

# The Home Front Life in the countryside during WWII

## *Unique living history services for schools:*

*Based at the Yorkshire Museum of Farming since 1992, Danelaw Living History Services offers a range of on-site or in-school services tailored to meet the needs of KS2 National Curriculum History covering a range of periods from the Celts to WWII.*

*Contact us for further details or to discuss your specific requirements.*

**DANELAW CENTRE FOR  
LIVING HISTORY  
JANUARY 2012**

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A hands-on activity day or half-day for school groups of up to 35 (and 4 adults free of charge). Led by two members of the Living history team, these days support the study of life on the home front during the second world war. During a full day visit children will experience the daily life of people during the period 1940 to 1941. Arriving as evacuees, they will be expected to 'do their bit' towards the war effort. Identity cards, ration books and evacuation labels will be sent to school in advance of the visit. Gas masks and boxes will be issued on the day. See over page for further details.



The Danelaw Centre for Living History, based at the Yorkshire Museum of Farming is proud to hold both the quality mark awarded by the Council For Learning Outside The Classroom (2009), and the prestigious Sandford Award for Heritage Education (2010), awarded by the Heritage Education Trust. Both these awards reflect the high quality learning experiences provided by the centre which in the words of the Sandford judges “ ... succeed in bringing history to life, providing children with a memorable educational experience which will enrich their understanding of the past.”



**Our Philosophy:**

**"I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand!"** Based on this simple educational philosophy, the staff at Murton Park have gained an international reputation for providing educational and entertaining living history experiences for many thousands of children and teachers over the last 18 years.

**About Your Visit:**

A normal full day visit is designed to run from 10am to 3pm (with a break for lunch), although half-day visits can be arranged and timings tailored in advance to suit your requirements and circumstances.

Your visit to us will be led by two costumed members of the Living History team. The children will play the part of evacuees, perhaps experiencing life away from home, family and friends for the first time. On arrival you will be met by your Evacuation Co-ordinator from the local branch of the WVS. Their initial job will be to confirm the details of the day with the senior member of your staff. The children will be welcomed, shown to the toilets and given an initial safety briefing and orientation talk to set the scene for their day.

In groups, the children (and adults) will perform a variety of tasks in both the farmhouse kitchen and in identified and supervised areas of the site, which have every facility required to make the visit as credible and realistic as possible. As well as domestic tasks, which may include baking, doing the weekly clothes wash with original WW2 washing equipment, making rag rugs (make do and mend) the children may also help the farmer by cleaning tack and protect the kitchen by blast taping the windows. Under the direction of the ARP Warden, they will practice gas-mask and air-raid drill and undertake essential training and incendiary bomb drill as new recruits to the local Fire Guard service.

Emphasis is placed throughout the day on the use of role-play and scenarios to support the learning experience, and the children will have the opportunity to use period equipment and artefacts.

**General Information:**

**Site Facilities:** There is ample car and coach parking available. There is a gift shop on site with a range of items at pocket money prices. Children may visit the shop at the end of the day, or alternatively pre-order items (please ask for further details).

**Preparing for your visit:** If your children and adults can come dressed for the period, it all adds to the experience for the day. Advice and suggestions can be provided if required. To save time on the day, the children should be divided into 4 equal groups prior to the visit, unless you have a party of under 20 children, in which case please have them in 3 groups. One of your adult leaders must be assigned to supervise each group.

**Charges:**

Full day cost £13.00 per child, Half day cost £9.00 per child (Minimum fees may apply for small groups, please contact us for details).

**Further information:**

Copies of our in-house risk-assessment can be made available to support schools in their own safety planning and preparation. Please contact us for details.