

Chinese Festival @ Ipswich Museum, High Street **Saturday 2nd February**

As the Chinese New Year approaches, why not come along to Ipswich Museum and enjoy some traditional Eastern activities to help celebrate it? During this festival of Chinese culture there will be lots of fun activities for all the family to enjoy. Bring in the Year of the Rat with a great day out and come along.

Paper lanterns are common in China for all kinds of uses and at our fun celebration children can make their own beautiful paper lantern in a traditional style. Taking inspiration from the fascinating objects in the museum the lanterns can be decorated with flowers, birds and animals – the more creative the better! All materials for the activity will be supplied and all you need is the imagination.

On the day visitors can also write their own New Years poems on red paper to take home and bring good luck in the New Year. What fortunes will you wish for? In Chinese tradition red symbolises fire which is thought to fight off bad luck so come along, try out your poetic skills and be inspired.

The dragon is very popular in China, featuring in the Chinese zodiac as well as being the symbol of the Chinese emperors. Don't miss the chance to help decorate a large foam dragon and watch as it leads a beautiful procession through the museum at 3pm.

So, come along with all the family for a great day out to remember.

Drop-in 10am - 4pm
Free admission to the museum
Paper lanterns £1 per person
All other activities are free

Ratty New Year @ Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich **Sunday 3rd February**

Hey rat fans....come along to Christchurch Mansion and help celebrate the forthcoming Chinese New Year – the year of the Rat!

This day of rat-tastic fun will have plenty to enjoy for all of the family. Listen to the Pied Piper tell his unique tale of how the rats came running to his pipe in a fun storytelling session. You can also explore and learn about some of the curious instruments that people through history have designed to try and kill rats, as well as enjoy a 'smack the rat' game for your chance to win a small prize. There will also be an activity for children to make their own rat masks, which will be a great way to have fun and be creative.

The rat is the first animal in the Chinese zodiac and is roughly equivalent to Sagittarius in western signs. As well as the rat the twelve year cycle of animals in the Chinese zodiac includes the Dragon, Sheep, Rooster and Pig.

As the rat is the first sign in the Chinese zodiac they are considered as leaders and pioneers, as well as charming and practical. If you were born in the year of the rat then you will be known for your great leadership skills, strong will and energy!

The Chinese New Year is one of the most important traditional Chinese holidays, so come along and enjoy your part in celebrating it.

Drop-in 10am - 4pm

Free admission to Christchurch Mansion

Make your own Rat Mask - £1 per child

All other activities are free and museum admission is free

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Colchester and Ipswich Museum service

Our vision is to create a museum service that is a source of pride, inspiration and fun