

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 1988.

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



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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



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RESOURCES

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These books suggest educational strategies for teachers to use the historic environment as part of programmes of study across many curriculum subjects. Each is packed with practical exercises and ideas to aid understanding for children at all Key Stages.

A Teacher's Guide to Science and the Historic Environment

Jane Pownall and Nick Hutson

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36 pages, A4, 1992.
ISBN 1-85074-331-2
Price £4.75

Product code: XP 11491

A Teacher's Guide to Using Portraits

Susan Morris

Portraits are the gossip columns, newsflashes, party political broadcasts and family albums of the past. They are found in every country house and museum and this book aims to help teachers decode some of the messages they contain.

48 pages, A4, 1989.
ISBN 1-85074-231-6
Price: £4.75

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See also SLIDE PACKS

Living History: reconstructing the past with children

John Fairclough and Patrick Redsell

This book on drama and role play projects details events at Heveningham Hall and Orford Castle, in Suffolk, and explains

how schools might carry out their own projects. A useful resource list is also included.

36 pages, A4, 1985.
ISBN 1-85074-073-9
Price: £2.75

Product code: XP 13057

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NEW

A Teacher's Guide to Using Listed Buildings

Crispin Keith

About 440,000 historic buildings of all shapes and sizes are protected through listing. They are an easily and cheaply available local source, with a wealth of interesting and important issues attached.

36 pages, A4, 1991.
ISBN 1-85074-297-9
Price £4.75

Product code: XP 11492

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A Teacher's Guide to Using Abbeys

Cynthia Cooksey

Abbeys were more than religious centres; they provided care for the poor and sick and were often influential landowners. This book aims to give teachers all the background information they need when using abbey sites, including strategies which will enable children to understand both the physical remains and the nature of the lives that were lived there.

36 pages, A4, 1992.
ISBN 1-85074-328-2
Price £4.75

Product code: XP 11511

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HANDBOOKS FOR TEACHERS

HANDBOOKS FOR TEACHERS

These books are intended to help teachers planning a site visit. Historical background is combined with a variety of possible study approaches, documentary sources, and photocopyable activity sheets for classroom and on-site work, together with practical information about the site. The activities and ideas in all these books can be adapted for different Key Stages in the National Curriculum.

Appuldurcombe House

Elizabeth Newbery

Based on the now ruined 18th century house near Wroxall on the Isle of Wight, the pack attempts to reconstruct life there when it was first built. There is a trail along public footpaths to look for the remains of Capability Brown's landscape gardens.

16 pages, A4, plus 2 trails and a cut-out, 1987.

ISBN 1-85074-148-4

Price: £2.75

Product code: XN 13043

See also

VIDEOS

The Avebury Monuments

Lawrence Coupland

There is a stimulating range of material in this pack which covers Avebury Circles, West Kennet Long Barrow, the Sanctuary, Silbury Hill and West Kennet Avenue. A board game is also included.

20 pages, A4, plus 14 assorted leaflets and booklets, 1988.

ISBN 1-85074-173-5

Price: £4.75

Product code: XN 13044

See also

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NEW

Chiswick House

Susan Morris

Chiswick House in West London was built by the 3rd Earl of Burlington between 1727 and 1729. It set a fashionable new architectural style for the next hundred years, and the semi-rural grounds inspired some of the most admired landscaping in Europe. The house is an ideal site for art, maths, design and drama study as well as for history.

36 pages, A4, 1992.

ISBN 1-85074-317-7

Price: £3.75

Product code: XN 11501

Carisbrooke Castle

Rosemary Cooper

Carisbrooke Castle is one of our most visited sites. Following a historical introduction this book suggests five possible approaches to the castle including the use of evidence and a maths based exercise.

36 pages, A4, 1988.

ISBN 1-85074-194-8

Price: £3.75

Product code: XN 13045

See also

VIDEOS & POSTERS

Cleeve and Muchelney Abbeys

Sue Watling

Cleeve Abbey, Somerset is one of the best preserved Cistercian sites in the South West. Together with the remains of Benedictine Muchelney, the sites are representative of many other smallish monasteries, illustrating different but complementary aspects of monastic life.

48 pages, A4, 1989.

ISBN 1-85074-238-3

Price: £4.75

Product code: XN 13046

NEW

Deal and Walmer Castles

Jonathan Barnes

These Kent castles are splendid examples of Tudor fortifications. Their symmetrical plans

demonstrate many technological achievements and are a good basis for science and maths work. Walmer became the official residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque ports, including the Duke of Wellington, and is a good place to begin a study of Victorian Britain.

36 pages, A4, 1992.

ISBN 1-85074-360-6

Price: £3.75

Product code: XN 11487

See also

POSTERS

Dover Castle

Jonathan Barnes and Andy Harmsworth

Dover Castle, defined by an Iron Age hill-fort and graced by a Roman lighthouse and Saxon church, best displays the development of castle architecture in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. However, it remained a garrison until the twentieth century and contains important examples of Georgian and Victorian military engineering.

48 pages, A4, 1991.

ISBN 1-85074-304-5

Price: £4.75

Product code: XN 10557

See also

VIDEOS & POSTERS

Framlingham and Orford Castles

John Fairclough

These Suffolk castles, both with

substantial remains, can be studied as entities in themselves or used to illustrate a particular period, of the locality or of different types of fortification.

36 pages, A4, 1990.

ISBN 1-85074-261-8

Price: £3.75

Product code: XN 13430

See also

VIDEOS

Goodrich Castle

Ailse Hancock

Goodrich exemplifies all the fascinating features of castles and castle life which most appeal to children, with its moat, towers, hall and dungeon. Activity sheets on Rebuilding, Attacking, Domestic Life and Cooking and Feasting could be used in the study of any castle.

36 pages, A4, 1991.

ISBN 1-85074-310-X

Price: £3.75

Product code: XN 10558

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VIDEOS

Helmsley Castle

Jane Hassid

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.

ISBN 1-85074-323-1

Price: £3.75

Product code: XN 10476

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VIDEOS & POSTERS

Kenilworth Castle

Tim Copeland

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire, was owned by some of the most powerful individuals in English history. The handbook focuses on the castle as fortress and palace, and the processes that caused its decay.

36 pages, A4, 1990.

ISBN 1-85074-292-8

Price: £3.75

Product code: XN 13432

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POSTERS & DISCOVERY PACKS

NEW

Lullingstone Roman Villa

Iain Watson

Lullingstone in Kent is a classic example of a villa site in Britain, with fine mosaics. The hand-



