

Cutha's Chronicles

Adventures in Anglo-Saxon England

Eala! (That means, "Hello!") We're very pleased you've come to visit us again in Engla-lond! Let us show you where we live:



This is our *tun*. It is a lot smaller than what you mean by a "town" — just our family and the farm servants live here. It's a long way to the next farm, so we don't often have other kids to play with.

There's a thorny hedge: it keeps wild animals and robbers out, and our farm animals in. But there aren't any gates. We have to pay a *gafol* or tax if we put up proper gates — so we just pull a thorny bush across the entrance at night.

We have a fierce guard dog too, to frighten away wolves and robbers.



Be careful of the *micsen*, the rubbish pit in the yard! You don't want to fall in by mistake! We throw all our rubbish there — and the dung from the farm animals.

It's our toilet too! When the *micsen* is full, we dig out the pit and spread what's in it on the fields to help the crops to grow.



There are little huts around the *tun* for different things: storage, weaving, places where the servants sleep... But mostly we all live in one big hall. Even the farm animals come in with us in wintertime!

There's a fire in the middle of the room. It keeps the house warm in winter, but makes it very hot in summer — though the smoke helps keep flies and mosquitoes away.

Fetching and cutting firewood is one of our daily chores.

We cook here too.



And we have stories round the fire at night.



COMPETITION

Cutha and Cyne have shown you their *tun*: you probably found it very different from the place where you live! If you could show them your home, what would they see: a house? a flat? a bungalow? A big town with lots of people and traffic would be a terrifying place for them – and even the countryside today would probably seem very crowded and busy!

To enter our competition, think about the **ONE** thing in your own home which you think would be **MOST** surprising to an Anglo-Saxon boy or girl like Cutha or Cyne if they could come to visit you.



WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO:

Get *permission* from a grown-up to enter the competition (remember you need to be careful about giving your name and address to other people!)

If you will be aged 9 or under on 1 September 2006: draw us a picture of your "Saxon surprise"

If you will be aged 10-16 on that date, write about it (you may use a typewriter or word-processor if you wish). How would you try to explain your "surprise" to a Saxon boy or girl? (Remember s/he might not even *understand* why you want to do certain things — why you want lots of different clothes, for instance — and won't understand about things like electricity or germs either!)

Your picture or writing must be your OWN WORK: no-one should help you.

Make sure your age, name and address is on the back of your entry and send to:

Competition,
The English Companions,
BMBox 4336, London WC1X 3XX.

Please note: this is an OPEN COMPETITION: you do not have to be a family member of *Ɗa Engliscan Gesiðas* to enter.

The competition ends on 1 September 2006. All entries must be with us by that day.

PRIZES

The best picture and the best piece of writing will each receive a replica Saxon brooch such as Cutha or Cyne might have used to fasten their clothes together. We will publish the name of the winner and the winning entries in a future edition of *Cutha's Chronicles*. If your family does not normally receive *Wiðowinde*, we will make sure you are sent a copy.



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Cutha's Chronicles is written by Karl Wittwer and illustrated by Paul Finlow-Bates for *Wiðowinde*, journal of *Ɗa Engliscan Gesiðas* (The English Companions) the Society for everyone who wants to find out more about the Anglo-Saxon period.

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