

Join the History Gang



When? **A half-day Saturday once a month** (see details below)

Where? **Within the historic houses of our Museum**

Who? **8 to 12 year olds**

The group will be friendly, informal and fun, with a small team of Museum leaders who will be there every session too. We'll expect everyone to get along and help each other – there will be lots to do each time!

What? **Lots of different indoor and outdoor activities** - you could do anything from having a go at blacksmithing, doing a creative session with an artist, making corn dollies, learning woodland skills, to cooking in the Tudor kitchen or making traditional Christmas decorations.

History Gang: Membership information

- Thank you for your interest in our group for young people. Below is some information that we hope will cover all of your questions. On booking you will receive further contact details and other useful information but if there is anything you would to check at this stage please contact Sally on 01243 811459 or email schoolbookings@wealddown.co.uk
- The group will normally meet every 3rd Saturday of the month (we may also create a separate morning group if sufficient interest). Times are from 1.30pm-3.30pm and we will have a longer session in the summer months (April, May, June, July and September) from 1.30-4.30pm.

9 dates for 2019 are set as follows

February 16th
March 16th
April 13th
May 18th
June 15th
July 27th
September 21st
October 19th
November 16th

We will not meet in August or December as both are family or holiday times when many people are likely not to be able to attend.

- Membership is £135 per year for the 9 sessions, and can be paid in three termly instalments of £45 per term. We have tried to keep the cost to a minimum, but if you would like your child to become a member and finances present a problem please contact Lucy at the Museum on 01243 811028 or email her on lucyhockley@wealddown.co.uk to see what we may be able to do to help. We have a small amount of funding that will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
- All of the activities will focus on the Museum, so if your child enjoys visiting we hope that they will enjoy doing the activities in more depth as part of this group. We will discuss suggestions for activities with the group but the varied programme will be set by the Group Coordinator. Activities will be practical skills, learning traditional crafts, art based activities and of course sessions with a historical theme.
- Sessions will be friendly, informal and fun with leaders and helpers who have all been carefully chosen by the Museum.
- Members will be between 8 - 12 years old, but anyone who is already a member by their 13th birthday and wants to stay involved for another year will be able to do so. From the age of 14 there are other opportunities at the Museum to be involved as a young volunteer.
- Activities will be outdoors and indoors – wet weather clothes, layers and good footwear will be necessary for all sessions.
- A History Gang membership card will be issued on joining, which allows free access to the Museum (although you must remember to bring it with you!) Other members of the family might like to consider the Friends membership scheme to have similar access to

the Museum.

- Please note that the Coordinator and helpers will need time to set up and tidy away, we ask that children will not be dropped off no earlier than 1.15pm and not collected later than 3.30pm/4.30pm. In winter the whole site closes at 4pm so they'll have very limited time for the team to finish their tasks. The Museum will not accept responsibility for children outside the stated session times.
- The group is for unaccompanied children. Please use the membership application form to let us inform us of any relevant information that will enable us to look after your child really well in the session and please remember to keep us up-to-date with any changes. If you feel that your child might not be ready for this time without you, perhaps membership needs to be delayed until they are a little older.
- Whilst on-site the coordinator is responsible for the activities of the group, with the assistance of a small team of regular volunteer helpers. All will be trained and vetted by the Museum. The coordinator is your first point of contact for any concerns or questions.
- It is made clear to our staff and volunteers that they may not contact the young members via social media – this is part of our Museum policy on how we work with young people. The Museum has both Facebook and Twitter accounts, which are run by staff. Information sent by email will be sent to an adult's email address for your information too and to share with the young member.
- For the Museum this is more than just a club. We'll be asking your views on various new developments and hope you'll use your personal membership card to visit the Museum with friends and family at other times too.
- In August there will not be a standard session, but there will be an optional overnight camp exclusively for members of the History Gang, which is not included in this membership price. Details will be provided to members in early 2019 and there will be an additional cost for these two days.

Terms and conditions of membership

1. Members can only be accepted for a full calendar year.
2. Young people will have had their 8th birthday by the first session they attend and not have had their 13th birthday.
3. The programme will be set early in the year and may be liable to change.
4. If a session has to be cancelled due to bad weather/forces outside our control, an alternative date will be scheduled. If members cannot make this date no refund will be offered for the session.
5. If membership is cancelled, half the amount will be refunded in the first six months of the year and no refund will be given in the second six months.
6. It is imperative that the Museum is told at the time of booking about any disabilities, social or behavioural problems which could cause difficulties for the child and/or other children. We reserve the right not to accept children we do not think we can support properly.
7. The Museum also reserves the right to end the membership of any child whose behaviour is putting other children, staff or him/herself at risk. The Museum has an attitude of zero tolerance towards bullying and racism.
8. Parents/guardians are asked to drop-off and collect young people punctually and unfortunately may have to withdraw membership if this requirement is not met.
9. If someone other than the named parent/guardians who have completed the application form is going to collect the child, please remember to provide a note in writing authorising this.
10. We rely on parents/guardians to keep us up-to-date with any information that is necessary for us to know for the care of the young person (e.g. development of an allergy.)