



## WEST BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

# Learning and Participation Service

West Berkshire Museum reopened after refurbishment in August 2014.

The museum is housed in two of the town's most historic buildings – the Cloth Hall and Corn Stores – and these are joined with a purpose-built link building containing a reception, shop, café and toilets, accessible toilet and baby changing facilities. The entire museum is fully accessible with a lift at each end of the building.

West Berkshire Museum's Learning and Participation Service comprises of sessions, loan boxes, resource packs, museum visits and trails.





# Sessions

The West Berkshire Museum Learning and Participation Service offers a range of national curriculum-based cross-curricular sessions that can be delivered in school or at the museum.

A session costs £45 (for up to 35 children unless stated differently).

**\*Session involves object handling (real and/or replica objects).**

For more information and/or to make a booking, please see contact information overleaf.

## Where's my sheep?\*

**EYFS/KS1**  
60-75 minutes

Through a story, hands-on gallery activities and a simple craft the children will learn about sheep and being a shepherd.

**Museum only.**



## Where's my sheep?\*

**KS2** 60-75 minutes

Explore the permanent exhibition galleries to find the lost sheep. Discover more about the sheep, how cloth is produced as well as find out about local cloth-related people and events. There is also a cloth-themed riddles trail to complete.

**Museum only.**

## The Cloth Hall

**KS1/2** 60-75 minutes

Looking at how and why the Cloth Hall was built, the children can make a simple model of the Cloth Hall and/or try a traditional building technique (wattle and daub), as well as explore the Cloth Hall through a trail.

**Museum only.**



"A fabulous session!"  
**KS1 teacher.**

"The children had a lovely time and the session leader was very informative – a good selection of different displays and activities. A very good session."  
**Reception and Year 1 teacher.**

"This session was very good. The resources were tailored to suit our needs and the children's previous knowledge was built on."  
**KS2 teacher.**

"We had a fantastic morning at the museum. The children really enjoyed themselves and the session's learning/activities were set at the right level for them."  
**Year 1/2 teacher.**

"All the children enjoyed the balance of activities – there was something for everyone."  
**Year 3 teacher.**

## What's the connection?\*

**KS1/2** 60-75 minutes

By examining a set of objects from different time periods, the children work out the common theme (bed warmers), what the objects are made from and how they were used, with an activity to place them on a simple timeline.



"The children were all engaged and said how much they had enjoyed the session."  
**KS1 teacher**

## Victorian Toys\*

**KS1/2** 60-75 minutes

Through play the children compare the toys of the past with their modern equivalents, find out about Victorian children and make a simple toy.



## Roman Britain\*

**KS2** 60-90 minutes

By examining a range of artefacts to see what they tell us about life in Roman Britain, the children also consider how 'Romanised' the native Britons became.



"A good session. The session leader was very engaging and enthusiastic about the subject and the objects being handled. She was able to engage with the group really well."  
**Year 4 teacher.**



## Anglo Saxons\*

**KS2** 75-90 minutes

Exploring culture and everyday life through an object handling activity and gallery trail, this hands-on session includes dressing-up and the opportunity to experience two crafts (of your choice) from this list: cord-making; writing a message in runes; making a saucer brooch; decorating clay with replica stamps.

**Museum only.**

## Rocks\*

**KS2** 60-90 minutes

Based around the three categories of rocks and the rock cycle, this session includes a classification activity using rocks from the museum's collection as well as an opportunity to view and handle some local fossils.



"A good session. A nice balance between practical and hands-on activities."  
**KS2 teacher.**

"The children enjoyed the session very much. They have been talking about rocks a lot since and building up their own collections of 'rocks' from the playground."  
**Year 3 teacher.**

"I wish we could do this every week for History."  
**Year 4 girl.**

## The Stone Age\*

**KS2** 60-90 minutes

By handling flint tools and looking at a mammoth's tooth the children find out about the Stone Age and the role archaeology has to play in telling us about the past.

"Really enjoyable session. The children were engaged throughout and talked about it all afternoon. Timings were excellent."  
**Year 3/4 teacher.**

## Design a tour

**KS2/3** 120 minutes

Starting with a discussion on what makes a good museum tour, your class will explore the permanent exhibition to source the material for a tour that they will present to museum staff for certification.

**Museum only.**





## Resource packs

We also have a small selection of resource packs. They are available to buy for a small charge of £15 per pack.

"The pack contained very detailed information and was well priced."  
Year 3 teacher.



"The loan box was fantastic, it really inspired the children and brought the topic to life. They loved looking at the objects and trying on the helmets!"  
Year 5 teacher.

## Loan boxes

We have a small selection of loan boxes containing replica and/or real objects. They are available to borrow for three weeks and need to be collected and returned by the school. There is a small charge of £15 per box which must be made before or on collection.



"The museum trails were fabulous!"  
KS1 teacher.

## Museum visit

It is free to visit the museum and activity trails can be provided. Most activity trails are available free-of-charge and it is possible to borrow pencils and clipboards from the museum. If given enough advance notice, the Learning and Participation Officer is able to tailor-make trails to fit your topic. There is usually no charge for this service. The museum encourages schools to visit on Mondays and Tuesdays when it is closed to the public; all museum visits must be booked in advance with the Learning and Participation Officer.

The permanent exhibition, Lives and Landscapes, tells the story of West Berkshire in chronological order, from its geological beginnings and the start of human history to more recent times; it is located in the four rooms on the ground floor of the Corn Stores.

Upstairs, in the Corn Stores, there is a community gallery (room 5) and five rooms of special exhibitions, and the Cloth Hall (also upstairs) contains the story of the two historic buildings that make up the museum. The Long Room (downstairs) is the learning and community space.

If there is a topic you are studying then please ask the Learning and Participation Officer if there is an exhibition or museum learning resource that will support it.



"The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip. One said it was 'the best trip ever!'"  
Year 3/4 teacher.

"The museum staff were very welcoming, patient and helpful – their passion for the exhibits and what you can learn from them is infectious!"  
KS1 teacher.



## Contact details

For more information about anything mentioned in the brochure, please contact:  
Clare Bromley (Ms), Learning & Participation Officer, West Berkshire Museum, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS.  
Telephone: (01635) 519562. Email: [clare.bromley@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:clare.bromley@westberks.gov.uk)