

WEST BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

Schools Newsletter | December 2025-January 2026

This e-newsletter contains important information about the **free museum outreach sessions** and the **museum artefact loan box scheme** as well as the **festive offering for families** at the Museum.

Free museum outreach sessions

Due to the uncertainty of the timeline of the Museum damp work project to resolve the damp issue in key areas, we have decided not to host any school visits at the Museum this academic year 2025-26.

As compensation to schools for the lack of access to the Museum, we will be offering our outreach sessions for FREE (normal price £45) **for the duration of the project.** Please contact Clare for information and/or to book a *free* session in a West Berkshire school. **We are now taking outreach bookings for February to July 2026.**

Please see the **brochure** (sent with this e-newsletter) for information on the museum outreach sessions available in schools. *We are offering an Anglo-Saxon outreach session during the project.*

Museum artefact loan box scheme

Pictured right is the contents of the Fossils museum artefact loan box. This is one of a small selection of themed boxes containing real and/or replica artefacts as well as a set of teachers' notes on the contents.

A West Berkshire Museum artefact loan box can be borrowed by a school (subject to availability) for up to three weeks. It costs £15 per box. A school representative must collect and return the museum artefact loan box on the agreed dates/times.

Teachers say: "[the children] loved handling the objects...[teachers' notes] provided were extremely useful; we used them to plan the lessons before we got the actual objects...[the box] kicked off the new topic for the term well."

For more information on the scheme, please see the attached FAQ leaflet and list of boxes. To enquire about booking a box, please email Clare.

Festive fun for families this December

At West Berkshire Museum, we've a Messy Museum Morning on Friday 19 December, 10am-1pm (last

Current exhibitions

Special exhibition: Celebrating 75 Years of AWE. Telling the story of AWE. Closes 7 Dec.

Special exhibition: The Works of Marjorie Heather. Art exhibition featuring a local artist.

Special exhibition: Treasure Through Time. The history of treasure including local finds.

Special exhibition: Focus on Compton. The history and archaeology of this parish.

Special exhibition: Volunteers' Choice. Museum volunteers choose their favourite objects in the museum collection.

Permanent exhibition: Lives and Landscape. Telling the story of West Berkshire in chronological order.



Pictured above: contents of the Fossils museum artefact loan box.

entry 12.45pm), to decorate a festive ceramic decoration with porcelain pens. £2.50 per child. Drop-in, no need to book. Dress for mess!

We've also a *free* complementary trail available from the activity trolley in room 1 of the Museum Please see the Museum Facebook page for opening hours over the festive period.

For more information and/or to book:

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West Berkshire
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