

General Information

What we can offer

The House can accommodate a visit of one class of about 30 children. We can offer 2 separate kinds of activity visits. The first is focussed around the Lunar Society and places hands-on science and technology activities in a historical context; while encouraging teamwork, communication and the exchange of ideas. The second is based more on looking at the 18th century way of life, including medical history, costume and exploring the written language.

All visits are structured to reflect the needs of the national curriculum at different key stages. However, if you wish to structure your own visit, we are also happy to help wherever possible.

Resource Material

The House is currently preparing a range of resource material for teachers. Free online learning material exists on the Staffordshire Learning Net website. Other useful websites include

www.erasmus-darwin.org

www.sln.org.uk

www.revolutionaryplayers.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures

www.teachersfirst.com/lessons/inventor/ind-rev-open.htm

www.questia.com

www.schoolshistory.org.uk

Preliminary Visits

To ensure maximum benefit is gained from your visit, we strongly recommend a preliminary visit by the teacher organising the event. There is no charge for these visits, however they must be arranged in advance.

Role of Teachers

The visit is led by facilitators provided by Erasmus Darwin House. Teachers are expected to provide discipline for their group where necessary and to help organise the group.

Times

From April until September the House will be open to the public from 12.00 – 17.00 Tuesday to Sunday. From October to March the House will be open from Thursday to Sunday. School visits can be made from Monday to Friday between 9.00 and 12.00

Cost

The cost per visit is £3.00 per child including VAT. This includes all materials and resources required for the visit. Accompanying adults are admitted free of charge.

Joint Visits

For schools wishing to spend a full day in Lichfield, or to maximise cost-effectiveness by filling a coach, Lichfield can offer a variety of other venues which offer educational services to fill the second half of the day. These include:

Lichfield Cathedral – 19A The Close, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7LD, Tel: 01543 306100

Lichfield Heritage Centre – Market Square, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6LG Tel: 01543 256611

Dr Johnson's Birthplace – Breadmarket Street, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6LG Tel: 01543 414779

Staffordshire Regimental Museum – Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS149PY Tel: 01543 434390

Facilities

- *Disabled Access*
The House is fully accessible to disabled users, with a lift to all floors.
- *Toilets*
The House has 2 public toilets, one of which has been adapted for use by people with disabilities. Additional toilets are available a short distance away in the Cathedral Close which could be used during a lunch break.
- *Lunch*
Unfortunately the House itself has no facilities for lunch. However if the weather is fine, groups can picnic outside in the herb garden, or alternatively if a full day visit is being made to Lichfield, arrangements can be made with the Cathedral to use their group facilities.
- *Shop*
The House has a small shop selling a range of souvenir items, and also a small selection of educational items suitable for children, which relate to the House and its themes.
- *Coach drop off points*
The House itself has no parking facilities. For groups arriving by coach, groups can be dropped off on Beacon Street outside the House. If required, free parking passes can be provided for the coach, as long as these are requested in advance.

How to Book

Write, email (see front page for addresses) or telephone the Education Officer at Erasmus Darwin House on 01543 306260 to discuss your requirements, and find a suitable date. We also recommend that you arrange a free preliminary visit. We will then send you a booking form for you to sign and return.

Preparing for your visit

The key words included provide a starting point for pre-visit discussion. This vocabulary will be used in the House so it is useful if the class are familiar with it. It also saves time on the day if you are able to divide the class into any groups required in advance.