

## The Story of the Site – Material and Immaterial Heritage Framework

### *St. Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff (Wales)*

#### ***Meet the Shopkeeper Session***

*Inventory Number*

Accession Number: F94.18 01.02

Map Number: 16

*Name of the activity:* Meet the Shopkeeper session for schools

#### **Photos**



*Meet the Shopkeeper session for schools at Gwalia Stores*

#### **Description of the activity**

The shopkeeper, dressed in period costume greets Foundation Phase children and show them how people who lived near the Gwalia Stores shopped during the 1920s.

A typical lesson has the following elements:

- Greet the children outside and describe the layout of the shop. Compare experience with supermarket – no trolley, customers couldn't help themselves, the shopkeeper had to serve them.
- Invite the pupils into the shop as customers.
- Move around the counter, asking "what can I get for you today?"
- Set of handling items on counter next to weighing scales. The items can be handled along with money from the period – "this is the money you would need to pay for your shopping in Gwalia Stores in the 1920s."
- At the end of the sessions, ask "will that be all for today? You don't have to pay for your shopping now, you can pay at the end of the week." Explaining that the store is open until 8.30pm on a Friday (pay day at Wyndham Colliery), and that everyone gets dressed up in their 'Sunday best' to pay their bills.

#### **Further reading**

- Tibbott, S. Minwel & Thomas, Beth, *The Gwalia The Story of a Valleys Shop* (Cardiff 1991)
- <http://www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk/collections/376945>

## Sources

- Fraser, W. Hamish, *The Coming of the Mass Market 1850-1914* (London 1981)
- Winstanley, Michael J., *The Shopkeeper's World 1830-1914* (Manchester 1983)