

ROCK PARTY

The Iron Age was the period when people first began to make tools and weapons from iron. The High Weald was rich in iron and there was rivalry between neighbouring tribes – each wanting to protect their resources. Here's what the leaders of two rival tribes had to say...



West enders

“Our tribe is from the **WEST END** of the High Weald. We stick together and don't let anyone tell us what to do. We make sure no-one gets their hands on the iron. It's OURS!

We use iron to make swords and knives and useful tools. They are the best you've ever seen. (But I wish someone would invent an umbrella that we could make, it's rotten weather, always dark and rainy lately!)

We have small farms here and we keep cows and pigs. We grow cereal too, barley and wheat.

Another thing we make better than anyone else is the plough. Ploughs were made from wood in the old days, but ours are much better. Ploughs are pulled along by oxen and have iron teeth like a comb which loosen the soil and make a nice bed of ridges to sow our seeds.

We don't have anything to do with the east end tribes. They think they're better than us, but they're NOT.

We are going to have a midsummer celebration soon. It will be on the High Rocks. We are going to gather wild berries to stain our faces. If any of those east enders dare to turn up they're going to get a nasty fright! ”

East enders

“Our tribe is from the **EAST END** of the High Weald. We look out for one another. No-one tells US what to do. We won't let any other tribe sneak up and try to get our iron. WE want it all!

We make swords and knives and useful things out of iron, like cooking pots. AND we make a brilliant farming implement, the plough. I'm sure no other tribe has thought of THAT yet.

We don't have anything to do with the west end tribes. They think they're better than us, but they're NOT.

It is damp and cold here and everyone is grumpy. But it will be midsummer soon and we are going to celebrate. We will go to High Rocks to dance and sing. It might cheer us all up.

We are going to gather leaves and twigs to make wild head-dresses and masks for the celebration. It will frighten the wits out of any west ender who dares show his or her face! ”

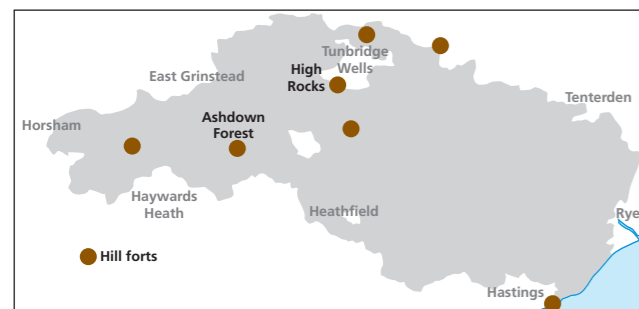


Here's what they said after the party...

What a great night! I take back what I said about the east enders, they know how to have a good time. We've agreed to call a truce and defend our iron supplies together. After all, there could be an invasion. The High Rocks is a good place to keep watch from. But call themselves tool makers? Don't make me laugh. And their swords wouldn't cut butter. Ours are better by a mile.

What a laugh! Those west enders are quite good fun once you get to know them. We've made it up with them and we're all going to get together and keep an eye out from the High Rocks for any invaders after our iron. The west enders' tools aren't up to much though. And their swords? I've seen a sharper blade of grass! Ours are far superior.

WHERE IN THE WEALD?



The area's iron-age forts were mainly built on the area's highest ridge, the Weald Forest Ridge. Replica Iron Age houses can be seen at **Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum** and **Michelham Priory** where an Iron Age Festival is held every May Day. View Iron age artefacts at:

Battle Museum; Hastings Old Town Hall Museum; Tunbridge Wells Museum

More online at:

www.ashdownforest.org/enjoy/history/archaeology.php
www.penshurst-online.co.uk/Things_to_know_high%20rocks.htm

Make a wild mask like the east enders...

You need:

- A paper plate
- Elastic
- Acrylic paint (green or any colour you choose)
- Dry leaves, feathers, dried bracken, wool, small light twigs etc (nothing too heavy)
- PVA glue
- Soft felt pen to mark eye-holes etc
- Scissors
- An adult helper

Put the paper plate in front of your face. Ask an adult to mark and cut out where the holes for your eyes, nose and mouth will go. It doesn't matter if they are a bit lop-sided, it will add to the wild look! Paint the plate all over if you like, but don't have the paint too wet. When dry, glue your bits and pieces on. If you don't have enough leaves you could always make paper ones. Ask the adult to make holes for the elastic and help you thread it through.

...or paint your face like a wild west ender

You need:

- A basic cold cream (Nivea works well)
- Cornflour
- Edible berries of your choice (blueberries, strawberries, raspberries etc.)

Make a facepaint base by mixing 1 tablespoon of cold cream with 2 tablespoons of cornflour. Add 1 tablespoon of water and mix. Rub a few berries through a sieve to get the juice and add it to the base mixture. Mind your clothes, juice can stain.

High Weald

EVENTS

World

700BCE

Around 700 Great Wall of China started

600BCE

500 Large Iron Age fort built at Dry Hill Camp, Lingfield

500BCE

480 Buddha died

400BCE

300BCE

280 Camel introduced into Egypt

200BCE

About 193 Venus de Milo made

100BCE

First form of writing in Britain

AD42

55 Julius Caesar first came to England