

Swan



Song

THE STAFFORD NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8, JANUARY 2002

WRECKING CREW IN DOVER WEAPONS TALK TERROR

By our Ladies' Fashion Correspondent

On Sunday 21st October, our intrepid reporter braved the foul weather to interview the Duke of Buckingham and his retinue within the walls of Dover Castle. On reaching their destination she found the usually jovial wrecking crew loitering within tents while sirens wailed.

SwanSong can report that despite the setback of such dismal conditions, his Dukeship's retinue rallied together and to a captivated (or should that be captive) audience, Master Harley, Master Williams and

Master Hewitt performed an *ad hoc* arms and armour talk, paving the way for the Tudor and Roman groups to do likewise. They performed with panache and style in possibly the most desperate conditions of the year.

Duke Harry commented 'My glorious retinue have ventured to Dover Castle this weekend despite the lateness of the year and the foulness of the weather. They have braved the roads and byways

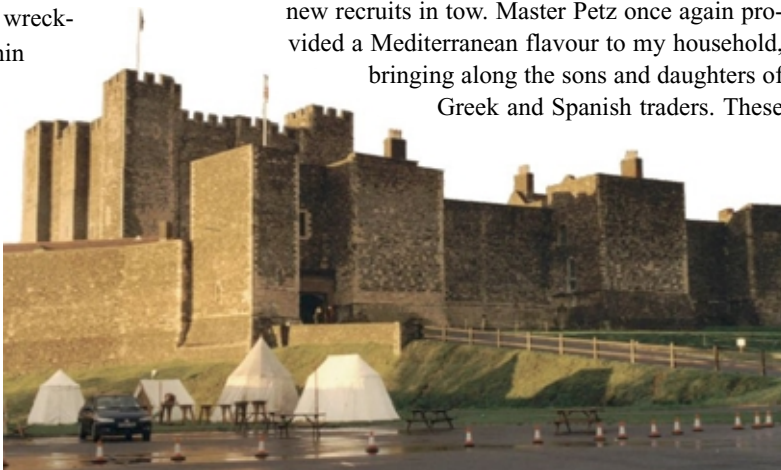
of the land to appear with a dozen or so Romans, a handful of Tudors, a WWII gun crew and a group that didn't turn up!'

'I am well pleased with my household, a turn out greater than the other groups put together and new recruits in tow. Master Petz once again provided a Mediterranean flavour to my household, bringing along the sons and daughters of Greek and Spanish traders. These

valiant men and ladies of warmer climes soon joined in the festivities.'

'However I will ask that please will someone keep an eye on Mistress Wetton and her consumption of Red Wine.'

Oh, and there was apparently a bomb scare caused by some errant woman leaving her shoulder pouch in the cafe.



(PHOTO: MARIA FANFANI)

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

An action-packed issue this one. Duke Harry Stafford's action-unpacked diary visits the noble town of Dover (page 2) and the less noble nowhere-in-particular of Blackbird Leys (page 3), where his retinue spent all their hard-earned cash on worthless trinkets, and a few killing implements.

We play a new game of *Spot-the-Stafford* on page 4 as the archives are raided for embarrassing pictures of ... and ... in their younger days (when the world was new and hose unripped).

The late-lamented (it had better be, because I like the idea and it is staying) *Findyngs & Discoverys* section makes a hearty return on page 5 with evidence that the ghost of Buckingham is yet active in the USA.

For the budding long-bowperson there is a special double-page spread on how to hit people and be far enough away to avoid retaliation on pages 6 and 7.

Then there is the back page. Nuff said.

Thanks be to Cat, Chris, Darren, Holly, Marcus, Maria, Simon, Tee and anyone else whose name I may have forgotten or deleted off my email before I made a note of where their contributions came from ...

DUKE HARRY'S DIARY

Who have we been beating up this month?

The Wrecking Crew At Large

October & November 2001

Dover Castle Blackbird Leys *plus* Spot-the-Stafford

'WE SHOULD HAVE JUST SENT ALLAN IN TO POKE IT WITH A BILL'

A cold, wet, grumbling Holly waiting for the bomb squad

'WE KNOW ALLAN LIKES A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS'

Anon, as Allan gives his weapons talk to the public flushed out of the castle due to the bomb scare

SWISS TONY'S GUIDE TO FLAGS OF THE WORLD



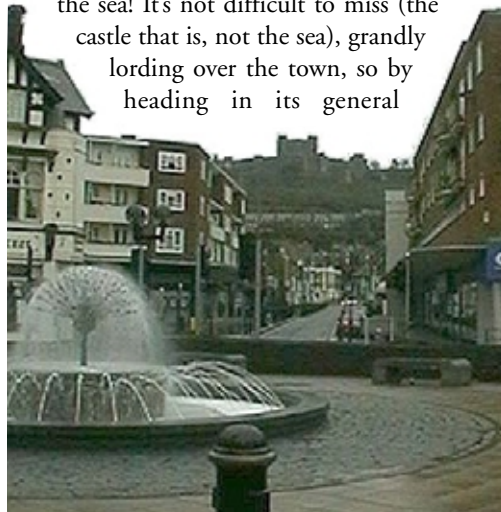
Number 4: South Korea

DOVER CASTLE 20-21 OCTOBER

Unsurprisingly wet and surprisingly not that cold!

Boy what a drive! Maybe not quite the distance as Dartmouth was last year, but we did have to contend with the M25! Now for those of you who have never been to the castle before, as Jayne and I hadn't, it is very impressive. On approach to Dover, as you pass the summit of one of the rolling chalk hills, you are greeted with an almost aerial view of the port and town overlooked by an enormous castle. And of course

the sea! It's not difficult to miss (the castle that is, not the sea), grandly lording over the town, so by heading in its general



Dover and its castle: sometimes 'grandly lording' isn't too difficult.

(PHOTO: LEEQUN MAN)

direction, as well as following the occasional signpost, we arrived at the start of the long driveway. Somehow Jane and myself managed to be the second car there! We were doing fine, until the wooden gate. Stuck on a high bridge on a road only one car width wide and the castle looking disturbingly empty, Jayne and I did the only thing any two sensible women would do in that position. No, we didn't go to the pub! We phoned for help!

Having spoken to our gracious captain and now feeling fairly stupid, we knocked on the door and hence gained entry, a map in Spanish off the security guard and vague directions of where to go next! Once at the keep we were greeted by some of the most luxurious accommodation and facilities I've ever come across in

my life as a re-enactor. Not only were we inside, but also upstairs (no concrete/ stone floors to contend with, Yippee!) electricity and decent toilets (this can be the making or breaking at an event, as those of you who have experienced early Kirbys and Tewkesburys will testify). Not only does Dover have a considerable number of clean toilets, all in working order, the ladies also has hot and cold running water, it also features a full length mirror as well as a number of smaller ones and a radiator. I have no idea what the boys' room was like, but girls it was worth doing the event for the toilets alone!

Gradually the rest of the group arrived; scaring off the extremely young WWII guys camped in the corner, despite the invites to join our merry band. Had news of our behaviour at Blore preceded us? We quickly befriended the Romans next door, which was easy considering one of Alex (Sam's brother) and Amanda (both former members of the Staffords) were with them. As usual the van was amongst the last to arrive, bringing with it a new member from the ranks of the fabulous Staffordshire Police force, not that I'm biased or anything, honest! Other new members arrived, courtesy of Marcus, including



Part of Marcus' personal retinue, Thanasis (left) and Lewes (centre) come over all dramatic atop Dover's battlements.

(PHOTO: MARIA FANFANI)

Maria Fanfani, who after Tewkesbury still came back for more! Also former Levy member Holly was welcomed back with open arms (and open jump suit!) and quickly converted from red and white to the way of red and black.

Saturday morning was greeted with surprise with the weather being fine and warm. The event took the format of a 'mini Kirby' with the concept of firepower throughout the ages. We shared

Duke Harry's Diary

the billing with the aforementioned Romans, Tudors, and a WWII artillery group. There was also supposed to be some Napolionics but they didn't materialise. A couple of tents were set up in the inner bailey alongside the Romans and the Tudors and away we went. Our boys did an impressive job on the display, with Allan narrating (I'm sure this is something to do with the Welsh and the sound of their own voices you



Inside Dover Castle.

(PHOTO: YURI DEMCHENKO)

(For many more photos go to www.uazone.org/gallery/ukdover.htm)

know!) In fact we went down stormingly. For an event based on firepower the highlights of the day was discovering the Tudor Cannon was in fact made from Fibreglass with a steel tube down the middle and discovering that the WWII boys had left their firing pin in Essex and therefore couldn't shoot their enormous gun!

On Saturday night Sam and I took the opportunity of teaching dances all and sundry. Joined on recorder as ever by Andy and with new musician Louise we subjected our members and the occasional Roman and Tudor to the Bear Dance, Hermits, Washerwoman's, Pease and Servant's Bransles, and the ever-popular Faranadal. I must commend the dancers as they did very well. Also Louise and Andy as they can achieve a phenomenal turn of speed on their instruments.

'We're only on amber alert'

Sunday brought more inclement weather and a Bomb Scare. Our boys once more did us proud as impromptu weapons and arms talks were given, distracting the public from the situation. We showed professionalism and the ability to think on our feet, something that for a change was appreciated by both EH and other groups, as once (for a change) our lads had exhausted their favourite subject the other groups carried on. In fact, this informal display was enjoyed by the re-enactors so much that when the all clear was given, the Romans refused to stop their talk and carried on! In fact I believe the reply given was 'I've started so I'll finish!'



En garde! And where's the safety beanies? Mind that beam. Chris the Howell and Kate the Fuzz demonstrate advanced fly-swatting techniques.

(PHOTO: MARIA FANFANI)

It was a most enjoyable event, we enjoyed the company of groups from other periods and hopefully left an excellent impression with the custodians of the castle (but I'm not sweeping the floors again Chris!).

Catherine Wetton (as authorised by Duke Harry Stafford)

BLACKBIRD LEYS 16-18 NOVEMBER

More kit? What can my retinue be thinking? Do they not have enough clothing, armour, and accoutrements to weigh down a moderately sized Trading Ship? It is the same every year: as soon as I pay them for their services they all of a sudden discover that what they really need is a new kirtle, doublet or badge in the shape of an amusing vegetable. Well, I myself didn't go to Blackbird Leys, I will not demean myself by rubbing shoulders with the unwashed, even if my retinue do.

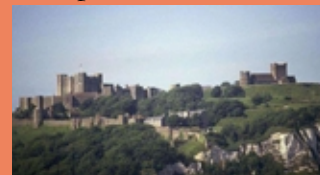
Therefore, I will let a young man from my archery ranks impart to you his impressions of this tiresome fayre. I think his name is 'Ernie'. I believe he is from one of my southern estates.

What I can say? It was that time of the year that welcomed the first trading market of the down-season, and re-enactors from all areas of the country make the annual pilgrimage to the outskirts of Oxford and the wonderful leisure centre at Blackbird Leys. For those of you who have not yet made this wonderful, yet normally expensive pilgrimage, Blackbird Leys is where traders (of all periods, and some of none - aka HighTower!) take over two halls and the lobby and the entrance area to sell their wares so that re-enactors can build up their collection of kit. It is a perfect time for the newcomers to actually buy kit, especially since the trading market at Kirby this year didn't happen as such.

DOVER CASTLE

The present castle at Dover dates from around 1180, but the site has been important since the Iron Age. The Anglo-Saxon fortifications were improved during the time of William the Conqueror with the construction of a *motte* (mound), known today as 'Castle Hill'.

King Henry II rebuilt the castle with a keep - the largest in Britain - in the 12th century. The concentric-pattern defences were developed around this and



completed by the mid-13th century. Most of the original inner bailey buildings are now ruinous, with most of the intact structures dating from the 18th century and built to house the garrison.

Henry III built the eastern wall and added third bastion to what is now known as the Norfolk Towers. In addition, an outer curtain wall with twenty towers was completed to form the outer bailey, and the Constable's Gate constructed as the castle reached its full extent.

SWISS TONY'S GUIDE TO FLAGS OF THE WORLD



Number 5: Isreal

Duke Harry's Diary

SWISS TONY'S GUIDE TO FLAGS OF THE WORLD



Number 6: Afghanistan

MISTRESS T

**Domination
T.V.
Watersports
Foot Fetish**

**All Fetishes
& Fantasies**

0800 Rednblack

Covent Garden
<http://www.rednblack/humilisetflagellum.html>

My weekend started with an unusual journey on Virgin Trains from Durham to Stafford. I stress unusual as for once Virgin ran on time and for part of the trip, Rachel and I had the wonderful experience of travelling on a new Virgin Train. Trust us, they're much better than normal Virgin trains or any other train come to think about it. They're kinda like spaceships!! Appearance wise at any rate.

(Duke Harry notes: I have no idea what Ernie is blethering about. Indeed, there was very little space on the last ship I travelled on that was not taken up with foul-smelling fish and even fouler soldiers, and certainly no virgins, trained or otherwise. I'm sure I'd have noticed.)

Saturday involved this annual pilgrimage to Oxford. We arrived around lunchtime, and spent several hours perusing the stalls and deciding what to buy. A lot of people, myself included, could not resist various nice linens or so on at £5 per metre, or the appearance of the Drunken Monk. Darren collected his medieval arrows (the ones with the wonderful heads, which I later proceeded to scare the

Durham Archaeology Department and Archery Club with!) from Andrew Kirkham. Several material stalls, Jim the Pot, the previous mentioned Drunken Monk, Phil Fraser, the leather stall, and even the odd LARPist stall, were all present.

All in all, a weekend well spent, with a lower bank balance a result. I shall vow here not to make the annual March pilgrimage to Blackbird Leys as I don't think my bank balance could take it! For those who intend to go, I believe the next Blackbird Leys will be held the weekend of 15-17 March 2002.

I shall sign off here to return to studying my skeletons and will see everyone at the Feast in January.

Ernie, a.k.a. Tee Gilmore

Note: As 'Ernie' says, the next reenactors' market will be at Blackbird Leys on 15-17 March 2002. For more information, including a list of stallholders, contact Anne Laverick, 29 Roundhill Road, Castleford, West Yorks. WF10 5AG. See you next issue, if I don't see you at the feast.

Duke Harry Stafford

← I found this in a communication booth while wandering through the fine markets of Soho in London. I wonder if one of my retinue has found an alternative way of financing her studies, and quite who would pay to watch synchronised swimming. I approve of the domination bit though, but I don't consider it a fantasy - not with my bill block anyway. (Duke Harry)

SPOT-THE-STAFFORD

A new game for you all: Duke Harry challenges his retinue to identify as many friends (and, who knows, enemies or people you are totally indifferent to) as possible in these two archive pictures. There are no points, nor any prizes, just a barrel of laughs ... The first is from Caerphilly Castle (was it? I didn't keep the note) c.1992.



Stokesay Castle, 4 July 1993. Guess who ...

HOGGING THE ROAD

While browsing through a friend's extensive library I came across a gem of a book called *Street Life In Medieval England*, by G.T. Salusbury, published by Pen-in-Hand, Oxford as long ago as 1948. It is basically a series of snapshots of medieval life in the 14th and 15th centuries, taken from contemporary sources. It covers such things as traffic, cleaning, hygiene and the problems of noise pollution from church bells (I kid ye not).

So: traffic. And what was the worst problem? The author writes:

'all evidence points to the pig as constituting the greatest of all (the road's) nuisances. He was a sore destroyer of the municipal patience...'

Nearly everyone, it seems, kept pigs and the streets were so littered with rubbish that most pigs preferred them to the officially-designated forage areas.

'There was much snuffling in kennels, rooting under stalls, and burrowing under rubbish heaps, involving trespass, damage (1), and sudden unexpected obstructions.

'The general rule was that pigs might be kept on a man's own premises, and they might be sent to feed outside the town on the common land, driven there by the owner ... or by the common swineherd. But everyone knew that there was plenty ... to eat in the streets, and some people deliberately had let them feed there.'

What was needed was some radical, ruthless solution against the pig menace. Towns rose to the occasion with style. For instance, London orders during the reign of Edward I ordered people to feed their pigs in their houses and that any vagrant pig 'found in streets, lanes, or ditches, might be taken and killed at sight.'

The arrangement was that the owner could then

buy back the corpse for 4d (1d per foot) (2). Sandwich never gave back the pig and fined anyone enquiring after their pig the sum of 21d. Some towns allowed pigs to be ransomed back alive 'once, or even twice before the final transaction.'

How do you recognise individual pigs though?

'Bristol solved the problem ... by cutting off the tail for the first offence, and the head for the second, but the fine for a first offender varied according to his value (3).'

That will teach them! There were curfews, too:

'Cambridge by an ordinance of 1445 allowed no swine on the pavement between 7am and 6pm and adopted the ordinary fourpenny fine.'

Pigs gave fractious townsfolk another excuse for violence:

'[in Leicester, about 1350] a fight over seizure of pigs took place that year, in which the Town Crier was flogged.'

However, even in Tudor times the borough authorities had not ended the pig nuisance, since:

'the pig was too tasty and the streets were too filthy.'

Another bacon sandwich then please. Next issue: Dogs ...

NOTES

1. e.g. Damage to wall in Nottingham (1395); damage to watering place in Coventry (1442). (Taken from municipal records.)
2. Old English currency: 1d = one penny (= 0.0066 euro).
3. Northampton pigs in 1457 were only forfeited if often taken. Portsmouth in 1272 allowed three live ransoms. Chester (1418-19) and York (1377) both enforced the fine, and York retained the option of execution.

DON'T *UCK WITH THE D*CK

From our Avian Correspondent

A man dashing across a lake on a customised personal watercraft at about 55 mph was killed in an apparent collision with a flying duck.

Leon Resnick, an employee of Riva Yamaha, was testing the water jet-propelled craft Thursday on a lake about 20 miles north of Fort Lauderdale, investigators said Monday.

A co-worker who was watching turned to pick up a radar gun to check Resnick's speed, and when he turned back Resnick was no longer aboard the craft.

Resnick, 31, of Hollywood, drowned after suffering a blow to his head, the Broward County medical examiner's office said.

'Our theory is that the bird was airborne and clocked him in the head', said David Bamdas, an owner of the dealership.

At the speed Resnick was traveling, the 10- to 15-pound duck 'might as well have been a cinder block', Bamdas said.

The bird's carcass was found nearby and there were feathers on the water bike's handlebars, said Broward County sheriff's spokesman Hugh Graf.

Duke Harry Stafford was not available for comment.

Source: www.sfgate.com ('The Bondage Files') 27/11/01

MEN OF IRON

Dominic Mancini described the troops of the Dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham summoned to London in 1485:

'There is hardly any without a helmet, and none without bows and arrows. Their bows and arrows are thicker and longer than those used by other nations, just as their bodies are stronger than other peoples; for they seem to have hands and arms of iron. The range of their bow is no less than arbalests (crossbows); there hangs by the side of each a sword no less long than ours, but heavy and thick as well. The sword is always accompanied by an iron shield ... They do not wear any metal armour on their breast or any other part of their body, except for the better sort ...'

Dominic Mancini was an Italian scholar, who was in England for the first six months of 1483. He seems to have come on a diplomatic mission to gather information for the French court. His report, written in December 1483 (in Latin), was discovered in the Lille municipal library in 1934. I presume that this is where this quote comes from.

Source: *Embleton, G.*, Medieval Military Costume

THE BASICS OF ARCHERY

or All You Wanted To Know About Longbows But Were Too Afraid That Tee Would Hit You With An Arrow To Ask

The archer was the mainstay of the medieval English army with his hayday during the beginning and middle of the Hundred Years' War - at battles such as Agincourt up to 4/5th of the army were archers. By the later 15th century this had fallen to about 2/3rd.

Many of you will have seen the Buckingham stick-and-stringers shooting bits of feathered timber doweling at a round straw disk. You might have noticed that sometimes they even hit it. You may have heard the glorious 'clang' as yet another arrow goes close to Mistress Wetton during a seige.. You may even have been struck by an arrow in battle (Master Harley please take note).

Our stalwart Captayne of Archers, DARREN BROWN, offers an introduction to this most noble of battlefield arts.

The archer came from all walks of life, from lowly peasant to merchant, and could expect a better rate of pay than the billman, though less than a man-at-arms. Although a lot of hard work and practice was needed to become good, it was not unusual for an archer to progress in life through battle, and it was not uncommon for an archer on one campaign to have earned enough money to be recruited later as a man-at-arms. The equipment of the archer varied with money and status, but the single constant is of course the longbow. The lowest would have barely more than a bow and sheaf (24) of arrows, whereas the highest would own armour, sword, buckler, a horse, etc.

Archery tactics developed over time like any other weapon, and if the specifics are not too well documented the generalities are. The longbow was mainly used in a defensive manner, in an attempt to get the enemy to advance onto your defended position. The archers, protected by stakes driven into the ground, were usually formed up on the flanks of the army slightly in advance of the men-at-arms, in an attempt to funnel the enemy towards the heavily-armed men-at-arms while still being able to shoot into the flanks. This tactic worked well in most of the large battles during the Hundred Years' War. However, if both sides have longbow, this negates the advantage of range and rate of

fire, and other tactics to make the enemy advance were then needed. The most notable battles of our period for archery are Blore Heath and Towton.

BLORE HEATH

Blore Heath is notable as it's the first battle of the War of the Roses where archery made an obvious difference. The Yorkists, finding themselves outnumbered, had built a defensive position protected by stakes. The Lancastrians' first



The Buckingham Archer ... Master Brown contemplates mayhem, panic and death before the Battle of Tewkesbury. Yes: they put the Lancastrian archers where we could shoot straight over them into the crowd.

(PHOTO: MARIA FANFANI)

Battle of Crecy, 26 August 1346. *First of several significant battles in which longbows proved their supremacy over crossbows and armoured men at arms. Other battles included Poitiers (1356) and Agincourt (1415).*

English archers carried two sheaves (48) of arrows into battle. Resupply was accomplished by going back through the lines or having more brought forward. The total number of arrows shot during the battle is estimated at a half million.

(PICTURE COURTESY OF BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE, PARIS, AND TAKEN FROM ARCHERYWEB - SEE SEPARATE BOX.)



The Basics of Archery

two attacks were cavalry charges lead by Lord Audley. The first was repelled with the loss of some 200-300 casualties. The second was likewise repelled by archery with Lord Audley among the casualties. This battle showed that cavalry are no match for well-organised English longbowmen.

TOWTON

The second battle, Towton, is much more interesting. The battle was fought in winter, and there was snow falling. The Yorkist archers had the wind in their favour and used it to great advantage, putting arrow after arrow into the Lancastrian lines. The Lancastrian archers saw the enemy arrows and returned shots, but unfortunately the wind caused their arrows to fall short, and because of poor visibility they could not tell that they were failing to reach the enemy.

BASIC FACTS

The following are a few things that any re-enactor should know when asked about the longbow:



Traditionally, the best bows were made of yew, preferably Spanish or Mediterranean where the yew tree grows straightest.

← Painting of a sheaf of arrows based on remains found in the Mary Rose.

Longbow found on →
the Mary Rose.

(BOTH ILLUSTRATIONS
TAKEN FROM THE MARY
ROSE WEBSITE)

Arrows can be made of most woods (as can bows) but ash is one of the most common. The flights are mostly goose feathers.

The bows can range between 120-180 lbs draw weight (ours are much lighter, perhaps 40-60 lbs, since we have not been training since childhood) and can shoot an arrow somewhere between 300-400 yards.

The optimum range for piecing armour is between 50 and 100 yards.

A good archer can loose somewhere between 12 and 20 arrows each minute with reasonable accuracy.

ARCHERY IN THE BUCKS

Well, numerous people have bows, but we seem to have a lack of arrows. I am currently attempting to organise more arrows, both blunts for battles and sharps for target shooting. If everyone who owns a bow were to take part in displays, we could have quite an impressive volley of arrows. As for battlefield archery, there may not be quite the same adrenalin rush as fighting with a bill, but for those people who have no interest in being hit or hitting someone with a bill, it can be very fun - as I assume both Louise and Tee will testify. That said, there is no reason why an archer cannot put his or her bow aside and pick up a bill or sword at any time to join in the hand-to-hand fighting.

A FEW GOOD BOOKS

For anyone wanting to read about archery, I recommend all of the following books.

Bartlett, C. & Embleton, G. *English Longbowman 1330-1515*. Osprey Military (ISBN 1-85532-491-1).

Good descriptions on equipment and armour carried by the longbowman, along with some very good pictures.

Bradbury, J. *The Medieval Archer*. Boydell (ISBN 0-85115-675-4).

Goes into detail of the battles in which longbows played a part and the standing of the archer in society.

Hardy, R. *Longbow: a social and military history*. Patrick Stephens (ISBN 1-85260-412-3).

Details on the military history and social standing of the archer, along with details on the bows and arrow used. The new revised edition also contains description of bows dug up with the Mary Rose.

THE MARY ROSE BOWS

Although the longbow may have been the projectile weapon of choice in the 15th century, by the 16th most of Europe was changing over to the use of handguns. The English continued with the trusty 'bow, however ...

When the *Mary Rose* was excavated a unique collection of Tudor archery equipment was found and recovered. Until then, investigators had only manuscripts, a few surviving mediaeval longbows, and a single arrow (found in Westminster Abbey in 1878) to study.

Longbows: 137 found. Made from a single baulk of yew and shaped to a D-section with a flat back of sapwood and a rounded belly of heartwood. One horn nock was found intact. Average length 1.98m.

Arrows: More than 3,500. Majority made from poplar, other woods were beech, ash and hazel. Draw lengths 61-81cm, majority 76cm. Only small fragments of the feathering survives, the website identifies these 'as either goose or, more probably, swan'. The arrows had a nock cut into the ends with a horn reinforcer inserted at right angles to it. Arrow heads had completely rusted away.

Other finds: Spacers for arrow bags - disks of leather with holes for 24 arrows - stitch marks showed that a fabric sleeve would have been attached. Leather bracers (and one of ivory).

Information taken from Mary Rose website and English Longbowman 1330-1515.

THE VIRTUAL ARCHER

There are many archery resource sites on the Internet, as a casual search will show. One or two interesting ones are listed below. *SwanSong* does not claim that they are accurate!

www.archeryweb.com/archery/crecy.html (one page about Crecy on this US-based site)

www.maryrose.org (some archery stuff, including artefact pictures, but seemingly aimed at kids)

www.quick.com (the well-known bowmaker!)

www.fieldarcher.com (The English Field Archery Association)

www.gnas.uk (Grand National Archery Society)

www.askarts.co.uk/longbow.htm (The British Longbow Society; will give a list of trad. bowyers on request)

homepage.ntlworld.com/joetapley (a basic guide to the bow/arrow system and arrow flight!)

Group News & Views

ARCHEON

My current understanding is that the dates are from Wednesday, 27 March to Wednesday, 3 April. You will need a UK passport and sufficient kit to last for a week, i.e. several shirts/shifts, pairs of hose, etc. The number of places available is limited but the exact figure is unknown at this time. If the event is oversubscribed then priority will be given to those with sufficient costume, speed of reply and number of events attended in 2001. If anyone feels this is particularly unfair then please let me know!

As a guide to kit, I would suggest for men: 3 shirts, 3 pair braes, 2 pair of hose, 1 pair shoes (min), doublet, livery, jack, helmet, side-arm (ideal - if you haven't got one then borrow!) bill, plus other usual stuff like belts, etc. Women: 3 shifts, 1 pair shoes (min), kirtle, gown, other usual stuff. Both: all eating utensils, bedding as authentic as possible, and bags, etc., for hiding modern stuff. Please note the costume is on a minimum basis, it is easy to make three shirts/shifts smell in a weekend!

The event will be mostly based around street skirmishes with some living history. So please come to a practice session at Pye Bridge over the winter.

Chris Howell

2002 EVENTS

Current events list (still subject to change). Note that we are no longer doing Holdenby Hall in June. Instead, we are now organising a seige for L&M at Scarborough Castle. There is also an L&M training weekend proposed for April or May.

Archeon 27 March-3 April

Belgian chevauchee

Tamworth 4-6 May

Living History

Scarborough 1-4 June

L&M seige (Golden Jubilee bank holiday!)

Tutbury Late June

Possible seige

Middleham 6-7 July

Richard III at home

Tewkesbury 13-14 July

Total battlefield domination as per last year

Muchelney Abby 27-28 July

Murder Mystery

Lincoln Bishops Palace 17-18 August

Henry VIII meets the people and sends them to the tower, etc.

Old Sarum 24-26 August

Soldiers through the ages with L&M

Blore Heath September

Battle

I have not listed Kirby as I suggest we discuss at the feast whether we should attend or not.

Chris Howelllll

SWANSONG T-SHIRT?

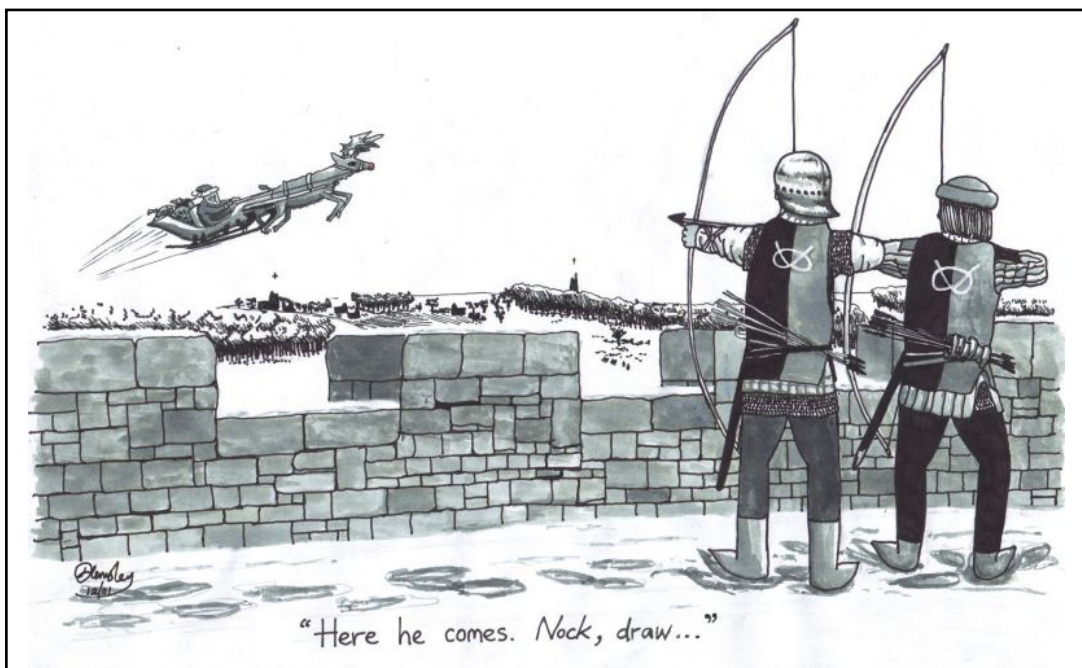
It has been suggested that the *SwanSong* logo be worked up into a T-shirt, not necessarily as the group's 2002 fashion must-have, but at least as something that no-one else will have (unless they happen to be Master Harley).

However, I'm stuck for a slogan. Obviously, it has to be insulting to other groups, without being rude, yet witty at the same time ...

So, I'm going to hold a little competition: assuming you think that *SwanSong* is a good idea for a T-shirt, send me your ideas for a slogan and the one that makes me laugh the most will get printed. The author will get a free T-shirt (not sure if the treasurer will allow me to give one away, but what the hell).

If you think a T-shirt is a crap idea, tell me as well! *Dave Hemsley*

Your Retinue
Needs
YOU
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HarleyWatch: How many times is Allan mentioned or pictured in this issue? Answer at the bottom of the page.

Send contributions to Dave Hemsley:

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or surface mail:

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Computer files as Word
6/95 or .txt/.rtf, picture
files as jpeg (less than 100
KB please)

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