

Trowbridge Museum Saturday Activities



Our new programme of Saturday activities – what, why, when, how much and who for???

The aim of our proposed Saturday activities is to encourage children and (sometimes adults) to engage in a range of art, craft, history and science activities in the safe and comfortable surroundings of Trowbridge Museum. Although we run craft activities during the holidays these are invariably short (40 minutes), quick and easy make and take sessions. These workshops are funded through external grant funding, and are always free to participants.

These new sessions will give us the opportunity to offer longer, more challenging activities on a regular basis, as well as provide regular sessions for younger children. We're aiming to offer activities at least twice a month, and once a month there'll be sessions am and pm. We aim to offer a range of art and craft activities, together with some science-based workshops. Many of the activities will be based on history topics from the primary curriculum, and will last between 1 ½ and 2 hours for activities aimed at children over 8, and we may undertake some longer projects running over several sessions. Sessions for younger children (3 – 7 years) will usually be shorter (40 minutes to one hour), in line with our existing workshops.

Because we want to offer a more comprehensive range of workshops, and because there is a limit on the amount of grant money available, we will have to charge for these activities. Most respondents indicated that they would be happy to pay up to £3.00 for each activity. We will try to keep prices at an affordable level, however, we may have to charge a little more for some activities. The shorter activities for younger children will cost less – probably between £1 and £2.

The workshops will be led by both museum staff (David Birks, the Education Officer) and our existing freelancers. We'll also make use of our volunteers so that each workshop is well staffed and there is plenty of help on hand.

We'll organise activities to suit a range of ages, however, one of the main reasons for offering these activities is so that we can offer more challenging activities for older children. This means that many of the Saturday activities *will* be for children aged 8 and over. This will allow us to accommodate more children, because parents will not need to accompany them (you can enjoy some child-free time whilst the activity is running). We *will* run activities for younger children as well, and we'll probably also look to run activities for families and some, just for fathers and their children.

One of the main differences with our existing activities programme is that all the sessions will be advanced booking only. This is because of the limited number of places available and it will allow us to manage the sessions more effectively. We will publicise the activities programme well in advance, so that you have plenty of chance to book places. Activities will be offered to Saturday Club members first, and then to the general public, on a first come, first served basis. Because there will always be a limited number of places available not everybody will be able to do every activity, but we're aiming to offer at least 36 sessions per year, and probably more, so everyone should have plenty of opportunities to participate.



The Saturday Club – What is it, and what are the benefits?

*****You don't have to join the Saturday Club to take part in the activities*****

As well as running a regular series of activities on Saturdays we are very keen to set up a Saturday Club that children can join and take part in – it's another way of encouraging participation in the museum, and developing strong links with the children, parents and families of Trowbridge and the surrounding areas.

The Saturday Club will be open to all children and young people, from Trowbridge and the surrounding areas – we get lots of families coming from Swindon, Melksham, Westbury, Bath, etc. – they're all welcome to join. There will be a charge for membership, most respondents indicated that they'd be happy to pay a fee. *Saturday Club members will still have to pay for each session they attend.*

What can we offer? Obviously we've got to offer you something in return. There'll be a regular newsletter/comic, competitions, badges, pens, t-shirts (and similar things), and members will be offered one free session each year. Saturday Club members will also receive details of all the workshops first, and they will get first refusal. Obviously, the more children/families that join the Saturday Club, the more we can offer you, and the fees will also go towards buying items such as protective clothing, for those slightly messier activities.

So how much will it cost?

One child = £5 per year

Two children per family = £8 per year

Three children per family = £11 per year

Membership will be for a calendar year (January – December), and payment will need to be made before any sessions are booked.

Members will receive a membership card, badge and sticker plus other items each year.

As well as the Saturday Club we are in the process of setting up a Trowbridge Museum facebook site, so that we can build a whole community of museum followers, young and old. We'll continue using our e-newsletter service, especially for advertising the Saturday activities, so if you haven't signed up yet go to, now's the time to do so.

Go to www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk and click on newsletter.