Colchester Community Updates



November 2024

Welcome to our newsletter for November.

You'll find plenty of information about community events, opportunities, and a link to our funding web page with almost <u>100</u> funding streams!

Our Team's contact details are at the end of the newsletter, so please do let us know if you'd like us to promote an event for you, or if you have anything you'd like us to share with all our readers.



Contents:

Simply click on the heading you are interested in, and you'll be taken to the relevant page...

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HIGH WOODS COUNTRY PARK

FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

www.actionartplay.eventbrite.com

MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SUPPORT OF







Singing releases happy hormones

Who wants a dose?

Singing together is clinically proven to improve wellbeing and treat postnatal depression and anxiety. As featured BBC Radio 4 CHILD Ep. 25

A relaxed and nurturing singing group for women, where songs are taught by ear. No singing experience is necessary. Mums, grandmas, bumps, babies, toddlers, and women without children are all welcome. Come and join us, tea and cake is guaranteed!

Book your FREE taster session



10:00 - 11:30 am

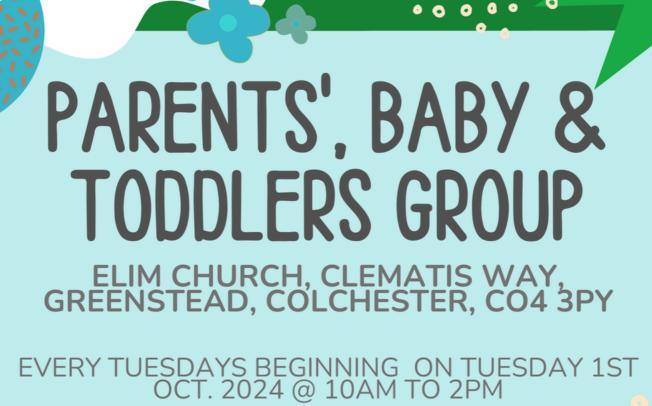
Monday: Oak Tree Centre, CO4 3DH

Thursday: St Stephen's Church, CO2 7RY

Recommended by health professionals





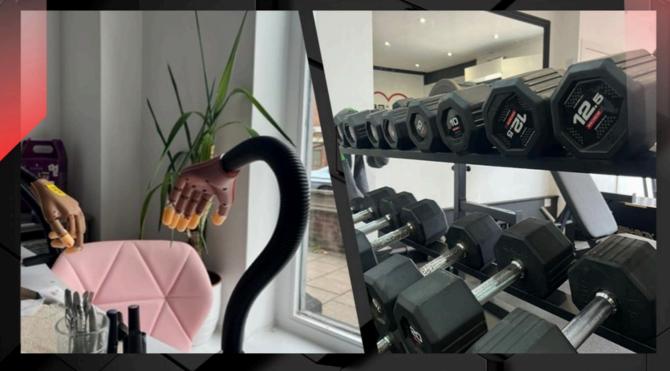




Suffolk and North East Essex Maternity and Neonatal Services **Elim Church**

Colchester

CLCS SPORTS



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB EVERY MONDAY 4-6PM

AGE - 13+



- Sports
- Gym
- Beauty
- Music
- Mentoring sessions
- Boxing



r.harrison@clcs.org.uk

CONTACT US:

07884 260 356

45 crouch street, colchester CO3 3EN (9)

PFCC POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

FREE OF GHARGE



Drama Workshops for Young and Adult Unpaid Carers



MERCURY

From Sep 2024 to Mar 2026

Carers Workshops



Sessions are free and designed for carers who may have never taken part in Drama sessions before. As well as theatrical skills, our workshops will develop communication, confidence, teamwork and leadership.

There are two weekly workshops; one for 8-15s and the other for 18+

WHERE?

Greenstead Community Hall

WHEN?

Every Monday between 5-6.30pm



Find out more via the QR code or visit mercurytheatre.co.uk

















BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOOTBALL GAMES (FOOTBALL FOR HEALTH)



















FREE







DATE: 02 / 11 / 2024
TIME: 10:00AM - 14:30PM
VENUE: Corporal Buud CV Gymnasuim
Colchester CO29RQ

CALL: 07796444395













Come and Have Fun With Families and Friends





18 November 6:30-8:30 pm RAMA offices

OUR HOME OUR VOTE COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Join Migrant Democracy Project, Refugee, Asylum and Migrant Agency (RAMA), Essex Integration, and Colchester City Council officers and elected councillors for an evening of democratic empowerment and migration support!

Event for Colchester migrant residents to:

- Learn about UK democracy and participation
- Access e-visa registration support
- Meet elected councillors and ask questions
- Campaign for votes for all residents







available to purchase on the evening.

Advance bookings: 01206 369782 or

email info@openroad.org.uk

All profits to Open Road



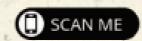
your journey to recovery

Registered Charity No. 1019915



Modern slavery is happer around us in Colchester

Jehumanised
Controlled
Forced
Owned
Abused
Afraid
Isolated
Dehumanised
Constrained
Bought & Sold
Threatened
In debt





Find out more at www.colchester.gov.uk/modern-slavery

CONCERNED SOMEONE COULD BE A VICTIM? DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

For advice or to report concerns call Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121700.

Email Safer Colchester Partnership on safer.colchester@colchester.gov.uk

For Essex Police report online www.essex.police.uk or call 101 or in an emergency 999.



An initiative of the



Callis

Colchester Against Modern Slavery

With an estimated 122,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK, CAMS is partnering towards a slavery-free Colchester.

Would your organisation or group like to join over twenty-five organisations within Colchester? Together we can explore resilience to exploitation.

To explore further contact dan.pratt@colchester.gov.uk

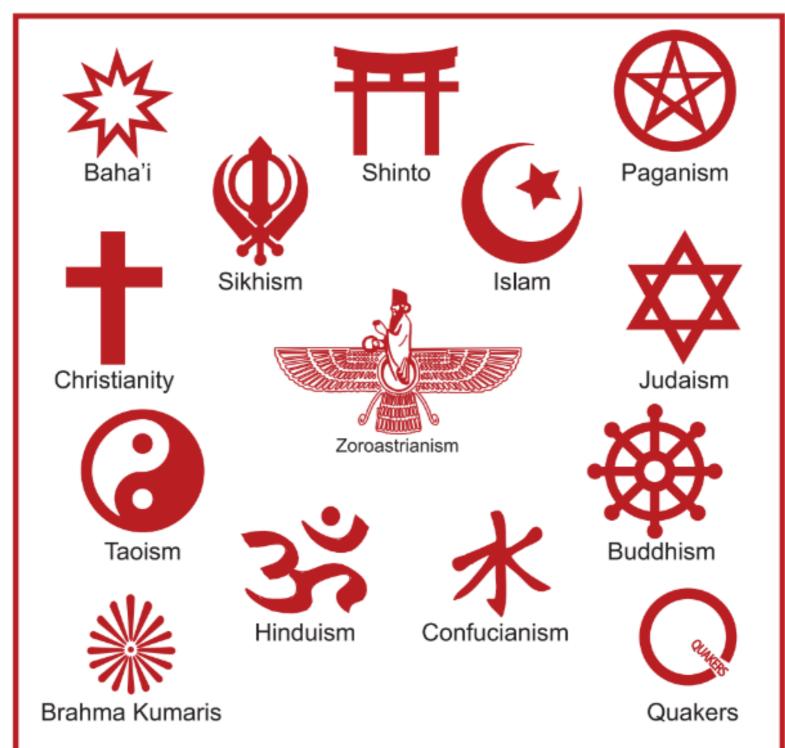
Free Modern Slavery Training

Workshops of between 1-2 hours include:

- Overview of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Types of Exploitation
- Signs of Exploitation
- Victim Barriers
- The National Referral Mechanism
- Reporting Concerns

The training can be on Teams or in-person and tailored to your organisation / group. Contact: bob.fortt@essex.police.uk or dan.pratt@colchester.gov.uk





Faith Is Welcome. Hate Is Not. SEE IT. REPORT IT.







ESSEX LAW CLINIC

Access free legal help

Are you struggling to access
legal help?

The Essex Law Clinic can support you. Click **HERE** to get in touch today.

SURWOR Steps

EMPOWER | HEAL | THRIVE!

Helping women who have survived domestic abuse rediscover their confidence, strength and purpose through exercise.



RISE BRAVELY, NO MATTER WHERE YOU LAND

Colchester

www.thedandelionproject.co.uk



in partnership with

Next Chapter





WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- 6 x weekly classes designed to help you heal, grow and rediscover yourself
- Develop tools to nurture confidence
- Meet others who share your journey and create a new network of support

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Visit The Dandelion Project website to register your interest today.

RISE BRAVELY, NO MATTER WHERE YOU LAND

Colchester

www.thedandelionproject.co.uk





Fi helped me rediscover myself. It's more than healing - it's transformation.



Survivor Steps Participant 2024

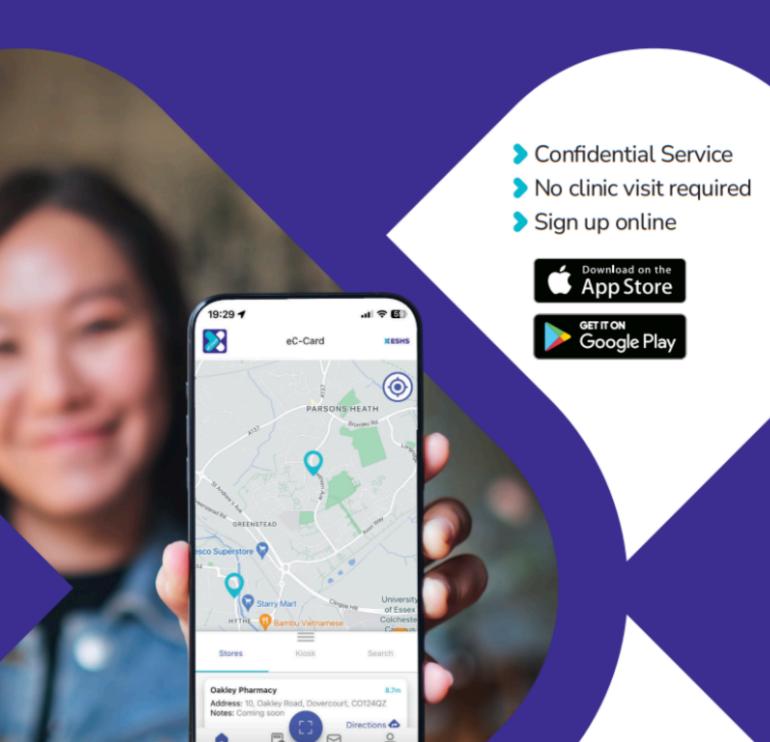






The eC-Card Scheme

The scheme provides **young people** aged 16 to 24* with access to **FREE condoms** and **lube** available from locations across Essex.



To find out more visit > ec-card.org.uk

* if you are under 16 and interested in the scheme please contact your local sexual health service for further advice and information.



Welcome to Essex Sexual Health Service

We're here to help everyone across Essex access the free information, support and treatment they need to stay safe, healthy and protected.

Click <u>HERE</u> for details of the services and advice we offer





HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

Helpline is a falls response service. If you fall in your home or garden and are unable to get back up, at the push of a button, our dedicated responding team will attend to help you back on your feet using our specialist lifting equipment.

Our trusted Emergency Monitoring and Response service supports:

- Older people and those living with dementia
- People with a physical disability or restricted mobility
- Those living with conditions such as epilepsy or arthritis
- People recovering from illness or returning from hospital
- Those prone to falls
- We attend to customers in Coggeshall, Clacton, Colchester, Dedham, Halstead, Harwich, Manningtree, Mersea, Nayland, Tiptree and more.



For more information call: 01206 769779 Email: helpline@colchester.gov.uk www.helpline247.co.uk





Healthcare Roadshow

Come and visit our team to find out more about:

- staying well while waiting for healthcare treatment or surgery
- older people's health
- managing frailty and falls prevention



Culver Square Colchester City Centre

Thursday
7 November
2024
10am-4pm





'If you've been affected by cancer, or are supporting someone with cancer,

















01 - 30 NOU 2024

BIG BALLSY RUN 10K. 50K or 100K

#BigBallsyRun | www.robincancertrust.org





Scan to find out more and take on the virtual challenge!

Join us in the...



Race against testicular canc



GETFIT WITH MATHS FRIDAY 5PM - 6PM

BOOST YOUR MIND AND BODY

- Fun circuit sessions
- Calculate weight
- count repetitions and sets
- measure speed and distance
- · create fitness programmes





ELIGABILITY:

- 16years +
- with no maths qualifacations

FIRST 2 SESSIONS FREE £1.99 / SESSION

CONTACT US :

email:clcs@gym.org.uk

07884 260 356

49 crouch street, colchester, CO3 3EN

REGISTER NOW





NUTRITONAL GLASS WEDNESDSAY 5PM - 6PM



- nutritional basics
- macronutrients
- micronutrients
- balanced meals
- supplements
- food on a budget

FIRST 2 SESSIONS FREE

21.99 / SESSION

REGISTER NOW

CONTACT US:

email:clcs@gym.org.uk

07884 260 356

45 crouch street, colchester, CO3 3EN





GETFIT WITH ELLAY

Everyone 🔮 Wednesday 7 - 8pm

Women Only 🐚 Friday 7 - 8 pm

60years + 🔘 Tuesday 9 - 10am

12-16 years 🐚 Tuesday 4 - 5pm

12-16 years (Girls only) 🍑 Thursday 4 - 5pm

WHAT IT WILL INCLUDE:

- tailored sessions
- · Fun circuit sessions
- lose fat and tone

FIRST SESSION FREE
E3 // SESSION

CONTACT US :

email:clcs@gym.org.uk

07884 260 356

49 crouch street, colchester, CO3 3EN

REGISTER NOW





Safeguarding is the measures to protect the health, well-being and human rights of all individuals which allow people, adults, young adults and children to live free from abuse, harm and neglect. Anyone can be considered to be at risk of harm or abuse, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sex, or religion and in any environment.

Essex County Council is interested in exploring carers and safeguarding. If you or the person you care for have been through a safeguarding process and would like to share your experiences please complete our questions.

Click **HERE** to complete the survey.





The North East Essex Digital Access Support Team (NEE DAST) provide a FREE

service that helps individuals gain basic skills and confidence they need in order to use today's technology.

This support is via online and in-person activity, including chat and support sessions, ad-hoc one-to-ones, group gatherings, tutorials, and workshops.

We can help with:

- Understanding how your device works
- · Being safe, legal, and secure online
- Using social media and other communication apps
- · Online shopping and Online banking
- · Accessing and using Council Services and GP Services
- Uploading and downloading applications

Get in touch today:

- Colchester 01206 282452. Clacton 01255 686497 Mobile 07970 551153
- Digital.AccessSupport@ colchester.gov.uk DigitalAccessSupport@ tendringdc.gov.uk
- colchester.gov.uk/dast















Job Club

10am to midday
2nd Friday of each month
at RAMA House

31 Eld Lane, Colchester, CO1 1LS

Get the help and support you need to prepare for work in the UK

All refugees and Asylum Seekers who live in Colchester are WELCOME!

> Any questions? Just email communities@colchester.gov.uk







Employability for Overseas Nationals (EON)

Supporting overseas nationals into sustainable work

Please scan the QR code to download an information flyer in a range of languages:



smp.eelga.gov.uk/migrant-workers/eon/flyers/







FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING



If you are finding life a bit tough, come along to one of our coffee mornings for a chat, some support, understanding and reassurance from our trained volunteers and others feeling a bit low

EVERY MONDAY 1 am - 1 pm

One Colchester Community Hub Long Wyre Street

Please Call 07308 069 609 To Book





EXPRESSIONS OF TRAUMA



Allie Watson

A mixed media exhibition by people living with the effects of trauma.

10th Oct - 10th Nov

Open every Thurs - Sun from 10am - 4pm

The Minories Gallery 74 High Street, Colchester COI 1UE





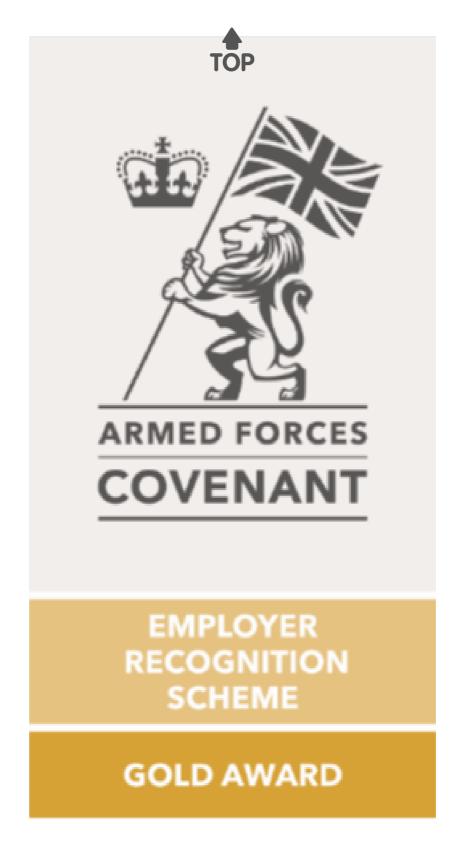
This guide offers details of organisations and charities across Colchester (and nationally), that can support you, whatever your needs.

Click HERE to see the full leaflet

To contact the council:

- © 01206 282222
- customerservices@colchester.gov.uk





Click <u>HERE</u> to see the Colchester City Council Armed Forces Page





Veterans' News and Communications Hub

The Hub enables forces-friendly organisations across all sectors to showcase the continued value of the UK's highly skilled veteran community.

Click **HERE** to read more.



Veterans' Group Monthly Drop-In

Open to all Veterans of HM Armed Forces

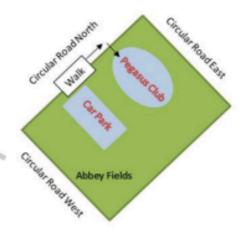
Refreshments generously provided by SSAFA. No booking required.

Venue:

The Pegasus Club Circular Road North Colchester, Essex CO2 7SU

(Garrison Athletics/Hockey Club House)

Directions



Car Park: Sign posted as "MOD Property"

Disabled Parking: Available in front of club house

Bus Stops: Napier Road and Salisbury Avenue Stop

When: Third Wednesday of the month

Time: 10am - 1230pm

Contact: 01206 228 774 or mevs.mhm@nhs.net

With support from:



Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service



















Employment Support



- CV and Personal Statements
- Job seeking
- Job applications Interview Preparation
 - Volunteering opportunities

Removing Barriers



- Wellbeing and life skills
- Confidence and motivation
- Travel and clothing support for interviews if eligible
- Childcare cost advice
- Multi agency working to ensure maximum support

Benefits and Finances



- Signpost to any relevant financial support
- Review Council Tax account
- Identify housing support needs, to include sustaining tenancies
- Family welfare Household income maximisation

Click <u>HERE</u> to see how to access these services from Colchester City Council Financial Equality & Wellbeing Team





Could you, or someone you know, be missing out on Pension Credit?

Check your eligibility at gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling 0800 99 1234





PENSION CREDIT

How do I apply?

Pension Credit could give you around £3,900 a year, on average, to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. Plus, you could get the Winter Fuel Payment.

STEP 1

Check eligibility

Use the quick online calculator to check eligibility and how much you could get.

STEP 2

Have the following information ready

- ✓ National Insurance number.
- Information about any income, savings and investments you have
- ✓ Bank details

STEP 3

Apply online

Visit gov.uk/pension-credit to apply online.

Alternatively, you can call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234.

STEP 4

Wait to hear from us

You will be notified by post when your claim has been assessed.

Find out more and get started.





"What are these people talking about?"

It was so stressful and frightening -I couldn't cope

You don't know what you're letting yourself in for

He beat up my partner in front of my kids

To report an illegal money lender please call

111 555 222

for help and advice. Stop Loan Sharks TOP



Debt can take its toll on your life.











Winter Home Packs

It's that time of year where we're all trying to keep warm in lots of different ways - that means we could be using more energy to heat the water we use at home and worrying about the rise in bills

Not only does 70% of household water use come from the bathroom, but 16% of the average household energy bill comes from heating water.

We have put together our bathroom water saving stock so that you can select what you might like to support your community.

You can order a selection of what you need, with no limited numbers and we will send these directly to you to share with your clients. These are free of charge.

To order packs for your events, please click **HERE**





Colchester & Tendring

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

UKPN have provided funding for a free and impartial home visit

This service includes:

An assessment of energy improvements
Assistance with funding application
Income maximisation
Tariff switching

Each household will receive 4 fitted radiator reflectors FREE











To book your visit contact Christopher 07799 494 797 chris@communityenergycolchester.com julie@communityenergycolchester.com



COLCHESTER COMMUNITY SUPERMARKET

HOW IT WORKS:

Step 1 - Sign up

Sign up as a member in store or online, either come in and fill in a form or scan the QR code to do it online



Step 2 - Receive your membership card

Once we have your form we will create you an account and assign you a number, bring this every time you visit.



Step 3 - Shop and Savel

We want everyone to get a share of the savings, for this reason we limit households to one visit per week.



Due to being not-for-profit we are able to offer 30% cheaper prices than any supermarket.





Do you live in Colchester?

Would you like support with making your home more energy efficient, understanding energy bills, budgeting, or fuel debt?

The Energy Advice team can help people negotiate fuel debt repayment, apply for grants to reduce, or clear their debts, or help to resolve disputes with energy suppliers.

Click **HERE** for more details.



WOULD YOU LIKE

TO MAKE YOUR HOME WARMER, MORE COMFORTABLE AND CHEAPER TO HEAT?



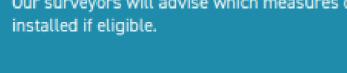
Grant funding may be available for improving the energy efficiency of your home using a variety of measures.

These could include *:

- Insulation for walls, lofts and heating systems
- Draught exclusion
- Changes to windows or doors
- Renewable energy (e.g. solar panels)
- Clean energy systems (e.g. air source heat pumps)

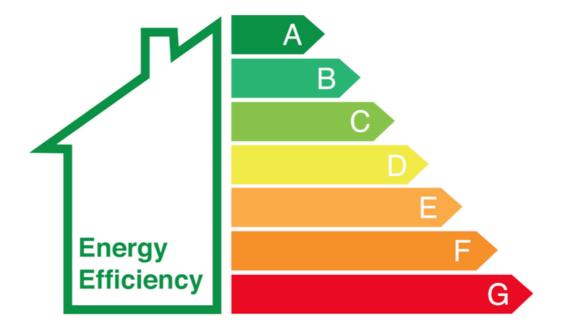
*Not all of these may be suitable for your property. Our surveyors will advise which measures can be installed if eligible. WE CAN ALSO PROVIDE YOU WITH OTHER TIPS THAT MAY CUT YOUR ENERGY BILLS TOO!

Contact us for FREE and impartial advice on 01206 636956 or email EnergyEfficientHomes @colchester.gov.uk









Applications open for eco upgrades to Essex residences

Essex County Council has launched two schemes to help low-income households and vulnerable residents reduce energy costs and emissions.

Residents across Essex can apply to have solar panels, heat pumps and more energy-efficient measures installed for little to no cost.

Click **HERE** to read the full details





HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



Government help with childcare costs for parents. Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support.

Find out more **HERE** about the help you are entitled to for childcare costs.







With FREE upgrades

SAVE £££ ON YOUR ENERGY BILL

We can help you access **free** energy saving upgrades from the government for your home that could help you make savings on your fuel costs.

DELIVERED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:





CANTAPPLY?

You could be eligible if your household:

Is off-gas for heating (for example, uses oil, LPG, solid fuel heating or an electric heating system)

AND

Has a combined annual income of no more than £31,000 (gross) or, under £20,000 after rent or mortgage costs

AND

Live in a hard to heat home

N.B. If you are not financially eligible, you could still be eligible if you live in defined postal areas.





Join us on a programme and meet your community

Talking to strangers reduces loneliness, improves well-being, assists learning, and increases creativity.

Psychology today





- 6 weeks, 12 hours, conversation led sessions
- · New friends
- Shared knowledge on how to stretch your money as far as it can go
- Vouchers given upon completion of the programme

hello@trustedmoneyconfidence.com www.trustedmoneyconfidence.com



Karen Jess 07532253540 07425166069





St Margaret's Church

COMMUNITY CAFE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH COLCHESTER FOODBANK

All are welcome to our weekly cafe for free refreshments in the church hall.

We also have various community support groups providing drop in sessions as well as the food bank volunteers who are able to issue food parcels for those in need, whatever the reason.

Come along for a cuppa and a chat!



EVERY FRIDAY 11-1PM















Are you worried you're paying too much for your essential services?

Do you feel like you can't make sense of your bills, and you just don't know what you're looking at?

Are you fed up with spending hours on the phone to your suppliers, only to never get a clear answer to your questions?

Worry no more. The team at the Bill Clinic can provide you with a FREE health check on your utility bills. We are here to save you valuable time and money by simplifying your life, giving you the reassurance that you're not spending more than you should.

Click <u>HERE</u> for more details of how they can help you





We are here to help you

We offer a range of free, confidential financial and employment support to all our residents in Colchester, including:

- Support paying your rent and Council Tax
- Money and debt advice
- Employment and job search
- Accessing food
- Welfare benefit advice and support
- Maximising benefit entitlement

If you need support

you can contact us at Colchester City Council by emailing:

benefits.advice@ colchester.gov.uk

or call us on: 01206 505 855

Open Monday - Friday





Citizens Advice drop-in sessions at Foodbanks

Colchester (Tollgate)

Every Wednesday 10am - 2pm

Central Town (Eld Lane)

2nd and 4th Friday of each month 11am - 1pm

Greenstead

Every Thursday 10am - 12 noon

Highwoods

1st Monday of each month 9am - 11am

Monkwick

1st and 3rd Friday of each month 10am - 12 noon

New Town

1st Monday of each month 7.30pm - 8.30pm 1st Thursday of each month 11am - 1pm (Energy team)

Rowhedge

1st Monday of each month 4pm - 6pm

Tiptree

1st Thursday of each month 2pm - 4pm

Wivenhoe

3rd Thursday of each month 10am - 12 noon



Community Funding

All of the funding you need for your organisation can now be found in one place! Just click on the image below, which will take you to our website.

If you are successful in getting a grant, let us know - we can help you promote your project, and inspire others to get involved.





Meet The Team

Tom Tayler

Community & Partnerships Team Manager 07956 343985 Tom.Tayler@colchester.gov.uk

Rachaelle Litwin

Digital Access Support Team Leader – Colchester & Tendring 01206 282452

Digital.AccessSupport@Colchester.gov.uk

Roz Clough

07966 235791

Financial Equality & Wellbeing Team Leader 01206 506440 or 07960 779163 Roz.Clough@colchester.gov.uk

Chrissy Henegan

Community & Partnerships Officer

Central – Shrub End, Prettygate, Newtown & Christchurch,

Berechurch and Castle

Thematic lead for Children & Young People and Armed Forces

Chrissy.Henegan@colchester.gov.uk

Mark Healy

Community & Partnerships Officer
North – Rural North, Lexden & Braiswick, Mile End, Highwoods,
St Annes & St Johns and Stanway
Thematic lead for Older People, Compassionate Communities,
EDI, and Locality Budgets
07817 889992
Mark.Healy@colchester.gov.uk

Jake Mullinder

Community & Partnerships Officer

South – Marks Tey & Layer, Mersea & Pyefleet, Tiptree,
Wivenhoe, Old Heath & The Hythe and Greenstead
Thematic Lead for Physical Activity & Public Health
07890 910455
Jake.Mullinder@colchester.gov.uk

Yovone Cook

Community & Partnerships Officer
Thematic lead for Resettlement, Faith Groups and Ethnically
Diverse Groups
07976 794789
Yovone.Cook@colchester.gov.uk

Shaz Peacock

Community Integration Support Officer Resettlement & Employment Support 01206 506951 07977 823928 sharon.peacock@colchester.gov.uk



Want to work with us?

the latest
Colchester City
Council vacancies



Other Opportunities...



Age Well East Needs Volunteers

At Age Well East hub (North Hill Colchester City Centre) - they run a variety of popular clubs and groups throughout the week to help reduce loneliness and to improve social cohesion. These provide an opportunity for people to meet up and make friendships and have a good time in good company. Without volunteers they wouldn't be able to offer help and support to older people who need it. Giving your time as a volunteer will make a huge difference to the lives of local people living in later life.

Can you help?

If you feel you would be able to offer some time each week and would like to join the team of amazing volunteers please simply call Kayley on 0300 37 33 333 or complete the short form online **HERE**



Colchester LEAF is looking for more volunteers to help out with the running of the centre and to lead workshops and events in line with our environmental aims.

What is Colchester LEAF?

Colchester Centre for Learning Environment and Action (LEAF) is a community space set up to help promote sustainability and support our community to adapt to climate change. We are a community-led project run by the charity en-form.

Why volunteer?

At LEAF, we are always on the lookout for ways to engage the community and this is an exciting opportunity for you to put into action any ideas you have to help us grow our project and make a positive difference to your local community.

Calling all volunteers!

We are looking for help with:

Opening the centre and supervising other volunteers
Running eco workshops and events



Colchester City Council's community & Partnership team

Our community & Partnership team provides support, advice, and assistance to those who need it across the city.

You can contact our community response team by emailing communities@colchester.gov.uk



To **UNSUBSCRIBE** to this newsletter please email communities@colchester.gov.uk

