

Raven's Wing

27th October 2002

To the Men & Women of the Raven, Greetings.

Hi Everyone,

It sound like everyone had a good time at Battle Abbey. I arrived at the LHE at about 9 o'clock having dropped Kathy, Owain and Patrick of at our B&B. After blundering about in the dark I eventually found a pile of kit that I recognised as ours. Just as I was wondering what to do next Mo and Les turned up. we started to set up the awning and then Steve, Dave, Neil and Maria arrived and we got the awning up pretty quickly. Everything else was just dumped under it for cover and we all set off for booze and food.

Next morning was very wet and made setting up the rest of the camp awkward, I had a reporter and photographer in tow and with the help of Russell looked after him for most of the morning. As soon as possible I dumped him onto Steve who gave him enough training to enable him to stand in the shield wall and experience the event first hand.

The battle went well as far as I could tell. The memorable points for me were: Dave and I shooting Tarrant from Hwicce within half a second of each other, two arrows thudded into his side in of the audience and he just had to go down. Les Turned up late for the main battle on Saturday and had a Saxon looking chap in tow, this guy was wearing glasses and had a bow but no arrows, apparently he thought we were providing them! We sent him to the Saxons and told him to shoot back our arrows! Simons fight against Tallifer an Sunday was much better than the fight on Saturday, this time Tallifer took a lance and charged him down, there was much more movement. The best moment for me was when I shot King Harold, we were shooting high and it was about the time Trix was supposed to "die" as King Harold, I saw my arrow hit him and down he went. Fran had just come up behind me and I turned to her and told her that either Harold was wounded or I had hurt Trix, at the time I was a bit worried but fortunately it was just the quick thinking of Trix to go down when hit. I've been shooting up that hill at King Harold for fifteen years, I had to get him eventually.

After the battle on Sunday it rained again and all the kit was wet when we packed up, as I write there are still a couple of items hanging about the house drying!

Forthcoming events:

Sunday 3 November 2002, 12 o'clock to 4 o'clock: Wiltshire County Museum, Long Street, Devises (See map)

There is a small lane down one side of the museum, drive down it and turn first left into the museum car park. We have to be ready to start at 12 o'clock so please try to get there at least an hour before. The young lady in charge of us is Rebecca Stalker, if the weather is bad she will direct you to the lecture hall, if good we will be outside on the car park and she will show you where to park after unloading.

The subjects they are interested in are: The Viking Warrior, Viking women and food preparation, Viking medic, coin making and traders. They are also keen that any our children that attend take part. Steve will be in charge for this one as I will be in Devon, as Steve looks every part the fierce Viking warrior I doubt many problems will arise, remember not to smile Steve! If we can set up outside a small combat display will be required, if in doors then just talk a good fight!

Please remember to keep your fuel receipts and those for other expenses, these will be paid in full un to a total of £275, any remainder will be divided at the usual pro-rata rate. If total receipt exceed £275 you will get as large a percentage of you expenses as possible.

Good luck with the show

Roger

