

Cogges Manor Farm Museum

Information for Teachers

INTRODUCTION

Cogges Manor Farm Museum is a living history museum which recreates rural life in 19th century Oxfordshire. Costumed interpreters go about their daily business as dairy maids, farm hands and maids in the Manor Farm House, furnished as it would have been in Victorian times. There is also a walled kitchen garden where the Museum Gardener grows traditional vegetables and fruits popular in Victorian times, and which are still prepared and cooked today in the farmhouse kitchen. The Museum also includes a working Victorian farm with period farm buildings including a working dairy. The farm is stocked with traditional breeds of animals including pigs, sheep, cattle and working horses. There are daily demonstrations of farm work and domestic work in the Manor Farm House. There is also a traditional orchard and both a riverside walk and woodland to be explored.

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL VISITS

A school visit to Cogges Manor Farm Museum is most suitable for children studying at Key Stages 1 and 2. We recommend that school teachers planning a visit aim to arrive for 10.30am when the Museum opens, and stay until approximately 2pm.

On arrival groups are met by a costumed member of staff who will give each group a short welcome talk to introduce them to the Museum. This talk will include general orientation, an outline of facilities available, details of lunch times and times allocated for a visit to the Museum's shop (these are run at timed intervals to avoid overcrowding) as well as basic health and safety information (Tel: 01993 772602 for additional information sheets).

A visit to the Museum can complement a number of cross curricular studies,

as well as relating to specific history, science or geography topics. These include: Houses and Homes, Our Local Area, Toys, Childhood, food and Farming, Ourselves and Animals (KS1), Victorian Life, Childhood in Victorian Britain and Tudor Life (KS2). Specific sessions led by one of a team of experienced costumed education facilitators can be booked as part of a visit. These sessions last 30-45 minutes and focus on a number of different aspects of life at Cogges Manor Farm. We recommend that each child take part in one of these sessions during their visit to the Museum (Tel: 01993 772602 for further information).

RESOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

From 2007 STORY BAGS and ACTIVITY BOXES will be available for hire as part of your visit.

Story bags

Include a guide around the farmyard, riverside/woodland and Kitchen Garden using traditional tales, nursery rhymes and songs. Story bags contain:

- Walk outline and map
- Story skeletons
- Copies of rhymes and songs
- Animal puppets and masks

Story walks are ideal for children studying at KS1, early years, or pre-school level encouraging listening and speaking skills and developing awareness of traditional tales and nursery rhymes.

Hire cost per bag per day: £3 (must be booked in advance).

Activity Boxes

Toys and Games: contain a selection of replica toys and games. These can be used as a self led activity as part of your visit. This box is ideal for children studying 'Children in Victorian Britain'.

Tudor Craft box: This box links to the Tudor Garden session it contains selection of activities including a Tudor Game, make a Tussie Mussie, Quill pens and ink and Illuminated Lettering. Ideal for children studying 'Tudor Life'

Hire cost per box: £3 (must be booked in advance).

The development of Activity boxes was supported by West Oxfordshire District Council Heritage grant.

In addition there are some detailed information sheets about the various aspects of the Museum e.g. the Manor House, natural environment, farm buildings and Victorian domestic service. These can be used for follow up work and can be purchased from the Museum during your visit.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Advanced booking is essential. Please telephone the Museum on 01993 772602 for further information or to make a booking.

Opening Hours

The Museum is open from Easter to October, Tuesday – Friday from 10.30am to 5.30pm, last admissions at 4.30pm (early closing at 4pm in October). It is also possible to book a school visit in March and November, but additional restrictions will apply (telephone for further details).

Admission Costs

Adult £5.70, Concession £3.85, Child £2.45 plus £1.50 per topic-based session (plus £2 per child for the Victorian Childhood sessions). The admission cost includes free use of the hand held interpretative audio guide, which must be booked in advance by groups.

Payment

School groups are asked to pay on the day of their visit by cheque. The Museum is not able to issue invoices. In the event of an incorrect or late payment, an administration fee of £15 will be charged.

Cancellation

In the event of cancellation within 21 days of the original booking, a charge will be made to the school.

School Lunchboxes

Lunchboxes can be provided as part of your visit. These must be booked in advance. The special price for this is £2.50 per box. We can provide a healthy

option to complement your visit. Please ring 01993 772602 to make arrangements.

Ice-creams

Ice-creams for each child can be provided on request. These must be booked in advance.

Party Size

The average group size is 60. Larger and smaller groups can also be accommodated. The Museum can accommodate up to 180 children on one day.

Staff Ratio

We recommend a ratio of one adult for every five children in the group. More adults are recommended for younger children or those with learning difficulties. We admit one adult free for every five children visiting in a pre-booked group.

Visit Planning

Advance planning visits for teachers are free on presentation of a letter of confirmation of your booking. These visits must be made during normal Museum opening hours. We strongly recommend a planning visit as it will enable you to make the best use of the site on the day, as well as helping you to prepare the children in advance of their visit.

FACILITIES

The Museum has a range of facilities available for visiting groups of school children including:

- Free advance visits for teachers
- Free coach and car parking
- Tea Room
- Orchard picnic area and wet weather alternative for lunchtimes
- Gift Shop: We are delighted to welcome school groups to visit the well stocked Gift Shop, which offers a large selection of educational and themed products. Shop visits must be booked in advance and you will be allowed exclusive access to the shop.
- Goodie bags: If time is limited we can organise goodie bags for each child to your specified budget. These must be ordered in advance of your visit.
- Education Gift Packs to complement Victorian or Tudor Studies can be purchased at the gift shop.
- Partial access is available for disabled visitors. The floors of the traditional buildings and surface in the farmyard are uneven and hard to traverse but a site map with recommended route for disabled visitors is available on request. A wheelchair is available to book in advance. We regret that there is no wheelchair access to the first floor of the Manor House.
- Free traditional toy and games boxes for use in lunchtimes (book in advance).
- Clipboards are available to book in advance.
- Interpretative Audio Guide (free but must be booked in advance).
- Children's Activity Room: Replica costume for dressing up, replica toys and games to play with. Supported by West Oxfordshire District Council Heritage grant.

HEALTH & SAFETY

As a working Victorian farm there are a number of health & safety issues to be considered when organising a school visit to the Museum.

The Museum expects children to be supervised by accompanying adults at all times to ensure that they do not climb on the displays, handle objects on display, touch or feed the animals.

Staff who are qualified First Aiders are on duty at all times, and First Aid supplies are to hand in a number of different areas of the site to ensure that any accidents or minor injuries can be tended to quickly and efficiently.

The Museum operates an industry approved fire evacuation procedure in the event of an emergency on site. Fire equipment is regularly tested and practice evacuations are routine.

A detailed HSE information sheet on school visits to a working farm is available on request as are Oxfordshire County Council's guidelines for a safe visit to Cogges Manor Farm Museum. To request a copy of either please ring 01993 772602.

EDUCATION SESSIONS FOR KEY STAGES 1 & 2

Please note that some rooms will be out of use at certain times during the day due to pre booked sessions. Facilitated sessions that include practical demonstrations and tasks that complement study areas of the National Curriculum include:

‘Victorian Domestic life’ or ‘Houses and Homes’

Victorian Cooking: Learn about the kitchen, cooking and kitchen objects (using an authentic handling collection) in our period Victorian kitchen. Watch as the maid cooks traditional griddle cakes on the range, and taste biscuits.

The Old Fashioned Laundry: Learn about washing the way great granny did it with hands-on activities using a dolly peg and mangle. A ‘then and now’ comparison to stimulate appreciation of change through a familiar task.

Bootboys & Scullery Maids: A hands-on / interactive session where children learn about and participate in different aspects of domestic service whilst role playing life as a boot boy and Scullery maid.

Upstairs Downstairs: A hands-on / interactive session where children learn about and act out the roles of servants and their masters. Focusing on the differences between rich and poor Victorian. KS2 suitability only

Victorian Clothes – Rich and Poor: A chance to dress up in replica costume and learn more about the clothes rich and poor children wore in Victorian times. Discussion will focus on materials used and layers, including a full set of girls’ undergarments.

Victorian Schooldays and Toys: Learn how Victorian children learnt their lessons, enjoy a costumed role-play school lesson and play with replica toys.

KS1 History, Unit 2 “What can we find out about Victorian and Edwardian

times from looking at household objects?"; "How were homes long ago different from today? KS1 History, Unit 1 "How are toys different from those in the past?"

KS2 History, Unit 11 "What was it like for children living in Victorian times?"

'Food and Farming'

Butter-making: Demonstration of butter-making using traditional methods with some hands-on activities including skimming cream and shaping butter in a Victorian Dairy furnished with period objects.

Hand-milking: Watch as the cow is milked by hand, help skim cream in the Dairy and learn all about the use of milk and cream as well as the life and work of the Dairy Maids on a Victorian farm.

KS1 & 2 Geography, Unit 1 "Around our school – the local area"

KS2 History, Unit 18 "What was it like to live here in the past?"

Herbs in the Garden: learn about and explore the walled garden focussing on identifying drawing and smelling herbs, followed by a chance to use pestles and mortars to grind spices and release smells. Learn more about what either the Tudors or Victorians used herbs for. (Can be used in conjunction with hiring the Tudor Craft box)

KS2 History unit 8 'What were the differences between the lives of rich and poor Tudors?' History unit 18 'What as it like to live here in the past?'

In addition Cogges Manor Farm Museum is open for schools wanting a self-led visit and is the ideal environment for cross curricular studies.

HIGHER EDUCATION

In addition to the specific sessions detailed above, for children studying at Key Stages 1 & 2, the beauty of the built and natural environment and rich

architectural heritage of the museum site can be used as case studies or subject matter for higher education and adult learners studying architecture, or art and design.

FAMILY LEARNING

Alongside its formal education programme the Museum has a strong commitment to lifelong and family learning. It offers a busy programme of family friendly events and activities including:

- Daily demonstrations of farm tasks and domestic duties in the Manor House
- Regular craft demonstrations throughout the week
- Specific family-focused theme weekend events with a range of activities to suit all ages
- Bookable workshops (Tuesdays during school holidays)
- Regular animal handling sessions such as cuddling a bunny or holding a duckling
- Drop-in family craft (Friday afternoons during school holidays)
- A range of hands-on activities such as corn dolly or peg dolly making
- Story reading sessions
- Dressing up and replica toys every day in the children's activity room
- Free activity and colouring sheets
- Family trails

For further information or a copy of our latest information leaflet and events listing, please call the Museum on 01993 772602.