

Access for all at the Museums

Summer events at Colchester Castle, Hollytrees Museum (Colchester), the Natural History Museum (Colchester), Christchurch Mansion (Ipswich), Ipswich Museum and Gallery 3 (Ipswich)

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service is committed to providing access to its facilities for all visitors. This summer 9 special events and the current exhibitions will have provision for visitors with sight and hearing impairments.

On **Tuesday 21st July** the **Revealing the Romans** event at **Ipswich Museum** will have **British Sign Language (BSL) interpreted sessions at 11am and 1pm**. These sessions offer visitors the chance to learn more about the Romans and the wonderful inventions that they came up with. Visitors will also have the chance to touch some real objects with the help of the museum's friendly staff. The event can be enjoyed free of charge.

On **Wednesday 22nd July** a **BSL interpreter will be available from 10am – 12pm** at the **Geology Rocks!** event at the **Natural History Museum** in Colchester. This special event will offer visitors the chance to meet a rock and fossil expert, to see examples of beautiful fossils and to have their own items from home identified. The event can be enjoyed free of charge.

In **Gallery 3**, in Ipswich Town Hall Galleries, visitors can **Touch the Past** on **Friday 24th July**. This special event will offer guided tours of the current Anglo-Saxon Art in the Round exhibition. At **12pm and 2pm BSL interpreted tours** will take place and at **11am and 3pm there will be touch tours** for visually impaired visitors. The event can be enjoyed free of charge.

Visitors can **Meet Henry VIII** on **Tuesday 28th July** at **Christchurch Mansion**, Ipswich. His Majesty will be telling all kinds of wonderful stories and a **BSL interpreter will be available from 11am – 4pm**. The event can be enjoyed free of charge.

At **Colchester Castle** on **Friday 31st July** visitors can enjoy a **guided tour of The Sixties Seen exhibition**, hosted by the museums Curator of Costume. **The tour will be BSL interpreted at 11am**. The tour is free to enjoy after the normal Castle admission charge.

Visitors can hear **Stories of the Civil War** at **Colchester Castle** on **Monday 3rd August**. At this special event there will also be the chance to touch some real objects and at **1pm and 2.30pm the sessions will be BSL interpreted**. The event is free to enjoy after the normal Castle admission charge.

On **Wednesday 5th August** visitors can **Meet the Cheeky Servant** at **Hollytrees Museum** in Colchester. William the cheeky servant will be sharing all kinds of great stories and at **11am and 1pm the sessions will be BSL interpreted**. The event can be enjoyed free of charge.

Visitors can enjoy **Saxon and Viking Storytelling** on **Thursday 18th August** at **Colchester Castle**. The fascinating stories about Viking gods, dragons and more will be **BSL interpreted at 11am and 1pm**. The event is free to enjoy after the normal Castle admission charge.

On **Wednesday 26th August** visitors can discover **What the Housemaid Heard** at **Christchurch Mansion**. The gossip sessions will be **BSL interpreted at 11am and 1pm**. The event can be enjoyed free of charge.

The current Anglo-Saxon Art in the Round exhibition at Gallery 3, in Ipswich Town Hall Galleries also has facilities for visitors with sight and hearing impairments. Visitors who are blind or who have a visual impairment can make use of an audio description guide, raised and

enlarged tactile images of some of the coins on display and Braille and large print versions of the text panels.

Coloured over-lay sheets are available for visitors with dyslexia or dyspraxia to assist with reading text within the exhibition and there is also a British Sign Language interpreted visual guide for deaf and hard of hearing visitors.

To find out more about Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service's bumper summer of events visit www.ipswich.gov.uk/Museums/ or www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

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

Sharon Carter

Assistant Marketing Officer

01206 282938

sharon.carter@colchester.gov.uk

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

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