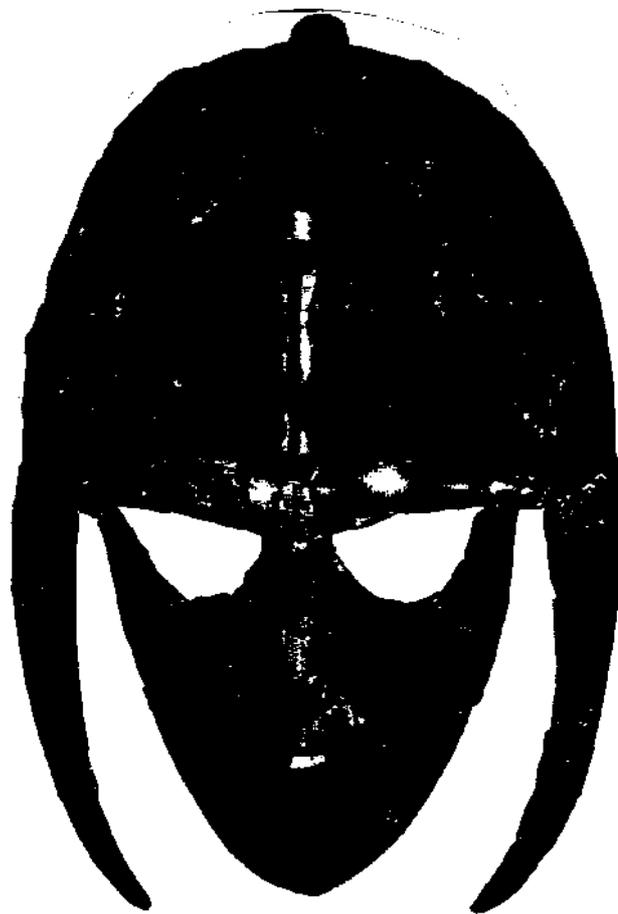


GOOD HISTORY

Journal
of the
Eynsham Junior
History Group



Number 10
Summer 2001

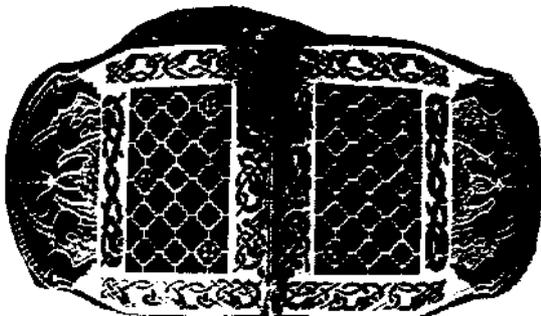
GOOD HISTORY

The Journal of the Eynsham Junior History Group

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Front Cover: A royal helmet, now in the British Museum. It is part of the treasure from the Sutton Hoo ship burial near Woodbridge (Suffolk), possibly that of Redwald, king of East Anglia who died c. 624. It was made of iron and imported from Sweden.



A hinged shoulder clasp made in the royal East Anglian workshop, gold inlaid with garnet. Also part of the Sutton Hoo find.

Desk Editor: D. S. Richards

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EDITORIAL

For the whole of this academic year the group have been concentrating on their work for the presentation which is planned for October 11th. It seemed appropriate that in this Census Year we should devote our time to looking at the way the census has developed from the 19th century until now. One thing that can be said is that you will not have to wait one hundred years to learn the results of our census, just about three months!

Last term Professor Marker brought my attention to an article in *The Daily Telegraph*, dated March 21st. It was entitled "Is history a thing of the past?" The general theme of the article was the need to support the teaching of history and said, and I quote, "the best schools recognise the importance of history." That is why I have again turned to what is being taught as part of the curriculum in what is obviously one of the "best schools."

We have visited the Anglo-Saxons before in these pages, in *Good History* Nos. 4 and 5. As Eynsham itself has an Anglo-Saxon history, it seems not inappropriate that we, its present-day inhabitants, should be familiar with the kind of life previous Eynshamites lived!

Our thanks once again to Mr Keates and the Staff and particularly this term the children of the East Wing/Middle School.

Pamela Richards. Editor

The Majestic Cinema, Botley Road.

Back in the Spring Miss Price and the Editor paid a *visit* to the Woodstock Museum and were fascinated by a painting which was on show. It was obviously of a cinema but it seemed that people were preparing for a party, rather than a film show, and were arranging plates and cutlery on tables.

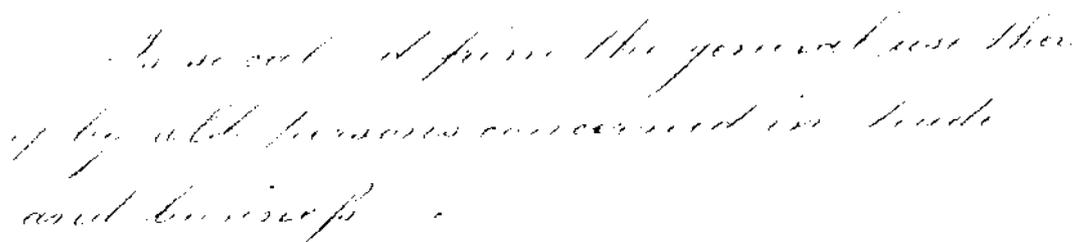
We were very curious and happened to mention this to Mr Francis Harris, the father of Mr Martin Harris, who has previously contributed to this journal.

We learned that the building had been built in 1930 by Kingierlee Ltd. and had been worked on by an Eynsham inhabitant, Mr Harold Quainton. It was originally an ice rink but opened as a cinema in 1934. The first *film* shown was *I'm No Angel*, starring Mae West, and had been seen by Mr F. Hams when he was a young child. In 1940 it was used to house London evacuees and it was probably an occasion for them which was shown in the painting.

After the war the building was used by Frank Cooper Ltd, the marmalade makers. Then MR moved in. The original building was demolished in 1986 and replaced with a building which houses MR and Halfords.

[Thanks to Mr M.J. Harris for this information. He suggests that to find out more you should consult *The Changing Faces of West Oxford* by Malcolm Graham]

The Maths Book of Master John Franklin, Manor House Academy, Bampton 1846.



*As so called it from the general use there
of by all persons concerned in trade
and business.*

The extract given above is under the heading of Practice and states:-

"Is so called from the general use thereof by all persons concerned in trade and business".

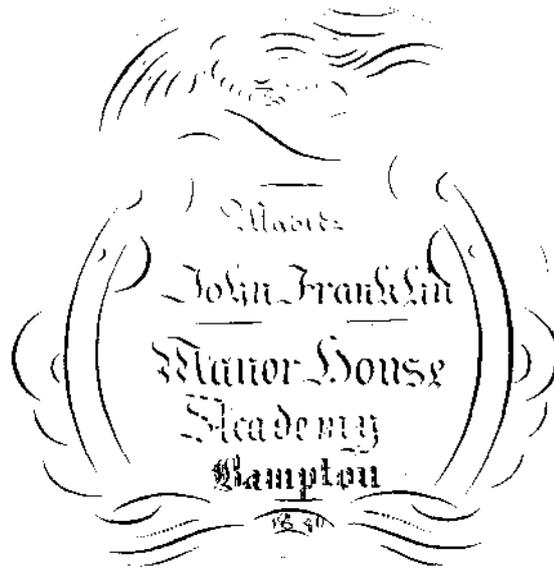
Sadly, it has been difficult to reproduce this book by photocopying because the ink has faded so. However, I think that today's pupils must be very impressed by the standard of 'copperplate' writing and the complexity of the mathematical problems John Franklin was set.

I have to admit that although I was brought up on £.s.d. and problems that involved men filling baths with water and then emptying them again I have had some difficulty in following the intricate steps of some of the work given to this 15 year-old boy. I give one of the simpler sums as an example.

A Liverpool wine merchant receives in barter 65 yards of Manchester goods at 2/4 per yard for which he gives two pipes of Port wine at £95.15.6 per pipe what will be the balance of this transaction and to whom due?

The sum is set out thus:-

96 5 Yards @ 2/-	£96	10s	0d	
965 Yards @ 4d	16	1	8	
Value of the goods	112	11	8	
 Value of the wine	 95	 15	 6	
			x2	
	191	11	0	
Goods	112	11	8	
Due to Wine Merchant	78	19	4	



This book has been lent to us by Mrs H. Cornish (née Franklin) who was a friend of Mr Whelan and has now become a friend of ours.

THE ANGLO-SAXONS

Harpenden den indicates valley
 Farnborough borough indicates fortified place
 Rickmansworth worth indicates fenced land
 Basingstoke stoke indicates meeting place

**Anglo-Saxon Place Names
 by Ruth Stanforth**

Horsham ham indicates home
 Chertsey sey indicates river
 Berley ley indicates clearing
 Barking ing indicates the people of

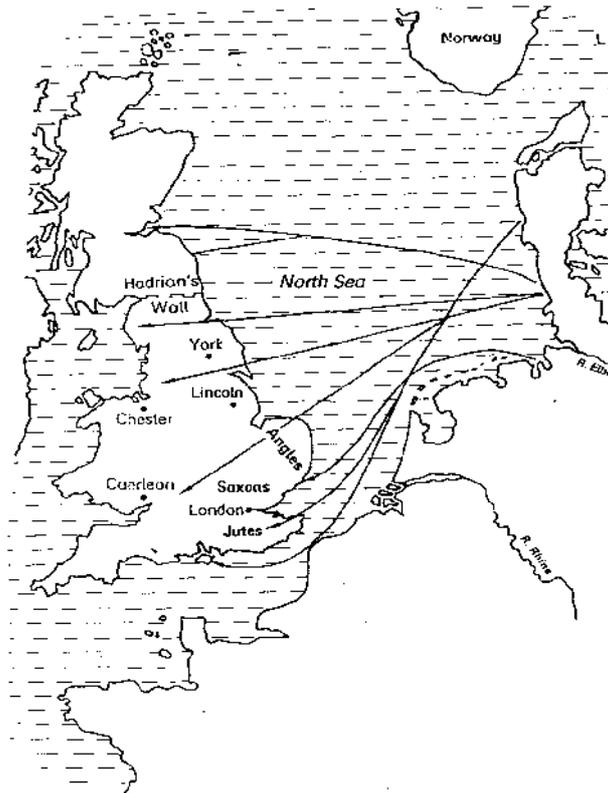
by Thomas Sutherland

Ashton	ton indicates farm or village	Warwick	wick indicates dairy farm
Oxford	ford indicates a river crossing	Elmhurst	hurst indicates clearing
Bournemouth	bourne indicates stream	Finsmere	mere indicates pool
Woodstock	stock indicates cattle farm	Bury	bury indicates fort
Hampstead	stead indicates large farm	Wey	wey indicates temple

How the Saxons Came to Britain by Thomas Ford

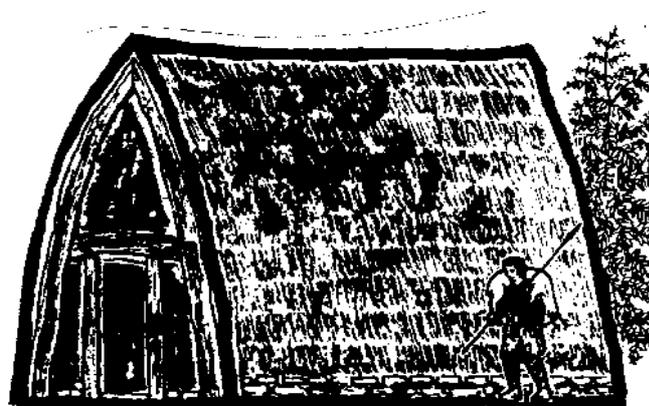
The Romans left Britain in 406 AD. They left to go back to Rome to protect it from invaders. After the Romans had gone the Scots (from what is now Ireland) and the Picts (from what is now Scotland) came and invaded Britain because there weren't any troops guarding the wall. The Britons invited the Jutes (from Denmark), the Saxons (from Germany) and the Angles (from Norway) to come and protect them. For this protection they paid money but having come they decided to stay because the Britons had some good farming land.

After they had settled they changed the name of the country to Angleland (England) and the people were called Anglo-Saxons.



Anglo-Saxon Life by Thomas Sutherland

The Anglo-Saxons first lived in Denmark and Sweden. Then they invaded England. Anglo-Saxon houses were built out of wood and had thatched roofs. They were about 10 metres long.

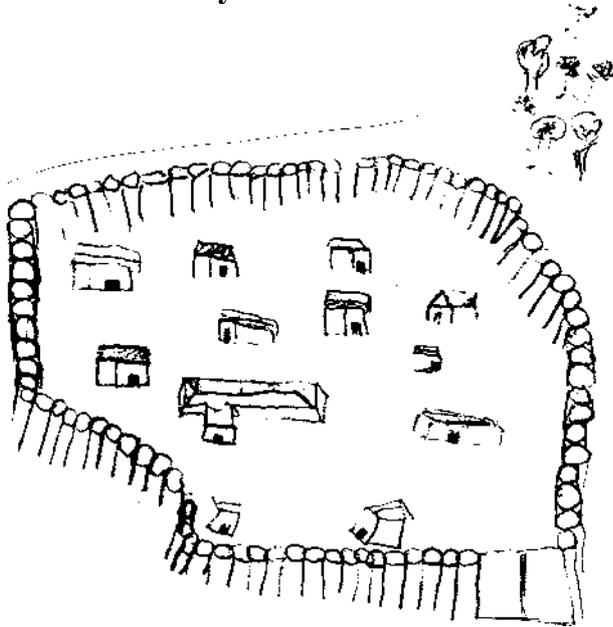


A Saxon 'Cruck House'

They wrote with something called a quill. It was made out of a swan's feather. To make ink they used egg-white, honey and soot.

They brought with them their own strict laws. If you cut off a foot you had to pay compensation to the person or their family. A foot would cost 50 shillings. If you cut off an ear you would have to pay 60 shillings or if you cut off a big toe you had to pay 10 shillings. For a thumb you had to pay 30 shillings. This was called wergild.

A Settlement by Jonathan Beach



An Anglo-Saxon settlement needed to be near water to keep them alive. However, this position had its dangers. Raiders were able to come up rivers so they had to build fences to protect themselves and their animals. A settlement would be a collection of 'cruck' houses (see above). The farm would be made outside the village. They kept animals for meat. Whole families would live in the same village. Everyone was expected to work or the others would complain.

More on Law and Order by Christian Drury

In pagan times Saxons avenged with feuds. They had death punishments for serious crimes. These included stoning, beheading, hanging, drowning, burning and having your neck broken. The king decided your fine or punishment with his friends, the court or Witan. You could escape punishment by getting together some friends who had been with you when you were said to have committed the crime. They would go to the king and swear an oath that the person they had been with was totally innocent. If there were not enough "oath helpers" as they were called usually the king did not help them.

Ordeal by Water

The accused persons were thrown into the water with their hands tied behind their back. If they sank they were innocent, if they floated they were guilty.

Ordeal by Heat, the First

You plunged your hand into a cauldron of boiling water with a stone in it. If you could pick it up you were innocent, if you dropped it you were guilty.

Ordeal by Heat, the Second

You would have to walk three paces with a red hot iron in your hands. After three days if your hands were beginning to heal you were innocent, if they were still raw then you were guilty.

There were ways to cheat of course. You could rub certain ointments on your hands to stop them burning. On the ordeal by water you could swim under water to the reeds and hide till everyone had gone.

Thanes, Churls and Slaves by Alex Howells

Thanes were the lords. The slaves had to do what the Thanes said. The Thanes were very rich. They got some of their food from the churls. The churls each had five pieces of land

on which to grow their food. They grew lots of food for the family and gave some to the Thanes. A Thane would have a big house. He lived in the main hall with all his family. They had lots of jewels and money. Slaves had to have 60 pence or 12 sheep to get their freedom. Then they would be called freemen.

Anglo-Saxon Cooking by Oliver Howe

In Anglo-Saxon England the cooking was very basic, but very clever. The Anglo-Saxon settlers had to get all their own food from either their farms, hunting or finding it wild in the country. Every family had to make their own rough bread from flour and water. They ate it with soft sheep cheese. After a bad harvest when they could not get any flour they had to use acorns instead. In winter it was the survival of the fittest because the weakest animals were killed. Meat could be preserved by salting or smoking over a fire.

For Lords and Thanes it was a different matter. In one night they could eat loads of food. For example, in one night, 10 jars of honey, 300 loaves of bread, 42 casks of ale, 2 oxen, 10 geese, 20 hens, 10 cheeses, 1 barrel of butter, 5 salmon, 100 eels, were eaten by a Saxon king and his friends.

An Interesting Recipe by Alex Howells

Pork with Honey and Herbs

You need:- two boars/pigs, a gallon of honey, two herbs,
[possibly thyme and sage but many herbs we grow in the garden can grow in the wild]
half a gallon of water – a cooking pot

Put the water into your pot, then add the two herbs and the honey. Leave them for 2 hours. Then add your pigs or boars. Leave for 4 hours and then a half month. Then cook for 2 hours. Then eat.

Saxon Superstitions by Christian Drury

Saxons believed in four main gods, Woden, Tiw (pronounced Ty), Thunor and Frigg. Woden was the chief god and the god of poets. Wednesday is named after him. He had an eight-legged horse called Sleipnir. It could fly. He swapped one eye for wisdom. Thunor was the god of thunder. He has Thursday named after him. He had a magic hammer that always came back to him after he had thrown it, called Mjollnir. Tiw was god of war. He gave Tuesday its name. He was god of justice as well. He had his hand bitten of by Fenirr, the giant wolf, when the gods tried to tame it. Frigg was the goddess of fertility and marriage. Friday takes its name from Frigg. She was Woden's wife and lost her son Baldur. He was shot by an arrow of mistletoe - the only thing that could kill him.

The usual Saxon life expectancy was about 40 years. You started work at 10. Most Saxons died of diseases.

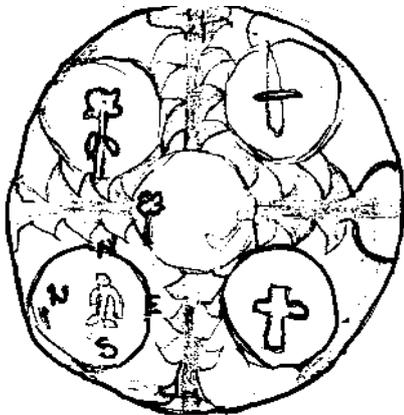
Elves and Demons by Oliver Howe

Anglo-Saxons believed in demons, devils and little elves. All of these were believed to shoot little arrows into you. If you had a sore leg the explanation was that an elf or devil had shot you. If you were a woman you would believe that if you came across devils or demons in the dark you would gain magical powers, but when you died you became a slave to the evil spirits.

Safety rings were what people wore to protect themselves from evil spirits. They had strange messages carved into them and the Saxons believed that the Gods would help them.

Anglo-Saxon Clothes by Thomas Ford

Most Anglo-Saxons had clothes made out of hessian. Some of the men wore cloaks made out of wool and it could be dyed with vegetable dye. A warrior would wear a cloak and chain mail. For a helmet they would have a Jorvick helmet, a helmet with a boar crest for good luck, or a plain round helmet. Under the helmet they would have a leather cap to protect them more. For weapons they would have a sword and scabbard, another kind of sword called a seax, a spear and an axe. Anglo-Saxons would have a brooch to keep the cloak pinned on.



Design for a Saxon Brooch
by Thomas Sutherland

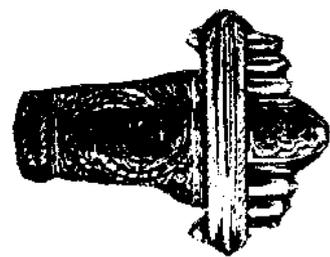


Warrior
by Victoria Fleetwood

A visit to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford by Amber Greenaway.

During our "Anglo-Saxon" visit to the museum I learnt that when people had died they were buried with their most precious things that could not be passed to their sons or anyone like that, because if they were in a really big battle far away from home, they could not be taken all of the way back to pass them all on to their families.

Anglo-Saxons used sometimes not to want their friends that had died to pass on their swords. so they buried the Saxon and then they got their swords and bent them, and then hammered them down so that no one could use them in any other battle.



Hilt of Saxon sword

Anglo-Saxons are thought to have lived in Eynsham, because they have found an Anglo-Saxon comb that was buried right underground.

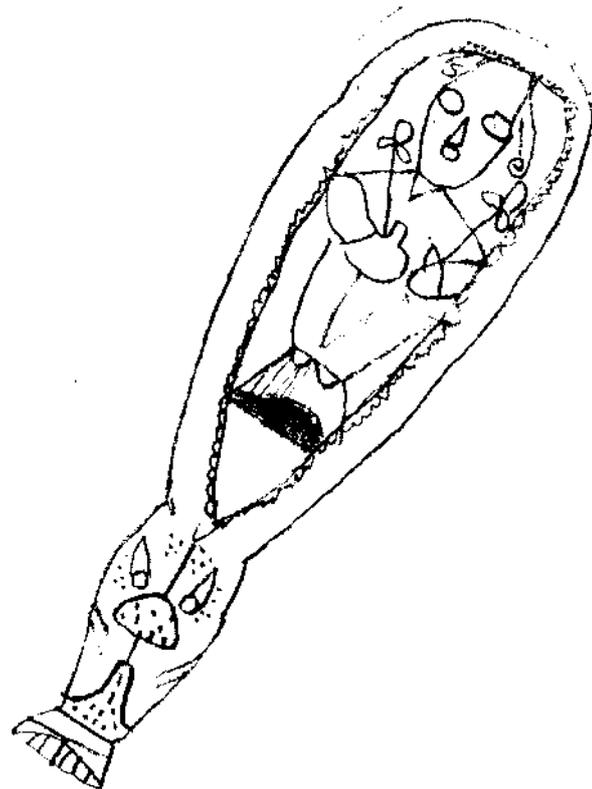
[This comb was found by Mrs Jean Mitchell, who lives in Eynsham. She told me how they were just about coming to the end of the excavation at New Wintles Farm and in the process of moving their caravan, when the one of the archeologists, Nick Clayton, noticed that the ground seemed marked. They decided to have one last look around and after a little digging found a skeleton of a warrior. This in itself was strange, because, as Amber Greenaway says below, warriors were generally cremated. There seemed to be something odd about his ribs and when they looked closer they realised that he had been buried with an elaborate comb on his chest. Mrs Mitchell explained that combs were prized possessions. Warriors were rather vain and often swept their long hair up into what we would call a pony-tail. Another skeleton found on the same site was that of a woman and she was wearing a chain around her neck. Unfortunately, the work done on this dig does not seem to have been published anywhere. I am sure that the details of the finds would be very interesting. Editor]

Their jewellery was very precious to the Anglo-Saxons. Anglo-Saxon shields were round made out of wood which was covered by leather, either sheep's or goats' skins. Books were made of the exact same leather for pages but the front cover would be wooden.

The Anglo-Saxons were sometimes cremated (as people are now) and they put them straight into big pots with all of their most precious jewels. Then they were stored somewhere with their ashes still inside them.

If you touch the pages in a book the writing could get smudged or the book could get damaged, so in Anglo-Saxon times they would have a little jewel which was used to point to the words without causing any damage to the book. They mostly used it to point to words in the Bible.

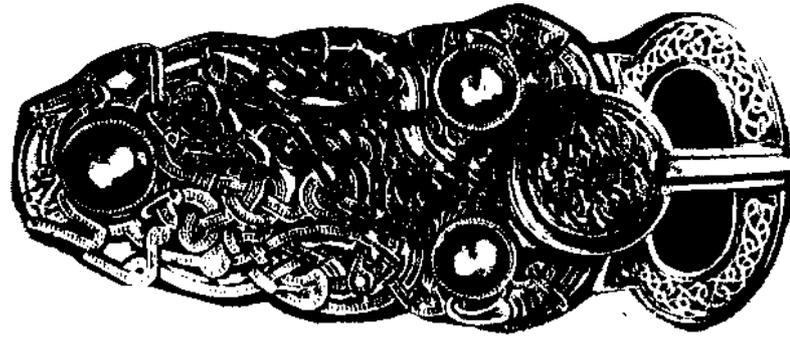
In the museum there is a very precious jewel called the Alfred jewel. It has writing in Anglo-Saxon runes on it. It says "Alfred ordered me to be made". It has a head on the end of it, like a bull's head but without any horns on it. The bull's head was used to point to the words on the page.



Drawing of the Alfred Jewel by Oliver Richardson

There was a king who invented stirrups, so that people wouldn't have to get off their horses to fight in a battle because they could just stand up on the stirrups on their horse and

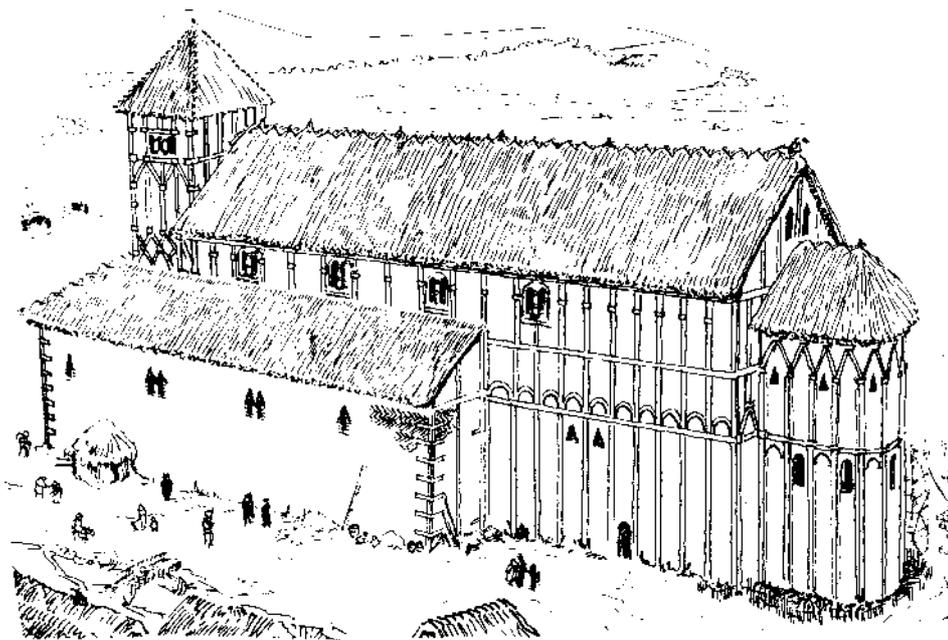
hold their sword out (that they would take out their cases which were called scabbards) or use a spear.



A gold belt buckle from the Sutton Hoo collection

The Coming of Christianity by Oliver Howe

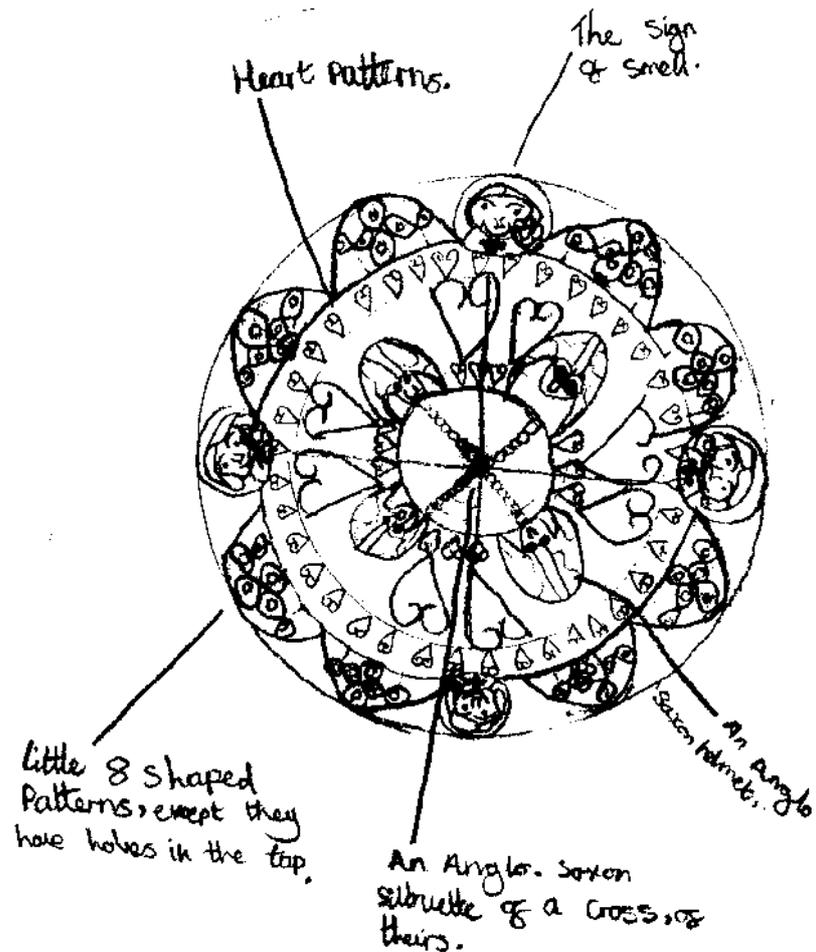
The Anglo-Saxons were not Christians to begin with. At first they were pagan, worshipping four main gods. In 597AD Pope Gregory sent Monk Augustine to Kent to teach the Anglo-Saxons Christianity. He went to teach Aethelberht, King of Kent. He was chosen because his wife, Bertha, was from France, so she was already Christian.



[An Anglo-Saxon church was built in Cirencester in about 675 AD. Evidence of the foundation walls was found just north of the present parish church in 1965. This is a suggested picture of what it looked like. It was about 58 metres long and the nave was only about 8 metres wide. The Anglo-Saxon church in Eynsham, traces of which were found on the Abbey site, probably looked very much the same. Editor]

Brooches by Amber Greenaway

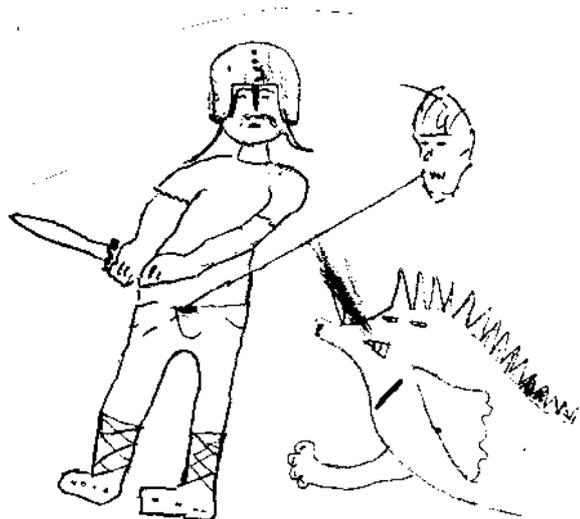
Brooches were worn for bravery and as a sign of courage. I designed a brooch. In my design I used the sign of smell and the pattern of the number 8. I also noticed the use of a pattern of hearts in another Anglo-Saxon brooch.



Beowulf by Jack Ward

Beowulf, one day went out to kill Grendel. He took soldiers with him and went to the place where Grendel haunted. During one night Grendel took a soldier who was sleeping, but at once Beowulf got up. He caught and twisted Grendel's arm. Grendel started back. Beowulf twisted and twisted even more. Grendel's arm came off.

The next night Grendel's mother came and took another soldier. Beowulf followed her to her lair. One soldier tried to stop Beowulf jumping into the bloody lake and so to kill her. In the lake was a blood monster and bubbling blood.



Beowulf swam down and down and met Grendel's mother. She took him into a cave to fight. He hadn't forgotten his sword so he stabbed with it. Nothing happened. It was useless. He saw a gold sword and picked it up. He kicked, then he stabbed her. Then he saw Grendel. He attacked him with his sword. The sword melted up to the handle so he picked it up with his other sword and jumped out of the cave and out of the lake.

Later on that day he sailed to his home, where they celebrated that he had killed Grendel's mother.

One day one of Beowulf's men went into a dragon's cave and took a precious goblet from him. The dragon woke up in a furious rage and attacked the entire village. Beowulf got up to his feet and fought to kill the dragon. The dragon bit Beowulf. One good soldier climbed upon the dragon's back. He got ready to stab him. He stabbed him. The dragon let Beowulf go. The dragon died but Beowulf was so badly poisoned that he died that night. They burnt Beowulf and buried him. Ten horsemen rode around him for a couple of hours.

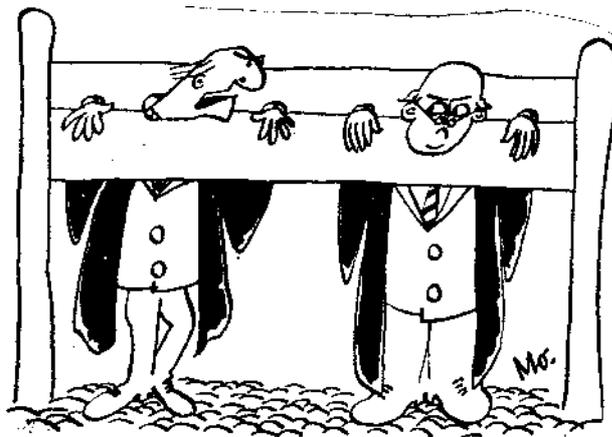
[*Dragon Slayer; The Story of Beowulf* by Rosemary Sutcliffe is another version of this Anglo-Saxon epic. Editor]

Postscripts



Yet another way to spell Eynsham!

[Photograph by Professor Marker]



"You and your darned history project!"