

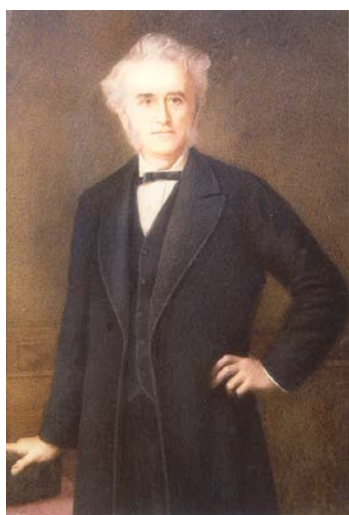
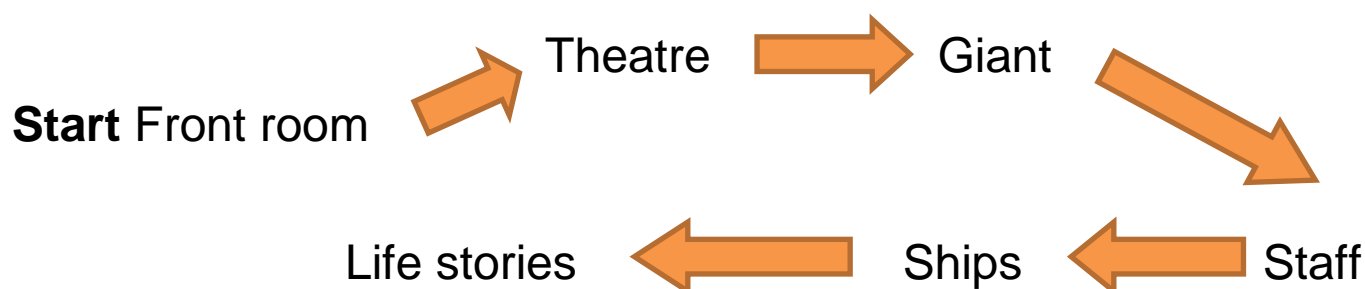
LANGDON DOWN MUSEUM

Children's Trail

Explore

the museum and theatre

to discover some extraordinary pictures and objects



This is Dr John Langdon Down and his wife Mary.

They created Normansfield in 1868 for the care and education of people with learning disabilities.

1

Front room



This room has old photographs of the Normansfield buildings. It shows the farm, fields and boathouse. It was like a small village.



See if you can find the following in the photographs on display:

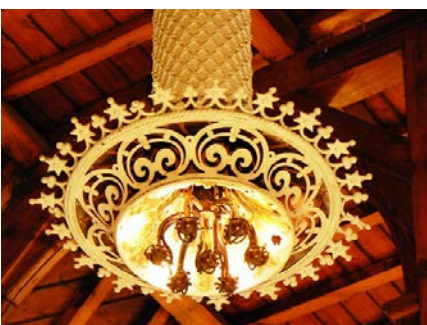
- ❖ Horses and haystacks
- ❖ People standing on a frozen River Thames
- ❖ A lawn with croquet hoops

2

Go up to the theatre



The Victorian theatre opened in 1879 and was used by staff and residents. Many plays were performed each year.



Things to find in the theatre

- ❖ Two portraits of Shakespeare
- ❖ A row of old shields
- ❖ Wading birds
- ❖ A Sun Burner, used to keep the air fresh

3

Giant

Walk across the theatre and go through the opposite door to find the Giant. Pullen made the Giant to amuse children on fete days when he lived at Earlswood.



- ❖ Can you see the door where Pullen climbed inside the Giant?
- ❖ The Giant comes in 3 sections. Can you see the joins?

4

Staff



Staff worked at Normansfield in the workshops, in the fields and vegetable gardens. Some were teachers, nursing and care staff.

- ❖ What time did staff have to get up and start work?
- ❖ Who made the Lord's Prayer carving?

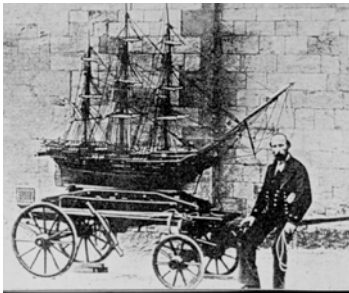
5

Ships

James Henry Pullen had a disability but was also called a savant - someone who could make models with the made lots of models and pictures.



- ❖ Where is this musical ship? What musical instruments can you see?
- ❖ Can you find a lion? Which ship is he sitting under?
- ❖ Pullen created a picture of his life. Can you find this picture him with his mother?



- ❖ The photograph above is of James Henry Pullen who built the ships. Which one is he sitting next to?
- ❖ Which King is shown in the frame?

6

Life Stories Room



Many people lived at Normansfield to get a special education and learn new skills.

- ❖ In this photograph Dolly Freeman is sitting in a Glastonbury Chair. Can you find it?