

LOCAL
STORIES
AT
THE
MUSEUM
AMERSHAM

SESSIONS FOR SCHOOLS

A GUIDE TO OUR SCHOOLS
PROGRAMME FOR 2020/21

Designed to help teachers and education professionals incorporate heritage learning outside the classroom into the National Curriculum

SHARING PEOPLE'S STORIES OF AMERSHAM IN THE 20TH CENTURY

WHO WE ARE

Since it opened in 1991, Amersham Museum has thrived as a small, local, independent museum and is now working to develop a larger, more accessible museum.

Situated in a listed medieval building on the High Street, the museum is fully accredited and is run as a charitable company. Located in the historic Buckinghamshire town of Amersham, the museum's collections reflect the town's history and development from Roman times to the present day. The museum has a wide ranging programme of activities for adults and families, including talks, walks, craft and research sessions.

The museum has a range of engaging sessions for KS1 and KS2, which can be delivered in the museum or in school.

Handling boxes of artefacts, covering curriculum linked themes are also available for fortnightly hire. These cover topics for KS1, KS2 and KS3.

From 2019 to 2024 the museum is also delivering the Understanding the Central Chilterns project, which makes links between key historic eras (as focused upon in KS2) and our local landscape. This project is supported by the Heritage Fund and the Ernest Cook Trust.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL SESSIONS

TOPICS AND PRICES

Amersham Museum has developed a number of formal sessions designed to support National Curriculum teaching in History, English, Art, and Science. Our sessions include:

- Traditional Toys
- Fossils and Pre-History
- Victorian Amersham and the Coming of the Railway
- WWII and Refugees
- Life in the 16th Century
- Roman Treasures
- Guided Walks

Our school sessions cost only £4 per child, and all of our sessions can be delivered at the museum or in a school setting at no extra cost. Due to the challenges of Covid we can also offer virtual sessions, with artefacts left at school and the facilitator delivering the session online.

Handling boxes for many of our topics are also available to borrow and cost £25 for a fortnightly hire.

To book any of our sessions, visit amershammuseum.org/book-school-or-group-visit/ or complete the booking form at the end of this guide.

FOSSILS AND FOSSIL HUNTERS

KS1-2

Topics Covered:

Fossils, Mary Anning, Robin Reid, dinosaurs, local geology, drawing/art

Curriculum Links:

- Science
 - o Rocks – compare different kinds of rocks; describe how fossils are formed (Yr 3)
 - o Evolution & Inheritance – find out about the work of palaeontologists (Yr 6)
- History
 - o Local history, significant individuals (KS1)
- Art
 - o Use a range of materials; use drawing, painting & sculpture to develop and share ideas (KS1)

Session Plan (standard session time 90 mins):

- Discuss what fossils are and how they are made (30 mins)
 - o Fossil recreation roleplay
 - o Local geology map ("Do you live in chalky, clay, or rocky geology?")
 - o Fossil and rock handling session
- Dinosaur timeline (15 mins)
- Introduce fossil hunters (35 mins)
 - o Compare Mary Anning to local fossil hunter Robin Reid
 - o Look at some of Robin Reid's drawings
 - o Draw/sculpt your own fossils/dinosaurs
- Plenary (10 mins)

TRADITIONAL TOYS

KS1

Topics Covered:

Toys throughout history, local industry, materials, rich/poor children

Curriculum Links:

- History
 - o Changes within living memory (KS1)
 - o Evolution & Inheritance – find out about the work of palaeontologists (Yr 6)
- Art & Design
 - o Use a range of materials to design products; use drawing, painting, and sculpture to explore ideas; develop a wide range of art and design techniques (KS1)
- Design & Technology
 - o Design (KS1)

Session Plan (standard session time 90 mins):

- Look at traditional toys on display around the museum (20 mins)
- Traditional toys handling session (40 mins) - carousel of activities including construction toys, moving toys and optical toys
 - o What are they made from? Who would have played with them? Do you have any similar toys? How are they different?
- Make a toy based on what's been learned (20 mins) - usually a peg doll or thaumatrope
 - o Who is your toy for? What is it made from? Does it have any moving parts? Do you have any similar toys? How are they different?
- Plenary (10 mins)



THE COMING OF THE RAILWAY



KS1-2

Topics Covered:

Industrial revolution, steam power, Amersham-on-the-Hill history, map reading, current events, debate, HS2

Curriculum Links:

- Geography
 - o Geographical skills & fieldwork (KS1)
- History
 - o Local history study (KS2)
 - o Changes within living memory; significant local historical events (KS1)

Session Plan (standard session time 120 mins):

- Introduction to Victorian life and Victorian Amersham (10 mins)
- 2 of the following:
 - Pre-railway object handling and investigation (40 mins) OR
 - Map reading skills: Topography/ map reading bingo /Compare modern and historic maps of Amersham (40 mins) OR
 - Local history walk (40 mins), focusing on Victorian life
- Coming of the railway storytelling and roleplay (20 mins)
- Plenary (10 mins)



WW2 AND REFUGEES



KS1-2

Topics Covered:

WW2, emigration, refugees, war, wartime Amersham, military hospital, creative writing

Curriculum Links:

- History
 - o Local historical events (KS1)
 - o Local history study (KS2)
- English
 - o Writing – composition (KS1-2)

Session Plan (90 mins):

- Introduction to Wartime Amersham (10 mins)
- Learn about rationing in Amersham during WW2 (35 mins)
 - o Learn about how much food each person was allowed per week and 'Dig for Britain'
 - o Using the food pyramid, try and plan a week's meals using standard rations
- Learn about life in Amersham during WW2, including that of refugees, using photos and handling objects (35 mins)
 - o Write a short letter or postcard home from the perspective of a refugee to Amersham, taking into account what has been learnt about Amersham during WW2
- Plenary (10 mins)

ROMAN TREASURES

KS1-2

Topics Covered:

Roman life, local villas, using artefacts as historical sources, Roman coins, Latin, Emperors, Archaeology and excavation

Curriculum Links:

- History
 - o The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain (KS2)
- Art and Design
 - o Use a range of materials to design products; use drawing, painting, and sculpture to explore ideas; develop a wide range of art and design techniques; (KS1)

Session Plan (standard session time 90 mins):

- Introduction to Roman Britain and life in Amersham in Roman times (10 mins)
- 2 of the following:
 - Handling session with Roman objects and replicas from the museum collections (35 mins) What are they? What would they have been used for? How was life different? OR
 - Roman coins (35 mins)
 - o Handling session with original and replica coins
 - o Design your own Roman coin, making putty coins using replica coin dies OR
- Design and make your own Roman-style miniature mosaic including classical imagery (35 mins)
- Plenary (10 mins)

Understanding the Central Chilterns

KS2

Between 2021-24 we are working in partnership with Wycombe Museum to deliver the **Understanding the Central Chilterns project**, supported by the Heritage Fund and the Ernest Cook Trust. It offers free sessions for KS2.

The project will help teach children how the Chiltern's natural resources have supported local industry and communities and impacted on the location, type and development of settlements over human history. Our purpose is to **inspire the next generation of children to feel a connection with the special qualities of the Central Chilterns landscape.**

We can offer:

- **FREE Teacher Training** (virtual) to help advise teachers with their curriculum planning
- **FREE guided tour for your class**, to get children learning outside in their local landscape (locations limited)
- **FREE museum loan boxes (Covid secure)** for use in your classroom
- If you know a school that is interested in getting involved, please get in touch with **Maddy Baskerville** at understandingthechilterns@amershammuseum.org , telling us your year group, topic and the term that you are studying the topic.
- To find out more: <https://www.chilternsaonb.org/school-resources.html>



BOOKING

Contact name:

School:

Address:

Contact phone number:

Contact email:

Preferred date and time of visit:

Number of pupils:

Adults:

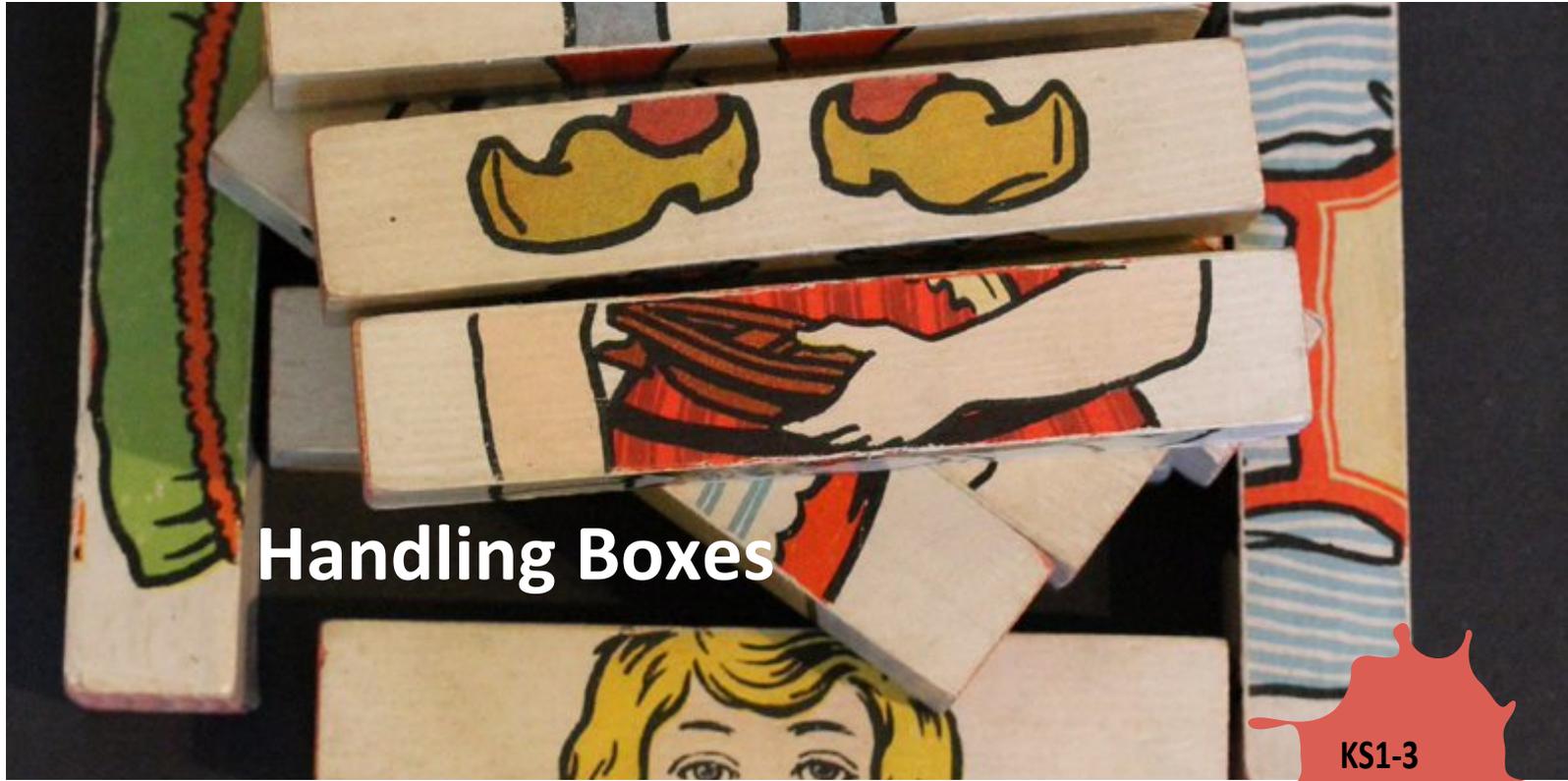
Age range/year group:

Group details (including SEND or medical requirements):

Session required:

Comments:

Please send completed forms to info@amershammuseum.org



Handling Boxes

KS1-3

Our handling boxes cover some of themes covered in our taught sessions. The boxes are all Covid secure and include original objects, which can be handled, documents, maps and photographs, with detailed information about the contents. Boxes available:

- WWI
- WWII
- Victorian Amersham and the Coming of the Railway
- Traditional Toys

Boxes can be hired for a fortnight for £25. Email emily@amershammuseum.org to make a booking or book through our website: amershammuseum.org/memory-box-loan/

We also have a set of teaching resources for KS3 focusing on **women's suffrage**. The pack includes four suggested lessons that directly draw upon local, primary sources and explore how women were involved in the suffrage campaign.

The pack is available on our website and can be emailed on request (**FREE**)

