

# **The Wickham Market Hoard has arrived at Colchester Castle this week!**

Colchester Castle

Wickham Market Hoard 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011 until 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

Iron Age Week 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Colchester Castle has turned back the clock to the Iron Age period, for activities this October half-term to celebrate the arrival of the Wickham Market hoard to Colchester Castle.

The Iron Age hoard of coins will form part of the Buried! exhibition currently running at the Castle, until 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011.

The Wickham Market Hoard<sup>1</sup> is the largest and most complete Iron Age gold hoard in existence, being made up of 840 gold coins. They were made around 2000 years ago by the Iceni tribe whose tribal territory covered Norfolk, north Suffolk and parts of Cambridgeshire. They were buried about two generations before the Iceni warrior queen Boudica would famously lead her people in revolt against the Romans in AD 60.

So come along to the Castle and join us for a week of celebration! There are five events going on throughout the week, these include Warriors, Tribes and Treasures on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October which is a FREE event (after normal Castle admission), where you will discover what life was really like during the Iron Age through storytelling and re-enactment!

You can meet characters from the pre-Roman and hear stories about their everyday lives and how they lived, then find out more about the Iron Age Wickham market hoard, have a go at building an Iron Age Roundhouse and get up close to and handle real objects from the past!

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> you can get creative and join-in an animation workshop to create a short film that tells the stories of the Iron Age coin hoard that was lost for thousands of years! This fun and interactive workshop is run by professional animators and lasts for 2½ hours. There are two sessions each day, 11am – 1pm for ages 5-7yrs and 1.45pm – 4.45pm for 8-12yrs. Sessions cost £10 per child (this includes entry to Colchester Castle) and they will receive a copy of their edited film on a DVD for free! These animation workshops are very popular so you will need to book your place in advance by calling 01206 282940 or by popping into Hollytrees Museum, Colchester.

And just why did Iron Age people bury their treasure? Come and find out the theories between Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> by taking part in a FREE (after Castle admission) interactive play! You will meet two members of Iceni tribe as they explore the burial of the Wickham Market hoard of coins, was it an offering to the gods? Was it stolen treasure hidden by a desperate criminal or was it personal wealth hidden from the invading Britons? You'll be able to

make your own mind-up once you've heard all the possible options, or maybe you can think of another reason? There is no need to book, you can just drop in anytime between 10am – 5pm.

Whilst you are at the Castle this week, why not take part on the Buried! Discovery Trail for just 50p and take a tour called 'The End of the Iron Age' for just £1.50 per adult and £1 per child.

So come along and help us celebrate this nationally important archaeological discovery and learn more about the Iron Age and how people lived.

These are just a few of the fun events we have going on over half-term, for more information please visit [www.cimuseums.org.uk/whats-on.html](http://www.cimuseums.org.uk/whats-on.html)