Regia Anglorum

LAMAVI

Regia's Newsletter – issue 9, May 2006

Whitby Abbey, Whitsun Bank Holiday - 27-29th May 2006

A Busy Weekend for Liefr the Dane!

Midsummer approaches in the fateful Year of the Conquest. All along the east coast, fearful folk look seawards for they hear of a great army under a terrible lord, carried southward on the north wind. Harold Godwinsson is the new king and is busy along the south coast from Wight to the North Foreland as he waits for Duke William to cross the narrow sea.

Here, ten days solemn march from London, the folk must fare as best they can & Harald Hardrada, once Lord of the Varangian Guard in Constantinople, leads his navy of four hundred ships to take England from the rear whilst the king is busy in the south. As King in Norway, he rules by foreign conquest and the traitor Tostig, Harold's brother, leads him here with talk of easy pickings.

At the abbey, the folk have more mundane matters at hand and life goes on. The Aethelthryhingas and Aweirgan families have been involved in a blood feud for a number of years. It has been a constant pain for Anlaf Swerkirsson (called by some "Halfdan") and Oswiu, flaring up at various times into some quite horrible violence. There is an end in sight though, although it is rather tragic, as all of the Aethelthryhingas males have been killed. The Anglo-Norwegian lord in Whitby, Brynjolf has now learned that the last major survivor of the family, Cwenthryth is being sheltered and protected by Anlaf. He sets out for Anlaf's to confront Cwenthryth to demand payment of her lands and property as final wergild reparations.

Cwenthryth has been living with the Swerkirsson household for several years now having been taken in upon the insistence of Aelfwynn (her husband is powerless to resist his wife's demands). Here she has been able to enjoy actual physical protection. Recently, Cuthwyn and Litlman have been appointed by the Shire Court to act as guardian. Having heard that Brynjolf is traveling to Anlaf's, they arrive ahead of him to petition Oswiu for a settlement.

Leifr, friend of Anlaf, was recently invited around for a hunting weekend…well, so he thought. Married on Saturday, in court on Sunday and vanished on Monday, it's an eventful weekend for Liefr. He arrives a carefree bachelor & goes home with a new wife, more land than he needs and several chests of silver.

All this against the background of the threat of invasion and forays of the sea pirates preceding Hardrada's main force when the monks just thought they'd be celebration Whitsun……..

Location

The Whitby Abbey (post code Y022 4JT) event for English Heritage is at the site of the magnificent ruined Abbey on the cliff top above the town. It commands spectacular views of the North Sea and the surrounding landscape.

Military

It will be a Viking & Saxon show with a Dateline of 1066. The overall storyline will revolve around the depredations of Harald Hardrada . Our Normans are welcome, of course. I'm sure Hardrada would be delighted to see you!

Living History Exhibit

Full Living History Exhibit open from 11.00am to 5.00pm each day. Cars off the LHE by 9.45am sharp & as the public have access to the site from 10.00am, authentic by then, please. Please remember all fires must be kept off the ground as this is a SSSI.

General daily timetable

10.00am Site Opens
10.00am – 12.00 Warriors at Training
12 noon Saturday, the Wedding. Sunday, Court scene. Monday, boat burial.
1.00pm England's fighting aristocracy – The Thegn in battle
2.00pm Equine display – the Norman horseman at war.
3.00pm Battle for Whitby – Hardrada's men arrive
4.00pm Warriors training
Living History Enacampment 10.00am till 5.00pm

The Wedding
Leifr Hjalmsson (Bill Tate) will marry Cwenthryth Aethelthrythingas (Tina Kay-Bradley) at noon on Saturday. We shall close the LHE to the public during the wedding & everyone is invited to the ceremony which will take place in the nave of the ruined abbey. Posh frocks if you have one, but however basic your kit, all are welcome. There will be a Regia-only PARTY in kit that evening starting about 7.00pm, so please bring some food and booze to contribute to the whole. Full wedding script shown below.

Water, Fires, Toilets Camping Parking
Wood for fires will be provided. There are toilets available at all times.
Private parking and plastic camping is close by and is available from Friday noon.
Access could not be more simple for the plastic site, just follow the detailed map attached to this document.
Please let Cheryl know if you are camping on the LHE so she can organize the site.
cheryl.briggs@btinternet.com

Food, Security etc

We are on the cliff top above the town. It's either a short drive or 199 steps down (and up again!) to the pubs & chippie. There are supermarkets etc a short drive away. Keep your weapons out of site & valuables locked in the boot as always.

Wic Money as usual. No fuel expenses.

Maps and directions

Whitby is on the Yorkshire coast not far from Scarborough. From the south, it may be approached by the A1(M), turning right at Thirsk onto the A170, reaching Whitby via Helmsley. **If you are towing, please note this route is unsuitable and heavily laden vans etc** are recommended to go to Middlesborough (A168 & A19) & take the A174 for Whitby. Further, all those towing or those with a large vehicle such as Martins' horse box, when you get to the site, the entrance will be on your left. Please drive past this and go to the end of the road and turn around using the turning circle and come back to the site, so that the entrance is now on your right hand side. This will allow you a better swing into the site as the entrance is a little tight.

Local Tourist Information Whitby (telephone: 01947 602674)

By Car
Whitby Abbey is on the cliff top East of Whitby (OS Map 94; ref NZ 904115).
By Train
Whitby ½ mile
Scarborough 20miles (then bus services to Whitby)

Bus Access
Bus services to Whitby (Bus and Train Station) ½ mile
Call Traveline for details (telephone: 0870 608 2608)

From Whitby town
By following the signposted routes or via the 199 steps up from Whitby town.

Map location
Click here to view location on streetmap.co.uk

Cycle Routes
Click here to find the nearest Sustrans Cycle Route.
Youth HostelsYHA Youth Hostels in the area: Whitby
(Other YHA Youth Hostels at Boggle Hole 7m, Scarborough 20m)

Wedding details & background

Bill would still like to meet with the major players on Friday evening for a few minutes.

Please note the timing. So we will have an hour's time to dress between the end of the final roleplaying and in place for wedding.

Our Cast (in rough order of appearance)

Anlaf Swerkirsson (Gary Golding) – Shire Reeve of Huntingdon. Currently providing protection for Cwenthryth in his hall.
Oswiu the Lawspeaker (Martin Williams) – Lawspeaker for the Aetheling.
Cuthwyn (Aly Higginson) – Lady of Sarre. Friend of Cwenthryth's family and recently appointed as guardian.
Litlman (Dave Higginson) – Lord of Sarre. As above...Cuthwyn's husband and muscle.
Leifr Hjalmsson (Bill Tate) – Lord of Mildenhale. Innocent victim...thought he was coming to visit Anlaf for a Lad's Night
Out...only to be snared by a woman...okay, so he's actually not that upset about it.
Cwenthryth Aethelthrythingas (Tina Kay-Bradley) – Lady of Wibbandun.
Brynjolf the Peacock (Paddy OConnell) - Heir to Awiergan family.
Aelfwynn Anlafswif (Gill Golding) – Wife of Anlaf.
Other cast to be added. There will be a number of supporting roles, to include persons to act as entourages and witnesses.

The Story Unfolding

10 AM - Start Time - Opening Scene:
Players: Anlaf, Oswiu, Cuthwyn and Litlman
Content: Discussion of what has happened up to that time and how to resolve the situation.
(This will also give the audience necessary background.)
Cuthwyn and Litlman will leave at some point to retrieve Cwenthryth to bring her along to introduce her to Leifr.

Scene 2:
Players: Anlaf, Oswiu, Leifr – later Cuthwyn, Litlman, Cwenthryth, Aelfwynn
Content: Arrival of Leifr's party. Cwenthryth brought in a little later to offer welcoming cup...that is when the fatal...er, I mean, momentous first eye contact is exchanged.
Women to retire, possibly have giggle and exchange before leaving (so audience may hear, but not the men).
Leifr to begin quest for details about Cwenthryth.

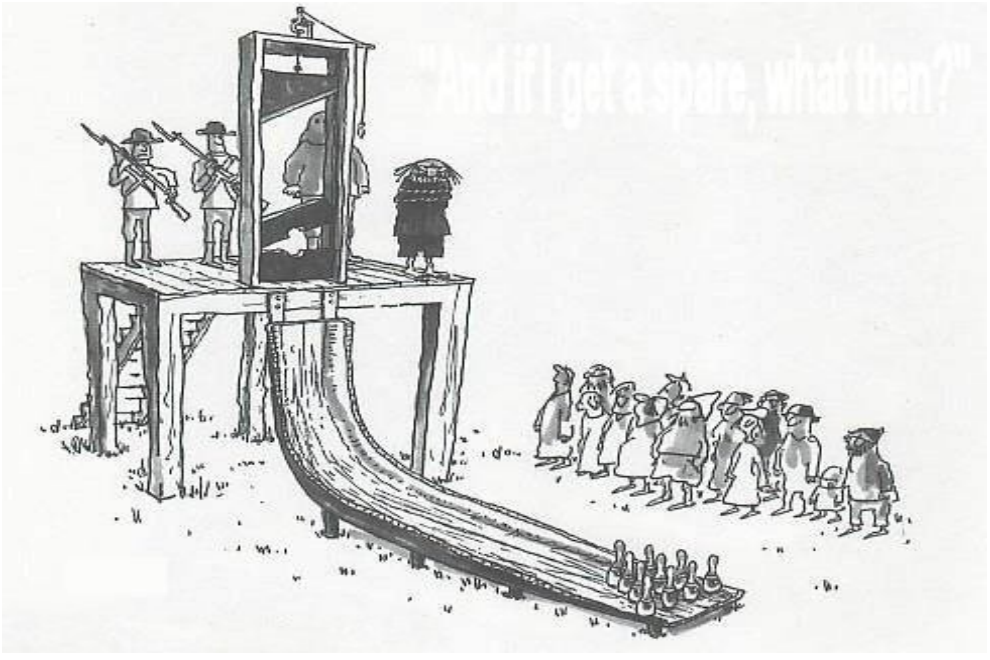
Scene 3:
Players: Anlaf, Oswiu, Leifr, Brynjolf
Content: Brynjolf arrives ready to pursue justice on behalf of his family. General mayhem with shouting, sword-waving, etc.
Anlaf and Oswiu eventual settle the riot and resolution of wergild claim.

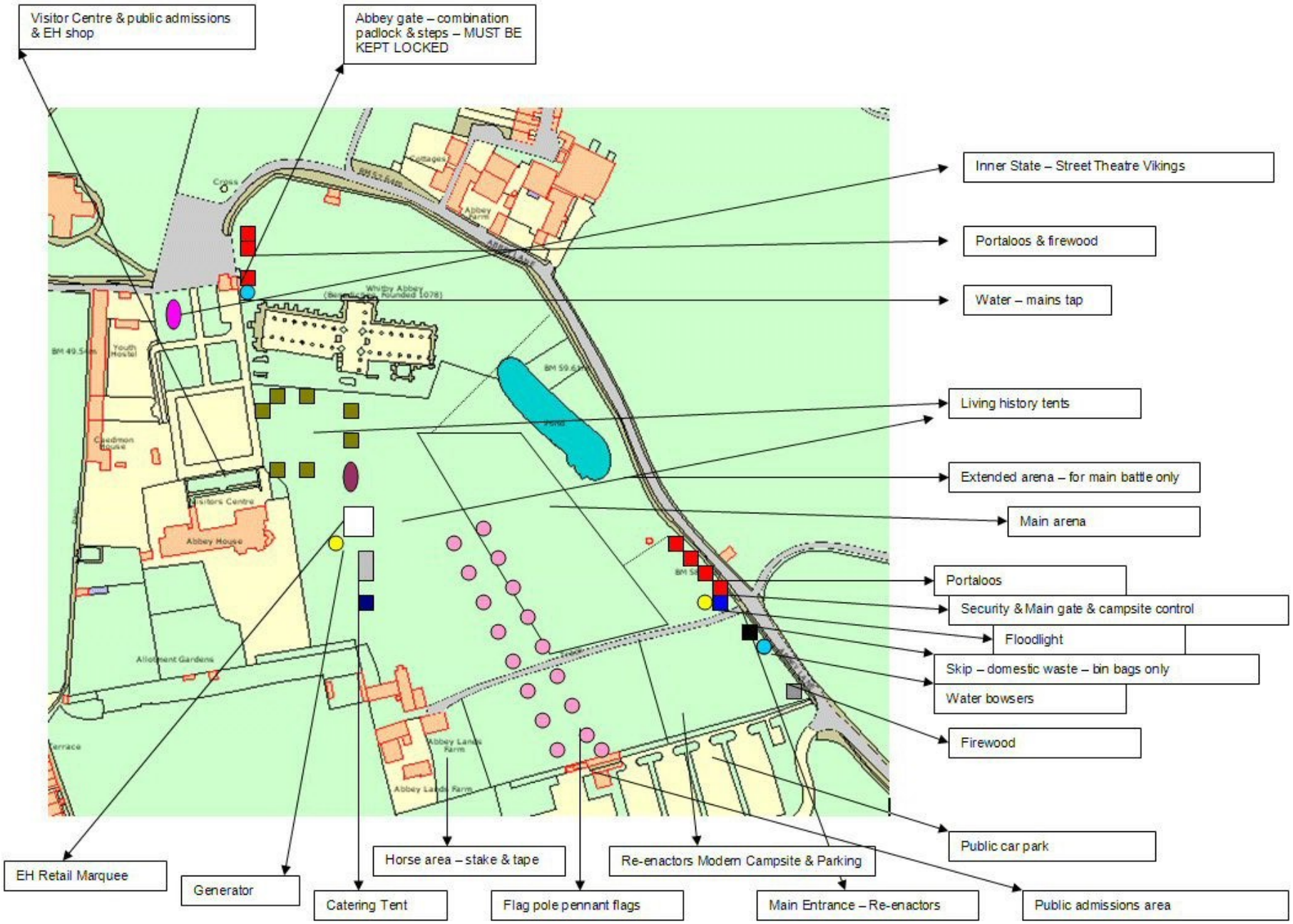
Scene 4:
Players: Anlaf, Oswiu, Leifr, Brynjolf (?), Cuthwyn, Litlman
Content: Proposal of marriage with Cuthwyn and Litlman acting as Cwenthryth's voice.

11 AM - End of roleplaying. Time for dressing for wedding.

Wedding

12 AM - Start Time
To take place in the nave of the ruined Abbey in period fashion.




Visitor Centre & public admissions & EH shop
Abbey gate – combination padlock & steps – MUST BE KEPT LOCKED
Inner State – Street Theatre Vikings
Portaloos & firewood
Water – mains tap
Living history tents
Extended arena – for main battle only
Main arena
Portaloos
Security & Main gate & campsite control
Floodlight
Skip – domestic waste – bin bags only
Water bowsers
Firewood
Public car park
Public admissions area
Main Entrance – Re-enactors
Flag pole pennant flags
Re-enactors Modern Campsite & Parking
Horse area – stake & tape
Catering Tent
Generator
EH Retail Marquee
Whitby Abbey
Youth Hostel
Caedmon House
Visitors Centre
Abbey House
Allotment Gardens
Abbey Lands Farm
Pond

Horton cum Studley show – 3rd – 4th June 2006

Preamble.
They liked us so much at the Winter Training Weekend, they wanted us for their show! We are in the village of Horton cum Studley again, just four miles further along the B4027 from Islip. We can arrive from the afternoon of Friday 2nd June and there is a client commitment for the Saturday. Sunday, training & a leisurely wrap & pack.

As far as we are concerned, it is a standard weekend with LHE & combat etc. The hall is in use and we are camping as usual at events. The field is very large & there will be plenty of room for all. **I'm very much aware that this show is the weekend after Whitby. However, it is a proper national Regia show and I do hope you'll make that extra effort to be there – there isn't another event for six weeks, after all.**

There are full size tennis courts and even an adventure playground for the kids. A footpath runs out the back of the site that connects with the village pub "The Lodge" a whole hundred yards away. The footpath is even lit at night!

Military
Training in the morning of both days, battle on Saturday only. Paddy O'Connell thinks this will be an excellent opportunity for experienced warriors and new joiners alike to get together. Training sessions will take place on both days. All Regia Training Officers are politely requested to do let Paddy O'Connell (07837 922802 or Brynjolf@btopenworld.com) know if they are attending or not.

Craft training
Craft training sessions will take place, details to be arranged. If you would like to learn – or teach - something specific, please contact Cheryl Briggs on 0115-9524-900 or 07946-415344.
cheryl.briggs@btinternet.com

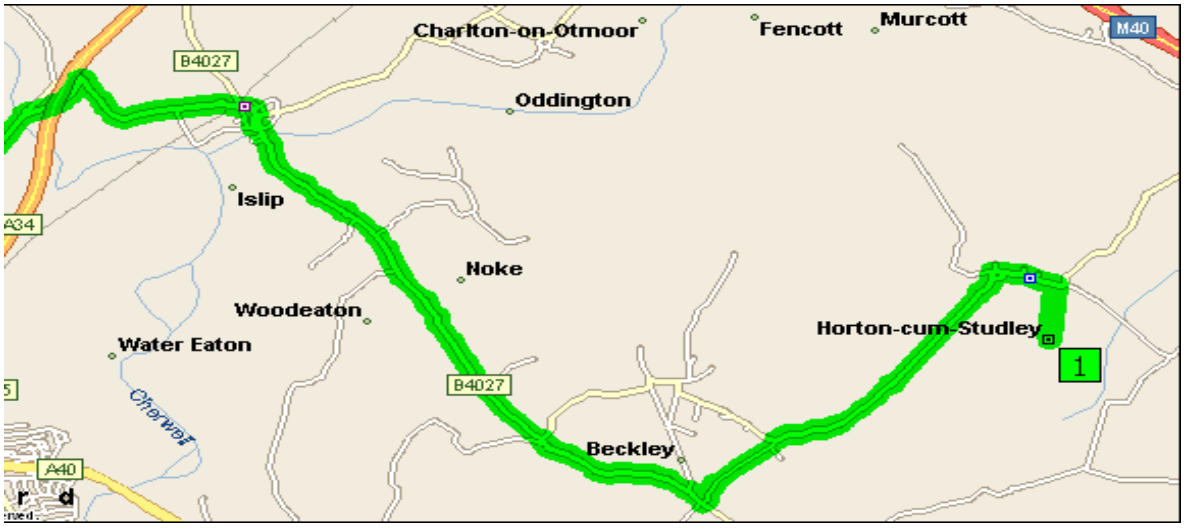
Water, toilets, camping, parking
These facilities will be available 24 hours a day. Access for vehicles could not be easier straight in off the road. Pleas modern camp in the area indicated.

Food and stuff
About the only drawback to this site is there is no village shop or petrol station, although there is a very good shop in the next village two miles away & a full sized Tescos in the village of Wheatley, six miles away.

Security
We are not expecting any security problems in this peaceful English village with its population of just over 600. However, I'd lock valuables in the boot of your car if I were you, just as you would anywhere else.

Maps & directions
Horton cum Studley is close to the A34 and just about ten miles due north of Oxford. From the A34, follow the B4027 & pass the village of Islip. Continue on the B4027 & look out for signs to Horton cum Studley, pointing left off this road about four miles further along. Immediately before the village sign, you will see a sign on the left verge saying "Millennium Hall" and pointing to the right into a gateway. Please park tidily.

Fiscal matters
No expenses, no Hardship Money. Wic subsidy as usual.



Kitspecs for Whitby, May 2006

Dateline, mid eleventh century

ENCOURAGED	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
	Men's clothing	
Tunics rucked up to knee level	Shorter tunics to knee level	Unhemmed garments
Rucked sleeves for tunics	Loose sleeves for tunics	Long, droopy sleves
	Hedeby jackets [3]	Split front tunics
	Birka jackets [3]	All jackets [1]
Bare legs	Loose legged trousers [1]	Baggy trousers to knee [1]
Trousers or hose tight to legs	Baggy trousers to knee [2] [3]	
Loose legged trousers [2]		
Leg bindings		
Rectangular cloaks	Semi-circular cloaks	Mantels
	"Irish style" cloaks [2]	
Belts/ties hidden by Tunics	Visible belts/waist ties [1]	Visible box pouches
Visible belts / waist ties [2]	Knot to finish off belt end	
Satchels/sacks	Small tagged/drawstring pouches	
Low shoes/low boots/ bare feet	Tall boots [3]	
	Women's clothing	
Wimples	headscarfs	Bareheaded women/teenage girls
Coppergate caps		Obviously dyed hair
Loose sleeved overdresses	loose sleeve/pleated underdresses	Wide sleeved dresses
Tight Sleeve overdresses	Hangerock set [2], [3]	Bilauts
Tight sleeve underdresses	Short (above ankle) dresses	Dresses above mid-calf
Bare legs	Loose legged trousers	Baggy trousers
Trousers or hose tight to legs		
Leg bindings		
Square cloaks	Semi-circular cloaks	
	Mantels [1]	
Low shoes/low boots/ bare feet		Tall boots

ENCOURAGED	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
Spangenhelms	Round helms	Vendel/valsgarde helms
Hardened leather caps	Coppergate helms [1]	Boar crested helms
Gjermundbu helms [2]	Great polish helms [2],[3]	
Byrnies – Unsplit	Vandyked mail	Integral coifed hauberks
Byrnies – Sidesplit		Separate coifs
Leather jacks (As armour or under mail)	Splinted arm/leg protection [2],[3]	Byrnies – front/back split
Padded jacks under mail	Padded jacks as armor [4]	Mailed arm/leg protection
1-handed spears	Winged spears	angons
2-handed spears		
All hand axes	Axes with no edge protector	franciscas
	Axe loops	Broadaxes
Scramseaxes		Double edged knives
Hadseaxes		Un-scabbarded Knives
C10th c sword types	C8th-9th sword types	Disc pommels
Swords on baldricks	Swords on swordbelts	Flanged maces
		Un-scabbarded swords
Flat round shields	2d curved round shields	
Lenticular shields		Unbossed shields
Kite shields		
Longbows		
Arrows in quivers		
Crossbows		

Calendar of Events - summer 2006

May 26/29th. **BayCon**: San Jose, California, USA
May 27-30th (Whitsun Bank Holiday). **Whitby Abbey.** North Yorks. **Major show.** Dateline, Post Conquest

June 4th. **Birkenhead Priory** . Wirhalh Skip Felag Local Show. Sunday only
June 3rd/4th. Horton-cum-Studley, Oxfordshire. **National event.**
June 10th. **Ardenwood Celtic Festival**: Fremont, California. USA.
June 10th-11th **Wychurst Work Weekend**
June 17/18th. **Druid's Ring Fort** at Canwell Nr Sutton Coldfield. Training weekend & School days to follow.
June 18th **Guy's Farm Activity Centre**, Lancaster. CdN Local Show. (Sunday only)

July 1/2nd. **Durham show.** St Cuthbertsland Local show.
July 1/2nd. **Northwich Salt Museum.** Cestrescire Local show.
July 1/2nd. **Festival of Leather,** Capel Manor College, Enfield. Grantanbrg local show. Dateline, TBA
July 2nd. **Sloop Festival.** Haestingas Local Show in Haywards Heath. Dateline 950AD.
July 8/9th. **Old Ft. MacArthur Days** and Artillery Show, Los Angeles, California, USA.
July 8/9th. **Oakland Dunsmuir Highland Games**: Oakland, California. USA.
July 8/9th . **Shrewsbury medieval heritage weekend**. MDM Local show. Dateline late 1100's
July 8th-9th **Wychurst Work Weekend**
July 15th . **Kingsley Carnival.** Wirhalh Skip Felag Local Show
July 15/16th . **Royal Gunpowder Mills**, Waltham Abbey. **Major Show**. Dateline TBA
July 29/30th . **Attingham Park** for the National Trust. MDM local show. Dateline late 1100's

August 5/6th. **Peverill arrives in Castleton,** Peak District National Park**. Major Show**. Dateline 1080.
August 19th – 25th **. Wychurst Work Week**, leading up to Detling
August 20th .- **Tatton Park.** Cestrescire Local show.
August 26th – 28th. **Military Odyssey.** Our sixth **Major Event** at Kent County Showground, Detling for this popular multi-period event. Dateline, Post Conquest

September 2/3rd. **Pleasanton Highland Games,** Pleasanton, California. USA - The wedding of Somerled and Ragnhild.
September 2nd. **Tankerness Museum**, Kirkwall, Orkney. Saturday only. Local event, contact Hrolf & Vara.
September 9/10th . **Wychurst Work Weekend**
October 7/8th . **Wychurst Work Weekend**
November 11/12th . **Wychurst Work Weekend**

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.