



ENGLISH HERITAGE

NEWS RELEASE

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VICTORIANS ALIVE! TIME TRAVELLERS COME TO WITLEY COURT!

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July 2009

Missing Doctor Who? Wish that you could step into the past as easily as he steps out of the TARDIS? If so, then make your way down to Witley Court on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July 2009, when English Heritage opens a doorway to the Victorian era with its very own Time Travellers!

Time Travellers Go... Victorian is the first Time Travellers Go... event for English Heritage in the West Midlands, and gives children the chance to step back in time to experience life in a Victorian country house. A Victorian family have taken residence at Witley Court, but without any servants to help them run the busy household, it is down to the visitors to fill the roles of butler, launderer and chambermaid – and they can dress up in suitable Victorian attire!

“Whilst life for the family at Witley Court may have been quite comfortable – with a small army of staff looking after every aspect of domestic life, from cooking to childcare – the role of a domestic servant was rather harder, with children starting work at a young age and being required to work very long hours to prepare the house each morning before the

family wakes up, and close everything up after the family has retired for the evening!” says Visitor Operations Site Supervisor for Witley Court, Spencer Trickett.

Indeed, many chores that we now consider simple would have been quite arduous – children will try their hand at laundry – handwashing clothes and linen - as well as cleaning, a never ending task in households made dusty by the ash from open fires and, of course, no vacuum cleaner!

The event runs each day from 11.00am to 5.00pm, although Witley Court itself opens an hour earlier at 10.00am. Admission is £5.80 for adults, £4.90 for concessions and £2.90 for children or £14.50 for a family (two adults and up to three children). English Heritage members get in free. An additional £1 will be charged for every child over 5, member and non-member, to help fund this entertainment activity.

Witley Court is open daily throughout the summer months from 10.00am to 6.00pm. For more information, please contact Witley Court on 01299 896636 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/witleycourt

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