

## General Guidance for School Visits to Brailsford Ploughing Match

1. Aim to arrive between 11 am and 11.15am and visit the Ploughing first. There is over 100 years of History on display with horse-drawn ploughs, old tractors and ploughs through to the large modern machinery of today. The horse drawn ploughman will often answer questions.
2. Ensure you look at the hedge-cutters in the morning but keep well back as dangerous tools are used and bits of twigs etc often shoot off at odd angles. Then revisit in the afternoon to see the finished result. Hedges always grow back much thicker after such a hammering and are much more stock-proof. (NB Stewart Archer usually cuts and would be happy to explain things to the children)
3. Then have lunch. There is a tent provided for shelter with some chairs. Please ask the children to bring a plastic bag to sit on in case all the chairs are in use. The tent goes up a couple of days before the match so can be quite dry when outside is muddy. Just be aware that many schools use the tent if the weather is cold so you may have to be flexible on time.
4. After lunch there are a variety of things to look at but the best is the Ladies Tent which houses all the school entries together with cooking, handicraft, vegetables and flowers. The Ladies tent usually gets very crowded when it opens soon after noon so having lunch first is a better idea. There is also a Stick tent where a huge variety of sticks and wood carvings are on show together with a Craft tent where there can be wool spinning. There will also be some sheep and cattle to see which are well tethered but don't get too close! In addition there are all the Trade stands and the boys usually like to look at the shiny new machinery.
5. Arrange for the coach to pick up at 2.30pm which gets you back within school hours.
6. There are toilet facilities on site but these are also available to the general public so a member of staff needs to accompany children at all times. There are no hand-washing facilities so wipes are a good idea.
7. Clothing appropriate to the day is vital and wellies usually a good idea!
8. On the Brailsford Ploughing Match website there is a Risk Assessment specifically for school which can be found at the end of the General Risk Assessment which gives further advice.
9. Book your coaches well ahead with Glovers/Masons of Ashbourne if you are using them as they get quite busy and are well used to attending the match.
10. Below are my contact details – do feel free to phone or email for any further advice  
Margaret Matthews  
01332 824872 or 07483 238428 (on the day)  
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Enjoy your day and watch 100+ years of history before your eyes!