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 1992 to be precise, a group of teenagers presented themselves to Captain Treguran 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 Farth. She found an enthusiastic collaborator in the then Head Custodian at Pendennis, Callie Saxby. 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 we to scrutinise 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: Crown's 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 6, and the Junior School children who are also involved come from Year 5, KS 3 and KS 2 apply respectively. The Year 6 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 Treguran 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 net-making. 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.

This new catalogue contains practical material for using historic sites and the historic environment as sources in curriculum work. Whatever subject you are teaching, at any level from Key Stage 1 to GCSE or even adult education, our wide range of resources will offer you the professional help you need.
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 all at Key Stages.

A Teacher's Guide to Learning From Objects
Gail Durbin, Susan Morris and Sue Wilkinson
This book is for teachers who want to encourage children to learn from physical things. It suggests a method of analysing objects and a range of classroom games to help develop the skills that are necessary for fieldwork at sites or museums.

A Teacher's Guide to Using Portraits
Susan Morris
Portraits are the gospel columns, newsgroups, 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.

A Teacher's Guide to Using Abbreviations
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 students to understand both the physical remains and the nature of the lives that were lived there.

A Teacher's Guide to Using Lists
Grainthorpe
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.

A Teacher's Guide to Using Abbeys
Cynthia Cooksey
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 photobibliographic 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.

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.

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.

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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.

36 pages, A4, 1991
ISBN 1-85074-319-3
Price: £3.75
Product code: XN 10477

Minster Lovell Hall
Pat Emery
with Tony Hurley

Minster Lovell Hall, Oxfordshire, contains all the elements of a typical late medieval manor house, and the surrounding medieval village survives virtually intact.

16 pages, A4, 1990
ISBN 1-85074-290-1
Price: £2.75
Product code: XN 13431

North Leigh Roman Villa
Tony Hurley

North Leigh Roman Villa lies on the south east margin of the Cotswolds, and excavation has shown it to be one of the largest and wealthiest in the area. The Handbook looks at trade in the Roman Empire and the pioneering eighteenth century excavation.

16 pages, A4, 1991
ISBN 1-85074-316-9
Price: £2.75
Product code: XN 10539

Old Sarum
Philippe Planell

The massive banks and ditches of an Iron Age hillfort surround the remains of a Norman castle and cathedral which were abandoned in the thirteenth century. As an educational tool for explaining continuity and discontinuity of settlement over a long period the site has few rivals.

36 pages, A4, 1991
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Price: £3.75
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New

Okehampton Castle
Philippe Planell

The occupants and builders of Okehampton in the key periods of its history were the ruling elite of Devon. Baldwin de Braine, Sheriff of Devon, held Okehampton in 1088 when the Domesday survey was carried out.

26 pages, A4, 1992
Price: £3.75
Product code: XN 11488

St Augustine’s Abbey, Canterbury
Stephen Southam

St Augustine’s, built 598 AD, is the oldest Anglo-Saxon abbey in England. The handbook includes nine trail sheets, ideas for data collection; extracts from original documents; a time chart; and reconstructions.

48 pages, A4, 1988
ISBN 1-85074-196-4
Price: £4.75
Product code: XN 10300

St Catherine’s Oratory, Wimborne
Elizabeth Newbury

Based on the site overlooking Blackgang Chine of the Isle of Wight, this book suggests a number of approaches including role play, looking at the house as a Victorian social life and seeing it as a contemporary conservation problem.

64 pages, A4, 2nd edition, extensively revised, 1990
ISBN 1-85074-248-9
Price: £4.75
Product code: XN 10347

See also SLIDE PACKS

Pevsney Castle
Helen Marshall

This Saxon stone castle offers a unique opportunity to study defence over a long period of time. The medieval castle was built within the walls of a Roman fort. Building of the castle began in 1067 and times and additions have been at periods as recent as the Second World War. 36 pages, A4, 1991
ISBN 1-85074-309-6
Price: £3.75
Product code: XN 10561

See also VIDEOS & POSTERS

The Thames and its Buildings
Adrian Tilmanwood

Marble Hill House, The Chapter House, Westminster Abbey, the Jewel Tower, London Bridge. Westminster Abbey are all covered in this pack for claimants in Norman times and additions have been at periods as recently as the Second World War. 36 pages, A4, 1991.
ISBN 1-85074-308-8
Price: £3.75
Product code: XN 10560

See also VIDEOS & POSTERS

Tintagel Castle
Julie Reed

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.

See also HANDBOARDS FOR TEACHERS

Villages and their Habitations
Adrian Tilmanwood

This handbook covers over 2000 years of history and is aimed at the general public. It is written in an accessible and interesting style.

See also VIDEOS & POSTERS

TONNES CASTLE WALL CHART

Tonnes Castle
Stewart Brown and Robin Clutterbuck

This Devon Castle is an excellent example for studying Norman motte and bailey defences. The activity cards form two trails about the castle and life as a Saxon or Norman during the conquest. The wallchart contains ideas for making chart and a heraldic shield.

Suitability: Key Stages 1 and 2; 1992
ISBN 1-85074-284-7
Price: £2.50
Product code: XN 13056

See also HANDBOARDS FOR TEACHERS

Clifford’s Tower and York City Walls
Elizabeth Newbury

York has the most complete circuit of medieval city walls in England and is one of the most enjoyable places to visit. The wallchart forms a good walk, asking questions and exploring the different stages in the development of the defences of the city and its motte and bailey castle, Clifford’s Tower, as you go along. The wallchart forms a large illustrated map with information on all the principal historic sites in York. The pack also contains some recipes that might be suitable for a meal before or after this activity.