

# Case Study: Fairstead House



Three short visits forming part of the half term's curriculum topic, combining self-led visits and a workshop.

- ❖ Years 3 & 4 (7-9 year olds)
- ❖ 27 children, 4 adults
- ❖ Main learning focus: Local History, using the local resource of Palace House

**Visit 1- Visit to Palace House** –After an introductory talk from the Education Officer about how the Stuart Kings made Newmarket important and introduced horse racing to the town, we split into groups.

- Researching role of the Stuarts and how horseracing developed, using questionnaires designed by the teachers
- Exploring Palace House looking at the collections, especially the paintings, and noting how many different sports are depicted, again on a worksheet designed by teachers

**Follow up activity**-writing up notes in English lesson. Homework: research Admiral Rous before next visit (Write a biography. Why was he given the candelabrum now displayed in the museum?)

**Visit 2- Visit to the Trainer's House and King's Yard**- the children were split into 4 groups and worked at each task for 15-20 minutes.

- Look at silks (Weatherbys exhibition in the King's Yard) to enhance art work to design and sew their own racing colours
- Look at Rous candelabrum and carefully draw part of it
- Investigate the "Heroes and Legends" display-choose one to make notes on to write up in class
- Explore rest of the gallery to find one interesting fact to take back to class-i.e. "Royal Connections" and "Going Global" displays

**Follow up activity**- Review what we had found out and interesting facts back at class and write up information in History books, including the children's drawings and a photograph.

**Visit 3- Blue Peter workshop led by Palace House Education Officer**- using different sources of evidence to piece together clues about part of Newmarket's wartime story and its links to racing. (Half day)

**Highlights:** The Admiral Rous candelabrum

**Comments:** The workshop was very relevant as we were doing a local history study. They enjoyed the object handling station best.

**Top tips:** Having the children research Admiral Rous before the visit made the candelabrum viewing more effective. Arrange a preliminary visit and plan the self-led visit carefully. TH