



COWPER & NEWTON MUSEUM

*What am I? Riddles for the  
House and Garden*

Information for Guided and Self Guided  
School Visits

£3 per child    Adults free up to a ratio of 1: 6

Because the rooms are small, classes should be split into smaller groups of 10 - 12 children

House and Garden Risk Assessment available



If visits are organised for **Mondays**, the Museum is closed to the general public.



From May to September there is a gazebo in the Courtyard which can be used for group / individual writing, as well as eating

**Self guided**    We highly recommend you make a preliminary visit to help you get the most out of your trip

**Guided**    Our guides can match their / activities talk to your desired outcomes if you talk to us prior to your visit

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# *What am I? Riddles for the House and Garden*



## *In The Museum*

Poets have to start somewhere! Riddles are a great way for our younger visitors to engage with the rooms in the Museum, and explore our Gardens.

We have chosen 1 object in each room and described it for you in a Riddle format. The first clue is for more than 1 object in the room but then subsequent clues help reveal the Mystery .

There is also some historic information for you to go along with the chosen object.

**There are lots of objects in each of the rooms so you will be able to write your own Riddle and try it out on each other.**

## **In The Garden - Reading Age 6-7**

In the Garden the riddles are organised as a Trail and describe animals which live here or visit us. You read the first riddle to your group, decide on what you think the animal is, then find the picture of that animal in the garden. With the picture you will then find the next clue to the next animal. Keep going until the Trail tells you that you have successfully unravelled the clues and have reached the end.



## The Kitchen

Bread was an essential food and you would need to make a lot even for a small household, particularly as many households had servants, even if it was just a Maid of All Work. You would make a week's supply in the dough trough, using it to mix the ingredients as well as leaving it to prove and rise near to the warmth of the fire. Then you would shape and bake your bread.

**I help to fill your tummy when you are hungry**

**I need flour to make me work**

**I am made of wood**

**You often spread butter on what I help to make**

**I am a ...? A Dough Trough**

## The Hall

When you are riding a horse or travelling in a horse and chaise in cold weather, you need some protection from the rain and cold.

The cloak is made from wool.

Cloaks were still fashionable in the 18th century but greatcoats were becoming more popular.

**I am something you wear**

**I am made of fabric**

**I help you keep warm and dry**

**You wear me when you are travelling**

**I am ...? Mr Bull's Riding Coat**

(The Reverend William Bull of Newport Pagnell United Reformed Church was a good friend of John Newton and William Cowper - he rode over to preach at the meeting house or chat with William in the Summer House.)

## *The Parlour*

Reading, writing, talking  
and reading out aloud to

each other reading aloud, listening to and making music, drawing and games were your entertainment - no tv, radio, computer, phone, electrical or digital devices etc.

Books were very expensive in the 18th century and highly prized by their owners.

**I am made to keep something safe**

**I hold something from your imagination or something real**

**I am made of wood - and so are my contents**

**I am ...? Mr Cowper's Bookcases**

(They were a present from Lady Hesketh, his cousin.)

## *John Newton Room*

This armchair was sold by the Rev Newton when he left Olney to become vicar of a church in London. He used this arm chair in his study where he wrote the words for the hymn, Amazing Grace

**I have 4 legs on which I stand**

**You have me in a room in your house**

**I am used everyday**

**I am very useful and comfortable when you are tired**

**I am ...? Mr Newton's arm chair**



Exhibiting the work of local artists and craftspeople

**Three Hares Gallery** - The exhibition changes monthly Please check it will be suitable for the age of your children

Language: What can you see?

Personal Opinion: My favourite is ... because .... It makes me feel...?

### *William Cowper's Bedroom*

Made from linen (request samples to handle) at the beginning of the 18th century; The import of cotton textiles from India was banned for part of the 18th century but then became popular later.

I am made of fabric

I am useful in the night

You wear me when you sleep

I am ...? Mr Cowper's Nightshirt

### *Mrs Unwin's Bedroom*

Fans were a fashion accessory and carried by both men and women. You would choose your fan to match your clothes. It helps to keep you cool but also how you hold and use it can send a message - you can talk with your fan. We have fans for you to try out in the Museum.

You hold me in your hand

I can talk without words

When I move I can cool you down

I am ...? Lady Austen's fan

## *The Osney History Room*

An ideal room in which to create your own riddles

### *Lace Room*

Lace Bobbins— Find your favourite - draw it - is there a pattern?

Count the number, colour and shape of the beads (spangles)

## **In the Garden** Follow the 'What Am I? Animal Trail'

The riddles describe animals which live or visit our garden.

Read the first animal clue below to your group.

Now **find the picture of this animal which is placed on a cane** in the garden. You will also find the next animal clue on this cane. Read the next riddle, decide what the animal is, find the picture on a cane ....

Read the next riddle .....

Keep going until the last clue tells you that you have reached the end of the trail.

*I have wings but I'm not a bird*

*I used to be a caterpillar*

*I have something you eat in my name.*

*I am a...*

The order for the animals is: butterfly, frog, cat, spider, bat, bee, newt, fox, hedgehog, ladybird, sparrowhawk, robin.