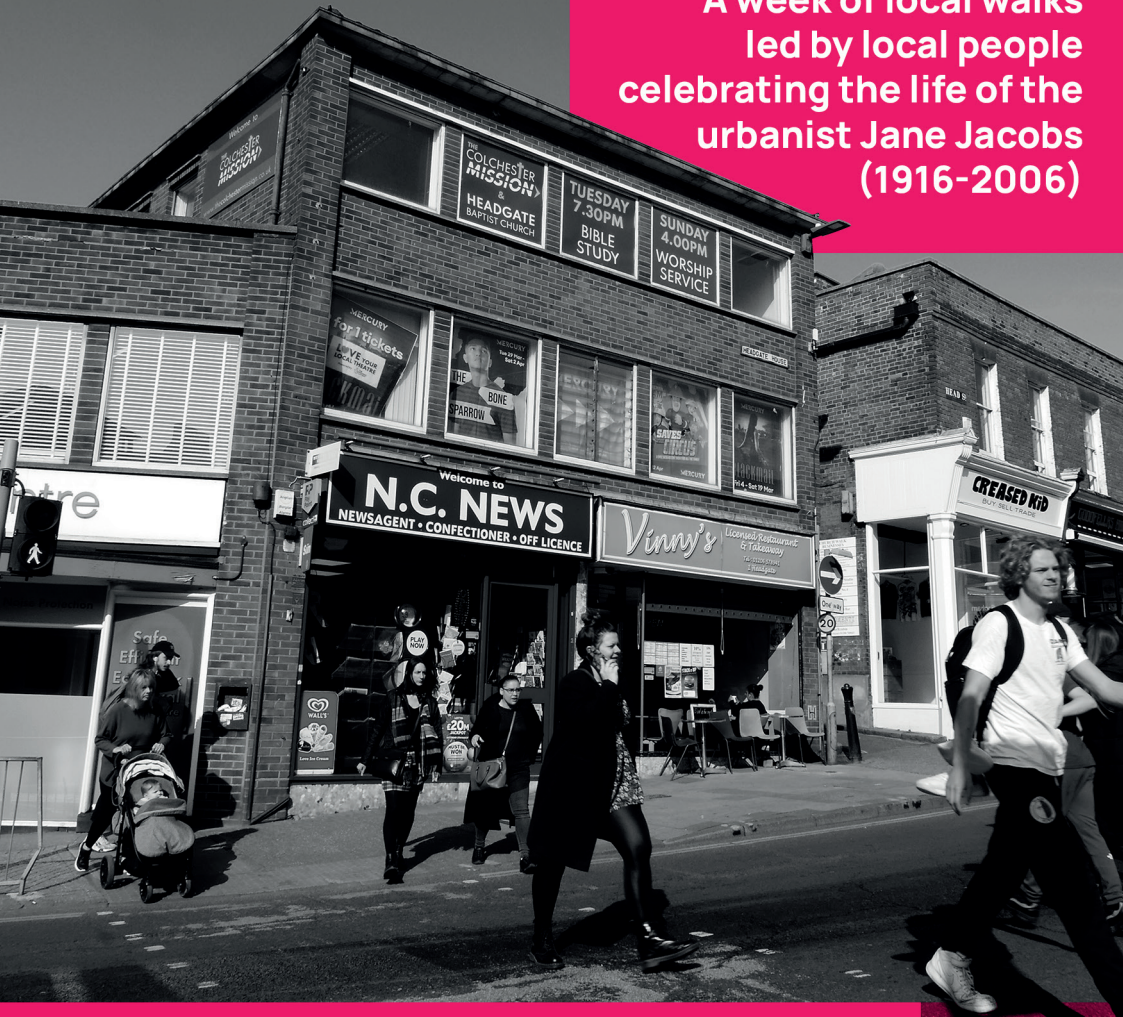


4-12 May 2024

# JANE'S WALK Colchester

A week of local walks  
led by local people  
celebrating the life of the  
urbanist Jane Jacobs  
(1916-2006)



COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU!

   @janeswalkcolch

Jane's Walk is an international festival of local walks taking place in towns & cities worldwide, celebrating the urbanist, writer & activist Jane Jacobs (1916-2006). Jane's Walks are typically shorter (under 3 miles), and best thought of as non-expert, community-led 'walking conversations' on a wide range of themes.

Our Colchester festival this year is dedicated to the memory of Pam Nelson, Ron Bell & Derek Wray, longtime supporters of Jane's Walk Colchester, who we have sadly lost in 2023-24.

All walks are FREE. Walk times are approximate. Some meet locations (where prefixed ///) use what3words: <https://what3words.com/>. Unless otherwise indicated (\*check accessibility info), all city centre walks are step-free. For large text and further info on walk accessibility, see our Facebook walk event pages, or call Rowena Macaulay (07710 474999).

Find us at: Facebook/Insta/X (@janeswalkcolch) and <https://www.walkcolchester.org.uk/janes-walk>

## Saturday 4th May

### WALK 1: An ancient route to Copford Church.

**Copford back in time:** follow a route first trod thousands of years ago. Around Gravel Pits Wood, across Copford Plains, to the Church with its fabulous 12th-century wall paintings & Romanesque apse. Children welcome (all off-road, wild woods & activities in the church!). With David Knock & Claire Macaulay. Meet: 11am, Copford Village Hall, CO6 1BX (2m, 2hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

### WALK 2: Alleys and follies - Hidden Colchester (1).

Discover Colchester off-road, from Camp Folley North to Kendal Road Folley, thru Aldi cut to Childwell Alley and thence to The Moors; Parsons Lane to Love Walk (coffee stop at Old Heath Rec) and on to Camp Folley South. Plenty of geography, history, legend and gossip along the way! With Des Bowden and Phil Hitchins. Meet: 1.30pm, Napier Road North carpark (///vent.acting.scrap). (3.4m, 2.5hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

### WALK 3: Commemoration Plaques - Where,

**Why & How?** A town centre stroll to see some commemorative plaques & discuss where they are, why they are there & how such plaques are valued & installed. With Pamela Bradley. Meet: 4pm, Jumbo Water Tower, outside Mercury Theatre (1.5m, 1.5hrs).

### EVENT: Jane's Walk Colchester Launch & Grand Quiz

**2024!** Fundraiser evening, festival opening & launch of Walk with Words (a new Colchester trail). Tables/teams of 4-6. Bring your own drinks (alcohol/soft), glasses & snacks. Chilean-inspired street food from Toast served from the Cardinal Bourne kitchen. Venue/Time: Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory St. (///prep.lower.saints), 7-11pm (doors 6.30pm). Tickets: £10 per person (Eventbrite)

## Sunday 5th May

### WALK 4: Together We Walk, Together We Grow!

A circular 'growers' walk from Mercers Farm allotments, via Bull Meadow & Cowdray Marsh Local Wildlife Site, up through High Woods Country Park to the Together We Grow community garden, a 2-acre site with orchards, veg beds & poly tunnels! Tea/coffee & cake. With Clare Smeed. Meet: 10am, at the yellow bridge, Riverside, nr. Lower Castle Park (///dozen.cling.leaves). (3m, 3hrs).

### WALK 5: Weans Walk Wild in Wellies in Wivenhoe Woods.

Go wild, enjoy games & fun activities with Forest School leader, Jean Quinn. Children of all ages up to 12 yrs. accompanied by an adult. Possibly too long for 2-3 yr. olds, but pushchair friendly. Break for snacks; bring a drink. Meet: 10.30am, Wivenhoe Railway Station car park, CO7 9DJ (1.5m, 2.5 hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

### WALK 6: How to Read a House.

We walk past them every day, but how often do we actually look? A house can tell us a lot about when & how it was built, how it has changed & who might have lived there, if you just know how to read it. We'll discuss the historical background to the areas we visit & look at some free resources that can support further research. With Andrew Mowbray. Meet: 2pm, Firstsite (foyer), CO1 1JH (2m, 2hrs).

### WALK 7: Alleys and follies - Hidden Colchester

**(2).** More off-road surprises: from Camp Folley to Old Heath Rec; Parsons Walk and Grant Meadows to Distillery Lane; Bourne Valley to the cemetery, and The Folley to Plum Hall. With Des Bowden and Phil Hitchins. Meet: 4pm, Napier Road North carpark (///vent.acting.scrap). (3.4m, 2.5hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

### WALK 8: A Shot in the Dark - Creating High Impact

**Photographs in Low Light** (dedicated to Ron Bell). Try out some techniques for capturing engaging pictures at night and learn how to 'find' light, making night photography more interesting and fun! Just bring your imagination, a camera with a manual setting option, or just your smartphone. No flash needed. Suitable for all levels. With Jonathan Doyle. Meet: 9pm, Firstsite entrance, CO1 1JH (0.5m, 1.5hrs).

## Monday 6th May

### WALK 9: Everywoman - 150 Years of Life at Home in

**New Town.** Home improvements (indoor toilets!); rich & poor housed on separate roads; mass weddings at Camp Church; homes for 'fallen' women... From birth through childhood, ageing & death, meet local New Town women! With Sheila Kelly. Meet: 10.30am, St Johns Orthodox Church (old Camp Church) Military Rd. CO1 2AN (1m, 2hrs).



**WALK 10: Poetry in Motion.** A short tour of the city centre visiting the iconic & not so iconic places that have inspired, moved or even triggered people into writing a poem. Hear a range of poems from local writers in their place of creation & some of the stories behind them. Ending at The Commons Café (Minories). With Billie Vasquez-Walters & friends. Meet: 12 noon, Level Best Café, St John's St. (0.7m, 1.5hrs).

**WALK 11: The Wonder of Middlewick.** Join Colchester Natural History Society (CNHS) on the first of several planned surveys of the extraordinary biodiversity of this threatened green space (then every Monday in May). With Michael Padmore. Meet: 2pm, at the gateway by the pillbox on Mersea Road. (///tennis.modern.likely), (3m, 2hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

**WALK 12: Radical Colchester: Let's Create a People's History!** An alternative look at our city's history, this time from below. How did our people - & not their kings, queens, lords & generals - forge our city's story? Tories prepare to be triggered! With Bryn Griffiths. Meet: 2pm, at the War Memorial (2.5hrs, 2hrs).

**WALK 13: Walking the Elephant.** Colchester's rich history is bejewelled with elephants. We discuss this whilst creating a virtual pachyderm by recording the route of the Colchester Strav.art elephant. Fitness app useful but not required. Suitable for 12+ children & adults. With Jeremy Warren. Meet: 4pm, outside Mercury Theatre, CO1 1PT (3.5m, 2.5hrs).

**FILM/TALK: Wings of Desire** (1987, Dir. Wim Wenders). Introduction & discussion with Sandra Moog & Felix Schnell (Uni of Essex). An 'elegiac hymn to a broken cold-war Berlin' (Guardian 2022). An angel struggles with his immortality as he watches over human life in a divided Berlin, & longs for the tangible joys of physical existence when he falls in love with a mortal. Venue/Time: Colchester Arts Centre, 7-10pm (doors 6.30pm). Tickets on door (Pay as You Feel).

#### Tuesday 7th May

**WALK 14: Lunch Hour Spring Foraging Walk at Hilly Fields.** Join me to discuss food, folklore, nutrition and medicinal uses for common plants. An introduction to foraging (all levels welcome); share your own knowledge as we go! Bring a flask with hot water to try some foraged tea mixes. With Clementine Moule. Meet: 12noon, Hilly Fields entrance, Sussex Road (///sticky.chair.sorry). (1m, 1hr). \*Check accessibility info.

**WALK 15: In the Footsteps of 'the Colchester Ten'** - Caught in a Treacherous Tudor Web! A new trail launched in partnership with Colchester Young Archaeologists Club - the result of an English Heritage challenge to deliver 'a little known or forgotten' local story - tells the tale of some ordinary Colchester people whose lives took an extraordinary turn, at a shocking event in the town more than 450 years ago. With Barbara Butler. Meet: 6pm, St James's Church, East Hill (1.5m, 1.5hrs)

**FILM/TALK: The Experimental City** (2017). Documentary about the remarkable tale of Athelstan Spilhaus's almost successful project to create a futuristic new city in 1960s Minnesota, based on his comic strip Our New Age. Introduced by historian & author Ben Wilson (Metropolis, 2020; Urban Jungle 2023), with discussion/Q&A. Venue/Time: Colchester Arts Centre, 7-10pm (doors 6.30pm). Tickets on door (Pay as You Feel).

#### Wednesday 8th May

**WALK 16: Look up at our Trees in Castle Park.** A walk around Castle Park based on our 9 different species of Oak Trees. An opportunity to look closer at the trees around us & to share our knowledge & stories about any of the trees we walk past. With Diana Hargrave. Meet: 10.30am, Castle Park, Museum Street Entrance (1m, 1.5hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

**WALK 17: A Westlands Warble & Wander.** Sing & stroll - join natural voice singing quartet Voce Silva on a walk in Westlands Country Park & beyond, stopping to learn songs together in harmony. Songs will be taught by ear, no singing experience necessary. With Lorraine Francis & friends. Meet: 6pm, inside entrance gate in James Carter Rd, opp. Shillito Close CO3 9XA (1.3m, 2hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

**WALK 18: Haunted Colchester** (dedicated to Derek Wray). From the dark history of the ancient Dutch Quarter to the secrets of the old town centre & haunted East Hill. Ending with fortifying beverage at The Forester's Arms! With Rob Brown. Meet: 7.30pm, at Colchester Town Hall (1m, 1.5 hrs).

#### Thursday 9th May

**WALK 19: Unravelling Colchester's Textile History.** A city centre walk taking a journey through time looking for clues to Colchester's historical links with the wool, silk & textile manufacturing industries. With Lorraine James. Meet: 5.45pm, Firstsite entrance, CO1 1JH (2.5m, 2hrs).

**EVENT/TALK: Navigating Landscapes.** Conversations with writers/artists Lora Aziz (Homeland is Presence, 2022), & James Ravinet (Marking the Land, 2023). Exploring Artistic Interventions & Public Rights of Way in Essex. Venue/Time: The Commons Café, The Minories, High St. 7-9pm (doors 6.30pm). Tickets on door (Pay as You Feel).

#### Friday 10th May

**WALK 20: From the Cradle to the Grave. Myland: Healthcare Centre of Colchester!** From the Community Stadium (Colchester United) and Northern Gateway Sports Park (Colchester Rugby & inclusive cycling), to Colchester General Hospital, former Severalls Hospital & Turner Village, explore the history of this genuinely sporting & caring area! With Robert Johnstone. Meet: 6pm, Northern Gateway Sports Park (///plug.square.brisk), (3m, 2hrs).

**FILM/TALK: They Came to a City** Introduction by writer Adrian May, with discussion/Q&A. Based on J. B. Priestley's play, a rarely seen classic of British cinema. Nine disparate Britons arrive at a mysterious dream city, where, according to their class & disposition, they find themselves either in 'an earthly paradise of peace & equality or a hell starved of ambition & riches'. Venue/Time: Firstsite Studios, 7-9.30 pm (doors 6.30pm). Tickets on door (Pay as You Feel).

#### Saturday 11th May

**WALK 21: The Gods & Colchester, from Pagan Deities to the Reformation.** A walk through the City of Colchester to the sites of lost religious buildings & those still existing, & a description of what lay outside the walls & where. With Max Fox. Meet: 10am, outside Tesco Express on Crouch Street (1m, 2hrs)

**WALK 22: Walk with Words.** Celebrate the launch of a new, interactive walking route, connecting Colchester city centre, University of Essex (UoE) & Greenstead. Connect with the local landscape & get creative: discover remnants of the past, appreciate the places where nature & city collide, consider who & what went before & what it means now. Finish at UoE for a hot drink & some creative writing! With Maddie Last. Meet: 10.30am, St Botolphs Roundabout (entrance to Britannia Car Park). (2.2m, 1.5 hrs).

**WALK 23: The Wrong Side of the River.** Explore the lesser trodden lagoons on the west side of the River Colne between Hythe and Rowhedge. With 101 bird species recorded, don't forget binoculars! Ending at the Rowhedge Sea Shanty Festival (S9 bus back, or ferry to Wivenhoe 1.15-4.45pm). Dogs welcome on leads. With Emma Regan. Meet: 11.30am, the red Colne Lightship, King Edward Quay, Hythe, CO2 8GQ. (2m, 1.5 hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

**WALK 24: Trip Down Memory Lane** - an interactive walk to map our collective memories. Join YAK (Firstsite's Young Art Komunity) for a relaxed stroll in the vicinity of Firstsite Gallery, exploring our connection to the natural world through memories of place. Contribute to a collective collage back at Firstsite, recording our experiences of the journey. No artistic experience required! Meet: 1pm, Firstsite Reception (0.5m, walk+workshop 2hrs).

**WALK 25: Poor Man, Beggar Man (and Woman!), Thief.** Walk through the city centre & listen to stories of the survival of the poor. From Alms houses to sleeping rough, housing has always been a challenge. Discover the impact of the Garrison on 1860s life. Learn about who was sent to St Mary's workhouse & why? And who uses the foodbank today? With Kevin Finnigan. Meet: 3.30pm, Colchester War Memorial (1.5m, 1.5hrs).

**EVENT: End of festival (almost!) PARTY!** With live music from local bands Line Break and Vix and the Bleeding Hearts. Venue/Time: Colchester Arts Centre, 8-11pm (doors 7.30pm) - ALL WELCOME. Free entry. Paying Bar.

#### Sunday 12th May

**WALK 26: Walk with Purpose.** A walking trail exploring the lives and achievements of some of Colchester's women from the past. Join us as we visit locations around the town centre with connections to the stories of our women and use these to consider safe spaces for women in the urban environment today. With Claire Driver and Rebekah Wallace-Brown. Meet: 10am. Firstsite foyer, CO1 1JH (1.5m, 1.5 hrs).

**WALK 27: Foraging in the Footsteps of the Invading Roman Army at Lexden.** The Roman Claudius invasion (AD43) brought a large invading army to take over the Celtic tribal capital kingdom of Camulodunum. To achieve this, a large, relatively unknown settlement was established at today's Lexden. Foragers were extremely important to feed the invading forces stationed there. This walk links us with a lost aspect of an important event in British history. With Mitch McLean. Booking required (email: wildceltlight@gmail.com). Meet: 10am, Lexden Crown pub (2m, 3hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

**WALK 28 Pam Nelson Memorial Cycle Ride.** Join us in memory of Pam, on one of her favourite rides (mostly off-road) to Fingringhoe Nature Reserve, via Friday Woods. Bring a picnic/buy coffee at the reserve café, before riding back. Booking advisable (email: info@walkcolchester.org.uk). With Neil Allen, Emily Harrup & friends. Please ensure bikes are roadworthy & the distance OK at a leisurely pace. Meet: 11am, outside St John's Green Primary School, CO2 7HE (16m return, 3.5hrs). \*Check accessibility info.

**WALK 29: Riots & Rebellions in Colchester.** "The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion". Colchester has always been a hotbed of revolution. From the Peasants Revolt to Poll Tax Riots; Boudica to the Civil War. Did you know Colchester was an important player in the Suffragist movement? Expect poetry, readings & pop-up surprises. With Dorian Kelly. Meet: 12 noon. Castle Park, Museum St entrance, (1m, 2.5hrs).

**WALK 30: One for the road, bartender!** Not a pub crawl but a circular walk visiting alcohol-related sites around the Hythe area. Hear about tales of idleness, multiple marriages, bigamy, suspicion, theft, smuggling, slavery, assault & murder! With Steve Shaw. Meet: 3pm, Hythe Station (///plants.slowlykick), (2m, 2.5hrs).

**Jane's Walk 2024 is kindly supported by the Colchester Cultural & Creative Events Fund, Colchester Arts Centre, Firstsite, and many, many local people - thank you!**