

# ***RAVEN'S WING***

9<sup>th</sup> March 2003

To the Men and Women of the Raven, Greetings.

Hello Everyone,

We have just completed our first show of the year at the North Somerset Museum, Weston-Super-Mare. As far as I could tell it went very well, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and both the punters and the museum staff seemed very happy. The curator said that she would ask us back for next year. For those that could not make it I will try to describe what we did. We set up the blue tent with the cart next to it in the covered court yard that is the centre of the museum, in front of this we had the giant hnefetafl set which proved to be very popular with both adult and child visitors. To one side we had a display of weapons and a small space where Steve, Les and Dave were able to beat up some children with the Kiddie Vike weapons; this was a little scary as there was a plate glass window that acted as a weapons magnet.

In the art gallery just off the courtyard Kath had all the cooking tools and some half burnt logs where she explained the delights of Viking food. Next was a trestle table where Donna displayed Viking textiles and weaving and finally on an another trestle table Maria displayed her disturbing instruments and claimed to be a doctor, you could see that people thought that these odd looking tools could be used for inflicting pain. *(Can't think why; it was nothing to do with me explaining the alternative uses! – Maria.)* Every time I visited the gallery Maria appeared to be trying to gross people out by drinking urine! Perhaps she should see someone!

The visitors to the museum were all very nice with sensible questions, we had loads of enquiries about school visits so we may be busy in Somerset soon. Some of the visitors had seen us last year and still came back!

At the start of the day, Les, Dave, Steve and I stood outside the museum to encourage people in. Some of the children were a bit frightened of us as they arrived and I thought we might have to put a bag over Steve's head. Les was so keen to get people into the museum that he stopped a car and took the car keys; its a good job the people of Weston-Super-Mare have a sense of humour!

Kath saved us all at lunch time by bringing us fresh bread smothered in new cheese, we ate on the hoof as there was no time for a lunch break, I think most people were able to slip away for ten minutes for a cup of tea but that was it. It was a very hard day but

great fun, the visitors were very good and showed an interest in all aspects of what we do. If you missed out this year I recommend coming next year.

We have a small show at Old Sarum on Sunday 30th March. The plan is to set up our camp and a small arena, we will then train as we normally do on a Sunday but in kit. The idea is to recruit new members, as you know we regularly train at Old Sarum and people have often asked what we were all about. Normally we train in civvies so this time we will be in kit and the punters can see exactly what we do. EH are quite happy for us to do a free show and will use the event as a preview of their events at Old Sarum this year. As an audience develops we will give some demonstrations but there will be no time table other than the start and finish times which are 10am to 4pm. With a bit of luck Kath will feed us, I'm sure we have enough cash in the bank to cover her costs but it would help if you could let her know if you are coming. I would like to take photos of everyone in the Herred in their best kit, the plan is to have a rogues gallery on our web site with a biog of your character, I've included an example to give you an idea.

I hope you can all make it to Old Sarum and look forward to seeing you there.

All the best

**Roger**



**Thorfinn and Hrothgar compare wounds**



**Hrothgar ready for battle**

## Hrothgar “Bokraeder” Gilthorsson

DOB: 957

Place of birth: Skolmor, Denmark

Fought for Harald Gormsson, King of Denmark in 973. Became a Christian and warrior of the Emperor Otto in 974. Shipwrecked while crossing the English Channel and recanted Christianity in 984. Joined the Herred of the Host led by Jarl Thorgier Havarsson Coalbrowskald in 985. Married Muirigan Legbiter in 986. Made Huscarl to Jarl Thorgier 987. His son Thorfinn was born in 988. Fought at the Battle of Maldon in 991. Made Jarl of the High Council by Konungr Hrafn the Red in 992 with the responsibility of preparing the Host for battle. Fell out with Jarl Thorgier in 994 and with Halgerd Eiricsdotta, Guthrothr Belly-Shaker, Valgard Toebreaker and Astrid founded the Herred Manaraefan. Made Battle Captain of the Host by Konungr Thorgrim Sigmundsson in 997 and in 1002 became Thorgrim’s right hand and chief advisor. In the same year Hrothgar became leader of the Manaraefan succeeding Guthrothr Belly-shaker and Kormac the Carter.

Hrothgar’s favourite weapon is the bow and he is greatly feared and respected by friend and foe alike when using it, in 1002 he shot down the leader of an enemy army so disheartening the foe that the Host drove them from the field. As well as with sword and shield he is also skilled in the use of the long axe, spear and javelin.

Hrothgar is played by Roger Barry, he is a soldier and lives in Salisbury.