

Birmingham YAC

No. 4

Birmingham's Young Archaeologists' Club February 2004

Summers Here.....

and we have some exciting meetings coming up over the next few months, We are creating our own **sweat lodge** in July, our summer holiday to **Chedworth** in August....and a spooky look at **Sutton park** in October and lots more ..before....in-between... and after! We also have some exciting competitions like the national '**BIG DRAW**' Remember to keep sending in your ideas, drawings and letters, both for the newsletter and website!

www.byac.org.uk



News in brief...

- A **North Warwickshire YAC** has started up, based in Colesehill, run by Jane one of our own **yac** leaders, so if you have any friends who live nearer there than here and want to join, let me know and I will pass details on to them.
- Our plan to plant a **time capsule** will be going ahead, so get collecting ...we have found a surprise location and will announce where shortly. Please let me know what everyone thinks of the time capsule idea....do we want people to find it in a few years...or 100....1000??It all depends how we plant it etc...so email me your ideas.
- **Prize winners** this month. Rachel Crews will receive one for her fantastic poster (p3) in this weeks newsletter. We also have some winners from our trip to Wall. Everyone who took part will receive a prize at the next meeting.
- **Raffle**....we have some fantastic prizes up for grabs at the National Archaeology Day next week, Winners will be announced on the day!
- **A BIG THANKYOU TO...**
All the volunteers at Newhall Mill.
Wall Roman site....and....
Megan, Jack, Steve and Helen Humphrey and Jane Kingscott for helping man the stall at the craft fair Sutton Park on Sunday!

Archaeology Weeks,

4 - 18 July 2004

Tuesday 13 July

1 pm: Illustrated talk in Library Theatre, Paradise Place, city centre-Archaeology: an update on Birmingham's past

Friday 16 July

Hawkesley Farm Moat, off Munslow Grove, Northfield-Guided walks around the site, between 6pm and 8 pm

Saturday 17 July

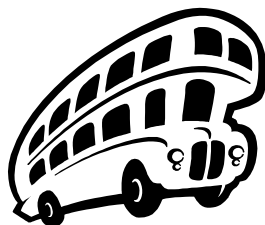
between 10 am and 4 pm:
National Archaeology Days event- Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate off Boldmere Road(car parking fee)- Living in the Bronze Age. Reconstruction of a sweat lodge, and Bronze Age crafts and foods

Sunday 18 July

10.30 am: National Archaeology Days event- Guided walk in Sutton Park- meet Streetly Gate, off Thornhill Road (car parking fee)

For more details: phone 0121 464 7797 or email

mike.hodder@birmingham.gov.uk



Free bus tours

Medievalism to Machinery

Free open top bus tours -

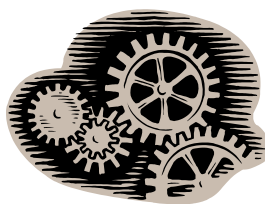
Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th July

The tours start from Edmund Street outside the waterhall/gas hall at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery at 11am and run approximately every 75 mins.



Manor to Mill Tour:

Calling at
Sarehole Mill
and Blakesley Hall



Men and Machines

Calling at:
Aston Hall, Aston Manor transport Museum, Soho house, and museum of the jewellery quarter.

Roman Engineers survey local health spar...

We visited the Roman site at Wall in June; posing as Roman engineers. We surveyed parts of the bath house and Roman hostel (Mansio).

We only had time to survey part of the site, as the heavens opened and we had to seek shelter..(it wouldn't happen on time team!!)

But we did manage to make a plan of part of each building using the 'off set' survey method.

We also tried using Roman measurements.

Pes (foot) 29.6cm

Digitus (finger)4.7cm

Uncia(inch) or Pollex(thumb) 1.85cm

Palmus(palm)7.4cm

Cubitum(elbow)44.4cm

Passus(pace)1.48m

Stadium 125paces

Mille passus-1000paces

Roman Mile 1480m

This was slightly less accurate, as we all had different sized hands and feet, so we all came up with different measurements!

In Roman times the Mansio would have served as a place to rest for imperial messengers of the Roman army who would have ridden along Watling Street taking messages to and from roman legions.

Here they could get a change of

horse, food and a bed for the night. Watling Street was very important in the 1st century as a path of advancement for the Roman army, and places like wall served to cater for the many users of the Road.

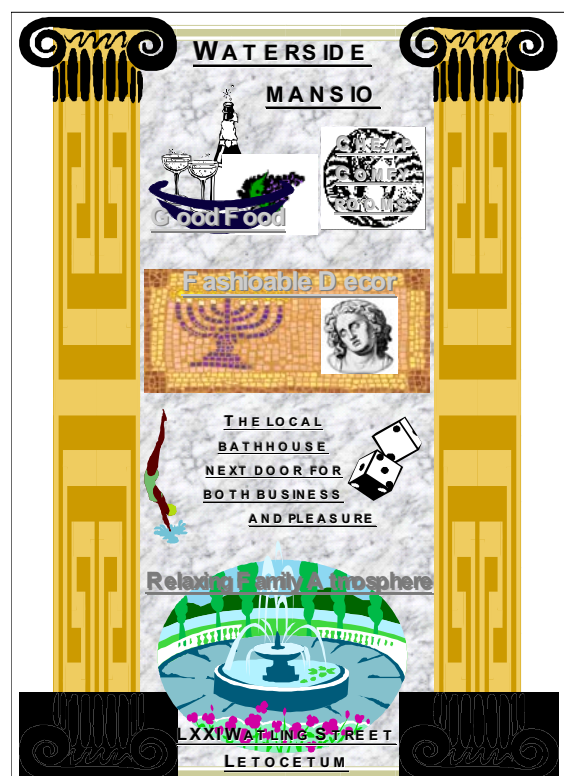
The bathhouse would have been used by everyone.

Bathing was a very complicated affair in Roman times.

First people would exercise in the yard then move through a series of warm, hot and cold rooms in the bath house, followed by plunging into a hot bath...then a cold one! All in the name of cleanliness!

The baths were heated by an ingenious hypercaust system, which can still be seen.

Thanks to Rachel Crews for this fantastic poster showing how Letocetum might have been advertised.



Booking Form: Last chance to book!!

17th July

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY!!!!

The BYAC will help to create a fully working 'sweat lodge' based on the Bronze age remains found in Sutton Park. To celebrate NAD, we will also have a host of bronze age activities on the go for you to try your hand at.

Time: 10.30 - 3.00pm, Boldmere - follow the directions from the gate

**Also note: Please wear old clothes, as it could get muddy!
You may want to bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be provided.**

Please can you book me in for the sweat lodge reconstruction on 17th July.

Name:

Address:

Contact number:

Parent/guardian signature:

SUMMER HOLIDAY!

Saturday 21st August

Chedworth Roman Villa

YAC summer holiday!!!

We will be joining forces with the **Worcester branch** for our summer holiday this year!
Expect guided tours round the site, re-enactment groups, as well as having the whole day to explore the site!

We will also be having a picnic on site, so don't forget your packed lunch!

Time: Meet at Sutton Park Visitors Centre: 9.00am
We will be returning back to Sutton Park between 5.00 - 5.30pm

Cost: £5.00 per person

Mums and dads are welcome to come along too!

(Please note, due to the limited number of staff at Chedworth, only byac members will be able to go on the guided tours, but parents, don't worry, we will have lots of exciting and fun things planned to keep you occupied while these are going on!

If you would like to attend, please fill in the form below and return:

TEL: 0121 355 6370
ADDRESS: BYAC
Sutton Park Visitors Centre,
Park Road
Sutton Coldfield
B74 2YT
Email: beth@byac.org.uk or
beth.osman@birmingham.gov.uk

Please book the following people for the visit to **Chedworth Roman Villa** on Saturday 21st August 2004.

I enclose a cheque/ cash of ...£..... for adults and children.

Name (s):

Address:

Contact number:

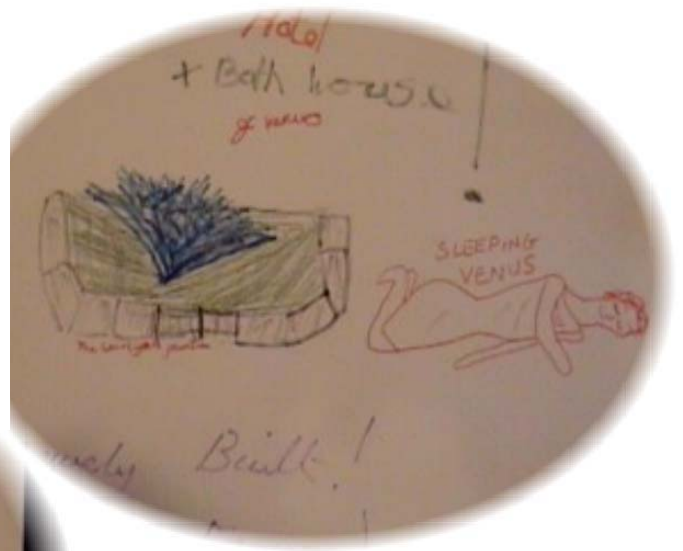
Email:

I am an National YAC member Y / N

THE LETOCE
 MANSIO
 BEAUTIFUL, FURNISHED PRIVATE
 ROOMS. XXV DINARIES. AN ADULT
 X DINARIES. PER. CHILD.
 CXIII
 WATLING STREET



Here are some of your designs for the Mansio and Bath house at Wall.
 Well done to everyone for these fantastic designs! It was great how you designed the posters with the Roman times in mind...
 'Rooms X Dinaries a night...., beautiful furnished rooms, Newly built....close to main road...wonderful food, with fish sauce from Rome!'



I'm sure to stay at Letocestum
 in the main road
 we have the best yellow wine
 good food, permissio in hora
 excellent food with fish sauce from Rome
 hope you will be in need of a bath

