

# GREAT BOWDEN HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY



## Great Bowden Anglo-Saxon Banner Competition 2004

As part of our project Bowden Before the Conquest in 2004 we felt a colourful banner would reflect the Anglo-Saxons flamboyance and that pictorial qualities were important in a society where few could read. We launched a competition but there was only one entry!

Great Bowden W.I. created a beautiful banner about 5 foot long, which hung from the ceiling of the Village Hall for several years and is now

sometimes displayed at our events for everyone to see. The banner's creators also produced a key to their design:

### Symbols on the Banner

The silver celtic cross represents eternal life.

The golden dragon represents the Wessex kings

The emblems of St Peter and St Paul represent the village church of Great Bowden

The gold crown represents the status of Great Bowden as a Royal manor.

The coins and cheese are examples of tribute paid to the King.

### Background colours

Black symbolises solemnity

White symbolises the holiness of life, innocence and purity

Green symbolises triumph of life over death and the fertile land surrounding the village.

Blue symbolises the River Welland

Red symbolises the blood shed in wars over land ownership.