

## **Heritage Open Days 2010**

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

#### **1. Town Hall**

High Street, CO1 1FR

Impressive building with exciting design by John Belcher, 1898-1902. Tower is surmounted by a bronze figure of St Helena, 162 ft above the street. Tours of private rooms including the courts and mayoral suite.

Tours start at 10am, 11.30am, 1pm, and last approximately 1 hour.

#### **2. Tymperleys**

Trinity Street, CO1 1JN

Grade 2\* listed timber framed building associated with William Gilbert, scientist and physician to Elizabeth I. Interior with original ceilings and staircase. A rare chance to view the upstairs rooms, while the ground floor houses the clock museum.

10am – 1pm and 2pm - 5pm

#### **3. Peake's House**

East Stockwell Street

11am – 4.45pm

Timber framed house, originally three buildings, the earliest dating from the late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **4. Roman Theatre**

Maidenburgh Street, CO1 1UB

9.45am – 4.30pm

Remains of theatre which originally seated 3000 people. Featured in the destruction of Colchester by Boudica in 60AD

#### **5. "Camulodunum to Colchester" trail**

Depart from the War Memorial at the Castle Park gates at 11.30am

A Blue Badge guided tour

Travel through 2000 years of history on this fascinating tour. Why did Boudicca destroy the Roman Temple, why is the Dutch Quarter so called, why is a building named after an elephant and why do little stars twinkle over Colchester? Discover all the answers to these questions and many more.

Although free, booking is essential as the tour is limited to 20 people

Please book at the Visitor Information Centre

Tour lasts approximately 1.5 – 2 hours

#### **6. Colchester Castle Museum**

Castle Park, CO1 1TJ

Free entry to this award winning museum

10am – 4.30pm

### **7. St Helen's Chapel**

St Helen's Lane, CO1 1UR

10am-1pm, 2pm-4.30pm

Medieval chapel first mentioned in 1076. Saxon in origin, on Roman foundations, rebuilt several times. Now used as a Greek Orthodox Church.

### **8. Sparling Benham and Brough**

A superb 15<sup>th</sup> century half timbered building with remarkable wood carvings, formerly a Merchant's House and an Inn.

Tours of the building at 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm

### **9. Audley Chapel**

Berechurch Hall Road, CO2 9NU

10am-4pm

16<sup>th</sup> century burial chapel of the Audley family, with fine hammer-beam roof, unique monuments and other original features.

### **10. St Martin's Church**

West Stockwell Street, CO1 1HQ

10am-1pm

Medieval church with impressive 14<sup>th</sup> century roof, wall painting and Norman tower, which was badly damaged in the 1648 Siege of Colchester.

### **11. NEEDFAS (North East Essex Decorative and Fine Arts Society) in Hollytrees Museum**

High Street, CO1 2PG

The North East Essex and Fine Arts Society (NEEDFAS) are a voluntary group who have worked on the costume collection at Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service. Visitors will now get a chance to meet members of the group who will talk about and show off some of their handywork in the surroundings of Hollytrees Museum.

### **12. St John's Abbey gatehouse**

St John's Green, CO2 7HA

10.30am-4pm

Early 15<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse. Flint flushwork, vaulted roof and battlement flanked by pinnacled corner turrets. Historical associations with Richard III and the English Civil War.

### **13. Mercury Theatre**

Balkerne Gate, CO1 1PT

10am - 12pm

By tour only

A rare chance to take a backstage tour of this wonderful theatre. Built in 1972, it has been hosting some of the country's biggest names ever since. Backstage tours leave every fifteen minutes

### **14. Lexden Tumulus**

At 30 Fitzwalter Road, CO3 3SY

2pm-5pm

A surviving Iron-Age burial mound associated with Addedomaros, a king of the Trinovante tribe.

**15. Quaker meeting house**

6 Church Street, CO1 1NF

10am – 4pm

Grade 2 listed building dating from 1803.

Refreshments will be available.

**16. St Botolph's church**

Priory Street, CO2 7EE

10am-4pm

Ruined nave of the first Augustinian priory in Briatin. Built c1100-1170.

Norman Revival parish church by William Mason, 1836.

**17. Bourne Mill**

Bourne Road, CO2 8RT

10am to 5pm

Originally built as a fishing lodge in 1591 with stepped Dutch gables.

Converted to a mill in 19<sup>th</sup> century for cloth manufacturing, and later flour milling. Working water wheel.

The day will include music, dance and Shakespeare (Saturday only)

**18. Colchester Royal Grammar School**

Lexden Road, CO3 3ND

10am – 12pm

A chance to look at this historic school, including the library and its Jacobean fireplace, as well as the hall (and its church organ) and the gardens.

20 minute talks will also take place in the hall at 10.20am, 10.50am and 11.30am.

**19. Roman church remains**

Butt Road, CO3 3BU

Any reasonable time

The oldest Christian church in Britain with surviving remains above ground, built c330AD

**20. St John's Orthodox Church - Former Garrison Church**

Military Road, CO1 2AN

Grade 2\* listed church, run by the Russian Orthodox Church. Built in 1855 to provide services to soldiers going to the Crimean War, this huge timber church could hold services for 500 people and is the last of its kind.

Entrance is by tours, which will take place at 2.30pm, 3.30pm and 4.30pm

**21. Colchester cemetery**

Mersea Road, CO2 8RU

10am-3pm

A small exhibition of photographs will be on display, taken chiefly by Friends of the Cemetery, located just outside the Anglican Chapel

At 2pm there will be a guided tour of the cemetery (lasting approx 1-1 and a half hours). Please meet just inside the cemetery gates. Most of the route will be on hard path, but wheelchair users please note that there are some hills.

## 22. Vintage bus service

SERVICE A will link the town centre and King Edward Quay at the Hythe, stopping at Bourne Mill and St Leonard's Church

SERVICE B will link the town centre with the Hythe and the University of Essex.

### SERVICE A

Castle gates / war memorial	9.45	10.15	10.45	half	16.15	16.30	16.45
Bourne Mill	9.50	10.20	10.50	hourly	16.20	16.35	16.50
Hythe light ship	10.00	10.30	11.00	until	16.30	16.45	17.00

Hythe light ship	9.45	10.15	10.45	half	16.15	16.45
St Leonard's church	9.50	10.20	10.50	hourly	16.20	16.50
Castle gates / war memorial	10.00	10.30	11.00	until	16.30	17.00

### SERVICE B

Castle gates / war memorial		10.30				15.30
University of Essex		10.45		hourly		15.45
Hythe light ship (arr)		10.50		until		15.50
Hythe light ship (dep)	10.00	11.00				16.00
St Leonard's Church	10.05	11.05				16.05
Castle gates / war memorial	10.15	11.15				16.15

## 23. St Leonard-at-the-Hythe Church

Hythe Hill, CO1 2LW

11am-4pm

Mainly 14<sup>th</sup> century church with impressive tower. Bullet holes from civil war still visible in south door, and sailor's graves in churchyard. The church also boasts a mural.

## 24. Headgate Theatre

14 Chapel Street North, CO2 7AT

Sat 11am-4pm

Built in 1844 as a Congregational Church, this building has also been the Labour Party Headquarters and a ladies health club. Acquired by Colchester Borough Council and refurbished as a theatre by the Theatre Arts Action Trust, it opened as 'the home of Amateur Theatre in Colchester' in 2002.

## 25. St James the Great Church

East Hill, Colchester CO1 2QL

9am-5pm

Dating from the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century, with later additions, and restoration in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other features include paintings from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, 17<sup>th</sup> century brasses, and the organ originally from St Nicholas' Church (which stood on High Street and was demolished in 1955). John Ball, the radical priest and leader of the Peasants' Revolt in 1381, used to preach at this church.

## **26. Vintage bus display**

King Edward Quay, the Hythe CO2 8JB

9.45am-4.45pm

The Eastern National Vehicle Owners Club show a display of former Eastern National buses.

We hope to have the following vehicles at the event (subject to confirmation nearer the time)

Bristol VR double deck - Eastern National

Bristol LH single deck - Eastern National

Bristol RE single deck - Eastern National

Leyland Atlantean double deck - Colchester Corporation

Leyland Leopard single deck - Heddingham

Leyland PD open top - Southdown

Bristol KSW open top - Eastern National

plus a few others, up to around 10 vehicles which 3 would be in use and 7 on display at the hythe during the day.

## **27. 'Discover Colchester' at Slack Space**

'The Space', Queen Street, CO1 2PQ (former Keddies and Shoe World shop).

11am-6pm

Slack Space and Colchester Archaeological Trust invite you to 'Discover Colchester!' The exhibition will feature paintings and photographs that celebrate our heritage, finds and reconstructions, information and displays. Participants can take part in a treasure trail around the town centre to discover the hidden treasures of Colchester's past.

## **28. University of Essex Latin American Art Collection**

University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, CO4 3SQ

Take a guided tour of the University's fantastic collection of Latin American Art. This tour includes the library, and the Hexagon – an iconic building soon to be a Museum of Latin American Art, but also remembered as a music venue hosting the likes of Pink Floyd.

Tours take place at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm.

Tours last approximately 30 minutes.

Meet at the vintage bus stop, North Towers

## **29. Colchester Library – discover historic Colchester**

Trinity Square, CO1 1JB

8.30am-5pm.

Want to know more about the properties of Heritage Open Days in Colchester? Come to the library where a large map of Colchester will pinpoint the properties open this weekend (this will be on the ground floor). Then make your way to the Local History section where there will be a display of books relating to these properties. A great chance to discover historic Colchester.

### **30. Sailing barge 'Fertile'**

King Edward Quay, the Hythe, CO2 8JB

10am – 7pm (out of dock 1.30pm-3.30pm)

An attractive Swim Head Stumpy Sail Barge which began life as a Thames lighter in 1935. Rescued from Medway scrapyard and restored in the 1970s. Visitors can see her traditional rig and main cabin.

Chance to take a 2 hour river trip at 1.30pm, for £10 per person, through picturesque villages and countryside.

River trip places limited - book early on 07884 398860

(There will also be a river trip on Sunday at 2.10pm for the same cost).

Access via gangway.

### **31. Colne Light Ship**

King Edward Quay, the Hythe, CO2 8JB

10am – 5pm

Launched in 1954 as a Light Vessel, she served as a navigational light ship.

Now used by the Colchester Sea Cadets. Refreshments and bar available.

Access is via a gangway, and there are steep steps around the ship.

## **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

### **1. Town Hall**

High Street, CO1 1FR

Impressive building with exciting design by John Belcher, 1898-1902. Tower is surmounted by a bronze figure of St Helena, 162 ft above the street. Tours of private rooms including the courts and mayoral suite.

Tours start at 10am, 11.30am, 1pm, and last approximately 1 hour.

### **3. Peake's House**

East Stockwell Street

11am – 4.45pm

Timber framed house, originally three buildings, the earliest dating from the late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### **4. Roman Theatre**

Maidenburgh Street, CO1 1UB

2pm – 4.30pm

Remains of theatre which originally seated 3000 people. Featured in the destruction of Colchester by Boudica in 60AD

### **5. Costumed themed walking tours**

Meet at war memorial next to the Castle Park gates

11am, Siege of Colchester  
3pm, Roman Colchester

### **7. St Helen's Chapel**

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2pm-4.30pm

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The day will Contemporary Shakespeare – a modern comedy and famous scenes (Sunday only)

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### **32. St Mary at the Walls Church (Arts Centre)**

Church Street, CO1 1NF

12pm-4pm, with guided tours of the tower at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

A late 19<sup>th</sup> century church with medieval tower badly damaged during the 1648 siege of Colchester.