

**CAC Kids outing to Stokeleigh Camp, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

Our CAC Kids met in Leigh Woods on a beautiful, crisp and rather chilly winter afternoon for a woodland stroll and exploration of Stokeleigh Camp Iron Age Hill-fort.

Following the “purple trail”, we ambled through the woods stopping at makeshift camps and interesting holes in the ground and enjoyed fantastic views across the Avon gorge to the Downs.



Arriving at Stokeleigh Camp just before sunset, there was enough time to look at the ramparts and take some photographs before continuing along the trail.



Stokeleigh Camp was the subject of paper delivered to the Clifton Antiquarian Club by Professor Lloyd Morgan in 1900 (Volume 5 of our Proceedings). Unsurprisingly for the time, the focus of the architecture of the site is defence and perhaps justifiably so. As we saw for ourselves, the natural topography provides a superb defensive position with just the one aspect, from the north-west, that is “prone to attack” and this is where the impressive ramparts can be found. Today however, we might also consider prestige and affluence influencing the architecture of hill-forts. Lloyd Morgan cited the writings of William Barrett in his “History and the Antiquities of Bristol” (1789) which focussed largely on the topography and defences. In terms of material finds, Barrett describes “a stone with a hole in the middle, a little handmill–stone, and the hilt of an old sword was found there” The notable feature was dry stone walling found on the North western ramparts suggesting a stone wall augmenting the structure, not uncommon on hill-forts in the area.

Stokeleigh Camp is a fascinating site and a good venue perhaps for a summer CAC picnic.

Arriving back at the car park it was time to set off to the Fishpool Hill studios for band practice, astronomy and sausages. In anticipation of this summer’s CACFEST, our young band practiced a few songs and tested out various guitars, ukuleles, tambourines and the triangle.

The sky was clear giving us some excellent views of Jupiter, Venus and the Orion Nebula and all had the opportunity to look at through an 8” Celestron catadioptric telescope. It was, however, the warm kitchen replete with chilli, wine and beer that generally won the hearts over the freezing observatory, (well, patio) but well done to Sophie Shattock and Jaimee Ellwood who spent some time at the eyepiece.



Band practice

All in all, an excellent way to spend a winter afternoon and evening, thank you to everybody who participated.