

Key

Family Events
Music, Dance and Theatre
Park Ranger Events
Bandstand Concerts
Summer Holiday Kids Days

APRIL

4 April

Britain's Best Park Tour!

Enjoy a guided walk around this award winning park. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2 – 3pm
 Location: Meet at the Castle Bridge.
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

5 April

Easter Bunny Bonanza!

Come and join the rangers for a fun afternoon of Easter-related activities! Booking essential and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2 – 4pm
 Location: Putting Green, near the playground.
 Contact: Park Rangers (inc. booking) – 01206 282 962

17 April

Jail Break

Sponsored escape from the castle in aid of Colchester charities!

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 9am – 1pm
 Location: Castle Bailey.
 Contact: Nezda Leigh – 0845 2417 690

24 April

Bat Walk

Join a local bat expert on an evening walk around the park. Bat detectors provided! **Booking essential** and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a torch!

Cost: £2 per adult, children and Essex Bat Group members free.
 Event time: 7.45pm
 Location: Meet at Café in the Park.
 Contact: Park Rangers (inc. booking) – 01206 282 962

24 and 25 April

The Colchester Town and Country Show

Colchester is to host its first ever Town & Country Show with something for everyone, from heavy horse demonstrations, birds of prey flying displays, re-enactment group, donkey rides, children's farm, arts, crafts and gifts marquees as well as lifestyle and food stalls. Children's rides and entertainment, craft demonstrations and on Sunday the Companion Dog Show (all proceeds from entries will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care).

Cost: Adults £5, Children £2, Concessions £4
 Event time: 10am – 5pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Oakleigh Fairs - 0800 141 2823 www.oakleighfairs.co.uk

25 April

St George's Day Parade

Annual St George's Day parade and civic ceremony to witness the renewal of promises by all members of the Scout Association in Colchester.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 9am – 1pm
 Location: Castle Bailey.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

MAY

1 May

Colchester Morris Men

Two performances of traditional Morris dancing.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 10.30am and 2.30pm
 Location: Castle Bridge and Hollytrees Lawn.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

2 May

The Magic of Trees

Join one the Rangers for a peaceful stroll around the park. Find out some magical facts about the tree species that reside there and their importance to humans, animals and fairies alike. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!

Event time: 2 – 3pm
 Location: Meet at the Castle Bridge.
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

2 May

Laughter Yoga

Laughter is the best medicine so why not come and receive a dose today? Giggle your way to better health with this informal session.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2 – 2.30pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

2 May

Essex Concert Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

3 May

Colchester Lions Club Family Fun Day and Duck Race

The annual Colchester Lions Fun Day and Duck Race returns, in aid of local charities including St Helena Hospice. Bouncy castle, face painting, children's rides, karate displays, dog agility show, line dancing, Scout band, hot refreshments – something for everyone!

Cost: Adults - £2, accompanied children under 12 FREE!
 Event time: 11am – 6pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Satish Thacker – 07970 981 285

9 May

Boxted Methodist Silver Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Meet: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

16 May

Cancer Research Race for Life

Do something amazing! Join thousands of women this summer and simply walk, jog or run 5k to help beat cancer. Registration required. No on-site car parking available.

Cost: Adults £12.99
 Event time: Runners set off at 11am and 2pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Gill Burgess – 0871 641 2282. www.raceforlife.org

22 May

Bat Walk

Join a local bat expert on an evening walk around the park. Bat detectors provided! **Booking essential** and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a torch!

Cost: £2 per adult, children and Essex Bat Group members free.
 Event time: 8.40pm
 Location: Meet at Café in the Park.
 Contact: Park Rangers (inc. booking) – 01206 282 962

23 May

Colchester SOS Bus 'Hoopathon'

A hula hooping event aiming to raise £100,000 for the Colchester SOS Bus. Open to adults (16+) the hoopathon will also try and break the world record for the most number of people hooping at a single venue. 2,500 participants are needed. Individual and team entries welcome. Hoops and hoop training provided.

Cost: £23
 Event time: 10am – 6.30pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: www.sosbushoopathon.co.uk

30 May

The Colchester Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920



31 May

Hospital Radio Colchester Fun Day

Great family fun day in aid of charity with arena events, children's funfair rides, music and craft stalls.

Cost: Adults £1.50, children FREE!
 Event time: 11am – 5pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Andy Patrick – 01026 304 583. www.hrcolchester.co.uk

JUNE

2 June

'Come Fly With Me'

Drop in and make a range of brilliant paper airplanes. Easy to follow guides and help available – prizes for the furthest distance flown! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 10am – 1pm
 Location: Summerhouse (behind the castle).
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

5 and 6 June

Colchester Medieval Festival and Oyster Fayre

Journey back in time at the medieval fair with authentic tented market, plus falconry, armed combat, puppetry, storytelling, music, dance and song. Also trade demonstrations, the Archer of the Fayre longbow archery competition and the strongest man challenge. Beer tent and food stalls too!

Cost: Adults £6, Children under 14 and OAPs £4
 Event time: 10.30am – 5pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Ted Lloyd – 01206 794 916
 www.colchestermedievalfestival.co.uk

6 June

Chelmsford Silver Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

12 June

Queen's Gun Salute

Castle Park is proud to host the Queen's Gun Salute, to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Official Birthday.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 11.30pm
 Location: Public viewing from Upper Castle Park.
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

12 June

Young Children's Festival

HOP SKIP and JUMP – the importance of play! A fun packed day for all the family with stalls, activities, workshops and displays.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 10.30am – 4pm
 Location: Hollytrees Meadow.
 Contact: Ann Warner – 01206 524 667

12 June

Scottish Country Dancing

Performance and workshop of Scottish Country dancing – come and join in or just watch and enjoy the music!

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2pm – 5pm
 Location: Hollytrees Lawn.
 Contact: Willie Allen – 01376 513 076

13 June

Scotland in Colchester

Great annual Scottish festival with pipe band contest, highland dancing competition, stalls and activities culminating with the stirring 'massed bands' finale.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 9am – 6pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Willie Allen – 01376 513 076



20 June

Southend Wind Orchestra

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

20 June

River Walk

Join a Ranger on a riverside tour of the Colne. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2 – 3pm
 Location: Meet at Middle Mill (near the boating lake).
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

23 – 25 June

Colchester 2020

Help shape the future of our borough with Colchester2020. Drop in events will focus on transport, healthy living, safer neighbourhoods, business and heritage and culture – just turn up and take part.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: Various
 Location: Hollytrees Lawn.
 Contact: www.colchester2020.com

26 and 27 June

Colchester Food and Drink Festival & Rose Show

Colchester's premiere food event is happening once more in Castle Park. Great food and drink, wonderful music, flowers galore with cooking demonstrations and tastings. A fantastic day out for all the family!

Cost: Adults £3, Children FREE!
 Event time: 10am – 5pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Don Quinn – 01206 525 527
 www.colchesterfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk

JULY

3 July

Celebrate! Diverse Cultures Fun Day

A celebration of diverse cultures, including music, dance, food and stalls. Bringing communities together!

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 12 – 5pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Mushad Ali (TACMEP) – 01206 769 789

4 July

Wonders of Wild Flowers

Forget-me-not and Field Scabious, Borage and Bladder Campion. Join us for a wander through our wildflower meadow and discover some of the beautiful wildflowers living there. Learn about some of the many uses these flowers have and their importance to other species. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2 – 3pm
 Location: Meet at the Café in the Park.
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

4 July

Locarno Big Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

11 July

Wildlife Walk

Take a walk on the wild side! Discover the myriad of flora and fauna around Castle Park. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2 – 3pm
 Location: Meet at the Café in the Park.
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

11 July

Sweeting Swing Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

17 July

Essex Castle Charity Bike Ride

Charity bike ride of 25, 50 or 75 mile, starting and finishing in Colchester, in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. **Registration required.**

Cost: Adults £15, children under 14 £7.50
 Event time: 8am – 7pm
 Location: Kings Head Meadow.
 Contact: Bike Events (inc. booking) – 0845 460 1342
 mail@bike-events.com www.bike-events.com

18 July

General Tour

Join a Park Ranger for a relaxing and informative stroll around the park. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2 – 3pm
 Location: Meet at the Castle Bridge.
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

18 July

Colne Harmony & Essex Police Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 1.30 – 2pm and 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

25 July

Christ Embassy

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

28 July

Wicked Wednesday

Loads of FREE activities and entertainment for kids of all ages, including Ticklish Allsorts' children's entertainers!

Cost: FREE!
 Location: Hollytrees Meadow.

Ticklish Allsorts	10.30am and 1.30pm
Punch & Judy	11.30am and 2.30pm
Face Painting	10am – 4pm
Sport in the Park	11am – 2pm

Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

30 July

Eurovision Pop Party

Music from the original UK Eurovision Song Contest winners, and a special tribute to Abba, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display!

Cost: Various
 Event time: 7.30 – 10.30pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Box Office – 0845 250 7007 www.colchesterconcerts.com

31 July

Motown Boogie Night

Music spanning 50 years of the Motown Music Label. Original artists and tributes, ending with another awesome fireworks display!

Cost: Various
 Event times: 7.30 – 10.30pm
 Location: Lower Castle Park.
 Contact: Box Office – 0845 250 7007 www.colchesterconcerts.com

AUGUST

1 August

Abbeygate Concert Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920



4 August

Wicked Wednesday

Loads of FREE activities and entertainment for kids of all ages, including an art workshop with Bob Bob Jobbins!

Cost: FREE!
 Location: Hollytrees Meadow.

Face Painting	10am – 4pm
Punch & Judy	11.30am and 2.30pm
Sport in the Park	11am – 2pm
Bob Bob Jobbins	10.30am and 4.30pm

Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

8 August

Tilbury Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

11 August

Wicked Wednesday

Loads of FREE activities and entertainment for kids of all ages!

Cost: FREE!
 Meet: Hollytrees Meadow.

Face Painting	10am – 4pm
Punch & Judy	11.30am and 2.30pm
Sport in the Park	11am – 2pm
Wildlife Workshop	10.30am and 3.30pm

Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

15 August

A Ranger's Way

Join a Park Ranger for an informal walk around the grounds of Castle Park. Gain an insight into a day in the life of a Ranger and find out about the rich mix of history, plants and wildlife contained within this Victorian park. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 2 – 3pm
 Location: Meet at the Castle Bridge.
 Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

15 August

Serendipity

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

18 August

Wicked Wednesday

Loads of FREE activities and entertainment for kids of all ages!

Cost: FREE!
 Location: Hollytrees Meadow.

Herb Wellies	11am – 3pm (Bring along an old pair of boots!)
Punch & Judy	11.30am and 2.30pm
Face Painting	10am – 4pm
Sport in the Park	11am – 2pm

Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

18 August

Cricket Week

Come and see Essex in the 1st Division of the LV= County Championship at the picturesque Castle Park ground.

18th – 21st Essex vs. Somerset
 Cost: Adults £15, under 18s £8
 Match time: 11am – 6pm
 22nd Essex vs. Derbyshire
 Cost: Adults £18 (£16 adv), under 18s £9 (£8 adv)
 Location: Cricket Ground.
 Contact: Essex Cricket - 01245 254 010 www.essexcricket.org.uk

22 August

The Lady Killers New Orleans Jazz Band

Cost: FREE!
 Event time: 3 – 5pm
 Location: Bandstand.
 Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

25 August

Wicked Wednesday

Loads of FREE activities and entertainment for kids of all ages

Cost: FREE!
 Location: Hollytrees Meadow.

Punch & Judy	11.30am and 2.30pm
Face Painting	10am – 4pm
Sport in the Park	11am – 2pm
Wildlife Workshop	10.30am – 3.30pm

Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

For up to date information on these and other events in Colchester, contact VisitColchester Information Centre: 01206 282920 www.visitcolchester.com

29 August

The Wanderin' Soles

Cost: FREE!
Event time: 3 – 5pm
Location: Bandstand.
Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

SEPTEMBER

4 September

The Colchester Carnival Oyster Fair

A day of family entertainment and fun in Upper Castle Park with stalls selling food and crafts, music and family games. In Lower Castle Park there will be a full funfair for all the family.
Cost: FREE!
Event time: TBC
Location: Upper and Lower Castle Park.
Contact: 01206 500 543

5 September

The Band of the Parachute Regiment

Cost: FREE!
Event time: 3 – 5pm
Location: Bandstand.
Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

12 September

Vintage Vehicle Show

This great annual event is organised by Colchester Lions Club in aid of local charities. A vast array of vehicles will be on display including vintage, hotrod, classic and American cars and motorbikes. A great family day out with children's rides, stalls and refreshments.
Cost: Adults £2, Kids and Concessions FREE!
Event time: 11am – 6pm
Location: Lower Castle Park.
Contact: Satish Thacker – 07970 981 285

12 September
Presence
Cost: FREE!
Event time: 3 – 5pm
Meet: Bandstand.
Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

18 September

Colchester Free Festival 2010

A one day music and arts festival in Castle Park forming the finale of 'Colchester!' – a week of grassroots celebration and events taking place throughout the town.
Cost: FREE
Event time: 11am – 7pm
Location: Upper and Lower Castle Park.
Contact: www.colchesterfreefestival.com

18 September

Bat Walk

Join a local bat expert on an evening walk around the park. Bat detectors provided! **Booking essential** and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a torch!
Cost: £2 per adult, children and Essex Bat Group members FREE!
Event time: 6.45pm
Location: Meet at the Café in the Park.
Contact: Park Rangers (inc. booking) – 01206 282 962

19 September

Stowmarket Concert Band

Cost: FREE!
Event time: 3 – 5 pm
Location: Bandstand.
Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

25 September

Bat Walk

Join a local bat expert on an evening walk around the park. Bat detectors provided! **Booking essential** and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a torch!
Cost: £2 per adult, children and Essex Bat Group members FREE!
Event time: 6.30pm
Location: Meet at the Café in the Park.
Contact: Park Rangers (inc. booking) – 01206 282 962

26 September

Ipswich & Norwich Co-op Band

Cost: FREE!
Event time: 3 – 5pm
Location: Bandstand.
Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre – 01206 282 920

OCTOBER

10 October

Tree Tour

A Ranger led walk about the wonderful trees of Castle Park. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: FREE!
Event time: 2 – 3pm
Meet: Meet at the Castle Bridge.
Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

28 October

Fungal Foray

Come and find out all about the fungi around Castle Park, with local expert Ian Rose. **Booking essential.** All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: FREE!
Event time: 10am – 12pm
Location: Meet at the Café in the Park.
Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

31 October

'Fangtastic Fun'

All Saints' Eve is the night that the dead walk abroad...why not walk with them? Prepare to be petrified! **Booking essential.**
Cost: Adults £7, children (5 – 15 years) £4
Event time: 7pm
Location: Meet at Museum Street, Castle Park gates.
Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre (inc. booking) – 01206 282 920

NOVEMBER

5 November

King Coel's Kittens Fireworks

King Coel's Kittens charity was formed in 1962. Their Annual Firework display enables them to raise funds to support people and groups with special requirements who live within the local community.
Cost: Adults £7, Children (4 – 15 years) £4
Event time: 6 – 8.30pm
Location: Upper Castle Park.
Contact: VisitColchester Information Centre (inc. booking, from mid-October) – 01206 282 920

14 November

Uses of Trees

Come and discover the many splendid uses of trees in Castle Park. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: FREE!
Event time: 2 – 3pm
Location: Meet at the Café in the Park.
Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962

DECEMBER

12 December

Light up a Life

St Helena Hospice's Light up a Life service gives you a personal way to let a friend, family member or loved one know you are thinking of them. A tree will be lit as part of the service with each light representing dedications made.
Cost: FREE!
Event time: Procession down the High Street at 4pm. Service 4.30 – 5pm
Location: Castle Bailey next to the Castle.
Contact: St Helena Hospice – 01206 791 740

15 December

Castle Open Evening and Christmas Market

Colchester Castle opens its doors for free! Come and soak up the Christmas atmosphere with Santa, mulled wine, mince pies and a Christmas market complete with snow!
Cost: FREE!
Event time: Market 3 – 9pm, Castle Museum 3 – 8.30pm
Location: Castle and Bailey
Contact: VisitColchester Information – 01206 282 920

20 December

Christmas Decorations

Get festive with this decoration workshop! All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: FREE!
Event time: 1 – 3pm
Location: Ranger Cabin.
Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282 962



Café in the Park

Come and be refreshed at our alfresco café in the middle of the park near the bandstand.

Serving fresh coffees, ice creams, breakfast, lunch, afternoon teas.

Daily specials always available. Picnic boxes made to order.

Open from 10am – 5pm daily from 1st April – 1st October

Also available: (Weekends, bank holidays and school holidays in season)

Boating Lake
Bouncy Castle
Putting Green and Crazy Golf

Contact: 01206 364 007

About Castle Park

- The park was opened to the public in 1892 and now attracts over 1 million visitors per year!
- The 24 acres of Victorian park comprises stunning floral displays, 600 mature trees, loads of open parkland, Victorian bandstand, boating lake, and a riverside walk.
- When Boudica stormed Roman Colchester in AD60 many of the inhabitants tried to find refuge in the impressive Temple of Claudius (where the castle stands today!)
- Nationally important species inhabit the park including 6 types of bat, stag beetles, water voles, 1000's of bees and a rare wasp!
- The Upper Park is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and features a wealth of archaeology dating back 2000 years!

Castle Park has been voted Briggs and Stratton's Britain's Best Park 2009! Well done to all the team for their hard work and congratulations on winning this tremendous award!



Friends of Castle Park

Why not show your support for our fabulous park?

Join the Friends of Castle Park!

Membership: £5 Family, £3 Single

Receive a quarterly newsletter, special friends' meetings & events, and discounts to certain park events.

Contact: Park Rangers – 01206 282962
Or visit www.friendsofcastlepark.ik.com



Park Opening Times

1st April – 30th April
7.30am – 8pm

1st May – 31st August
7.30am – 9pm

1st September – 14th September
7.30am – 8pm

15th September – 30th September
7.30am – 7.30pm

1st October – 31st October
7.30am – 6.30pm

1st November – 29th February
7.30am – 5pm

1st March – 14th March
7.30am – 6pm

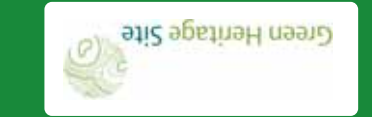
15th March – 31st March
7.30am – 7pm



Events in Castle Park 2010



Colchester Borough Council www.colchester.gov.uk



Go to www.visitcolchester.com to find out about things to see and do in Colchester

Partners and Recreation
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parks@colchester.gov.uk

