

Wokingham Remembers

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OUR PAST **FOR Kids!**

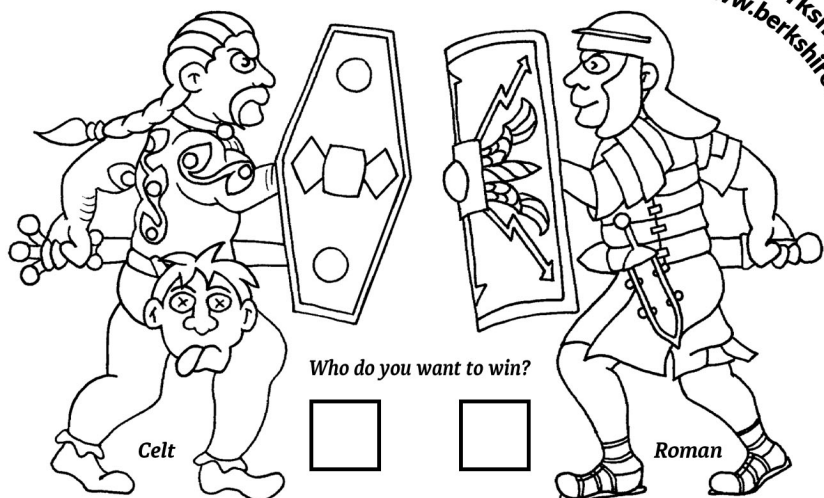
Roman around Wokingham

The English were not the first people to settle in Britain, let alone the Wokingham area. Prehistoric man had been living peacefully (sometimes) here for 13,000 years, until one day in AD 43... **THE ROMANS ARRIVED!**

Join **DAVID NASH FORD** to find out some fun facts about these Italian new comers.



For more Berkshire History Fun visit www.berkshirehistory.com



Who do you want to win?

Celt

Roman

Celts V Romans

Before Roman Times, Britain was living in the 'Iron Age' because the people had learnt to make iron tools and weapons. These people were called 'Celts'.

When the Roman army arrived on our shores to take over the island, it was important to know who was friend and who foe. Can you work out which description fits a Roman soldier and which a Celtic warrior?

- * Long hair
- * Long sword
- * No shirt
- * Moustache
- * Gold 'torc' ring around neck
- * Tattoos
- * Hexagonal shield
- * Trousers (or naked!)
- * Leather slippers
- * Heads of dead enemies at belt!

This is a

- * Short hair
- * Short sword
- * Clean shaven
- * Overlapping plate armour
- * Rounded rectangular shield
- * Dagger at belt
- * Helmet
- * Skirted tunic
- * Sandles

This is a

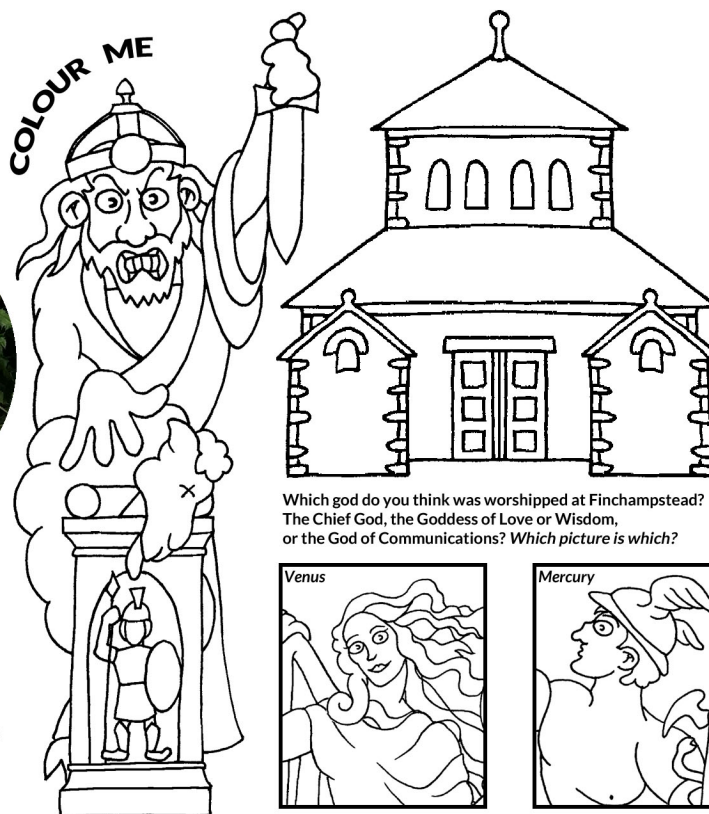
There were many tribes of different Celts. The ones living around Wokingham, were called the Atrebatas (AT-REE-BART-AISE). They had a royal village called Calleva 15 miles south-west of here, at Silchester. The Romans turned it into a big town. Around Wokingham, the Celts lived in small farms of one or two wooden round houses. One of these was dug up at Jennett's Park, between Wokingham and Bracknell, in 2006/7.

The Romans built strong rectangular houses of stone, sometimes called 'villas'. Rich Romans had underground heating, bath houses, patterned floors and painted walls. Some Celts welcomed the Romans because they brought:

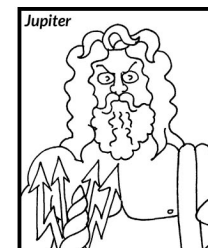
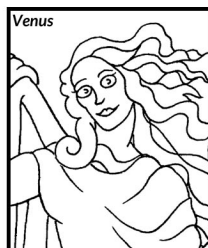
- * Communications
- * Protection
- * Town life
- * Technology
- * Luxury
- * Trade

Which sounds best? Do you think it would have been good or bad to have the Romans in Britain?

GOOD / BAD



Which god do you think was worshipped at Finchampstead? The Chief God, the Goddess of Love or Wisdom, or the God of Communications? Which picture is which?



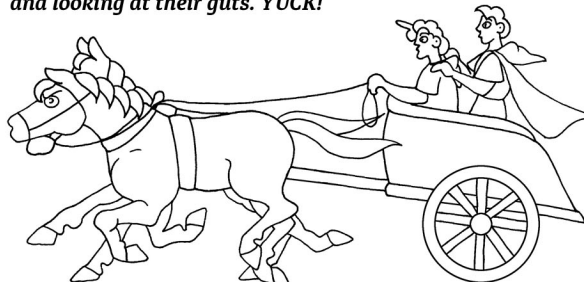
Integration

The Romans ruled Britain for 400 years. During that time the two societies merged as one. So the Celts and Romans in Britain are sometimes called the Romano-Britons. The Celts adopted many Roman ways of life, including their religion. The Romans worshipped lots of gods, each in charge of something different. The Celts did the same. So it was easy to say that a particular Celtic god was the same as a Roman one. They just used different names in their two languages.

The Romans built a temple to one of their gods where Finchampstead Church now stands. The bank and ditch around it can still be seen. It was high on a hill so it could be seen for miles and attract visitors. Traces of buildings along the road below were probably (ring three answers):

- * Souvenir shops
- * Restaurants
- * Offices
- * Hotels
- * Factories
- * Cinemas

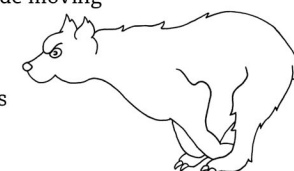
Roman priests predicted the future by cutting open animals and looking at their guts. YUCK!



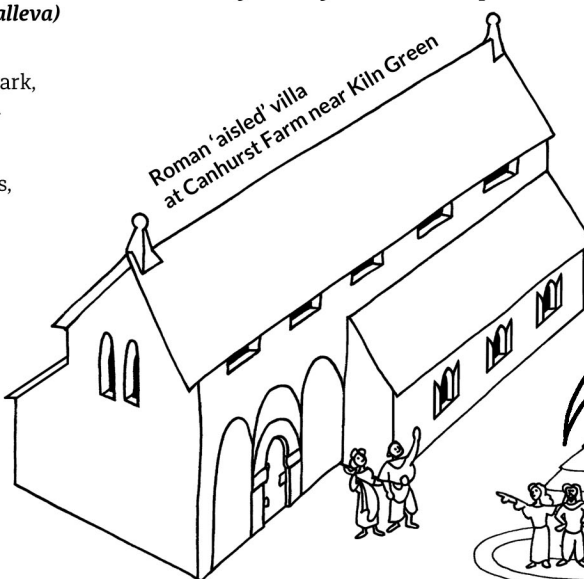
Fairway through the Forest

There were lots of dirt tracks around Britain, but the Romans built long straight roads of stone. They were the motorways of the day and helped people get around quickly. The road from Londinium (London) to Calleva (Silchester), now called the 'Devil's Highway', ran through Crowthorne, Finchampstead, Farley Hill and Riseley. You can still travel along parts of it. It made moving through Windsor Forest much safer. There were wild animals back then that are now extinct in this country. Guess which ones:

- * Wild Boar
- * Wolves
- * Lynx
- * Lions
- * Crocodiles
- * Bison
- * Bears



Silchester (Calleva) Riseley Farley Hill Finchampstead Crowthorne

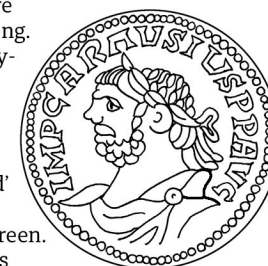


Roman 'aisled' villa at Canhurst Farm near Kiln Green

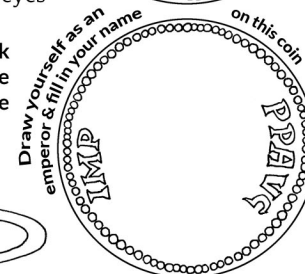
Add what the Celts say...

Money

Coins weren't used much in Britain before the Romans came along. Then they were everywhere; but people weren't keen on banks. In times of trouble they buried their money. A 'hoard' of Roman coins was found at Matthews Green. Better keep your eyes peeled!



Jennett's Park Iron Age House



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