

Cambridge Quay News  
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# Dark Age warriors do battle

**A CALL to arms is being made by a band of Viking warriors ready to do battle.**

**By STEPHEN BLEASE  
Pictures by GARETH FULLER**

A recruitment drive has been launched by a Royston-based society which recreates warfare from the Dark Ages.

The group, known as "The Gesithas" – the Anglo-Saxon word for companions – currently has 14 members but is looking for more.

Members dress in Viking, Anglo-Saxon or Norman costume and act out battles and other scenes from early English history.

Group leader Paul Allen said they were often invited to stage reconstructions for school groups or organisations such as English Heritage.

He added: "We have travelled around the country and further

afield. This year we went to Norway and next year we are planning a trip to Sweden."

Members can dress as warriors and take part in battle reenactments or specialise in Dark Age crafts. Mr Allen said the group already had a blacksmith, embroiderers and weavers.

New members can acquire their costumes bit by bit and start-up packs are available for the more expensive items.

During the winter months the group normally rehearses on Therfield Heath on Sunday afternoons.

Anyone wanting to find out more should contact Mr Allen on (01763) 838759,

Ready to do battle . . . group leader Paul Allen, above, wields his battleaxe in combat, while, right, he shows off the authentic recreation of a Dark Age warrior's uniform, worn by members of the Royston-based The Gesithas during their recreation of early British history. 9198M-32/25.

