

Birmingham YAC

www.byac.org.uk

Birmingham's Young Archaeology Club

Weoley Good!



View of the Orchard

Our recent visit to Weoley Castle showed us one of the hidden treasures of the Midlands.

The castle (or fortified manor house) is hidden from view by lots of trees and vegetation. But when you walk around the corner and emerge from the bushes you are greeted with an enormous structure with a huge moat.

We explored the castle using a detailed historic survey that had been carried out in medieval times.

This was like a guide book, and gave us loads of information like the stables with the guesthouse above it where visitors stayed, and the great hall where original flooring tiles were found under the existing tiles.



View of one of the Towers

We also investigated the brew house, bake house and the grain stores.



Glazed and Unglazed Tiles found at Weoley

The moat had water in it until the 1930's and is absolutely massive! When we looked at the kitchen area there was a hole in the wall where all the kitchen waste went straight into the moat!

Unfortunately stones were taken from the wall in more recent times, and many can be found in local gardens as part of a rockery.



Pewter Spoon

But we were told that recent funding will allow some needed restoration work to be carried out and preserve this historic manor house.

Weoley castle was open to the public as part of National Archaeology Day, and hopefully will be open on a more permanent basis.

When this happens go along and take a visit, those of us who went thought it was Weoley great!

The Celts Are Coming!

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 2005



A few of the YAC tribe line up to scare off any invaders.



What a day!

I think we can safely say that National Archaeology Day 2005 was a success.

I hope everyone who attended had as much fun as we did organising it.

So we owe a lot of thank you's to everyone who helped make it a great day. So here's the list (hopefully no one is left off!);

Walsall Spinners - for providing the wool and letting us spin iron age style.

New Hall Mill - For letting us use the Quern and make our own flour!

Mick Lawson, Nick Wheeler & Phil - For getting the materials for the fence and heather cushions, making the benches, making the shields, making some weapons and dressing up!

David Caffery & Liz - For organising costumes, making costumes, dressing up and helping out on the day.



Kirsty & Tim - For providing not only the all important clay for the fence, but also the gazebos and the air dry clay for the pottery and some gruesome skulls!

Jane - for being a master iron age Chef and helping us to make some of the best food to ever come out of Sutton Park

Bob - the master fence builder who guided us all to turn a pile of sticks into a fantastically robust fence, that's still standing!

Mike - For setting the theme for the day, telling the best Celtic stories and keeping us all entertained all day.

Juliet - For leading the locally renowned (see the papers) expedition to Iceland for much needed supplies and for all her help.

Eve - for making all the members welcome on the day and being an invaluable source of information for new members.

Continued from previous page...

And of course to everyone else who helped on the day and with the preparation that went in before hand.

THANKYOU!!!

The day in pictures.....



The tribe gathers at the beginning of the day in the communal roundhouse.



Work begins on the replacement wall



Tribe members help make the grain for the days cooking.



Young warriors learn how to fight the Romans



Tribe members cook up some delicious treats.



Other tribe members make some new pottery and jewellery.



Young tribe members learn how to hunt a boar



New wool thread is made



The wall nears completion



The wall starts to take shape



The day ended when the Romans came and chased us away!



Lost Celtic Warrior!

Can you help Dion get home and avoid the Romans?



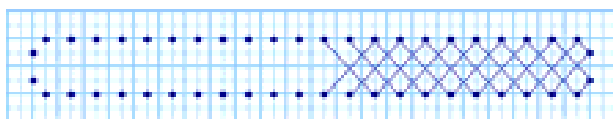
Wrong way!

For some more comic celt fun, go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/>

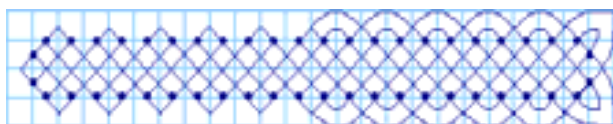


Draw your own Celtic Knot

Step One: Mark off a section of graph paper two units high and twelve units wide. (We have defined one unit to be four small squares on the graph paper in the figures.) Put a dot at the one-quarter and three-quarter point along the centre line of each square. That is to say, draw a horizontal line through the centre of each square. Then, put two dots on the line: one one-quarter of the way across the square and the other three-quarters of the way across. (Do all these steps very lightly in pencil!)



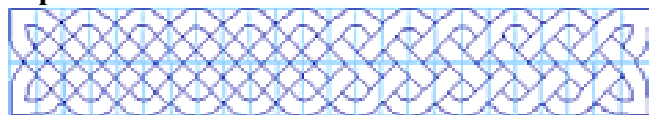
Step Two: Use (45 degree) diagonal lines to connect the dots on opposite sides of the rectangle.



Step Three: Extend every other set of diagonal lines to form points above and below the initial lines. It is important that you extend the diagonals as shown, not the ones in between. If you number the top row of dots 1, 2, 3, 4... from left to right, your peaks should be between 1 and 2, 3 and 4, etc. **Not** between 2 and 3, 4 and 5, etc.

Step Four: Connect the points with arches. Note that the arches that move into the corners are shaped with points. Also, make sure your arches are of constant width.

Step Five: Erase the dots.



Step Six: Erase one cord's lines from each intersection to create the illusion that one cord goes over the other. Remember that you must alternate between "oversee" and "unders" to achieve the weaving effect.

Cook like the Romans

We Roman's have invaded and now all the iron age people have to cook the roman way!

Here are some of the utensils the more civilised Roman's use;

Amphora: A vessel made of clay, with two handles for wine or water.

Angularis: An angular vessel

Boletar: A dish for cooking and eating

Clibanus: An oven

Coclear: A small spoon

Cola: A strainer

Craticula: A small gridiron

Cultellus: A small Knife

Cumana: A vessel made of Cumean clay

Discus: A dish shaped like a quoit

Fretale: Frying Pan

Now you Celts can cook the Roman way!

◆-----◆ **Quick Roman Recipes**

Cocleas (Snails): Take some snails and clean them, remove their shells. Place them in a vessel with milk and salt. Over the next few days add milk and remove excrement. When the snails are too fat to go back in their shells, fry them in hot oil.

Carotae Elixatae: Boil the carrots and chop. Cook in cumin - sauce with a little olive oil and white wine.

Article submitted by Philip Withers

Birmingham's Bomb proof Hobbit Hole

100 feet below Birmingham is a secret Telephone exchange called ANCHOR.

This was opened in 1957 and built to survive a possible nuclear attack during the cold war period.

The system was called ANCHOR after the symbol used by Birmingham's jewellery assay.



ANCHOR is no longer a secret, as it was declassified and made public knowledge.

Due to rising water levels, ANCHOR is now below the water table and has to be constantly pumped out to keep it dry.

It is still used as a telephone exchange today and is owned by British Telecom. Its use as a nuclear bunker is long gone, as the development of more powerful weapons such as the Hydrogen bomb meant that it would no longer survive a direct hit.

The main tunnels of ANCHOR are of a similar size to the London underground.

The tunnel system has all sorts of gadgets to make it safe in a war. From its own 300 foot artesian well for drinking water to air conditioning. Very modern for the 1950's!



Unfortunately the tunnels are no longer safe, and even BT staff are no longer allowed down due to serious decline. It is however still pumped out in order to maintain the exchange and for more recently installed fibre optic cables.

It's not only Roman ruins that are below your feet, modern history has left a huge variety of historic sites like this one.

So next time your out and about think about what's under your feet!

Word search

e	d	a	e	r	b	r	u	t	o	m	t	e	o	r	m	o	s
t	i	r	w	h	t	e	d	y	a	c	b	c	u	l	g	i	g
r	e	z	a	r	c	h	a	e	o	l	o	g	y	n	n	k	p
p	o	r	w	t	e	c	e	n	p	g	l	g	i	j	v	w	v
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r	t	u	k	y	e	y	o	i	e	p	b	o	m	n	s	o	s
d	y	e	n	o	h	a	v	n	k	q	n	c	o	m	e	t	l
o	r	w	c	e	l	o	v	b	r	g	m	h	r	p	g	h	m

Can you find the following words?

archaeology torc pottery roman

celt spinning honey doe

round house war paint ox kern

wattle bread sword

dorb yac boar sew

COFFIN DODGERS

In 1999 Newman Brothers Coffin makers closed after 117 years of trading.

The factory, in Fleet Street ,dates back to 1894 and was featured last year in the BBC 2 series Restoration.



It has recently been bought by Advantage West Midlands and a proposed restoration project of £3 million pounds is under way.

The project hopes to be completed by 2007 and be permanently open to the public. The three-storey works are a perfectly preserved Victorian coffin fittings factory which once employed more than 100 people making traditional features for coffins which were shipped to countries across the world.

Advantage West Midlands said this after buying the building;

"The visitor centre element will provide a fantastic historical facility among a wealth of new developments in the Jewellery Quarter and these open days will be ideal opportunities to see the factory as it was when Newman Brothers closed in 1999."

Jewel of Birmingham

Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter was recently described by English Heritage as “ a national treasure” and “ a place of unique character”. So what do you know about Birmingham's jewellery business?

The area became known as the Jewellery Quarter due to the large amount of skilled Jewellers and Silver smiths that made shops in the area. In 1760 John Betts and sons opened the first precious metal refinery in the Hockley suburb to the north West of the city .

It was a typical inner city area filled with back-to-back terraced houses that were inhabited by mainly poor people who were more than happy to let off part of their home to men that wanted to start a small business.

Soon after this in 1773 an assay office was also established in Birmingham for the purpose of hallmarking precious items of jewellery and silverware.

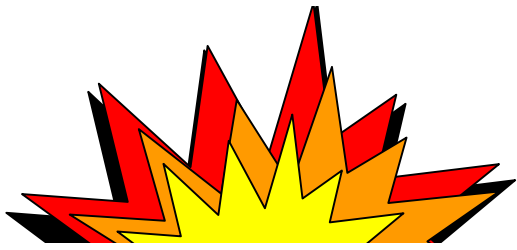


1860's
Goldsmiths
factory - now part
of Birmingham's
School of
Jewellery

It is said that the final meeting between the two took place in an inn named the Crown and Anchor and a toss of a coin decided which town would have which symbol as part of its hallmark. Hence Birmingham has the anchor as part of its hallmark while Sheffield has the crown.

In the late 1800's the jewellery trade in Birmingham was employing 7500 people. The peak of manufacture was reached in 1913 when the total number of people working within the Birmingham trade was a staggering 50000.

The jewellery quarter today is a mixture of original renovated old houses still used as both shops and workshops and other more recent modern factory constructions.



Next Hot event: Sarehole Mill & Mosely Bog

So your wondering what the next event is going to be?

Wonder no more, on September 24th we are going to visit Sarehole Mill.



This Mill, situated near the River Cole and Chinn Brook valley, was a childhood haunt of J.R.R Tolkien and were the inspiration for both the Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings.

The once working corn mill is also very near to Mosely bog and is one of the few remaining mills that would have been in the area in the early 18th century.

Buildings located at the mill include, a bake house, a metal workshop, a granary and the mill itself all located around a cobbled yard.

Details: 24th July

Meet at Sarehole Mill

10.15-10.30 start

12.30 Finish

Address:Sarehole Mill

Cole Bank Road

Moseley

Birmingham

B13 0BD

Busses: 4 and 11

For more information see the BYAC website; www.byac.org/uk

BYAC Library Display

Following the interest in our National Archaeology Day, we have decided to create a display for Sutton Coldfield library.

Of course it's not going to be a boring display, but will be full of all the interesting things that the club does each month and give information for new members.

So why not pop along to the Library and have a look? You might be on display yourself!

Places to visit in your area

(and the best thing is they're free)



Acton Burnell Castle: This warm red sandstone shell of a fortified 13th-century manor house. The site of the first parliament at which the commons were formally represented.

8 miles south of Shrewsbury (OS Map 126; ref SJ 534019)



Arthur's Stone: Situated near the Welsh border, Arthur's Stone is a stunning prehistoric burial chamber formed of large blocks of stone.

7 miles E of Hay-on-Wye off B4348 near Dorstone (OS Map 148; ref SO 319431)



Cantlop Bridge: Single-span, cast-iron road bridge over the Cound Brook, designed by the great engineer Thomas Telford, who was instrumental in shaping industrial Shropshire and the West Midlands.

$\frac{3}{4}$ mile SW of Berrington (OS Map 126; ref SJ 517062)



Croxden Abbey: The imposing remains of the abbey and church capture the tranquil beauty prized by the Cistercian monks, who built the abbey in the 12th century.

Located 5 miles NW of Uttoxeter off A522 (OS Map 128; ref SK 065397)



Leigh Court Barn: This striking example of medieval architecture is the largest cruck structure in the UK. Once part of Leigh Court Manor, the barn has 10 bays and two porches.

5 miles W of Worcester on unclassified road off A4103 (OS Map 150; ref 784534.)



Moreton Corbet Castle: The castle may date from as far back as the 12th century. It was partially demolished in the 16th century to make way for the great Elizabethan mansion house. As featured on Britains most haunted?

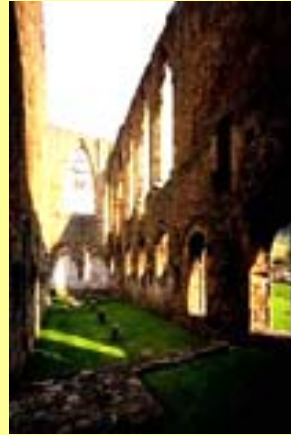
In Moreton Corbet off B5063, 7 miles NE of Shrewsbury. (OS Map 126; ref SJ 562232)

Places to visit nationwide

(and the best thing is they're free)



Fort Brockhurst: Designed in the 19th century, this fort was built to protect Portsmouth with its formidable fire power. Largely unaltered, the parade ground, gun ramps and moated keep can all be viewed.
Hampshire Off A32, in Gunner's Way



Easby Abbey: The substantial remains of the medieval abbey buildings stand in a beautiful setting by the River Swale near Richmond. The ruins can be reached via a pleasant walk from Richmond Castle.
1 mile SE of Richmond off B6271 (OS Map 92; ref NZ185003)



Wrest park Gardens: This is one of the most magnificent gardens in England, but one of the least well known. Unlike 'Capability' Brown's natural landscape styling, favoured during the late 18th century, Wrest Park's formal gardens provide a fascinating history of gardening styles, laid out over 150 years and inspired by the great gardens of Versailles in France
 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile E of Silsoe off A6, 10 miles S of Bedford



Minster Lovel Hall and Dovecote: The ruins of Lord Lovell's 15th-century manor house.
Adjacent to Minster Lovell church, 3 miles W of Witney off A40 (OS Map 164; ref SP 324114)



Hound Tor Deserted Medieval Village: The remains of three or four medieval farmsteads; the village was first occupied during the Bronze Age and abandoned in the Middle Ages.
1½ miles S of Manaton off the Ashburton road. Park in Hound Tor car park - ½ mile walk (OS Map 191; ref SX 746788)



On Tintagel Head, ½ mile along uneven track from Tintagel, no vehicles (OS Map 200; ref SX 048891)

Tintagel Castle: With its spectacular location on one of England's most dramatic coastlines, Tintagel is an awe-inspiring and romantic spot. It is also a place of legends. Joined to the mainland by a narrow neck of land, Tintagel Island faces the full force of the Atlantic. Tintagel had come to be associated with the conception of King Arthur