A Change of Heart

Take a closer look at your city, town, and countryside, or even your own school - today's buildings hold the key to tomorrow's history, and are an important part of the local environment.

Most people, when they think of heritage, think automatically of the remote past: of stone circles, ruined castles or venerable mansions. Even a Victorian country house complete with its pictures, furnishings, kitchens and stables belongs to a world almost unimaginably far from us. That is part of its appeal; it stretches our eyes and minds to apprehend how our ancestors once lived. But that distance can be an obstacle. It is hard for people, perhaps children especially, to relate the past to their daily lives. History and heritage are consigned to an innocuous cupboard, having little to do with the way we work, play and learn today.

That is why the trend to embrace the twentieth century as part of our heritage is so important. Fine architecture and public art and design did not end with the First World War, we increasingly realize; nor did they stop with the Second World War, or even with the towers and slabs of the currently detested 1960s. They are alive today and can flourish still, given a broad climate of encouragement and education. The key is to avoid putting history and everyday experience into separate boxes. The things that have
Storytelling at Historic Sites
This new book in our Education on Site series, together with a double audio-cassette pack, is now available (see Resources Update on page 13). They explore the kind of stories which may have been told at historic sites in Britain from the time of the hunter-gatherers through to the 17th century, and suggest ways to bring these places alive for children by recreating the oral traditions of our ancestors.

The audio-cassette pack contains twenty stories set to music ranging from Greek myths, Iron age, Roman, Celtic, Saxon and Viking tales to medieval and Stuart stories.

Lecture Theatre. The festival, Organised by English Heritage, British Universities Film and Video Council, British Museum and Archeos, will investigate the role of film and video in archaeology with programmes from all over Western and Eastern Europe. The programme consists of:
* the history of archaeological film
* an international day
* the heritage and film
* producing archaeological films
* education through film
* a family fun day

Teachers will be particularly interested in the education through film session which will be held on Friday 27 November but for a detailed programme write to English Heritage Education Service at our usual address.

Educational Visit Bookings: South West.
From 14 December 1992 there will be a change of address for booking free educational visits to the English Heritage sites in the South West. Our existing office in Bristol will be closing, and application forms or any regional enquiry after that date should be addressed to:
English Heritage
South West Regional Office
7/8 King Street
Bristol
BS1 4EQ
0272-750700

This affects bookings for sites in: Avon, Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. A full list of these sites is included in our free Information for Teachers booklet.