

To the Men and Women of the Raven, Greetings.

Hello everyone,

I think I can speak for everyone who was there and say how much fun Battle Abbey was. We didn't have any serious problems with the weather or EH officials and the shows went well. The Kiddie Vike was fun but a little spoiled on the second day when Halla from Temesvik fell over and broke her ankle in two places. As she advanced on the children I saw her fall before them and a crowd of kids attacked her; luckily Steve was on hand and realising something was wrong went to the rescue.

We also had a small problem with an over zealous authenticity person; Shelagh will be writing to the Runestaff with some advice on tact and diplomacy!

Most of us went to the pub on Saturday night and sat around our fire on Sunday, both were enjoyable evenings.

We had a good turnout for our first show, over fifty percent of the Herred was there and we had ten warriors on the field. I must mention the sterling efforts of Les as standard bearer – I couldn't take a leak without him following me about with the banner! I went out for a single combat with Bob and he came with me and had to be shooed away. Les's only failing was that his loyalty ended with my death! In one action I was killed and instead of defending my body he went off in search of a new leader. Simon did stay and defend my corpse but I suspect he was just too knackered to go any where else.

Geng and Frania were seen recycling warriors with bloody bandages, I had mine with me but didn't seem to have time give any first aid. I can see this being a job for non-combatants.

Kath Hall made herself indispensable as head chef and bottle washer, it was great to come off the battlefield to be greeted with a bowl of hot stew, normally I just starve until the public go away. I'm sure everyone, especially the warriors, will wish me to express our thanks for her efforts.

I'd also like to thank those that acted as dummies for me when I was giving my weapons lecture. Shelagh too for talking to the public about weaving and of course Steve and Les for selling the children for a good price! Maybe we could set up a slave market some time?

Thanks to everyone for the work done and the general good humour.

We have some additional events coming up:

13/14 April - Society Training Weekend Walesby (details in Runestaff)

18/19 May - Llangollen (Cwmwd Ial show) more details to follow.

1 June - Manaraefan show, Yeovilton. Full LHE, two arena slots (must take our arena!), at least 10 participants wanted. Must be ready to start by 10 o'clock, finish at 5 o'clock.

14 June - Manaraefan visit to Rookwood School, at least four people needed but more welcome.

21 June - Manaraefan show Dunbury School Start 5 o'clock, finish 8 o'clock. LHE and warrior combat, kiddie vike and Hrothgar's story.

21-23 June - Manaraefan show Basing House, multi period show. Two to four people and small LHE for visit by school parties on Friday. Full LHE warriors and crafts for Saturday and Sunday.

June is a busy month for us and will be our main fund raising for the year. It is a good month for us to have all these localish shows as there are no major Society shows that month. I would appreciate it if you would let me know if you can't make any of these events. When arranging these things we are usually committed to a minimum number of participants, so if I know that we might have trouble fulfilling those commitments I can ring round for help from other groups. Talking to the organisers they all sound like fun events.

That's all from me now, see you soon

Roger