

‘Big Draw’ Fun @ Gallery 3 Town Hall Ipswich

Saturday 10th October
Drop-in 10-12 and 1-4
Any age
FREE EVENT

The Big Draw is 10 years old this year, and Big Draw Fun is a great chance to have fun as a family by playing lots of drawing games – the motto is clear: ‘Getting Everyone Drawing!’ – be it with pencils, pens or something less traditional! This event is to join in with the big draw which means over 1000 venues across the nation will use drawing, painting and other creative media to connect visitors with museum and gallery collections, urban and rural spaces – and each other – in new and enjoyable ways.”

Join in

What will you create using someone else’s imagination? How will your art end up if you have to wear a blindfold? Can you...Draw the inside of your head? Draw your favourite song? Draw something **BIG** on a **tiny** piece of paper?

Explore the world of drawing at Ipswich Town Hall , Gallery 3, where the artist behind the ‘Change in Charcoal’ exhibition, Valerie Irwin, will be on hand to give you some hints and tips. Ideas and materials provided – all you need to bring is yourself!

The Change in Charcoal exhibition shows how In 2005 Valerie Irwin took her sketchbook to Ipswich Marina and began to draw. Working in charcoal and on-site in all weathers, there were constant changes to inspire her work. For the first time Gallery 3 will show Irwin’s unique collection of drawings about the demolition of one of the most significant buildings – Cranfield’s Flour Mill.

Everyone is welcome and the best bit is... it’s free!

'Out of the box' presents Objects from Colchester's World Heritage

(Sunday 4th October – **Hollytrees Museum Colchester**, 12pm-1pm, 1.30pm-4pm)

FREE EVENT

This weekend sees Colchester celebrate its World Heritage. Immigration has played an astonishing part of Colchester's history, and has shaped the place we live in. For example, without immigration, we would not have the Roman wall, Blakerne Gate, the Dutch Quarter or our famous castle – imagine Colchester without all that! Indeed, the whole layout of the town is based on the plan laid down by migrating forces. Trinity Church (the oldest standing building in the town) was built by Saxons from Europe. Today, immigration has brought us new skills, materials and cuisine.

As part of the celebration, Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service will be bringing out from its stores some objects rarely seen in public, some of which can be handled by visitors. These objects will chart immigration into Colchester over the last 2000 years. From Roman pottery imported while Iron Age Britain was trading with the growing Roman Empire, to Saxon pottery, coins, Norman material, Dutch objects brought over by refugees of religious persecution, and a toy made by a World War Two German prisoner.

Also on view will be an early form of recycling – Saxon beads made out of Roman glass. These unusual objects show how immigration made use of existing resources, but utilised new skills to create new things. (Another great example of recycling is, of course, the castle).



A 'Pecking Hens' toy was bought in the 1940s by a local resident. He bought it from a German prisoner of war who was working on a farm in Aldham. During the Second World War, a Prisoner of War camp was set up to hold captured German soldiers. They were encouraged to work on nearby farms and became quite involved with local communities, forming friendships and sometimes

more. Some prisoners settled in the area, preferring this to a return to Germany, and some married locals.

Immigration has always been contentious, this is no new thing. Visitors will get a chance to handle a piece of evidence directly related to Colchester's most violent protest against immigrants – the Boudican revolt. Burnt samian ware (a type of pottery), from a citizen's home, is evidence of the total destruction of the town.

Visitors will be able to get up close to these objects, and talk to museum staff, so getting as close as possible to our world heritage.

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

Tea and Talks (Castle, every Saturday 31st October – 28th November)

Booking by popping into Hollytrees, or phoning 01206 282940.
All talks have the additional service for being British Sign language interpreted

HURRY – TICKETS SELLING FAST

The annual Tea and Talk series at the castle this autumn provides a great range of lectures for visitors, covering topics from long ago to the late 20th century.

Local historian Andrew Philips (31st October) kicks things off by showing how Colchester changed in the latter half of the 20th from an old market town to a bustling retail centre. From the 1950s, through the Swinging Sixties to the 1990s, this talk will be a great insight to some, and an enjoyable reminiscence for others.

Patrick Denney (7th November) then takes us back even further to the golden age of theatre and music hall to tell visitors about two of the great events in the early part of the 20th century. The 1909 Colchester Pageant was a hugely ambitious staging of Colchester's history, while Buffalo Bill's 1903 visit to Colchester included staggering logistics (his entourage arrived by train, set up a covered 10,000 seater arena, performed their show, took down the arena and left by train - all in one day!!! That's an arena with the same capacity as the Weston Homes Community Stadium). Annie Oakley – one of the most skilled people with a gun ever to have lived, entertained the Colchester crowds as part of the show.

Following his hugely popular and entertaining talk last year on 'History through Essex Pub Signs', local historian Keith Lovell (14th November) is back by popular demand. This talk looks at the origins of the names of beers brewed in the eastern counties. Among those from Essex are Edward Bright Stout, Bitternoth, Braintree Silk, Redoubt, Lighthouse, and many more. (Please note that Old Speckled Hen has nothing to do with chickens or foxes, but with MG Motors!). Sorry, but there will be no samples to taste!

Caroline McDonald, Curator for Archaeology, (21st November) then talks about Gosbecks, a hugely important hub of pre-Roman and Roman Colchester. This often forgotten site holds the true story of the founding of Colchester, and will prove to be a very interesting and enlightening talk.

The series ends with Peter Berridge (28th November) talking about the prisons of Colchester Castle. These prisons saw hundreds of years of criminals (and innocents!), including martyrs and witches, until it was closed in the 1830s as one of the country's least sanitary prisons.

The talks cost £3.50 each (£3 for Friends of the Museums), or a ticket for all 5 talks can be bought for the price of 4. Tickets can be booked at Hollytrees Museum, or by phoning 01206 282940. Each talk starts at 3pm.

The Sixties Seen:

Art, Music and Fashion

13th June – 1st November, Colchester Castle

Take a trip back to the swinging sixties in Colchester Castle and discover the art, music and fashion of the time. See highlights from this innovative decade and discover just how much design influenced everyday life.

Anglo-Saxon Art in the Round

Gallery 3, Ipswich Town Hall Galleries

6th March – 5th September

Discover mighty kings and fabulous beasts as you journey back in time to explore Anglo-Saxon art and beautiful coins.

FREE

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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