

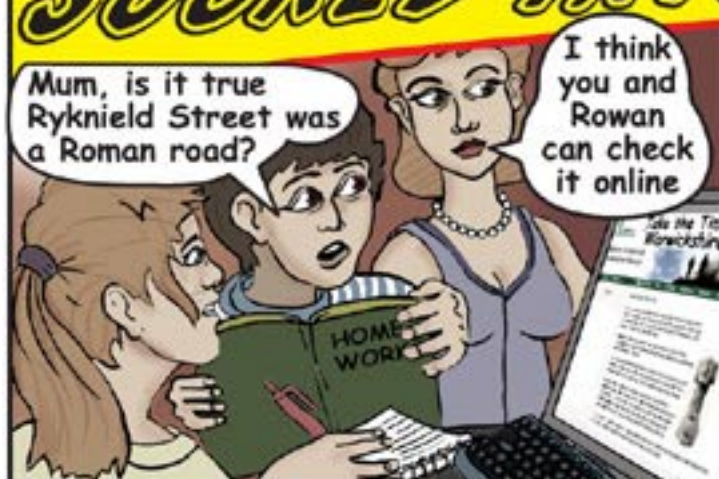
# BURIED UNDER BIDFORD!

COOL STORIES  
ROMANO-BRITISH FACTS  
GREAT ACTIVITIES  
TIME-TRAVELLERS  
SOLDIERS  
RICH FARMERS  
SERVANTS  
GOLD COINS  
STENCHES  
TRAFFIC JAMS  
A WISE HELPER  
AND A...  
MAGIC SHRINE?!





# SUCKED INTO THE PAST!



Bidford AD 50. The invader army are building Ryknield Street.













# Romano-British facts and fun

## Roman numbers are different from ours.

Have a look at the page numbers to work them out, then see if you can do these Roman sums.



III - I =   
 V + II =   
 XII - III =   
 VI + II =   
 IX - IV =

## Did you know?

At Alcester's Romano-British tanneries, the tanners processed animal skins into leather for clothes and shoes. The tanneries were at the edge of the town because tanning stinks. Tanners put clay pots by the roadside for men and boys to wee in. They soaked animal hides in urine to loosen the fur and hairs so they could make smooth soft leather.

## Smelly Romans

Smelly town dumps, or middens, for rubbish and sewage were usually at the town edges.

Archaeologists love to explore them. Old rubbish tells us a lot about how people lived - what they ate and wore and what they kept in their houses. What would your rubbish bin say about you?



## Did you know?

Most children didn't go to school.



They had to work instead!



Alcester  
Bathhouse  
Bidford  
Coins  
Connor  
Dobunni  
Fish brooch  
Hypocaust  
Jupiter  
Midden

Quarry  
Roads  
Romanobritish  
Roundhouse  
Rowan  
Ryknield  
Shrine  
Slave  
Soldier  
Villa

W  
O  
R  
D  
S  
E  
A  
R  
C  
H

M	I	D	D	E	N	J	L	N	I	K	R	W	E	Q
E	B	A	T	R	E	T	I	P	U	J	A	N	U	U
C	L	H	H	C	O	O	R	B	H	S	I	F	E	A
O	B	L	S	W	I	S	T	O	V	R	O	L	V	R
D	I	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	H	I	A	B	A	O
T	D	C	I	C	T	X	V	S	Z	Y	L	C	L	W
S	F	O	R	E	L	I	U	S	T	E	I	L	S	A
U	O	J	Q	U	A	R	R	Y	I	B	Z	F	A	N
A	R	U	N	L	F	Z	K	B	R	O	N	N	O	C
C	D	V	E	B	A	T	H	H	O	U	S	E	K	I
O	Y	N	A	C	K	N	I	Z	F	N	W	P	N	S
P	L	I	O	R	E	T	S	E	C	L	A	U	M	D
Y	J	I	R	I	N	U	B	B	O	D	Q	M	D	A
H	N	R	Y	K	N	I	E	L	D	O	V	I	O	O
S	U	P	I	T	E	S	U	O	H	D	N	U	O	R

## LOCAL ARTIFACTS



Brooch



Games piece



Dice



Fish brooches

Severn Valley  
ware pottery



Glass flagon



Tweezers



Seal  
box

## BROKEN POT GAME

Archaeologists have found a pot! The only trouble is it's in 6 pieces. Can you tell what it looks like when they put it all back together?



Your answer is  
pot number....



## More cool stuff from Romano-British times

Meanwhile, back in the Romano-British period Llewellynius Bowenius is magically changing rooms!!

Did you know?

Romans spoke Latin. For a thousand years after the Romans left nearly all the books in Britain were still written in Latin!

Did you know?

The Romans brought chickens to Britain.  
**Squawk!**

Did you know?

Did you know that the Romans invented concrete?

A round house?

it's...sssssoooooo last century. Allow me...

Whoops! Err, now it's a square house

That's one way of bringing housing up to date!

Did you know?

Roman soldiers missed home. Some mums sent letters and parcels to their boys - one even sent socks and pants!

Vindolanda Tablets

Soldiers and officials wrote letters too. The Vindolanda tablets are letters written on wood or wax tablets with iron-tipped styli (pens). Over 2,000 have been found in old middens since 1973 and the search is still on for more!

These are some examples of the contents of the letters...

Did you know?

Roman children played lots of the same games as us. They played hide and seek, chase, hopscotch, leapfrog and ball games. They had swings, kites, building blocks and dolls.

"Please send me 20 chickens, 100 apples (if you can find nice ones), 100 or 200 eggs (if they are for sale at a fair price)."

"Let it be clear to you that I am not resigning from either the mess or the club."

"Unless you send me some cash, at least 500 denarii, the result will be that I shall lose what I have laid out as deposit." "I want you to know I am in very good health, as I hope you are in turn, you neglectful man, who have sent me not even one letter."

Calling all super-sleuths

Why not visit Roman Alcester to see some of the real Romano-

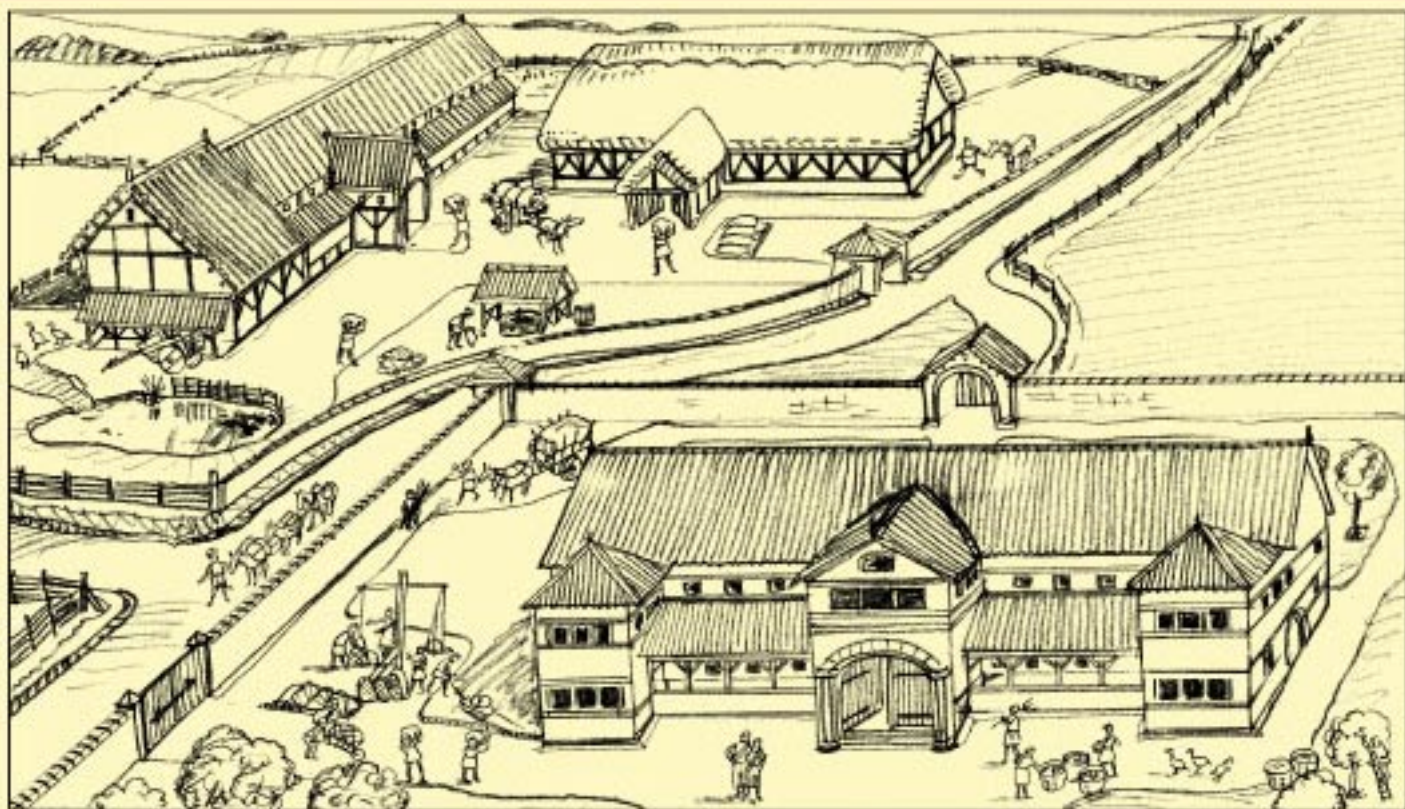
British objects that appear in this comic? Have a look at the Roman Alcester website to see what objects you recognise from the stories, jokes and activities.

To find out more about Roman Warwickshire you can visit Warwickshire Museum or explore the online Historic Environment Record website 'Take the Timetrail'

<http://timetrail.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

But mind out for the magic monitors, twirling in time-travellers and sucking in slaves!





**Spot the differences between these Romano-British villa scenes**



There are just 31 differences between the two drawings. We have given you one of them. Can you spot 30 more?

Circle the differences on the drawing above



Rowan and Connor jump 230 years into the future...

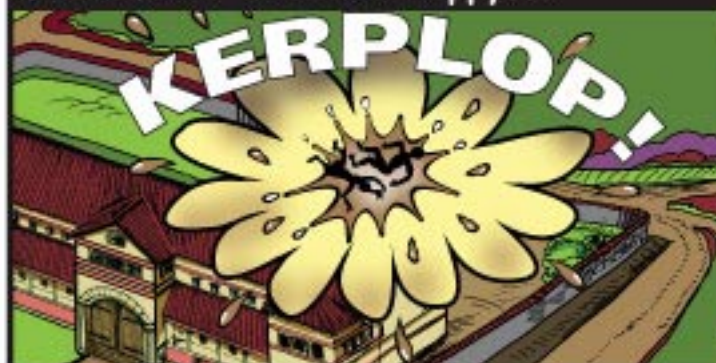
# BACK TO THE FUTURE

...and straight into a crisis at Marsh Farm Quarry villa

AD 280. Local lifestyles, houses and farms are changing. Growing spelt wheat is big business.



Villa owner Dobunnus is so rich his huge house has a private bath suite, all decked out in the latest must-have murals. But he's not happy...





# BIG TROUBLE!

Where first?

This way. Let's see what all the noise is about

Oh! Great Jupiter where is the brooch?

At the Jupiter shrine

It is carried by one with no hands but legs number four...

GASP!

The thief has a wet nose if you want to know more

Wet nose? Hmm, try the bath-house

GLOOM

And nobody eats until you find my brooch!

SULK

Meanwhile - Dobunnus is still sulking in the bath-house







To play the game, you will need a dice and as many counters as there are players. Why not make your own Romano-British counters? Here are some real ones that were found around Alcester. Some are pottery and some are bone.

You're taking some corn to market to sell. The problem is, it's the festival of Jupiter soon and Ryknield Street is packed! So is Alcester town.

Find out what happens on the way.

# FESTIVAL OF JUPITER GAME



Oh no! Your purse is missing and all your profits. Go back to 19 to look for it.

29

28

The bard decides to sing you a song. Miss 1 go to hear it.

27

The priest of Jupiter blesses you. Go straight to number 28.

26

A thief steals 3 sacks of corn. Go back 4 squares.

21

A rich merchant wants to buy all your corn. Move on to square 28.

22

23

Alcester's streets are crammed with festival goers. You cannot move for 2 goes.

24

25

Good news! You can see the town gates. Move forward quickly 3 squares.

20

19

You hit a pothole! Half the corn falls off the cart. Stay here 2 goes to clear it up.

18

17

You see a traffic jam ahead and take your favourite off-road shortcut to square 23. It's a bit bumpy!

16

The tannery stinks so much you pass out! Miss a go to recover.

11

Your best friend decides to come too. Have another turn.

12

13

You dropped the corn-weighing scales! Go back to square 13 to look for them.

14

15

You get a wheel stuck in the mud. Miss 1 turn.

10

9

The oxen go quickly today. Move forward 5 squares.

8

7

The compound gate is stuck. Go back 1 square for lost time.

6

Taking the corn to sell at the market...

START  
1

You wake up early, keen to get on with it. Have another go.

2

You cannot find the slaves to help load the corn. Miss 1 turn.

3

Mum gives you a great packed lunch. Move on 3 squares.

4

5



X

YIPPEE!

...will you suck-seed?



What  
cut the  
Roman Empire  
in half?

A pair of Caesars!



# Caesar moment for a great laugh!

What do you call  
someone who  
keeps talking when  
no one is listening?

A teacher!



What happens if you get  
scared half to DEATH TWICE?

We couldn't mend your brakes -  
so we made your horn louder!



Q Why did the Romans  
build straight roads?

A So their soldiers  
didn't go round  
the bend!

Where's Hadrian's  
wall? Around Hadrian's  
garden of course!



How many pies have  
you had Caesar?

'et two  
Brutus!

## FACT:

Did you know,  
Romans did not  
have toilet  
paper?

They used  
a sponge  
instead.



Q Did the Romans hunt bear?

A

Not in the  
winter!



## FACT:

Romans used ground  
up mouse brains  
for toothpaste.

EEEK!

