

Birmingham YAC

www.byac.org.uk

Birmingham's Young Archaeology Club

A Fond Farewell.....

First of all we would all like to say a fond farewell to Beth, who has left to earn more money!

Through her hard work she has helped make the BYAC into a great club and one that we all love to be part of.

Beth's leaving night saw her wearing a very fashionable piece of head gear... a chainmail coif (well if your going to battle that is!).

So I think I'm safe in saying on behalf of everyone, GOOD LUCK BETH ! And we hope to visit Sandwell's YAC group soon.

Words on behalf of BYAC group.



Next BYAC event....

25th of June, Weoley castle - 10.15am to 12.30 pm.

Weoley derives from the Anglo-Saxon "Weg-hoh-leah" meaning 'a woodland clearing near a road, along a ridge'.

Historic Sutton Coldfield

Our recent trip around Sutton, organised fantastically by Jane, left us all amazed by the wide ranging history of Sutton.

Our visit began on what is thought to be the site of an original Saxon church, now Holy Trinity.

Here we explored the history of the Bishop Vesey's legacy and his personal impact upon the royal town.



Masonic Hall - Sutton Coldfield

Following the Church visit we explored the hidden history of Sutton. This ranges from where townsfolk used to sharpen their arrows on the wall, bricked up windows caused by window tax, blocked up entrances to hidden crypts, and a purpose built giant drying rack for the fireman's hoses!

We would also like to thank Marian at Sutton Library for her excellent collection of photographs.

“Digging” the Dovecote



Moseley Dovecote

In April 2005 we began our excavation in the Gardens of Moseley Dovecote. When the Moseley Society started landscaping the gardens they found a brick structure just below the surface and asked Birmingham Archaeology to investigate. Members of the Moseley Society told us about the history of the Dovecote and then Birmingham Archaeology taught us various surveying techniques and helped us start our dig.

We were taught how archaeologists survey and record a site. First we found a nearby Ordnance Survey mark from which we could establish the height above sea level of the site.

We then established a reference point within the site and learned how to use a surveyor's theodolite to measure the relative height of various parts of the site before excavation and as the excavation progressed

We also learned about doing a geophysical survey to reveal underground features. Using the geophysical equipment we surveyed an area near the excavation to establish whether there were any other hidden clues to its nature, age and purpose. Here we are excavating the underground structure that has been discovered. It appears to comprise a round brick structure with a paved floor.

Words and Pictures by Steve Smith



Excavating the structure

What do you call an archaeologist with a seagull on his head? *Cliff!*

Historic Events

May 29 - June 5

Streets Through Time a medieval living village *Kenilworth Caste, Warwickshire* - explore an authentically created mediaeval village

June 10 - 13

Mersey River Festival *Mersey River, Liverpool* - Mersey River Festival Celebrates it's 25th Anniversary and the 200th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar

June 19 - 24

Captain Bagots Encampment *Boscobel House and the Royal Oak, Shropshire* - Visit a 1640's Civil war encampment with talks and displays

July 2 -3

Roman Festival *Wroxeter Roman City, Shropshire* - Roman cavalry combat, encampments, cookery, leatherwork and crafts!

July 5

Shakespeare's Stratford *Gower Memorial* 6.30pm *Stratford* - 3 mile evening ramble around Stratford to places associated with "the bard"

July 16 - 24

National Archaeology Week *Nationwide* - Log onto www.britarch.ac.uk/naw for a full list of events and activities

July 23 - 24

Archaeology weekend *Ironbrige Gorge Museum* - Join in with a real dig in the iron bridge gorge

August 7

Archaeology of Burton Dassett *Burton Dassett Hills Country Park* - A short ramble to discover the history of the historic parish

August 11

Medieval life *Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire* - Learn about medieval life, crafts, armour and design

August 28 - 29

Medieval Life with the Plantagenets *Goodrich castle, Herefordshire* - experience 15th Century life, archery and combat displays and dancing with fair maidens

August 28 -29

Medieval Mumming *Stokesay Castle, Shropshire* - See how medieval pilgrims lived, with dancing and play performances

October 22 - 30

Battle of Trafalgar *Leeds Armoury* - To commemorate the 200th anniversary (21st October 1805) a variety of events to join in, talks and sea shanty's

Why did the Hedgehog cross the road?

To see his flatmate! *By Bethan Timmins*

60 years on.....

Just in case you hadn't realised this year celebrates the 60th anniversary of the end of WW2.

There has been a huge variety of events and displays across the city to commemorate the event. Some upcoming ones are;



Victory Celebrations - 1945

Children's weekend WW2 -
Birmingham Museum and Art
Gallery

Victory Fireworks Fantasia (VE/VJ
day celebration)- Cannon Hill 10

July, 2pm - 11pm By telephone –
0121 767 4141

VJ day Celebrations - Centenary
Square Birmingham, 15th August

Lest we Forget - WW2 peoples war -
Gallery 38 Birmingham Museum and
Art Gallery, May to August

Lest we forget; Paintings, Prints and
Drawings 1939 - 1945, Gallery 16
Birmingham Museum and Art
Gallery, 28 March - 21st August

Trafalgar day bicentenary - Trafalgar,
London 21st to 23rd October.

Remembrance day and Parade - 13
November nation wide

Also Birmingham City Councils
website (www.Birmingham.gov.uk)
has more information and some
transcripts from veterans.

But its not just libraries that hold the
information on WW2, you can get a
great personal account by just
speaking to your elderly relatives,
they were there!



Where did Winston Churchill keep his armies?

Up his Sleeves!

And just in case you thought we'd forgotten.....

National Archaeology Day

23rd July - 10.30am to 3.00 pm

This years theme is the IRON AGE!

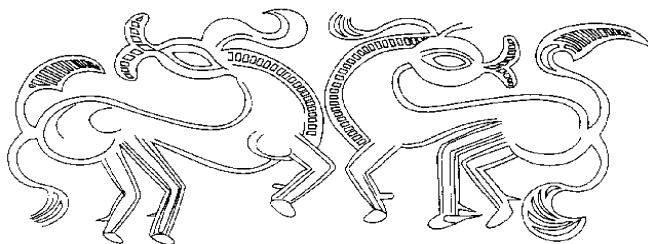
There are a few things you need to prepare yourselves for the days activities.

Firstly you need an Iron age costume, so dressing as an ancient Britain is a Must!



Also you will need a cloak, this is not only part of your costume, but also your own personal rug to sit on during the day, so make sure its an old one you don't mind getting dirty!

Finally you need to bring an iron age lunch with you. This means you have to try to only bring food and drink that would have been around in the iron age!
So no potatoes, tomatoes, pasta or fizzy drinks!



But don't think your going to starve here's a few ideas;

- Flat bread (pita bread)
- Sliced Boar (Pork)/Beef/Chicken
- Apples, Blueberries, Blackberries, Rhubarb
- Nettle Tea
- Berry drink (blackcurrant Juice)
- Honey
- Hazel nuts

There's plenty more so try to think of something exciting!

Iron age recipes

For all you budding Jamie Oliver's out there here's a chance to get your teeth stuck into some good *very old* fashioned food.....

Nettle pudding

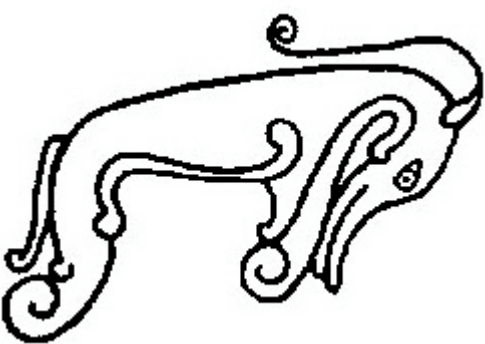
1 bunch of sorrel
1 bunch of watercress
1 bunch of dandelion leaves
2 bunches of young nettle leaves

Some chives

1 cup of barley flour

1 tsp. salt

Chop the herbs finely and mix in the barley flour and salt. Add enough water to bind it together and place in the centre of a linen or muslin cloth. Tie the cloth securely and add to a pot of simmering venison or wild boar (a pork joint will do just as well). Leave in the pot until the meat is cooked and serve with chunks of bread.



Kentucky fried what?

Ancient Britains didn't have all the modern conveniences we have today. Instead they were expert hunter-gatherers. But how well do you think you would survive in Iron age times?

Which of these foods can you eat?

