

BAMBURGH CASTLE

Its history in two pages!!

Bamburgh's story starts over 10,000 years ago when hunter gatherers lived in the area. We know they were here as the tools and weapons they used to hunt wild animals with have been found in the area.



As the hunter gatherers became more organised they formed tribes, one of the better organised in this area were the Votadini. They would probably have used the raised site for their village. As it offered such a great view point it's almost certain the Romans would have used the site for one of their coastal beacons, to warn each other when raiders were coming. When the Romans left the country became divided into seven Kingdoms the largest of which was Bernicia or Northumbria and Bamburgh was its capital. It was King Ida the Flamebearer that built the first wooden fortress here, when he died his grandson took over.

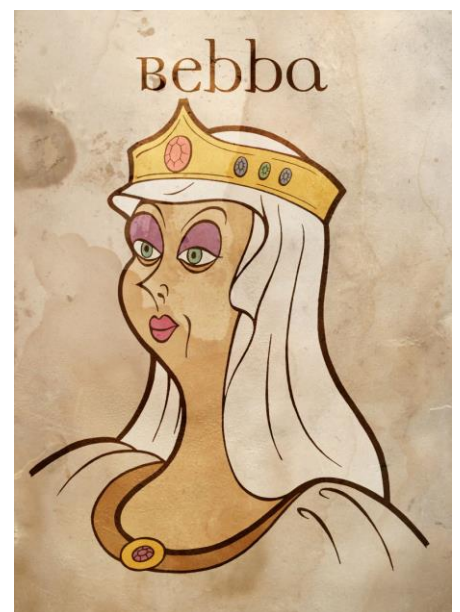


The first man to write about England's history was a monk called The Venerable Bede. He said Aethelfrith was blood thirsty like a wolf and called him Aethelfrith Flesours which meant Aethelfrith The Destroyer. He gave the castle to his wife.



Real Anglo-Saxon Treasure

This is Queen Bebba she was the wife of Aethelfrith and it was after her that the castle was first named Bebbanburg.

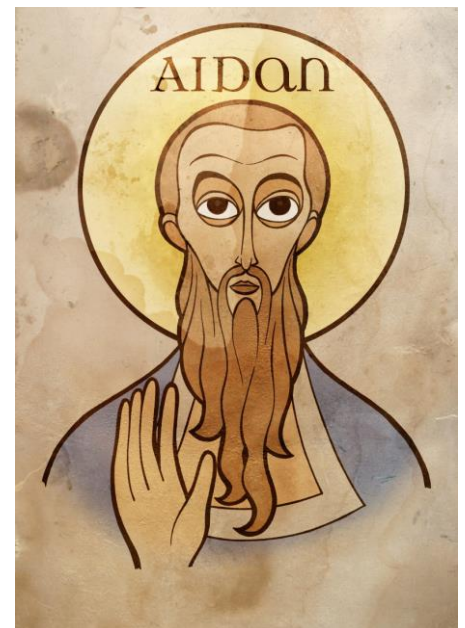


Aethelfrith was killed in battle and his sons escaped to Iona, an island in Scotland and were brought up by monks. Seventeen years later Oswald one of the sons returned to Bamburgh to rule as King.

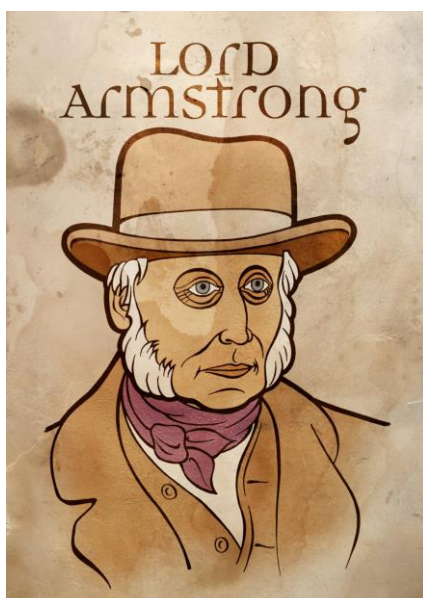


He was a great ruler and a very generous man and on one occasion gave all the meat from a meal to the beggars in the street. After he died people believed that he was responsible for miracles and so he became Saint Oswald. Because he had been raised by monks he brought a Bishop over from Iona to help convert the pagans to Christianity.

Aidan was the Bishop that Oswald brought over from Iona. He came from Ireland originally from a rich family but spent all his life as a monk. He would talk nicely to people and convince them Christianity was good.



Over the next few hundred years the castle was attacked by Vikings, conquered by William and besieged by his son Rufus and finally blown to bits by Lord Warwick at the end of the Wars of



The Roses. The first castle in England to be blown up with canons it was left in ruins until James 1 of England gave it to the Forster family in 1610. The castle was eventually bought by a brilliant Victorian inventor and industrialist

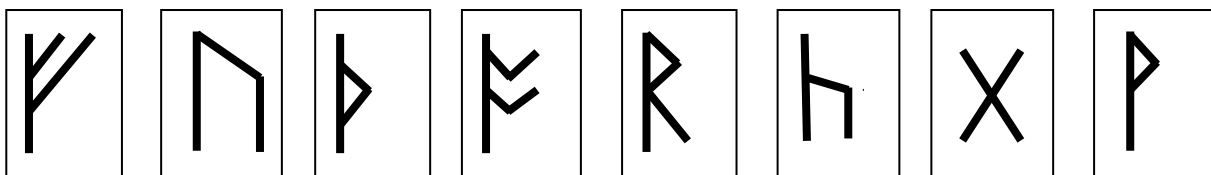
1st Lord Armstrong made a lot of money building guns and ships. He was very generous with it and gave a lot to build hospitals, museums and parks in the North East of England.

Futhorc Fun

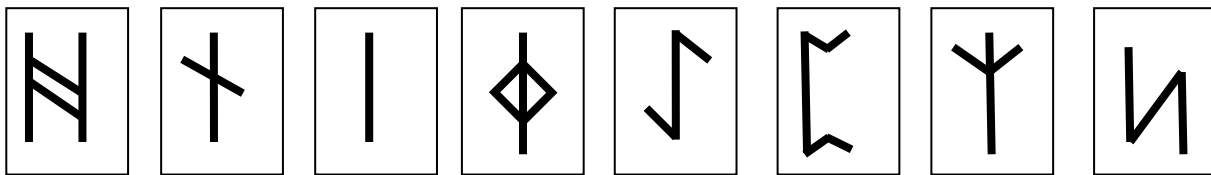
Futhorc is the name given to the Anglo-Saxon version of an alphabet that was first used in the 1st Century A.D. It is also known as Elder Futhark, Younger Futhork and Gothic Runes.

A number of extra letters were added to the Runic alphabet to write Anglo-Saxon Futhorc. It is thought that Runes were probably brought to Britain in the 5th century by the Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians and were used until about the 11th century.

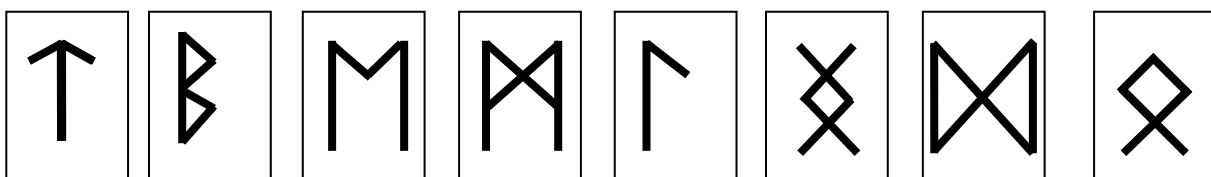
Runic inscriptions can be found on jewellery, weapons, stones and other objects. There are very few examples of Runic writing on manuscripts that have survived.



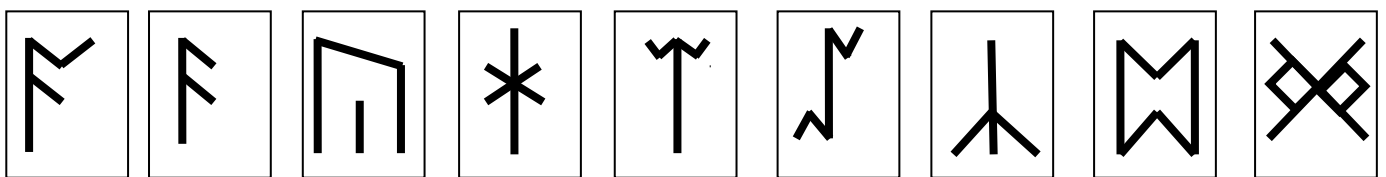
f u th o r c g w



h n i j ei p z s



t b e m l ng d oe



a ae y io ea q k st g

There are six messages in the house and grounds for you to find and translate.

We have told you where they are but you don't need to do them in order.

Message One - The Battery Terrace

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Message Two - South Inner Ward Terrace

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Message Three - The Great Kitchen

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Message Four - The Keep Hall

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Message Five - The Archaeology Room

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Message Six - Beside the archaeology dig

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Write your own message here

THE STONE MASONS CHALLENGE



A stonemason would make his mark on a piece of stone that he had cut, so that at the end of the day the man in charge would know how much to pay him. We have put twelve (12) masons marks around the grounds for you to find, the gold stars tell you nearly where they are but you will have to look closely. When you find one draw the shape in one of the boxes on the back of this sheet. There is one extra box for you to draw your own mark, make sure it is different or someone else might get paid for your work!

Make your mark in this box

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