



22 March 2004



royal pump room museum

## Royal Pump Room Museum takes to the air on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May as new 'Childhood' exhibition opens!

### What do you remember from childhood?

Did you have a **pogo stick** or a **favourite doll**? Maybe you remember your first **train set** or **computer game**? What did you wear as a **baby** and how was it different to those born over 100 years ago? What was your **first day at school** like?

The new exhibition 'Childhood: From Perambulators to PlayStation' at the Royal Pump Room Museum in Harrogate will give a glimpse of childhood through the ages. Themes such as **clothing, toys & games, school days** and **pastimes** will be explored. Items on display will include toys dating back to the **19<sup>th</sup> century** as well as objects more familiar to children of today.

A **school desk, school books and easel** will bring back memories of school days, while a range of displays will chart the history of **children's games** – from early **board games** and **doll's houses** up to the **Rubik's cube** of the 1980s and the **PlayStation 2** so popular with the children of today.

The exhibition will also include a number of activities for children, including a **puppet theatre, toy chest, an exhibition trail** and the chance to dress up as Victorian children in **replica costume**.

The exhibition will open on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May**, with a day of activities for all the family. The museum doors will open to visitors at 11am, when visitors can meet their favourite children's character's including the **Queen of Hearts, Mary Poppins** and **Snow White!**

A children's entertainer will be in the museum all afternoon, amazing visitors with **magic tricks and balloon modelling**. Museum staff will be on hand to help out with a number of activities in the museum, including the chance to make a moving puppet. And don't miss out on the **balloon race** that's sure to brighten up Harrogate! Entry forms will be available all afternoon, with a **thrilling release of all the balloons after 5pm**.

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The museum will also stay open until 7pm on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May**, to celebrate the start of **Museum and Galleries Month 2004**. During this extended evening opening visitors can view the exhibition and talk to curatorial staff about the objects in display. There'll also be the chance to share your memories of childhood in the memory book that will remain in the exhibition for its duration.

For further information please contact the museum on 01423 556188 or visit [www.harrogate.gov.uk/museums](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/museums).

## **Ends**

### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES**

Museum takes to the air!

**11am, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the Royal Pump Room Museum:**

*Audience Development Officer Janine Taylor will be dressed as Mary Poppins, pushing an old perambulator from the exhibition. She will be holding a bunch of balloons and a parasol.*

**Also, between 1pm and 5pm, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May:**

*Children's activities in the museum with staff dressed up as children's storybook characters – photo opportunities available all afternoon.*

**For further information on any aspect of the exhibition please contact:**

Janine Taylor, Audience Development Officer or Ros Watson, Curator of Human History on 01423 556188.

JPEG images of objects from the exhibition are available on request - please email [LG23@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:LG23@harrogate.gov.uk) or call Janine Taylor on 01423 556 188.

### **Museum information:**

The exhibition 'Childhood: From Perambulators to PlayStation' continues until 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2005.

**Address:** Royal Pump Room Museum, Crown Place, Harrogate

**Opening times:** Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm (4pm Nov-March), Sunday 2pm to 5pm (4pm Nov-March).

**Admission:** Adult £2.50, Child £1.25. Conc. £1.50

**Website:** [www.harrogate.gov.uk/museums](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/museums)

### **Royal Pump Room Museum history;**

*The Royal Pump Room was built by Isaac Shutt in 1842 to provide shelter for the town's affluent visitors as they took the famous waters. At its peak, each summer the Pump Room attracted 15,000 people. Among its most famous visitors was Tsarina Alexandra of Russia in 1911. The annexe was added in 1913 to cater for the expanding visitor numbers, and now houses the permanent exhibition and the museum shop. The Pump Room attracted fewer visitors after the Second World War and with the emergence of the National Health Service the 'curing' waters were not taken as frequently and eventually the doors were closed. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1953 the Royal Pump Room was reopened as a museum. The museum is operated by Harrogate Museums and Arts, Harrogate Borough Council. The museum has a changing temporary exhibition programme and permanent displays of Harrogate's spa-history.*

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