



## **Devon D-Day Project: Education Menu**

In 1943-44, American GIs used the beaches, estuaries and sand-dunes of northern Devon to train for the D-Day landings of World War II.

This year, to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we invite **schools** and **groups** to discover North Devon's own important wartime story.

For more information or to book any of these activities, please contact the provider directly using the details below.

1)

Activity: **Saunton D-Day Education Day**

Location: **Saunton Beach**

When: **Friday June 14th**

Duration: 9.30am - 2.30pm

Cost: Free (subsidised by Arts Council /Lottery funding)

Contact: Tim Lay

Email: [sauntondday@gmail.com](mailto:sauntondday@gmail.com)

Activity: Ahead of the public Saunton D-Day event schools have a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the WW2 era through a dedicated schools education day. This will comprise of a series of activities based on and around the beach. There will be a talk by historian Richard Bass, who has written a number of books about the GI experience in WW2, including *Spirits of the Sand* about their North Devon training. Children will be able to interact with installations recreating the Normandy defences and a WAAF war room, and view period planes landing on the beach. There will also be activities organised by RMB Chivenor. A full programme of events will be sent out closer to the time.

2)

Activity: **WW2 guided walk + activities**

Location: **Braunton Burrows**

When: **Summer term (by appointment)**

Duration: Half or full day excursions.

Cost: £2 per student (activity subsidised by Christie Estates).

Contact: Tim Lay

Email: brauntonburrows@gmail.com

Activity: Field trip to Braunton Burrows, which was home to the Assault Training Center where 10,000+ American GIs trained for D-Day between 1943 - 1944. Joining Burrows guides, children will learn about the GI experience - training at the ATC, living in camp and the D-Day push on the beaches of Normandy. As well as visiting archaeological remains, children will take part in hands on activities that give a sense of what it was like to be a GI at the time.

3)

Activity: **The GI experience in North Devon**

Location: **School visits**

When: **Summer term (by appointment)**

Duration: 90 minutes

Cost: Free (subsidised by Arts Council /Lottery funding)

Contact: Neil Worth

Email: neil@kingfishermultimedia.co.uk

Activity: A chance for children to get a good basic grounding of the GI experience training for D-Day in North Devon. Neil Worth is the producer of the film Spirits in the Sand and has an extensive knowledge of North Devon's WW2 history. Ideally suited to the classroom (Key Stage 2), the presentation features a viewing of the film followed by a Q+A session. Schools will need to provide a projector, and screen/whiteboard and a way of playing the film (from DVD or via USB stick).

4)

Activity: **World War II Schoolroom experience**

Location: **North Devon Maritime Museum, Appledore**

When: **Flexible, by appointment**

Duration: We recommend 90 minutes to two hours for a visit

Cost: £2 per child, £1 per accompanying adult

Contact name: Amanda Gratton

Email: [group.bookings@northdevonmaritimemuseum.co.uk](mailto:group.bookings@northdevonmaritimemuseum.co.uk)

Tel: 01237 429327 (continued over)

Activity: **World War II Schoolroom experience** (continued)

Activity: In a World War II schoolroom, experience what life was like as a child in 1944 - and find out about Appledore's important role in the war. At this time, exercises and experiments around Appledore were helping Great Britain and its American allies prepare for the D-Day landings. Meanwhile, with paper in short supply, children practised their 3 'R's using slates.

With the threat of war ever present, evacuee pupils of all ages are invited to come dressed for the part. Evacuee identity labels supplied. Session delivered by the education group volunteers at the museum. Visits tailored to requirements of group - Group leaders are invited to visit beforehand to finalise details.

5)

Activity: **Combe Martin in Wartime**

Location: **Combe Martin Museum and Information Point**

When: **Summer term (by arrangement)**

Duration: Half day or Full day

Cost: £1.50 per child (half day); £2 per child (full day)

Contact: Tamasine Addie, Learning and Access Coordinator

Email: combemartinmuseum@googlemail.com

Activity: WWII Sessions for Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2.

Local Voice - hear stories from the time based on news report evidence, tell stories from the time using photos and visual information, hear memories from 2 local residents.

Artefact Handling - investigate artefacts to find out about home life in Combe Martin during wartime and special preparations being made for war

Role play/Drama - activity using artefacts in context based on local voice stories.

6)

Activity: **Northam Burrows World War II Trail**

Location: **Northam Burrows**

When: **Available from Monday 6 May (by appointment)**

Duration: Full day (normally 10.00am - 2.30pm)

Cost: £25

Contact: Michael Day

Email: northam.burrows@torridge.gov.uk

Activity: Find out what Northam Burrows was like during World War II. Use map skills to find World War II features on the burrows on a special trail.

Suitable for Key Stage 2.

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Devon D-Day 2019 is a summer-long commemoration of the American GI presence in north Devon in 1943-44, during the preparations for the D-Day landings of World War II.

Devon D-Day is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, with additional financial support from North Devon Council, North Devon Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund and North Devon Marketing Bureau.