

SCHOOL & HOME EDUCATION GROUP VISITS

What we offer for an hour's visit to the Centre:

An Hour Visit begins with : a greeting by our medieval costumed volunteers and then given a introductory talk about Medieval life, Sandwich in these times and it's importance as a major port and an introduction to the various crafts and skills the group will see demonstrated. We ask that groups larger than 10 in number be divided into smaller groups beforehand. The groups are invited to move around the building to watch the various demonstrations and are welcome to ask questions. We have a general questionnaire leaflet that children are welcome to try during their visit.

Demonstrations include:

The Blacksmith at the coal fired forge, making medieval tools on his anvil. The area is roped off for safety. You will see items he has made on display including nails, knives and daggers. He will introduce these items and explain their use and how important the Blacksmith was to medieval life.

The Baker will be using the wood fired brick oven and demonstrating making bread and foods of the day, explaining typical raw ingredients and how essential bread was in the medieval diet.

The Copper-smith and Egg Tempera Artist will demonstrate how artists used egg yolk to mix with raw pigments to make paint and explain where these come from and then show and explain how ornate work was produced using heated and beaten copper.

Weapons will be shown and explained how they were made and used, whether for battle or hunting. This includes a selection of arrows and swords on display.

The Medieval Ship is moored by the side of the river at the Quay, which is a ongoing project to complete a replica medieval ship, historically, ready for battle at the King's command. There will be an explanation of how this typical ship was built and used. Much of the woodwork is being made using hand tools which are on display and will be introduced.

The Scribe and Illuminator will demonstrate and explain the work of the scribes that produced the books of the time, which were handwritten using a feather quill and painted and decorated with real gold. There is a display of the tools and materials used for these skills.

The Wheat Weaver will demonstrate weaving natural wheat to make traditional corn dollies and talk about the relevance of this country craft.

Costumes are worn by our volunteers, which are all handmade and of the period. We are all able to answer questions about these.

The Black Death will be explained referring to a reproduction of the typical Plague Doctor's outfit on display.

