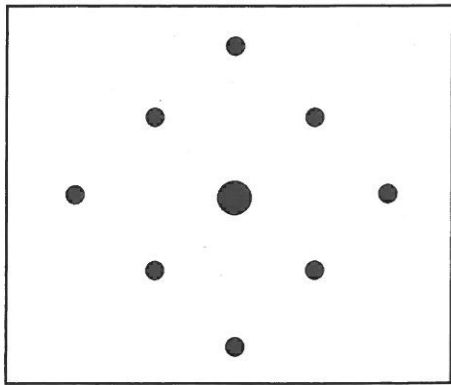


Games for the classroom

No. 8 Skittles

Bowls and skittles were among the many activities that Tudor monarchs feared kept people away from archery practice and led to riot and disorder. A statute of 1541 permitted ordinary people to play at Christmas, and then only indoors, or face a fine of 6s 8d. Gentlemen with land worth £100 a year could, however, get a licence to play on their own land. Open and roofed alleys were attached to the homes of the wealthy and Henry VIII had an alley at Whitehall Palace. A seventeenth century writer said that a bowling alley "is a place where three things are thrown away besides the bowl, viz, time, money and curses, and the last ten for one." There was no clear distinction between the games of bowls and skittles and there are numerous local variations both in the name and the rules. By the nineteenth century skittles had sunk down the social scale but there was a revival of interest in the 1920s and 1930s.

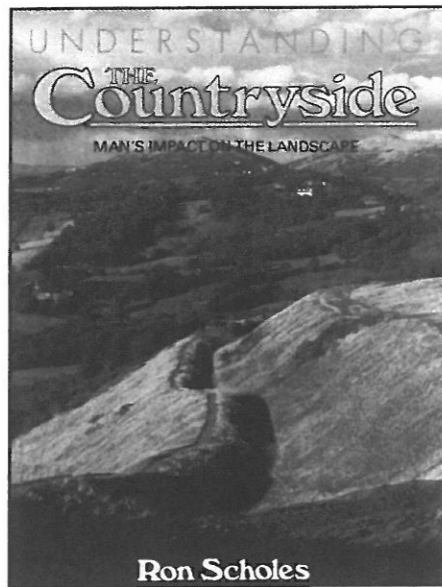
Nine-pins was known as kittle-pins in the sixteenth century. The pins are placed in a diamond shape and if there is a larger king pin then that goes in the centre. The aim is to 'floor' or knock all the pins down in as few throws as possible. A 'standfair' game allows one step towards the skittles and a 'trotting' game allows two or three. Only underarm throws are allowed and the ball must roll along the ground. In the Tudor game the skittles might be 9 metres away from the player but in school you will want to adjust this as well as the distance between pins to suit your class.



Board games around the world: a resource book for mathematical investigation by Robbie Bell and Michael Cornelius published by Cambridge University Press in 1988 may be of interest to teachers in both primary and secondary schools. The rules of over 50 games are explained clearly and simply together with suggestions for investigative activities and advice on classroom organisation.

Gail Durbin

Reviews



Understanding the countryside:

Man's impact on the landscape.
Author: Ron Scholes Date: 1985
Publisher: Moorland Publishing, pp.320.
ISBN: 086190 060 X

This book is obviously a product of a consuming passion for the prehistoric and historic sites and monuments of the British Isles. The author's wide-ranging first-hand experience is enhanced by a simple and clear text that exudes heartfelt excitement as each new page is turned. Practical enjoyment is further helped by the inclusion of boxes listing the 'identifying features' of the different types of site mentioned, plans of access to a number of sites and the selection of (mainly black and white) photographs. As an introduction to the delights of visiting and studying the remnants of (pre)historic occupation and influence in the British Isles I can happily recommend this publication.

However, if the book is to be used for more than the most basic of introductions then there are a few problems. The book is subtitled 'Man's impact on the landscape'. Ignoring the obvious sexual stereotyping of the subtitle, the content does not really live up to this aim: rather it is a catalogue of interesting places to visit divided into eight chapters that reflect a chronological progression from 'Geology — the foundation of the landscape' to 'Defence, communications and industry'. Implicit in this is the assertion that defence, communications and industry are aspects of human interaction with the environment that only became important in the post medieval world.

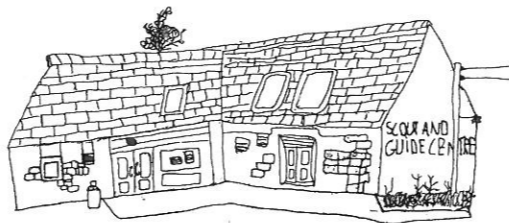
The short introductions to each chapter are, necessarily extremely brief, summaries of interpretations of current understanding of the chronological periods under review. Rarely does the author actually discuss the human impact on the landscape but restricts the vast majority of his comment to the specific sites and monuments of that landscape. A number of the chronological summaries are also somewhat dated or simply

technically inaccurate. For example, reference is made to the 'beaker invasion' (p.19) and to a cursus being built by 'early man' (p.32). Inferential interpretation is also given the air of authoritative knowledge where the author states, for example, 'The forecourt or entrance of the tomb (chambered long barrow) was particularly holy, and was reserved for the important ritual of opening the vault and re-sealing it with stone' (p.33).

The bibliography is also frustrating in its seemingly haphazard selection where for some sites the most academic source available is mentioned while for others there is little or no follow up material mentioned.

But this detracts from an interesting book. If you want to know how to find sites, what to look for when you are there and enjoy the whole experience then there are far worse places to start than here.

Peter Stone
Regional Education Officer,
South West, English Heritage



Shawbury — Then and Now

St. Mary's CE Primary School, Dawsons
Rough, Shawbury, Shropshire SY4 4PF.
£2.50

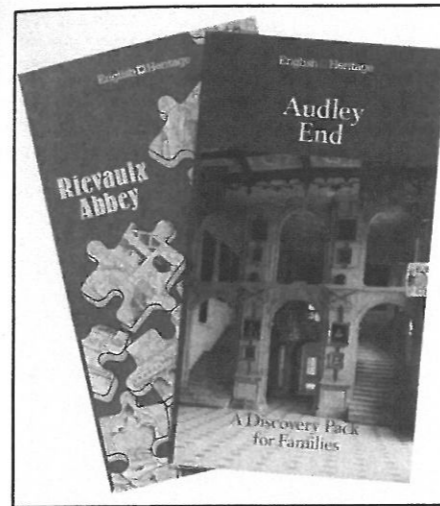
This fascinating 64-page booklet produced by Class 6 (1988) is a good example of how a project starting as a classroom idea can become a valuable public resource. The booklet contains a wealth of information for anyone interested in the local history of the village. The authors begin with a comprehensive 'local directory' of the present village which would put the Thomson Directories to shame — including the times of church services and scout and guide meetings! Sections follow on interesting places to visit in the area, mixing hard fact with the children's drawings and poems, and a series of well thought-out local walks. The history of the village and its main buildings is similarly covered in clearly structured style. A demographic survey was done by sending a questionnaire to 278 village inhabitants (present pop. 2,500) and comparing data to the 1881 census figures (total population then 278). The charts throw up interesting results such as the shift in county births.

The school clearly tapped a strong local enthusiasm from the pupils themselves, and the local villagers, as well as showing considerable enterprise by getting local business to advertise and sponsor the printing of the booklet.

Ken Glen
Education Administrator,
English Heritage

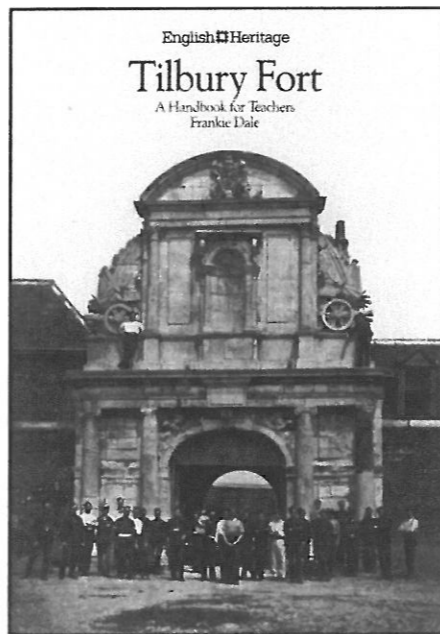
Footnotes

NEW PUBLICATIONS



Family Discovery Packs

The second title in our series of Family Packs is now available, based on **Audley End** in Essex, a palatial Jacobean house and one of our most popular sites. The pack contains a series of practical activities and a wallchart which form a useful basis for detective observation as part of site study. The pack costs £1.95 and is available from our Ruislip address, along with the pack on **Rievaulx Abbey**, North Yorks (price £1.75) which contains similar materials to help understand the building and the life within the monastery.



Tilbury Fort

A Handbook for Teachers
Tilbury Fort is the best preserved and in many ways the finest surviving example of late seventeenth century military architecture in England. Discovery of its design and purpose can involve learning skills such as observation, recording, deduction, measuring, estimating and language. It is a visual basis for the study of the past and a starting point for activities which extend across the curriculum.

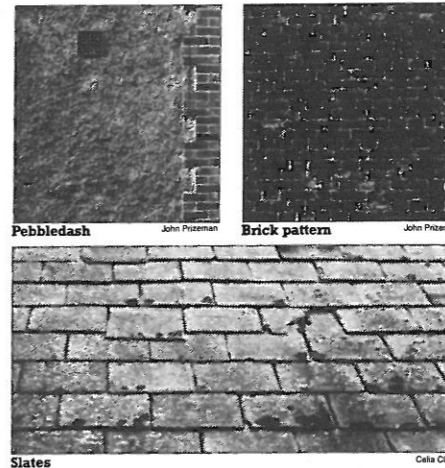
The fort can be studied as an entity in itself or be placed in a study of a particular period, of the locality, of the Thames Defences or of different types of fortifications.

This handbook is intended as an aid to teachers bringing groups of children to Tilbury Fort. It is aimed at the upper junior and lower secondary age range although with some adaptation, the information and ideas may be used by other age groups including pupils undertaking GCSE. Seven activity sheets for on-site work are included in this handbook.

36 pages, card covers, A4 size.
£2.50 available from our Ruislip address.

The Built Environment: Where you live

This full-colour wallchart (990mm x 743mm) with accompanying teachers' notes has been produced by the Civic Trust Education Group in collaboration with the Pictorial Charts Educational Trust. It aims to encourage close observation of buildings in your immediate environment and shows how this can have wide cross-curricular potential.



The chart has useful illustrations of the different building materials to be found in a typical area and their varying functions. The accompanying four pages of notes are packed with a digest of ideas for classroom and street study with sections on materials, housing types and the impact of change. The list of information sources and books will be invaluable background for any study of local buildings.

This is part of a series produced on the built environment available, price £5.29, post free from:
Pictorial Charts Educational Trust
27 Kirchen Road
London W13 0UD.

Our own leaflet 'How To Find Out About Historic Buildings In Your Area' is still available freely on request.

VIDEOS



The most recent addition to our library is **Living History — The Kenilworth Project**. This has been produced by Elm Bank Teachers' Centre, Coventry, as a record of the successful Elizabethan living history week held at Kenilworth Castle last summer in conjunction with Coventry schools which is also being repeated this year.

The video is available on free loan in VHS or Beta formats, along with all other titles, from our Ruislip address. Alternatively, copies can be purchased at £15 per copy from: Video Studio, Elm Bank Teachers' Centre, Mile Lane, Coventry CV1 2LQ.

"Seen and not Heard" ... at Farnham Museum

"Seen and not Heard": The Untold Story of the Victorian Child' is the intriguing title of Farnham Museum's special summer exhibition.

From 13 June to 30 September, visitors can explore aspects of Victorian childhood through a series of lively displays in the Museum's Garden Gallery. Child labour, sickness and infant mortality contrast grimly with examples of children's games, toys and songs. Child rearing practices and schooling are also examined.

Two activity days have been arranged to complement this exhibition:

Child's Play — Saturday 5 August. Taking Victorian children's games and pastimes as its theme, this activity day offers plenty of scope for joining in!
The Three R's — Saturday 2 September. This explores a Victorian school day, including examples of lessons and playground games, songs and charts.

The activity days run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and admission is 20p (adults) and 10p (children). For further information, please contact Farnham Museum, 38 West Street, Farnham. (Tel: 0252 715094)