

# THE RAVENS WING

*Fallow 995*



THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD !

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Firstly thanks to all of you for the flowers and card after our recent accident. I obviously won't be doing many shows for the next few weeks and until I'm back in action Steve is in charge. I will be at the Hillingdon show though (be a bit silly to miss that one !). Havn't we all been busy bunnies since the last newsletter. We have arranged 2 Minor shows and attended lots more as a summary of our recent attendances shows :

20/5	St. Micheals School, Aldershot	: 10 Adults	3 Juniors
21/5	Rushden Lions, Northampton	: 4 Adults	2 Juniors
28/5	Tynemouth Castle	: 13 Adults	6 Juniors
8/6	Gunnersbury Park Museum	: 5 Adults	
10/6	Scout Show, Aldershot	: 14 Adults	5 Juniors
17/6	Aldershot	: 2 Adults	4 Juniors

WELL DONE EVERYBODY !

Apart from my page, in this issue we have :

- i) The first installment of 'Hrothgars Saga'
- ii) Maps to the shows on 2nd July (Birmingham) and 9th July (Hillingdon)
- iii) Details of some filming in Cornwall

RECRUITMENT. We continue to recruit steadily and our membership currently stands at 35, (22 Warriors/Archers, 1 non-combatant and 12 juniors).

TRAINING. Congratulations to all those who passed their formation combat test at Tynemouth Castle. It is important for our progress to Herred status that those of you who are Frihals but who did not take the test at Tynemouth make it a priority over the next couple of months. Venues for the formation test will be Flag Fen, Peterborough on 26/27 August or York on 23/24 September. If a few more of you can pass this test we will be able to take our Herred test at Battle Abbey in October. It is also a requirement that you take this test before progressing on to other weapon skills like Spear, Daneaxe or Florentine. The training session for 9th July has been cancelled because of the Hillingdon show but the usual venue in Bordon is booked for training as follows:

6th	August
16th	September
8th & 29th	October
12th & 26th	November
10th	December

After some discussions we have decided to volunteer ourselves as Normans for Battle Abbey. We will be providing kite-shields for all those who need one. These will cost approx 5.00 each (unpainted and unrimmed).

Written this 20th day of Fallow in the year 995 in the village of Colham by Hrothgar, scribe to Guthroth of the Manargafan.



**Hrothgar's Saga**  
By  
**Grumpy Gunghosson**

994 Thorgrim Sigmundsson called Hrothgar Bokraeder, Halgerd Eiricsdotta, Lief Tyrsson, Erling Rigsson and Ottar Haraldsson to be his High Councillors and they all agreed. Aelfgifu, a woman of his household, prepared a fine feast for them all at their first meeting and kept account of their words.

Olaf Trygvasson and Swein Forkbeard came to London, on the Nativity of St Mary, with ninety-four ships, fighting constantly in the city, and they meant, moreover, to set it on fire. But they suffered more harm and evil than they ever believed any town-dwellers could have done them. In this God's holy mother showed her mercy to the town-dwellers and delivered them from their enemies; then they went from there and wrought the most evil that any force had ever done, in burning, ravaging and killing, both along the sea-coast, in East Seaxe and Cantware, Suth Seaxe and Hamtun Scir; finally they seized horses for themselves, and rode as widely as they would, working unspeakable evil.

**Hrothgar and Thorgeir fall out**

Thorgeir was not happy that another of his Ulfhednar was made a Jarl of the High Council, he was still angry about Ulf-eirik being sent into exile and started to make trouble. At a feast held by Valgard Toebreaker in honour of Astrid, he announced that he would no longer support the Host for that year and called on Hrothgar and Halgerd to leave the High Council and support him. Halgerd was not there but later agreed with Hrothgar in this matter, they would not support Thorgeir over this as they thought Ulf-eirik had got his just deserts. Hrothgar only held his temper with difficulty and left the feast early as he had no wish for more bad blood to come between him and Thorgeir. Valgard and Astrid were solicitous of his feelings and wished him and Muirigan well of their journey home. Valgard was very angry that his guest had had to leave and talked little to Thorgeir. Guthrothr Belly-Shaker was late arriving and when he heard what had been said he too was angry and spent much time deep in conversation with Thorgeir on the matter.

After much bitter and sad argument in the next months Hrothgar and Halgerd left the Ulfhednar. Soon they were followed by Valgard Toe Breaker, Astrid and Guthrothr Belly-Shaker, Red Orm the Aged said he would wait the year out and then may join them. Freya the Puddle was much distressed by all this and left the Ulfhednar.

**Manaraefan**

They travelled south, meeting on their way other dispossessed Vikingar separated from the force of Olaf Trygvasson either by misadventure or the receiving of grievous wounds in combat. They did join together and fall upon the hamlet of Alton, slaying many Saxon warriors and taking their homes and women. Here they did stay, wintering in comfort but emerging to join the invading Viking armies in the summer months to lay waste the Ynglingalish towns and villages and take their share of Danegeld. They called themselves the Manaraefan. Guthrothr Belly-Shaker was their Sturaesman and Valgard Toe Breaker and Astrid were his Thegns.



determined advance and were only able to trade a few blows before being fatally struck down. Victory was with the Host but Boon the Hun was sorely wounded, he suffered a blow to his face by a left handed enemy, Hedde of Mercia took him to a safe place to have his wound tended.

### Muirigan is captured

While Hrothgar was away Muirigan determined to take her son to see his grandfather. Orm Longarm of Dane Law and Lief Tyrsson owed Hrothgar a service and agreed to escort Muirigan through the dangerous lands that she had to cross. With a band of brave warriors they set out guided by Muirigan.

On the second day of their journey the party was attacked by dark elves and other fell creatures, Lief, Orm and their followers fought well but no sooner had they killed a foe than the creature rose up again. After a desperate struggle they were defeated and while unconscious from their wounds Muirigan and Owain were captured and carried off. The warriors would have bled to death where they lay had not a thrall come out of hiding to help them. This thrall, whose name was Hedde, bandaged their wounds and told them in what direction the elves had gone with their prisoners. When they had recovered Lief and Orm led the band in pursuit.

At a fork in the path they found Muirigan's head scarf and knew which path to follow. After a long climb up hill they came upon an old crone picking flowers, this was Josehagga the Unlovable, she immediately tried to seduce the handsomest warriors. Lief recoiled at her advances and she cursed his sword, another warrior was so overcome with disgust at the sight of the crone that she cursed his shield. Despite this they tried to make her tell them which way the elves had taken their prisoners but she refused to tell unless they loved her. Orm Longarm grew angry and took her by the hair and would have cut her throat had not Wilfrith of Aescesdun, a warrior of poor taste or strong stomach, not stopped him and agreed to love the hag. Once satisfied Josehagga told them what path the elves had taken.

The warriors followed the path through a dense and overgrown forest and were very nervous that they may be ambushed. After a long walk they heard a woman's scream, such was their trepidation that they immediately hid. Overcoming their fear they crept towards the screams and discovered two men trying to rape a woman dressed in Muirigan's clothes. They politely asked what was going on and a dauntless warrior replied that they should mind their own business. At this point the party attacked the rapists and slew them, Lief Tyrsson struck one of them many times but his sword had no effect, he commented on this afterwards but thought his opponent must have had armour under his tunic. The warrior with the cursed shield was stunned to find that it fell apart as soon as it was struck. Someone suggested taking the weapons of the two rapists but Lief warned against it, he said that they may be cursed.

The rescued woman was very upset but told the warriors that she was Milli the Loose and that she had found the clothes abandoned not far away. She agreed to take them to the place if they would protect her. They followed the round about path along which Milli led them, but as they came to the cross roads where she had discovered the discarded garments they were attacked by trolls. The fight was very savage and Milli was killed, some of the warriors were gravely wounded and again Lief Tyrsson's sword had no effect.

As they tended the wounded they discovered that Milli had fallen upon a board



Hrothgar drew Orcblender and fought them until with the help of others they were slain.

After the battle Konungr Thorgrim Sigmundsson held an Althing and some good judgments were made, there were two issues of contention. The first over the right of a guest to speak, this was not allowed as only Dreng of the Host were allowed to speak at the Host's Althings. The other was a challenge by Jarl Sigve Halvdansson Cerdinger that Jarl Thorgeir answer for his actions towards the Host over the last year. As Thorgeir was not there to answer Sigve agreed to place his challenge in abeyance until Thorgeir was present.

### Tutenburgh

The Host was then led by Konungr Thorgrim Sigmundsson to Tutenburgh where they helped Aethelfleda of Mercia against her uncle Magnus. Hrothgar and Thorgrim escorted Aethelfleda when she went to see Magnus and attempted to settle their dispute without bloodshed, on the way she was thrown from her horse but was not hurt, the horse bolted and she had to continue on foot. Magnus would not listen to Aethelfleda's words of peace and the two leaders went to prepare for battle. While preparing for the coming battle competitions were held by the Host, Orm Longarm won that held by the warriors and Hrothgar beat Boon the Hun to win a fine scramaseax in the archery competition.

Guthrothr Belly-shaker and Red Orm the Aged were the only other warriors from the Manaraefan there and they fought well in the shield wall. Hrothgar used his bow in the battle and slew some notable warriors with it and his sword Orcblender. One Saxon thegn led a small force which broke through the Host's lines and slew one of the archers that Hrothgar was leading. Hrothgar cut one of them down with Orcblender and the others were driven off by warriors of the Host. Despite the efforts of brave warriors like the Saxon thegn Magnus was defeated and killed, Aethelfleda held a great funeral for him and the Godi Jarl Sigve Halvdansson Cerdinger said it was well done. Aethelfleda was pleased with the help the Host had given her and paid them well, Halgerd supervised the distribution of her silver to the warriors of Host.

After the battle Konungr Thorgrim Sigmundsson held a meeting with his High Council and took their advice on a number of issues of concern. After this the Host broke up for the winter with the Herreds making small raids about Ynglingaland. Aescsedun took their swords to Otmoor and Basing, at the latter place the Manaraefan also went and there they were joined by new warriors to the Host. At Basing Sturaesman Guthrothr Belly-Shaker led the Manaraefan and with him were Valgard Toe-Breaker, Hrothgar, Red Orm the Aged, Eirik the Down-Trodden and Halfdan Eiriksson. Hrothgar again used his bow, he put many of the foe to the ground with well placed arrows as well as slaying some with Orcblender. When the enemy fled he sent many arrows in pursuit of them.

### Gold

Sigurd the Scared, Bjorn Frie and Karl, warriors of Jotunheim, Tarant and Mikan the Dane, warriors of Aescsedun and the Thegn Magnus Thorkelsson, went together in search plunder. They came upon a village which had been sacked, while searching for anything of value they discovered a women hiding in the ruins of a hut. They helped her and asked what had happened, she told them that the village had been attacked and the

rocks. Mildreth explained that there was a spell on the chest, if opened by her with her key it would contain gold, if opened any other way rocks would be found, didn't they read the inscription?

They decided to go back to the village and were surprised to find the chest, it was locked and felt heavy. While puzzling over this mystery they were attacked by more raiders who were hidden about the village. The party were at first driven from the place and had a hard fight and Karl was again wounded, eventually they overcame their attackers. Mildreth now agreed to open the chest and give the party half the gold it contained. Bjorn took the gold and the others wandered off towards the trolls nest where they intended to set up camp. As they moved away from the village Magnus and Sigurd attacked and killed Karl, Tarant ran off thinking they intended to attack him also. Sigurd called him back promising his safety, it was only Karl they did not wish to share with as they felt he had not earned the gold. Because of this Magnus is now called by some the Killer. As Sigurd ran and threw away his shield he is still called the Scared.

### Wise Council

Then king Aethelred and his counsellors advised that the force be sent to, and tribute and provisions promised them, so that they would leave off harrying. Then they accepted that and the whole force came to Omtune, and took winter quarters there. They were provisioned throughout all the West-Saxon kingdom, and they were given sixteen thousand pounds. Then king Aethelred sent bishop Aelfheah and ealdorman Aethelweard to Olaf Trygvasson, and meanwhile, hostages were exchanged in the ships. Then they led Olaf, with much celebration, to Aethelred at Andover. King Aethelred received him of the bishop's hands, and gave him kingly gifts. Olaf promised him - and also did as he promised - that he would never again come to the Ynglingalish people in enmity.

Konungr Thorgrim Sigmundsson called his Jarls, Sturaesmen and Thegns to council to take advice from them and plan the campaigns for the next year. They met him at Rheged-dale and much good work was done. Hrothgar went there with Guthrothr Belly-shaker and on their arrival was well looked after by Ottar Haraldsson, though there was great confusion amongst the cooks of his household. The laws of Hrafn were here ratified by Thorgrim and his Jarls and much other good work was done. Thorgeir here gave wise council on many matters. Here it was that Hrothgar heard that a dozen warriors had left Ragnar Thorskal, Jarl of Tyrslith. They had decided to set up on their own in the hope of getting a greater share of the booty taken from the Saxons in the following year; they called themselves Draum Broedr. When Hrothgar and Guthrothr returned they were blown off course by storms. A great long beast with many red eyes trailed before them into the far distance, it would not let them past and they were driven to take another course.

After this the Manaraefan spent the winter months preparing for the next years campaigns, and training the new warriors that eagerly joined them from the south. Ulf-Bjorn Arrow-breaker, Totra, Fian, Ellisif, Snarri, Dagfiend Scoffa, Freyja, Cormack, and Halla all joined the Manaraefan in those months.

# Kingshurst Carnival

Sunday  
2nd July  
1995



**Kingshurst Carnival**

From M6 Junction 4, A446 towards Coleshill, B4114 towards Chelmsley Woods, cross over A452 (Collector Road), Cross over A47 (Chester Road) into Cooks Lane, First right into Fordbridge Road, almost immediately on left is carpark.

From M42 NEC junction, A45 Coventry Road towards Coventry. Stonebridge island turn left on A446 Chester road (keep left approaching Stonebridge island as the main road now goes over the top). Keep on Chester Road which shortly becomes the A452 until Cooks Lane, turn left into Cooks Lane, First right into Fordbridge Road, almost immediately on left is carpark.

Fordbridge Road,  
Kingshurst,  
Nr. Chelmsley Wood,  
Birmingham

Contact John Sheard  
0121 784 6408



## EVENT TIMING

11.00 am Sunday morning MUSTER at at the show ground. TRAINING SESSIONS and TESTS.

1.00 pm Join the Parade.

2.30 pm First 20 minute combat.  
Followed possibly by archery competition.

4.30 pm Second slightly longer combat.

DAHRG will set up a couple of authentic tents to act as a rallying point and for any Craftspeople/villager/actors etc. to demo to the public. Sunday morning and between battles there will be opportunity for training and possibly tests.

Camping, camp fire, and sing song will be available on Saturday night for anyone wishing to travel down after Camie's Warrington Show on Saturday & a Friday evening stop over could be arranged.

We need an even mix of Viking/Saxon warriors with a total of about 50 on the battle field. As with the Rushden show the battle will be light on script and heavy on action.

Notify me before the event if you are coming to ensure you are counted in for the payout.

John Sheard 0121 784 6408



BISHOPSHOLT SCHOOL SHOW

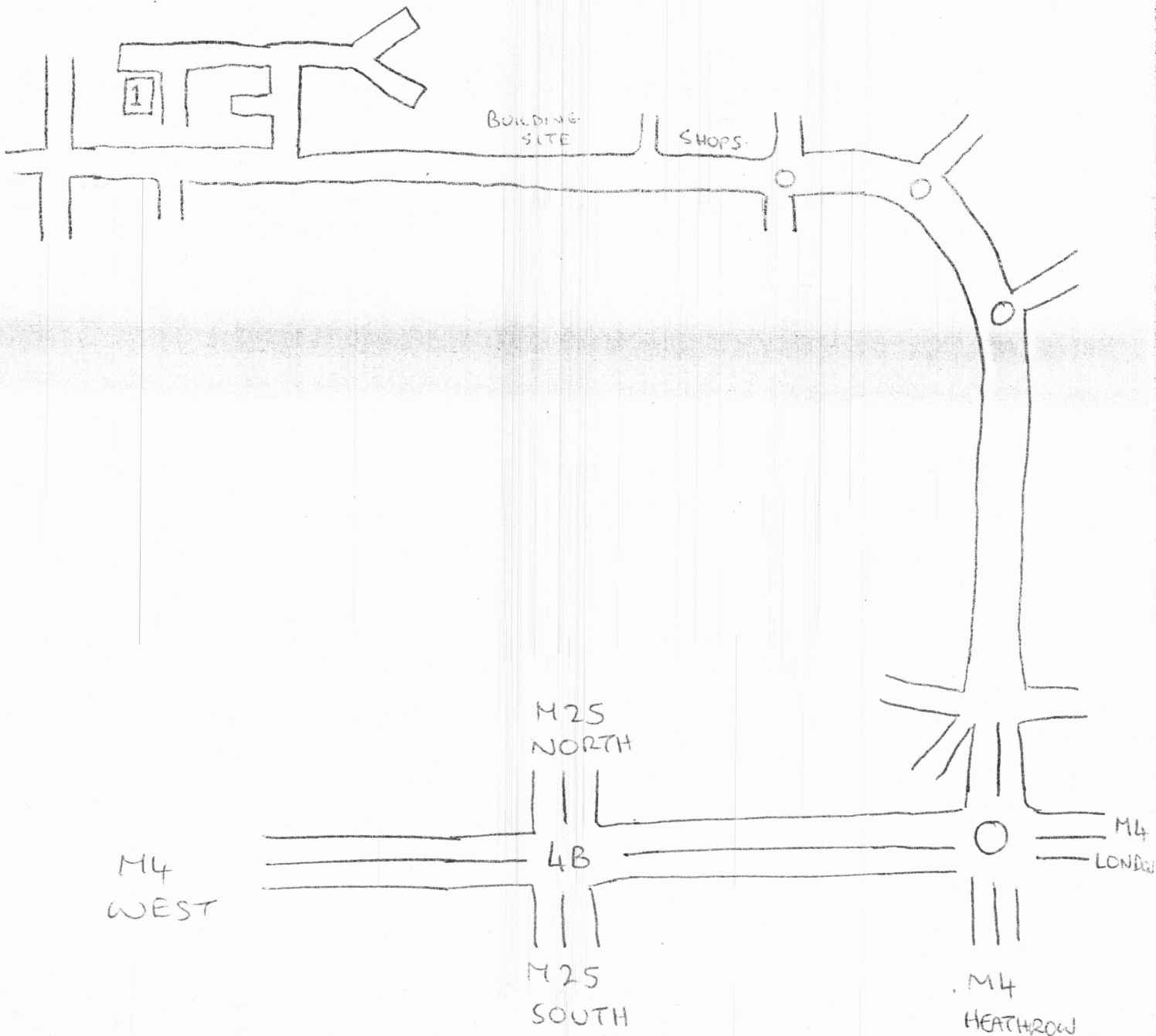
SUNDAY 9th JULY

HILLINGDON MIDDLESEX

Another minor show for us. I have proposed the same sort of show/setup as the St. Micheals school event, but this time we should be able to have a Shoot-the-Viking stand.

Having looked at th map the easiest thing is to muster at my house at 1.30.

See you there !



FILMING AT TINTAGEL CASTLE

5th - 6th JULY

THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE A SMALL NUMBER (ABOUT 15) VIKINGS FOR TWO DAYS FILMING FOR OUR OLD FRIENDS CROMWELL VIDEO. THEY ARE OFFERING 35.00 PER DAY PLUS FOOD AND TRAVELING EXPENSES. THEY REQUIRE BOTH VIKING AND IRISH WARRIORS, AND HAVE A STARING ROLE FOR A YOUNG (20-15h) BLONDE MALE WARRIOR.

ANYONE INTERESTED SHOULD CONTACT PAUL LYDIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON 01706 344773

## Ragnar The Viking

