

Schools Programme

2016/17

ABINGDON
COUNTY HALL



MUSEUM



LOTTERY FUNDED



Vale
of White Horse
District Council



A service provided by
Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
www.abingdon.gov.uk

Welcome to Abingdon County Hall Museum

Abingdon's history stretches back over hundreds of thousands of years, and we have a strong claim to be England's oldest continually inhabited town. A visit to our galleries will take your pupils on a journey from prehistoric times to the present day.

With an extensive range of artefacts for handling, costumes, and displays available we can help support learning in a creative and interactive way. Our free teacher-led activities and workshops cater for all age groups, including SEN and Foundation Stage learners.



Anglo-Saxon earth
pot c. 850 found in
Abingdon.

DID YOU KNOW?

Abingdon is one of the oldest continually inhabited towns in the UK, making it a place of cultural and historical importance.

The perfect place for local history studies

Abingdon Before the Abbey

Examine our oldest artefacts as we discover life in Abingdon from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

With a large and varied collection of social history and a surprising collection of natural archaeology, the museum can provide a number of tailored and 'ready-to-go' workshops that interpret the local history of Abingdon. Schools in the South Oxfordshire region and beyond can benefit from this topical diversity, for example by discovering how an ancient market town develops, through looking at Abingdon's history from the Stone Age to MG cars.

Toy Box


Look at our range of toys to see how they have changed over time, and enjoy playing some traditional toys and games.

Suitable for EYs and SEN

Below Stairs, Above Stairs

Compare how servants and householders experienced life in Victorian and Edwardian homes.



A group of children and an adult are gathered around a horse, looking at it with interest. The children are smiling and appear to be in a museum or educational setting.

A place for adventures and discoveries

School groups can follow self-led town trails as well as gallery trails in the County Hall. The town offers a wealth of historic buildings and sites that allow pupils to see clearly the changes in trends in buildings and monuments throughout history. Keep an eye out for special events throughout the year that can provide an excellent addition to core curricular activities, as well as the museum's special exhibitions via our What's On brochure.

Abingdon Town Trail - exploring hundreds of years of history through buildings, sculpture and decorations.

A Monk's Life Trail - exploring the Abbey Gateway, gardens, and surviving monastic buildings.

A painting of a river landscape with a winding river, green fields, and a bridge in the distance. The painting is done in a style that uses thick, visible brushstrokes.

Messing About on the River

Discover more about the importance of the River Thames and how it has helped to shape modern Abingdon.

All Aboard!

Learn how transport has developed, from horse and carriage to trains and cars, and how this has affected life in Abingdon.

Natural and Social History in abundance

The Abingdon area was the home to Mesolithic settlers, Bronze Age and Iron Age tribes, the Romans, Saxons and Normans. As such it has a long history of trade, industry, religion and also military presence. Each topic can contribute to a broader understanding of historical studies, and can assist with shaping scientific understanding, chronology, deduction skills and analytical skills.

Anglo-Saxon Abingdon

Join us as we journey back in time to a Thane's hall in order to find out about life and culture in Anglo-Saxon times.

Life in Roman Abingdon

Experience life as a Roman and handle finds from the Roman villa at Barton Court Farm.

Hands on History

Cover Abingdon's local history by handling artefacts from the Stone Age through to the present day.

DID YOU KNOW?

The County Hall was once used as an assize court where many of the county of Berkshire's most important criminal trials took place.

Modern history and the World Wars

Learning about home life and the locality from 100 years ago shows just how much life has changed in that time. By looking at and handling items from the past, classes will learn about continuity and change, identifying uses and reasons for objects and discovering local modern history.

Abingdon at War - WW1

Discover how individual stories help us build a picture of life 100 years ago. A handling workshop with diary extracts, postcards, newspaper adverts and more.

'When the Queen came to town...'

Follow Queen Elizabeth II's footsteps and explore all that is old and new in our museum.

Suitable for EYs and SEN

Abingdon at War - WW2

Explore how life at home changed during World War II. What was it like to be an evacuee sent to Abingdon? How did businesses continue to run? And was the town ever in danger?



DID YOU KNOW?

Abingdon County Hall was used as a book depository for the National Library between 1939-1945.

Booking and Further Information

Outreach Sessions

Whilst all schools are encouraged to visit the museum, we appreciate this is not always possible. As part of our ongoing service to local schools we can provide outreach workshops free of charge to schools in the Abingdon catchment. Outreach workshops will involve object handling, games, and images to be explored from a range of topics.

Early Years and Special Educational Needs

Many of our workshops can be tailored to suit your class, with adaptable learning outcomes and levels of interactivity. Suitable workshops include, but are not limited to the following:

When the Queen came to town! / Toy Box

We also have a number of self-guided activities such as 'I Spy' cards, dice treasure hunts and themed trails.

Booking Essentials

- All workshops and outreach sessions are free.
- Teacher-led or self-led visits available.
- Please book your visit in advance by contacting our education team on 01235 523703 or museum.bookings@abingdon.gov.uk
- Coat and bag hooks are available on site.
- There is no parking at the museum - school groups must arrive by coach or on foot.
- Lunches may be taken in the museum basement during periods of bad weather, however this is limited to groups of 30 or less.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Romans built not only a grand Villa near Abingdon but also a sacred temple near Marcham!

Contact us

ABINGDON
COUNTY HALL



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Flickr: Abingdon Museum

