

Case Study: Fairstead House



Three short visits forming part of the half term's curriculum topic, combining self-led visits and a workshop.

- ❖ Years 3 & 4 (7-9 year olds)
- ❖ 27 children, 4 adults
- ❖ Main learning focus: Local History, using the local resource of Palace House

Visit 1- Visit to Palace House –After an introductory talk from the Education Officer about how the Stuart Kings made Newmarket important and introduced horse racing to the town, we split into groups.

- Researching role of the Stuarts and how horseracing developed, using questionnaires designed by the teachers
- Exploring Palace House looking at the collections, especially the paintings, and noting how many different sports are depicted, again on a worksheet designed by teachers

Follow up activity-writing up notes in English lesson. Homework: research Admiral Rous before next visit (Write a biography. Why was he was given the candelabrum now displayed in the museum?)

Visit 2- Visit to the Trainer's House and King's Yard- the children were split into 4 groups and worked at each task for 15-20 minutes.

- Look at silks (Weatherbys exhibition in the King's Yard) to enhance art work to design and sew their own racing colours
- Look at Rous candelabrum and carefully draw part of it
- Investigate the "Heroes and Legends" display-choose one to make notes on to write up in class
- Explore rest of the gallery to find one interesting fact to take back to class-i.e. "Royal Connections" and "Going Global" displays

Follow up activity- Review what we had found out and interesting facts back at class and write up information in History books, including the children's drawings and a photograph.

Visit 3- Blue Peter workshop led by Palace House Education Officer- using different sources of evidence to piece together clues about part of Newmarket's wartime story and its links to racing. (Half day)

Highlights: The Admiral Rous candelabrum

Comments: The workshop was very relevant as we were doing a local history study. They enjoyed the object handling station best.

Top tips: Having the children research Admiral Rous before the visit made the candelabrum viewing more effective. Arrange a preliminary visit and plan the self-led visit carefully. TH