

Session: Local History – Royal Tunbridge Wells

A study of the history of Royal Tunbridge Wells, encompassing the nature of the area prior to the town's founding (from Iron Age). This session will cover the famous tale of Lord North & the Spa, local industries (past and present), the founding of the Pantiles, Beau Nash and the growth of the town into the modern era. 'Local History Plus' option is available to extend your local history study to a full day with a guided tour of the Pantiles.

Session Breakdown:

- Introduction: What are 'the Wells'?
- Pre-history
 - Dinosaurs & Fossils
- Romans in the Weald
 - Wealden Iron
- Anglo-Saxon Farming
- Lord North & The Discovery of the Spa
 - Understanding the Chalybeate spring
- Development of the Pantiles & Beau Nash
 - Early Tourist Industries (Spa & Tunbridge Ware)
- Victorian Expansion of Tunbridge Wells
 - Developments of Decimus Burton, "New Town"
 - Hop Industry
- Becoming 'Royal' & the 20th Century
- Gallery Activity
 - Local Industry art activity
- Summery & Farewell

Duration: 1.5hrs (Museum), 1hr (Outreach)

'Plus' Option – A costumed guided tour of the Pantiles can be arranged with our Blue Badge Guide partners. Fees may apply according to our partner's policies.

Curriculum Links:

KS2, History – (1a,b)(2a,b)(4a,b)(5b,c)(6)(7)(8b)(11a)

Artefacts Used:

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|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Dinosaur Bone | • Spa Bottle |
| • Roman Lamp | • Mud Shoes |
| • Roman Glass | • Tunbridge Ware items |
| • Wealden Iron Horse Shoe | • Hop Tokens |
| • Antique Sheep Bell | • Subbuteo Game |