



Exciting new archaeological exhibition at Belvedere House, Co. Westmeath

Have you ever wondered how people lived in the past? Where did they live? How did they die? What did they work at? These are some of many questions that will be answered at this new exhibition, which will portray life in early medieval times in Co. Westmeath.

Archaeologists have uncovered very interesting and exciting evidence from excavations that were carried out in advance of the N6 Kinnegad- Kilbeggan and N52 Mullingar-Belvedere Road Schemes between 2004-2006. The results from many of these excavations will be presented at the exhibition which will give us a glimpse into an early medieval world.

Discover life in an early Christian monastery and find out about its residents and their crafts. Find out about hundreds of skeletons that were uncovered and learn about who suffered from aching diseases and who died by treacherous means. Learn all about ringforts and the people who lived in them.

Come and see a selection of the artefacts unearthed ranging from highly decorative objects such as ringpins and bone combs to more mundane domestic objects.

Learn about the work of the archaeologist and specialists who unlock the many secrets to the past.

Come and visit this fascinating exhibition and experience firsthand the world of archaeology.

The exhibition will be open from April 16th to September 2008 at Belvedere House, Co. Westmeath.

This project is a joint venture between Valerie J. Keeley Ltd, the National Roads Authority and Westmeath County Council.

Exhibition Art Competition

As part of this project Westmeath County Council are inviting young Westmeath school children to enter an art competition to mark the launch of the exhibition on the 16th of April.

Children are required to submit a painting or drawing which reflects 'Life in early medieval times'. There are two age categories, age 8-10 and age 11-12.

Prizes include:

1st prize

- A Family Trip on the "Narnia Express" Steam Train from Mullingar to Enfield and back on Saturday 28th June 2008
- A Family Ticket for "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table" open air garden theatre at Belvedere that night.
- Annual Family membership for Belvedere.

2nd prize

- Family Ticket for "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table" on Saturday 28th June at Belvedere
- Annual Family membership to Belvedere

3rd prize

- Annual Family membership to Belvedere

All entries are to be submitted to Catherine Kelly, Arts officer, Westmeath County Council by the 14th April.

A selection of the entries will be displayed at Belvedere House, Co. Westmeath.