

- Report on community involvement in archaeology in Chester: <http://tinyurl.com/8pnhbs>
- For history of Chester (Community website) see: <http://tinyurl.com/8bzm9c>
- For archaeology: <http://tinyurl.com/9s2lz2>

4 Skipton's Archaeological Gateway to the Dales

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If you are interested in Archaeology, Geology or Social History read on. Outside York by 40 miles is a town called Skipton (or Sheep-town from its Saxon derivation). It is a historic, and not a little odd (at certain times of the year), market town with great attractions: Skipton Castle, Holy Trinity Church and the Leeds-Liverpool Canal (the first Grade I listed structure for Skipton).

Amidst all this lies a small museum in the Town Hall. The hub of all tourist activity (<http://tinyurl.com/9xerzc>), it combines a gallery relating heritage and the arts - rather interesting - and a small but varied Archaeological museum on the first floor, which is absolutely FREE! Exhibited are all the goodies of Skipton's past: from old excavations revealing the prehistory of Skipton's local area, to artefacts dragged from wells, and tools and objects relating to the industrial expansion of Skipton with the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.

The displays give a glimpse as to how local landscapes were formed by agriculture, industry, lead mining and town life. These collated with the period costume display showcase a neat socio-historic theme to digest as you meander round. All this before hogging the computer to look at the photographic collections.

Be prepared though, you are not going to get a quiet meander, unless you have chosen an off peak time, because local schools love this place. The Riddle Solver quiz and the museum's interactive exhibits usually enthrall them.

So, if you are interested in lazily relaxing on a Saturday head there, make it part of a journey to visit Skipton's brewery the Copper Dragon or spend it in Skipton Castle where Civil War Battles erupt at certain times of the year. You are bound to find something. Ah and there is a great little pub in Skipton called the Narrow Boat, it has the best selection of beers!

Travel Details

- Train Routes & Times: YORK LEEDS SKIPTON
Cost single fare: £10.35 (around £16 for return) Single journey time: 1hr 1/2
From Leeds station there is a train to Skipton from platform 4 or 5 which lasts around 45 minutes. Once at Skipton Platform you have a short walk up a small hill past Bizzie Lizzie's (a fish and chippy) into the hub of Skipton. There's a handy map available at <http://tinyurl.com/6snj5v>.

- Skipton Archaeology Museum Opening times October-March: Mon, Wed-Fri 12:00-16:00, Sat 10:00-16:00.

Events in Skipton

All information provided by Skipton Castle: A Complete Medieval Fortress (<http://tinyurl.com/7v2nc5>) - some may need to be pre-booked.

- 27th & 28th March 2009 An evening of Shakespeare by Dean Taylor Associates. Castle Granary at 7pm. Gates open at 6.30pm.
- 23 -25th May 2009 A recreation of a 15th century medieval campsite during the Wars of the Roses within the castle ground. 10am 6pm (Sunday 12 noon 6pm). The Garrison demonstrating arms and armour. The Red Wyvern Society.
- 18th & 19th July 2009 A recreation: Buckingham's Retinue: Life in the 15th century. 10am 6pm (Sunday 12 noon 6pm)
- 25th & 26th July 2009 Meet the Governor: Sir John Mallory Governor of Skipton Castle during the English Civil War. Hear about sieges and skirmishes.

5 Hints and Tips: Making the Most of Your Christmas Holidays!

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Whatever year you're in, take a break! Make sure you catch up on some sleep, chill with your mates and let your brains relax so you can actually cope with the next term rather than be worn out before you even get back to uni. This is especially true for the first years, enjoy your holidays now. They won't be so relaxing this time next year so enjoy them as much as possible while you can.

Second Years

The second term in second year is one of the busiest of the degree so try to make sure you organise yourself over the holidays so you can tackle it head on. Three weeks off may not seem like a long time, but you can tackle a surprising amount in those three weeks if you plan your time. (I apologise if I sound like all those study skills lessons you had in sixth form, but it really is vital to be organised!) While you have until week 3 to hand in the fieldwork elements of portfolio one it is really not a good idea to leave it until term time to do it if at all possible. I can tell you from experience it certainly makes the beginning of that term a lot more stressful than it needs be!

Third Years

Its so important you do have a bit of a break. You won't feel like you have time but next term will be really busy so you need to start full of energy. Firstly