Re-construction drawing of Bardney Abbey in the Medieval period. Drawn by David Vale

For KS2 pupils and Families
Produced by Kathy Holland AMA

Jews Court and Bardney Abbey Trust

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED
Bardney Abbey Revealed
Learning and Activity Pack

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Additional Information

www.community.lincolnshire.gov.uk/bardneyvillagehistory

www.limewoods.co.uk this website has comprehensive information in the ‘Where to go’ section to help with planning a visit to Bardney Abbey including directions and access details.

www.heritageincolnshire.org

The Collection Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace, Lincoln, LN2 1KL. Tel. 01522 550990 Displays of Lincolnshire Archaeology

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Bardney is a village about 10 miles from Lincoln.

In medieval times there was a large and important Abbey in this Lincolnshire village. Today little remains of the Abbey above ground but there is still plenty to be learned from this intriguing site. Bardney Abbey is a Scheduled Monument and is open to the public. The site is owned by the Jews Court and Bardney Abbey Trust. There are some excellent information boards to help explain the history and archaeology of the site.

During the summer of 2011 a community excavation took place on the refectory area of the site primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. As part of the project this learning pack has been developed to help promote interest in this important historic and archaeological site.
BARDNEY ABBEY REVEALED

What is a medieval Abbey?

A medieval Abbey was a community where monks and nuns lived who for a variety of reasons decided to devote their lives to God.

Who lived in a medieval Abbey?

An abbot or abbess, who was in charge of the Abbey. Monks and nuns were men and women who vowed to give their lives to God. Lay brothers and sisters were men and women who had not taken vows and who helped with the manual work. Other people would have lived in the Abbey perhaps in the orphanage or hospital.

Did a medieval abbey have a lot of buildings?

Most abbeys had many buildings including a church for worship, a refectory for eating, dormitories for sleeping, the chapter house for important meetings, a library, a school, a hospital and farm buildings. There would have been a guest house, a laundry, bakeries and at Bardney there was a windmill.

What happened at a medieval abbey?

Life for the monks and nuns would have been a continuous round of work, worship, learning and meditation. There were seven services each day beginning at 2.00am with Vigils through to Compline at dusk. The ‘Benedict Rule’ would have been followed at Bardney Abbey. This clearly laid out the rules for everyday life including a timetable for the day, which foods could be eaten and what clothes could be worn.
Abbeys were self-sufficient as far as possible. This meant they would try to produce and manufacture everything they needed for daily life. This would include food and drink, clothes, medicines, buildings and learning materials.

Abbeys were places of pilgrimage, education and learning. Charitable works were carried out including looking after orphans, the sick and the elderly.

Many monks and nuns were well educated and the church played an important role in ruling the country.

*Reconstruction drawing of the gate-house at Bardney Abbey.*

*Drawn by David Vale*
The first Saxon Abbey

The first Abbey at Bardney was founded in Saxon times by Ethelred, King of Mercia. It housed a shrine to his uncle, St Oswald. Oswald had been killed in battle and his body brought to Bardney without his head or arms.

Bardney became an important place of pilgrimage. The Saxon Abbey was destroyed by Viking raiders in AD 870. St Oswald’s bones were taken to Gloucester for safekeeping.

The Medieval Abbey

In AD 1087, Gilbert de Gant the new owner of Bardney decided he would found an Abbey for the oldest of monastic orders, the Benedictines. The Benedictines were sometimes called ‘The Black Monks’ as their clothes were mainly black.

Throughout the Middle Ages Bardney Abbey flourished and grew into a large establishment until its suppression by Henry VIII in 1538. In 1536 there was an uprising at Bardney which resulted in six monks being hung, drawn and quartered.

The Big House

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the land was purchased by John Tywhitt. He used a lot of stone from the Abbey to build a splendid house. By 1718 almost two hundred years later, most of the abbey buildings had disappeared and by all accounts so had the large house. The site became neglected and overgrown.
Uncovering the Past

In 1909 a local vicar called the Reverend Charles Laing began excavating the site and discovering the remains of the abbey. It took six years to uncover the main buildings and discover the layout of the abbey. The ruins were left uncovered for twenty years and became a popular tourist attraction.

In 2011 the joint group of Jews Court and Bardney Abbey Trust, Bardney Heritage Group and Bardney Heritage Centre successfully applied for Heritage Lottery Funding to carry out further excavations on the refectory area of the site. The refectory is where the monks would have eaten their meals in the medieval Abbey.

The results of these excavations are still being analysed. There will soon be some exciting new information to explore and listen to on the Bardney Abbey site.

Archaeologists find a lot of pottery as it survives well in the soil. Ceramics or pottery was used for domestic items such as cooking and tableware and for building materials such as tiles, bricks and pipes.
Activity 1

The Refectory - Artefacts

Information

We can investigate different types of evidence to find out about the past. Artefacts or objects are very important in helping us learn about the past and how people lived.

The area that was excavated at Bardney during the summer of 2011 was the Refectory, where the monks would have eaten their meals.

Archaeologists know that there were some large tables in the refectory with impressive medieval heads carved in the stone legs supporting the wooden table top.

A lot of pottery fragments have been found which can give clues about the type of typical medieval utensils and tableware that were used in the medieval Abbey. Many items associated with food preparation, serving and eating were made from materials other than clay including horn, bone, wood, metals, glass and leather. Very few remains of these have been found at Bardney.

This activity encourages pupils to explore different sources of information, to think about different materials and utensils past and present plus issues associated with survive and decay.
Activity 1

The Refectory - Artefacts

Artefact Activity

Materials and Resources

- Access to the internet and books on Medieval Life and Abbeys and Monasteries and ideally a visit to a museum
- Paper, pencils and colouring crayons

Explore the internet, look in books and if possible visit a museum and find out what you can about life in a Medieval Abbey including food preparation, cooking and eating in medieval times.

Remains of the ancient coppiced lime woods can still be seen in Chambers Farm Woods near Bardney. Wood was used for many different purposes. Do some detective work and see if you can find out what wood was used for in the medieval period!

Here are some clues about Medieval Times to help you complete the Activity Sheet on the next page. The objects in the pictures are modern replicas or copies of artefacts from Medieval Times.

- Bardney Abbey was surrounded by woodland
- Every part of an animal was used when it was killed for meat.
- There was no electricity or gas in Medieval times.
- Archaeologists find a lot of pottery as it survives well – some materials rot away in the soil.
- Poor people made things from materials that were readily and free if possible
### Activity 1

**The Refectory - Artefacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image 1</th>
<th>Image 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Trencher" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Trencher" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a ‘trencher’ made from a natural material. What do you think it is made from? Do you think many trenchers have survived from medieval times? Explain your answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image 3</th>
<th>Image 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Artefact" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Artefact" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Look carefully at the shape of this artefact. What do you think it was used for? Draw an example of what you think we use nowadays for the same purpose and explain what it is made from.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image 5</th>
<th>Image 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Artefact" /></td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Artefact" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These artefacts were both used for drinking from. What do you think they are made from and where do think the materials came from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image 7</th>
<th>Image 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Artefact" /></td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Artefact" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you think this jug was made from? What do think would have been poured from it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Artefact" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Artefacts like these may have been used may have been in the Refectory. What do think they would have been used for? What do we have instead in our houses nowadays?
Activity 2
Patterns and Pictures

Information

Decorated floor tiles became popular in the 14th century and were found in abbeys and important royal buildings. They were made from clay which was then glazed and fired in a kiln after the design was made. The pictures and patterns were either painted on with liquid clay or sometimes incised, or cut into the clay.

There were many beautiful designs that included animals, foliage, emblems, patterns and people. Some designs were symmetrical and some asymmetrical.

Replica tile produced by Andrew MacDonald-
The Pot shop Lincoln

Pattern and Pictures Activity:

Materials: A4 piece of paper, pencil, ruler, terracotta coloured quarry tile, yellow and white acrylic paint, fine paintbrush.

In this activity you can paint your own ‘medieval tile’

• Look at the medieval tile designs on the resource sheet and see if you can find any more designs by looking in books and on the internet.
• On a piece of paper draw a square measuring 150mm x 150mm. In the square, draw your own medieval style tile design. For ideas you will need to look at pictures of medieval floor tiles.
• When you are happy with your design you can draw the outline in pencil on your clay floor tile.
• Now have fun colouring in your design with paint.
Activity 2 - Resources

Patterns and Pictures

The black and white drawings on this page show decorated tiles from Lincolnshire and may give you some ideas for your designs. You can find more pictures of medieval tiles in books and on the internet.

Drawings reproduced by kind permission of Illustrator Hilary Healey and The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
Activity 3

Faces through time

Information

Many important medieval buildings including cathedrals, abbeys and churches are decorated with carved heads of people, animals and mythical creatures. The carvings can be made from stone, clay and wood.

Some carved stone heads have been found on the Bardney Abbey site. Some of the heads were carved into supports for the Abbot’s table. Others may have been at the top of columns or round the doorways and window frames. Some of the heads are in store at ‘The Collection Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire’ and some are on show in Bardney Heritage Centre.

It is thought that some medieval carvings are ‘pictures’ of people from medieval times but others have been made up.

What do you think?

Faces through Time Activity

Materials: A lump of clay about the size of a tennis ball, (air dry clay is fine) clay tools, pictures of medieval carved heads.

In this activity you will be able to make your own medieval face.

- Look at the pictures of heads from Bardney Abbey on the Resource Page which comes after the ‘Making a Clay Face’ page. You may also like to look in books, on the internet or visit your local church or other medieval buildings for more examples of medieval faces. You could make some sketches.
Activity 3
Faces through time
Making a Clay face

Take a piece of clay about the size of a tennis ball or large apple. Break off about a third of it for the decoration and put it on one side.

Roll the larger piece into a ‘face’ and shape and flatten it at the back.

Shape the nose and chin - you may also wish to shape the eye sockets.

Add pieces from your spare clay for features such as ears, hair, eyebrows and mouth - don’t forget to smooth in the clay as you work.

Use the clay tools for the finishing touches! Leave your ‘face’ somewhere warm and airy for a couple of days to dry.
Activity 3
Faces through time

Resource Sheet
Activity 4
The story of St Oswald activity

The story of Bardney and St Oswald

Osthryth was the Saxon queen of Mercia and she loved Bardney Abbey. She decided that she would like to bring the body of her uncle Oswald to the Abbey. Oswald was a brave warrior and had been killed in battle in 672. His head had been sent to Lindisfarne and his arms to Bamburgh.

When the body arrived the monks at Bardney refused to let his body into the abbey. They said it was because Bardney Abbey was in the kingdom of Lindsey and Oswald had once been their enemy. In the middle of the dark, cold night a powerful beam of light shone straight down from the heavens onto the body as it lay in the cart. The monks thought this was an important sign and that Oswald was indeed a saint and they welcomed his body into the abbey. Bardney became a shrine to St Oswald and an important place of pilgrimage which meant it became very important and wealthy.

When Viking raiders attacked the Saxon Abbey in 870 it was decided to move the bones of St Oswald to Gloucester Priory to keep them safe.

A Local Legend Activity

Materials: Paper, pencil and coloured pencil crayons

Imagine you carried Oswald’s bones from Bardney Abbey to Gloucester Priory. The journey was about 150 miles and took several days. Who went with you?
Did you meet some Vikings? Did anyone try to steal the bones? Did you find enough food? Were the monks at Gloucester pleased to see you?
When you have finished your story draw a picture of an adventure on your journey
Activity 5
Monastic Word Search activity

Word Search Activity

The words below are all linked with the abbey. They may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. You will not be able to find one of the words - write it in the space below and check with your friends to see if you have the same answer!

The ‘missing’ word is ______________________

If you do not know any of the words, look them up in a dictionary!

ABBEBY  WORSHIP  MONK  ABBOT  CROSS  NUNS
REFECTORY  CHURCH  HOSPITAL  HERBS  PRAYER
PILGRIM  DORMITORY  SERVICE  POOR