

**Celebrating Museums and Galleries Month!**

# **The Great Rat Hunt**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008**

**Colchester Castle, Hollytrees Museum,  
Natural History Museum and Tymperleys Clock Museum**

2008 is the Chinese 'Year of the Rat' - the first animal in the Chinese zodiac and a group of these furry friends are paying a visit to the museums in Colchester. They have decided to play a little game of hide and seek with us and we need your help in tracking them down! Will you be able to spot them? Try out the Great Rat Hunt and find out.

Throughout May you can visit Colchester Castle Museum, Hollytrees Museum, the Natural History Museum and Tymperleys Clock Museum to see if you can find the cuddly hiding rats. Just pick up an entry sheet from any of the museums, then make your way around each museum, noting down the rat positions as you go.

Once you have completed this rat-tastic challenge you can hand in your answer sheets at any of the museums. All of the entries will be put into a prize draw to win one of several prizes including 'Ratatouille' on DVD, tickets to Colchester Castle, and toy rats – so don't miss out, get rat spotting.

If you want a real challenge then why not try visiting all of the museums in one day to complete the hunt? However you can always make the fun last and come back several times throughout May to complete your answer sheet. It's up to you!

The Great Rat Hunt marks the start of many exciting China related activities planned across Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service for the coming months. A brand new exhibition, **Dragons, Silks and Stories** opens in Gallery 3 in Ipswich Town Hall Galleries on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May featuring a selection of beautiful objects that have not been seen in public before. On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July **Guardians to the King** opens at Colchester Castle featuring 43 miniature terracotta figurines, which have never been to the UK before. In partnership with Essex County Council as part of the Jiangsu Festival this is a great day out not to be missed. Plus, with over 35 events to enjoy this summer a visit to one of our museums is a must-do!

**Free to enter**

**Admission charge applies to Colchester Castle, all other museums are free.**

**Tymperleys Clock Museum is open Tue – Sat**

**All other museums are open 7 days a week**

**For comment or opinion contact Cllr Christopher Arnold, Portfolio Holder for Culture and the Environment on 07703 168125**

**Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service**

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

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