

## BRYMBO MAN

**Brymbo Man is a key archaeological exhibit in our main gallery.**

His fragmentary skeletal remains give us an insight into the Early Bronze Age. Here is some information about Brymbo Man and some activities you could try at home. We'd love to see your photos so remember to tag us!

### Who was Brymbo Man?

We don't know! In fact, we know very little about him. Everything we do know we've learnt from his ancient bones. Archaeology can help us fill in some of the gaps such as what the climate was like during the Bronze Age, the wild animals he would have hunted, tools he probably used, and how he kept warm.

### The Background

Around 4,000 years ago during the Early Bronze Age, a man was buried with a beaker and flint knife in a stone lined cist on a hill in what is now the village of Brymbo.

His cist lay undisturbed until it was discovered by workmen digging a trench outside 79 Cheshire View in 1958. Within days, archaeologists excavated the cist revealing the skeleton and grave goods. Analysis of the bones identified the age, sex, and height of the individual. It also revealed a healed wound on the skull, close to the hairline. The wound is tear-drop shaped and is compatible with an arrow tip of the age. In 2001 his skeletal remains were re-examined, revealing butchery marks, possible evidence of de-fleshing.



### Beaker

During the Early Bronze Age people began burying their dead in individual graves with distinctive artefacts such as beakers. Beaker burials began in Europe around 4,500 years ago and spread to the UK. Bell shaped beakers were handmade and fired in bonfires, then decorated. Styles, fabrics, and patterns changed over time which helps archaeologists date them.

Archaeologists dated Brymbo Man's beaker to around 1900-2200 BC and analysed its contents revealing it had once contained a type of beer! To find out more about the current Beaker theory click on this link:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2018/february/the-beaker-people-a-new-population-for-ancient-britain.html>

### Bronze

Bronze is a mixture of 10% tin and 90% copper. We call these mixes alloys. Both materials were readily available in the UK, copper was mined locally at the Great Orme Mine in Llandudno and tin from Cornwall. Bronze alloys are special because they have properties the original metals don't possess on their own.

## ACTIVITIES

### WRITE A POEM

We would love to know the story of how and why Brymbo Man was shot in the head with an arrow, but we'll never know.

#### Could you help?

Write a **poem**, or a **story**, or draw a **cartoon** about Brymbo Man.

#### Click on this link to discover more:

<https://www.wrexhamheritage.wales/brymbo-man>

### WRITE A NEWSPAPER

Write a newspaper article about his discovery.



### FLINT KNAPPING

If you have a spare bar of soap, or a little bit leftover, have a go at 'flint knapping'. Use a table knife to 'knap' your soap to make a knife like Brymbo Man's.

There are flint knapping videos on You Tube. We recommend the English Heritage one from Stonehenge.

### MAKE A BEAKER

Make Brymbo Man's beaker. You could use clay, mud, play dough, salt dough or any other material you may have at home, either in 2 or 3D. Remember to decorate!

### SUPERHERO!

Neil Edwards (Comic artist) turned Brymbo Man into a superhero a few years ago. Brymbo Man's superpowers were his strength, magical healing herbs, and time-travelling beaker. Draw Brymbo Man as a cartoon. What super powers would you give him?

### NAME THE ANATOMY

Do you know the anatomical words for the bones in your skeleton? Label your own body or print off a skeleton template. Here's some to get you started:

Head - Skull

Lower Jaw - Mandible

Spine - Vertebra

Lower Arm Bones -  
Radius & Ulna

Upper Arm Bone -  
Humerus

Thigh Bone - Femur

Collar Bones - Clavicles

Knees - Patellae

Breastbone - Sternum

Lower Leg Bones - Tibula  
And Fibula

