

OASIS PLAYDAY AT THE HENLEY RIVER AND ROWING MUSEUM 2007

Our group arrived eager for the day's events. We were very lucky with the weather, cloudy but reasonably warm.

We gathered by the boarding point, and Captain Richard helped us aboard the boat. This year the children all decided to sit outside at the front of the boat. We sailed for around 1 hour, watching various forms of wildlife and at other boats sailing on the river. Some of the houses and islands we saw had been flooded this year, so looked very different from our visit last year.

Once back on dry land, we had a break for lunch. Some of our group went to the restaurant; others chose to eat a picnic by the river and feed the ducks and swans.

Then we went to our art and craft lessons, hosted by the brilliant art teacher Maddie. Maddie has got to know our group well over the years, and was really looking forward to working with us again. We made, frogs, drums, punts and metallic fish. We found our punt floated in the bath when we got home – not for long mind you!

One of our younger members entertained us during the afternoon with his extensive knowledge of the Beatles. What he didn't know about them isn't worth knowing! He was very excited to be in Henley the last home for George Harrison. Maddie told him where George lived and a little about George's garden.

We said our goodbyes to Maddie, and went along to the museum. We rowed our way with the Olympic team on a simulator, and wandered around using the many interactive pieces provided by Thames Water. We also visited the Wind in the Willows exhibition. Just before we left for home we had time to buy some souvenirs in the shop.

We all had a good day out – and are already looking forward to next year's visit!

Anne Brooks
OASIS Committee 2007