

The Tremendous Tudors!

Saturday 27th June 10.30am – 4.30pm

St Botolph's Priory, Colchester

A whole day packed full of family fun – absolutely FREE

Take a journey back in time this summer and explore the Tremendous Tudors in a fun day out packed full of FREE events. Set in the beautiful surroundings of St Botolph's Priory, off Queen Street in Colchester, this is a day out not to be missed!

Throughout the day visitors can enjoy an array of crafts, storytelling, live music, performances, stalls and much more – all inspired by the Tremendous Tudors. The fun kicks off at 11am with some live performances from Colchester History Alive and then throughout the day more than thirty other activities will be on offer – at no cost!

Visitors can see Tudor dancers and enjoy Tudor music, as well as enjoy guided walks throughout the day. Visitors can watch some fantastic re-enactments including combat and archery and visitors can even have a go at some jousting training!

There will be the chance to see a medieval style feast and to meet a medieval baker, plus discover more about medieval herb remedies. Visitors can try on Tudor costume, try brass rubbing and make a scroll inspired by the wives of Henry VIII.

Cllr Paul Smith, Culture and Diversity Portfolio Holder said "This event is part of a series of cultural and entertainment events that Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service and Colchester Borough Council is helping to stage throughout the summer. It is a free event, like many of the museum events, and I am sure it will be enjoyed by many families"

The event, hosted by Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service and St Botolph's Church, will also see a variety of cake stalls, plant stalls and bric-a-brac stalls, plus refreshments. Visitors should bring spending money as lots of tasty treats will be available including a hog roast, sandwiches and other refreshments.

The Tremendous Tudors is a FREE event, so visitors are urged to come along for a great day out, in the beautiful surroundings of the Augustinian St Botolph's Priory.

Visit the 1960s at Colchester Castle...

From this Saturday 13th June visitors can take a groovy trip back to the swinging sixties at Colchester Castle as a brand new exhibition opens. **The Sixties Seen: Art, Music and Fashion** runs at Colchester Castle **until Sunday 1st November** and can be enjoyed free, after the normal Castle admission charge. The exhibition explores the art, music and fashion of the decade and looks at the impact design had on everyday life.

Visitors can see fantastic examples of fashion from the new boutiques and young designers of the time who tapped into the youth market. There will be stunning pieces of clothing by Barbara Hulanicki for Biba, Mary Quant, John Stephens and more. Visitors can see dresses inspired by Op-Art, denim suits, a kaftan worn by Talitha Getty, jump suits, make up, shoes and more. Delving into Mod fashion and the psychedelic, the items on show are sure to be familiar for those who were there in the 1960s and those that have taken inspiration for their fashion sense today!

Taking a trip down memory lane there will also be a fabulous reminder of the music. Visitors can enjoy hearing some sixties classics as part of the exhibition including tunes from The Kinks and The Who. There will be the chance to see some of the most famous album covers of the decade, with Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, by The Beatles and David Bailey's photographic cover for The Rolling Stones. Visitors can also see bumper stickers, posters and magazines from the music scene of the time.

Art was a vital part of change in the 1960s and had a huge influence on wider culture. The exhibition shows some fabulous examples of Op art with pieces by Bridget Riley and Victor Vasarely. These dazzling pieces depict the very essence of 1960s culture and visitors will be able to clearly see how this art impacted fashion. Visitors can also see artworks by Colin Self, David Hockney, Allen Jones, Margaret Mellis, John Howlin and Terry Frost.

The exhibition also features multi-sensory displays and visitors will be able to touch examples of different fabrics used in 1960s fashion. There will be extracts of song lyrics on the exhibition walls, a trailer for the classic film 'Blow-Up' and the chance to see excerpts from the recent BBC programme 'Pop Britannia'. Visitors can also hear real life accounts from people who were young in the 1960s including memories from a Mod and the dance co-ordinator from the hit show 'Ready Steady Go!'.

Free after normal admission charge to Colchester Castle Museum

Mon – Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun 11am – 5pm

www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

A Cast of Thousands

The 1909 Colchester Pageant

New exhibition at Hollytrees Museum, Colchester

Visitors to Hollytrees Museum this summer can journey back 100 years as Colchester and Ipswich Museum Services marks the 1909 Colchester Pageant with a special exhibition. **A Cast of Thousands** will be at Hollytrees Museum, Colchester, from **Saturday 4th July until Sunday 27th September**.

The 1909 Colchester Pageant celebrated nearly 2000 years of the town's history. The show took two years to organise and involved 3000 participants, including the military and pupils from Colchester Royal Grammar School. The Pageant was seen by an audience of almost 60,000 and guests included members of the British Royal Family, members of the Russian Parliament and the Lord Mayor of London.

The exhibition displays some rare items from Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service's collection – many of which have not been seen on public display before. Visitors to the exhibition can see an original pageant programme and script, as well as a variety of black and white photographs. An autograph book signed by the performers can also be seen, as can one of the original costumes. One of the most iconic of the Pageant, visitors will be able to see the Boudica costume, worn by Evelyn Gibson.

Visitors to the exhibition can discover more about how the cast for the Pageant was recruited, how the director managed such a large cast, how successful the Pageant was and much more in this intriguing new exhibition at Hollytrees Museum.

Hollytrees Museum makes an ideal location for the exhibition as the building itself was nicknamed 'Pageant House'. Hollytrees Museum, which at the time was a private house, was rented by the Pageant Committee and became the base for which all organisation of the Pageant took place.

Cllr Paul Smith, Culture and Diversity Portfolio Holder, said "The 1909 Colchester Pageant was a remarkable event and 100 years later it seems only fitting that such an exhibition will take place in Hollytrees Museum to celebrate its centenary."

A Cast of Thousands can be enjoyed free of charge and Hollytrees Museum is open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm and Sunday 11am to 5pm.

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Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

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