

Museums Worcestershire Make-athon Challenges

Romans: Brooch or badge making


Learn more about the history of roman times and create your own brooch or badge.

Our online exhibition 'Roman Worcestershire: On Tracks of Iron and Salt' celebrates the Roman past of Worcestershire.

Let's explore some of the smaller, more fragile objects in the collection. One of our favourites is a tiny Roman silver plaque excavated from the Bays Meadow site, near Droitwich (the home of the mosaic). We also know that the Roman men and women enjoyed wearing beautiful jewellery and accessories.




Discover 5 Roman jewellery facts:

1. If you look carefully at the plaque, you will see a male figure with a rod or branch by his side. It could be Cupid (Eros) the Roman God of beauty and love, or Faunus the God of wilderness and nature. There are rivets (short pins) in the metal which suggest it was part of a buckle.
2. Roman clothing such as togas, capes and armour required that the cloth was fastened with some sort of pin, brooch or buckle. Many wealthy Roman men owned jewellery – they wore rings of gold, silver, iron and jet, twisted metal torcs (rigid neck rings), brooches and decorated buckles.
3. Roman women enjoyed wearing jewellery studded with precious stones. They LOVED earrings, and wore bracelets (Armilla), necklaces, rings, brooches and anklets.
4. Often rings were very decorative and had intaglios set in them. These are carved images in the flat surface of the stone. Roman business men and political leaders would 'sign' important documents by making an impression with their ring  stone in hot wax – a 'seal stone'. A number of intaglio stones have been found at the Roman Baths - the salt water is thought to have loosened the pine glue that fastened the ring stones!

Explore:

Take a look at our exhibition *Roman Worcestershire: On Tracks of Iron and Salt*.
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/avada_portfolio/roman-worcestershire/

Create a beautiful Roman brooch or badge!

You will need: Paper & pencil  (to sketch your design ideas), Biro, Glue or Sellotape. A small square of soft, thick card board (from a packing box), Tin foil, Safety pin

Sketch your design for the brooch/ badge on to paper – it could be a pattern or the image of a Roman god or emperor. Cut the cardboard to your chosen shape and size. You could choose a rectangle, diamond, square, oval, or heart shape. Carefully cover the card shape with foil and fix with glue or tape on the reverse side.

Using a blunt pencil or biro draw your design into the foil (taking care not to tear the foil). You can etch lines, swirls and dots to make your design. The process of decorating metal with a pointed tool is called Pointille – and was used by the Ancient Greeks and Romans to decorate their jewellery! Fix a safety pin to the back of your brooch / badge.



To find more exciting make-athon ideas visit
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/collections/activities/