

WHAT THE BADGERS



SAW 4
Vikings!



You'll enjoy this one! Read on!



A quiet day on Lindisfarne in 793 AD. And then sails are spotted in the distance!

Boats with dragons' heads on the prows.

Who were these people? What did they want? Sadly, the monks of Lindisfarne were soon to find out. They were Vikings! And they'd come to raid!



The word 'Viking' was used to mean any people from **S** In England, it was mostly the Danes who attacked, while the Norwegians attacked Scotland, Wales and Ireland. They were on the look-out for adventure and excitement! Often they had crews of 50 or 60 men, who could sail and fight!



The Vikings wore brightly-coloured clothes and fastened their cloaks with big brooches; they wore armour and helmets, and carried shields, swords and battle-axes.



The sight of the Danish ships were terrifying for the English. They had lived quiet lives for a long time since their own pirate days!

The terrible raid on Lindisfarne was followed the following year by one in Jarrow. More raids happened for many years, until, in 865 AD, Deira became a Danish kingdom. The capital was at York. Our own area of Bernicia was still independent. The border was the River Tees.

For a while, the only other British kingdom not ruled by the Danes was Wessex. Its king was Alfred. (Find out about Alfred and the cakes.) He remained friendly with Bernicia. The King of Scotland was very frightened when Norwegians landed in the north-west. He too wanted to be friendly with Wessex and Bernicia.

Alfred's grandson, Athelstan, finally took York away from the Vikings. (Why not visit the Jorvik museum, in York?)

Then Edgar became king. He was very strong. At a famous meeting in Chester-le-Street, he along with the Earl of Bernicia and Kenneth, the king of the Scots fixed the border of Scotland along the River T....., where it still is today.





After Edgar died, a king called Ethelred became king of Wessex, but he was a weak man. The whole of England had a very bad time! The Danes finally conquered the whole country, and Cnut, (Canute), became the king. (Find out about Cnut and the sea.) A Norwegian called Eric became the ruler here in Bernicia.



Later, Edward the Confessor became king, and he made a man called Tostig the Earl of Northumbria. However, people didn't like him, and rebelled in 1065. (Tostig was the brother of Harold, who later became king.)

A year later, England was invaded again, and the people, (and badgers), saw more trouble!

