

1

## The lady of Corfe Castle

**Corfe Castle was the site of fierce tension during the English Civil War, when Royalists fought against Parliamentarians for political power.**

Lady Mary was a Royalist and oversaw the protection of the castle against hundreds of Parliamentarians. She, her family and servants defended the castle by throwing down burning coals and heavy stones.

During the second siege the traitor, Colonel Pitman, guided 120 Parliamentarians dressed as Royalists, sneaked them in through the Sally Port (the back door) and took control of the castle. You can find one of the remaining sally ports on the south side of the castle

To keep her family and servants fed, the Parliamentarians allowed Mary a yearly allowance of £1,200. She spent her money on basic household goods: faggots (a ball of meat mixed with bread and herbs, fried or cooked in sauce), beer, and candles.



2

## The code breaker of Kingston Lacy

**William John Bankes inherited Kingston Lacy in 1835. The golden ceilings, extravagant furniture and magnificent decorations makes Kingston Lacy one of our most treasured and remarkable properties.**

William John embarked on 'The Grand Tour' and travelled the world collecting and bringing back fascinating artefacts.

One of the most significant is the Philae Obelisk, which William John discovered in Upper Egypt in 1815. It is inscribed with Ancient Greek and Egyptian hieroglyphic text.

William John was able to translate the word 'Cleopatra' from the obelisk, which helped Jean-Francois Champollion work out and decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Hieroglyphics was a writing system used in ancient Egypt using symbols. We've made our version of Egyptian hieroglyphics. Can you help William John decode this urgent message from Lady Mary Bankes?



3

## The ancient history of Badbury Rings

**Badbury Rings is a historic hillfort located on the Kingston Lacy estate, dating back to the Bronze Age. It was also inhabited during the Iron Age and Roman occupation.**

There is evidence that the Durotriges, a Celtic tribe who inhabited much of Dorset between AD 25–53, lived at Badbury Rings until the Roman invasion.

Badbury Rings makes a great lookout. You can see for miles in every direction. If an enemy tribe were riding towards your settlement, you would have enough time to rally your troops and defend your home from an attack.

The Durotrige name can be broken down into two parts: 'Duro' meaning hard and 'Triges' meaning inhabitants. We think that's why the Durotriges were given their name, as they mainly lived on exposed hillforts on hard ground.



What would be the name of your tribe?

4

## The military operation at Fort Henry

**The DD (Duplex Drive) Valentine Tank was a 'floating' unit that could leave its landing ship further out from shore than other tanks. It was also known as The Swimming Tank.**

The DD Valentine was built to provide cover for the advancing allied forces against enemy attacks as they reached the Normandy shoreline during D-Day.

The Swimming Tank was a heavy vehicle surrounded by canvas to keep the tank waterproof. However, this was not a strong material. Many soldiers were worried that enemy gunfire would pierce the canvas skirt, causing the DD Valentine to sink to the bottom of the sea.

On 4 April 1944, as Operation SMASH – a practice run for D-Day – began, adverse weather conditions and choppy seas sank two of the tanks, with the loss of six soldiers. A memorial has been placed for the fallen soldiers in Operation SMASH. It stands as one of the few physical reminders of Dorset's significant involvement with D-Day.



5

## The bakers of White Mill



**The Joyce family lived at White Mill Farm and ran the mill in Sturminster Marshall from 1525. They became great friends with the Bankes's and supplied the estate with flour and animal feed. In 1773, Henry Bankes bought the farm and allowed the Joyce family to continue to live and work there.**

A water mill is an engine that uses a water wheel or turbine to drive a mechanical process to produce flour. In the UK, most water mills were used through the 18th and 19th centuries before the peak of the Industrial Revolution. Today there are fewer than 100 water mills and there are only 10 which still operate and produce flour commercially.

In 1865, after a harsh winter and flooding of the **River Stour**, the mill's dam broke and White Mill was no longer able to produce goods for the estate. Thanks to Ralph Bankes, who gifted the Bankes Estate to the National Trust, we were able to restore the mill and keep its original elm and applewood machinery, for everyone to enjoy.

# 6

## I spy dinosaurs at Spyway

**Whilst exploring today's wildlife at Spyway you may stumble across some its prehistoric relics. This is an incredibly special place with over 100 fossilised tracks found within the rock.**

A fossil is the remains of a dead animal or plant in mud or sand protected by many layers of rock which leaves an imprint in the stone

One dinosaur that palaeontologists (dinosaur experts) think lived in this area was the Brachiosaurus. You can see some of their footprints at the quarry today.

### **Brachiosaurus fact file**

1. Brachiosaurus is pronounced brack-ee-ow-sorus, meaning 'arm reptiles'
2. They were one of the largest animals to have ever lived.
3. They had long necks and were herbivores (plant eaters).
4. They weighed 40 tons – around the same size as five elephants.
5. They were 25 m tall – that's taller than the Castle (21m)

