

CAC Kids Christmas Cotswolds Outing, 11th December 2011

By John Swann



At Uley Long barrow

Our Christmas outing marked the end of a very successful inaugural year of our CAC Kids club. A record turnout of 25 people met at Uley Long Barrow on a cold and breezy Sunday morning to explore this well restored Neolithic site. The typical characteristic of restricted physical access was immediately apparent and the interior remained largely the domain of the children. Equipped with torches, new discoveries were soon made. Most interestingly, a number of articulated skeletons were uncovered to augment the 15 disarticulated specimens found in the 1821 excavations. Our early analysis suggests that these were rather more recent secondary burials!



How did Dr Fry (1821 excavation) and Messrs Turnham and Freemen (1854) miss these human remains?

Discoveries complete and our new CAC mini archaeologist stickers distributed, we headed off to the superb Rose and Crown pub for a leisurely Sunday lunch. Father Christmas had dropped off some seasonal goodies, and in recognition of our CAC Kids enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour over the entire year, all were awarded the much coveted and unique Clifton Antiquarian Club medal.

After lunch rain had set in but failed dampen our mood as we set off for Nympsfield Long Barrow. More exploration, some hide and seek and much running around kept most people warm. Unfortunately the weather was not suitable for a number of games and experiments that we had in mind, and it was particularly disappointing that we had to postpone our construction of a scale model of the solar system (the sun exploded in the car that morning!), but we look forward to this experiment in the spring.



The (slightly damp) team at Nympsfield



This is how we remember archaeology!

All in all, an excellent way to finish off the year for our CAC Kids. Thank you to everybody who participated, particularly our mini archaeologists – George, Niamh, Hannah, Jaimee, our two Sophies, two Dylans, and Áine (at 10 weeks old, the tiniest archaeologist of all!).

We have some great plans for CAC Kids adventures in 2012, keep an eye on the website.

A very happy Christmas to everybody.