Regia Anglorum

LAMAVI

Regia's Newsletter – issue 7, February 2006

Jorvik Viking Festival 18th – 26th February 2006
Dateline 925AD

Our twenty first year at this most popular festival. Huge numbers are again expected to turn up at the year's best-attended show. It is at York that you can be most certain of meeting rarely-seen members, meet some of our overseas members, buying that vital bit of kit from one of the various traders that turn up to complete your gear for the season.

Miss this one and you are missing out on a legend of a show!

Opening weekend 18th- 19th Feb

Heaven help us all – Under New Management!
Linda Raee, Tel 0151 637 1645 E-mail : sonnie_sa@yahoo.com

The LHE will not be at the ARC Project this time as it is undergoing restoration. Better for all concerned, it will be in the Hospitium, the stone and timber building in the park - next to the battle practice site. We are hoping to bring most of the stuff from the Wirhalh, but for those who are bringing their own display, we will be using the gate opposite the site of the Bay Horse, and hope to have access all Friday afternoon preceding the first weekend. We will keep you posted on further developments.

Clifford's Tower - First Saturday Only - 12 pm
There will be a court scene run by Martin Latham using the unusual concept of Norman Justice that will provide an insight into The Law well before the Nanny State! It will rejoice in the catchy title of 'Judge for Yourself' and the public will be asked to decide the guilt or innocence of the poor defendant. It will include trial by ordeal and a hanging of Martin Knight, possibly one after another. You know what Martin is like!

Samson's Square, At 11am and 3pm
Each day of that first weekend we will be killing off Hrolf again! That guy has died more often than John Wayne! Snorri has agreed to run this part of our display, based on YAT's small boat replica, not ours. The boat burial still needs mourners and if you would like to help, please ring Snorri direct (01704-537096) and ask him.

The Hospitium – Saturday 25th February (In Museum Gardens)

As we have so much more room this year, (and I don't know any better yet,) we are going to try something new.
I am going to try a full contact LHE with no ropes or barriers – come and watch me do it without a safety net!
The idea is to make it very hands on, I have lots of lovely expert bodies already lined up, but if you think you would like to help…..

We will be providing the public with lots of opportunities to try things for themselves, from embroidery to grinding flour, and we will need your support, as close supervision will be essential. So – if you are good with people and enjoy that side of Regia, or if you have always wanted to try it but have not had the opportunity, come on down!

It might be just for an hour, to let someone have lunch, or it might be for a day. Don't forget, you can listen and learn things too, so often at shows we are too busy to even watch the skills of our own people!

I have managed to get permission to use upstairs for our private use, it will be a chill out (or warm up) place for everyone in costume. Access post battle practice will be up the outside stairs and you must leave your spear and shield outside.

There will be no access to Regia warriors through the front entrance as it will confuse the daylights out of the JVC staff extracting money from the public on the way in.
Please note The Hospitium is a No Smoking Area.

It will be somewhere out of the way to eat your food without being photographed (*including* food that you buy elsewhere) – but we will be supplying free hot soup and a bun, tea and coffee to all Regia after the battle practice, enough for one go each and then till it's all gone!
I would love it if you would come and join in (we will be holding rehearsals there for the Big Wedding too!)

So Lord and peasant – veteran and squishy – warrior and priest – spinster and archer –
please come and see us, we would love your company, your input and – you never know –
you might even enjoy it!

The Hospitium, Second Sunday 26th Feb – 1pm - outside – (weather permitting).
The closing Sunday has been a bit quiet in other years, to prevent it from becoming a bit of an anti climax for the customer, we are planning to have an Oseberg Type Bed Burial. This display will be located in a boat shaped enclosure, defining just how large the original vessel was and will be a bigger deal than usual with all the grave goods we can muster. We need a few more people for this as I don't want to deplete the LHE completely. Necessarily this will need to be done outside and is weather dependant – no one wants to lie around in the pouring rain for twenty minutes, but snow might be quite evocative……..
Would you like to be involved – one last flourish! Lots of Photo opportunities!
PS. I still need two female bodies. (Yes Cheryl, you can be one, but please – no snoring this time!)

Closing weekend 25th – 26th Feb

The usual frantic rush to fit everything into one day as usual! It will contain all the same general features as in earlier years. There will be living history all day at the Hospitium, battle practice in Museum Gardens for two hours on Saturday morning, a daytime procession through York, a major battle in the Eye of York in the afternoon and a Royal Wedding in York Minster on Saturday evening.

Stewarding
I think it looks out of place to do this in modern dress and spoils people's pictures too. Ali Higginson (01843 848400) has done this with complete success for years and I am not one to fix things that ain't broke. The task will not be onerous and consist of little more than patrolling the roadway around the grass circle during the battle whilst asking the crowd not to fall on the warriors etc during the daytime bash.

Longship Regatta
The projected plan about our ship replicas was not taken up, so although there will some ships down at Kings Staith, they are not directly to do with the Festival.

Accommodation
CHANGES! Please read!! The principal hall for sleeping will be at **Fishergate County Primary School,** Fishergate, York. It is opposite the Mecca Bingo hall and is on the corner of Esrick Street. They are being very trusting and several doors will be left unlocked that would not normally be.

Please do not wander about trying doors looking for somewhere private to sleep, as you'll set off the burglar alarm! The hall is huge and we can accommodate one hundred and fifty people there.

NEW >>>The school hall is now used on Sunday for a religious service and we must be out BY NINE in the morning. I know it is a pain, but please be prepared to be up by eight at the latest so we can sweep up & leave the hall as we found it.

We have access to the playground for parking and as there is no height restriction on the gate, I suggest that those with vans use Fishergate CPS as their base. PLEASE PARK TIDILY!

Deo volante, I'm expecting to be in York in the late afternoon and will arrange to collect the key myself.

The school is in the middle of a residential area and anyone coming back to the hall after dark must go inside immediately. Certainly, there must be no groups of people chatting outside at any time after 8.00 PM. For myself, I would also ask people coming to the hall to make as little noise as possible, particularly as the hour gets late.

Late night – and early morning – talkers are welcome to stay up as late as they like as long as they stay in the outer corridor and are not so noisy as to keep everyone else awake.

Auntie Regia will provide milk, tea and coffee at Fishergate School as usual.

Meeting place
As last year, The Exhibition Hotel on Bootham is expecting us on both Friday and Saturday evenings. A special menu at reduced prices has been arranged & will be available for our members. They need to identify us from Joe Public, so either stay in kit (no weapons, of course) or have your membership card with you when you order.

Traders
In house traders that want to set up a SINGLE table at Fishergate may do so as long as they do not inconvenience the people who are using the hall as a base. There will be traders at the Barley Hall and in Guildhall.

Parking at Marygate car park
Please note that it PROBABLE that we shall have a key to the overhead bar as in previous years for van access. Remember that Marygate Car Park is a Pay-and-Display and we have no concessions on this. Neither Regia nor the client will pay your parking fines if you get a ticket. There is limited unreserved parking outside the old Bay Horse, but there is a theoretical hour-long restriction here.

EVENT STUFF

Living History
As above

Procession
The daytime procession will leave Museum Gardens for the Battlefield at the foot of Clifford's Tower, known as the Eye of York, at 1.30pm. It is most important that this procession is well supported. Upon arrival at Museum Gardens, please muster in the usual way, rank by rank on the flat grassed area in front of the museum. There are two scheduled stops, the second in Coppergate to have a good shout for the king & the Eorls of Northumbria and the usual "Vivat rex!". The battle will commence at 2.00pm and conclude around 3.00pm.

Military stuff
Battle practice will take place in Museum Gardens, Marygate as in previous years. It will start at 10.00am and finish at noon. An hour for lunch then warriors to muster at 1.00pm UNLESS ANNOUNCED DIFFERENTLY ON THE DAY. The major battle will run to an original script and will be PA led as usual. Plot details hinge around a possible military confrontation between Aethalstan and the Northern Jarls of Strathclyde & Bamburgh. Script & action will be sorted out on the day as usual

Following the final steppan to the crowd, there will be Circles of Treachery if we have time.

Evening performance
There can be few in Regia for whom it will be news, but we are presenting a Royal Wedding as the Evening Performance this year. It will take place in York Minster on Saturday evening and is a three act play featuring a named cast of nearly fifty. An audience of nearly a thousand people will fill the Cathedral to watch our presentation, written, performed, produced, & directed entirely from our own resources.

For the client and the visitor, it is a piece of theatre, it pushes the same buttons as a Coronation - the great space of the Cathedral, people in posh funny clothes, a bit of Latin, a threatening military presence as the king of Scotland and the Northern Jarls try to cope with the ambition and arrogance of Aethelstan, the English king. The king's sister is shamelessly used as a political asset to ensnare the goodwill of Sihtric, Viking king of Dublin & York. Finally, the marriage is completed, contracts signed & blessings given.

For us, it is something rather different from the other events we put on around the country and a great addition to our York experience. It is also a lot of hard work and effort for some & a deal of standing about for most. It will begin with a torchlit reception for the visitor outside the West Doors of the Minster. Here will be an opportunity for our traders to sell stuff to the public and for lepers and beggars to make an appearance. Costumed torchbearers are needed as usual, please talk to Ali Higginson about this 01843 848400

ACT ONE
The performance begins with a domestic scene set in one of the greater houses in York. A guest of king Sihtric of York and Dublin, Æthelstan and his court lodge here whilst they entertain guests from all over the northern world. The king is out hunting and we hear the Princess Edith's secret lover Edric speak fondly of her whilst the action portrays both the Princess and her mother, the Dowager Queen Æthelflæd as they prepare for the kings return. Æthelstan returns from the hunt and eats a simple meal with his womenfolk. They talk of the politics of Viking Age England and his plans for the future. The scene ends as the king leaves on a military expedition. The battle he fights will be depicted on the Eye of York during the afternoon.

ACT TWO opens as Æthelstan's steward, his uncle Ælfgar, prepares to and then receives King Constantine of the Scots, the High-Reeve Eldred of Bamburgh and Owain of Strathclyde. King Æthelstan returns from battle and welcomes both royalty and nobility to the wedding of his sister. As they depart for the Minster to await the royal wedding party, Æthelstan faces the wrath of his womenfolk for taking such a risk so far from home. The scene ends as the West-Saxon King contemplates the future of England.

ACT THREE opens as the Archbishop and Clergy arrive. As on any great occasion, the entrances are formal and accompanied by music and the blowing of horns. King Sihtric arrives, followed by Æthelstan and Edith. The terms of the marriage contract are set out with the open agreement of all parties. Finally, Princess Edith of the royal houses of both Wessex and Mercia is joined in matrimony to Sihtric by the Archbishop, with – as Æthelstan promised – Latin and chanting, loyalty and gifts given and received. Then it's all down the pub as usual .

It is important for everyone to know that this is an experience in which all of Regia can share. Wear the best kit you have – many, indeed, have made spectacular new costumes just for this performance, but we need the help of all our members. PLEASE don't feel that you are excluded just because you don't have a posh frock!

For sale Volvo 740 estate with a normally aspirated, single carburetted, 2.3 litre OHC straight four engine. It has a manual five speed gearbox. It has power assisted steering of course, electric front windows, new wiper blades, central locking, heated front seats and everything works. The front exhaust box was replaced for the MOT ten days ago & the rest is almost new (still got the paper label on the rear box!) & the pads etc are in good order. All tyres are good including the spare. The bodywork is pretty good with the occasional scratch & shallow dent, but nothing to offend the eye really. It is bright red in colour & the interior is dark grey with cloth seats. There are a few nicks on the headlining.

I had it serviced in December & it is taxed until the end of April. I've done about 5,000 miles in it since I bought it in November, bringing the total mileage up to about 165,000. It starts first rotation from cold or hot and returns a steady 31 to the gallon, more or less regardless of load. If it hangs about very long, I shall be tempted to keep it, partly as I was a bit stunned to find that it was first registered on 26th November 1986, the day Regia was founded. However, common sense demands that it should go and I would be pleased to discuss it with anyone who is thinking of getting a different car for the coming season. £495 or close offer.
There are photos to look at on Webshots - http://community.webshots.com/album/505458375pSZDLw

15th Shrewsbury Training Weekend

Saturday 1st Sunday 2nd April

Les Miles des Marches has again organised the venue for us near Shrewsbury. Last year, this event attracted well over a hundred people and it was a great weekend away. Please note that this weekend is organised by a small group of people, most of whom will be working on Friday. Please time your arrival for the late afternoon or early Friday evening. There is no camping available on Thursday night.

We have been generously offered the use of the Pim Hill 55 acre wood and field again. The location maps are included for your reference. Pim Hill wood is a designated Nature Reserve using local community policing. Your co-operation in preventing damage to or interfering with the local flora and fauna is expected. As usual, there are do's and dont's to which we would like you to adhere. These will ensure we achieve the maximum benefit from the weekend without causing damage to our host's property.

Getting there
From the M6 just above Birmingham, take the M54 for Shrewsbury. M54 runs out into the A5, continue to the junction of the A49. Turn right onto A49. This has been developed into a ring road in recent years & there are various roundabouts to navigate, following the signs for the A528. Turn right onto the A528 & head north for about five miles. Look out for the Regia signs pointing to the left. If you arrive at the Bridgewater Arms, turn round and go back to the last junction & turn right!

Access and parking
There is a car-width track for access onto the site. Please keep your vehicles on it until you reach the end of the field where you can park against the length of the track. Do not park on the track as this means other cars cannot get past without going on the grass. Remember, the grass is a growing cash crop, so DO NOT drive across the field, but remain as close to the track as you can if it is impossible for you to actually drive on the track.

Camping
Please camp and park as directed by Martin or other Miles Des Marches representative. We cannot be sure of the state of the field as it is two months away from the time of writing, so signs or a person will be on hand to direct you when you get there.

Fires
Likewise with the fire site. There is a circle of dead ground at the top end of the field which we usually use as a fire site, but last year an award-winning dung heap meant we had to move along a bit. There is plenty of dead fallen wood near-by that we are welcome to use. On no account should you strip wood off vertical trees, even if they look dead to you! Anyway, if I know Martin, he'll have arranged a suitably enormous pile of scrap wood to get rid of!
NO FIRES ANYWHERE ELSE PLEASE WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF MARTIN LATHAM!

Toilets
Aunty Regia will pay for the Portaloo chemical toilets again this year.

Drinking water
There is a water trough near the entrance to the field, although we certainly don't recommend you use it for anything other than putting out fires! Other than this, a water supply relies upon Marti & others bringing in water from home as water bowsers got extremely expensive last year. Therefore, we strongly suggest that you BRING WATER AND CONTAINERS WITH YOU to this event.

Eating and drinking
We recommend that you bring your own food and drink to prepare and consume on site. There is a pub about a mile away, as indicated on the map. The Bridgewater Arms is a popular haunt for many Shrewsbury weekenders eating out etc. You may find it a bit crowded but they are used to our annual invasion now. There is a nice outside area if it's warm enough. Beyond the Bridgewater Arms is The Red Lion and they now have a limited amount of B&B available - number from Martin Latham.

Military Training
Training sessions will take place on both days. All Regia Training Officers are politely requested to do their very best to attend this weekend.

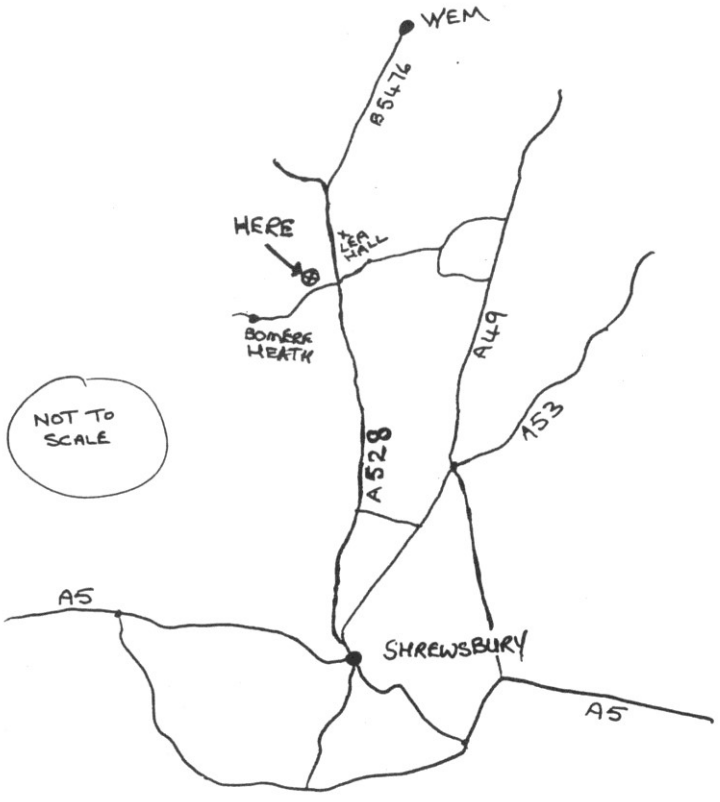
Saturday
10.00am till 12.00 weapons training (one on one and in groups) ranging from basic for new people to advanced for the more experienced. And battle field safety tests.
12.00 till 1.00pm Line fights tactics and such things as the war council have been discussing.
1.00 till 2.00 Lunch.
2.00 till 5.00 playing in the woods
5.00 Tests for those who need/require them.

Sunday
10.30 training/line fights, and tests
12.00 lunch
1.00 till close playing in the woods etc.

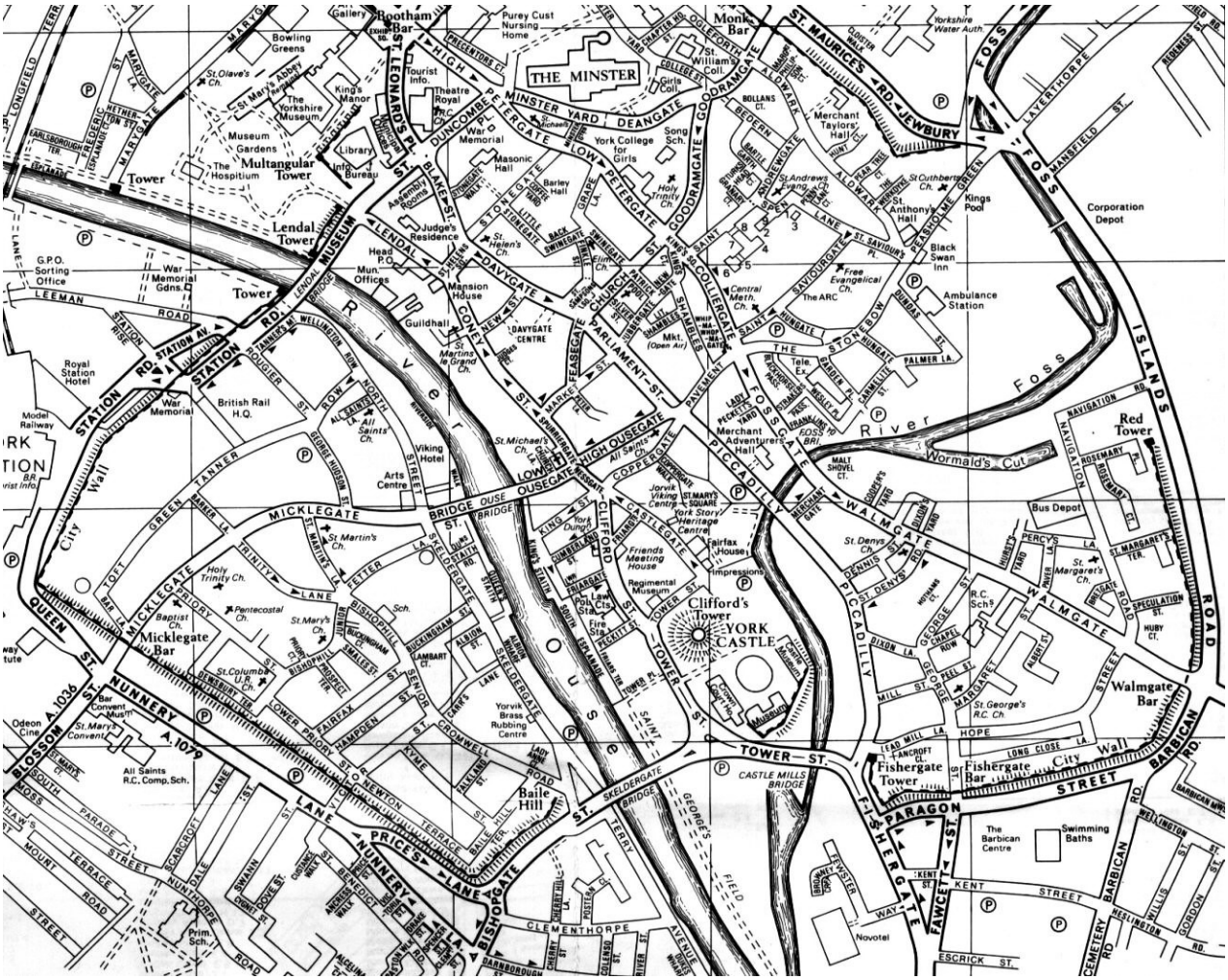
Archery
There will be archery training on both days.

Craft teaching sessions
Cheryl (0115 9524 800) is looking for volunteers to teach and asks if there are any subjects that people would like to learn. Notice will be given via Regia Group Leaders via electronic mail closer to the date.

Finally
Please remember we are the guests of Mrs Whitticker and to treat her property with respect and this will be our 15th year at the Pim Hill site.
If you should require any other information, please contact Martin direct. Phone number 01939-210663.



Map of the City of York. All locations relative to the event are shown



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Anwar will be at York on Saturday at Fishergate School.

Calendar of Events - 2006

January 14/15th. **National Training Weekend** – The Millennium Hall at Horton cum Studley, Oxfordshire. Pre-York training and tests, craft workshops. Village hall accommodation – no need to camp!

February 18th/19thd **Jorvik Viking Festival—Major Event** for the Jorvik Viking Centre Opening weekend. Living history, court scene at Clifford's Tower, etc.
February 25th/26th **. Jorvik Viking Festival.- Major Event** for the Jorvik Viking Centre. Battle, ships regatta, Living History, craft market, Royal Wedding. Dateline - 926AD

March 4th/ 5th . **Wychurst Work Weekend.**

April 1st/2nd . **Shrewsbury Training Weekend**
April 14th - 17th. Easter. **Four working days at Wychurst**
April 14th - 17th. Easter**. Bede's World, Jarrow. Major Show.** Living History weekend at the Museum

April 29th, 30th – May 1st (May Day Bank Holiday) Major show North West – details soon!
May 13th –14th **Wychurst Work Weekend**
May 20th/21st **Bede's World, Jarrow**. Maritime input required as per 2005.
May 27-30th (Whitsun Bank Holiday). **Whitby Abbey.** North Yorks. **Major show.** Dateline, Post Conquest

June 3rd/4th. Horton-cum-Studley, Oxfordshire. **National event.**
June 10th-11th **Wychurst Work Weekend**

July 1/2nd. **Festival of Leather,** Capel Manor College, Enfield. Grantanbrg local show. Dateline, TBA.
July 8th-9th **Wychurst Work Weekend**
July 15/16th . **Royal Gunpowder Mills**, Waltham Abbey. **Major Show**. Dateline TBA.

August 19th – 25th **. Wychurst Work Week**, leading up to Detling
August 26th – 28th. **Military Odyssey.** Our sixth **Major Event** at Kent County Showground, Detling for this popular multi-period event. Dateline, Post Conquest

September 9/10th . **Wychurst Work Weekend**
October 7/8th . **Wychurst Work Weekend**
November 11/12th . **Wychurst Work Weekend**

Other events in planning – watch this space

Dates for your diary for Wychurst Work Weekends in 2007

March 10/11, April 6-9th Easter, 12/13 May (May is a four weekend month in 2007), June 16/17, July 14/15, 19-24 August (Work week, Saturday 18th already booked but we'll probably be OK for that night) Sept 15/16, Oct 20/21, November 3/4