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# Festival of British Archaeology 2011

## Medieval activities in Welshpool, Saturday 24th July

The Festival of British Archaeology is the annual 'extravaganza of heritage events' coordinated by the Council for British Archaeology and is aimed at families across the UK. This year, around 50 people turned up at the CPAT offices on Broad Street in Welshpool for a fun packed day of Medieval Mayhem!

A small team of CPAT staff - Jeff Spencer, Abi McCullough and Sophie Watson set up several activities suitable for all ages. The medieval brooches and heraldic shields were particularly popular with younger visitors and several children spent quite some time designing their shields using the heraldic symbols on offer. The *fleur-de-lys* on the shields to the right represents the Virgin Mary, or one who has fought in a war with France (on either side!), and the boar symbolises nobility, bravery and courage.



The 'Make your own Medieval Tile' proved to be a very popular event again this year with both the children and adults. We displayed photographs of tiles from various abbeys and castles around Wales and some great attempts were made to copy these. Other people created their own lovely designs of

flowers, patterns and letters.

Visitors could also try their hand at some pottery reconstruction with a broken pot kindly lent to us by Ironbridge Archaeology who found the pot in Wednesbury, Birmingham. The pot was reconstructed and dismantled three times in all throughout the day! The perseverance prize definitely goes to the rather tired-looking brothers pictured below, who spent the best part of two hours taping the pot back together!

The Festival of British Archaeology is coordinated by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) based in York. The CBA also run the nationwide Young

Archaeologists' Club (YAC), which is available for young people aged between 8 and 16.

We are hoping to set up a YAC branch in the Marches area before the end of 2011 but there are several existing branches in Wales. If there are none near you, you can still join the club and receive the magazine four times a year, enter competitions



(including the annual Young Archaeologist of the Year award) and receive the Yac Pass, which allows free entry or other perks at almost 200 heritage attractions across the UK and discounts at various shops and suppliers. To join the Young Archaeologists' Club, contact YAC, St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York, YO3 7BZ, tel. 01904 671417. Click [here](#) for more information and a full list of branches in the UK.

**More photos of this year's event can be found [here](#)**

*Abi McCullough, August 2011*

**For further information and advice please contact Abi McCullough or Jeff Spencer**

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