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Story Telling & Ancient Technological Wonders at Cranborne

Last month I attended a story-telling evening held in the Earth House at the Ancient Technology Centre, Cranborne. Located to the rear of Cranborne Middle School, the Ancient Technology Centre is a fabulously informative and imaginative site, incorporating several examples of ancient housing built primarily by younger people either studying at Cranborne Middle School, or attending archaeological courses at the centre. The focus of the site is an impressive Earth House, looking more like a small hill with a doorway, rather than a meeting hall of such grandiose proportions as shown in our picture, above. The evening's 'Hagstone' storyteller was Michael O'Leary, whose remit was to hold us spellbound with tales following the path of the funeral cortège of Guenevere as it travelled to its final resting place at Glastonbury.

There is something magical about a group of adults lost in a story, with firelight glimmering on absorbed faces, sitting in the ancient setting of the Earth House, as our ancestors would have done.

Michael's storytelling style is informal, and he uses an array of interesting sound devices and instruments to add dramatic effect to the stories. Many of the tales he tells are ancient in origin. Spanning the centuries to a distant and misty past, he brings the beliefs, fears, and wishes of a people now gone back to life for a present-day audience. You can reach Michael for bookings on 07733 326500, or at www.michaelolearystoryteller.com

The Ancient Technology Centre holds similar events throughout the year, as well as running many archaeological courses for younger people. For further information, you can reach the centre on 01725 517618.

Nico Campbell-Allen



Archeological Weekend at Corfe Castle

In September the National Trust held an Archeological Weekend at Corfe Castle, complete with traditional tradesmen offering various wares, such as pottery, wooden crafts, handmade rope and so on.

The English Civil War Re-enactment Society were also in attendance, having set up camp within the castle, offering entertaining and realistic displays at regular intervals.

Information and various activities to help the younger ones get a grip on what archeology is all about were also available, making the weekend an enjoyable and informative one. It was a pity about the rain, which fell

rather continuously on Saturday, but many turned up anyway – the Castle supporters tend to be a stoic lot!

I found the tradesmen in attendance offered a huge wealth of knowledge on their wares, and how they are made in the traditional way, and I made several interesting and useful purchases. I also picked up a wealth of information on local archeological sites such as Bestwall in Wareham, as well as information on how to get your own finds identified and listed with local societies. All in all an excellent weekend despite the rain, a definite "must" for anyone with an interest in history, archeology or the local area. Check with The National Trust at Corfe for coming events.

Nico Campbell-Allen

Central Southern GoG Annual '0' Gauge Model Railway Exhibition

Fine Scale Layouts



Sunday 23rd October 2005

10:00 Hrs - 16:30 Hrs

The Alendale Community Centre, Hanham Road
Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1AS

Admission £3.00 adults, Accompanied Children