

Understanding People in the Past
A Teacher's Guide to Historic Scotland Properties, Historic Scotland, 1995
ISBN 0-7480-1226-5 £5
Castles of Wales
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments 1994
ISBN 1-85760-075-4 £1.50
Castles Alive – Keeps and Conquests – A Welsh Perspective (Video)
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments 1994
ISBN SF B00600 £9.95

Historic Scotland and Cadw share the same educational aims as English Heritage: we all want to take the teacher angst out of visits to historic monuments. These new materials certainly deliver the goods.

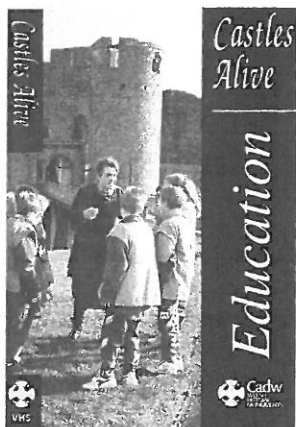
Written by Sydney Wood and edited by Historic Scotland's Education Officer, Marion Fry, *Understanding People in the Past* focuses on the different skills and approaches which can be developed on sites. The first chapter is devoted to pinpointing specific links to the 5-14 guidelines.

There is a useful look at preparations before a visit, with suggestions for on-site and follow-up activities.

The rest examines how teachers can deliver the curriculum using the whole gamut of monuments, from prehistoric, through abbeys and churches, taking in castles and forts, and ending with industrial sites. Opportunities offered by each type of place are listed, and there is a short reading list of reference material and fiction for teachers and children. Six types of site are examined in detail, with suggestions for work, some of which can be photocopied for use, or adapted to specific needs. With 48 pages full of photographs and line drawings this is very good value for money. From Historic Scotland, Education Service, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH. Tel 0131 668 8732.

Though shorter, the 12-page *Castles of Wales*, from the Cadw stable, is equally good value. The text is illustrated by photographs, line drawings, ground plans and artists' impressions. This makes for a clear explanation of the evolution of castles, from the earliest wooden structures, to the transition into stone and the sophisticated developments of the 13th century, into the transformation into grand residences, culminating in the high note of the gloriously Gothic Castell Coch. The historical background is given substance and perspective by comparing the castles built by the princes of Gwynedd with those of Edward I. There is a list of questions to get children thinking about castle design and function and a useful glossary.

Cadw's 28-minute video, *Castles Alive*, can be used with the above or on its own as a good way of



stimulating interest in a visit. The video covers much the same ground as the booklet but brings castles to life by peopling them with characters from different periods. Like the legendary Gwenllian, the prototype resistance leader and her struggle to the death with the dastardly Sir Maurice de Londres, or Madog the mason, chuntering on about low wages but skilfully bringing salient references to changing castle design. There is also some interesting footage of a reconstructed siege machine in use, which will go a long way to helping children visualise the realities of medieval warfare. The script is by Paul Drake, who also appears to play most of the characters. Booklet and video from Cadw, 9th floor, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF2 1UY. Cheques in advance, adding 45p for each item, p&xp, payable to Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments.

Liz Hollinshead
 Education Officer, Midlands and East Anglia,
 English Heritage

In the Nick of Time
Elizabeth Newbery and Sarah Fecher, Museums & Galleries Commission ISBN 0-948630-29-9 £7

A fascinating book on the conservation of objects. Aimed at non-specialist teachers in the primary school, it has a strong science focus in the suggested activities, though there is also a helpful cross-curricular section.

There are well presented activity sheets for pupils which teachers may photocopy. These are backed up by suggestions on how to tackle each activity and develop the themes introduced.

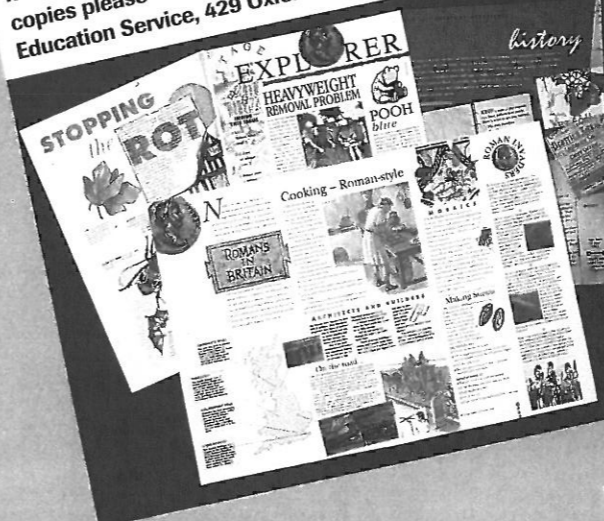
There are some particularly good ideas for stimulating class or group discussions on conservation issues. The activities are simple to set up in the classroom. I particularly liked that which asks children to touch various samples every time they pass by them for a week or so. They will no doubt be amazed at the effect of so many sticky hands on some materials – a simple, yet very effective way of explaining why certain objects in historic museums and galleries should not be touched. The experiment which suggests that pupils make their own fire-extinguisher using baking powder and vinegar is likely to be a little more lively!

There is a wealth of background information about conservation of objects, clearly explained for the non-specialist, as well as some fascinating snippets. For instance, did you know that conservators have worked on preserving a roll of toilet paper the artist Sir Stanley Spencer used for some preliminary sketches? Available from Museums & Galleries Commission, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA.

Jennie Fordham
 Education Officer, South East and London,
 English Heritage



Heritage Explorer is the magazine for young members of English Heritage and is published four times a year. Each issue has four colourful pages and features items which will be very useful for primary school teachers for classroom work. Recent issues, for instance, have featured the Romans in Britain, history detective work in your local streets, introducing archaeology to children among many other lively items on historic buildings and sites. We have a limited number of back issues to give away. If you would like copies please contact us quickly at English Heritage Education Service, 429 Oxford Street, London W1R 2HD.



Gosbecks
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK



A unique Romano-British site
 The Bronze Statue of Mercury found at Gosbecks.

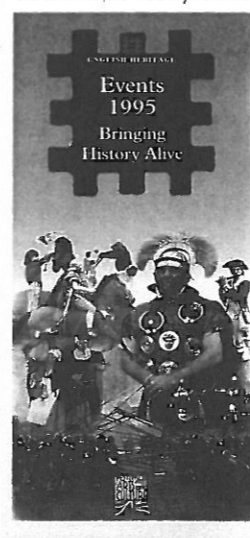
Gosbecks Archaeological Park on the outskirts of Colchester offers visitors this summer the opportunity to watch archaeologists carrying out small-scale excavations on part of the site. School parties will be able to experience handling activities. For further details and a free leaflet explaining more about what is going on (the park featured in *Heritage Learning No. 7*) contact: Janet Lumley, Education Officer, Museum Resource Centre, 14 Ryegate Street, Colchester CO1 1YG. Tel: 01206 282927.

On the Trail of Prince Albert...

as part of the continuing conservation of the Albert Memorial in London being undertaken by English Heritage, we have produced a free four-page colour leaflet featuring a trail which looks at a number of monuments and buildings in the area connected with Prince Albert and Queen Victoria. For a free copy simply ring us on 0171 973 3442/3. A visitors' centre is now open from 10am to 6pm daily, where schools can find out at first hand all about the repair and restoration work in progress.

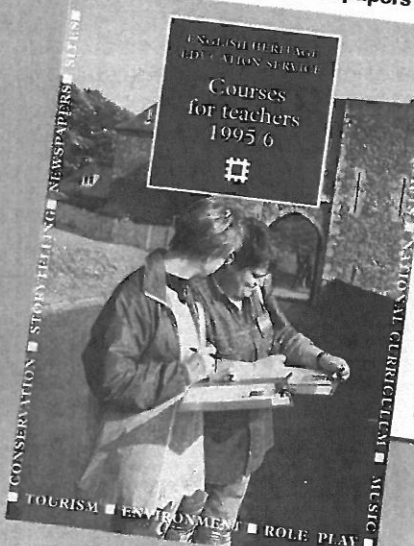


Step back in time this term with visits to a selection of historical displays, re-enactments, music and drama at an English Heritage event. Our special events offer absorbing, stimulating and enjoyable experiences for school groups. There is a group discount of 15 per cent to most events and there are often opportunities for children to try their hand at activities. This year is the 350th anniversary of



1645, the decisive year of the English Civil War, so there are displays featuring this period. In addition, there are displays featuring the Roman and medieval periods, including a major re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings in October. For a free copy of the 1995 Events Diary contact our Special Events Unit on 0171 973 3396 or write to our Customer Services Department at 429 Oxford Street, London W1R 2HD.

Courses for teachers arranged by our Education Service are continuing through the rest of this year. They cover subjects as varied as National Curriculum history (with input from SCAA), heritage conservation, medieval realms, newspapers and conservation, leisure



and tourism and making music at historic sites. A free booklet giving full details of all the courses – which are mostly free for teachers – can be obtained by ringing us on 0171 973 3442/3 or writing to us at our usual address.

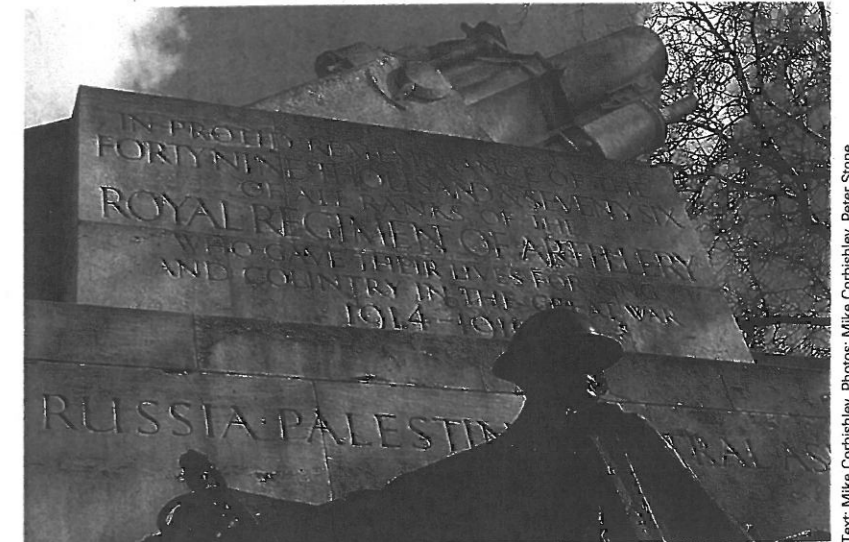
Streetwise

Lest we forget

There are memorials everywhere – if only you know where to look for them! You will find them in the names of streets and attached to buildings, as well as in the more obvious places like churchyards and cemeteries. Here are examples from places in Britain

How many examples can you spot in the place where you live?

In almost every town and village, people paid for a war memorial to their dead, like the Royal Artillery monument near Hyde Park Corner (right). Most are from the First World War (1914-1918). Names of Second World War victims (1939-1945) were usually added. Do you know of a memorial from another war?



Text: Mike Corbishley. Photos: Mike Corbishley, Peter Stone

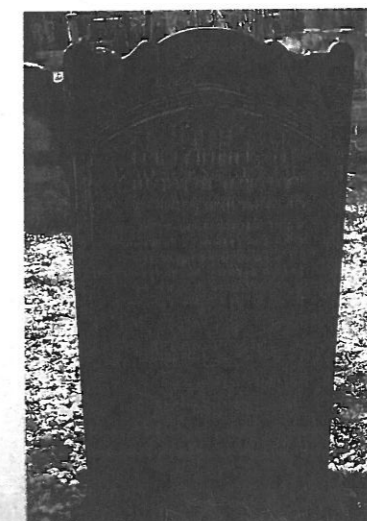


Some memorials record unusual events. The one on the left is for a stewardess on an ocean liner which sank in 1899. She helped to save many of the passengers in her care but was drowned herself.



There are all sorts of memorial stones on buildings. Sometimes they are foundation stones, as above left...

...or plaques, left, which record the date.



It is in churchyards that you find some of the most interesting memorials: left, above and right. You can trace family histories there and see the sort of decoration that people liked in past centuries. The symbol of death, the skull and crossed bones, was a favourite in the 18th century. Carved angels decorated headstones. Urns were often used in the 19th century – on simple headstones and in the expensive tombs of the rich.

