

Colchester Museums



heritage open days

# Heritage Open Days

6 - 15  
September  
2024



Discover Colchester's heritage in the annual celebration of historic buildings and sites



[www.visitcolchester.com/HODS2024](http://www.visitcolchester.com/HODS2024)

# Heritage Open Day 2024

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Use the MiPermit app to easily pay for your parking in Colchester and access great parking offers, including part-day offers from £2.50 and all-day parking on Sundays for just £1.50!

[www.colchester.gov.uk/parking](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/parking)



COLCHESTER CITY CENTRE



COLCHESTER WIDER AREA





### Friday 6 - Sunday 15 September

- 23 St Michael and All Angels Church**  
Copford, CO6 1DG  
Outstanding Norman church built around 1125-30, with a vaulted ceiling and rare wall paintings of Biblical subjects.  
🕒 Every day, 9.00 – 17.00
- 26 St Peter's Church**  
North Hill, CO1 1DZ  
Medieval church with tower of 1758 including impressive Victorian clock. Interior with 17th-century pulpit and interesting memorials.  
🕒 6-8 and 12-15 September, 10.00 – 16.00
- 34 St Botolph's Church and Priory**  
St Botolph's Street, Colchester, CO1 2PG  
The ruins of the Norman Priory church in the care of English Heritage stand next to the present St Botolph's Church built in 1836-7. The impressive church interior has recently been partially restored.  
🕒 Every day, 10.00 – 15.00, except Mon. 9 (all day), Tue. 10 (opens 12.30) and Wed. 11 (all day)

- 38 The Minories**  
74 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1UE  
'One Square Mile: Heritage on our Doorstep' exhibition, celebrating St John's Green Primary School's NLHF project exploring Colchester's rich heritage. Displays of pupils' artwork, a 3D cardboard model of Colchester, timeline of the school's history, sound recordings and resources developed by pupils and teachers.  
🕒 12-15 September, 10.00 – 16.00. Join our Pupil Tour Guides and explore the displays on 14 September, 11.00 – 15.00

- 32 The Munnings Art Museum**  
Castle Hill, Dedham, CO7 6AZ  
Enjoy a closer look at the art of Sir Alfred Munnings in his former home from 1919 to 1959. Your tour will be led by a member of curatorial staff and you will also be able to explore Munnings' former working studio.  
🕒 Tours on 12, 13 and 14 September at 11.00, lasting 90 minutes. Bookings via [www.munningsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.munningsmuseum.org.uk) from 3 August

### Saturday 7 September

- 10 Audley Chapel**  
Berechurch Hall Road, CO2 9NU  
16th-century burial chapel of the Audley family, with fine hammer-beam roof and unique monuments and features. Churches Conservation Trust.  
🕒 10.00 – 13.00
- 15 Holy Trinity Church**  
Trinity Square, CO1 1JN  
Colchester's only surviving Saxon building with a distinctive tower. Memorial to the Trafalgar veteran Lt. Thomas Pinto RN of HMS Agamemnon. Exterior tours only.  
🕒 14.00 – 16.15
- 22 Town to Sea Trail**  
War Memorial, Castle Park, CO1 1TJ  
A guided walk from Castle Park to the historic Hythe port area focussing on Colchester's seafaring heritage.  
🕒 Tour starts from the War Memorial at 11.00 and lasts 2 hours
- 33 Jumbo Water Tower**  
Balkerne Gardens, CO1 1PT  
Rare opportunity to climb the largest water tower in England built in 1882-3 and 105 ft (32 m) high. The top is reached by a metal spiral staircase of 157 steps.  
🕒 4 tours at 10.00, 11.00, 13.00, 14.00. Please note a maximum of two persons per household and age 8 or over. Places will be allocated according to a ballot with a maximum of 15 per tour. Sensible footwear required and gloves advised. No disabled access. Visitors must book by calling 01206 282920 or visiting the Colchester Visitor Information Centre from 3 August.

- 24 7 Queen Street (The Brewhouse) NEW**  
CO1 2PG  
This remarkable timber-framed building dates to the early 14th century and has the earliest shop window in Colchester.  
🕒 Pre-booking required on [qsbcol@yahoo.com](mailto:qsbcol@yahoo.com) or 07931 120806. Maximum of 20 per tour. Tours lasting 1 hour, between 14.00 – 18.00

### Sunday 8 September

- 5 Cannock Mill**  
Old Heath Road, CO2 8AA  
Historic building dating back to 1600 and in use as both a corn and fulling mill until the early 1960s. Now the home of Cannock Mill Cohousing.  
🕒 13.00 – 15.30
- 22 Siege Walk**  
War Memorial, Castle Park, CO1 1TJ  
The 1648 Siege of Colchester during the English Civil War is one of the most dramatic events in the history of the city. This guided walk visits some of the places which feature in the Siege and tells their story.  
🕒 11.00

- 14 St Giles Masonic Centre**  
5 St John's Green, CO2 7EZ  
Originally a Norman church with later additions including a wooden tower of 1819. Converted to present use in 1972-6.  
🕒 Tours: 11.00, 12.30 & 14.00

- 25 Grey Friars (now Greyfriars Luxury Hotel & Restaurant)**  
High Street, CO1 1UG  
Exhibition of social and architectural history. Walks within the north-east Roman wall, followed by a tour of the refurbished 18th-century building. Refreshments including lunch and afternoon tea available.  
🕒 10.30 – 16.00; tours at 11.00 & 14.00. To book places on the tours telephone 01206 575913 or email [events@greyfriarscolchester.co.uk](mailto:events@greyfriarscolchester.co.uk)

- 36 Bourne Mill**  
Bourne Road, CO2 8RT  
Originally built as a fishing lodge, later used as a water mill. See the huge water wheel turning, visit the camera obscura and picnic in the beautiful grounds. National Trust.  
🕒 11.00 – 16.00; regular guided tours

- 38 The Minories**  
74 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1UE  
'Treasures from the Minories Archive': View a selection of material from the Minories Archive including old exhibition catalogues and photographs of the building over the years it has been used as a gallery since 1956.  
🕒 10.00 – 16.00

- 19 Roman Walk NEW**  
Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, CO1 1PT  
Colchester was first a Roman legionary fortress and from AD 49 a city and, briefly, the first capital of Britain. This guided walk, starting outside the Mercury Theatre, visits various places where Roman remains can still be seen.  
🕒 15.00

### Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 September

- 4 St James the Great Church**  
East Hill, CO1 2QL  
A beautiful Grade 2\* listed Anglo-Catholic church situated in an imposing position. It is a house of worship and of historical, architectural and artistic interest being a repository of Colchester's heritage. Refreshments.  
🕒 Sat. 10.00 – 16.00, Sun. 12.00 – 16.00; last entry 15.30
- 6 St Leonard-at-the-Hythe Church**  
Hythe Hill, CO1 2NP  
14th-century church bearing the scars of the 1648 Siege of Colchester. Restored on several occasions in the 19th century including after the 1884 earthquake. Napoleonic period graves in the churchyard. Churches Conservation Trust.  
🕒 10.00 – 16.00
- 7 Roman Theatre**  
Maidenburgh Street, CO1 1UB  
Remains of theatre which originally seated 3,000 people. Featured in the destruction of Colchester by Boudica in AD 60.  
🕒 Sat. 09.45 – 16.30; Sun. 10.30 – 16.30

- 17 St John's Abbey Gatehouse**  
St John's Green, CO2 7EZ  
15th-century gatehouse with flint flushwork, vaulted roof and battlements. Access to upper room and Porter's Lodge. English Heritage.  
🕒 10.00 – 16.00

- 21 Boxted Airfield Museum**  
Langham Lane, Langham CO4 5NW  
World War II US airfield, home of 56th Fighter Group which took part in D Day and the Battle of the Bulge. 80th Anniversary Year.  
🕒 10.00 – 16.00

- 20 Cuckoo Farm Studios**  
Boxted Road, Mile End, CO4 5HH  
Housed in early 19th-century farm buildings and formerly part of Severalls Hospital. Now home to over thirty artists. Refreshments.  
🕒 11.00 – 17.00

### Monday 9 September

- 29 St Mary's at the Walls Church (Colchester Arts Centre)**  
Church Street, CO1 1NF  
Late 19th-century church with medieval tower severely damaged during the 1648 Siege of Colchester. Interesting monuments including John Rebow, died 1699. 'Mosaic' toilets.  
🕒 12.00 – 16.00. Tours at 13.00, 14.00 & 15.00

### Friday 13 September

- 19 Mercury Theatre**  
Balkerne Gate, CO1 1PT  
Backstage tour of one of the leading theatres in Britain originally built in 1972 and refurbished recently. Tours include stage, workshop and wardrobe.  
🕒 Tours at 11.00, 11.45, 12.30, 13.15. To book call 01206 573948 or via [www.mercurytheatre.co.uk](http://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk)



### Saturday 14 September

- 2 Roman Circus Centre**  
Roman Circus Walk, CO2 7GZ  
Housed in former NAAFI, built in 1937 and now home of Colchester Archaeological Trust. Displays and guided tours of the Circus discovered twenty years ago. Refreshments  
🕒 10.00 – 16.00; tours on the hour, last tour at 15.00
- 8 Colchester Castle**  
Castle Park, CO1 1TJ  
Europe's largest Norman keep, built on the foundations of the Roman Temple of Claudius. Since 1860 a museum with internationally important collections.  
🕒 10.00 – 17.00; last entry 16.30



- 9 Colchester Town Hall**  
High Street, CO1 1FR  
Impressive building designed by John Belcher, 1902. Tower surmounted by a bronze figure of St Helena, 162 feet above the street.  
🕒 Tours at 10.00 & 11.00
- 12 St Stephen's Church**  
Church Lane, Great Wigborough, CO5 7RL  
Medieval church badly damaged in the Colchester Earthquake of 1884 and subsequently rebuilt. Stained glass windows. Refreshments.  
🕒 10.00 – 16.00
- 18 St John's Orthodox Church (Former Garrison Church)**  
Military Road, CO1 2AN  
Built in 1856 at the time of the Crimean War. A unique survival, this timber church is now run by the Romanian Orthodox Church.  
🕒 Guided tour at 15.30

- 42 Quaker Meeting House**  
6 Church Street, CO1 1NF  
Georgian building of 1802, refurbished in 1971 by Quakers after a long history of worshipping in the town.  
🕒 10.00 – 16.00



- 35 St John's Green Primary School**  
St John's Green, Colchester, CO2 7HE  
Drop-in and join our History Ambassadors for a tour of the late Victorian School built in 1898 by architects Goodey & Cressall.  
🕒 11.00 - 15.00
- 24 7 Queen Street (The Brewhouse) NEW**  
CO1 2PG  
This remarkable timber-framed building dates to the early 14th century and has the earliest shop window in Colchester.  
🕒 Pre-booking required on [qsbcol@yahoo.com](mailto:qsbcol@yahoo.com) or 07931 120806. Maximum of 20 per tour. Tours, lasting 1 hour, between 14.00 – 18.00

- 28 Hollytrees Museum NEW**  
High Street, CO1 1UG  
Georgian townhouse built in 1718-19 and later extended in 1748 by Charles Gray. Hollytrees has been a local history museum for almost a century and has a gallery devoted to Colchester clock-making.  
🕒 10.00 – 17.00

- 39 Colchester High School**  
Wellesley Road, CO3 3HD  
Victorian school celebrating its 140th anniversary. Main building of c.1885 with exhibition of photographs and school magazines. Quaker connections.  
🕒 10.00 – 13.00

### Sunday 15 September

- 1 Gray's Summerhouse**  
Castle Park, CO1 1TJ  
Built by Charles Gray in 1731 in the form of a miniature Greek temple with interior decoration with plaster medallions.  
🕒 Self-guided walk from Castle bridge. 11.00 – 16.00
- 13 Gosbecks Archaeological Park**  
Maldon Road, CO3 4RN  
Guided tours of this remarkable site which features prominently in the story of Iron Age and Roman Colchester and is associated with the visit of the emperor Claudius in AD 43.  
🕒 Tours at 11.00 & 14.00. Meet in Car Park
- 14 St Giles Masonic Centre**  
5 St John's Green, CO2 7EZ  
Originally a Norman church with later additions including a wooden tower of 1819. Converted to present use in 1972-6.  
🕒 Tours starting at 12.00, 13.30, 15.00

- 25 Grey Friars (now Greyfriars Luxury Hotel & Restaurant)**  
High Street, CO1 1UG  
Exhibition of social and architectural history. Walks within the north-east Roman wall, followed by a tour of the refurbished 18th-century building. Refreshments including lunch and afternoon tea available.  
🕒 10.30 – 16.00; tours at 11.00 & 14.00. To book places on the tours telephone 01206 575913 or email [events@greyfriarscolchester.co.uk](mailto:events@greyfriarscolchester.co.uk)

- 40 Colchester Cemetery**  
Mersea Road, CO2 8RU  
Guided tours of this large cemetery dating back to 1856 which contains two chapels, one Church of England and one Nonconformist, and is home to a variety of wildlife.  
🕒 Tours at 10.00 & 14.00. Meet at entrance gates near former Cemetery Office

- 41 East Anglian Railway Museum NEW**  
Station Road, Wakes Colne, CO6 2DS  
Victorian station buildings dating from 1849. Exhibition of railway heritage including locomotives undergoing restoration.  
🕒 10.00 – 16.00

### Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 September

- 3 St Helen's Chapel**  
St Helen's Lane, CO1 1UR  
Medieval chapel of Saxon origin built on Roman foundations. Re-built several times, now a Greek Orthodox Church.  
🕒 Sat. 10.00 – 16.00; Sun. 13.00 – 16.00

## 4 St James the Great Church

East Hill, CO1 2QL

A beautiful Grade 2\* listed Anglo-Catholic church situated in an imposing position. It is a house of worship and of historical, architectural and artistic interest being a repository of Colchester's heritage. Refreshments.

🕒 Sat. 10.00 – 16.00; Sun. 12.00 – 16.00. Last entry 15.30

## 11 St Martin's Church

West Stockwell Street, CO1 1HN

Medieval church with impressive 14th-century roof, wall paintings and Norman tower damaged in the 1648 Siege. Now a Greek Orthodox Church.

🕒 Sat. 10.00 – 16.00; Sun. 13.00 – 16.00

## 31 Mersea Barrow

Barrow Barn, 7A East Mersea Road, West Mersea, CO5 8SL

Roman burial mound dated AD 100-120, nationally very rare, excavated in 1912. Opportunity to walk inside the mound to view the burial chamber.

🕒 10.00 – 16.00



WIVENHOE HERITAGE OPEN DAYS  
Sunday 8 & 15 September

## 27 St Mary's Church, Wivenhoe

High Street, Wivenhoe, CO7 9BD

Mid-Victorian church with tower of around 1500. Fine late medieval memorial brasses. New extension with modern stained-glass window by James Dodds. Refreshments.

🕒 12.30 – 16.30

## 30 The Nottage

The Quay, Wivenhoe, CO7 9BX

A maritime institute and museum established in 1896 in memory of Capt. Charles G. Nottage and since 1947 located in a former sail loft. Exhibitions.

🕒 10.00 – 16.00

## 37 Wivenhoe Chapel Museum

New Cemetery, Belle View Road, Wivenhoe

Housed in the former cemetery chapel, this museum tells the story of Wivenhoe through a range of exhibits including the 18th-century church clock from St Mary's.

🕒 10.00 – 16.30

Sunday 15 September Only

## 16 University of Essex NEW

Wivenhoe Park, CO4 3SQ

'Brutal but Beautiful', a 1960s architectural tour to coincide with the University's 60th anniversary celebrations. Tour starts at the Art Exchange, which is hosting a linked exhibition, lasts 1 hour.

🕒 14.00

**Disclaimer:** Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this leaflet is correct. However, sometimes changes to published opening times are necessary and participants should check our website for updates before travelling.

