



Birmingham: It's Not Shit loves Birmingham, its people, arts, animals, buildings, parks, grass verges, factories and bus stops. We've even got a soft spot for the Black Country.

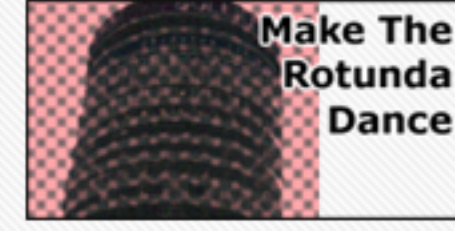
BiNS runs The Brummie of the Year Award, Talk Like a Brummie Day and organises odd stuff like spending all day on the eleven bus.

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IS BRUM HAPPY?  
Birmingham's emotional wellbeing\* on Saturday 28th of May 2011 07:45: 57 % (average)  
Twice daily scores on Twitter.  
\*Every ten seconds this site reads the 1000 latest Tweets from within a 10 mile radius of the centre of Birmingham and rates the words against a database.  
How does this work?

# Danny Smith: Surge Domine et dissipentur inimici tui et fugiant qui oderunt te a facie tua\*

18 January 2010  
By Danny Smith

Anglo-Saxon England was a horrible violent place with different kings and fiefdoms slaughtering for land, old gods, and, when the Danes landed, shits and giggles. Not unlike Newtown (except the bit about the Danes – I've never seen a Dane in North Birmingham).

Another thing worth stabbing your neighbouring villagers up the arsehole for, was gold. Not the tatty mass produced Elizabeth Duke crap the third generation crack-babies are killing each other for at present. Beautiful, hand crafted gold unique items; normally it was used for decorating the weapons you yourself used to rob people for their gold, thus making you more attractive to rob. You can see why it escalated.

To keep it safe they buried it, and **The Staffordshire Hoard** was discovered last year in the West Midlands; if you mean the 'West Midlands Region' which pretty much covers everything with buildings between London and Manchester.

Folks, we already live in a world where pirates in Somalia fight off big corporations dumping waste into the ocean. Now it seems that buried treasure is not just storybook fantasy but a possibility if you plough deep enough. The world is slipping into fiction; trust me it'll be mermaids next.

So who owns it? Well according to The Treasure Act 1996, no I'm not making that up, it belongs to the landowner and the finder BUT English museums have first dibs because the Queen says so. The Art Fund working with Birmingham museum and a bunch of others are campaigning very hard to raise the 3.3 million pounds it has been valued at so they can keep it in the Midlands. This is typical Birmingham behaviour, many is the hour we brummies have spent in the pubs 'claiming' any favourite products events, or celebrities that are in some way connected to Birmingham, however tenuous.

"Led Zeppelin?"

"We're 'avin em" we nod sagely

"Cluedo?" someone else will suggest

"we're 'avin it" everyone agrees

"Elvis?"

"Spent a lot of time in Alabama, that's got a Birmingham. We're 'avin 'im"

(By the way, its good to see that this tradition of claiming pseudo-brummies as our own has been carried on by Broad Street and its marvellously silly Walk Of Stars')

The Art Fund campaign has garnered some attention from the likes of Brummie-when-it-suits-him Frank Skinner and probably-never-even-been-to-Birmingham-even-though-he's-been-to-all-the-other-third-world-countries Michael Palin.



The campaign is to 'Save' the Hoard, save it from what? Being stuffed into an envelope and smelted by cash4mysterioustresureofhistoricalsignificance.com? Do we really need to keep it in the midlands so badly? Do we think 'The West Midlands' was a region ruled by ancient warrior kings with spit in their beards and copious supplies of concubines an pork scratchings? Must we fight for their piggy legacy? Real history; it's an artificial political region **dreamt up by John Major** (without doubt *the* least viking-ish PM ever).

Are we hoping for pre-dark ages artefact tourists? A quick look at Facebook reveals that the largest relevant group would probably be **Anglo Saxon England** and most of them seem to be rudderless English guys looking for some sort of cultural identity. Even if the combined membership of the first three pages of Anglo Saxon fans on facebook, rounded up to a generous 3,000 they would have to pay £1,100 each for the museum to break even.

Okay I'm being spurious but I'm still not convinced why we should care.

\*the title taken from one of the inscriptions found one of the artefacts. Translated it means 'Rise up, Lord; may Your enemies be scattered and those who hate You be driven from Your face.' – 'Those You Hate Be Driven From Your Face' being the name of my autobiography.

*The opinions of Danny Smith do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers of this blog, its affiliates, or any sane adult human beings. He currently lives in your cupboard, watching, always watching.*

**You wish to give money? DEC Haiti Earthquake Appeal**

Tags: Birmingham, birmingham uk, history, staffordshire hoard

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BiNS is mostly by Jon Bounds, a Birmingham based social web consultant, producer and writer. You can hire him to work on your twitter, or follow him on twitter. There's also the odd bit of stuff from Danny Smith.

Feel free to send us anything you're interested in - or think we might be. If you've got gigs to promote, best to chuck them on the talk board.