

Shire Hall Museum Newsletter

Welcome to your Summer edition of Shire Hall Museum's Learning newsletter!

As the school year draws to a close, we want to thank all the learners, teachers, school staff, parents, carers and everyone who has taken part in our learning sessions and events. You have helped us to develop our current sessions and piloted our new ones. So a huge thank you for making every day at Shire Hall interesting and fun!

If you haven't visited us before, we would love to welcome you to Shire Hall in the next school year. We support and enhance your teaching and learning by offering a wide range of curriculum linked sessions based on stories from our courtroom and historical events in the national and local area. All our sessions are delivered by experienced staff and volunteers using primary sources, objects, role play, creative activities and include full use of the museum, cells and courtroom. Historical enquiry, critical thinking and communication skills are at the heart of everything we do, we link to the curriculum and can cover both PSHE and SMSC topics. Do get in touch, we would love to tell you more!

Bookings are now open for the next school year, don't forget to guarantee your place early as we do book up quickly.

Finally, we are really pleased to tell you that our prices will remain the same next school year at £5 per child and all accompanying adults free of charge. For this, you get facilitated sessions and activities, resources, a guided tour and entry to the museum.

We hope you have the best Summer and look forward to seeing you in the next school year.

Anne Brown, Learning Manager

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We offer sessions & activities for schools tailored to your Key Stage and linked across the curriculum and to the PSHE, SMSC & Citizenship curricula.

Click on the links below to find out more or visit our website www.shirehalldorset.org/learn

[Early Years Foundation Stage](#)

[Key Stage 1](#)

[Key Stage 2](#)

[Key Stage 3](#)

[Key Stages 4 & 5](#)

Special Schools & SEND pupils:

Sessions & activities can be adapted with your guidance for groups with additional needs.



The Great Fire of Dorchester: Local History.

Does your class love their Great Fire of London topic?

Looking for a local history great fire story?

Shire Hall's The Great Fire of Dorchester 1613 session is ideal for YR, KS1 & 2 and works alongside your Great Fire of London teaching and learning.

With engaging role play, hands on activities, object handling, primary source work and exploration of Dorchester's historic buildings including Shire Hall's cells and courtroom, this session brings local history alive.

Can your class save the day and stop Dorchester burning down?!

Shire Hall Museum Latest news



Dorset's most famous local history: The Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Uncover and explore Dorset's most famous story of justice – and injustice – the Tolpuddle Martyrs, who were tried at Shire Hall in 1834.

Our learning session looks at their story using primary sources, object handling, role play and engaging teaching, all delivered in the spaces where these momentous historic events happened.

Why not visit Shire Hall Museum for an engaging morning of Tolpuddle Martyrs activities. Followed by lunch in our learning room then a visit to Tolpuddle, and the Old Chapel where the Martyrs and their families worshipped.

[Tolpuddle Old Chapel](#)



We were so delighted to see our Tolpuddle Martyrs session was mentioned in the very impressive Ofsted Inspection report that the Prince of Wales School, Dorchester received in March 2024.

'Pupils visit Shire Hall Courthouse Museum to enrich their knowledge about the Tolpuddle Martyrs.'

Teachers have also told us:

"Shire Hall Museum provides a unique and immersive environment for inspired learning opportunities."

"This was an absolutely fantastic afternoon, the students can't stop talking about it!"

"It was really engaging, enjoyable and educational... an incredible trip, an unforgettable one for many of the students."

To enrich your pupils knowledge and learning, visit our website or email or call our Learning Manager Anne.

Harry Parker



In 1873, after 3 months in Dorchester gaol, 7-year-old Harry Parker appeared in the dock at Shire Hall accused of setting fire to a stable in Wareham.

Our Harry Parker Case Study session is specially adapted for KS1 through to KS3. Using primary sources, lots of objects and role play, your class are encouraged to uncover and record his story, in hands-on sessions and guided tours of the cells and courtroom where Harry actually found himself in 1873. In addition, we offer the opportunity to interpret his story with courtroom re-enactment, and creative activities such as peg doll making, printing or object handling.

The Big Bad Wolf bang to rights for blowing down houses!

For your EYFS pre-school and Reception children, we have a range of traditional tale sessions.



One of our favourites is putting the Big Bad Wolf on trial in our courtroom for blowing pig's houses down! The 3 little pigs don't get off Scot free either! The Judge has a word with them for boiling wolves' tails, and points out that just because the Wolf blew their houses down, hurting him back isn't on!

We use interactive trails of the museum, cells and courtroom, objects, lots of creative activities and stories to recreate your favourite Traditional Tales. Using activities which support the EYFS curriculum Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Understanding the World goals these sessions are fun, educational and rewarding.

We also deliver Gingerbread Man, Goldilocks and Little Red Riding Hood sessions, if you have a story you would like us to deliver for your class, just let our Learning Manager Anne know!