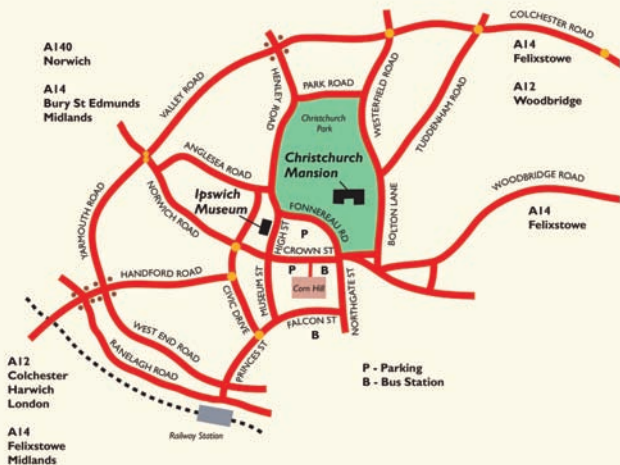
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO?



Ipswich Museum is a beautiful Victorian museum with fascinating objects and stories from around the world. See objects from Africa, Asia, North America and the Pacific, plus find out all about the fossils, rocks, and minerals in our region. Enjoy the

Victorian Natural History Gallery, where you can see favourites including a woolly mammoth, a rhino, a giraffe and more! Plus discover gods and a mummy in the Egyptian gallery.

Discover 500 years of history in the beautiful **Christchurch Mansion**, set amidst Christchurch Park. See period rooms from the 16th through to the 19th century and have fun exploring the past. Don't miss the enchanting toys and historic games, as well as beautiful costume and textiles. Plus you can see the biggest collection of Constable paintings outside of London.



BOOKING INFORMATION

For all general visits and bookings please telephone our booking team:

01473 433550 or 01473 433570

For further information on the workshops or other educational enquiries please ring 01473 433570 or e-mail rachel.macfarlane@ipswich.gov.uk

Ipswich Museum

High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH

Tel: 01473 433550 Fax: 01473 433558

e-mail: museums.service@ipswich.gov.uk

Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm

Full disabled access and toilet facilities

Lunchroom by arrangement

Coaches set down/pick up outside the Museum

Admission free - charges apply to school activities

Christchurch Mansion

Christchurch Park, Soane Street, Ipswich IP4 2BE

Tel: 01473 433554 Fax: 01473 433550

e-mail: mansion.reception@ipswich.gov.uk

Monday-Sunday 10am-5pm

There is a lunchroom available by arrangement or lunches can be eaten in the park. Unfortunately wheelchair access and facilities are restricted to the ground floor.

Coaches set down/pick up Soane Street or Bolton Lane

Admission free – charges apply to school activities

