

Dalbeattie Primary's Museum of The Future

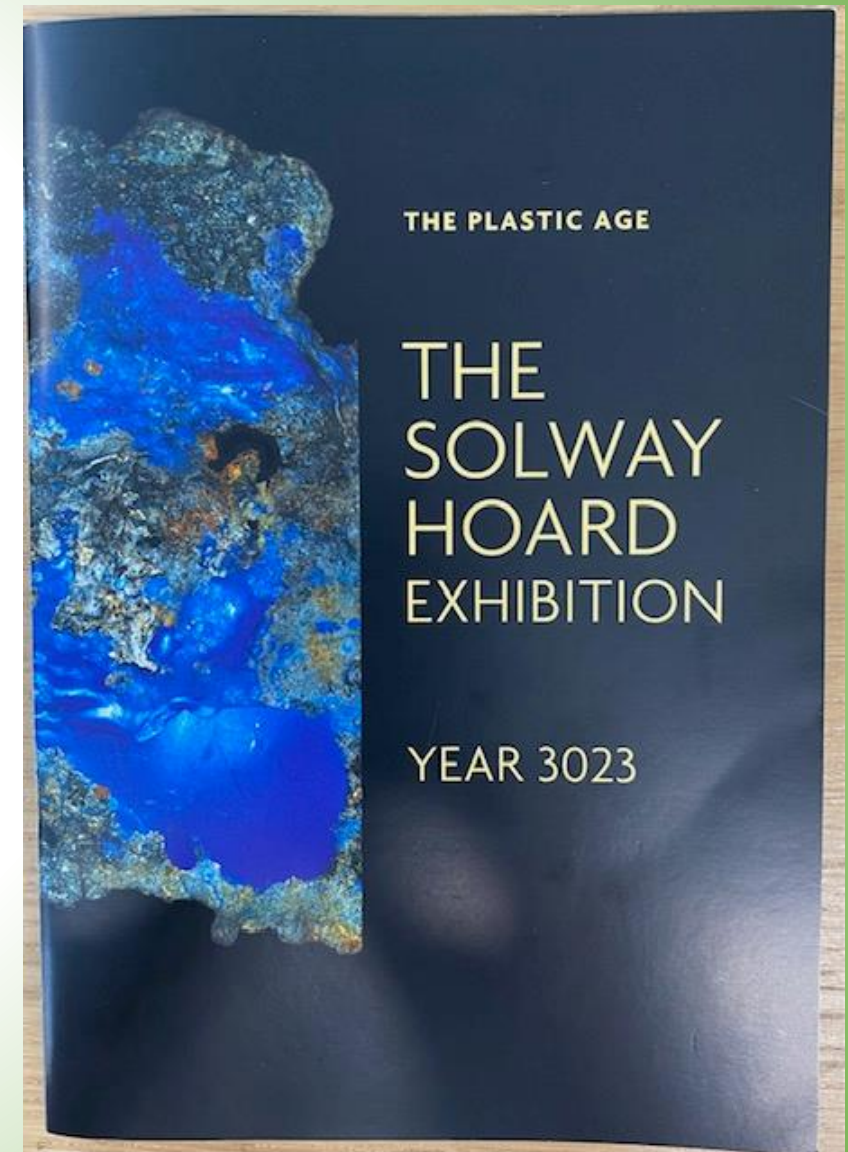
An activity for your spare time....

This powerpoint is based on an idea which Mrs Howie got from visiting an exhibition in Kirkcudbright Gallery earlier in 2023.

There was an exhibition of plastic things.

This is the booklet/programme that went along with the things on display.

It was called the Solway Hoard to make us think of the more valuable 'Galloway (Viking) Hoard.'



Each page in the booklet had a picture of a plastic thing and a piece of writing about what the archaeologists (of the future) thought it was.

The people, who were writing the descriptions, pretended they were living in the future when plastic was no longer in use.

Therefore, they were not totally sure what the objects they found actually were and pretended to guess what they might have been used for.

Mrs Howie had a go at doing something similar...

- On a walk to the shell beach in Kippford, she found two bits of interesting plastic. Although Mrs Howie had a good idea about what they were probably from, she pretended she didn't. She pretended that she was living in the future and had found things on the beach which she did not recognise.
- The following two slides are examples of what Mrs Howie wrote in order to give others ideas on how to do something similar.

Dalbeattie Primary's Museum of the Future

Name of Archaeologist: Mrs Howie

Find Location: End Shell Beach, Kippford

Date of Find: September 2223

Method of Excavation: The item was spotted tangled amongst seaweed washed up on the beach.

Likely Value: £500



FIND REPORT

Description:

The item is a small piece of curved, moulded material. It is pale blue but may have faded over the years, having been a much brighter colour originally. It has a plastic coating over an unknown inner layer. The fragment appears to have been shaped for a specific purpose and is thought to be broken from a larger object. Its appearance would suggest it has been tossed about in rough seas for many hundreds of years.

Age: Thought to date from the year 1993 so approximately 230 years old made from a form of plastic, which was not used later than the year 2123.

Likely Use or Purpose of the Item: The curved shape of the item leads us to believe this is part of the rim of a large ceremonial serving dish. It is believed that in the early 21st century, approximately 200 years ago, children attended schools for their education. This pot would have been used on school trips to the local beaches when seaweed stew would have been made in a metal pot, over a campfire by the teacher and then served to the pupils as a traditional dish on school outings in the Galloway area. The object is now preserved and being prepared for exhibition in the school's Future Museum.

(P.S: *As a person actually living in the year 2023, this item is thought to be broken from the rim of a sailing dinghy, perhaps used by local cadets who broke the edge of their boat during a collision with a rock? It looks like it has been weathered by the sea for some time.)*

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Name of Archaeologist: Mrs Howie

Find Location: End Shell Beach, Kippford

Date of Find: September 2323

Method of Excavation: The item was spotted, partially protruding from a steep sand and shell bank.

Likely value: £1000



FIND REPORT

Description:

The item is a flat, fragment of faded turquoise blue plastic. It is thin and has some raised lines or grooves. Its uneven edges look like it must be broken from a larger object. Its appearance would suggest some time in the water or sand because the plastic now seems quite brittle.

Age: This is thought to date from the year 2011 so it is now approximately 300 years old. The material used (very expensive plastic) became very rare in the 2020s and was not used beyond 2040. As an expensive form of plastic, this broken fragment may well have come from a plate in a very expensive set of dishes owned by a very wealthy family.

Likely Use or Purpose of the Item: The flat but thin shape of the item leads us to believe this is a broken fragment which may well have come from a plate in a very expensive set of dishes owned by a very wealthy family. This form of plastic became so special and rare that it would have become very expensive to use. It may even have formed part of a ceremonial plate in a religious ceremony. The object is now preserved and being prepared for exhibition in the school's Future Museum.

(P.S: As a person actually living in the year 2023, this item is thought to be broken from the flat part of a child's cheap plastic spade or frisbee toy for playing on the local beaches.)

What would the Eco Group like you to do?

- If you haven't already done so, please have a walk on a local beach to find an interesting piece of plastic, washed up on the sand. (Pop it in a bag to clean later ready for the exhibition we will tell you about later.)
- Take a photo of it... on its own or lying on the beach where you found it. Then, here's the most important part..... Get your thinking cap on and pretend you don't know what it is because you live in the future. Use your imagination to make up some interesting facts about it.

Next...

- Write out your ideas on a piece of paper or type them up. It would be great if you could stick on a picture, or insert a photo of your object/piece of plastic.
- There will be blank pro formas you can collect from the DHT room if you prefer.

Dalbeattie Primary's Museum of the Future

<p><u>Name of Archaeologist:</u></p> <p><u>Find Location:</u></p> <p><u>Date of Find:</u></p> <p><u>Method of Excavation:</u></p> <p><u>Likely value:</u></p>

FIND REPORT

Description:

Age:

Likely Use or Purpose of the Item:

P.S: As a person actually living in the year 2023, this item is thought to be.....

What is the aim of this?

- It encourages us to care for the environment by doing some beach cleaning.
- It builds our awareness about plastic being something that lasts a long time and which we should try to keep out of our oceans.
- It is a good activity for our creative skills.
- Your contributions will help us have an event in school in Term 3.

See next slide....

The Parent Council has agreed to help host an event after school....

- At the end of the school day (date to be finalised) parents can come into the school hall where it will be set up like a museum exhibition. The plastic finds will be displayed on small piece of fabric/ felt and the pieces of writing which goes with them will be just beside the correct pieces.
- People can go round looking at all the items and, on a voting slip, choose the item which has grabbed their attention most. The entry with the most votes will win a prize.
- Refreshments will also be provided and small donations will be welcome for the work of the school.

If you would like to take part in this....

- Do a beach walk sometime between now and the end of the Christmas holidays. Photograph and keep your piece of plastic safe.
- Send your written piece into school or email it to Mrs Howie on:
- gw09howiealexandra@ea.dumgal.sch.uk
- Please give your email the title 'Museum of The Future.'
- Then watch out for more information about when to bring your piece of plastic into school, ready for the exhibition, later in Term 3.
- Mrs Howie would like all pieces of writing by the end of January, at the latest, so that we know if we have enough entries to make the event a success.

This idea has already been on the blog.

You can check back on the original post for information too.

This is what the information page looked like.



Summer Holiday

Activity Idea

Take Part in Our Future Museum Event!

Looking for something to do over the holidays? Then why not take part in this activity which is not only a good way to show good citizenship towards your local community and the environment but is also creative and may even help with school fundraising.

If you have time, why not undertake a beach clean with an adult family member. When you are picking up litter, keep your eyes open for something made of plastic which is interesting or unusual. Take it home and keep it safe . Then, imagine the future, 1000 years from now. Imagine a world where plastic no longer exists but where archaeologists are digging up items which are made of plastic. What will they think the items are? Will they think they are valuable? What use do you think they imagine the object, which you have found, to have had?

This event is inspired by a recent 'Solway Hoard 'exhibition at Kirkcudbright Art Gallery. At Dalbeattie Primary, the eco group would like us to create our own future museum of our very own hoard.

So let your imagination and creative skills take over. If you find an interesting piece of plastic (it doesn't need to be intact– it could just be a plastic fragment of an imagined larger object) then think about writing a few sentences about the item which could be displayed beside your object in the 'Future Museum.'

An example from the Solway Hoard exhibition was a plastic dog toy.

The information which accompanied it claimed, however, that it was discovered in the year 2223 and was thought to date to the year 2005. The expert archaeologist also claimed it to be a 'sacred ornament' used as a symbol of power and prayer. Someone had fun making this up! Now you can make your own story too. More details will follow in August on how to write and submit your entry. For now, please consider doing the beach clean and do take some photos of your activity to share with us later.



Thank you!