



Georgian Medicine

Guidelines for Supervising Teachers

Preparing for Your Visit: It is strongly recommended that supervising staff should arrange a pre-visit to familiarise themselves with facilities at the Museum. Free tickets are available on request in order to assist with planning and risk assessments. A Hazard Identification Sheet will also be provided in order to help you with your risk assessment.

Practicalities:

- **Where to Go and How to Get There:** This activity takes place in Pockerley Old Hall. To reach Pockerley Old Hall either take a tram to Pockerley tram stop or walk down from the main entrance.
- **Arriving on Time:** If your session has an early start (e.g. 10:30) it is advisable to walk straight to Pockerley Old Hall. In the event of a late arrival every effort will be made to accommodate the full time of the activity, however, due to other bookings this may not always be possible.
- **What to Bring/Wear:** Please remember that Beamish is an open air museum and pupils should come dressed for the weather.
- **Storage:** During the winter season anything which is not required during the activity session will be stored in the undercroft. During the summer season, students will need to keep their belongings about their person.
- **Toilets:** There are toilets around the back of the Old House. A member of staff can direct you to these.
- **Health and Safety Information:** Before the session a member of staff will go through any health and safety issues. A Hazard Identification Sheet is also enclosed to help you with your risk assessment.

Winter Season: Pockerley Old Hall is closed to the general public so please keep your party together and be aware of moving vehicles. If the paths look icy, please ask the group to take extra care.

Summer Season: Pockerley Old Hall is open to the general public so you will be sharing the spaces with other visitors. Please be patient, particularly around busy areas such as stairs.

- **Access:** The Pockerley old house is an historic building with old and uneven steps that must be mounted in a careful and sensible manner and may be inaccessible to pupils with access needs. If there is anyone in your group with access needs please contact the bookings officer on bookings@beamish.org.uk or telephone on 0191 370 4026 and she will be able to advise you.

Outline of Activity:

The Squire lies dead in his bed and no one really knows why. The Physician, the Quack Doctor and the Wise Woman are all present at Pockerley Old Hall, each with their own take on what has happened and why. Students are tasked to find out what has happened by talking to those present and searching the house for clues as to possible causes of death. They will need to unravel the relevant facts from a tangle of superstitions and self interest to solve the mystery.

Objectives of Activity:

This session relates to the Medicine Through Time section of the curriculum. In addressing the key questions the session will cover:

- What caused people to be healthy or unhealthy?
Hygiene standards, presence of vermin, water quality, poisoning from common place use of hazardous materials, injury and diseases.
- Who provided medical care?
The characteristics of the Physician, the Wise Woman, and the Quack Doctor in detail. It will touch on the Apothecary Surgeons role.
- What caused diagnoses and treatments to remain the same or to change?
Varying treatments will be covered, some originating from medical training, others passed down through family and folklore.
- How far did new ideas and treatments affect the majority of the population?
This will be highlighted through discussion around vaccination.
- What ideas did people have about the causes and treatment of illness and injuries?
The session will include beliefs in causes such as miasmas and an imbalance in the humours and treatments such as herbal remedies and bleeding.

Topics in the curriculum that relate specifically to the Georgian period include:

- Quack Doctors
- Jenner and the development of vaccination; opposition to it during the nineteenth century

Contact Us: If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Telephone Simon Woolley on 0191 370 4011 or email education@beamish.org.uk.

Hazard Identification Sheet – Georgian Medicine

Location: Pockerley Old Hall

Potential Hazard	Who is particularly at risk	Context of hazard and steps to be taken by accompanying adults to prevent accidents	Risk of accident/dangerous occurrence High/medium/low	If high or medium what additional precautions or measures need to be taken to reduce risk to low
Slips and trips	Children and adults	The steps at Pockerley Old Hall are worn and uneven and some areas have low lighting levels. Museum staff will arrange equipment to minimise risk of trips. Students should be advised to wear sturdy shoes for the visit, to always walk around the house and to use hand rails and ropes where provided.	Low	
Fires/candles	Children and adults	Fires will be lit in the Old House and the New House kitchen and parlour. Students will be advised to stay away from the fires and the metal guards in front of the fires. Only Museum staff are to manage the fires. Candles will be positioned safely within rooms.	Low	
Equipment e.g. cuts from scissors	Children and adults	Any equipment used e.g. scissors will be suitable for use by students.	Low	
Food allergies	Children and adults	One activity will involve handling mild herbs and fresh food stuffs to make herbal remedies such as ginger, milk, rosemary, sage, carrots and potatoes. Teachers should be aware of any students with food allergies. If necessary, alternative tasks can be provided and hand washing facilities are available.	Low	
Sharp objects	Children and adults	Children will be shown medical tools, including saws and knives. This will be done in small groups under close adult supervision.	Low	

Bandaging	Children	Students may have a go at bandaging during the activity. Museum and school staff to ensure children don't bandage too tightly	Low	
Dust/ smoke	Children and adults	Open fires and candles will be lit which can lead to a smoky atmosphere. Beamish staff will keep areas as well ventilated as possible. Teachers and staff should be aware of any students with allergies/asthma. Please inform Museum staff leading the activity if there is a problem and an alternative task will be provided.	Medium	Beamish staff will ensure that all participants are aware of the fact there will be a fire and potentially dust in the air. Supervising adults should ensure that all participants have necessary inhalers/medication.
Animals	Children and adults	Pigs, horses, cats and poultry live at Pockerley Old Hall, although students should not come close to the animals. Students should wash their hands before eating and drinking. The nearest hand washing facilities are at Pockerley Old Hall. Pregnant women should be advised to take extra care.	Low	
Group work – security issues	Children and adults	During the activity students work in groups, moving around Pockerley Old Hall to talk to members of staff. Students will be told they must stay in the house and garden. In the summer season other visitors will also be in these spaces. Students must be supervised at all times by an adult from the school. Beamish admits free supervising places at a ratio of 1 adult to 5 students.	Low	

All participants are advised to wash hands on completion of activity. Hand washing facilities are available at Pockerley Old Hall.

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