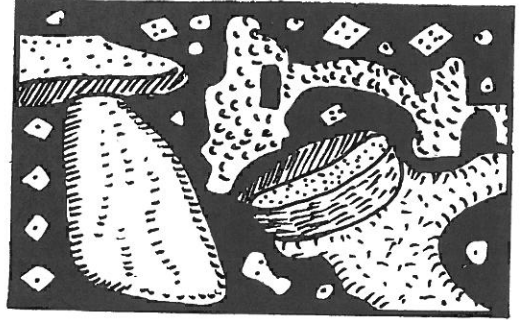
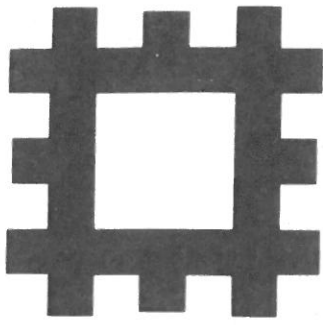


# REMINANTS



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No. 5 Summer 1988

## Problem solving at historic sites

Shropshire teachers have been exploring Ludlow Castle with a view to using problem solving techniques with their pupils on school visits.

The underlying rationale was to ensure that teachers observed with a real purpose in mind and not for mundane activities often ascribed to visits like 'count the steps up the keep' or 'write a poem about the battlements'. The castle needed to be explored, therefore with a specific problem to be solved and the nature of the problem determined the type of observation required.

A course for teachers was developed over three sessions:- the first to group the teachers and to give out equipment and background information, the second at Ludlow Castle where tasks were allocated and interpreted in an investigative way by the teachers concerned, the final practical session at the Teachers' Centre to follow up site work.

Eight tasks were set based on real life problems and were designed to integrate modern technology.

One of the activities was entitled 'ESCAPE!' The year is 1483. The group are to imagine themselves to be the twelve year old Edward, Prince of Wales, living in the castle with his brother. The scenario continues:-

The news arrives of the death of Edward's father, King Edward IV and plans are made for him to travel to London to be crowned the new King. Late one night, a nobleman comes to see him secretly in his apartment in the Pendover Tower!

The nobleman tells Edward that there are rumours that his Uncle Richard has made plans to stop this happening. Edward decides to escape!

The following questions were suggested as a starting point:-

1. How will he get out of the castle undetected?
2. Should he decide to escape through the town, how will he get through the town walls?
3. Will the local people help him?



Oliver Aston, Primary Adviser, Shropshire

*The Entrance to the Inner Bailey. The group examine shape and texture to include on a planned tape for blind visitors.*

The questions were accompanied by a number of additional suggestions involving an account of the escape, people involved, maps and appropriate role-play.

Resources necessary for the task were maps of the castle and town, details of shops, guilds and tradesmen in the 15th century.

Four teachers developed this activity. From the information available they determined that there were strong connections between the Crown and local guilds. This fact provided the basis of the escape plan. The guilds were varied and had a private chapel at their disposal in St Laurence's Church and safe houses in the immediate locality and en-route to London. At this time there was a fear in the local population concerning the outbreak of plague and special burial procedures were to be followed should a case of plague ever arise:- a) The coffin was sealed. b) A guard was appointed at an appropriate site prior to burial. c) A bell was to be rung when the coffin was transported to warn the townspeople.

## INSIDE

**Armada 1588 – Sources and Resources  
Studying Historic Sites with Disabled Children**

## New arrangements for video loans and purchase

Over the last few years we have sponsored the free loan of various films and videos through Central Film Library. With the increasing range of exciting educational resources that we are making available to you, we are now adding these titles to our own library, so you will be able to borrow all of them from our central mail order outlet at Ruislip.

The videos will be available on both VHS and Beta on free loan, or they may be purchased for £9.95 per copy (inc postage and packing). If you wish to purchase a copy of a programme after borrowing it, you may retain the copy that you have borrowed. Detailed instructions will be included with each loan.

### Videos

**Living History** — a guide for teachers in organising drama and role play projects at historic sites. (loan only)

**Pickering Castle** — the story of this fine motte and bailey castle in North Yorkshire produced for middle school children.

**Sitework** — a video review for teachers of the many good ideas from the first Supersites competition.

**Working on the Evidence: Avebury** — looking at the evidence for prehistoric sites in and around Avebury in Wiltshire. Suggested age group 9-13.

**Working on the Evidence: Maiden Castle** — how new excavations have helped build up a picture of this famous iron age hillfort in Dorset. Suggested age group 9-13.

**Your church: A Threshold to History** — this guide to what you can observe and interpret from an ordinary parish church has been produced for secondary school students.

### New Releases

**Building an Abbey: Rievaulx** — how medieval abbeys were built and stay up. It is based on Rievaulx Abbey in North Yorkshire but applies to any abbey or cathedral in Britain.

#### Carey at Carisbrooke

This new video is intended for the many schools who visit Carisbrooke during school journeys to the Isle of Wight. The medieval castle is seen through the eyes of Carey, the sixteenth century governor of the island who had the task of modernising the castle to make it safe from attack by cannons. His modifications and the reasons for them are looked at and the video ends with some problems unresolved. It is then the task of pupils to look at the castle and provide Carey with the further information he needs. This video may be shown in the education room at Carisbrooke provided it is booked in advance.

**Grimes Graves** — A guide to the neolithic flint mines near Brandon in Norfolk and flint knapping techniques.

**The Past Replayed: Kirby Hall** — A living history project for special needs schools; see Mike Corbishley's article on p.5.

#### Additions from CFL

**The Key of England: Dover Castle** (1981) — The history and development of the great fortress from iron age hill fort to its strategic role in World War II.

**Looking at an Abbey** (1980) — An insight into medieval monastic life before the dissolution and the uses of the buildings that existed.

**Looking at a Castle** (1980) — Illustrates clues to be found when visiting to understand the way defences worked and how its inhabitants lived.

**Looking at Prehistoric Sites** (1982) — An introduction to the great sites, also showing how an excavation in progress can give us insights to their complex history through archaeological investigation.

**The Norman Conquest of England** (1982) — Explains where to look for evidence of the Norman presence, whether in the visible remains of castles, local parish churches or simply earthworks in a field, through close observation.

**Spot the Difference** (1975) — Encourages children to look closely at the built environment, develop an awareness of architecture and learn about their surroundings.

## VIDEO ORDER FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name (Mr / Mrs / Ms)

Address

Postcode

Please send me the following videos:

Free Loan

Purchase @ £9.95 each

VHS

Beta

Please return your completed order, with full payment if applicable, to

**English Heritage**

**Postal Sales, PO Box 43, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0XW**

## Stop Press. Publications on the Royal Palaces.

The following publications are now available:

*Queen Victoria at Kensington Palace* A teachers pack consisting of a 40 page book for teachers, information sheets for children and seven activity sheets to be done at the site.

Price: £3.95

*Kensington Gardens Trail* A pack consisting of a 20 page booklet for pupils and a 24 page book for teachers both full of ideas for practical activity. Price: £2.50 for the pack. Additional copies of the pupils book are available for £1.00.

*Seventeenth Century London*, a young person's history trail that starts in the Banqueting House in Whitehall and then traces the footsteps of Samuel Pepys through the City to the Tower.

Price: £0.95

*The Royal Parks and Palaces Activity Book* A general introduction to the royal parks and palaces for children. 32 pages with coloured illustrations and complementary practical activities.

Price: £1.95

These are available from: Nigel Woodhead, State Apartments, Kensington Palace, London W8 4PX.

From now on Remnants will be published three times a year and will be sent free to schools via LEAs at the start of every term. You should also be able to find copies on display in your local Teachers Centre. Personal subscriptions will remain at £2.00.

For our free information pack for teachers or for any further information contact:

English Heritage, Education Service, 15/17 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 1AF. 01-734 6010 Ext. 810

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