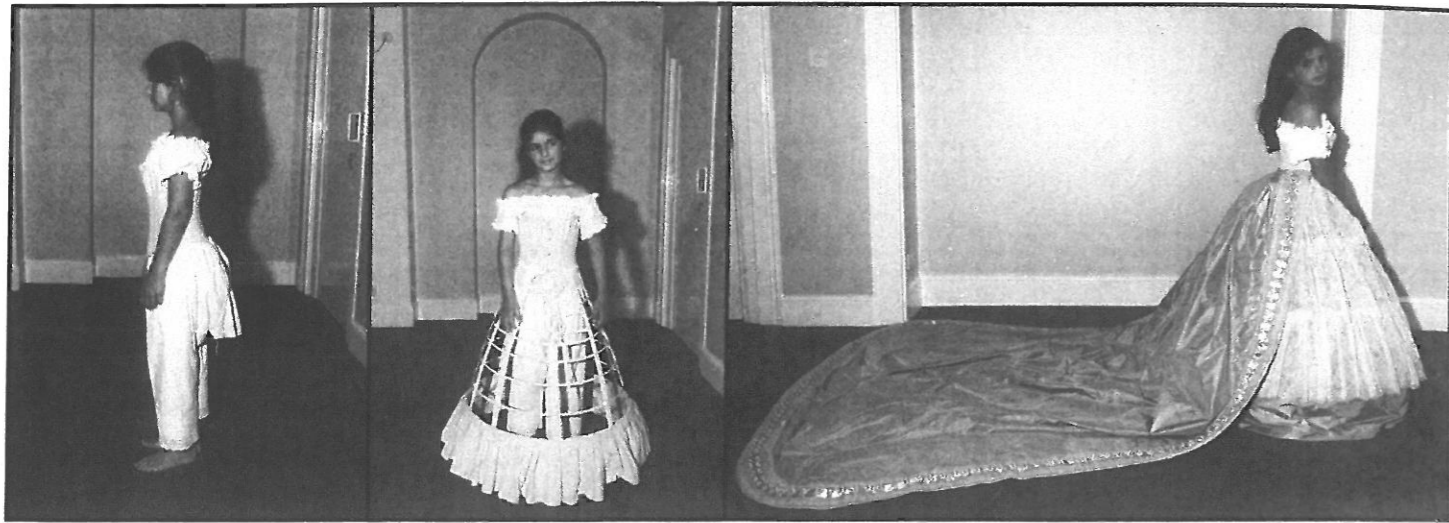


Education at the Royal Palaces 1984~87



Children at Kensington Palace trying on the costumes.

For the past three years I have been education officer for the Royal Palaces, seconded by English Heritage to the Department of the Environment who administer them. My secondment has just ended so this seems an appropriate time to review progress.

The Royal Palaces of Hampton Court, Kensington and Kew, the Banqueting House in Whitehall, and Osborne House, Queen Victoria's home on the Isle of Wight, apart from their obvious royal connections, share certain features in common. They are generally large and overwhelming yet their richness holds great attractions for children. They are often visited by schools on an annual 'outing' or by groups cramming in as many sights as possible on a school journey. My aim has been to help children focus in on the buildings and their contents.

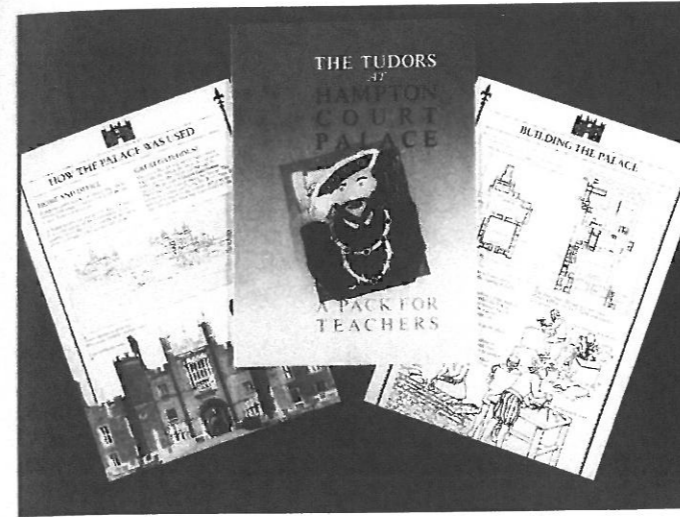
During the last three years, the Education Centres at Osborne and Kensington Palace have been opened. They are equipped to form bases for visiting classes. Both Centres have sets of Victorian costume that children may try on. At Osborne the costume is a copy of that worn by the Royal children and at Kensington it is based on elaborate court dress. Pupils can experience for themselves the constraints of walking and sitting in a crinoline or wearing knee breeches. There are also real Victorian objects for children to handle: toys and a magic lantern at Osborne, costume accessories at Kensington. Sets of notes allow teachers to prepare thoroughly in advance.

Great progress has been made with publications. The Osborne House teachers' pack stems from co-operation between a group of teachers, working at the Isle of Wight Teachers' Centre, and English Heritage. The pack is particularly useful for its combination of background information and suggestions about identifying educational aims. Five different approaches to the building are worked through from classroom preparation to completed project. *Life on a Royal Estate*, the companion document pack forms an easy introduction for primary and secondary classes to the use of documents. It comes with some suggested activities and does not depend on a visit to the site. The range of documents includes extracts from the 1851 census and a list of children in the estate school with comments on their reading and writing ability.

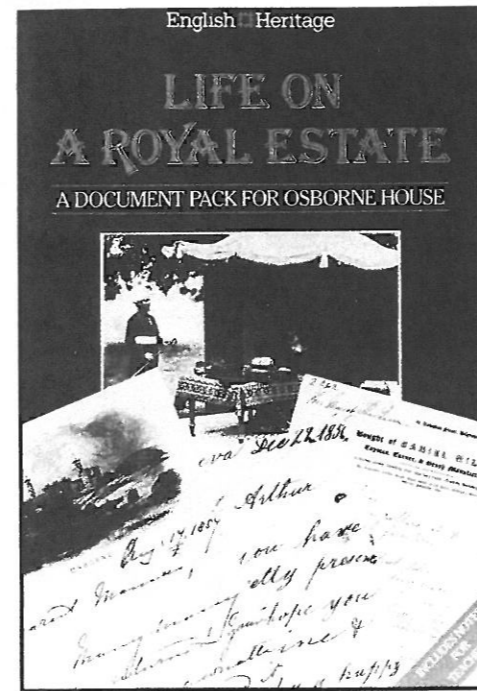
For classes making a study of the Armada and life in the sixteenth century the pack on the *Tudors at Hampton Court* by Angela Cox contains much well illustrated background material. Brian Haigh has produced a resource book on the Banqueting House that will be of use to the upper forms of a secondary school. By the time this is printed other packs should be available. Kensington Palace at the time of Queen Victoria has been covered by Vicky Wollard and Joyce Maddams of Camden Westminster Teachers' Centre has written children's and teachers' books on Kensington Gardens which combine the study of natural and social history. *Seventeenth Century London* at the time of Inigo Jones and Samuel Pepys is the subject of a trail for the middle



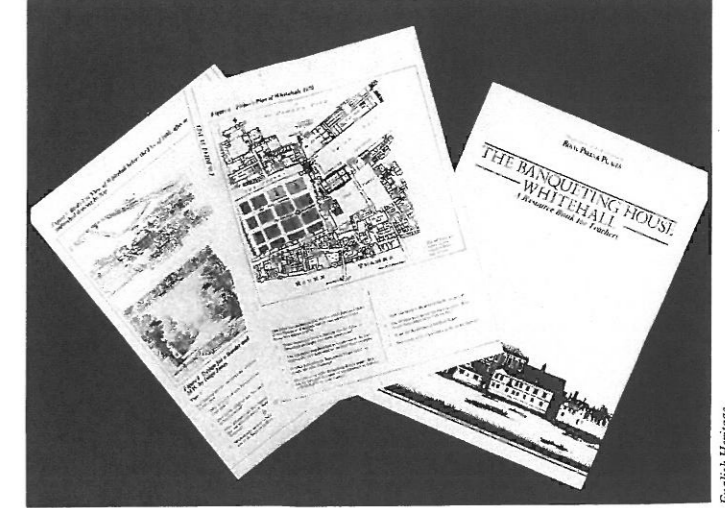
The replica costume at Kensington is based on mid-nineteenth century court dress.



The pack for Hampton Court consists of a book for teachers, eleven information sheets for children to use in class and six worksheets for use at the site.



The Osborne House Document Pack contains facsimiles and transcriptions.



The resource book on the Banqueting House contains written and visual primary sources.

school age range that starts in the Banqueting House and ends at the Tower which was written by Sue Morris from the National Portrait Gallery. Lastly there will be a full colour activity book that covers all the Royal Parks and Palaces. See *Stop Press*.

Another step forward has been the production of a video on *The Tudor Palace of Hampton Court*. In order to distribute this as widely as possible it has been offered on long-term loan to all the LEAs in Greater London as well as being on sale from the Palace. If your LEA does not have a loan copy and would like one please ask the organiser of your LEA film library to contact us.

The new technology has also been put to use. Booking forms for free visits, information sheets about each of the Palaces and order forms for all the DOE packs are now on NERIS. For those of you who have not been reading your TES with sufficient attention this stands for National Education Resource Information Service and all secondary schools and some primary schools have the technology to print out these items using their computers. With a word processing program you can even fill in the forms before you print them out so all you have left to do is put them in an envelope and carry them to a post box.

What we need now is feedback from teachers who have used these varied facilities to help us to develop and adapt. The new Education Officer for the Palaces (except Osborne) is Rosie Barker who can be contacted at the address below or telephone 01-212 3358. Gail Durbin

Please send me further details of the following education services (tick as appropriate):

Hampton Court

The Banqueting House

Kensington Palace

Kew Palace

Name

Address.....

Please send this to Bill Addison,
Room C11/07, Department of the Environment,
2, Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, tel. 01-212 0613

For details of the Osborne House service write to Derek Lane, Osborne House, East Cowes, Isle of Wight PO32 6JY or telephone 0983 200022

Armada 1588!

Sources and resources to help you to celebrate the 400th anniversary in style.

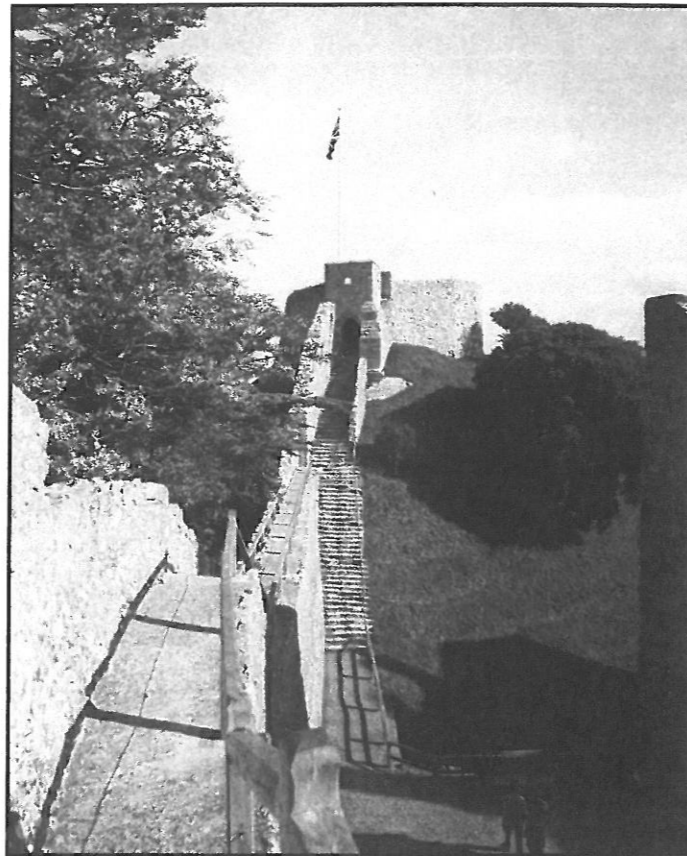
Two major exhibitions.

If you are studying the Armada you will be interested in our exhibition on life in Elizabethan England running at Tilbury Fort in Essex from 23rd March to 2nd October. Designed to look like a children's pop-up book, the exhibition includes the chance to walk down a Tudor street, to observe the battle from the deck of an English ship and to talk to a veteran of the encounter. Tilbury was the site where Elizabeth rallied her troops and the clear view across the Thames from the fort illustrates its strategic importance. What remains today is a spectacular example of seventeenth century fortification design. There is an education room equipped with a video and tape measures and compasses for work round the fort. As with all our sites, pre-booked educational parties are free.

Armada 1588-1988

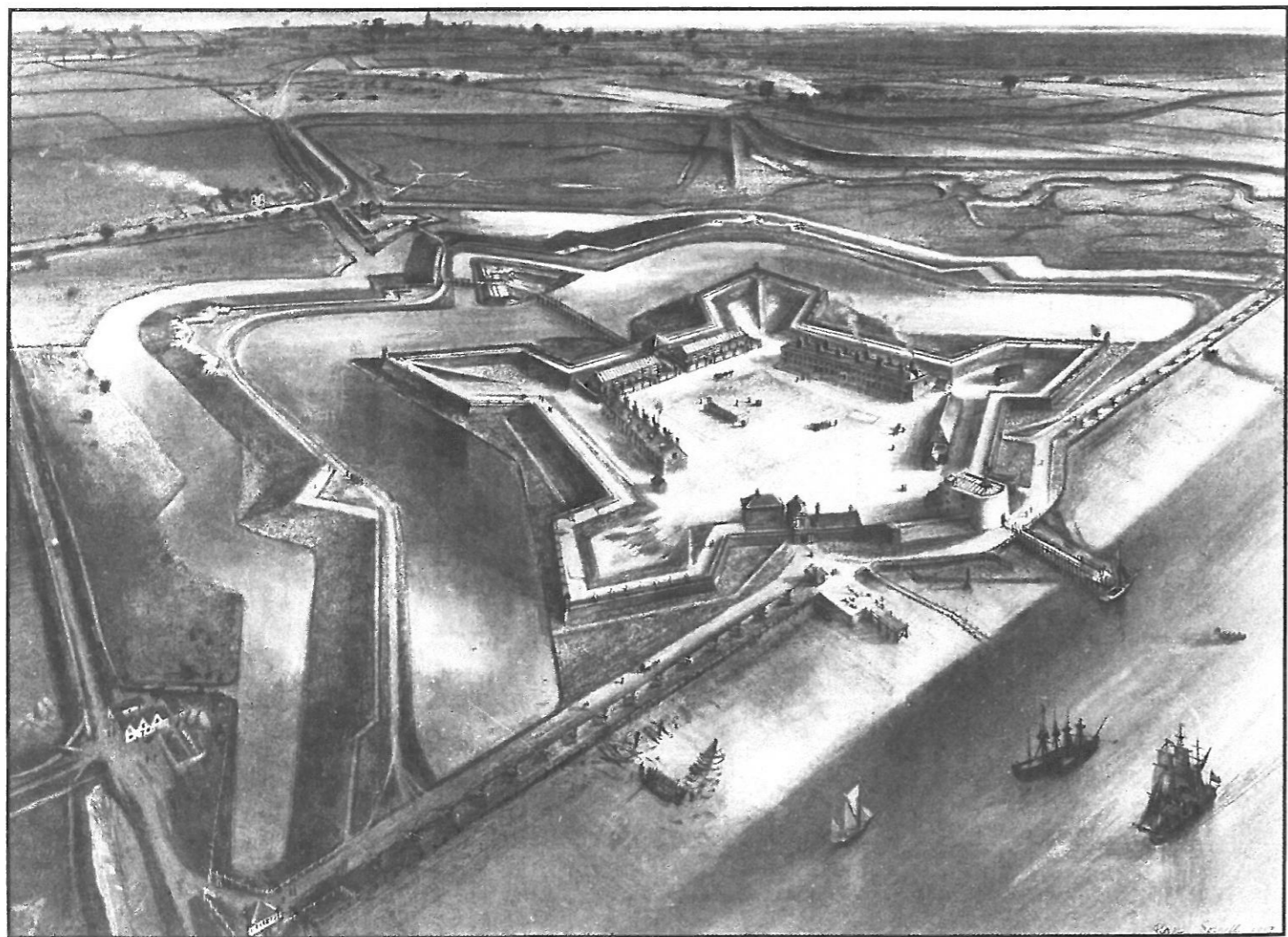
This National Maritime Museum exhibition at Greenwich will run from 20th April to 4th September 1988, after which it will travel to the Ulster Museum, Belfast where it opens from 12th October to 8th January 1989.

Armada by Dr M Rodrigues-Salgado is the Official Catalogue to the exhibition and is published by Penguin books.



Carisbrooke Castle, venue for some of our Armada Special Events.

English Heritage



Tilbury Fort, where schools can visit our major Armada exhibition.

English Heritage

Special Events to celebrate Armada 1588

Our Special Events Unit has organised an exciting programme of activities linked to the celebrations of the defeat of the Spanish Armada. These are not specifically educational projects, but are carefully devised reenactments to entertain family groups during the holidays and at weekends.

Programme

JUNE Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

25/26 Preview performances of our Armada display, appropriately given within the walls of one of Elizabeth I's favourite castles.

JULY Pendennis Castle, Cornwall

16/17 On these dates in 1588 the Armada, as yet unseen, drew closer to the shores of Cornwall. As well as enjoying our display visitors can see the new Tudor artillery tableau within the castle, featuring life-like figures manning a variety of ordnance. (Opening Spring 1988).

19 Restormel Castle, Cornwall

On the 400th anniversary of the Armada's sighting we present displays in the shadow of Restormel's imposing circular keep. In a special extension of our evening event a signal beacon will be lit, joining over 200 others all around England.

21 Totnes Castle, Devon

Displays in the heart of this historic town, upon whose river Sir Walter Raleigh learnt to sail, and where Sir Francis Drake was a frequent visitor.

23/24 Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight

Elizabethan revellers — fire-eaters, tumblers and jugglers — will join our tour for the displays at Carisbrooke, which commanded the strategically vital Isle of Wight.

26 Pevensey Castle, East Sussex

Pevensey Castle was in the front line during Roman and Norman times, in 1588 and again in 1940. Each era made its impact on the fortifications and our demi-culverin will stand within the outline of the original earthworks thrown up to resist the Duke of Parma's experienced Spanish army, had it come ashore.

28 Dover Castle, Kent

Harried by the English fleet, the Armada passed within site of Dover Castle's mighty fortifications, en route to Dunkirk. Our displays will be held on historic Palace Green, with the militia marching out from the towering Norman keep.

29 Deal and Walmer Castles, Kent

Commencing at Henry VIII's classic concentric fort at Deal, and escorted by the militia, the demi-culverin will be marched along the coast to Walmer, the steady pace maintained by accompanying musicians.

30/31 Walmer Castle, Kent

By the end of July the Armada was well and truly on the run but England still stood to arms while any threat remained. From the early eighteenth century Walmer, in the gardens of which our finale will be presented, has been the official residence of the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports, whose ships significantly contributed to victory in 1588.

Display times

Afternoon: 2.30-5.30pm weekdays; 2.30-5pm Tuesdays and Thursdays; Evenings (not Sundays) 7.30-9pm (until dark at Restormel).

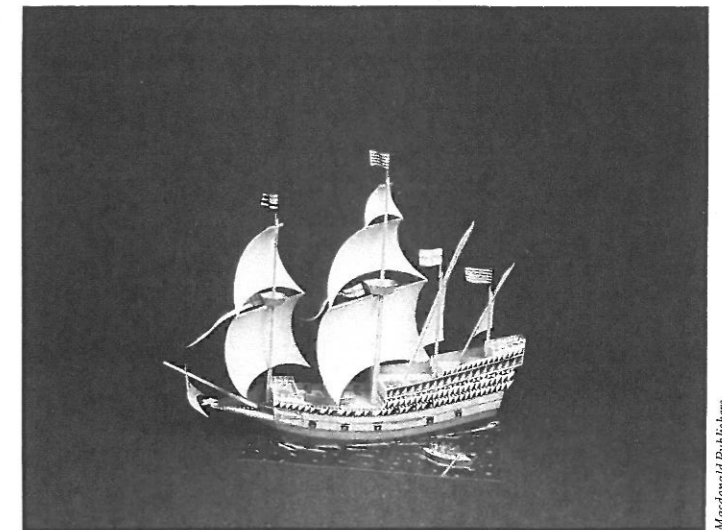
Further details

Special Events Unit, English Heritage, 15 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 1AF. Phone 01-734 6010 extn 805. Details are also available at our many other special events around England during 1988.

Admission to these events is not free, but organised groups of 11 or more will get a 15% discount on the normal entry price which varies between £1-£1.50 for children. To check on exact details contact our Special Events Unit.

Macdonald have several Armada theme publications available including:

The Spanish Armada (£6.95 hardback / £4.95 paperback) is written by David Anderson, Head of Education of the National Maritime Museum and is the official Armada book for children. Published to coincide with the 400th Anniversary of the launch of the Spanish Armada, the book sets the Armada in the broad context of 16th century Europe and relates the full story of the campaign. The author, with the help of full colour illustrations, focuses on individual items of background, the design and building of ships, what life at sea was like, navigation and how sea battles were fought. He also recounts the stories of shipwrecks suffered by the Spanish Fleet and aims to dissolve the prejudice and myth that surrounds the Armada in the final section which reveals the distortion of truth about events over the last 400 years.



Macdonald Publishers

Make a Model Galleon — £3.50. An easy to assemble, full colour model of an English galleon of the sort that helped defeat the Spanish Armada in 1588. Based on Matthew Baker's detailed and accurate drawings (the only ones that exist from this period), this is a realistic model that stands about 30cm high. Accompanying text includes illustrated information about the lives of ordinary seamen aboard ships of this period. Comprehensive instructions with the help of scissors and glue will help you create this model galleon in a matter of hours.

Battlegame Armada! — £2.99

History records a resounding defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. But suppose things had been different... *Battlegame Armada!* combines a factual account of the English victory with an intriguing board game that allows children to replay the English Channel battles.

The full colour board (320 x 470mm) reflects the realities facing the opposing sides. For example, English ships have longer range cannon, but the Spanish can fire heavier shots. Both Fleets are at the mercy of changing and unpredictable winds, though the game allows for the superior manoeuvrability of the English ships. Unlike reality, either player can win; Spain can reverse history by using new strategies, or history can repeat itself with an English victory.

The accompanying text briefly outlines naval warfare up to 1588, going on to describe the battles that culminated in the Armada's disastrous retreat home. It includes a comparison of tactics, ships, armour, and personalities on either side.

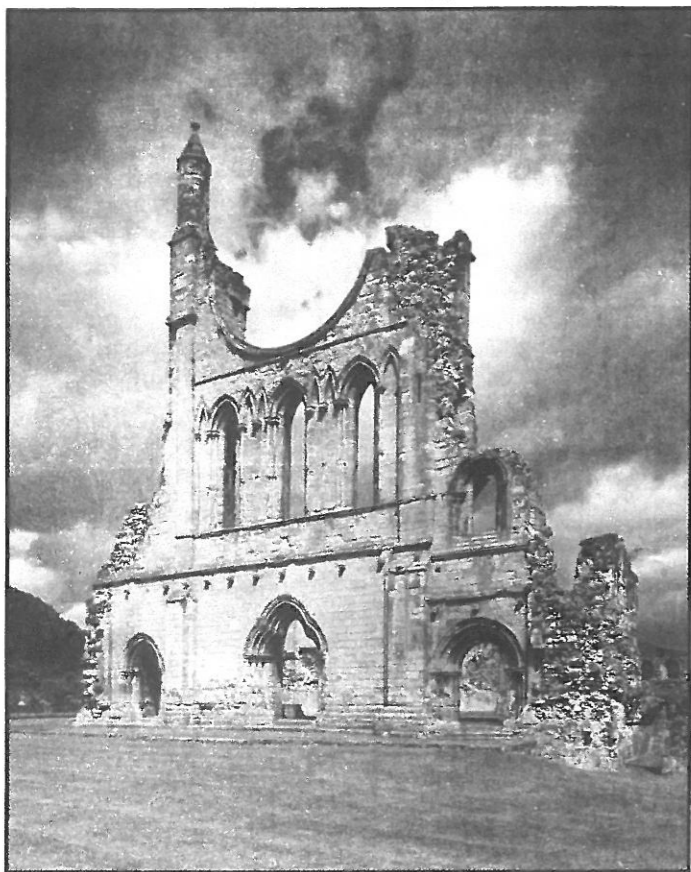
Teacher's Course

We are planning to hold a course for teachers at Tilbury Fort in June. If you are interested please contact Ken Glen at our usual London address for further details.

Other Sites to Visit

Not all our sites have special events but many are relevant to studies of that great event. You may also wish to visit St Mawes, Portland, Hurst, Yarmouth, Upnor Castles, all of which were deeply involved in preparing England's defence.

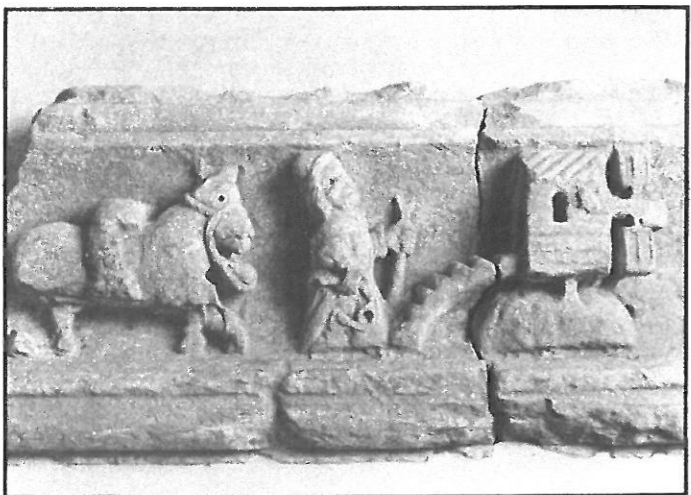
Yorkshire Abbeys 1988



Byland Abbey.

Easter week is the very appropriate time for a major exhibition to open at the Yorkshire Museum in York on the theme of the old county's medieval abbeys. The museum itself stands on the site of the chapter house of St Mary's abbey where in the 12th century a breakaway group of Benedictines launched a reform that resulted in a great blossoming of Cistercian monasteries, aided by French monks moving into the remoter parts of Yorkshire. Fountains, Rievaulx and Byland are the big names, but the exhibition will also reveal the richness of smaller houses, nunneries and friaries which once dotted the landscape.

The exhibition opens with a stretch of cloister arcade from Roche in South Yorkshire, a beautiful and rarely visited place, its arches reassembled once again. Behind it is a gallery full of bits and pieces from the monastic churches, young cathedrals some of them, rescued from the sites when they were cleared in the 1920s.



Stone carving of a miller leading a corn-laden mule to his mill, from Rievaulx Abbey Museum.

Carved woodwork, surviving in parish churches but originally from the abbeys, stained glass and statues will be there alongside medieval decorated books in glorious colours which once lived on the library shelves of the abbey.

Another gallery will show the ordinary life of the monks through objects found on the sites but never before displayed to the public: such as seal-rings, tools, ornaments, even evidence of their farming and mining. There too will be a brand new model of Byland Abbey as it was in its heyday. This gallery will be ideal for project work with your classes.

After a video, the last gallery deals with the Dissolution and how people have stayed interested in abbeys for so many different reasons. There is a lot on conservation here, with the exhibits making young people ask questions and think about issues rather than piling on the facts. Recent archaeological discoveries both above and below ground will tell of very up-to-date approaches to what can often be regarded as old and static. The exhibition makes the stones live, sometimes speak, and it will certainly whet your appetite for the abbeys themselves, be they ruins in a landscape or churches still in use in Selby or Bridlington.



Grotesque carving of a head, Rievaulx Museum.

A living history project is on offer to school groups, free of charge, in the Museum Gardens, set in the original guest-house of St Mary's Abbey. Half-day sessions should be booked on the free visits application form through English Heritage's York Office, Crown Buildings, Duncombe Place, York, though it is proving so popular places are now very limited. A monastic experience with a theatre-in-education group will complement a visit to the exhibition a hundred yards away. Booking for the exhibition should be made through the Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York.

The abbeys themselves are waiting for you too. Do your own living history, or go to the new education rooms at Rievaulx when it opens in early May where you can explore medieval building skills. A visit to your local parish church is often a good introduction for young people whose awareness of the religious life can be thin, but the exhibition will shout loud and clear that monks and nuns were people not angels, living robustly in a hard world. They built a new one that has influenced our own unimaginably, culturally and technologically. Next time you pull on your woolly jumper or nibble your Wensleydale cheese, ask yourself who started it.

Jim Lang

Review

Artefacts in the Classroom

A slide pack to accompany the BBC Radio series History Lost and Found. Notes written by Sallie Purkis. Price £6.61. Order form available from BBC Education, London W5 2PA.

My slides came without their notes and a pretty miscellaneous collection they looked. Archive photos, Muffin the Mule, a punk, distant fashion shots, domestic equipment and various toys. I had a bit of difficulty remembering why I'd ordered them. Then the notes arrived... and the pack proved to be an extremely useful production.

Sallie Purkis's intention is to help teachers and pupils make better use of artefacts brought into the classroom and to develop their learning potential. Rather than simply making an attractive display at the side of the classroom she suggests they are used in a very positive fashion to reveal information about the past.

The twenty slides fall into four groups: the children's own time, their parents' time, their grandparents' time and their great-grandparents' time. They divide into themes as well, covering home, school, work and leisure so that they could be used for studying a period of change and continuity through a single type of object.

The most valuable part of the set is the notes because they suggest the sort of questions that might be asked of objects. 'What

is it?' and 'What's it for?' are the two most common questions asked by children and teachers but if the answer is not known then these questions can simply close the discussion down. Instead, for each slide there is a series of questions which gradually tease out the evidence. For example the questions on the Kentucky Fried Chicken Take-away Meal, 1987, are: What do you get to eat for a meal of Kentucky Fried Chicken? How is the meal packaged? What materials are used? Why is the meal in a box not on a plate? What information about life in 1987 can you get from the box? Could the writing on the box mislead people about where the meal was cooked? The containers are manufactured to be thrown away after being used once. What does this reveal about our society? What will be left from this meal to be thrown in the dustbin when its been eaten? What will be left for historians in the future to study?

The questions generally start with the physical characteristics of the object and then ask for comparisons. They ask what the objects show about the time and society in which they were made and they go on to illustrate some of the difficulties faced by the historian in dealing with this type of evidence.

It is generally the quality of the questions asked about an object that make it speak. A teacher who has worked through this pack with a class could not help but feel more confident when next confronted with an object brought in from home or displayed at a site or museum.

Gail Durbin

Footnotes

Heritage Interpretation at Strawberry Hill

A new full-time course begins at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, this September. The Diploma in Heritage Interpretation (validated by Surrey University) will be the first course to offer training in this new area for general interpreters, as well as for management skills at heritage sites.

In the first year places for the Heritage Diploma will be limited to ten students and already the indications are that competition to join the course will be strong.

For details of the one-year Diploma, please write to John Iddon, Heritage Interpretation, St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 4SX. Tel 01 892 0051.

Lullingstone Roman Villa is closed

The building covering the site of Lullingstone Roman Villa has been deteriorating for some time and is being replaced this year. As a result the site is now closed and will reopen again in 1989.

A new publication to mark the celebration of the Millennium of St Dunstan

St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury: A resource book for teachers. St Augustine's Abbey is the oldest Anglo-Saxon abbey in the country. Founded in 598 as a burial place for the archbishops and kings of Kent it stayed in constant use till the Dissolution over a thousand years later. It was then turned into a royal palace and pleasure gardens before being excavated earlier this century.

This resource book for teachers has been devised for use with children aged nine to fourteen. It contains a trail, a set of a dozen classwork sheets, teachers' notes and extracts from documents. Extensively illustrated with maps, charts, diagrams, photographs and drawings, the book explains the story of the monastery. The ancient tombs and other seventh century remains are featured along with the Norman nave, crypt and domestic buildings. Together they are a unique reminder of the antiquity of the site and its very special place in the history of English Christianity. 48pp Price £2.50 from our Ruislip store.

Life at the Tudor Court

Day-course for teachers, Tuesday 10th May, at the Tower of London, including demonstrations of music, dance, swordplay, armour and costume, and illustrated talks on Tudor palaces and tournaments. Details from the Education Centre, HM Tower of London. Tel 01 480 6358 ext 330.

Changes in The English Heritage Education Service Goodbye to Cynthia Cooksey

It will be a sad day for us at English Heritage when Cynthia Cooksey retires at the end of April. Cynthia has been Education Officer for the Southern Region since the establishment of English Heritage in 1984. She has become well known throughout the south of England for her indefatigable enthusiasm for all aspects of Heritage Education. The work that she has done in establishing educational facilities and in developing special living history projects at our properties has been outstanding and she has been a major catalyst in developing a wide range of exciting educational initiatives. The full benefit of all that she has achieved will only become apparent in the coming months as more new publications, videos and projects come to fruition.

New Education Officer for the Thames Region

Gail Durbin who has been seconded to the Department of the Environment as Education Officer for the Royal Palaces for the last three years has returned to English Heritage as the new Education Officer for the Thames Region. She is busy getting to know all our sites, making contacts with teachers and advisers and developing a new programme of events.

Welcome to Rosie Barker and Peter Stone

Rosie Barker has joined English Heritage to take Gail Durbin's place as Education Officer for the Royal Palaces. Rosie taught in East London prior to joining us, initially as a freelance developing our Information Service to schools and colleges.

Peter Stone joins us as Education Officer for the Southern Region replacing Cynthia Cooksey. He comes to us from Southampton University where he was directing the Archaeology in Education Unit.

Apologies

I must apologise to the pupils of Waldegrave School for Girls, Twickenham, whose work was used, without acknowledgement, as examples of good practice, to illustrate my article on GCSE in Remnants 3. They were very close runners up in the Supersites Competition and we were much impressed by their detailed study of Marble Hill House.

Alison Heath

Erratum

In our article "Coping with the Bird's Eye View" in issue No 4, we stated that Restormel Castle is a great mound: it is actually a ringwork.