



Bah Humbug – the Problem of the Poor

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:** The Bah Humbug activity begins in the Masonic Hall. To get there take the tram from the Entrance in the direction of the Town. You will be met outside the Masonic Hall.
- **Arriving on Time:** Please ensure you arrive at the Masonic Hall on time. 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 be possible.
- **What to Bring/Wear:** Children will need appropriate clothing. Beamish is an open air museum and the weather may be inclement. Please ensure all members of your group wear sturdy shoes and come prepared for the weather e.g. warm coats, hats, gloves in the winter, sun hats in the summer.

- **Storage:** Bags and coats can be stored in the Masonic Hall whilst groups are investigating in the Town.
- **Toilets:** Toilets are located in the Town, beside the Bank and in the Masonic Hall.
- **Health and Safety Information:** Once in the Masonic Hall a member of staff will explain about the Health and Safety aspects of the activity. Please be aware that trams and buses will be travelling around the Town.
- **Access:** The activity is accessible to all students but if there is anyone in your group with access needs it advisable to contact the bookings officer on bookings@beamish.org.uk or telephone on 0191 370 4026 to let them know. Some of the buildings the students visit have one or two doorsteps. We can make arrangements to avoid these if necessary and prior notice will make for a smoother delivery on the day.

Outline of Activity: On being met at the Masonic Hall the group will be given the outline scenario of a death that has occurred overnight in the Town Street, (the body has already been cleared away by the constabulary).

The purpose of this activity is to visit six characters; Shopkeeper in the Co-op, Employee in the Chemists, Bank Manager's Son in the Bank, Solicitor, Maid in the Music Teachers and Mason in the Masonic Hall and persuade them to give money to the poor.

It will up to the teacher to put the students into groups, a maximum of six groups. Each group will then be given a starting point and a 19th century text which they will need to read on their way to meet the character. They will have approximately five minutes with each character to get them to give some money. The better they argue and the more arguments they have, the more successful they will be in getting money. Once the money has been given then the character will tell the group where to go next and give them an additional text. This will continue until all six characters have been visited.

The groups will then come back to the Masonic Hall to share how much they received from each character and to go through the arguments they could have given.

Objectives of Activity:

- To encourage students to gain immediate meaning from 19th Century texts
- To develop the skills of persuasion using the information they have received
- To understand the argument and attitudes of the period when 'A Christmas Carol' was written
- To gain a better understanding of 'A Christmas Carol', especially the early chapters (ideal for year 10s and late year 9s).

Ideas for Pre and Post Visit:

- **Pre:** Prior to the visit students should be told a little about what they will be doing.
- **Post:** Possible follow-on activities could be:
 - Read through the initial chapters of A Christmas Carol and identify the quotes offered during the activity
 - Discuss the attitudes of the period such as those of Thomas Malthus
 - Use the 19th century texts as comprehensions

Contact Us: If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us at the Museum.

Telephone **Simon Woolley** on 0191 370 4011

OR Email at education@beamish.org.uk



Hazard Identification Sheet – Bah Humbug

Location: The Town

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	Students and Adults	During the course of the activity children will be moving around The Town. The ground can be uneven in places (including cobbles, curbs and steps) and, during bad weather, can become slippery. There is also street furniture such as benches, railings and lamp posts. Beamish staff will advise students to walk rather than run and supervising adults should ensure that this advice is carried out. Students should be advised to wear sturdy shoes on the day.	Low	
Moving vehicles on Town Street	Students and Adults	Vehicles move through the Town street on a regular basis, including trams, buses, horse drawn vehicles, steam traction engines and Museum period delivery/maintenance vehicles. All vehicles will be driven in accordance with Beamish Museum's on-site driving policy by appropriately trained staff or volunteers. Students will be made aware of the traffic in the activity briefing and school staff need to supervise students to ensure sensible behaviour.	Low	
Burns from fires	Students and Adults	Students will be visiting different exhibits in The Town, including some of the houses. In these there are likely to be coal fires lit. Beamish staff will advise students to stay away from the fires and guards will be kept in front of the fires to keep students away from them. Fire tools and matches will	Low	

		be kept out of the way. Only Museum staff are to manage the fires. Supervisory adults should also monitor the behaviour of their groups to ensure due care is taken around the fires.		
Fire in building	Students and Adults	In the event of a fire in a building all participants should follow the directions of Beamish staff who will evacuate the group to the muster point. Schools must know who they have in their group. Beamish Museum will ensure fire exits are kept clear and equipment and procedures are up to date.	Low	
Dust/smoke from fires	Students and Adults	As a result of the open coal fires in the exhibits it is possible that some rooms will be smoky or dusty. Beamish staff will keep areas as well ventilated as possible. Supervisory adults should be aware of any students with allergies/asthma and inform Beamish staff before the session begins. They should also ensure that pupils bring all necessary inhalers/medication with them on the visit.	Low	
Adverse weather conditions – ice, snow, cold	Students and Adults	Beamish Museum is an open-air museum with an open door policy for buildings. A winter visit will therefore be cold. The Museum will work to keep paths gritted and clear. Please ensure students come dressed for a day outside (winter coat, hat, gloves) with sturdy shoes (e.g not ballet pumps). In the event of winter weather deteriorating during your visit please follow directions of Museum staff to ensure safety.	Low	
Supervision of students - safeguarding	Students	During the activity, students will be moving around the Town in groups to talk to a range of characters (played by Beamish staff or volunteers) in the different buildings. General visitors will also be in the Town area and buildings. Students will be directed to stay within the Town area and in their groups. It is important that the school staff supervise the groups, agree how they are going to do this (e.g where they will stand on the Town street) and convey this to the students to ensure safe and sensible behaviour for all. Younger groups taking part in the activity should be accompanied by a school adult.		

Date Reviewed: 15 October 2019

By: Catherine Rice (Learning Co-ordinator)