

Schools and college news

# 'Vikings' take over classes for a fun day

by Leanne Porritt

BRINGING history to life to aid learning was the idea behind a Viking day organised for pupils at a local primary school.

Pupils and staff at the William Penn Primary School, in Brooks Green Road, Coolham, arrived for classes on Tuesday decked in homemade outfits for a day of activities with history specialist Paul Allen.

Mr Allen, whose company Breath of Life works with schools to bring history to life, brought

along horns, helmets, oars and a whole range of Viking artefacts to help pupils from years three and four understand the Viking way of life.

The school hall was decorated with wall hangings and the children took part in activities ranging from longboat rowing, drinking from a Viking drinking bowl to grounding corn in the traditional Viking way and painting Viking shields.

Mr Allen said: "We've tried to create a Viking hall in the school to create an atmosphere."

Explaining the idea behind the day, he continued: "They never for-

get what they have been told, so they learn a lot directly but it also motivates them to learn more. The day covers the national curriculum issues but I also take them beyond that."

Headteacher Ashley Holt, who also arrived in full costume, said: "This creativity and excitement is what the government is pushing schools to develop and days like this embody that."

"For the pupils the 1,200 year distance between then and now has gone. It's real and believable and since you believe in it you can write about it and if you can write about it you learn."



Pupils enjoy their Viking day. C4410740 & C4410728 (below).



Polly Henderson, seven, enjoying her day as a Viking warrior. C4410761.



## Harvest festival is a big success

CHILDREN at Horsham's St Leonard's Community Infant and Nursery School delighted parents with a selection of harvest songs, poems and prayers.

Accompanied by Nick Sexton on the piano, the children at the school in Oxford Road gave a superb performance in their harvest festival assembly.

"It was lovely to see all the children take part and they all sang beautifully," said Catherine Reed, mother of Rebecca and James.

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