

# WEST BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

Schools Newsletter | February-March 2023

The new term is underway and you are possibly thinking of activities for the spring and summer.

It is **\*free\*** to do a self-led visit of the museum galleries (see current exhibitions, right) and we can also provide the required number of museum trails free-of-charge as well as lend you clipboards and pencils for your visit. Here's the **Focus on Thatcham** museum trail to tie-in with the special exhibition:



You can often combine a free gallery visit with one of our led museum sessions (please see the attached brochure) and most can also be delivered in school (£45 per session).

## **\*NEW\*** museum artefact loan box

West Berkshire Museum has a small collection of museum artefact loan boxes, containing a selection of real and/or replica objects on a theme as well as a set of laminated teachers' notes.

Whether you regularly borrow a box or have never done so before, I hope that you will be interested in the **\*new\*** museum artefact loan box, **Fleece, Fame and Fortune**, which looks at the local cloth trade, the Winchcombes and the Newbury Coat. The box even includes a child's size replica of the Newbury Coat as well as a selection of objects themed around cloth making. There is also a laminated resource pack and teachers' notes.

A museum artefact loan box can be borrowed by a school for up to three weeks for £15 and must be collected and returned from/to the Museum by a school representative. For more information on borrowing this box or another, please see the attached FAQ leaflet and/or contact Clare.

## Current exhibitions

**Special exhibition: House of Toomer.** An exploration of the families associated with this shop.

**Special exhibition: Focus on Thatcham.** An exploration of the history of this parish over two galleries.

**Special exhibition: The Age of Dinosaurs.** An exploration of the Mesozoic era. Ends late April 2023.

**Special exhibition: Hope and Pride.** Exploring how UK Pride started & the events that have led to social and political change.

**Permanent exhibition: Lives and Landscapes.** The story of West Berkshire.



Image: A pair of carders. One of the objects in the new Fleece, Fame and Fortune museum artefact loan box. Available to borrow now!

**To find out more about booking a visit to the Museum and/or an outreach session:**

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