

WEST BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

Schools Newsletter | July 2020 *special edition*



Picture, above: These free summer crafts, which link to Shaw House garden and bug hotel, will be available online, every Wednesday throughout the summer.

Summer craft activities

Given the current government guidelines in regards to social distancing, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the summer holiday craft days at both Shaw House (Wednesday) and the Museum (Friday). Instead, we will be posting a craft activity, using only basic craft materials, on the Facebook pages of both venues on the usual day of the craft activity. The post will also provide a link to free and downloadable instructions (pdf) as well as a link to a 'how to' video on West Berkshire Heritage's YouTube channel. Other free family resources can be found here:

<https://www.westberkshireheritage.org/life-long-learning>

Please feel free to forward this newsletter and any of the other attached pdf documents to your pupils' families.



This special edition of the newsletter is to let you know about the short story competition we'll be launching for the summer. We would very much appreciate it if you would let your pupils and their families know about this competition, and we hope some of you will use this as a homework assignment for over the holidays.

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Short story competition

We're running an exciting short story competition for young people. It's a chance for young writers to create their own story inspired by eight very different museum objects, including an Ancient Egyptian ushabti and a Medieval casket key (pictured, bottom left).

We will include some basic information about each object, but the young writers can have fun finding out more. The challenge is to include every object in the narrative.

The winning entries and a few other selected stories will be showcased in a special exhibition in Gallery 5 of West Berkshire Museum in September, and all displayed entries will receive a 50% discount on one item in the museum gift shop. The overall winners and runners-up will also receive one item from the gift shop.

The deadline for all entries is 4pm on Thursday 20th August 2020.

Full information (including a downloadable pdf), a 'top tips for short story writing' factsheet (pdf) as well as the terms and conditions for the short story competition can be found here:

<https://www.westberkshireheritage.org/life-long-learning>



West Berkshire
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