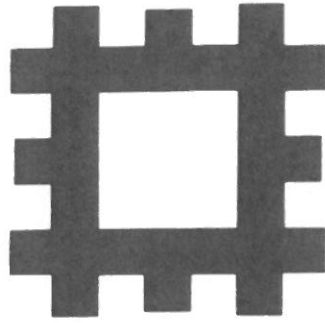
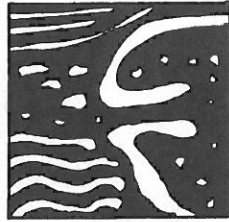


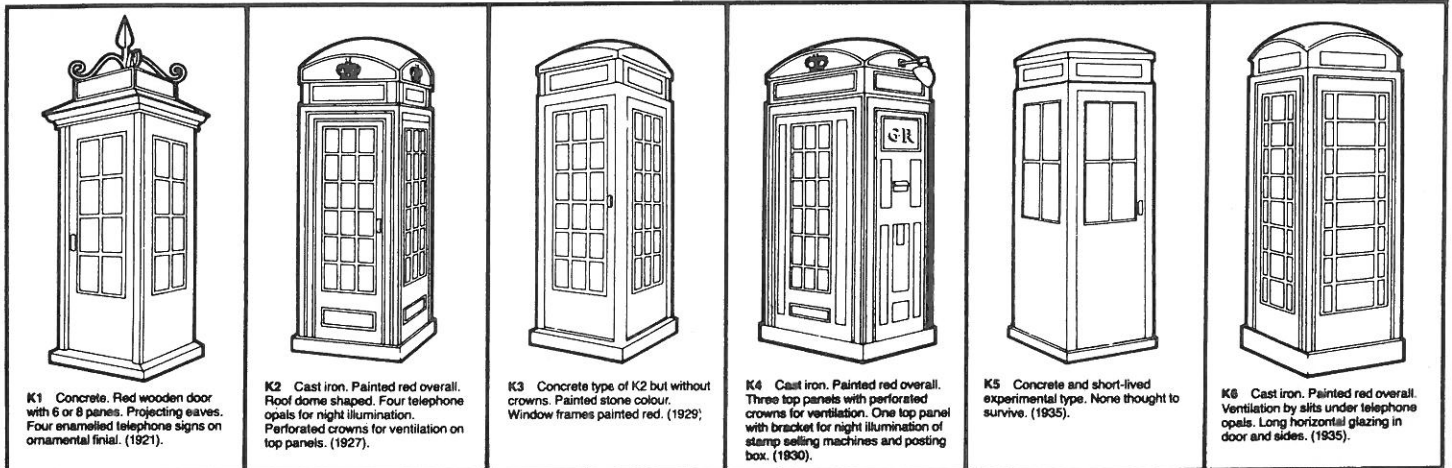
REMNANTS



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No. 4 Winter 1987

Supersites 2

a national competition about the historic environment



Some telephone boxes in these designs are being listed. So far an extant example of the K5 design has not been spotted. Do you know of one?

Supersites 2 is a competition for schools based on over 400,000 buildings listed for their special architectural or historical interest. It is jointly sponsored by English Heritage and the Department of the Environment and follows the first Supersites competition held

in the London region last year and covered extensively in the last edition of *Remnants*.

With so many listed buildings in the country it is unlikely that your school will be very far from several of them. It may even be that your own school or your local telephone box is listed.

INSIDE

DETAILS OF OUR ANNUAL COURSE FOR TEACHERS 'Learning from the Past'

THE SCHOOL TRIP — A MUM'S VIEW

plus articles, book reviews, informations for teachers and much more besides!

Footnotes

1988, year of the Yorkshire abbeys

Nine hundred years ago Norman Benedictine monks founded St Mary's Abbey in York, now better known as the seat for the famous mystery plays held every three years. To celebrate, the Yorkshire Museum next door is opening a new gallery on St Mary's on the actual site of its chapter house, and above it will be an exhibition on monasteries in Yorkshire, mounted jointly by the museum and English Heritage. That is appropriate since it was on that very spot that a breakaway group began one of the reform movements that led to founding great Cistercian abbeys like Fountains.

"What have abbeys to do with curriculum development?" cries a shrill voice from Curzon Street. In a secular age looking for technology and skills, the cloister seems remote, even an escape from reality. But escape can be *into* daring enterprise as well as out of accepted life-styles: like volunteering for a space shuttle. The equivalent of building a monastery in the twelfth century today would be to raise Centre Point in a fishing village. These monuments were not created by contemplating navels but by moving rivers, levelling hillsides without JCB's, quarrying, geometry, engineering, lead mining, medicine, writing in an illiterate society and making money. It sounds rather like plans for a core curriculum and is pragmatic enough to satisfy some current yearnings.



English Heritage

Mount Grace

Medieval technology will be the theme of the new education room at Rievaulx opening next Easter. This autumn we shall be issuing a video on Rievaulx which shows how children can make roof-vaults with their own bodies and feel within their muscles the stresses that an arch does constantly. It also shows how to balance a headmaster on the thinnest of drinks-cans to prove how a pillar can support tons of stone.

The exhibition opens at Easter in the Yorkshire Museum in York and will have an activity pack as well as an education centre based in the original guest-house of St Mary's Abbey. There you will find habits for everyone, an experience of a chapter meeting and a service, and a series of crafts such as sculpture and laying mosaic-tile pavements. The exhibition and the abbey ruins are just across the grass.

To get the best out of an abbey, however, you need to go to the sites themselves: Rievaulx set like a pale jewel in a wooded valley, Byland pointing its stony finger into the sky, Whitby like a broken crown perched on the cliff above the sea, Mount Grace a secret in a hillside forest. The landscape setting is as important as the buildings themselves, especially for Cistercian abbeys, and the opportunities for children exploring the countryside around the monastery for clues to the way of life are brought out in the forthcoming teachers' pack on Byland Abbey. This is the result of Steve Gibson's year at the site as a seconded teacher and will be available for the spring opening of the exhibition. It also opens up the possibilities for creative and artistic approaches to the abbeys: poetry writing, painting, pottery and, let's be brave, sitting and

thinking. Monks were indeed into technology but they were also idealists and thinkers; that aspect cannot be neglected even if some teachers are worried by God in the curriculum.

A Festival of Abbeys will be running throughout the summer of 1988 in Yorkshire when music, services, drama and other events will be happening at the abbeys. The project is not confined to English Heritage sites and includes Fountains (managed by the National Trust and supported by English Heritage to the tune of a quarter of a million pounds a year), Jervaulx with its wild flowers, and Kirkstall bang in the middle of Leeds. Perhaps the real treat is Mount Grace on the A19. It is the best surviving ruin of a Carthusian monastery where the monks did not live quite so communally as others. Each had his own cell, very like a detached on Brookside with a privy at the bottom of its own garden. The guest-house there is being refurbished with a new exhibition and an education room. One of the cells is completely restored and it is easy to perceive something of the ambience of a recluse's bolt-hole from a wicked world from which he could still watch the traffic from Teesside.

Jim Lang

Hampton Court Teachers' Pack

A teachers' pack on Tudor Hampton Court written by Angela Cox is due for publication in the autumn. It consists of a handbook for teachers with ideas for classroom activities, eleven information sheets for children to use and a set of six worksheets to be used at the Palace. If you would like details sent, when available, please contact Bill Addison, Room C11/07, Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

The Tudor Palace of Hampton Court is a 16 minute video prepared by the Department of the Environment to help teachers planning a visit or studying the Tudors. Using both modern photographs and historical material it explains why and how the palace was built and what the different rooms were used for. The video is densely packed with images and information and could provide material for several lessons. It is accompanied by notes for teachers and is available in VHS and Beta format. The video costs £10.50, inclusive of postage and is available from the Bookshop, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU.

The Norman Conquest

This day-course for teachers at the Tower of London on Thursday 3 December, is linked to the repeat showing of the BBC TV Zig Zag series on the Normans, in the Spring Term 1988. The course introduces the resources available at the Tower and at other sites, as well as in the classroom, to support work on the Normans at junior and younger secondary level. Topics to be specially featured include the Bayeux Tapestry, the Battle of Hastings, and Norman castles. Books, audio-visual materials, and computer programmes will be presented, along with ideas for project work. Speakers include Brian K. Davison, Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage.

Details from the Education Centre, HM Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB, (01-480 6348 ext 332).

REMNANTS will be published twice each academic year and will be sent free to schools through the LEAs. You should also be able to find one on display in your local Teacher's Centre. If you would like copies of REMNANTS sent personally to you, you may take out a year's subscription of £2.00. Contact:

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