

While the children are all together you have an opportunity to discuss the general function of a museum.  
Notes to help are below.

**REMEMBER: You need to start your Museum Tour at 10.30 and finish by 12.15 for Lunch**

**Question: What are museums and why do we have them?**

**Suggested answer:**

- A museum is a place where people look after lots of old things that have been collected over a long period of time.
- By looking after and studying these things or "artefacts," it helps us to understand how people used to live many years ago and then compare our lives today with those who lived in the past.
- People who work in the museum can explain what the things are and help us understand what they were used for.

**Question: Why are museums important to us?**

**Suggested answer:**

- Museums let people explore collections of artefacts for ideas and help them learn more.
  - Museums make sure that we never forget the people who came before us, like our grandparents and their grandparents and their grandparents before them.
  - Museums also let us see things such as pictures and jewellery and pottery that we wouldn't see today.
  - But most of all museums are there so that we can enjoy looking at and studying the past.
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## Short History of Scolton Manor

- Scolton Manor was built in 1842 for the Higgon family, who were quite rich and powerful in the area and were known as the 'Higgons of Scolton.' It cost almost £3,000 to build, which is about 3 million pounds today!
- The family lived in this manor house for 130 years until Colonel Higgon decided that it cost too much money to look after such a big building and put the house up for sale. The house and grounds were sold to Pembrokeshire County Council and the Welsh Church Fund in 1972.
- During the Second World War, Scolton Manor was used as a hospital for soldiers, sailors and airmen and Mrs Higgon was appointed Commandant, which is the boss of the hospital.
- An American lady called Mrs Kelly gave the hospital an ambulance and because food was in short supply in Pembrokeshire during the War, she also sent many parcels full of lovely things for the patients to eat. As a thank you, Mrs Higgon arranged for a photo to be taken of all of the injured men and sent a copy to Mrs Kelly.



In order to start your tour you must split the children into

**three** groups:

**Group A:** to start at the **front door**

**Group B:** to start in the **back corridor**

**Group C:** to start in the **master bedroom** on the **first floor**

**Before you take children on their tour of Scolton Manor, you must first go over the Rules of Behaviour which can be found on the next page.**

## Rules of Behaviour in Scolton Manor

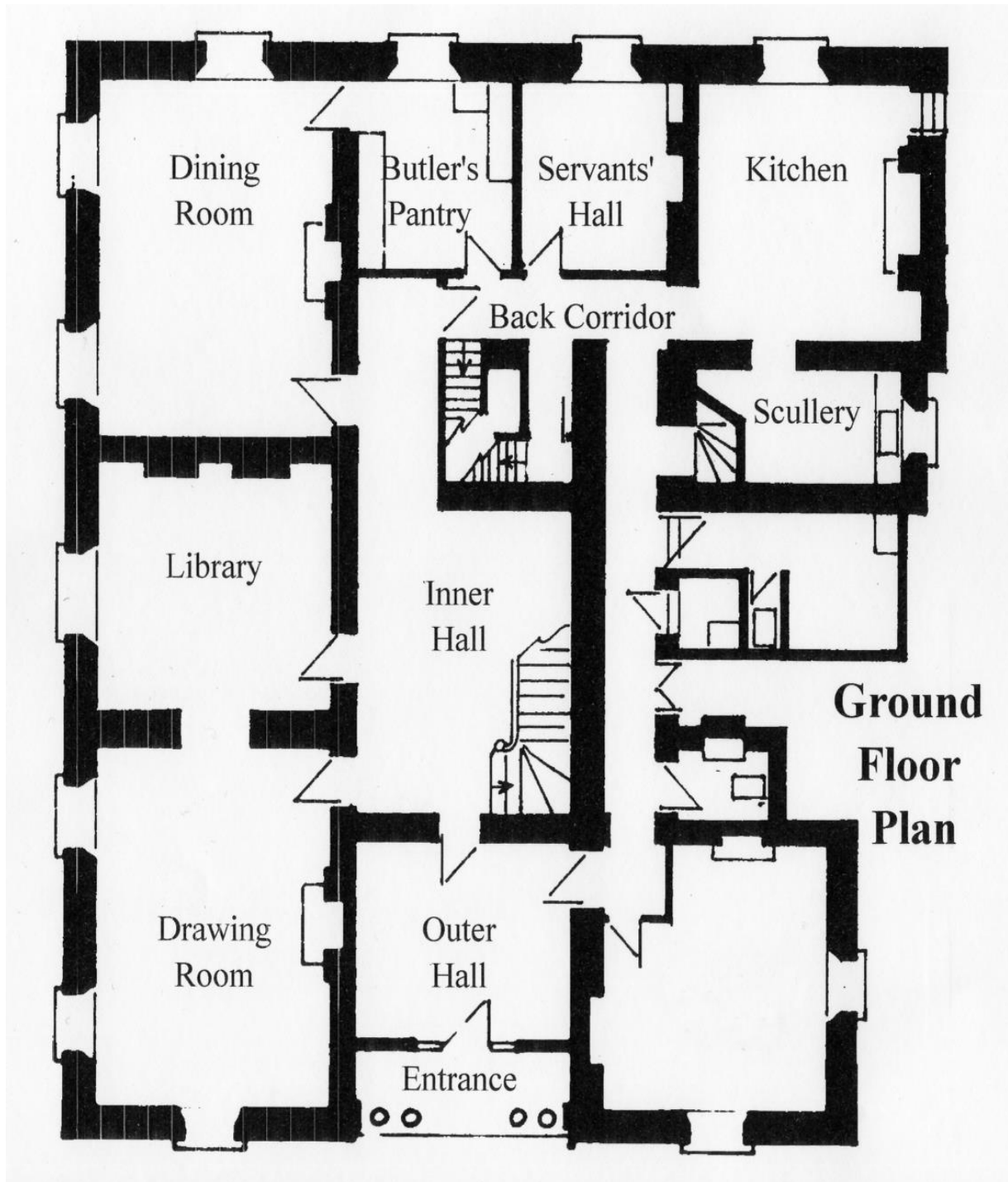
Code of conduct within the house:

- You are not to run.
- You are to be very careful walking on the stairs.
- You are not to drop litter.
- You are not to cross any rope barriers or an alarm will go off!
- No shouting or quarrelling.
- Don't touch any objects on display, unless you're told to do so.
- If you want to go to the toilet you must always ask a teacher first.
- You must always ask a teacher if you are unsure what to do.
- Never talk to strangers. Always stay with your group.
- DO NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

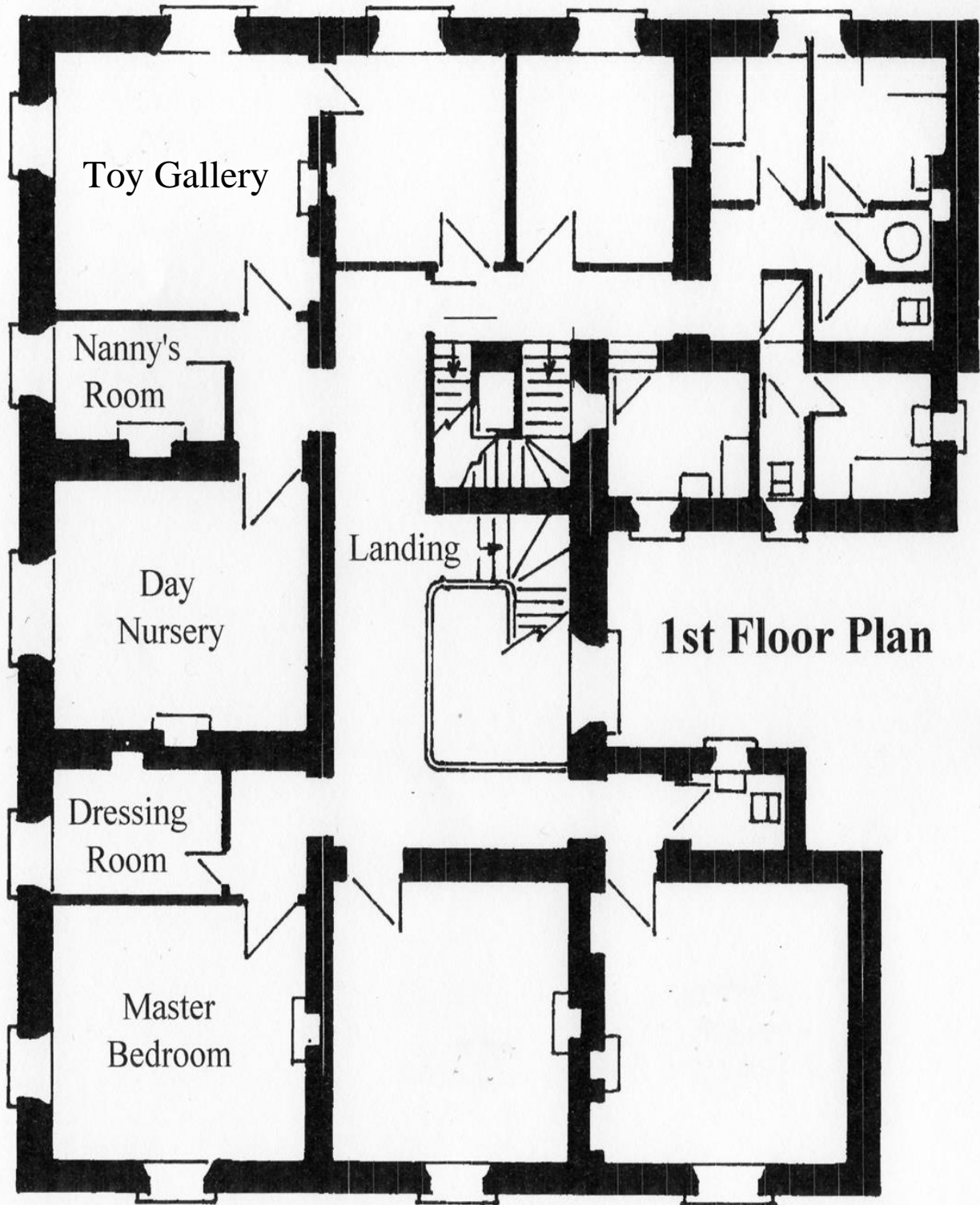
**Now start your tour - but remember  
that you have to be back by 12.15 pm for  
lunch.**

There are many areas for you to see in the Manor House and they can all be seen on the two following floor plans

# Map of the Ground Floor



# Map of the First Floor



## Entrance Hall

Above the wooden pew you'll see a portrait of the last member of the Higgon family to live at Scolton Manor.

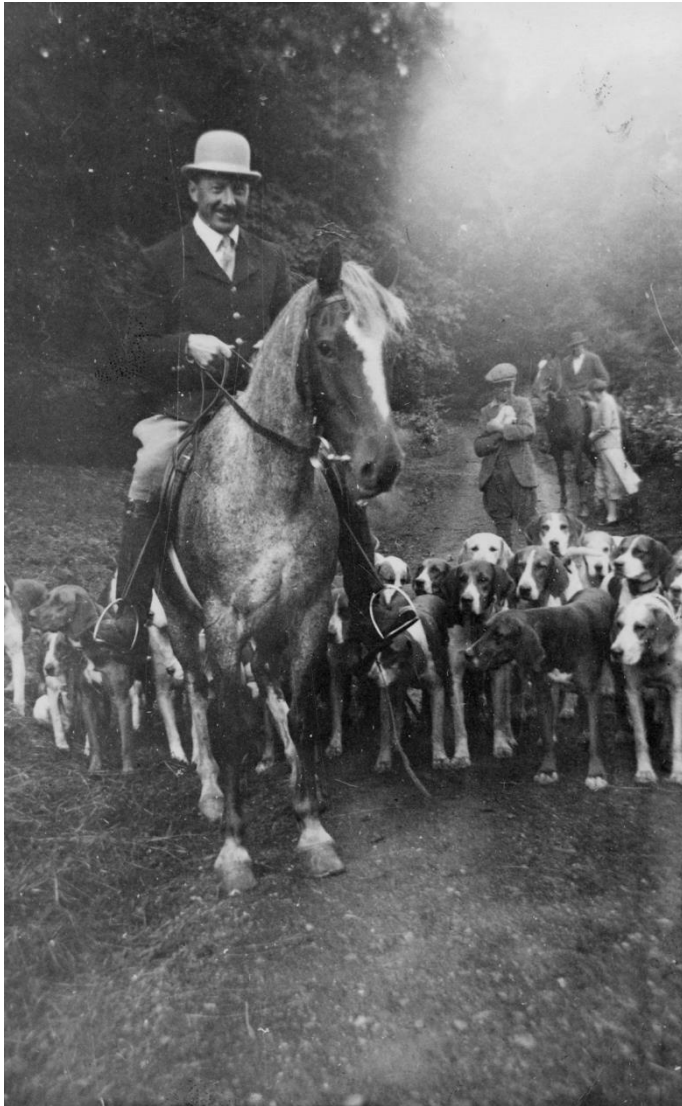


- His name was Lieutenant Colonel **John Henry Victor** Higgon. He was the gentleman who sold Scolton Manor in 1972. He was born in China because his father was in the army and living out there at the time. When he grew up, he became a soldier too and served in the Welsh Guards. He's not wearing an **army** uniform in this picture.

What uniform do you think he's wearing?

**Answer:**

If you look at his jacket, you'll notice that he's wearing what they call "hunting pink" which means that he's wearing the clothes of someone who likes to hunt foxes on horseback.



**John Henry Victor Higgon** was Master of the Pembroke Fox Hounds (see the picture on the left).

**Hunting foxes** in Victorian times was a hobby that only **rich people** could afford. Not only did you need to own horses and lots of dogs to chase the foxes, but you also had to have enough money to pay servants to look after both the horses and dogs.

You also had to own a lot of land to be able to chase the fox or be rich enough to be able to pay local farmers to let you ride your horses over their land.

Added to this you had to be able to buy the expensive clothes to be able to go to the Hunt balls and parties.

Show the children the foxes' heads hanging on the wall.

The stuffed foxes' heads are called **foxes' masks**. The fact that they take pride of place on the wall proves that the family loved hunting foxes very much.

Fox hunting is banned today because many people believe that chasing a fox using a pack of dogs is too cruel.





John Henry Victor, the man in the picture on the wall, was also **Sheriff of the County of Pembroke** in 1951.



Part of the duties of the Sheriff of the County was to invite the travelling Judge and his servants to stay with him while they were visiting the County of Pembrokeshire.

**What do you think a judge does?**

When the Judge entered the Courtroom he would walk between a guard of honour made up of men carrying **spontoons**, which look like **long poles**.

**Look at the spontoons (long poles) leaning against the wall opposite the front door.**

These spontoons, which you can see along the wall, are very old ones from 1793 and can you see the letters 'J H' on them? They stand for John Higgon, the Sheriff back in 1793.

If you look to the side of the entrance door where you came in, you'll see a hallstand and a Victorian umbrella stand. In the time of Queen Victoria, hall and umbrella stands were very popular to keep hats, coats, umbrellas and walking sticks.

**Why is the hallstand placed near the front door?**

**Leaving the entrance hall, walk through the door opposite the front door into the Inner Hall.**

## Inner Hall

- In larger Victorian country houses the hall was often very big and spacious and more often than not quite dark and gloomy.

Why do you think that this hall is quite dark?

**Possible answers:-**

1. Walls painted in dark colours.
2. Over-filled with furniture and large pictures.
3. Light from window limited.

Notice the amount of furniture in the Hall. Why did they need a table under the stairs?

**Possible answers:-**

1. The round table under the stairs would have been used to place the letters, calling cards of visitors and sometimes newspapers.
2. Sometimes the rent for the houses and farms on the estate would be left there for the Estate manager to pick up. Poor people didn't have bank accounts.

Look at the bull's head mounted on the wall at the far end of the hall.

This bull is from a breed known as Castlemartin Black. The wealthy Higgon family would have owned many farms and rented them out to farmers.

The Victorians loved stuffed animals. Look out for other stuffed animals as you walk around the House.



Look at the two very large portraits on the wall on the left.

- These are the pictures of John Arthur Higgon and his wife Lurline. They were the **mother and father** of **John Henry Victor Higgon**.



(You have just seen **John Henry Victor's** picture in the Entrance Hall near the front door.)

- Unfortunately the man in the picture on the left, John Arthur Higgon, was killed fighting in France in 1916, during the First World War when his son, John Henry, was only 13 years old. In this picture he's painted wearing the uniform of the **Pembroke Yeomanry**. The Pembroke Yeomanry is a very old military organisation made up of volunteer soldiers who were mainly on horseback. They would have been called a 'cavalry regiment'. Today they are part of the Territorial Army.

Look at his clothes, face and the way he's standing. What type of character do you think he was?

E.g "important" because....., "rich" because....., "kind" because....., "strict" because.....

- Next to him is a picture of his wife. Before she married John Arthur, she was known as the Lurline Moses, daughter of Henry Moses who was a very rich man living in Australia.

Look at her clothes in detail.

1. Do you think she's rich or poor? Why do you think this? Look at her hair, her jewellery and the clothes that she's wearing.
2. What is she holding in her hands? Are her hands rough or smooth? What do you think her job was? What type of character do you think she was?

If you look at the bottom of the stairs you'll see a picture of man called Carl Linnaeus.



Linnaeus lived over 300 years ago and was a botanist from Sweden. A botanist is a man who studies plants.

Can you see a clue in the picture that tells us that he's a botanist?

During the time of Queen Victoria, Great Britain was a very powerful country and told many big countries like India and Australia what to do and how to live.

Countries like India and Africa had many plants that we'd never seen in this country. People like Linnaeus would go to these countries, which were very dangerous in those days and they would risk their lives in order to bring exotic plants back to Britain.

Look at the wonderful staircase in the hall. What do you think is holding it up?

**Answer: -**

It's made from stone and is put together in such a way that only one beam holds it all together with each step balanced on each other for strength. The ornamental rail was supplied as an extra feature at a cost of £10, which would be about £10,000 today.



Lead the children through the first door - on the left of the large grandfather clock - into the Drawing Room.

## Drawing Room



- The **Drawing Room**, or parlour, was the finest room in the Victorian house, but like the hall it could be quite dark and would have been filled with too much furniture and far too many ornaments.
- The way that they would bring more light into the room would be to have very large mirrors to reflect the light from the windows. They also had large chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, which had many crystal droplets. These crystal droplets would also reflect the light from the candles or electric bulbs, which came later.
- This room was where the lady of the house would have had her tea and cake.
- The family would probably have spent the evenings in here too, especially if they had visitors.



If they wanted to have a little rest in the day, they would take a nap on the chaise longue.

**Can you find it?**

(Clue- it's a sofa that only has 2 sides.)

How do you think the family would entertain themselves in the evening, as they didn't have television in Victorian times?

Possible answers:-

- **The Piano** - They would have sung songs around the piano. Usually it would have been a woman who would have played the piano because she would have been taught as a child by a teacher coming to the house. She would also have been taught to sing and might give small concerts in the Drawing Room.
- **The Phonograph**



This is an early type of record player. It could play up to two minutes of voice and music recordings using wax cylinders, which are also on display. The sound wasn't as good as CDs today but people of the Victorian era thought that it was wonderful!

- **Cards and Board Games** - The family would usually play cards all seated around the table. Sometimes they would gamble whilst playing!
- **General Games** - Sometimes they would play 'charades' which is a type of guessing game and also 'hide and seek' around the whole of the house.
- **Chats** - After dinner parties at Scolton Manor, Mrs Higgon and her lady guests would usually 'withdraw' to this Drawing Room. Sometimes they would just sit and talk about the things that were happening in the world but mainly they would gossip about people they knew.

How is this Drawing Room different to your living rooms at home?

Walk the children through the dividing door into the next room - the Library.

## Library



Usually the libraries in Victorian houses were considered to be the place that the men of the family would use. Dark leather chairs would be placed around the room (especially near the fire) and any furniture, such as the desk and bookcases, would be made from oak (a type of wood).

Where do you think the Higgon men would have written their letters?



They would have used the magnificent desk behind the door.

Look at the items on the desk. Are they the items we would have on a desk today?

1. Typewriter as opposed to computer.
2. Ink well as opposed to biros. Notice the wooden blotter to the right of the typewriter.
3. Letter writing as opposed to emails.

Look at:-

**Books** - Colonel Higgon might have bought these books to show off that he could read and understand quite complicated books on science and mathematics.

**Coal Scuttle** - Seen to the right of the fireplace would hold coal for the fire. People didn't have electric fires in Victorian times, they would have used coal or logs to heat the room. The Higgon family wouldn't have lit the fires or cleaned out the grates, that job would have been for the housemaids to do. There are a lot of fires in Scolton Manor so the housemaids would have been very busy!

**Stuffed Animals** - Hunting, both in this country and faraway places such as India and Africa, was a fashionable pastime for wealthy Victorian men. The easiest way to show the animals they had caught was to get them stuffed and it is common to see both animal heads hung on the walls of Victorian houses or displays of animals and birds in glass cases. The name for a person who stuffs and displays dead animals in this way is a **taxidermist**. The library has a display of **bitterns** (a type of bird) on top of the desk and a **barn owl** can be found in the corner of the room.



If you look on the small octagonal table beside the fireplace, you will see a tobacco pouch made from a horse's hoof.

It was popular to turn parts of animals into useful or ornamental everyday articles. This was the hoof of their favourite horse!

Walk back out into the Inner Hall and turn left.

Proceed to the Dining Room door on the left.



## Dining Room



- The family ate all of their meals in this room. They would never eat a meal on a lap-tray (as we do in front of the TV today) unless they were ill in bed. The only time that they wouldn't eat in the Dining Room would be if they had visitors for tea in the Drawing Room.
- The children of the household wouldn't have eaten with their parents until they became grown-ups. Children would have eaten their meals in the day nursery upstairs.
- The main meals in the Victorian era were breakfast, luncheon, tea, dinner or supper and they would be served to a very strict timetable.
- Breakfast time would be relaxed as the food was usually like a buffet and they could choose what they wanted to eat and take it to the table themselves. Notice the silver cloches, or covers, on the left that would have been used to keep the food warm.
- Other meals were more formal and the family would always wear their best clothes to have their evening meal. During the evening meal they would have servants to pour their wine for them and also to spoon the food on to the plates. They never did any clearing away or washing up!



Show the picture of the Higgon family dining below. Does your table look as grand as this when you have supper?



- Do you have servants serving you your meals?
- Do you change clothes and dress up smartly for supper?
- Do you have to eat all of you meals in your bedrooms?

Leave the Dining Room and walk back into the Inner Hall

As you leave the Dining Room you will see a large gong.



It was considered very rude to be late for a meal. This gong would be sounded by a servant to let the family know that they should come to the Dining Room as the food was nearly ready.



As you come out of the Dining Room, **bear left** and walk through the green baize door to the **Servants' Corridor**.

This is where the Higgon's servants would have worked.

Before entering any rooms remain in the corridor to explain the social status of servants - outlined on the next page.

## Back Corridor

- The Higgons would employ people to look after them and also to help them run both the house and its estate. These people were called '**servants**'. A large country house, such as Scolton Manor, would have needed a lot of servants to make sure that everything ran smoothly!
- Scolton Manor, like many Victorian houses, was designed so that the Higon family didn't have to see too much of their servants.
- The Higon family were wealthy and part of the Upper Class in society. Their servants were part of Lower Class. The two classes rarely mixed.
- The Higon family lived in the main part of the house on the ground and first floor upstairs. The servants worked at the back of the house on the ground floor and in the cellar and they would sleep in the attic at the very top of the house.
- This was all well and good, but the servants needed to move quietly around the house without disturbing the family. The solution was to build a second set of stairs.
- Compare these stairs with the elaborate stone staircase in the inner hall. The servants' staircase is a plain wooden version. No carpet was fitted on these stairs - this would have been too extravagant and difficult to keep clean.
- The green baize doors, found on both the ground and first floor, were very important in Victorian houses like Scolton. They marked the boundary between the servants' side of the house and the family's side.

So, if the family didn't see much of their servants, how could they let them know when they wanted something?

**Answer: -**

- Firstly they had long cords in each room that would be pulled to ring a bell in the servants' quarters - where we are standing now.
- The bell-pulls were eventually replaced with electric push buttons which sounded like a doorbell.



The bell board is still in its original location on the wall here in the back corridor opposite the butler's pantry and servants' hall.

A light would show where the Higgon family were when they pressed the bell. A servant was expected to answer any calls promptly and would be told off if he or she didn't!

How do you think the Higgon family would call for different servants if they only had one bell?

How would the servants know which one of them their master or mistress wanted to see?

**Answer: -**

Every servant would answer to a set number of rings. E.g butler - 1 ring, housemaid - 3 rings and so on.

**Directly opposite this bell board you'll find the The Butler's Pantry.  
It is the room nearest the green baize door.**

## Butler's Pantry



- This room was the **Butler's Room**. In Victorian times if you had servants, then you were considered to be very posh indeed. The family at Scolton Manor was very rich and had servants, both inside the house and outside on the estate looking after the gardens and the horses.

(Show the picture of the Butler below.)



- The Butler was a very important man who demanded respect from the other servants. He had many jobs in the house. These included:
  - taking letters to and from his master and mistress,
  - making sure that all of the clocks were wound and told the right time,
  - looking after Colonel Higgon's clothes to ensure he was always smart and well turned out,
  - checking all doors and windows last thing at night to make sure the house was secure.
  
- The Butler also looked after the wine and served at table. If you look over to the **left hand corner of the room** you will see a door that leads into the Dining Room. This door was for the servants so that they **didn't have to go into the hall** to get into the Dining Room to serve the family their food. **Why do you think this was important?**  
(Remember the purpose of the green baize door....)
  
- The Butler was also responsible for looking after all the household silver. He would fill the sink alongside the window with hot, soapy water and clean all of the **silver** plates, dishes, knives, forks and spoons that were too valuable and expensive to be washed in the scullery. The butler would lock everything away in a strong cupboard to keep them safe when they weren't being used.

**What is the object on the table?**

(See the picture below.)



**Answer:-**

The wooden circular drum on the table is a machine used by the Butler to clean all the silver knives.

Look at the glass bottles on the sideboard against the right-hand wall. What do you think they were used for?

**Answer:-**

These are soda siphons which were used to make fizzy water. They have silver tops on them and would have been expensive to buy.



Walk the children to the next room on the left.



## Servant's Hall



It was important for a family, like the Higgons, to keep their servants happy. This room - the **Servants' Hall** - was used by the servants as a parlour room where they could eat their meals and rest between their duties. The only servants who wouldn't have used this room were the Cook and Kitchen Maids as they would have eaten their meals in the kitchen.



- If you look on the mantelpiece, you'll see a collection of china ornaments called Goss Ware. They have places such as Portsmouth, Bristol, Blackpool and Londonderry written on them.



- In 1890, most people had days off from work and would sometimes have days out at the seaside. They would go by train and would often like to buy souvenirs or presents for members of their family who maybe couldn't go. A man called William Henry Goss decided to make little china pots showing the crests and names of each seaside resort for them to buy and they were very popular.

Do you go on holiday and bring home souvenirs?

Walk the children to the next room on the left, which is the Kitchen.

## Kitchen



When the Higgon family lived in this house, all of the food would have been prepared in this kitchen.

(Show picture of the Cook below.)

**The Cook** - This was usually a woman and her job was to cook food for the Higgon family and all the servants. The Cook would usually only cook simple meals, but if the family had important visitors then she would have to be very clever indeed and maybe cook things like pheasant, very sugary puddings and fancy cakes. She was a very important servant.



Why do you think the Kitchen is **not** immediately next to the Dining Room, but at the other end of the corridor?

**Answer: -**

Although it had to be close enough for the food to be served quickly so it wouldn't get cold, it also had to be far enough away so that the Higgon family wouldn't hear the noise of pots and pans and doors opening and closing. They also didn't want to be annoyed by the steam and cooking smells.

- It was important that the kitchen didn't have the sun looking in on it because if the sun doesn't shine through the windows then the room remains cool and the food stays fresher for longer.
- The walls would typically be painted blue because Mrs Beeton, in her famous book of 'Household Management', said that flies didn't like the colour blue and would keep away!
- **The Welsh Dresser** was very important in the kitchen and used to store the china and utensils in the drawers.
- Look at the pattern on the plates. The blue willow pattern was popular at this time. This pattern is Chinese in style and tells a story in pictures.  
**Why do you think the dishes are so big?**
- There is a gap in the bottom of the dresser. This is where the little kitchen maid would sleep.

**Look at the cooking range and the saucepans that would have been used on it - why are they so big and heavy?**

**Answer: -**

Because the saucepans would have been used on an open fire the metal would have been worn away very quickly and so had to be thick.

**We have something in our kitchens now that is missing from this kitchen...do you know what it is?**

**The answer can be found when you look in the **Scullery** - the room off the right of the kitchen.**



The item that is missing is a sink.

The **sink** would be in this room - **The Scullery**.

In Victorian times, the kitchen was only used for cooking.

Washing-up, scrubbing vegetables and all the messy activities that involved water would be carried out in the scullery.

This is also where foodstuffs such as lard and salt would be kept.

Some cleaning items are stored here today.

Look at the old vacuum cleaner on display, the various brushes and carpet beater.



Here are some other examples of servants that may have worked at Scolton Manor during the Victorian age.

(Show picture of Housekeeper.)



The **Housekeeper** was always referred to as "Mrs" by the other servants, whether she was married or not. She was a very important servant and would work alongside the Butler.

The Housekeeper would oversee the work of the female servants in the house and she would be in charge of household expenditure - keeping an account book of all expenses.

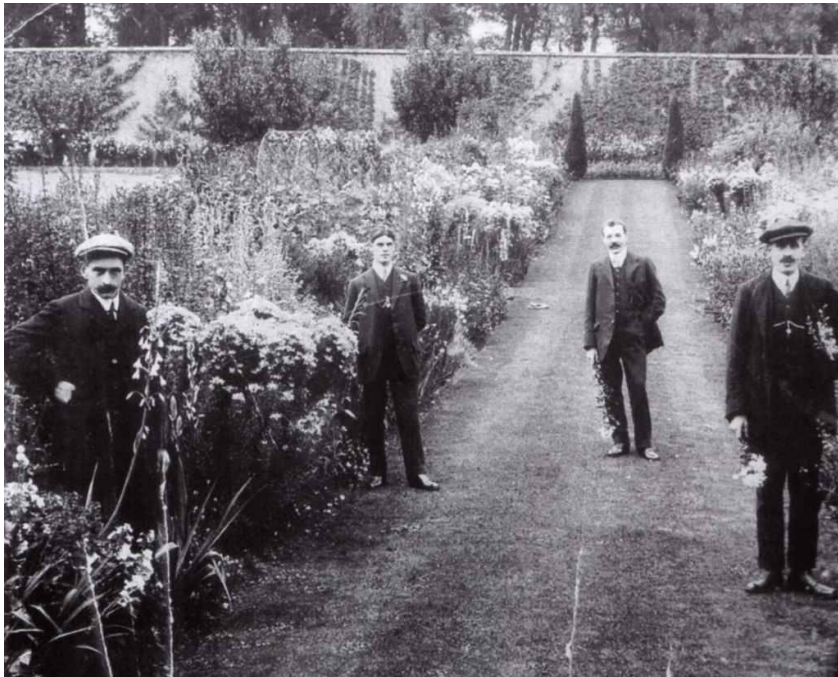
(Show picture of two maids.)

**Housemaids** - These maids worked very long hours, starting work at 6am and often not finishing before 10pm. They would...

- clean and polish the fire grates
- make up, light and look after the fires
- make the beds
- sweep, dust and scrub the floors on their hands and knees
- dust and polish furniture
- brush carpets and beat rugs
- wash and iron the laundry



(Show pictures below.)



The Higgons would also have employed **Gardeners** as they would have grown a lot of the vegetables and fruit used in the house kitchen.



Before cars were invented, wealthy Victorians used a horse and carriage to travel around. The Higon family employed a **Coachman** to drive the carriage, as well as **Stable boys** and a **Groom** to look after the horses whilst in the stables.

(Show picture of the Chauffeur.)



After the car had been invented, the Higgon family would have been one of the first families in Pembrokeshire to buy a car. They would have employed a **Chauffeur** to both drive the car and as a mechanic.

How many servants can you remember?



## Cellar

At the bottom of the stairs you will arrive at the cellar. This cellar has been divided into five areas.

- The Store Room
- The Wine Store
- The Display Room
- The Pantry or Larder
- The Laundry Room

Start with the Store Room ON YOUR LEFT.

## The Store Room



The room on the left, immediately at the bottom of the stairs, is filled with luggage and lots of old household items and furniture no longer used by the family. What can you see in this room?



- Old food tins
- An old suitcase with the name Higgon on the top
- Earthenware bottles and hot water bottles
- Round porcelain "potties"
- Old furniture
- A pogo stick that the children used to play with



Can you also see the Victorian free-standing coffee mill?

Coffee beans were poured in the funnel on top and sharp spinning plates inside the central box crushed the beans when the side wheel was turned. The butler then collected the ground coffee in a container below the bottom shoot.

Where do you store old things at home?

- Do you have a cellar?
- What do you do with unwanted items in the house?

The Higgon family would have given a lot of their unwanted things to the poor people of the area.

**KEEP TO THE LEFT** and walk to the room next door - the **Wine Store**.

## The Wine Store



The second room on the left is the **Wine Store**. The Butler was the servant in charge of looking after the household wines and the original compartments used to hold the wine bottles can still be seen on the left-hand side of the room.

- Do we store wine and beer in earthenware bottles or jar today?
- Can you read some of the writing on the jars?
- Why do you think that the wine was kept here in the cellar?

Opposite the Wine Store is the **Display Room**.

## The Display Room



A display of **barrel butter churns** is on the left-hand wall. Cream would be poured inside the barrel and the handle on the end would be turned. This would rotate paddles inside the barrel which would whip the cream into butter.

Keep to the left and walk to the next room at the bottom of the stairs - the **Larder**.

## The Pantry or Larder



- This is where they kept things that could stay fresh for a long time, such as jams, pickles and dried fruit like currants and sultanas, and of course sugar and flour.
- They also kept things like vegetables, bread, pastry, milk, butter and cold meats here too.
- If you look at the shelves, you will see that they are made of slate, which kept the food cool and was easy to keep clean.
- If there was a bad bit on the meat or cheese in Victorian times, they **wouldn't** throw it away, they would just cut the bad bit off and eat the rest.

### Questions

- Do you have a separate room from the kitchen just to store the food?
- How is this storeroom different to the cupboards that you have in your kitchens at home?
- There isn't a fridge here. How did they keep meat fresh?

### Answer:

They would smoke the meat high up over the fire and then hang it up on **hooks** from the ceiling. They also liked keeping fish cool on marble slabs.

Walk to the room next door on the left - the **Laundry Display**.

## The Laundry Display



In this room you can see a collection of items used by the Victorians when washing clothes.



The water would have been heated in a **metal copper**, with a bowl at the top for the water and space for a fire underneath it.

One can be seen in the back right-hand corner of the room.

- The walls would have been roughly whitewashed and the floor was made of stone so that it would be easy to mop up any water spilt whilst washing the clothes.
- Because there wasn't any electricity in Victorian times, washing would take place in the daytime and usually on a Monday. It would take the servants a whole day to wash everything.



First the washing was placed in a wooden tub with warm water heated in the copper.

The clothes would then be scrubbed with soap to help remove stains and then agitated using either a washboard or a wooden washing dolly.

Really dirty clothes would be boiled in a big saucepan on the fire in the kitchen.

Because the water was so hot, the clothes would have been taken out by wooden tongs.

Once cleaned and rinsed in clear water to get the soap out, the clothes would be fed into a mangle to remove excess water. This also helped to remove creases and reduce the need for ironing when the clothes were dry.



How do we wash our clothes differently today than the Victorians did?

## Master Bedroom



- Victorian bedrooms were decorated and furnished in quite a dark way.

What do you think of the furniture in this room? Is it like the furniture in your bedrooms at home?

- The furniture in this room is very dark and very large. Also every piece of furniture, even the bed, is made from solid wood and so is very heavy. Today we don't often use solid wood to make bedroom furniture but 'chipboard', which is lighter and can be moulded into shape.



Look at the small writing desk near the window in front of you.

The lady of the house wouldn't only sleep here, but would also use her bedroom as somewhere to write letters and to read.



If you look behind the door you can see a large comb that would have been placed in the Mistress' hair. It is made from the shell of a tortoise.

Do you think that the Mrs Higgon would do her own hair?

**Answer: -**

The **Lady's Maid** would have styled her mistress' hair. Her tasks also included helping her mistress dress and undress, and looking after the mistress' clothes.

(Show picture of the Lady's Maid.)



The Lady's Maid's tasks also included helping her mistress dress and undress, as well as caring for her mistress' clothes.

She would be skilled in preparing beauty lotions for her mistress' delicate skin, and a Lady's Maid would also be trusted to look after the expensive jewellery.





Notice the reading stand that can be pushed over the bed. Mrs Higgon would sometimes spend time in bed just reading.

How would the servants warm the bed for their Mistress in the cold evenings?

Look at the earthenware hot water bottle on the bed.

Servants would fill a few of these with boiling hot water from saucepans in the kitchen (there were no kettles) and place them in the bed.

Leave the Master Bedroom and walk to the room next door.

## Dressing Room



The family members would not have dressed or stored their clothes in their own bedrooms - instead they would have used a dressing room, like this one.

All of the main bedrooms at Scolton Manor had their own dressing rooms.

Look at the large wardrobe that stretches the full length of one wall.

If you look on the chair near to the door, you will see a **shoe-horn** and **button hook** (the Victorians had no zips or velcro). Look at the picture of the button boots and imagine how difficult it would have been to fasten all the buttons.



There is also a **travelling trunk** in the far corner, and, on the floor near the washstand, there is a **hat box**.

Would it be possible to use a travelling trunk on a plane today? Why not?

Look at the oil heater. Even though Scolton Manor was the first house in Pembrokeshire to have electricity, they still used these fires for a long time afterwards.

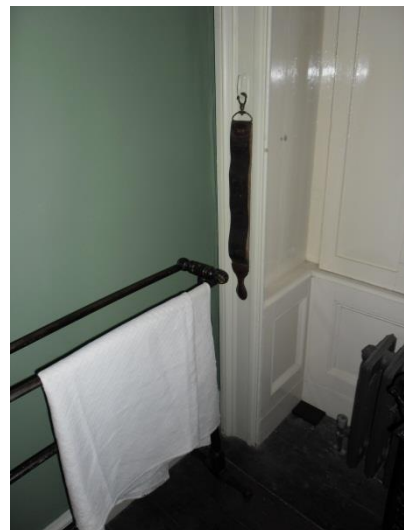


The Butler would have helped Colonel Higgon to shave in the morning and would have used a razor like the one in the picture opposite.



The razor would have to be kept very sharp and so the Butler would use the leather strop - hanging on the back wall by the window - to sharpen it.

Leave the Dressing Room and turn left and walk along the landing past the case of birds on top of the bookcase.



In this case you will see very colourful, stuffed Australian birds. Can you see the parrot or blue and brown kookaburra?

The magnificent bookcase underneath is an original feature of the house built to store all the Higgon family's books. Take a look at some of the titles.

Keep walking along the landing and turn left into the Day Nursery.

## Day Nursery



In the **Day Nursery** the children of the family had lessons, played games and ate their meals.

The children didn't see their parents very often and were taught to respect their father and mother.

- They called their father "Sir" or "papa". He was often strict and very few children would dare to be cheeky to their father or answer him back.
- The mother or "mama" would often spend her time reading, writing letters and visiting her friends. She also enjoyed hobbies like playing the piano or flower arranging. She didn't do jobs like washing clothes or cooking and cleaning.
- Victorian children were expected to get up early, because lying in bed was thought to be lazy and sinful. Victorians believed that a child must be taught the difference between right and wrong if he was to grow into a good and thoughtful adult. If a child did something wrong they thought that they should be punished for their own good.

### What toys can you see in the room?

Can you see.....?

- A writing slate on the mantelpiece
- Tin or lead soldiers
- Clockwork train
- Dolls and a pram
- A push along wooden horse
- Hoop and stick

It was considered good for children to play outside in the fresh air - toys such as **hoop and stick**, marbles or balls were popular toys for Victorian children.



Can you find the **bagatelle board** on the floor?

Bagatelle was a cross between billiards and a modern pin-ball machine. Using a cue, players tried to pot the balls into the cups which scored them between one and nine points.

On the floor in front of the dolls' house is a large **wooden musical box**.

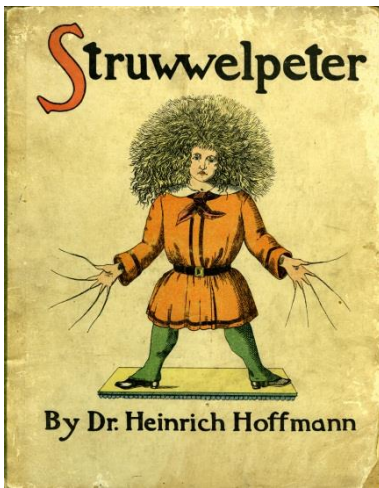
In Victorian times, musical boxes were enjoyed by both children and grown-ups.

Inside the box are several bells, a drum, castanets and a bellows-operated wind instrument.



On the chest of drawers to the left of the fireplace is a Victorian **magic lantern** made from brass and tin.

Magic lantern slideshows were a popular form of entertainment for the Victorians. Slides would be inserted into the lantern and, using light from a candle or oil lamp, the images would be projected onto a wall or sheet.



Children's **books** from the Victorian period were quite boring, always telling the children how they should behave or they would be punished for being naughty. Fed up with this, Dr Heinrich Hoffmann of Frankfurt wrote the book '**Struwwelpeter**', which translates as 'Slovenly Peter'.

These stories were scary...such as the little boy who had his thumb chopped off because he refused to stop sucking it...but that didn't stop them from being very popular.

**A copy of 'Struwwelpeter' is found on the table in front of the window.**

Look at the picture of the Higgon children opposite. How do we know that they are rich?

Would you enjoy the life of a rich Victorian child?



**Would you like to:-**

1. Only see your parents for an hour a day?
2. Only play with wooden or metal toys? What are your toys made from today?
3. Only be allowed to stay in 3 rooms all day?
4. Never be able to say what you wanted? Even your food was chosen for you!
5. Be sent away to boarding school at 7 years old if you were a boy?
6. Only learn to read, write and sew if you were a girl?
7. Never be able to become a doctor or a teacher if you were a girl? You would have to stay at home until you found a husband!

**Next door to the Day Nursery is the Nanny's Room.**

## Nanny's Room



This is the **Nanny's Room**. The nanny was a servant who cared for all the young children in household.

The Nanny would be paid about £25 a year to wash, dress and watch over the children at all times. She would take them on outings and teach them how to behave.

The Nanny would make sure that the children were always clean and tidy before being presented to their parents for **one hour each evening** in the Drawing Room.

Victorian children's clothes were very similar to those of the grown-ups, although boys often wore sailor suits and girls pretty dresses. All babies, even the boys, would have to wear skirts!



Often the children were closer to their Nanny, than they were to their own mother. Children had fun with their Nanny - going on trips to the zoo, or going for picnics in the park. They also enjoyed having parties and playing games.

The Nanny would be in charge of looking after the children when they were sick and would dose them with medicine. Some Victorians would travel the country selling pills that they claimed could cure all ailments, such as James Morrison's 'Universal Pill', other Victorian cures were much more unusual.

What do you think of the following treatments?

- To keep you healthy your nanny would make you drink a soup spoon of **cod liver oil** every day...yuk!
- If you had **whooping cough** you would have to eat a spider covered in butter!
- To cure a **sore throat** you would have to eat small bits of bread that had been soaked in water and cayenne pepper...or you could gargle with salt and vinegar.
- Salt and ice would be put on your head to cure a **headache**. Or they may have wrapped brown paper soaked in vinegar around your head....think about the nursery rhyme 'Jack and Jill'.
- **Nose bleeds** were cured by chewing paper until the bleeding stopped.
- And, if you were having **trouble sleeping** it was thought that chewing four onions before bedtime would help.

A house the size of Scolton Manor would have had a **Day Nursery** or playroom, a **Night Nursery** where the children would have slept and the **Nanny's Room**.

These rooms would always be at the back of the house and would have been joined by interconnecting doors - this meant the children could be kept out of the way of their parents and other adults. In Victorian times children were not to be seen or heard!

#### Look at the Nanny's Room....

- How did the Nanny wash herself?
- How do we know that the youngest child slept in this room with the Nanny?
- What did she use to go to the toilet during the night?

#### Would you like to have a Nanny?

Go back out onto the **Landing**.



## The Landing



Just outside the Nanny's Room you will see a **large clock**. This clock, like all of the other clocks in the house displays **Roman Numerals**.

Look at the numbers on the face of the clock and see that they are Roman Numerals, not like the numbers on our clocks today. V = 5 / X = 10 / I = 1.

How do you think the clock works, as it doesn't have the power of batteries or electricity to work it?

**Answer:-**

A key is used to wind up the clock's internal mechanism and make sure it keeps the correct time.

As you walk back out onto the landing notice the wooden contraption at the end of the bookcase.

What do you think it is?

**Answer:-**

It's a **wooden clothes press**. This would have been used to flatten and smooth the creases out of large items such as sheets and petticoats.

