

# Banbury Museum

If you're looking for something fun and affordable to do with the kids these Easter holidays, look no further than the Banbury Museum

Located in the heart of Banbury and conveniently accessible within the Castle Quay Shopping Centre, the museum has pulled out all the stops this Spring to create an imaginative and fun-packed programme of activities to keep the families of Banbury busy.

From interactive trails to museum-themed arts and crafts activities, the staff at the museum have tirelessly created a creative and imaginative space where Banbury families can enjoy a whole afternoon of entertainment for little or no money at all. Easier said than done in this day and age!

Comprising of four galleries – The Waterways Gallery which dramatically spans the canal below, The Discoveries Gallery, the Treasures Gallery and a temporary gallery which is currently exhibiting The British Life Photography Awards - the museum tells the story of Banbury down through the centuries. From the famous 'Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross' nursery rhyme to an impressive collection of historical costumes - and everything in between - there really is something to interest everyone here.

Representing Your Letterbox, along with two little boys, I was fortunate enough to be given a guided tour of the museum by the infectiously enthusiastic Education Manager, Suzi Wild, who admits she could spend days exploring the wide array of exhibits in the museum. Wild explains that the various trails on offer around the museum and the arts and crafts projects are designed to help bring the exhibits to life for young visitors and to inspire curiosity and feed imaginations.

With such a valuable resource available free of charge (although donations are always welcome), I urge anyone with a curious child to visit this charming little museum next time they have an hour or two to spare. Or indeed, anyone with a passing curiosity about the rich and colourful history of our little town on the northern edge of Oxfordshire should pay a visit, they'll be glad they did.

And why not make a day of your visit to the museum and visit the museum café, Café Red, and enjoy delicious cakes, coffees, meals and a special children's menu, in its unique canal-side setting.

Upcoming Easter/Spring events at Banbury Museum: (Please see website details below for booking details and times)

**Super Science – 19 March:** As part of British Science Week and the Oxfordshire Science Festival, lots of family fun science activities. Come and make your very own lava lamp to take home and marvel at. £3 per child.

**Claytastic - 29 March:** Prepare for some messy fun! Recreate in clay one of Banbury's landmarks to take home and show your friends. £4 per child.



**Canal Adventures – 31 March:** it's all about canals! Come and dress in traditional clothes from the waterways, handle real museum objects and make a very special web inspired by our canal costumes. £3 per child.

**Hobby Horse Happenings – 6 April:** Inspired by the nursery rhyme of 'Banbury Cross' come and make your very own special wooden hobby horse. £4 per child.

Year-round activities: (See website for more details)

- There are various trails on offer at Banbury Museum, including 'Teddy's Museum Adventure Trail' and 'Toy Trail', both at 60p per trail, as well as various prize trails throughout the year.

- The Crafty Corner runs every Saturday as well as every day of the Oxfordshire school holidays. £2 per child.

- With Bizzy Bags you can make museum inspired scenes including 'Castles and Cannons' and 'Canal Puppet Theatre' and they run every Saturday as well as every day of the Oxfordshire school holidays. £3 per child.

Also, the museum has recently introduced the 'Hobby Horse Club' where you receive a Banbury Museum loyalty card, a family certificate as well as advance notice of all family events and FREE activities.

For more information on all the activities above as well as information about other activities and exhibitions, please go to:

[www.banburymuseum.org](http://www.banburymuseum.org)

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