FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD MUSEUMS & COLLECTIONS

FREE ACTIVITIES

APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2013

OUR VENUES

BOTANIC GARDEN

FREE ENTRY FOR CHILDREN

Relax by the river or explore the glasshouses to find rainforest, desert, and insect-eating plants. Guide dogs only.

www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk 01865 286690

OPEN

September – October 9am – 5pm
November – February 9am – 4pm
March – April 9am – 5pm
May – August 9am – 6pm

BOT

ASHMOLEAN

FREE ENTRY

Journey through time and across cultures with this amazing collection of art and archaeology.

www.ashmolean.org 01865 278000

OPEN

Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 6pm
Bank Holidays 10am – 6pm

ASH

HARCOURT ARBORETUM (NEAR NUNEHAM COURTENAY)

FREE ENTRY FOR CHILDREN

130 acres of woodland and meadow in Nuneham Courtenay. Buses X39/X40 from St Aldate's and 116 from High Street. Guide dogs only.

www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk 01865 343501

OPEN

April – November 10am – 5pm (every day)
December – March 10am - 4pm
(weekdays only)

ARB

MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

FREE ENTRY

A fascinating collection of scientific instruments, including globes, sundials, clocks, and early electrical, chemical, and medical apparatus.

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk 01865 277280

OPEN

Tuesday – Friday 12 – 5pm
Saturday 10am – 5pm
Sunday 2 – 5pm

MHS

PITT RIVERS MUSEUM

FREE ENTRY

A remarkable collection of man-made objects from every corner of the world. Entrance via the Museum of Natural History.

www.prm.ox.ac.uk 01865 270927

OPEN

Monday 12 – 4.30pm
Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 4.30pm
Bank Holiday Mondays 10am – 4.30pm

PITT

THE BATE COLLECTION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

FREE ENTRY

Discover a variety of musical instruments in the Western Classical tradition, from the mediaeval period to the present day.

www.bate.ox.ac.uk 01865 276139

OPEN

Monday – Friday 2 – 5pm (all year)
Saturday 10am – 12pm (University term-time only)

BATE

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

FREE ENTRY

Closed to the public for roof restoration during 2013. However visitors can still access the Pitt Rivers Museum.

www.oum.ox.ac.uk 01865 272950

NAT

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER TODAY?

WELCOME

Whether you are a new or a regular visitor, this is your guide to all of the free family friendly activities coming up at the Oxford University Museums and Collections in the next few months.

From planting to painting; the deep blue sea to the sky above us; storybook characters, historical figures, and myths and monsters - there's something for everyone!

And don't forget: even if there aren't any events happening when you visit, you can still pick up a free family friendly trail to take around with you. Just ask at the front desk.

There are lots of regular events, too (see page opposite). Plus, look out for monthly activities especially for under 5s.

Learn together, have fun together, and become a family of museum explorers together...

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY BACKPACKS
PITT

If you visit the Pitt Rivers on a Saturday, keep a look out for backpacks crammed full of fun activities.
11am - 4pm, subject to availability.

FAMILY FRIENDLY SUNDAYS
PITT

Backpacks, trails, crafts, and more:
2 - 4pm every Sunday.

BIG BOTANIC BACKPACKS
BOT

Borrow a backpack packed full of objects and ideas to help you discover the Botanic Garden.
Available at the ticket office from 1 March.

HANDS-ON COINS
ASH

Hold history in your hand every Saturday in the Ashmolean Money Gallery.
11am - 4pm, subject to availability.

ARBORETUM EXPLORER BACKPACKS
ARB

Borrow a backpack full of fun activities to help you explore the trees on our 130 acre site.
Available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Pitt Rivers Museum

NEED MAKE USE

Watch out for Pitt Rivers events with this sign. These activities highlight problem-solving, design and creativity in the Museum.

EASTER HOLIDAY

Sat 23rd Mar - Sat 20th Apr MHS
EASTER TRAIL
Help yourself to a fun-tastic tick-tocking self-guided trail. **Ages 7+.**
During opening hours

Fri 29th - Sun 31st Mar ARB
EASTER EGG HUNT
Follow the hidden clues and then claim your prize. Available from Good Friday while stocks last!
10am - 4pm Drop-in

Fri 29th Mar - Sun 14th Apr PITT
EGGSTRAORDINARY EGG HUNT
Eggsplore the Pitt Rivers with an eggciting egg-hunter's trail.
During opening hours

Mon 1 Apr ASH
BANK HOLIDAY FUN
Explore the China galleries, have fun with craft and follow our Chinese 'Year of the Snake' gallery trail.
11am - 4pm Drop-in

Tue 2nd Apr ARB
SHADES OF SPRING - YELLOW
Can you find the shades of spring as you walk through the Arboretum? Then try our yellow-themed crafts.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 4th - Sat 6th Apr NEED MAKE USE PITT
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
Have fabulous feathered fun in the Museum by making your own fans and headbands.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 6th Apr MHS
SOMETHING IN THE AIR
Come rain or shine, come for a day of fun activities, talks, tours and experiments all on the subject of weather.
10am - 5pm Drop-in

Tue 9th Apr ARB
SHADES OF SPRING - BLUE
Search the Arboretum for shades of spring then join in our blue-themed crafts.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Wed 10th Apr BOT
GET GROWING!
Help us celebrate national Veggie Month. A great time of year to sow lots of seeds for yummy food and pretty flowers.
11am - 1pm Drop-in

Wed 10th - Thu 11th Apr ASH
REMEMBER MY NAME
Help make a papier-mâché replica of an Egyptian mummy case with artist Francesca Shakespeare.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Thurs 11th - Fri 12th Apr MHS
BRAIN TEASER
Puzzles, experiments and illusions alongside temporary exhibition, 'Revealing the Brain'. **Ages 5+.**
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 13th Apr ASH
CHINESE LANDSCAPES
Be inspired by traditional and modern Chinese landscapes to paint your own scroll.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

APRIL

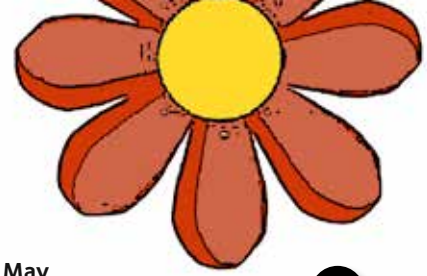
Thu 18th Apr ASH
SAIL THE HIGH SEAS!
Make a boat that floats and a pirate hat, then seek out some sea creatures hiding in the Ashmolean. **Especially for under 5s.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 20th Apr MHS
GALILEO'S TELESCOPE
Discover the secrets of Galileo's invention and make a working telescope. **Ages 9+.**
Voluntary materials donation £5.
2 - 4pm Book on 01865 277280

Thu 25th Apr PITT
UNDER AND OVER
Weave under and over, in and out at this special event for **under 5s**.
2 - 4pm Drop-in

NEED MAKE USE

MAY



Sat 4th May
CABINET OF CURIOSITIES
MHS
Discover unusual objects and put together your own cabinet of curiosities.
Ages 5-11. 1 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 4th May
RHYTHM OF LIFE
NEED MAKE USE
PITT
Feel the beat of African music! Make your own musical instrument or join a free (ticketed) music workshop to have a go at playing!
1 - 4pm Drop-in
Ticketed workshops at 1.30pm & 3pm

Mon 6th May
BANK HOLIDAY FUN
ASH
Find statue faces around the Museum and then get messy modelling a 3D face using plaster.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 9th May
HAPPY FACE, SAD FACE
NEED MAKE USE
PITT
Make a mask and pick out facial expressions at this special event for **under 5s.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Find out about horses of the ancient world

Sat 11th May
CLIPPITY CLOP!
ASH
Find out about horses of the ancient world, and model a clay horse to take home.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 16th May
HERE BE DRAGONS!
ASH
Explore the China gallery for mythical beasties and make a dragon puppet to fly home. **Especially for under 5s.**
10.30am - 12.30pm

Fri 17th May
CREATURES OF THE NIGHT
MHS
Celebrating real and fictional nocturnal creatures at our late night: exhibition tours, activities and more, for all ages.
7 - 11pm Drop-in

Sat 18th May
FAMILY FUN DAY
BATE
A treasure trail, live performances, demonstrations and a chance to play some of the instruments.
10am - 2pm Drop-in

Sat 18th May
FASCINATION OF PLANTS DAY
ARB
Celebrate International Fascination of Plants Day with a wide range of fun, interactive activities.
10am - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 18th May
LINOCUT PRINTING
MHS
Be inspired by strange beasts and weird monsters, make linocuts, and try out a mechanical printing press. **Ages 6+.**
2 - 4pm. Book on 01865 277280

MAY (HALF TERM)

Mon 27th - Wed 29th May
TREASURE TROVE
ASH
Search the museum for all that glitters and sparkles. Crafty fun making golden coins and junk jewellery.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Mon 27th - Fri 31st May
HALF TERM ACTIVITIES
BATE
Try gallery trails, drawing, word searches, and hands-on instrument fun.
2 - 5pm Drop-in

Tue 28th May
MAKING MUSIC
ARB
Join in the musical fun and make your own woodland-inspired instrument to take home.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Wed 29th May
HAPPY HABITATS
BOT
Find out about amazing plant and animal partnerships in readiness for World Environment Day, and make your own puppet!
11am - 1pm Drop-in

Thu 30th - Fri 31st May
AHOY THERE!
MHS
Discover early voyages of exploration with maps, globes, and hands-on navigational instruments. **Ages 7-13.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 30th May - Sat 1st Jun
TIPI TALES
PITT
Explore the American Great Plains with Native American crafts and activities.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

JUNE

Sat 8th June
GRAND MASTERPIECES
ASH
How would you have finished off our famous paintings? Add your own touches to create a masterpiece to take home.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 8th Jun
GLOBE-MAKERS
MHS
Discover the Museum's globes, and make your own model globe. **Ages 9-13. Voluntary materials donation £5.**
2 - 4pm Book on 01865 277280

Thu 13th Jun
I CAN SEE A RAINBOW
PITT
Find a rainbow of colours in the Museum and take a collection home with you at this special event for **under 5s**.
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 15th Jun
MEET THE FAMILIES
BOT
See a variety of weird and wonderful plant varieties, explore the Garden and get growing. Part of the Oxford Ecology Trail launch.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 20th Jun
MUSICAL MUSEUM
ASH
Join us for musical fun. Make a noisy rattle, then sing and dance in the galleries. **Especially for under 5s.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 22nd Jun
STARS AND PLANETS
MHS
Follow your stars, make an amazing star dial or paper plate planetarium. **Ages 7-13.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sun 30th Jun
LET'S GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY!
ARB
Celebrating 50 Years of the Arboretum. Lots of fun activities for people of all ages.
10am - 4pm Drop-in

JULY

Thu 11th Jul
SHADOW PUPPETS
NEED MAKE USE
PITT
Make a puppet and watch a show at this special event for **under 5s.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 13th Jul
ANCIENT DISCOVERY
ASH
Celebrate the British Festival of Archaeology by trying out our sand pit dig, archaeology hunt and mystery object handling.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 18th Jul
KING OR QUEEN FOR THE DAY
ASH
Join us for some royal fun. Make a glittering crown and create a royal banquet.
10.30am - 12.30pm Drop-in

Sat 20th Jul
DRAWING WITH LEONARDO
MHS
Discover the secrets of Renaissance art and how to use a camera obscura to draw in perfect perspective. **Age 9+.**
2 - 4pm Book on 01865 277280

Sat 27th Jul
SCHOOL'S OUT! PICNIC AFTERNOON
BOT
Relax and have plant-inspired fun in the Garden. Part of Love Parks Week.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

ALICE'S DAY Sat 6th July

BOT
ALICE'S DAY PICNIC AFTERNOON
Join us for more mad fun in the Garden where Alice Lidell and her family came to picnic.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

ASH
ALICE DAY
Celebrate the magical world of Alice in Wonderland with nutty but nice crafts to try. Search for wondrous things with the Alice trail.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

MHS
ALICE'S DISCOVERIES
Discover early photography, explore the Museum, and help us animate Alice's adventures! **Age 7+.**
12 - 4pm Drop-in

PITT
FLIBBITY FLUB
Celebrate Alice Day by creating some nonsense art inspired by the Museum's collection.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

EVERYDAY EVENTS

All Summer Holiday

Every Tue & Wed
BAGS OF FUN! PITT
Borrow a backpack full of activities and become a family of museum explorers!
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Everyday
BESIDE THE SEASIDE TRAIL PITT
Discover the people who live by the sea, with lots of sensory seaside surprises.
During opening hours

Everyday
QUEST ARB
Join our geo-caching treasure hunt. Available every day during the school holidays. **Free activity, but £40 deposit required for GPS unit.**
During opening hours

Everyday
SUMMER TRAILS AND ACTIVITIES MHS
Discover amazing instruments and devious devices: Help yourself to trails and activities.
During opening hours

Everyday
SUMMER ACTIVITY STATION ASH
Find summer trails and sketching activities to make the most of your visit.
During opening hours

AUGUST

Wed 31st Jul - Thu 1st Aug
SUMMER FAMILY FUN ASH
Search the Museum for musical instruments, then create some simple musical instruments to take home.
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 3rd Aug
GUARDIANS OF THE MUSEUM PITT NEED MAKE USE
Meet the objects that protect and guard... Then make a guardian of your own!
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 3rd Aug
WHAT IS AN ASTROLABE? MHS
Discover the beauty of the astrolabe, make one and find out how it works.
Ages 9-13. Voluntary materials donation £5.
2 - 4pm Book on 01865 277280

Tue 6th Aug
BIRDS AT THE ARBORETUM ARB
Try out our bird trail and join in our feathery craft fun.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Wed 7th - Thu 8th Aug
SUMMER FAMILY FUN ASH
Ancient Roman crafts to try and a chance to handle real ancient objects.
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 8th Aug
FAN-TASTIC PITT
Keep cool this summer by making a fan in this special event for **under 5s.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 10th Aug
VEGGIE HEAVEN! PICNIC AFTERNOON BOT
Celebrate all things yummy with food-inspired stories, activities and trails.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Tue 13th Aug
INSECTS AT THE ARBORETUM ARB
Buzz around our Insect trail and try our creepy crawly crafts.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Wed 14th - Thu 15th Aug
SUMMER FAMILY FUN ASH
Search for Indian elephants and create a clay elephant and more to take home.
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 17th Aug
SEND A MESSAGE SOS MHS
Discover Morse code and use the museum's telegraphic apparatus to unravel the mystery message. **Age 7 upwards.**
12 - 4pm Drop-in

Tue 20th Aug
MAMMALS AT THE ARBORETUM ARB
Learn about mammals at the Arboretum by following our trail. Then join in the mammal "make and do".
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Wed 21st - Thu 22nd Aug
SUMMER FAMILY FUN ASH
Ancient Egyptian crafts and a chance to handle real ancient objects.
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Mon 26th - Wed 28th Aug
A LOAD OF RUBBISH... PITT NEED MAKE USE
Explore our recycling displays and make your own art and animations out of junk.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Tue 27th Aug
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS AT THE ARBORETUM ARB
Slither or hop along our trail then get creative with our Reptile and Amphibian crafts.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Wed 28th - Thu 29th Aug
SUMMER FAMILY FUN ASH
Explore the Japan galleries, then make a Samurai helmet and Japanese fan to take home.
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 29th - Sat 31st Aug
MYSTERIES OF THE NATURAL WORLD MHS
Snakestones or salamanders? Touch, feel and discover curious objects of natural history. Try our tricky quiz! **Ages 6+.**
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 31st Aug
CHALLENGE DAY PITT NEED MAKE USE
A day to have a go and try new things!
11am - 5pm Drop-in, bring a picnic

SEPTEMBER

Sat 7th Sep
LET'S GO FLY A KITE
PITT

Hope for a blustery autumn and make your own Chinese inspired kite!
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 12th Sep
ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT
PITT

Explore the boats in the Museum and make one of your own at this special event for **under 5s.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 14th Sep
CABINET OF CURIOSITIES
MHS

Discover unusual objects and put together your own cabinet of curiosities. **Ages 5-11.**
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Thu 19th Sep
LION ROAR!
ASH

Make a lion mask and tail then join us for a safari search to discover lions in the Museum. **Especially for under 5s.**
2 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 21st Sep
SPECTACULAR SCULPTURES
ASH

Make a mini sculpture of a human figure and search the galleries for human figures, ancient and modern.
1 - 4pm Drop-in

Sat 28th Sep
YELLOW MAGIC!
MHS

Discover the amazing story of penicillin and other medical breakthroughs with stories, objects and activities. **Ages 9+.**
12 - 4pm Drop-in

Ashmolean

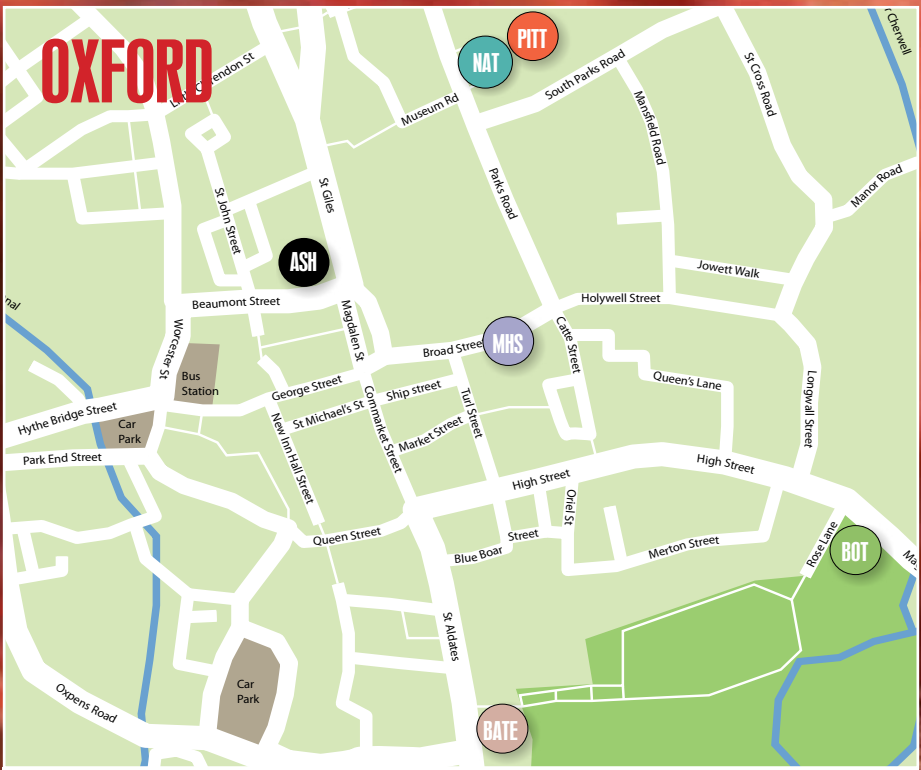
THE OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM

Why not also visit our partner museum, The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, and discover the history of Oxfordshire through its gardens and interactive galleries?

Be inspired by the fascinating collection to make, create, and design in a Family Learning drop-in session: 2 - 4pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays during school holidays. Or borrow a backpack or trail any time. A small charge applies for some activities.

See www.tomocc.org.uk or telephone 01993 811456.

The Oxfordshire Museum
Fletcher's House
Park Street
Woodstock
OX20 1SN



Free disabled parking is available at all sites. Please telephone individual collections for details regarding wheelchair access. Guide dogs and hearing dogs welcome.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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Supported by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Arts & Humanities Research Council

Supported by The National Lottery® through the Heritage Lottery Fund

heritage lottery fund

Photograph: Carnivorous Sundew plant at the Botanic Garden

Don't forget to bring an adult! Children must be accompanied at all our activities