

# Swan



# Song

*The Stafford newsletter*

*Issue 9, March 2002*

# HELLO TREOWEN, YOU'RE MY WIFE NOW



# DUKE HARRY'S DIARY

*Where have we been eating this month?*

**The Wrecking Crew at large**

**January to March 2002**

**Treowen:**

**The Feast!**

**Blackbird Leys**

*plus*

**Spot-the-Stafford**

AND NOW I PRESENT THE HISTORY OF THE WARS OF THE ROSES IN 173 SHORT ACTS'

*Darren Brown*

'THE FORMIDABLE SPANISH AMANDA'

*Puppeteers*

'HELLO DAVE'

*Anon.*

'F\*!£\$%^G CAR!  
F\*£%^#G GROUNDED IT!!

B&\$#+@D FLAT TYRE!!!'

*Allan*

'AS I GLIDED UP THE DRIVEWAY IN THE RANGE ROVER, I DID NOTICE THE TRACK WAS SLIGHTLY UNEVEN'

*Chris*

'SIMON MADE ME STAY UP LATE DRINKING WITH HIM'

*Phil*

## FEAST: TREOWEN 18-20 JANUARY



'FIRST MEAL I'VE BEEN TO WHERE I HAD TO TAKE A DUMP HALFWAY THROUGH TO MAKE ROOM'  
*Stanny*

*'The Power Behind The Throne?'. Or you can work out your own caption.*



Well, I don't know about my retinue but, like Master Stansfield, I'm still feeling the effects of all that food. What a repaste was dreamed up by our stalwart cooks! Indescribably good. In fact, I don't think I'll bother. My thanks to Mistress Gilmore, and Masters Petz and Hemsley for the pictures. Bye now.



*'What did you come as?'*

← Buckingham's Angels. All hand-stitched by Tee (they're amazingly life-like).



*Kathryn: Goddess. Worship her. (on the left).*

# Duke Harry's Diary



Master 'Harry Potter/Rincewind' Petz. Awarded St Dimpner for life (in picture on the left).



'I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I WON THIS AWARD, HAHahaha'



'I CURED A BAT OF ITS TOWER!'  
Rich H during mummings play



The pool grudge match: Simon and Connor versus Bracken. Not long after this picture was taken Bracken demonstrated uncanny skill in emptying the table. Duke Harry also notes that he is still waiting to interview certain dogs with regards to the mysterious disappearance of the table tennis balls.



# Duke Harry's Diary



'AND NOW THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF MIME I PRESENT THE LIFE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEAR'  
Darren (next year)

← Master Hewitt demonstrates authentic Roman plastic.

It was possible →  
for us to dress properly!



← But some of the Wang stuff on Friday was better. (And don't say you didn't notice, men)



Mistress Gilmore about to prove that 'Death by Jenga' is a serious possibility for, um, 'shorter' members of the group.

And there we have it. Loads of food. Loads of fun. Big thanks to EVERYONE who made it possible. A special SS thanks to Kathryn, without whom it really wouldn't have happened. Duke Harry

## FROM RUSSIA WITH REEVES

I recently received one of these new-fangled 'e' letters from one of my retinue, telling me of her missionary work amongst the peoples of Russia. In it she sent a picture of a member of the Buckinghamski Housecomradeship.

Hello Rachel.



I couldn't believe my eyes. No sooner had I discovered that one member of my retinue was moonlighting in London's seedier parts, than I received word of another.

Actually, if he is good at what he does, I wonder if he would mind making me a bracer for archery. The string chafes so. (Duke Harry)



## SPOT-THE-STAFFORD

This second delve into my archives brings a picture from 1998, taken at Helmsley Castle. There is absolutely no challenge in this one - everyone can spot Masters Brown and Hewitt sandwiched between the not inconsiderable figures of Binky and Willow. This was the first event that my editor remembers seeing Binky. What I always wonder about is why the one-word names? Can it be that the men of Clarence cannot remember anything more taxing?

(PHOTO (LONG AGO) COURTESY OF TONY ROE(?))



## THE PETZ CHRONICLES

On Saturday I went to the National Army Museum. They were doing a history of women in 'from following the drum to the modern soldier'. To my pleasant surprise I met some of the York Levy (3). I engaged in friendly banter with one chap called Neal. A chap with strange eyes. I opened with typical Dimpner style by lambasting the shambles that was Kirby last year. Neal admitted that he had organised Kirby, before then conceding it was a shambles ...

Having thus made myself best of buddies I hung around to see how another group would attempt the professionalism "the good Staffords" - as we were referred to - were so well known for. Neil got off to a good start by chatting away to several members of the public. A crowd soon gathered to hear (or see?) this interesting man; they established a friendly banter with comments like 'its a bit rough', at the standard of his kit, and later on, after he had talked for some time, 'that other chap was really good' and 'he knew his stuff'. Having established his place as one of the NAM experts, Neel was to get to know the fellow re-enactors present. They kindly asked him if he was a member of St John's Ambulance after seeing his attempt at St George Livery.

Thus ends another report of an event ... this is to be taken with a large pinch of laughing dust, though it must be born in mind that all facts are true.

Marcus Petz

*My thanks to Master Petz, my London recruiting sergeant. If only he would learn tact ...*



*I have also come into possession of some photos taken at Whitby Abbey. Apparently it was taken last November at something called a 'Gothic Weekend'.*

*I thought 'Gothic' was an armour style, although it seems to mean 'scruffy and miserable' - as far as I can see.*

(PHOTO TAKEN BY MASTER PETZ)

## MILITARY HISTORY CHALLENGE - ENTRANTS INVITED!

As part of Museums and Galleries Month, the National Army Museum is restaging the popular Military History Challenge in May 2002. You need a team of four people to enter. Eliminator rounds will be held in pub-quiz style from 6th-10th May. The winning teams from the eliminators will qualify for the finals, to be held in the style of TV's University Challenge on Saturday 18th May. For further information or a booking form e-mail [pr@national-army-museum.ac.uk](mailto:pr@national-army-museum.ac.uk) or visit [www.national-army-museum.ac.uk](http://www.national-army-museum.ac.uk)

## BLACKBIRD LEYS 15 MARCH

I was fortunate enough to be able to get away to the incomparable re-enactor's fair at Blackbird Leys leisure centre last weekend and was very pleased to note a number of my retinue there, buying weaponry and cloth for the coming campaign year.

It was nice to see some of the regular traders again - all too familiar faces supplying many tempting wares. As my editor said, 'Where else can you buy Moniack mead, pottery pisspots, bowstrings, sheepskins, 14 m of red and black woollen cloth, a new sword, iron flesh-hooks, Wang shields, dragon pendants, green leather belts, blue leather pouches, sharp daggers and eating knives, shoes and pattens, books on 14th century pig farming, and still have no change left from a thousand pounds?'

Where else indeed?

See you next issue!

Duke Harry

For those who didn't go, but need some new kit, I've compiled a short list of some of the stalls. It isn't exhaustive, but the traders listed have all been used by retinue members.

### POTTERY

*Trinity Court Potters* ('Jim the Pot'): Jim and Emma Newbould, Headon Place, 65 Cobwell Road, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 7DD, 01777 708008. E-mail [Trinitycourt@aol.com](mailto:Trinitycourt@aol.com)

All kinds of pots. Let's be honest - no-one knows whose tankard it really is on the bench. All we know is that Jim probably made it.

### WEAPON, ETC.

*Phil Fraser Arms & Armour*: 70 Markgate Road, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2LD, 020 8592 3621.

Phil makes anything, more or less: armour, swords, helmets, daggers, scabbards, belts, pouches, bracers, shoes, arrows and many other accessories. If he doesn't know it he can make it from your illustration.

*Armour Class*: Unit 13, New Albion Industrial Estate, Halley Street, Yoker, Glasgow G13 4DJ, 0141 951 2262. [www.swordsmiths.co.uk](http://www.swordsmiths.co.uk)

Hardened and tempered Silicon Manganese Spring Steel swords. *mmmmmmmm*.

### LONGBOWS, ETC.

*Andrew Kirkham*: 60 Leedham Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S65 3EB, 01709 540390.

Longbows, crossbows, arrows and general ironmongery (hand-forged arrowheads, bill heads, daggers, eating knives, scissors, surgical equipment, hammers, pokers, axes ...). Again, Andy will make anything to your specifications, as long as you can draw it!

### SHOES

*Plantagenet Shoes*: Morgan Hubbard, 82 Cozens Hardy Road, Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8QG, 01603 414045.

Very good quality shoes and boots.

## ESSES

### From our sword guru

The Lord Mayor's Chain of Office, known as the Lord Mayor's Collar of 'SS', holds the Badge of Office, the Lord Mayor's Jewel. The Jewel is a sardonyx cameo portraying the arms of the city of London encircled by the City's motto, 'Domine Dirige Nos' (Lord guide us), which in turn is encircled by a jewelled wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks.

The Chain of Office is composed of 'S' links interspersed with knots and the Henry VII rose (i.e. York and Lancaster combined). The SS collar (pronounced 'esses') is significant. The right to wear the 'S' ornament is limited to the Lord Mayor of London, the Lord Chief Justice, and to officers of the College of Arms. Before 1594, it was also worn by the Lord High Steward, the Lord Chancellor and other royal officers.

Various theories surround the SS. The letters may mean 'Seneschallus' (Steward) - the office of Lord High Steward of England was held by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, direct ancestor of Henry Tudor. The collar of SS is known to have been established by John of Gaunt in the 14th Century.

Another suggestion is that the letters derive from the motto 'Souvente me Souvene' (often remember me) borne by the Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII. Yet another that the letters stand for 'Sanctus Spiritus'. The Jewel is suspended from the Collar by a portcullis, the emblem of Henry Tudor.

## SOURCE

Brentnall, M. (1975) *The Old Customs and Ceremonies of London*. London: Batsford, ISBN 0-713-42933-X.

## DOGGED DETERMINATION

I promised you another extract from *Street Life in Mediaeval England*. This month we look into the 'menace' of dogs - something we in the Bucks Retinue are only too aware of. Who amongst us is not familiar with the perils of standing in the wrong place as the second 'wolfpack' takes another jaunt around the camp? And as for Rabban's dribble ...

What does Salusbury have to say on the matter?

'Dogs were a modified nuisance of the same kind (referring to pigs, see *SwanSong* 8), but could not be treated in quite the same fashion because a dead dog was of no value to anybody.'

What about as a doorstep?

Pigs might lose their tails ... but dogs would only be 'expeditated' (1) if likely to poach, and then probably at the order of a Manorial court.

'Until streets became more crowded, dogs were probably allowed to walk along them freely if accompanied by their masters; this was the case at Northampton, in 1270. In fourteenth century Bristol, no large dogs were allowed to roam in the streets without a chain, but Northampton even in the fifteenth century did not compel dogs to be leashed unless they were inclined to be snappy.'

Coventry (1421) banned big dogs or bitches in the highway but made an exception for butchers' dogs and mastiffs 'provided they were tied up at night' (stipulated in 1470 and practically repeated in 1508).

'Thus the dog appears to have been warned off streets or not, according to the reliability of his character, rather than according to the amount

of space that he occupied.'

So ours appear to be in the clear as regards wandering any 15th century streets they may frequent upon. What else bothered the beleaguered mediaeval citizen (the chapter already dealt with horses and cattle)?

'Goats were said to have done daily damage in Coventry at one period of the fifteenth century...; ducks were not to use the streets of Berwick at night nor appear in the high roads of Leicester and Coventry.'

'Stop, who goes there? Friend or fowl?'

'Quack'

'Pass fowl, but mind you're in bed by nightfall.'

I'll let Salusbury have the last word (and remember that he was writing in 1939):

'A survey of mediaeval street regulations may conjure up a picture in the mind of much bustle and confusion, of noise and dirt and constricted movements, which all the well-meant efforts of borough officials could never make more orderly and clean and free moving, but that picture is remarkably rural in tone, and there is something about the very perils of its traffic which makes it more human and likeable than any vision of a busy thoroughfare of today, where in spite of tarmac, signals, codes and decorum, the nerves are always tense, and death strikes like some metallic thug.'

## NOTE

1. 'Expeditation' involved the extraction of certain claws from the forefoot, to prevent dogs from the swift following of game. *Ouch!*

## SWANS KILL HORSE RIDER

Two swans blamed for the death of a horse rider have been removed from a park near Ilkeston.

They were taken away by council wildlife officers and sent to Hampton Court ... The birds were blamed for startling a horse, which threw its rider ... [who] died from her injuries following her fall on the Nutbrook Trail, close to Ilkeston.

Her husband ... said, "People who have come to the house since it happened have said that these birds have been a problem for a long time."

Derbyshire CC consulted police and the RSPCA before taking the decision ... spokesman Mandy Cann said: "We decided that the best course of action was to move them. The problem we faced was that you can't just move swans and expect them not to go back to their homes. They need to be taken far enough away so they can't find their way back to this lake." She added that the council has (sic) not received any complaints about the birds...

Mr -- ... was with Mrs -- when the birds attacked. "There have been numerous problems with these birds and it's taken --'s death for something to be done", he said. A horse was walked along the trail to identify the swans. And true to form the birds attacked it, Mr -- said.

County Council wildlife expert Richard Taylor said swans were not normally aggressive creatures.

From the *Nottingham Evening Post*, Thursday March 7, 2002

# Fyndings & Discoverise

## THE WARS OF THE ROSES

by Anthony Cheetham, edited by Antonia Fraser  
(Published by Cassel, 2000, 104pp)

The best thing that can be written about this book is that it has some wonderful illustrations. Pictures are taken from many contemporary sources such as the Neville Book of Hours, *Des Proprietez des Choses*, which was written for Edward IV in 1482, and the *Whaddon Folio*. There is a range from courtly scenes, every day life and more martial themes.

The book is relatively simple to read, though it can be confusing if trying to read it through. There are a few typos which could snag the unwary such as Henry Bolingbroke being called 'V' instead of 'IV'. On page 91 we are told that Anne Neville 'was initially married to Prince Edward, son of Henry VI, but after his death married Richard, Duke of Gloucester, in 1741'!

Cheetham avoids going into huge detail about the political wranglings that took place. He also remains neutral - telling the story rather than slating one side over the other. There is a family tree included, but frustratingly it doesn't give both dates of reign and length of life for the kings. It also fails to give the common nicknames (a 15th century word by the way), which would make referencing easier.

The book lacks a timeline and seems to progress in a rough order, though there is some repetition between the chapters. It is split into five sections: Introduction, Genealogical table, and The royal arms in the fifteenth century (which is short on detailed pictures - sacrificing to a large arms as a nice end paper rather than a few small crests to illustrate its points); before the main two sections: The house of Lancaster (Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI); and The house of York (Edward IV and Richard III).

A good book, just a little rushed in the proofreading stage. My recommendation is wait a couple of years and see if a second edition with corrections appears and buy that.

Marcus Petz

## MECHANISED INFANTRY?



*This is, I believe, a new kind of motorised billhook. Should solve the problem of WangHeads not taking hits at Tewkesbury.*

## THE WARS OF THE ROSES

by A.J. Pollard (2nd Edition. Published by Palgrave, 2001, ISBN 0-333-65822-1, 141pp, British history in perspective series)

My recommendation in these reviews is usually to wait for the second edition - well here it is, with corrections and updates, and this time certainly worth buying. This is an updated version of Pollard's 1987 book. It shows its age in the fact that there are few pictures, and the maps and tables look old fashioned.

*The Wars of the Roses* goes through the whole period and explains the why of the wars and how the later wars might be viewed as different from the earlier ones. It explains the origin of the terms as well as the impact upon England and further afield.

Lots of noble names are mentioned and what they were doing at each battle. It has lots on the political, but is short on the cultural aspects. There is a clear grasp of the action and events and how they inter-relate.

Pollard goes through different historical times and their perspectives over the centuries on the period. This includes the Shakespearan (Tudor), Victorian and more modern revisionist histories' views of the Wars. This is useful if you are going to read diverse commentaries, but if you don't want a load of academics slagging each other off don't read this book.

When the argument is being made that France was part of the same Kingdom as England, to not show the French territory and the battles that happened there is a glaring omission. A similar gripe could be made about lack of a timetable of events. This misses the point that the book isn't a reference book, but rather a quick reader.

Scotland is missed out and Ireland is given minimal coverage. No doubt the abridgement is deliberate so you will buy the appropriate books in the series which includes interesting titles like: A.D. Carr, *Medieval Wales*; Anne Curry, *The Hundred Years War*; Seán Duffy, *Ireland in the Middle Ages* and Bruce Webster, *Medieval Scotland*. There is also a sister series of Social History.

There is also a fine bibliography. This is in addition to the individual chapter notes. Each bibliography reference is followed by a short critical review - the best bit of the book Here is the entry for the red and black bible:

Rawcliffe, C., *The Staffords, Earls of Stafford and Dukes of Buckingham, 1394-1521* (Cambridge University Press, 1978) - an excellent baronial case study.

It is easy going to read without obscure arguments and piles of incomprehensible jargon. Many of the technical terms are explained in the Glossary at the back or can be found in the text by use of the Index. Overall, it is a good book to read in a campaign tent.

Marcus Petz

## MEDIEVAL RIDDLES

*Oft I must strive with wind  
and wave,  
Battle them both when under  
the sea I feel out the bottom, a  
foreign land.  
In lying still I am strong in  
thestrife;  
If I fail in that they are  
stronger than I,  
And wrenching me loose, soon  
put me to rout.  
They wish to capture what I  
must keep.  
I can master them both if my  
grip holds out,  
If the rocks bring succor and  
lend support,  
Strength in the struggle.  
Ask me my name!*

A moth ate a word.  
To me it seemed,  
A marvelous thing when I  
learned the wonder  
That a worm had swallowed,  
in darkness stolen,  
The song of man, his glorious  
sayings,  
A great man's strength; and  
the thieving guest,  
Was no whit the wiser for the  
words it ate.

*In former days my father and  
mother,  
Abandoned me dead, lacking  
breath  
Or life or being.  
Then one began,  
A kinswoman kind, to care for  
and love me;  
Covered me with her clothing,  
wrapped me in her raiment,  
With the same affection she  
felt for her own;  
Until by the law of my life's  
shaping,  
Under alien bosom I quick-  
ened with breath.  
My foster mother fed me  
thereafter,  
Until I grew sturdy and  
strengthened for flight.  
Then of her dear ones, of  
daughters and sons,  
She had the fewer for what  
she did.*

How well did you do?  
Answers can be found on the  
back page.

# Group News & Views

## EVENTS LIST 2002

**Easter, 30<sup>th</sup> March –1<sup>st</sup> April Manufacturing weekend**  
Venue to be determined.

**13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> April Lincoln Castle (Lincoln Castle Garrison)**  
Training weekend, attendance still to be decided upon!

**27<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> April Tutbury Castle (L&M)**  
General get together and training weekend.

**4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> May Tamworth Castle (Buckingham's Retinue)**  
Living History and role-play with emphasis on show and tell.

**1<sup>st</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> June Scarborough (L&M)**  
Siege at an excellent venue with plenty to do!

**23<sup>rd</sup> June Battle of Pilleth (Some WangHeads)**  
One day turn up and fight event, for the bloodthirsty.

**6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> July Middleham Castle (Buckingham's Retinue)**  
Absolutely the last outing of Richard III by JW, at least until next time!

**13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> July Battle of Tewkesbury (Black Bear)**  
The Usual.

**27<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> July Muchelney Abbey (Buckingham's Retinue)**  
Murder Mystery at a brand new site.

**10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> August Kirby Hall (L&M)**  
Area display with market, mud, and the usual beer tent.

**17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> August Lincoln Bishop's Palace (Buckingham's Retinue)**  
Unveiling of our new Henry VIII as this year's foray into the 16th century. A chance to show off your kit, role-play, etc., etc!

**24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> August Old Sarum (Buckingham's Retinue)**  
Arena event with a couple of groups from other periods, a good time of year for this site and an excellent place to wind down.

**September (TBA) Blore Heath (Federation)**  
As per previous years.

THE STAFFORD MACHINE ONLY REACHES ITS FULL POTENTIAL WHEN ITS RECRUITS REACH THEIRS. NEED TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING VITAL?

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS CARD TO US. (NO STAMP NEEDED). YOU WILL BE.



### BUCKINGHAM'S RETINUE

T H E T E A M W O R K S

www.bucks.org      0845 KILL KILL KILL

TITLE\*: DUKE/EARL/LORD/BARON/SIR/SCUMSLAYER  
 CHRISTIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE OF SPAWNING: \_\_\_\_\_ RESIDENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONALITY\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION YOU WISH TO ATTAIN? (TICK BOX)

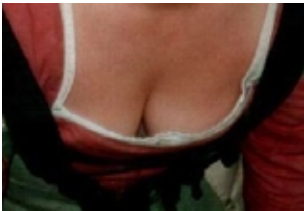
SACK OF SHIT WITH A BELT     KILLER     BOW DOWN AND CALL ME GOD     ARCHER

SACKS OF SHIT NEED OWN BELT. WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES RECRUITER AND WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM ANYONE REGARDLESS OF ETHNIC GROUP, SEX, POLITICAL PERSUASION OR DISABILITY. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE FRENCH, SCOTTISH OR A LANCASTRIAN\*\*\* SUPPORTER YOU ARE UNLIKELY TO ESCAPE DEATH AT THE HAND OF OUR RECRUITING SQUAD.

\* Please delete as applicable.  
 \*\* French and Scottish need not apply. And anyone else we are at war with at the time.  
 \*\*\* Or Yorkist, depending on how we feel at the time. Adds a little spice to the recruitment process, don't you think?

TICK BOX IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO SEE PHIL, ALLAN AND SIMON ON YOUR DOORSTEP AT A LATER DATE

## COMPETITION: IDENTIFY THE BODY PART!



Do you think you know your fellow Wrecking Crew members?

*SwanSong* invites all would-be super-sleuths to identify the three body parts above.

Who do they belong to? I'll give a bottle of wine to the first correct response drawn out of a hat at Tutbury. (The owners of the parts are automatically excluded from competing, I'm afraid.)

HarleyWatch: *SwanSong* management apologises to Harley Fans for the non-appearance of their idol. In compensation, the April issue will be given over entirely to a celebration of the man, his lifestyle and his extensive weapon collection.

Is this a last page I see before me?  
Beware the ides of March and let loose the chinchillas of mild civil disturbance. Send contributions, complaints, bribes of money, offers of chocolate, to Dave Hemsley:

e-mail:  
[david@purpleardvark.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:david@purpleardvark.freeserve.co.uk)

or by surface mail:

25 Sandringham Road, Nottingham NG2 4HH). Tel: 0115 950 5560.

Computer files as Word 6/97 or .txt/.rtf, picture files as jpeg (less than 200 KB please, size no more than about 800x600).

Next issue May.  
 Deadline 13 May.

Answers to riddles, page 7  
 Off I must strive with wind and wave means, of course, an ANCHOR; the subject of A moth ate a word is a BOOK MOTH; and finally, the abandoned subject of In former days ... is a CUCKOO. Who got them all?