

IFIELD MILL

IFIELD WATERMILL EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Ifield Watermill is thought to be the only working Watermill in West Sussex still powered by its original water source (the Ifield millpond). There were mills in the area from as early as 1274. Ifield Watermill was destroyed in the Civil War but back in operation from 1660. Rebuilt following a fire in 1683, it continued to operate until the 1920s when it was left to deteriorate. Work started on the restoration in 1974, and the watermill now boasts a working waterwheel as well as a renovated building. Restoration work at the mill is ongoing.

Our educational sessions cater for all age groups. We can accommodate school visits as well as visits from other groups such as Brownies, Cubs, Beavers, Scouts and Guides. We are also happy to welcome groups of adults including U3A, church groups, clubs, art groups and Natural History groups.

The watermill's education sessions for schools are designed to enhance the National Curriculum. Links can be made to a range of subjects including History, Geography, Maths, Science, DT and Art & Design.

The watermill team are happy to have a discussion with you prior to your visit in order to design the session to suit your requirements.

Sessions

The sessions are led by members of the watermill team and provide the opportunity to see the watermill in action.

Format of a Session

The general format of an educational session is as follows, although this will be adapted to meet the needs of the specific group.

Arriving at the Museum: On arrival you will be met by a member of the Watermill Team

Welcome & Safety Briefing: The visit will begin with a welcome and safety briefing by a member of the Watermill Team. This will include an introduction to the watermill volunteers, location of the toilets, health and safety information, alarm procedures and an overview of the visit.

Watermill Activity

Our main available sessions are as follows, although this can be adapted according to the requirements of the specific group:

How a Mill Works: This session is for the youngest age groups. It offers a simplified tour of the Watermill, and explains how it produces flour. The story of The Little Red Hen can be incorporated into this session.

The History of the Mill: This session looks at the history of Ifield Watermill from the iron industry to corn grinding

Geography and use of water power: This session focuses on the role of water power, especially in relation to watermills. rated into this session.

Natural History: This session looks at the natural history connected with the mill, including water birds, pond life and flora. Due to deep water pond dipping is unfortunately not possible.

Rivers and the Water Cycle: This session focuses of the water cycle, including the role of rivers, with special reference to those in the Ifield area.

Art: The watermill provides a good location for drawing and painting activities.

Mechanics of the Mill: This session looks at how the watermill works.

Bespoke Sessions: Bespoke sessions can be designed on request. Please contact us to discuss your requirements



Timing of Visits

Educational visits are normally available throughout the week, and are arranged to suit your requirements and the availability of the watermill volunteers.

Group Size

The maximum recommended group size is 40. However, groups as large as 80, divided into two groups on arrival, can be accommodated after advance arrangements and discussion with the Watermill team.

Watermill Facilities

The watermill has one individual toilet, housed in a separate block next to the watermill. There is a picnic area outside, next to the millpond. The watermill sells a small selection of souvenir items.

Disabled Access

We welcome children and adults of all abilities. We plan to make the Watermill more accessible to visitors with limited mobility by installing stair lifts. At present only the ground floor is fully accessible, with steps to the other floors, although the 1st floor can be accessed via an outside ramp. The toilet is accessible.

If any member of your group has any access requirements that we need to accommodate please let us know in advance.



Getting to the Watermill

Watermill Address:
off Hyde Drive
Ifield
Crawley
RH11 0PL



Traveling by train

The nearest train station is Ifield, which is served by trains on the train lines from London Victoria and London Bridge to Horsham, Portsmouth and Southampton. The Watermill is a 20 minute walk from the station.

Travelling by Bus

Buses run to Ifield from the surrounding area. The nearest bus stop is in Hyde Drive.

Travelling by Coach

Groups arriving by minibus can be dropped off in the car park. Those travelling by coach can be dropped at the roadside near to the car park.

Travelling by car

There is a car park located at the junction with Hyde Drive, which is a couple of minutes' walk from the Watermill.

Pre Visits

Teaching staff are welcome to visit the watermill prior to the school visit to carry out risk assessments and plan their visit. If you would to arrange this please let us know.

Booking and Payment

Session Prices: Visits to the Watermill are free, although donations are welcomed. If you wish we can provide an invoice for your donation for your records. If you wish to make a donation by cheque please make it payable to Crawley Museum Society.

Booking an Educational Visit: All visits must be booked in advance. We will need the following information:

- The date(s) you wish to book (please have a range of dates available in case your chosen date is fully booked)
- School Address and email address
- Contact telephone number
- Number of children and teachers that will be attending
- Estimated time of arrival and departure
- Which session you require
- Any specific access requirements

Contact Details

For further information, or to book a session please contact our Learning and Liaison Officer, who will then put you in touch with Ifield Watermill for a more detailed discussion of your requirements.

Phone - 01293 539088

Email – Andrea@crawleymuseums.org



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