## Living History at Pendennis

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the English Civil War. Cornish schools have found that a living history project on the theme can be an exciting experience for teachers and children alike.

On Monday August 22nd 1642 the King raised his standard at Nottingham, and England was committed to Civil War. 350 years later, on July 13th 1644 to be precise, a group of teenagers presented themselves to Captain Tregoran at Pendennis Castle. Since most of his regular garrison had been sent to swell the ranks of the Royalist force besieging Plymouth, Colonel Arundell the Castle's governor had decided to raise and train a junior militia. The recruits had come from Falmouth Community School, which was strange in itself since the town of Falmouth did not exist before the Civil War. Written history of course does not record this event; it comes from the world of 'Living History'.

'Living History' at Pendennis Castle was the brain child of local school teacher June Firth. She found an enthusiastic collaborator in the then Head Custodian at Pendennis, Callie Saxty. Between them this pair of formidable visionaries devised the scenario and organisation which, with a few modifications, has underpinned the 'Living History' event annually since

In the early days of 'Living History' at Pendennis things may have seemed easier. An inspired teacher could put her ideas to a Head of Department, who would discuss it with the Head Teacher, who might consult the Governors or LEA. Cries of

dismay therefore greeted the advent of the National Curriculum. Not all was lost however. Indeed by some amazing quirk of fate or perhaps June's super-human foresight, the Pendennis 'Living History' turned out to be precisely what is demanded. First, the National Curriculum has a general requirement that children use a range of historical sources including artefacts, music, buildings and sites. Then it requires that they be taught from a variety of perspectives including political, social, religious, and cultural. Were one to enunciate an educationalist's theoretical specification for the 'Living History', these are more or less the terms one would use. More precisely, Core Study Unit 3 for History Key Stage 3 is The Making of the United Kingdom: Crowns Parliaments and Peoples, 1500-1750. whilst Core Study Unit 2 for History Key Stage 2 is Tudor and Stuart Times. Since the Falmouth Community School children come from Year 8, and the Junior School children who are also involved come from Year 6, KS 3 and KS 2 apply respectively. The Year 8 pupils are expected to reach levels 3/4 for Attainment Targets 1, 2 and 3, whilst Year 6 pupils are expected to reach levels 2/3/4 for AT 1, levels 2/3 for AT 2, and levels 3/4 for AT 3.

Back at the Castle, unhampered by thoughts of a National Curriculum, the



boys are drilling under the watchful eyes of Captain Tregoran and his men. The girls meanwhile are learning some of the skills necessary to sustain a community whose menfolk have gone off to war. Local craftspeople are instructing them in arts such as spinning, weaving, and netmaking. Some, destined no doubt to become camp followers, may be learning how to cook over an open fire. Soon another group of children arrives, this time much younger. They are from the local junior schools, and have been invited to come and familiarise themselves with the Castle. Col. Arundell impresses upon them that should fighting break out in the area, they and their families must see Pendennis as a place of safe refuge. BELOW: The girls of St. Francis C of E School



Pendennis Livi

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National Curriculum.

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20 pages, A4, plus 14 assorted leaflets and booklets, 1988. ISBN 1-85074-173-5 Price: £4.75

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ISBN 1-85074-304-5 Price: £,4.75 Product code: XN 10557

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This North Yorkshire castle offers diverse opportunities to study an ancient secular building, both as a medieval fortification and as a Tudor dwelling. Its evolution can be traced in the fabric of its walls and in documents written by its inhabitants. 36 pages, A4, 1991.

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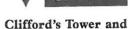


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book is relevant to the study of Roman Britain, the analysis of archaeological evidence and to schools studying leisure and tourism.

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Product code: XN 10560

#### **Rochester Castle** Tim Copeland

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ISBN 1-85074-196-4 Price: £4.75 Product code: XN 13050

St Catherine's Oratory Elizabeth Newbery

Based on the site overlooking Blackgang Chine of the Isle of Wight, which was built in the early 14th century as a chapelcum-lighthouse, the handbook also covers a history of lighthouses in general, and ideas to relate them to the English and Science curriculum.

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Price: £.2.75 Product code: XN 13051

The Thames and its Buildings Adrian Tinniswood

Marble Hill House, The Chapter House Westminster Abbey, the Jewel Tower, London Wall, Winchester Palace and Hadleigh Castle are all covered in this pack for classes studying the Thames. A photographic trail, a DIY guidebook and a landscape survey are just some of the lively ideas for planning work. 48 pages, A4, 1990. ISBN 1-85074-282-0 Price: £4.75

Product code: XN 13433

Tilbury Fort Frankie Dale

HANDBOOKS FOR TEACHERS

Tilbury Fort is the best preserved and in many ways the finest surviving example of late seventeenth century military architecture in England. It offers a good introduction to a study of fortifications and its dramatic pentagonal design could stimulate a variety of cross-curricular activities.

36 pages, A4, 1989. ISBN 1-85074-216-2 Price: £3.75

Product code: XN 13052 See also POSTERS >

**Totnes Castle** Stewart Brown and Robin Clutterbuck

This handbook includes plans of how to make a Norman motte and a set of cards for a role play activity 'Murder in the Castle'. It includes two interacting site trails for 'Normans' and 'Saxons' and an archaeological survey sheet.

28 pages, A4, plus 3 activity booklets, 1988. ISBN 1-85074-200-6 Price: £3.75

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Upnor Castle Hariet Blanchard, Linda Edwards and Christine Lloyd

Upnor castle, still almost intact, is a sixteenth century fort built to defend the naval dockyards at Chatham. After the embarrassment of the Dutch raid up the Medway in 1667 it was turned into a gunpowder store becoming the largest in England. 36 pages, A4, 1991.

ISBN 1-85074-287-1 Price: £.3.75 Product code: XN 10562

Yarmouth Castle Elizabeth Newbery

Yarmouth Castle was built to defend the Isle of Wight following the French invasion of 1545. The handbook contains detailed information about 16th century methods of attack and defences; a cut-out model; a survey sheet and an activity based on the theme of pirates. 12 pages, A4,

plus 3 activity sheets, 1987. ISBN 1-85074-149-2 Price: £.2.75

Product code: XN 13053

Kenilworth Castle Gail Durbin, Liz Hollinshead, Ross Jellicoe and Peter Stone

The activities in this pack help children understand why changes were made to the castle in the past, and might be needed in the present to conserve the buildings. The wallchart shows how to make your own Elizabethan ruff, a decorated archway or design a patterned

border. Suitability: Key Stages 1 and 2; 1991.

ISBN 1-85074-294-4 Price: £2.50 Product code: XO 10563

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Rievaulx Abbey Newbery and England

Rievaulx was the first major Cistercian monastery built in England. This pack looks at how the order was founded and the abbey built, looking at the physical evidence. The wallchart shows how to make decorative tiles, or your own quill and ink.

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The remains of this medieval castle are spectacularly located on the Cornish coast. The wallchart includes ideas for designing heraldry, a recipe and a cartoon story of King Arthur and the sword, associated with Tintagel. Suitability: Key Stages 1 and 2; ISBN 1-85074-322-3 Price: £2.50 Product code: XO 10564

Suitability: Key Stages 1 and 2;

ISBN 1-85074-171-1

Product code: XO 13055

Price: £,2.50

VIDEOS >

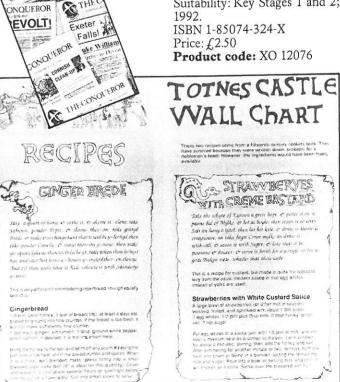
Tintagel Castle

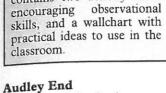
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**TEACHERS** Battle Abbey and

The Battle of Hastings Gail Durbin, Liz Hollinshead, Ross Jellicoe and Peter Stone

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helmet. Suitability: Key Stages 1 and 2; 1990. ISBN 1-85074-267-7

Price: £2.50 Product code: XO 13434

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