

Rocks and Music Hit Museums!

Events to enjoy at Colchester Castle and the Natural History Museum, Colchester

This summer the museums in Colchester and Ipswich are bursting with all kinds of special events and activities which are suitable for all the family.

The fun kicks off in Colchester at the **Natural History Museum** on **Wednesday 22nd July** with the event **Geology Rocks!** Visitors to this fun event can meet the museum's rock and fossil expert and learn all about geology. There will be some wonderful examples of fossils to see and learn about and visitors can bring their own fossils from home for identification on the day.

Visitors can also enjoy the museum's brand new gallery, thanks to funding from Colchester Borough Council and the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation, on geology and climate change. The gallery explores millions of years of history and displays some stunning fossils, including a giant shark jaw.

The Geology Rocks event can be enjoyed free of charge and there is no need to book. Visitors can drop-in anytime between 10am – 12pm and 2pm – 4pm. **A British Sign Language interpreter will be available on Wednesday 22nd July between 10am and 12pm.**

The fun continues at **Colchester Castle** from **Monday 27th to Friday 31st July** with **Live Music at the Castle**. Visitors to the Castle during this week can get all groovy with The Sixties Seen exhibition as well as some fantastic live music. Throughout the week visitors can enjoy live performances from one of the region's best tribute acts. 'Words and Music by Lennon and McCartney' will be performing some classic tunes at 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

Performances by Words and Music by Lennon and McCartney can be enjoyed free after the usual Castle admission charge. There is no need to book, visitors can just come along.

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

Discover Corsets with 'Out of the Box'

Meet Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service's Curator of Costume

Visitors to Hollytrees Museum, Colchester, and Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, this summer can take up the rare chance to see some items from behind the scenes at the museum.

Back by popular demand the 'Out of the Box' sessions are returning this year, looking at examples of stunning corsets from behind the scenes at both museums.

On **Thursday 16th July** 'Out of the Box Presents Corsets' will be at **Christchurch Mansion**, Ipswich. There is no need to book and the event can be enjoyed free of charge. The session takes place between 1pm – 3pm.

The following week on **Thursday 23rd July** the session can be enjoyed at **Hollytrees Museum**, Colchester. There is no need to book and the event can be enjoyed free of charge. The session takes place between 1pm – 3pm.

The Out of the Box sessions offer visitors the rare chance to see and discover items from the museum's collections that are not usually on show. The sessions will be hosted by Danielle Sprecher, Curator of Costume, who will talk through the items, lead discussions and answer any questions.

Corsets were very important in creating a fashionable and feminine body shape for the women that wore them. They were worn by women of all classes and in the sessions a variety of corsets will be on show. Visitors can see a range of examples from the 18th and 19th centuries, showing different styles and materials. At each session more than 10 corsets will be on show and visitors will be able to discover more about the transition from older styles of stays to newer corsets.

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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