

Leicestershire & Rutland Heritage Forum Schools Learning Booklet



Introduction

This learning brochure has been designed with teachers in mind.

Our aim is to inform you of the quality learning opportunities that exist within the museums and heritage sites of North West Leicestershire (NWL) and the brilliant resources that are available to teachers, all within a few miles of your school.

The eight diverse museums and heritage groups featured in this brochure have unique sites, buildings, displays and collections that can help teachers to deliver excellent learning outside the classroom; engaging young people with their local history and environment as well as making links to other National Curriculum subjects.

Museums and Heritage sites in NWL are looking forward to working with you and your students in learning how your local communities and landscapes have been shaped during Saxon, Viking, Norman, Tudor, or Victorian times, through Civil and World Wars or by agriculture, industry, and natural history. We offer site and village trails, research support or facilities while some sites have access to computer suites.

Our museums and sites can also offer resources and activities to assist young people to explore core subjects of Science, Technology, English and Maths, in new and inspiring settings, as well as activities encouraging creativity, teamwork, self-esteem and SMSC development.

Please take this opportunity to see what is available in North West Leicestershire. We look forward to welcoming you and your students.

If you are interested in visiting any of the sites listed in this brochure please contact them directly.

Janet Slatter, Chairman Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Forum

Leicestershire & Rutland Heritage Forum has members, who offer similar learning opportunities, elsewhere in Leicestershire, Rutland and Leicester City so visit our website www.lrhf.co.uk or contact Janet Slatter at chairman@lrhf.org.uk to find out more.

If you have the time we would be interested in your feedback about this brochure (contact as above).

Did it help you with your planning? If not what other information do you need so that we can improve later editions to help you in the future?

Ashby Museum

Ashby Museum was established in 1982 and, nine years later, relocated to its present home in North Street, where it shares the old National School building with the town Library and Tourist Information Centre.

In 2006–7, thanks to a major Heritage Lottery Fund Grant, a two-storey extension was added. It is a Registered Charity and is run by a group of trustees supported by around 70 volunteers.

It won Museum of the Year in Leicestershire in July 2007 and again in July 2010. It works closely with the county Museum Service and other independent museums in the area, sharing expertise and artefacts.

Fundamental to its success has been the 30 year-long partnership with Ashby Town Council, both financial and social. The council's consistent support ensures the museum can plan ahead, knowing its future is secure.

Local Heroes

Lt Col Philip Bent, a pupil at Ashby Grammar School between 1904 and 1907, was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, dying in October 1917 fighting with the Leicestershire Regiment, during the Passchendaele campaign in Belgium.

Dolly Shepherd (1887–1983), the notable aviatrix, made her return to parachuting from balloons in a display at Ashby, after recovering from a potentially fatal accident.



Support for schools at Ashby Museum

Workshops

- World War I & II
- The English Civil War
- Victorian Children
- Behind the scenes at the Museum
- Ashby Then And Now (maps and photographs new and old)
- Toys Old And New

(other sessions can be tailored to suit you and your children)

Loan boxes available include

- 17th Century objects and children's costumes
- The Victorians
- World War II

School visits

Guided walks

Research facilities for local and family historians

Publications

Monthly Kids' Club & holiday activities for children and young people

North St, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 1HU
www.ashbydelazouchmuseum.org.uk Tel: 01530 560090

Castle Donington Museum



Support for schools at Castle Donington Museum

We are a local history museum covering the villages of Castle Donington and Hemington-cum-Lockington. We mount a new exhibition each year from Easter until the end of September, to illustrate some part of our long and eventful past. Our Schools offer includes:

- Free admission
- Local school visits
- Handling boxes
- Help with research and projects
- Village walks
- Local history exhibition

Castle Donington Museum occupies part of a 17th century farmhouse in the medieval centre of the village.

Archaeological evidence has been found of ancient settlement in the river valley before the Saxon era. The Normans later developed a medieval street plan and built a castle, a parish church and a hospital.

Castle Donington is easy to find being at the heart of the road systems of M1, A50, A42 and A6. There are regular bus services with Leicester, Derby and Nottingham.

The museum has published information leaflets including a walk around the ancient parts of the village, giving information on the site of the castle and hospital, as well as later architecture within the village.

Local Heroes

Wing Leader, later **Air Vice Marshall 'Johnny' Johnson**, son of the local policeman who was credited with the highest number of enemy aircraft destroyed during WWII.

Francis, 1st Marquis of Hastings, 1st Lord Moira, served as Governor General of India from 1813 to 1823.

Gunther Pluschau, prisoner of war at Donington Hall in WWI was the only prisoner of that war to escape from captivity and reach Germany, where he became a national hero.



Stone House, 4 Apiary Gate Castle Donington DE74 2JA
www.castledoningtonmuseum.org Tel: 01332 812711

Diseworth Heritage Centre

Diseworth Heritage Centre is a fully restored, 18th century Baptist chapel in the heart of the historic village, close to the 1000 year old parish church.

The centre is an ideal base from which to explore the Roman, Viking, Tudor, Victorian and First World War history of the village and surrounding areas. We are set up to host school groups of up to 30 with accessible toilets, kitchen facilities and space for lunch, including outside space when the weather is good.

Visitors can also use our suite of seven computers to help students with their projects, research and independent study.

There are good road links to Diseworth via the M1 and the A42. A regular bus service from Leicester, East Midlands Airport and Derby runs through Diseworth.

Local Heroes

William Lilly was born in Diseworth in 1602, son of a local farmer – his house still stands. William walked to London to seek his fortune and became a famous astrologer, sometimes called the 'English Merlin'.

Margaret Beaufort was brought up in Diseworth. Known for her independence, education and piety, Margaret was mother to Henry Tudor who defeated Richard III at Bosworth Field in Leicestershire.



Support for schools at Diseworth Heritage Centre

We can offer schools a range of resources and activities to support learning in history - including local history studies – as well as other National Curriculum subjects. Get in touch if you'd like to discuss your needs or project ideas:

- 250 year old restored Baptist chapel
- Village trail
- Church trail
- Local history exhibitions (farming, houses through the ages, local industry)
- Computer suite
- On-site activities and outreach resources for use in schools
- Churchyard histories
- Dedicated volunteers

Lady Gate, Diseworth, DE74 2QF
www.diseworthcentre.org Tel: 01332 853647

Friends of Grace Dieu Priory



Support for schools at Grace Dieu Priory

We are always working to expand our offer to school groups and are happy to visit schools to prepare students for their visit; our knowledgeable volunteer guides are available to escort students and answer their questions about the priory, its history and the people who lived here:

- Free admission
- Displays
- Archaeology
- Objects to handle
- Medieval life
- Dissolution of the monasteries and Tudor history

As well as History resources, we can offer schools an inspiring environment for their visit:

- Natural history
- Wild life pond and woods (SSSI)

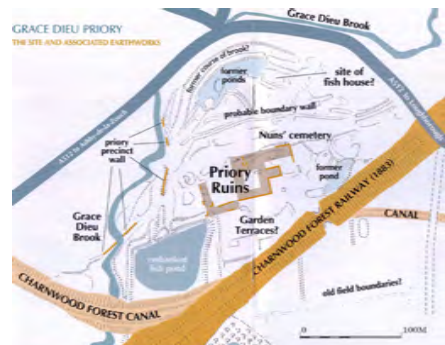
The Priory of Grace Dieu offers a glimpse back to a medieval age and offers schools an atmospheric venue for local history study and creative activities.

Founded in about 1235, it soon became home to 16 nuns and had a hospital for 12 poor people attached. In 1538 in the reign of Henry VIII the Priory was 'dissolved' and the land and income went to the King, to be sold off or granted to powerful people.

The Priory is home to the White Lady, a mythical ghost that has been allegedly sighted regularly since 1926. The priory is close to a standing stone, hinting that the site may have had spiritual significance since early times.

The Priory is situated on the A512 approximately 3.5 miles west from M1 J23 – Arriva bus 126 passes the Priory. Car parking and a wheelchair accessible path are available at the Bull's Head, Thringstone.

Free admission. Accessible



Local Hero

The Priory was founded by **Rose de Verdon**, daughter of a local landowner. Rose was buried in the priory chapel, and later records state that an annual sum of 12d was set aside to maintain a light shining on the tomb. The tomb and effigy were later removed, possibly at the Dissolution, to the parish church of Belton, where it can still be seen today.

1 Sadlers Wells, Belton, LE67 8LR
www.gracedieupriory.org.uk Tel: 01530 223 201



Kegworth Village Association and Museum

The Kegworth Village Association was formed in 1971. We opened our museum in 1992, housed in a 19th Century barn on Kegworth High Street.

Kegworth is located off the A6 and close to Junction 24 of the M1. Our dedicated team of volunteers are here to help your school to:

- explore our objects and displays
- handle historic kitchen utensils and toys from yesteryear
- borrow our resources for use in the classroom
- browse our local records

We look forward to seeing you and your students in Kegworth.

Local Heroes

In April 1943, the Roper family from Borough Street gained a lot of attention in the press due to having six family members serving in the armed forces: Fred, Leslie, Sam, Harry, Frank and Charles.

There were also seven Roper daughters: Maurine, Beatrice, Ethel, Mabel, Mary, Sheila and Peggy.



Support for schools at Kegworth Museum

Kegworth Museum has a rich offer for teachers and students that includes:

- Interior of a typical Kegworth Cottage including kitchen and laundry equipment
- Carnival memorabilia
- Jewellery and other artefacts as used by a typical Kegworth lady from the early 1900's
- Kegworth education from the Elizabeth 1st Grammar School to the opening of the present school in 1939
- WWI and WWII artefacts
- Slideshows
- Toys
- Local heritage packs

We've always had an emphasis on team working and collaboration — please get in touch to discuss your students' needs and how we can help you plan a creative, fun learning visit.

52 High St, Kegworth, Derbyshire DE74 2DA
Tel: 01509 670137

Moira Furnace Museum



Support for schools at Moira Furnace Museum

The Moira Furnace site offers a wealth of activities for schools and helps meet National Curriculum requirements in History, Science, Geography, Literacy and Numeracy.

The museum has been designed to show how science and industry have shaped the local landscape and the lives of local people. Its resources offer a range of experiences for children at all key stages.

The museum also offers a number of activities that can be combined with the museum experience to provide a full day of educational value. These include:

- Victorian washday and games
- Soap making
- Historic boat trips

Furnace Lane, Moira, Swadlingcote, DE12 6AT
www.moirafurnace.org
Tel: 01283 224667/07976 637858

It all started in 1789 when Francis Rawdon Hastings, later the 2nd Earl of Moira, inherited land in the Ashby Woulds.

His inheritance was a rural backwater used for hunting, fishing and grazing. Recognising the potential of the area's coal and iron ore deposits he soon began a programme of development.

In 1804 the first coal mine was sunk, a lime kiln built and construction started on the iron-making blast furnace. The furnace had only a short working life and was soon converted to housing for mine workers and their families. In the 1970s the final residents moved out of the furnace buildings; the site now is an evocative reminder of a bygone age of industry.

We are right next to the beautiful Ashby canal in the middle of a country park, between the A444 and the A42.

Our education brochure is available to download from the website.



Local Hero

Moira's name is derived from the Irish earldom of Moira, one of the titles of **The Hastings Family**, which held Ashby de la Zouch Castle.

The former local colliery, Rawdon Colliery, also bore a Hastings family name.



Sir John Moore Foundation

The Sir John Moore Foundation and its Grade I listed building, provide support and a home for the local primary school as well as for community and heritage events and activities.

We work in four areas:

- Heritage & conservation
- Learning for all
- Community & social wellbeing
- Enterprise & innovation

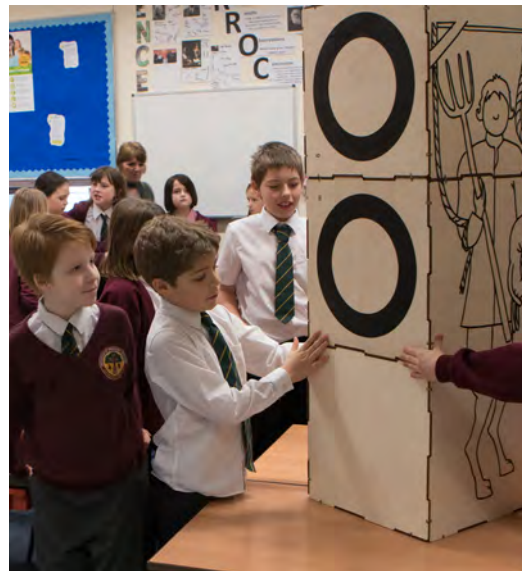
We offer a diverse programme of events and activities and innovative use of the buildings and grounds.

Come and experience Guineas (the coffee shop), the SJM gallery, and the community rooms. You can even get married here, live here or run your business from one of the four offices. Check out our website for more details.



Local Heroes

Sir John Moore was a local entrepreneur who became Lord Mayor of London. He commissioned Christopher Wren to create a school for his local village



Support for schools at Sir John Moore Foundation

Using our unique heritage spaces, you can become detectives for the morning and use all of your senses to explore the grounds and discover who our 5 local heroes are, what their story is and which British Value they represent. Playing games along the way, your new skills will enable you to discover who your own local hero could be when you return to school.

During the afternoon why not have a go at making props and setting up a museum scene, plus we have a unique 'Science of Heritage Lab' where you can find out how to look after historic items so they can last for future generations. All our activities are firmly embedded in the National Curriculum.

We can come to your School with our resident artist and create a mural or a sculpture based on your values and ethos working with a group, a class or the whole school.

Key features:

- Interactive garden
- Heritage games
- British Values
- Local Heroes
- Science of Heritage Lab
- Poetry

Activities can be outreach and they are suitable for learners of all abilities and styles.

101 Top Street, Appleby Magna, Derbyshire, DE12 7AH
www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk Tel: 01530 273629

Swannington Heritage Trust Museum

Support for schools at Swannington Heritage Trust Museum

HOUGH MILL TOUR

Explore a 200 year old brick tower mill and learn how grain was milled into flour. Touch the machines, hand grind your own flour and realise that history is fun.

MATHS AT THE MILL

Become a Miller's Apprentice and help the miller:

- Weigh sacks of grain and flour.
- Measure the mill stones and milling equipment.

COAL MINING TRAIL

Literally touch and feel the history as you explore through the centuries and learn of the wider historical context:

- King John and Magna Carta - the age of Bell Pits when families descended 30 feet (9metres) to mine the coal.
- King Richard III - horse powered Gin Pits enabled miners to descend to 150 feet (46 metres).
- King George I - Newcomen's atmospheric engines pumped water out of deeper mines.
- Queen Victoria - during the Crimean War, steam power was used at the Califat mine.

MATHS AT THE MINE

Become a Mining Surveyor at the coal mines:

- Measure the mine buildings
- Calculate how far the gin pit horse walked in a day.

Hough Mill, St George's Hill, Swannington, LE67 8QW
chairman@swannington-heritage.co.uk Tel: 01530 222 833
Facebook: Hough Mill

All schools are invited to enjoy hands on learning and explore Swannington's exciting heritage comprising:

- Hough Mill - transformed from a derelict shell in 1994 into a great building to find out about milling flour. Meet Teddy Miller and his family. Make wooden spoon dolls based on Swannington's former residents, many of whom came from other Leicestershire villages.
- Gorse Field - hundreds of years of coal mining from surface coal to bell pits and gin pits. Enjoy the grass heathland while seeing the bumps and depressions that reflect its history.
- Califat Spinney - an ongoing excavation of the crimean war era 1850's coal mine, set in an unusual woodland with wild flowers.
- Swannington Incline - the western end of Robert Stephenson's 1832 Leicester and Swannington Railway.

Download our Schools and Youth Groups brochure from the publications page of our website. Teachers are invited to previsit our sites so that we can tailor a visit to your curriculum requirements.



Local Heroes

William Wyggeston bought the manor of Swannington in 1520 to finance his hospital.

Robert Stephenson built the first railway in the English Midlands.

Joe Bradford scored 247 goals for Birmingham City.



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