



NORTHWICK HERITAGE TRAIL INTERPRETATION BOARDS

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the design competition for both the logo and the interpretation boards is Sara Fenn. The standard of entries was very high and local residents had great difficulty making a choice, but in the end Sara's designs received the most votes and she is clearly a well-deserved winner.

One of the beautiful Wildlife Illustrations by local artist

The competition to design the Northwick Manor Trail interpretation boards was a second year assignment for University of Worcester Graphic Design students. The brief was to design one double board for installation in the City Park's nature reserve car park at The Slip and four other design boards, selected from the eight possible boards for points along the 3 mile (5k) route. They also had to design a supporting leaflet for the trail. This assignment was not an easy option for the students to choose and was quite a challenge with a very tight deadline. The students had to consider the overall design colours, the route map, size and style of text and images and most importantly, they had to consider the natural environment of the setting where the boards would go on display.



Swan Logo designed by Sara Fenn

Over the next 18 months, Sara will be working with professional artists Valerie Briggs (natural history and wildlife) and Steve Rigby (historic and archaeological reconstruction), who will be contributing to the trail board designs. Sara will also be meeting regularly with the project co-ordinators, a small team of local researchers, who will be supplying the content and old photographs, and representatives from the local community who have expressed an interest in being involved in the trail board designs.

The finished trail interpretation boards will be framed by the City Park Rangers, who have constructed these from local green oak from a sustainable local source. This type of frame has been carefully selected and approved by the Environment Agency, to complement the natural setting, so as well as being informative they will also look very attractive. It is aimed to have the boards in place for the end of the Northwick Manor Community Heritage Project, which is April 2010.



Sara Fenn checking out the Northwick Manor Heritage Trail route.



Focus on Finds: Clay Tobacco Pipes

Many of you may have come across bits and pieces in your gardens or whilst walking the dog across the fields. You might have discovered what looks like a piece of old flower pot, a fragment of china tea cup or if you're really lucky an old coin. In each issue of this newsletter we're going to focus on the sorts of finds you might come across on the ground surface or whilst digging your potatoes, focussing today on something many people are familiar with; clay tobacco pipe.

A number of finds have been uncovered in Northwick and Bevere, including 172 clay pipe stems and several pipe bowls which were brought along to our launch event back in April. Angie Bolton of the Portable Antiquities Scheme was on hand to record and identify these and commented; 'Clay tobacco pipes were made from moulded fine white clay and pushing a wire rod through the stem while it was still in the mould created the hole in the centre. Clay pipes in England date from the 17th to the 20th centuries and can be dated more precisely by the size and shape of the bowl as well as any decoration. Earlier pipe bowls tended to be smaller and plainer. Sometimes a maker's mark survives which can tell us even more.'

Tobacco was very popular in England from the 17th century onwards. Archaeologists' recently uncovered a skeleton from St Andrew's Church with a big groove in its front teeth, worn away by years of pipe smoking!

Late 17th/early 18th-century clay tobacco pipe bowls



172 clay pipe stems collected from a garden in Northwick

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009 A SPECIAL EVENT FOR ALL TO ENJOY

THE STORY SO FAR - find out what has been happening in Northwick and Bevere and view displays and the children's artwork on **Friday 23 January from 3.00 to 8.00 at Northwick Manor Primary School.**

And WINTER TALKS for adults

On Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm
at Bishop Allenby's Hall by St Stephen's Church, Northwick.
28th January – The Bishop's Pantry! Rabbit Warrens and Fishponds in Northwick by Deborah Overton
25th February – Ancient and Modern: The Historic Maps of Northwick, Bevere and North Claines by Maggi Noke, Sheena Payne and historical researcher David Guyatt.

If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and would like to receive regular updates on the project and subsequent newsletters, please contact **Sheena Payne-Lunn on 01905 721133** or email sheena.payne-lunn@worcester.gov.uk Further information will be available online at www.wyac.co.uk/northwick

This is just one of Sara Fenn's winning designs for the Heritage Trail Interpretation Panels.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR

The Northwick Manor Community Heritage Project was launched with a medieval themed event at Northwick Manor Junior School. Over 250 local residents attended the event. There were displays from many of the project partners including - Worcestershire Young Archaeologists' Club (WYAC), Worcester City Museum and Archaeology and Education Services, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcester City Parks, Portable Antiquities, University of Worcester, Worcestershire Industrial Archaeology and History Society and the SETpoint science, engineering and technology educational initiative.



The Launch was enlivened by the talented and enthusiastic First Sedgley Morris Men, from the West Midlands Black Country, with music and very energetic dancing!

Medieval activities were provided by two local re-enactment living history groups. 'Combrogii' provided medieval board games and crafts such as fishing net making. The men from 'Discover History' organised an archery butts for the youngsters to practice with bow and arrows and the women engaged the children with weaving wattle panels. Games of 'Splat the Rattus Rat' supplied by the City Park Rangers, and the Viking skittle game 'Kubb' run by Young Archaeology Club families, kept everyone entertained despite the very cold weather. The event was attended by the Project's Heritage Lottery Fund regional officer Jenni Ord and Don Henson, Education Officer from the Council for British Archaeology National Young Archaeologists' Club. Both expressed their approval of the Project aims and mentioned the obvious enthusiasm of the local community and wished the Project well for the future.



The medieval games and fishing-net making, were provided by 'Combrogii'. Pictured here with two members of WYAC.



'Discover History' living history group, provided medieval archery and wattle panel making.

Talks, Walks and Workshops

So far the Project has presented two talks for local residents. The first talk by Sheena Payne-Lunn and Deborah Overton was an introduction to the history and archaeology of Northwick – or to be more precise ‘what we know so far!’ - there is still plenty more out there to be discovered by our enthusiastic research team.



Please note: If you are interested in joining our research team please contact Sheena on 01905 721133, we would be very pleased to have your help.

The next talk was by City Parks Ranger, Richard Clarke on the wildlife of the area and particularly what animals, birds, insects and plants you might see along the riverbanks. The Worcester City Parks Department look after the nature reserve which includes The Slip and the surrounding fields - once the site of clay pits and kilns associated with the local brick making industry but now an SSSI, noted for its rare beetles, grasses and an unusual bird called a jack snipe. Two more talks took place in the Autumn, which focussed on the history of the River Severn and the people who worked on the boats and trows. Deborah and Sheena also led a walk along the river from Northwick to Bevere.



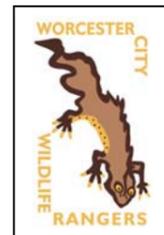
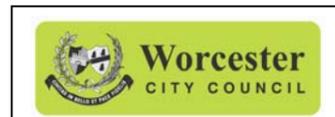
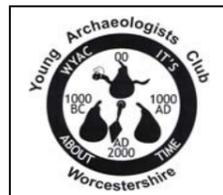
Jack Snipe



Local resident, Brian Orme, provided further information from his memories of living in Northwick.

Memory Sharing - Oral History Project

As part of the project Julia Letts will be working with local residents to record their memories. A workshop was held for the **Young Archaeologists** to meet with two local residents, who were happy to answer questions and talk about their childhood in Northwick. The children were then able to edit and make transcriptions, which will go into the history archive and provide information for the interpretation panels and sound bites for the website.



What is the Northwick Manor Community Heritage Project?

It is a Heritage Lottery Funded initiative designed to engage and inspire local people of all ages, through the historic landscape, archaeology and natural environment of Northwick and Bevere. The sum of £49,950 was awarded to the Project and will enable various initiatives to take place over its duration (April 2008 – April 2010). These will include a programme of educational work with Northwick Manor and Claines Primary Schools, workshops and talks for local people and the opportunity to get involved with the archaeological detective work needed to uncover the area's fascinating past. An irreplaceable 18th century map of the area will be conserved and computer digitised. Ongoing research by a team of local people will feed in to the creation of a circular heritage trail along existing rights of way. The project is being co-ordinated by the Worcestershire Young Archaeologists' Club and supported by a variety of partner organisations including Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcester City Parks Department, Worcestershire Record Office, the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the University of Worcester.

Why Northwick and Bevere?

The project was inspired by a group of young archaeologists' who had to design their own monument trail for the National Young Archaeologist of the Year Award. They were particularly keen to look at this area, as there is so much history on the doorstep and yet so much has disappeared. They were fascinated to discover that an ancient moated palace used to stand by the green at Northwick, that there was once a crossing point of the river and that Bevere Island was a place of refuge for the citizens of Worcester during attack by the Danish king Hardicanute, as well as during the Black Plague. All this and much more led them to produce their designs and the judging panel highly commended their work. The Worcestershire Young Archaeologists' Club is now keen to share what they have learnt, to find out more and to inspire others to do the same!

The 18th Century John Doharty Map

This wonderful old map of the Manor of Claines, was produced by John Doharty from 1751-3. This fragile and beautiful map will be repaired and conserved as part of the Project. A digital version of the map has already been created which combines the old map details with information from the accompanying document known as a Terrier. This means that everyone with access to a computer can discover, at the click of button, the names of the tenants of the land in this area, plus the acreage of the fields, whether they were arable or meadow and what the field was called. This is fascinating information for anyone interested in studying their family history or the landscape and land-use in the 18th century.

