

## WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2025

WHEN	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025
WHERE	Pendon Museum
WHAT	<p>Pendon recaptures scenes from the English countryside as it was in the 1920s and 1930s using exquisite models to explain a past era and a different way of life. What sets it apart is the amazing level of detail.</p> <p><b>Vale Scene</b></p> <p>The Vale Scene is probably the largest diorama based on accurately reproduced buildings, landscape and railways to be found anywhere. An ambitious model of the countryside of Vale of White Horse as it was in the 1930s. It recaptures in miniature an impression of the calm unhurried beauty of the past.. Many features of the Vale have either been demolished or significantly modified since the 1930s, leaving Pendon's Vale Scene as the sole representation of those times.</p> <p><b>Madder Valley Railway</b></p> <p>Built entirely by John Ahern, this layout dates from the 1930s and is an historical relic of the early days of scenic railway modelling. It pioneered the idea of scenic craftsmanship. It showed others what could be done and many model light railway and branch line layouts built in the last fifty years are its descendants. Note that the model runs on a few specific days during the year.</p> <p><b>Dartmoor and Seawall</b></p> <p>Pendon's first diorama portraying an imaginary GWR branch line in the west country. The branch makes a junction with the GWR main line from Exeter to Plymouth where it runs high along the southern edge of Dartmoor. Shortly after leaving the station, a long viaduct carries the branch across wild moorland scenery. Both Devon and Cornwall imposed remarkable engineering demands on the railway builders, and perhaps no feature made this more evident than the lofty and striking timber viaducts designed by Brunel to carry the rails across deep river valleys.</p>
LOCATION	Pendon Museum Trust, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. OX14 4QD
FACILITIES	<p>After a brief introduction we will be split into groups and a guide will escort around the site. Lift between floors.</p> <p>On site Café for light refreshments (no sandwiches), toilets. For meals see The Plough which is a local village pub or there is the Barley Mow which is slightly further afield.</p>
TIMING	By individual cars. Leave WT 12-30 – aim to arrive at Pendon by 1-30 when the tour will start. Leave after 2 hrs
COSTS	Museum entry £6 if we have the minimum of 25 attendants
OTHER ACTIVITIES	None

## WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2025

WHEN	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025
WHERE	H G Matthews Brickworks
WHAT	<p><b>Discover our Range of Handmade, Woodfired and Machine-Made Bricks</b></p> <p>For over a century, H.G. Matthews has been at the heart of traditional British brickmaking. Established in 1923 and still family-run, we combine time-honoured techniques with modern sustainability practices. Our bricks, made from the unique Chiltern Hills clay and fired in historic Scotch kilns, are a testament to enduring craftsmanship and quality. Whether for heritage restoration or innovative new builds, our products bring unparalleled character to any project.</p> <p>While investing in modern technology to stay efficient, we remain dedicated to preserving the traditional skills that define our products. Our handmade bricks are fired in traditional updraft Scotch kilns, unchanged in design since Roman times, ensuring an authentic and time-honoured quality.</p> <p>While investing in modern technology to stay efficient, we remain dedicated to preserving the traditional skills that define our products. Our handmade bricks are fired in traditional updraft Scotch kilns, unchanged in design since Roman times, ensuring an authentic and time-honoured quality.</p>
LOCATION	H G Matthews, The Brickworks, Bellingdon, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 2UR
FACILITIES	After a brief introduction we will be split into groups and a guide will escort around the site. <b>Maximum number will be 20</b> split into two groups
TIMING	By individual cars. Leave WT 9-45 – aim to arrive at the works for a 10-30 when the tour will start. Leave after 1.5 to 2 hrs.
COSTS	Museum entry is free but a donation is expected for the charity they support
OTHER ACTIVITIES	None

## WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2025

WHEN	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
WHERE	<b>Leicester Space Museum</b>
WHAT	<p>The <b>National Space Centre</b> in Leicester is an incredible place for anyone interested in space and science! It's home to the UK's largest planetarium which offers stunning 360° full dome experiences. The museum features over 150 interactive exhibits and galleries that take you on a journey through the past, present, and future of space exploration.</p> <p>Some highlights include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The Rocket Tower:</b> This iconic 42-meter high structure houses a real rocket, including the Blue Streak and Thor Able rockets, as well as real Moon Rock.</li> <li>2. <b>Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium:</b> The UK's largest planetarium offers stunning 360° full dome experiences with various award-winning shows.</li> <li>3. <b>Space Exploration Galleries:</b> These galleries showcase the past, present, and future of space exploration, featuring spacesuits, satellites, and meteorites.</li> <li>4. <b>Hands-on Science:</b> Engage with over 150 interactive exhibits and science activities that make learning fun and accessible for everyone.</li> <li>5. <b>Astronaut Gallery:</b> Get up close and personal with spacesuits and learn about the daily lives of astronauts.</li> <li>6. <b>Meteorite Collection:</b> Discover a fascinating collection of meteorites from different parts of the solar system.</li> </ol> <p>These exhibits offer a mix of historical artifacts, interactive experiences, and educational displays that make the National Space Centre a must-visit destination for space enthusiasts.</p>
LOCATION	National Space Centre, Exploration Drive, Leicester, LE4 5NS Travel time – 2 hrs by coach
FACILITIES	The National Space Centre is accessible to people in wheelchairs or with mobility issues, and other special needs. Toilets, lifts and a café.
TIMING	Coach pick-up in Weston Turville at Chandos for 8:30am & shops for 8:45am for arrival by 11-00. Leave 3-30 pm
COSTS	Includes coach fare, entrance plus Planetarium show - £

## WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2025

WHEN	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025
WHERE	<b>Birmingham Science Museum</b>
WHAT	<p>The Birmingham Science Museum, known as Thinktank, is a modern award-winning science museum located at Millennium Point in the heart of Birmingham. It offers ten galleries filled with historical artifacts, modern interactives, and futuristic exhibits. You can explore everything from aircraft and steam engines to intestines and taste buds, and even emotional robots.</p> <p>Thinktank also features a 4K Planetarium, an interactive outdoor Science Garden, and MiniBrum, a child-sized mini city. Birmingham played a key part in the Industrialisation of England and there are many working exhibits. One of the jewels in the collection is the Smethwick Engine, the oldest working steam engine in the world. It was the first engine in the world to use both the expansive force of steam and a vacuum at the same time. Designed by Boulton &amp; Watt and installed on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton canal in 1779. It saved water by pumping it back up a series of canal locks at Smethwick. The engine lifted the equivalent of 1,500 buckets of water each minute and refilled the canal at the top of the locks, so that 250 boats could pass through the locks every week. Boulton &amp; Watt's engines marked the start of the Industrial Revolution. For the first time in history, production became independent of water, wind, animal and human power.</p>
LOCATION	Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum, Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG Travel time – 2 hrs by coach
FACILITIES	The Science Museum is a modern building and is accessible to people in wheelchairs or with mobility issues, and other special needs. Toilets, lifts and a number of food outlets.
TIMING	Coach pick-up in Weston Turville at Chandos for 8:30am & shops for 8:45am for arrival by 11-00. Leave 3-30 pm
COSTS	Includes Coach fare, entrance fee plus Planetarium show - £
OTHER ACTIVITIES	<b>Note</b> – 15 minutes by coach to Bull Ring Shopping Centre