

The Middle-Ages

Life on a medieval manor

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

DANELAW CENTRE FOR LIVING HISTORY

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The Yorkshire Museum of Farming
Murton Park
Murton Lane
York YO19 5UF

Phone: 01904 489966

Fax: 01904 489159

Email:

enquiries@murtonpark.co.uk

Www.Murtonpark.co.uk



A hands-on activity day for school groups of up to 65 (and 4 adults free of charge). Led by three members of the Living history team, these days support study of life in Feudal England. During a full day visit children will experience the daily life of people living the life of medieval peasants fulfilling their labour service dues to the lord of the manor (costumes are provided). After an initial talk, the children will be formed into tithe groups and taken to the demesne land of their local lord. Once there they will learn about land ownership and perform series of tasks appropriate to the season including work on the land, grain milling and candle dipping. They will also train for military service and learn about the role of the archer. 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 two prestigious Sandford Awards for Heritage Education (2010 and 2015), 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 visit is designed to run from 10am to 3pm (with a break for lunch), although timings tailored in advance to suit your requirements and circumstances.

Your visit to us will be led by three costumed members of the Living History team. The children will play the part of peasant farmers living on the medieval manor or Murton around the turn of the thirteenth century. On arrival you will be met by costumed members of staff. 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. The talk will cover elements of the feudal model of medieval society, landholding, economic, labour and military service dues, and is illustrated with a range of reproduction artefacts.

Organised by the Bailiff into tithing groups (typically 3 for groups of up to 45 children, 4 for groups over this size), the children will elect their Reeve to represent them, and will perform a variety of tasks in and around the medieval village. The site has every facility required to make the visit as credible and realistic as possible. As well as domestic tasks, which include candle making and wood collecting, they will be required to work on the land and may take a turn at grain milling. They will also train for military service by practicing spear drill and watching an archery demonstration. The day will end with a meeting of the Manor Court, at which dues will be paid and collected and grievances aired before the Lord of the Manor and his Bailiff.

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: The children need to wear sensible outdoor clothing and shoes or boots.

Charges:

Full day cost £14.00 per child. Minimum fees may apply for small groups, please contact us for details.

Further information:

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

Please Note: Food is not provided so you will need an appropriate packed lunch.