



News and Events from the Almonry Evesham



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Schools and Groups

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Welcome Springtime!

It's almost the end of March already and Spring is definitely in the air. Despite the snow at the beginning of the month, the Almonry garden is slowly starting to come into life again with blooms and blossom aplenty.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of The Blossom Trail and to celebrate we're hosting 2 weeks of blossom themed activities in April, see the Events section for more details.

In other garden news, we are waiting for the weather to improve a bit more before making a start on our brand new Medieval herb and kitchen garden. The garden will be based on what we think may have been here during the time of the Almoner and will include heritage varieties of vegetables as well as medicinal herbs (perfect to go with the new historic surgery kits we've just bought!)

Let the Music Play

If you've visited recently you may have heard the gentle sounds of music drifting from the Abbey Room.

The music you can hear is unique and comes directly from the Abbey of Evesham.



In our collection we are fortunate to have the Evesham Bible, a first edition Matthew Bible dating from 1537, one of the first complete English translations of the bible.

The Bible contains a musical secret. On the back of some of the printed pages are handwritten pieces of music.

These pages were photographed with the hope that one day we could find someone to decipher and play the music. The music was probably written by the monk John of Alcester, who took the bible from the Abbey after the Dissolution to his new parish in Hampton.



In 2022 we sent copies of the music to composer David Cowell. David was composing a suite for the Abbey Trust and we offered the bible music to him to include in the composition.



Examples of some of the handwritten music hidden in the pages of the Evesham Bible.

After the first performance of the Abbey Trust suite we asked David if he would record the Bible pieces for us using traditional instruments.

The music was transcribed by David and we are indebted also to Magnus Williamson, Professor of Early Music at the University of Newcastle, who provided invaluable help with interpretation of the medieval notation.

The music is played by traditional music troupe Merrie Noyse, who used recorders (sopranino, descant, alto and bass), sackbut and rauschpfeiffe, all wind and brass instruments of the day.

What you can hear is a direct transcription of these pieces, exactly as they were written and without any “arrangement” or anything added to them.

Mapping Success at Half Term

February Half Term was bustling at the Almonry with visitors eager to find out more about our amazing Evesham Map of the World. Ross, one of our Front of House team has used his excellent research skills to decipher the map and has been able to translate nearly all the place names featured on it. It made for a fascinating display and an insight to the medieval view of the world.

One of our activities was to help us create the Our Town Map. Visitors were asked to draw a picture of their house and place it on our map of Evesham. It looks absolutely amazing. If you missed it over half term, it will be on display again in September.



Two of the brilliant houses on the Our Town Map



The Our Town Map

Community Open Day - 18th March



A huge thank you everyone who came to the first Community Open Day on Saturday March 18th. It was wonderful to welcome so many new faces to the Almonry.

We were pleased to welcome back Amicorum Re-enactment who brought with them an archer, a man at arms and the now (probably) famous willow weaving monk!

The Open Day gave us an opportunity to talk about the restoration plans for the Almonry and our hopes for securing major funding.

If you missed the Open Day, keep an eye on our social media and website for news of other events and activities.



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Spring at the Almonry

Blooming Marvellous

1st-15th April

Help us celebrate 40 years of the Blossom Trail with a themed trail and craft activity (£1 per pack)

Children's Blossom Wreath workshop 3rd, 7th and 12th at 2pm

All materials provided.. children must be accompanied.

£5 per child, booking essential.



Go wild with a bookfold badger or hedgehog



Friday 14th April at 2pm

Make your own bookfold badger or hedgehog.

Suitable for 7+yrs, 2hr workshop, all materials provided. £5 per person, booking essential.

To book call, 01386 446944, email us

tic@almonry.ndo.co.uk or call in to the Almonry



THREE LITTLE PIGS

the home of creative workshops



Thursday 20th April Fabric Flowers 10-12.30pm

Love vintage fabrics and making new from old? Then join us and make a collection of beautiful flowers to embellish a favourite hat or jacket, accessorise your home, or simply wear in your hair like you just don't care! All materials provided

Workshops are £40 per person. Booking is essential as places are limited.

Spotlight on collections



In each edition we will be focusing on an object from our collection.

This month as part of the Blossom Trail celebrations we are looking at some of our horticultural collections.

Blossom time heralds the start of the growing season and the hope for a bountiful harvest. The Vale of Evesham is known for it's horticulture and today still produces nationally and internationally prized fruit and vegetables.

If you venture into the Undercroft you will come across a whole collection of objects that reflect the rich horticultural history of the area. On display are a range of different types of baskets used for collecting the harvest. The small light coloured baskets with metal handles are Chip Baksets, the largest of which could hold 12lbs of stoned fruit.

The larger baskets are Pot Hampers. The 'Evesham Pot' was a measure varied with each kind of produce and from district to district. In 1891 Harvey Hunt published the weights of particular fruits and vegetables suitable for these containers for his market in Evesham.



Above: Chip baskets and Pot hampers in the Undercroft

Apples	64lb (29kg)	Peas	40lb (18kg)
Cherries	63lb (28.5kg)	Sprouts	40lb (18kg)
Currants	63lb (28.5kg)	Onions	64lb (29kg)
Gooseberries	63lb 28.5kg	Potatoes	80lb (36kg)
Pears	72lb (33kg)	Turnips	60lb (27kg)
Plums	72lb (33kg)	Parsley	20lb (9kg)
Beans	40lb (18kg)		



Above, left-right: Evesham Orchards in bloom; the Plum Market in Evesham; Narcissi and Plum Blossom



School Visits

Did you know we offer a range of workshops and loan boxes for schools? We can cater for your additional school needs with our sessions aimed at KS1 & KS2. You can choose from a full day, half day or a pick and mix of workshop sessions to complement a guided tour of the museum.

Medieval

Arms and Armour (Saxon and Battle of Evesham)

Spear school (Saxon and Battle of Evesham)

Battle re-lived - an interactive re-enactment of the Battle of Evesham

Blood and Bandages - medicinal cures from the Saxon period to the Renaissance era

Saxon Burial - an interactive look at how archaeologists uncover the past through burial finds

Saxon Pottery - make your own Saxon thumb pot to keep



Loan Boxes

Victorian Home and School

Victorian Toys and Games

WWII

Market Gardening

Victorian

Wash Day a look at domestic life in Victorian Evesham

Schools Out - interactive Victorian school session

Market Gardening

Market Gardening - a look at Evesham's agricultural history with the opportunity to plant produce to take home

If we don't offer a workshop or talk on a period or topic you'd like covered, please get in touch and we will see if we can accommodate your request.

For more information and prices please contact Alex on 01386 446944 or email alex@eveshamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Group Visits

Are you a member of a group or an organiser of group visits?

Did you know the Almonry welcomes groups visits?

We offer 2 group tour packages

Package A: A self led tour around the museum with a printed mini guide for each group member.

Package B: Your group will be met by one of our staff and given an introduction to the Almonry and a brief history of Evesham, There will be time to explore the museum independently with your guide on hand to answer any questions. Includes an interactive handling session on a range of themes.

Please contact us for themes.

Tea and coffee is available at additional cost.

All group rates are for groups of 10 or more paying customers.

Prices are per person.

Package A:

Adult group visit £4.50

Concession group visit £2.70

Package B:

Adult group tour £10

Concession group tour £8.50

Tea/coffee/biscuits £1.50

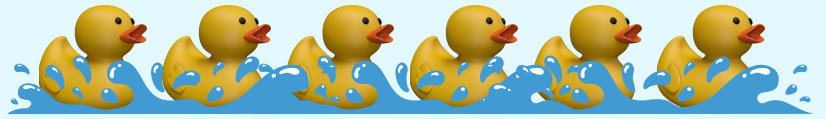


For more details and a group visit booking form please contact the Almonry either by email or by telephone.

01386 446944

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The Last Word



Did you spot the rubber ducks paddling around the newsletter? How many did you spot?

We're going quackers this spring with our new historically themed rubber ducks! Why not start a collection?

We've got Simon 'Duck' Montfort, Bishop EGGwin, the Plague Ducktor (we've also got Henry VIII, a caveman and a cavewoman but we couldn't think of a good pun!) Any suggestions, please let us know!



How many ducks? There are 19 ducks in total

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for articles please do get in touch via phone, email or through our social media channels.

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