



Enter the Norsemen — on cue!

THE FOUR HEAVILY-ARMED men strolled into the 'Inn', putting swords and axes to one side. One of the men removed his metal helmet and placed his order with the landlord.

"Fill this up," he said, handing the man his drinking horn. "And can we have the billiard light on please?"

To the stranger sitting in the Carpenters Arms in Canterbury's Black Griffin Lane the scene may have caused some surprise, but to the regular customer on a Tuesday evening the sight of "Norsemen" propping up the bar is something they have got used to.

The four are members of the Canterbury Wolfshead

Sveiter (local battleground) of the Norse film and pageant society.

Local leader is Richard Ellender, known as the Yak. "We exist to entertain, and instruct the public, not to beat buckets of blood out of each other," he says.

The costume is as authentic as they can get it although the weapons, whilst made of steel or iron, are not edged and mock battles are carefully-staged events.

The local group covers east of the Medway and Mr. Ellender says any prospective members can contact him on Canterbury 64794.

Canterbury's own "Norsemen" from the left, are Peter Ashby, Brin Blacklaw, Nick Gibbon and their leader Richard Ellender, ready for a game of bar billiards, Norse-style, in the Carpenters Arms.