



MINERVA'S OWLS INFORMATION PACK

Welcome to the Minerva's Owls of Bath 2018 Information Pack!

In this publication you will find information and ideas relating to this summer's Owls of Bath 2018 sculpture trail, which will see a giant flock of supersized decorated owls displayed across the city and surrounding area from late June to mid-September for Bath's first interactive sculpture trail.

The pack includes information about local Roman History, Little Owl ecology and the links between them that have inspired this unique public art event.

It also includes inspiration as to how you can get involved, both at school and at home, with plenty of activities to try and suggestions for discovering more about the Romans, the goddess of wisdom, Minerva, the Roman Baths and owls!

Enjoy – it'll be a hoot!



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Owl and Pussycat by Bath artist Jane Callan.
Sponsored by SouthGate Bath.

Minerva and the Roman Baths



Sulis Minerva and her Owl

Minerva was the Roman goddess of war, wisdom and healing. The Romans believed she could be found inside the Hot Spring at the Roman Baths, and that she gave the water its warmth and healing powers. This made the Hot Spring a very special place for Romans to visit and they would often travel long distances.

The Romans built a Temple for Minerva next to the spring and placed a golden statue of her inside. When the Romans visited the hot spring, they would often ask Minerva for help to heal, or luck for their future. It is still possible to visit the Sacred Spring at the Roman Baths and to see Minerva's bronze head, the remaining part from her statue.

The owl is Minerva's special bird because it symbolises her wisdom and learning. This is why images of the goddess often feature an owl by her side.

More Minerva Facts

- 'Aquae Sulis', the Roman name for Bath translates as 'The waters of Sulis'. The waters referred to are the natural hot springs around which the Roman Baths were built. Sulis was a local Iron Age goddess who the Romans linked with their own goddess Minerva – Sulis Minerva to help merge Roman and Iron Age cultures following their invasion.
- Minerva is often linked with the Greek goddess Athena, who was known for her wisdom, healing powers and clever strategies in war.
- The name Minerva comes from the Latin *meminisse*, meaning 'to remember' – perhaps because good memory is important to all things that Minerva champions.



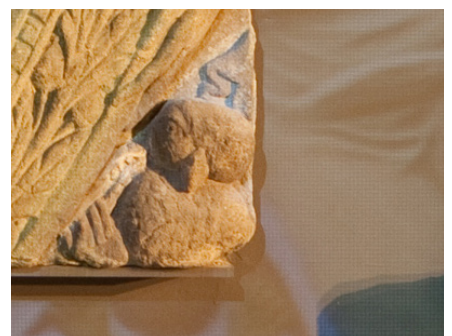
The Temple Pediment is the stone carving that was placed above the entrance to the Temple of Sulis Minerva. Not all of the pieces remain, but we have a good idea of what the whole thing would have looked like.

The Pediment includes many symbols relating to the goddess, including the owl as it represented her wisdom. It can be found perched on top of a Roman helmet. Can you spot it?

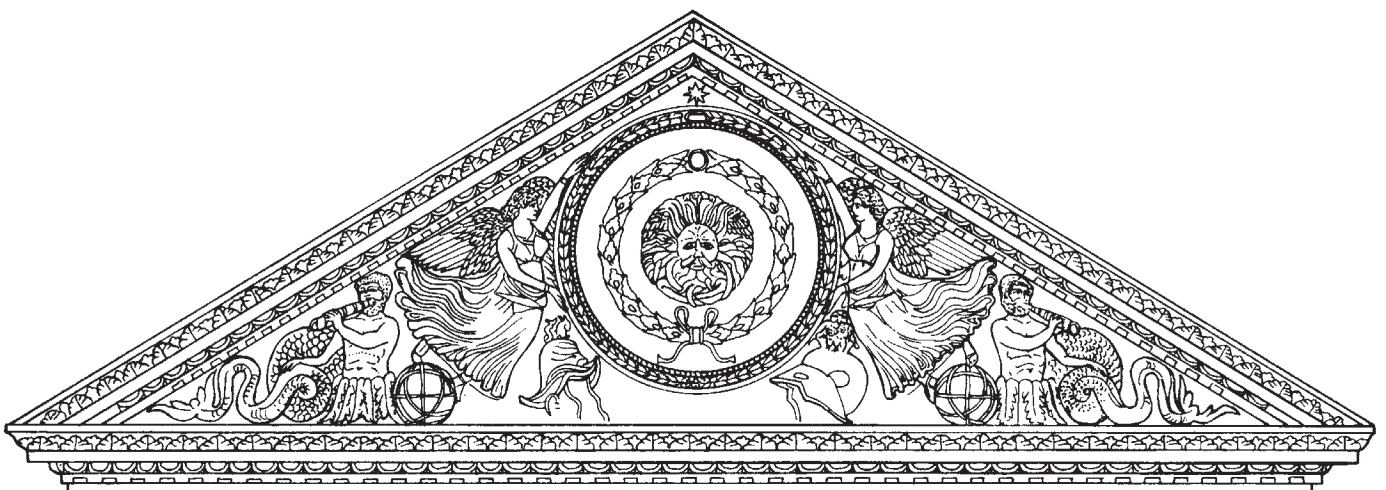
The head in the middle of the carving is known as the 'Gorgon' and is thought to represent gods from a number of different cultures. You can see the remains of the Temple Pediment at the Roman Baths.

You can see more images of Minerva's Head and a computer reconstruction of the Temple Courtyard online here:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/walkthroughs/temple-courtyard-and-minerva>



Here is a close-up of the owl from the original stone carving.



Visiting the Roman Baths



The best way to discover more about Sulis Minerva and the Romans in Bath is to visit. The Roman Baths in Bath is a unique site where it is possible to walk through the remains of a 2000 year old Roman building. The warm water that flows through the Great Bath comes from a natural hot spring that was sacred to the Iron Age people and later to the Romans.

Although other Roman baths still exist, the site in Bath is considered particularly special because of its connection to the goddess Sulis Minerva, making it a sacred place as well as a gathering place for Roman social life in Britain. It is also special because the water from the Hot Spring still flows through the Baths as it did in Roman times.

On a visit to the Roman Baths you can walk through the Temple Courtyard which led to the Temple of Sulis Minerva, and see the steps that rose to its entrance. You can walk on Roman paving stones and see the bathing rooms used by the Romans, as well as discover more about Roman culture and some of the real people who lived in the area 2000 years ago.

Visit: To find out more about visiting the Roman Baths, see the website: <https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/visit>

For information about **school visits**, see below.

Find out more about Sulis Minerva, the Sacred Spring and the Roman Baths:

Roman Baths website:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/discover>

Walkthrough:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/walkthrough>

Childrens pages:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/children-pages>

'Beyond the Baths' Roman Baths blog:

<http://bathsbloggers.blogspot.co.uk/2017/>

Minerva's Owl:

<http://www.buildinghistory.org/bath/minerva.shtml>

Local Residents' Discovery Cards

Residents of Bath and North East Somerset are eligible for Discovery Cards, which offer them free access to the Roman Baths and many other benefits at places throughout the city. To find out more, click here:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/tourism-and-heritage/discovery-card>



Owls

The Little Owl has been chosen as the subject for this year's sculpture trail because of its links to the Roman goddess Sulis Minerva. The Little Owl population in the UK is currently in rapid decline, so by raising awareness of this bird, it is hoped that more can be done to help them.

Owls in Mythology and Culture

Owls appear as strong symbols in stories and myths from many cultures. In Roman culture, owls were associated closely with death, and to hear the hoot of an owl was thought to mean someone would soon die. Julius Caesar's death was thought to have been heralded by the call of a Little Owl. Romans also thought that if you placed an owl feather next to someone who was sleeping, they would speak their secrets!

More info about owl mythology:

<https://goo.gl/W4RjzF>

Owl Ecology

Little Owls (*Athene noctua*) are very small with rounded bodies and different shades of spotted brown feathers. They also have distinctive white speckles and bright yellow eyes. For a more detailed description, see: <https://goo.gl/14PRpA>



Owls

Little Owl Facts:

- The Little Owl is the smallest owl in the UK
- The Little Owl was first introduced to the UK by rich landowners. It has settled in well and has not had a negative impact upon other species
- Sadly, the population of the Little Owl is now in rapid decline
- Holes in trees are a Little Owl's favourite place to live, but they also adapt well to nesting boxes.
- Little Owls have lifelong partners
- Although it is not uncommon to see Little Owls in daylight, they prefer to hunt in the dark
- They often hunt on foot, running after their prey
- Little Owls have a distinctive undulating flight, which is different from the flight of other owls
- Little Owls have particularly good eyesight.
- They mostly eat beetles and moths, but Little Owls also catch small mammals and amphibians.

More Little Owl Facts:

- 12 Little Owl facts: <https://goo.gl/HQDS4v>
- 21 Little Owl facts: <https://goo.gl/ktchLv>

Little Owl Information:

<http://www.littleowlproject.uk/>
<https://goo.gl/6FqiXq>
<https://goo.gl/wfjbWA>
<https://goo.gl/KbY88p>

Bird trends (tracking trends in Little Owl population and behaviour):
<https://goo.gl/BMRgCf>

Little Owl Images:

<https://goo.gl/tZd3oG>

Little Owl Calls:

<http://www.wildowl.co.uk/owlcalls.html>

Little Owl videos:

BBC: http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Little_Owl

YouTube:

<https://goo.gl/uLnFrA>

General Owl Information

- There are 212 species of owl in the world.
- Owls have specialised eyes and ears to help them to hunt.
- Owls have really soft feathers (plumage) which means they can fly without making any noise as their wings move through the air. This means their prey doesn't hear them approaching and that the owl can hear its prey whilst flying.
- Most owls live alone. They come together to mate in the spring and to raise their offspring.
- Owls usually swallow their food whole.
- Owls never build their own nests! Instead they use other birds nests, tree holes or barns.

To find out more see:

<https://goo.gl/xaDBMM>

<https://goo.gl/VTiAaB>

Activities

There are many exciting owl and Roman-themed activities to have a go at. Here are some of our favourites:

Craft Projects for Children

Build a nest for owls:

<https://goo.gl/6QxQEY>
<https://goo.gl/4ZR5Rh>

Pine cone owls:

<https://goo.gl/qPMcU1>

Owl weaving:

<https://goo.gl/MxuukE>

Bark owls:

<https://goo.gl/4pmcoC>

Marbled paper collages:

<https://goo.gl/zxfb2c>

Clay thumb owls:

<https://goo.gl/JDPGJA>

Egg carton owls:

<https://goo.gl/Pvs9t4>

No sew sock owls:

<https://goo.gl/5TDBej>

Create an owl paper mosaic:

<https://goo.gl/d7Ex6P>

Make a Roman Helmet:

<https://goo.gl/iGqSt7>

If you want to search for more activity ideas, look here:

<https://goo.gl/wtTV2V>
<https://goo.gl/YZ1gZ1>

Roman Online Activities for Children

Roman Baths Children's pages:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/children-pages>

Resources for History:

<https://goo.gl/PyjwbZ>

Know Your Numerals game:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/know-your-numerals>

Looking out for Little Owls

Find out how to spot a Little Owl at: <https://goo.gl/3djp2r>

Hunt for oak and ash trees, favourite nesting places for little owls. The Woodland Trust have some helpful information to help you identify the right trees:

Ash trees:

<https://goo.gl/Qic7vM>

Oak trees:

<https://goo.gl/hBy9om>

Make sure to report your sightings of little owls!

Little Owl Project:

<https://goo.gl/RWDK7J>

Little Owl Count:

<http://littleowlcount.org/>

Find out how you can help Little Owls:

<https://goo.gl/Giewgz>
<https://goo.gl/DCmw3S>

Summer activities at the Roman Baths

Mission Minerva Trail – June to October

A special trail has been created for your visit to the Roman Baths, focusing on Sulis Minerva and Owls! Collect one from the front desk when you arrive.

Family Drop-in Sessions

The Roman Baths are hosting a range of exciting owl activities over the holidays! See the 'What's On' section of the Roman Baths website for up to date information:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/listing-calendar>

Outbreak of Owls

Monday 23 – Friday 27 July

10am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4pm

The goddess Minerva's animal symbol was an owl – join us to create an owl mask.

Friend or Foe?

Monday 30 July – Friday 3 August

10am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4pm

We believe that the statue of Minerva would once have worn a helmet. Get crafty and make a helmet.

Flight of Fancy

Monday 6 August – Friday 10 August

10am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4pm

Did you know we have recently discovered a mosaic here at the Roman Baths? Use the Roman mosaic technique to make fantastic owl.

Flying Free

Monday 13 August to Friday 17 August

10am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4pm

Did you know a group of owls is called a parliament? Create a parliament of flying owls by designing an owl mobile.

Minerva's Mate

Monday 20 August to Friday 24 August

10am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4pm

Get creative and use collage to make an owl puppet.

Out & About in Bath

Download the Minerva's Owls Official App to follow the Owl Sculpture Trail: <https://minervasowls.org/the-app/>

When you are out enjoying the owl sculptures in Bath, see if you can spot the faces of Minerva and the Gorgon elsewhere on signs, shopfronts and on buses

Get up early and listen to the dawn chorus!

Keep an eye on the Children's University website at <https://goo.gl/UKLXJU> for learning activities and downloadable worksheets to complete at home or school.

Adults

Adult learning at the Roman Baths: <https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/adult-learning>

Spa Ancient and Modern package: <https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/spas-ancient-modern-package>

Follow the Little Owl Project Blog: <http://www.littleowlproject.uk/#about>

Little owl origami: <https://goo.gl/uqgVuq>

Schools

Visiting the Roman Baths

The Roman Baths is a very popular destination for school visits and offers a range of teaching sessions for all ages. The sessions are designed to link closely to the National Curriculum. Students will have the chance to work with original Roman artefacts, be immersed in Roman history and have the opportunity to learn from experts.

To find out more about making a school visit, see the 'Schools' section on the Roman Baths website:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/schools>

Resources for teachers

Roman Baths Primary School Programme Summer 2018
<https://goo.gl/M5v54m>

The Romans

The Roman Baths KS1 & KS2 Teachers pack:

<https://goo.gl/tzh8TR>

KS3 & KS4 Roman Baths Science:

A range of Science activities that can be completed on a visit to the site. Each activity can be downloaded in advance along with an accompanying Teacher Pack

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/key-stages-3-4>

Latin resources:

<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/gcse-gnvq-level>

BBC Romans Teacher resources:

<https://goo.gl/a7aRNK>

Other useful sites:

<https://goo.gl/jA4NKY>

<https://goo.gl/cwz3dU>

<https://goo.gl/RpPhs8>

Roman gods and goddesses

<https://goo.gl/AeR2gi>

<https://goo.gl/mmYVKK>

Owls

The Owl Trust Foundation:

<https://goo.gl/jfkVJJ>

The Owl Trust KS1:

<https://goo.gl/8TX5Xa>

The Owl Trust KS2:

<https://goo.gl/DoQEz2>

Class activity ideas

- quiz to identify all the areas and activities of which Minerva is – or is not – patron.
- any kind of ‘memory’ game or ‘logic’ puzzle.
- write a poem, tell a story, weave a tapestry, paint a picture, compose a song, about Minerva and her owl.
- suggest some new activities that Minerva and her owl should represent for the modern world (robotics and AI, computer games, drones, aeroplanes, the world-wide-web...).
- quiz or hunt to find some of the other things that the Romans first introduced to Britain (aqueducts, viaducts, road system, wine, toilets, etc).
- design and make a clockwork owl.
- use water to make an owl automaton move and hoot.
- write a story, paint a picture, make a mosaic, about the first Little Owl to come to Bath (what was the journey like, what did he or she see and hear on the way?).
- suggest some things about the future that you’d like Minerva’s owl to predict for you.

Make Little Owl nest boxes

How to make a Little Owl nest box: <https://goo.gl/GdmWTy>

Clay owls

Make your own Little Owl models using modelling clay. Decorate them afterwards!

Roman Coins

Have a Roman coins handling exercise in the classroom. Use paper plates to make large Roman coins, decorated with the head of Sulis Minerva and an owl.

Owl of Athena – Roman Tetradrachm

<https://goo.gl/MA22xZ>



Create a Little Owl Fact Sheet

Create a Little Owl Fact Sheet to give out to your local community to help people to spot Little Owls. Encourage them to add their sightings to

<https://goo.gl/QueuxyT>

Creative writing

Have a ‘class owl’ soft toy that children take it in turns to take home. When they are at home (or the next days) they could write a short story into a collective book from the perspective of a Little Owl.

Encourage the class to imagine they are Romans. Ask them to write about a visit to the Roman Baths to visit the Sacred Spring and the Temple of Minerva to ask for her help. Owl creative writing inspiration:

<https://goo.gl/r5WkwN>

Listening games

Go outside and play some of these games as a class.

<https://goo.gl/X2eGzY>

Tree spotting

Go for a walk in your local area/ school grounds to hunt for Oak and Ash trees, the trees that Little Owls most like to nest in. Look at the leaves, bark and how the tree changes through the seasons. Look especially closely for any possible Little Owl nesting holes!

Dissecting Owl Pellets

See <https://goo.gl/AB391m> for some information about how to dissect owl pellets a brilliant way to find out more about the eating habits of owls. See this chart at <https://goo.gl/MXeQjH> for help with identifying rodent bones.

Owl science games

Here are some simple group games that explore owl hearing <https://goo.gl/pT76UM>

Exploring what owls eat:

<https://goo.gl/6eFyDV>

Simple owl-themed counting activities

<https://goo.gl/RWuTQf>

Owl Stories

Choose an owl story to focus on in class and develop activities around the story (some ideas below).

Owl Moon – Jane Yolen

Owl Babies – Martin Waddell

Good-Night Owl – Pat Hutchins

The Littlest Owl – Caroline Pitcher

Owly – Mike Thaler

The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark – Jill Tomlinson

Little Owl’s Night – Divya Srinivasan

Owl Babies feelings:

<https://goo.gl/dswrqm>

Owl Moon activities:

<https://goo.gl/rhG56m>

Fundraising ideas



Would your school like to sponsor an owlet? See this page and download an information pack:

<https://minervasowls.org/schools-and-minervas-owls/>

- Dress as a Roman day!
- Owl themed cake sale
- Homemade fudge sale (in owl packaging!)
<https://goo.gl/P2fHM3>
- Owl scavenger hunt - have teams dressed as Romans hunting for themed items around the school property. Donate to participate, with prizes for best costume, most items found etc.
- Student and parent Little Owl art sale. Students and parents create Little Owl themed artwork, which is showcased and sold to the local community to raise funds.



Front

Use these outlines to create a Little Owl design.



Back

Use these outlines to create a Little Owl design.



Contact



For further information or to discuss how to get involved, please contact the Minerva's Owls 2018 team at info@minervasowls.org

or call Megan Witty on **01225 340697**

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

www.minervasowls.org @owlsofbath #owlsofbath

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