“The children enjoyed the hands on experience, it was very practical and they were enthusiastic to learn more”

KS1 teacher
Chalkhill Primary School
BRENT MUSEUM

The Museum is open 7 days a week and visits to the Museum and Exhibition Space are free. The galleries move chronologically and cover Brent’s past from prehistoric times to the modern day. Over 400 items can be viewed over five sections of the museum. We encourage teachers to visit the Museum before they come with their class if possible. The Learning Officer is very happy to meet teachers, show them round the museum and talk about different workshops and services.

Class visits usually last around 30 minutes.

The first section particularly supports studies in: Romans, Saxons and Homes in the Past. This section explores Brent’s earliest times, with an engaging animation and objects such as pilgrim badges, coins and Roman pottery on display. It then moves to a comparison of the lives of people who lived in railway cottages in the early 19th century and those of more wealthy Brent residents.

The second section particularly supports studies in: Ancient Egypt and comparisons of ‘then and now’. This section highlights famous local collector and philanthropist, Titus Barham, on whose collection the museum was founded. On display are an Egyptian make-up set, Cuneiform tablet and a suit of armour dating back to the English Civil War. There is also a wonderful opportunity to compare then and now using photographs of Brent’s busy high streets one hundred years ago. Miss Harrold ran Langman’s Drapers shop. Children can open the drawers to find out what kind of items would have been available to buy in the shop.
In our third section we particularly support studies in: developments in transport and industry. This section explores Metroland, the name given to the new residential areas of North-West London in 1920s/1930s after the Metropolitan line was extended. Linked to the improvements in transport, there was a massive growth in industry in the 1920/1930s in Brent. In this section, you can find images, information and objects relating to the key industries that opened factories in Brent, such as McVities and Price, Heinz and Smith’s clocks.

The fourth section particularly supports studies in the First and Second World Wars as well as key local events such as the British Empire Exhibition and three Olympic Games. Children explore how the dangers of war were brought to Brent, how Brent’s industries and workers played an important role in both world wars and why part of the Post Office Research Station in Dollis Hill had a secret code name. Using listening posts, children can listen to local people’s memories of the Second World War.

In the fifth section children explore the people and places that have helped to shape Brent’s cultural scene such as pioneer Jayaben Desai who led a ground-breaking strike over the right to be represented by a union in 1976.

**Community panels**

Visitors explore stories from some of the many communities that have moved to Brent: Irish, Jewish, Caribbean, Gujarat and Indian and Somali.
WORKSHEETS
Go to www.brent.gov.uk/museumarchives and visit the Schools Programme section for downloadable worksheets to use during your museum visit.

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS
Workshops are delivered at Brent Museum or at your school. Each workshop is delivered by an experienced museum educator with the support of teachers and school staff. Children develop historical enquiry, speaking, listening and thinking skills.

Cost of Workshops at Brent Museum: £60 per class of up to 35 children for Brent schools. £120 for non-Brent schools.

Cost of Workshops at Brent schools: £80 for first class of up to 35 children and £60 for each subsequent workshop. There is an additional charge of £5 per class to cover materials for the Egyptian mummification workshop.

Making a booking
We can accommodate up to two classes of 35 children at the museum at a time. One class takes part in a workshop and the other visits other spaces in the building and then they swap over. Please talk to the Learning Officer if you would like to use the Education Room for lunches.

EYFS workshop – Play with maps. 45 minutes
Children learn how the area of Brent has changed over time, such as how Wembley and Willesden joined together to become Brent, using rhymes and play in this interactive and fun workshop.

EYFS/KS1 workshops – Toys and games from Brent’s past. 45-60 minutes
Queenie, our Victorian doll made from porcelain and real human hair, helps children to think about different types of objects used for play and the materials used to make them. During the workshop children also handle and play with a wide range of replica toys from the
past. They explore more fragile items with the workshop leader discovering what life was like for children in the past and the toys they played with.

**KS1 workshop – Homes from Brent’s past**

*45-60 minutes*

Children handle and explore fascinating household objects. This session highlights the impact of electricity and plastic on the design and convenience of household gadgets. Pupils think about different forms of homes and make connections between materials and their properties.

**KS1/KS2 Local Area Study workshops**

There are four different local area study workshops: one for each of Wembley and Willesden at KS1 and one for each of Wembley and Willesden at KS2.

The difference between the workshops at the two different key stages is that during the KS2 workshops children use additional sources of evidence such as street directories and electoral registers to explore how the area has changed.

These are fun, story-based, hands-on and highly visual workshops. We start with images of the streets immediately around your school so that the children enthusiastically name places they know, simple geographical features, different forms of transport and buildings. We use an image of a road near their school in the past and the corresponding modern image to compare then and now. Carousel activities then include: dressing up in replica clothes from the past and comparing then and now using images and maps of the local area and to see how their local area has changed over the last 150 years.

**KS2 workshops. 60 minutes**

**Roman Soldier Workshop**

Explore the diversity of the Roman army and life as a Roman soldier marching up Watling Street (now
the Edgware Road) using maps of the local area. Children learn about everyday life in Roman times and handle artefacts found in the local area.

**Anglo-Saxon Settlement Workshop**
Children solve the Anglo-Saxon place name puzzle by learning how to read place names on Brent maps to see where Saxon people settled. Children dress in replica clothes and also handle replica domestic objects from the period.

**Ancient Egyptian Mummification Workshop**
Discover how Ancient Egyptian artefacts came to be in Brent Museum, learn about mummification methods and make an Egyptian amulet to take home.

**Events from Wembley’s past**
Children handle and investigate a wide range of artefacts, costume, music recordings, photographs, maps and newspaper articles to explore Wembley’s varied past, for example why 27 million people came to the British Empire Exhibition in Wembley in 1924/25, Watkin’s Folly and how the High Street has changed over the last 150 years.

**Brent’s Somali Community**
Children handle and investigate a wide range of materials including personal testimonies from Brent’s Somali community, objects from the nomadic Somali people, traditional Somali dress, photos and maps.

**Victorian Brent**
This engaging session explores the lives of students, servants, the rich and the poor in Victorian Brent. Our handling collection illuminates the severe rules in Victorian schools and
explores the daily toil for servants. Our replica costumes, based on photographs in our collection, bring the era to life for your students as they dress in Victorian fashions.

**Brent in the First World War**
Children explore the impact of World War I on the people of Brent through handling and investigating a wide range of materials including photos, artefacts, maps, local stories and costume, developing transferrable historical enquiry skills.

**Brent in the Second World War**
Children explore the impact of World War II on the people of Brent by handling and investigating a wide range of materials including photos, newspaper extracts, personal testimonies, original artefacts such as gas masks, ration books and tinned eggs, developing transferrable historical enquiry skills.

**LOAN BOXES**
Loan boxes contain both real and replica objects as well as teacher support material. You can book a loan box to use in school or you could use it to support follow up work after a visit to the Museum. The boxes are £15 per week. Schools are responsible for their collection and return by appointment to The Library at Willesden Green, normally on a Friday around 5pm.

**Houses and homes loan box**
These original objects illustrate the development over time of household tasks such as cooking, washing and cleaning, focusing particularly on home life before electricity. The accompanying archive material provides examples of different houses and building styles in Brent.

**Toys loan box**
The range of old-fashioned toys in this box represent the changing styles and fashions of toys from past times to the present day.
There are a large range of toys to try out. Encourages exploration of changing materials and comparisons between old and new. The accompanying archive material shows children at play in the past in Brent.

**Victorian loan box**
The archive material in this loan box shows images of Brent in Victorian times. These original objects can be used in the classroom to help understand daily life and innovation in Victorian times, including exploring the themes of housework, fashion and the typical school day.

**World War Two loan box**
This box contains original objects related to life on the home front during the Second World War, aiding the classroom teaching of themes such as rationing, air raids and evacuation. The accompanying archive material shows children evacuated from local schools, as well as bomb damage in the local area.

**ASSEMBLY PRESENTATIONS AT YOUR SCHOOL**
We offer 15 minute PowerPoint presentations about Brent Museum and our temporary exhibitions programme. We enjoy highlighting items in our collections that have a link with your school’s local area such as images of nearby streets in the past.

**LOCAL HISTORY PACKS**
Hard copy packs for Wembley, Kingsbury, Neasden, Willesden and Harlesden. Includes maps, photographs, school log books and Census returns as well as lots of exciting ideas for classwork. £10 each.

Free downloadable pack with resources to study Brent’s history and geography in class: includes photographs, copies of archival materials and teachers’ notes. [www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/brent-museum-and-archives/schools-programme](http://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/brent-museum-and-archives/schools-programme) and go to the Local Area Study resources section.
BRENT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES ONLINE CATALOGUE
You can search the catalogue for photographs, maps, street directories, books and other resources that relate to your local area: www.bmacollections.brent.gov.uk Alternatively, please contact our Search Room to find out about resources to help you with your history and geography studies. www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/brent-museum-and-archives/brent-archives

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME
We have a varied temporary exhibition programme and lots of exciting events for families and adults. Check out what’s coming up at www.brent.gov.uk/whatson and select the Museum and Archives category.

CHILDREN’S LIBRARY
Staff can accommodate 60 pupils at a time for free activities of 15-60 minutes long, such as a story and/or developing research skills. Contact Wendy.Levingstone@brent.gov.uk or Fiona.Heffernan@brent.gov.uk to book your visit. You can also book a group of subject-specific group of books a week in advance and they will be ready for you to check out before you head back to school.

FREE RECYCLING WORKSHOPS
Please contact Anna-Marie Defontaine at annamariedefontaine@veolia.com or call 020 3567 4330 for free recycling story times about Munch the recycling lorry, workshops and assemblies at your school.
Contact details
Learning Officer,
Brent Museum and Archives,
The Library at Willesden Green,
95 High Road, London NW10 2SF.
Tel: 020 8937 3600
Email: museum.archives@brent.gov.uk
Website: www.brent.gov.uk/museumarchives

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to benefit from free travel for schools.