

Dear diary,

Today has been another fairly typical day in the village. It started like any normal day. I woke up with a sore back from my straw bed to the sound of my uncle snoring lazily next to me. I kicked him to stop him snoring, but he nearly fell into the fire in the middle of the hut! My mother opened her eye and scowled before going back to bed. I got up, put my tunic and breeches on, I hope my feet aren't too cold. Perhaps I can afford some shoes soon. As I needed a lot of energy for ploughing the field with the oxen I had 2 servings of salted heron.

As I stepped outside, I could see other villagers going about their day. In the distance, next to the old Roman wall, I could hear the blacksmith hammering away. My cousin Harold told me that he was making swords to get the men ready for a raid on another village. The chief of the village has planned an attack in order to get more weapons, jewels and food. Although I know we may be attacked, I feel safe in our village as we are surrounded by the Roman walls. In the hut next door, I could smell the roaring fire as clay pots were being fired. A few huts down, a father and son were gathering bundles of straw to fix their thatched roof.

After I cleared the field, I was ready for a break and lunch. As I sat and ate my salted boar and cherries, I gazed around the village. High above me, I could see the dark rain clouds gathering in. The mighty god of thunder Thor must have listened to my calls. We are in need of some rain for the crops to grow. Thirstily, I guzzled my mead before setting off to plant some carrots, parsnips and cabbages.

After sunset, I went home. Mother had prepared a cabbage and carrot stew and father was dishing out horns of mead. In the corner, my brother (Edmund) was playing the lyre to keep us entertained.

I am going to bed now for another day in the village. I will write again tomorrow.

Vocabulary

village villagers oxen plough mead heron wolves boar

Today was a typical day. ... Today was a fantastic/exciting/ boring/ day Thor

Boy names: Alwin, Chad, Cuthbert, Edgar, Edmund, Edward, Godwin, Harold and Wilfred.

Girl names: Blaedswith Cynewise, Eawynn, Mildritha, Sigeburg, Sweterun

Time connectives

This morning. ... later that day. ... In the afternoon. ... After that. ... In the early afternoon. ... Late afternoon.
Early evening. ... By sundown. ... At sunset. ...

Facts about Anglo-Saxon life:

The Anglo-Saxons would often have feasts in the hall.

Nearly all **food was boiled in a cauldron over a fire** and **eaten as a kind of stew**.

They **drank ale from drinking horns** because river water was often polluted.

They **ate what they grew** on their farm land such as:

- **cereals** - wheat and rye for bread
- **vegetables** - carrots, parsnips, cabbages, peas, beans and onions
- **fruit** - apples, cherries and plums.

Pigs and fish like perch or herring might also have been eaten.

Food would be **dried or salted to preserve it** over the winter.

An Anglo-Saxon **lady wore**:

- **a loose gown** fastened round her waist with a girdle;
- a full-length, sleeved tunic;
- a mantle or **cloak around her shoulders**;
- a hood over her head.

Anglo-Saxon **men wore**:

- **a knee-length tunic with tight sleeves**;
- a short cloak which was fastened on the shoulder;
- **breeches** (knee-length trousers);
- **shoes with leather thongs which criss-crossed up their legs**.

Poor people wore less clothes made of rougher cloth. They often went barefoot, even in winter.

The wealthy had clothes **died with bright colours and fastened with expensive brooches**.

The women also wore long strings of beads made of: glass, amber or amethysts.