

# Explore the Past

## Archive & Archaeology

### Workshops for Schools

Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service can help you and your pupils Explore the Past to bring history to life and show how national history connects with local history in Worcestershire. We have a wealth of historical information as well as staff knowledge and expertise. We can help your children find out more about the county's past, supplementing generic information in the national curriculum.

Over the years we have worked with many schools using the documents and artefacts held in our collections covering a range of topics and subjects. In 2012 we were awarded Learning Outside the Classroom status.

We are based in The Hive, the purpose built and award winning library and history centre incorporating Worcester City Library, the University of Worcester Library and Worcestershire Hub, as well as Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service.

We are also happy to advise teachers on running their own local study projects and how the information we have can help you find resources to use in the classroom.

#### Workshops

Most last around 90-120 mins and cost around £100. They are primarily aimed at KS2, but we have worked with pupils from Year 1 to sixth form. We can also come out to schools to deliver many of these.

#### Prehistoric Worcestershire

What was life like in Prehistoric Worcestershire, and how did life change?



Using reproduction drawing based on the archaeology we've uncovered and reproduction flints the children will investigate the evidence of local life in prehistoric times.



This can be delivered as part of a day visit, with a workshop at Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery building an Iron Age village in clay.

## Romans in Worcester

The Hive is built on the site of a busy part of Roman Worcester. We'll look at the evidence for this outside the building, before investigating the archaeology of the site through pottery, bones and environmental evidence.

## Roman Kitchen & Cooking

What did the Romans do for food and cooking in this country? Well rather a lot as it turns out as one of our archaeologists will set up a Roman kitchen to allow to children to see and smell what it would have been like. Some would be very familiar, such as vegetables, but other items may not be for the squeamish!

## Anglo-Saxons (Invaders and Settlers)

Using a replica skeleton and replica grave goods we'll look at what can be discovered from a Saxon grave and what the objects and other evidence based on local archaeology, can tell us about life during the period. It covers archaeology, bones, objects, how objects were made, where items were traded from as well as life, death and belief.



## Tudor Worcester

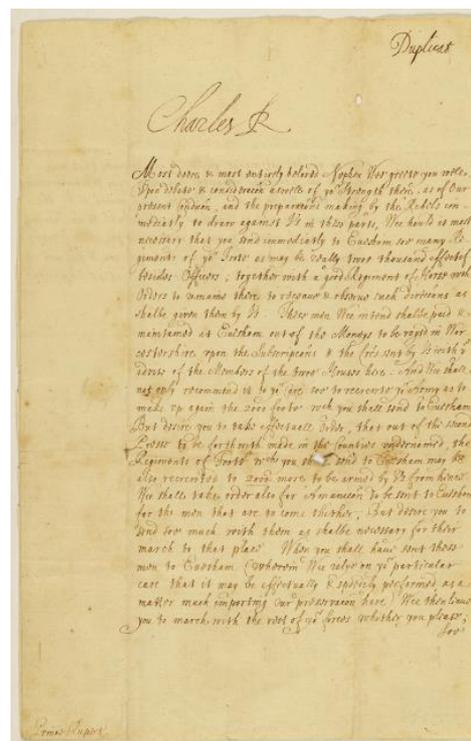
Worcester in Tudor times was a bustling city. Discover a range of people, from Elizabeth I and her visit here; Arnold Beane, a merchant who lived a stone's throw from location of The Hive; and the lives of the poor. We use documents from the time and archaeological evidence such as cess pit remains.

## Civil War in Worcester

Worcester was the location for some key events in the English Civil wars, with the first clash at Powick Bridge in 1642, and the site of the final battle, the Battle of Worcester, in 1651. We'll

look at the archival and archaeological evidence for Worcester during the Civil War.

You may want to make a day of it and combine it with a school session at Worcester Cathedral for a trip up the tower to see the battlefield or a Civil war workshop at The Commandery.



## Victorian Worcester – Public Health (joint visit with The Infirmary)

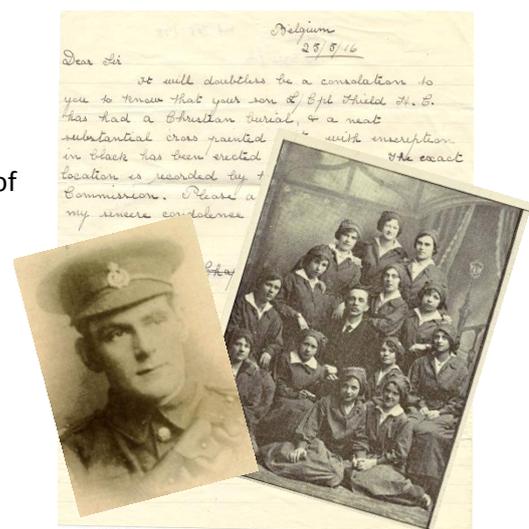
Working with The infirmary, the medical museum based in the old Royal Infirmary, we will investigate life for children in Victorian Worcester and how the problems of public health in the city were tackled. In The Hive we will use documents from the archives to help children find out about life in the city in Victorian times, before heading over to The Infirmary to find out about Charles Hastings, a Worcester doctor and founder of the British Medical Association, and how he tackled the problems of the city.

## What was it like to live here? Victorian Worcester/The Lives of the Poor

Two different workshops based on what it was like to live here in Victorian times. Using evidence from the documents and the archaeology, we will focus either on the Almshouses which stood on the site or more generally the lives of the poor in Worcestershire.

## World War I

We have created resource packs to mark the WWI centenary, these are based on three themes - war memorials/tracing soldiers, life in Worcestershire during WWI, and letters from the front. These can form the basis of school visits where children will be able to develop skills as historians by using WW1 sources from archives.



## World War II

**Archaeology of WWII** - We'll look at the archaeological evidence for WWII in the county, investigating the defences and structures which were created and in some cases can still be discovered. A second session can be run at Ronkswood Meadows to visit remains of searchlight bases which were built as part of Worcester's defences.

**Home Front** – Using photos, documents and interviews we'll look at the experience of Worcestershire in the war.

## Local History Study

Using maps, photos and census material we can visit schools to demonstrate how these sources can be used to give children a better understanding of their own locality.

## **Working with other Heritage venues in Worcester.**

Our Victorian Public Health activity is a specific two site workshop with the Infirmary, but many other of our workshops can be complemented by visits to Worcester Museum and Art Gallery, The Commandery or The Infirmary, especially in regard to The Tudors, Civil War and Victorians. You can find out more about their offers here.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/museums/info/4/learning>

<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/infirmary-schools-group-visits.html>

If you are planning on asking children to come in do research independently, please contact us so we can have a chat about resources available. We can have information sources listed and staff prepared for when the children come to us.

## **Visiting you in the classroom**

Many of the activities can also be run in the classroom, please contact us for more details.

## **Resource Packs**

We currently offer several resource packs which can be used in the classroom. These contain copies of documents from our collections together with notes on how they can be used.

- **Worcestershire in the Civil War**
- **What was it like to live here in the Past?**

£20 each

- **World War 1 – War Memorials**
- **World War 1 - Worcestershire during WW1**
- **World War 1 – Letters from the Front**

Produced as part of the Worcestershire WW100 project (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund) and available to download free from their website <http://www.ww1worcestershire.co.uk/>

## **Booking**

Contact [explorethepast@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:explorethepast@worcestershire.gov.uk) or ring 01905 766352 to discuss your requirements. If sessions are booked in advance we can be flexible about dates and times. Once all details have been agreed we will send you a confirmation letter.