ISSUE #2

MILESTONE MAGAZINE
Official Publication Of The Viking Medieval Market Organisation

Kicking off the Season in Style!

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Editor’s Introduction

Hello Readers!

It certainly doesn’t feel like enough time has passed for another magazine to be due out, but that does mean that the event season is drawing nearer!

In this edition, we see updates on upcoming events, a review of the lovely meal out and the most up to date information about the year’s upcoming events. As always, there’s a lot going on.

Hopefully this snow will disappear well before our first event in April, giving us plenty of time to thaw out and get our kit ready!

If you’d like to give us any feedback or any submissions for the Milestone Magazine, you can email me on milestonemagazine@vikingmedievalmarkets.co.uk. Don’t forget that we’re also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as having our own website—www.vikingmedievalmarkets.co.uk!

Please note that details contained in Milestone Magazine are correct at the time it is sent out, however circumstances may change over time and alterations made without prior consultation. In such cases all participants will be notified under separate cover. This newsletter is designed as a provisional guide only. Should arrangements alter, your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

Elizabeth Kellett
Editor In Chief

Meet the Team

The administration team are currently made up of five members who attend each and every event we do — Mark Olly (The Boss), Elizabeth Kellett (Dogsbody #1), Drew Barnes (Dogsbody #2), James Jackson (Dogsbody #3) and Andrea Olly (The Real Boss).

There are many, many other people who contribute to make the VMM events what they are and without whom we could not pull off what we do.
Our next event is now just over a month away and time is really closing in to book a stall. This is the last call for bookings for Trade of Thrones on Saturday 7th April 2018, which is a fantasy event. As always, if you are interested in becoming a stallholder at this event, please email mark-olly@hotmail.co.uk.

Our intention for Trade of Thrones is to bring the atmosphere, sights and sounds of many popular heroic fantasy and period TV dramas to the streets of Warrington. There will be magic and mystery, fairies and fantasy, weird creatures and dragons, lots of great costumes and dancing, a ghost pirate ship, and a host of traders selling really unusual and unique items normally only seen on the silver screen.

Unfortunately, the ‘mini-Vikings’ event has been cancelled in Formby, however we do have another event in the pipeline in conjunction with The Smithy Heritage Center in St Helens—a part costume, part trader, smaller event, to be held at their venue later in the year. We are hoping to be in a position to reveal the details in the June edition of the Magazine, however we will also have any important updates out before that!

Unfortunately, we are not in a position at this time to be able to confirm any further bookings for the Warrington events—both the midsummer event A Knight to Remember and the annual VMM in September. Further explanations are in the ‘A Sheriff Writes’ section.

We have elected to wait to confirm bookings, as opposed to confirming them and facing the possibility of having to reorganize everyone should the details have to change. We understand this is frustrating, but hope that you can all understand the decision and reasons why.

When we have any updates on further events, these will be updated on Facebook and any confirmations due out will be sent. We will keep everyone updated as much as possible in regards to the unconfirmed events, and also to the new events we have coming up.

Here’s to a superb 2018!

Confirmed Dates for 2018

Vikings
Formby Viking Medieval Market on Saturday 22nd September 2018 at the rear of the Gild Hall on Church Road, Formby.

Trade of Thrones
Warrington Fantasy Market on Saturday 7th April 2018 outside the Market Hall & in Warrington Town Centre.

Provisional Dates for 2018

A Knight to Remember
Warrington VMM & Evening Concert on Saturday 23rd June 2018 outside the Market Hall & in Warrington Town Centre.

Legends
Warrington Viking Medieval Market on Saturday 1st September 2018 outside the Market Hall & in Warrington Town Centre.
The Sheriff Writes

‘A Word from Ye Noble Lord’

Once again it is my pleasure to write the latest news update for Issue Two of the VMM’s own ‘Milestone Magazine’ which I trust you are all now familiar with and avidly reading.

Let me begin by apologizing for the lengthy delays in confirming and booking for dates in 2018, however there has been a very good reason.

Last year Warrington Market took over management of its own events and contacted us to supply two new line-ups for an event in April ‘Trade of Thrones’, an event in June ‘A Knight To Remember’, and our annual September ‘Viking Medieval Market’.

Following this, the next phase of the £102 million refurbishment commenced with the opening of the new Market building and the demolition of the old, which necessitated the move of our event last year from September to October – creating a small measure of chaos in the process. In an attempt to avoid the same thing happening throughout 2018, the lead time for booking confirmations was significantly reduced. While we can understand this, it has proved even more frustrating than having to move or cancel bookings!

The good news is that, as we go to press, the council have fully appreciated these difficulties and advertised for a full time Events Officer for the market, so we can return to normal advanced booking, hopefully by summer. Your further patience in this matter is much appreciated.

Meanwhile in other news: sadly, the Formby ‘Mini-Vikings’ costume gathering has been cancelled for this year as the new venue at Formby Pool has proven problematic - however it’s still ‘all ahead full steam’ for the annual Formby Gild Hall event in September.

To replace this gathering, we have been requested by The Smithy Heritage Center in St Helens to consider a part costume/part trader, similar in size to the Mini-Vikings event, to be held at their venue later in the year. We hope to be able to release full details in the June issue of the magazine, but this promises to take us into new uncharted waters working alongside museum services in a new area of the North West.

We also have our eye on a couple of much larger new venues including the possible return of Conwy next year in 2019, and a similar size event in Knowsley in 2020. As always, I will keep you fully informed.

We have been asked to consider forming a ‘Templar Preceptory’ for The Autonomous Sovereign Military Order Of The Temple Of Jerusalem (Knights Templar) to cover the North West region, so I’m asking anyone interested in joining to e-mail me at mark-olly@hotmail.co.uk There is also a lot of new activity amongst our ‘creatives’ which you can read more about in the MythCo article.

So all-in-all it’s shaping up to be a busy year of change – but all in the right direction.

Mark Olly
Event Coordinator
The Executioner Writes

QUESTION:
Dear Executioner, are we allowed to carry sharp blades at events?

ANSWER:
Both the law and insurance cover very clearly say no. However, there are a few guidelines and exceptions to this—any sharp blades (eating sharps, pointed swords and daggers, etc) can be carried if they are completely covered by a scabbard. We also highly recommend tying them in tightly with leather thongs so they can’t be snatched (although we can’t specify the material of your thong, leather is always a good place to start).
If the sharps are being used for their intended purpose—eating or hacking each other to shreds—all blades should be well out of public reach and, if for sale, at the back of the stall. Any sold items should be entirely wrapped in something such as a black bin bag and preferably taped in—don’t be silly, wrap your sword! Replica weapons only become legal to own once they are inside the owner’s private property. If weapons are improperly transported, the police do have the option to confiscate, although this doesn’t usually happen in practice as long as the owner is acting responsible or has a receipt having just purchased the item.
Just use your common sense when it comes to transporting your weapon, no matter how much you might want to swing it round and show it off, and you’ll probably be okay.

QUESTION:
Dear Executioner, where can I get felt?

ANSWER:
A questionable Viking Tavern?

QUESTION:
Dear Executioner, did Vikings have horns on their helmets?

ANSWER:
If they had, they certainly would have been visiting Valhalla sooner rather than later when the first person that saw them on the battlefield grabbed them and sliced from ear to ear—and they wouldn’t have had half the success they did.
Horns first appeared in London in 1882 in a Viking opera when the costume designer decided to add them, having seen the ceremonial ‘horned’ bronze helmet recently pulled out of the Thames. While some limited evidence exists for animal parts on helmets (crests, boars fur, wings, tails, etc) nothing permanently fixed and sticking out has been evidenced.

ABOVE: Two examples of ‘Viking’ rubber ducks—one of which is the authentic from the British Museum and the other of which is not. Can you tell the difference?

If you have a question for the executioner, send an owl, perform a seance, or just send an email to milestonemagazine@vikingmedievalmarkets.co.uk
A Year In Review

The Year So Far

THE MEAL OUT

The Rams Head in Old Grappenhall Village—Friday 26th January 2018

The meal was well attended with over 30 traders of every kind, musicians, re-enactors, VMM support and management staff attending. It started with folks arriving at 6:30pm and we finally left at midnight. The food was fabulous, the staff were attentive and everything was cooked fresh to order. There were two speeches; the first by Mark Olly and the second by Rob Davis (our bird man). Mark thanked the behind-the-scenes activities of Elizabeth Kellett in producing the new VMM web site and becoming editor of our Milestone Magazine, Andrea Olly for setting up the MythCo web site for bands, musicians, writers, and artists, and James Jackson for continued technical support.

Later in the evening Rob took the floor to thank Mark for his efforts in keeping the whole family together and continuing to seek out events and new ideas to keep the VMM alive, and in particular for the way we have all grown together to support one another as a true family should. True to form, there was barely a dry eye in the house after Rob’s heartfelt speech and quick departure to look after a baby owl that is fond of toilets…

We also had two birthdays to celebrate—Peter’s 70th birthday and Rhodrey’s 21st birthday, with cakes and singing all round.

We are already looking at returning to the same venue around the same time next year (2019), as the pub management were thoroughly delighted with the atmosphere and organization—so watch this space for more news. It was a lovely evening to catch up and see everyone and well requested as a repeat event.
We have several musical CDs going forward for release this spring.

Leafblade and the Whipperginnies are both currently finishing off their latest album in the recording studios.

MythCo is also currently working with Andy Coffey on his latest musical comedy masterpiece, Metall Hose. Cameras will start to roll in March for filming. This is a follow up to the Sacred Wind musical Christmas video filmed for the charity Mind.

There are also several books due to be published this year - history, legends & archaeology by Mark Olly, poetry by Sean Jude and children’s and stories from history by John Aspin.

Also, the filming of The Disappearing Ninth Legion DVD is due to start this summer and the long-awaited re-release of the box set containing all three series of Lost Treasures, we are hoping to be out in time for Yule / Christmas (ITV dependant).

If you are a creative person and feel you need any information or that we can be of help to you please contact us on our Facebook, via the MythCo website or email mythco@outlook.com.

Andrea Olly
Production Director
At the climax of the 1st Crusade on 15th July 1099, when Jerusalem was taken, Godfrey of Bouillon, Duke of Lower Loraine, formed the ‘Knights Of St John’ to tend to injured knights when the city was finally secured. The following year, Godfrey died and Baldwin I succeeded as King of Jerusalem. By 1113AD, ‘The Independent Order of the Hospital of St John in Jerusalem’ (or Knights Hospitaller) was confirmed by Pope Paschal II and run under Augustinian monastic rule.

In 1114AD, the Bishop of Chartres in France refers to another forming military order called the ‘Militia of Christ’, who are now generally have thought to have become ‘The Poor Knights of the Temple of Solomon’ (or Knights Templar) in 1118AD, formed by Hugh de Payens & Godfrey de St Omer to protect the increasing number of pilgrims now found on the road from Jaffa to Jerusalem. In that same year, King Baldwin I died to be replaced by Baldwin II, and there is no doubt that many communications between popes, kings, knights and monkas had led to the creation of the Templars—although just 9 knights were not going to pose much of a threat to the combined forces of Islam, leading modern-day commentators to question the real reasons why the Templars formed the way they did.

As conflicts continued, the Knights Hospitaller followed the Templars in becoming a fully military order again in 1123AD. In 1124AD, Hugh de Payens officially became the first “Grand Master” of the Templars. This led him to undertake a European tour, during which Hugh visited the UK in 1127AD to rally support, and during which he crucially recruited the French St Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, the foremost writer in medieval Europe at that time on matters of the female aspects of God and an authority on anciently absorbed traditions. By this time the order of Templars was now fully monastic, initially Augustinian in rule like the Hospitallers before them, but later changing to Cistercian.

Mysteriously, in 1128AD the Templars were still recorded as being only 9 knights and a few recruits, famously having only one horse between two knights. In 1130AD, St Bernard completed his seminal work ‘In Praise of Knighthood’, and Pope Innocent II is finally persuaded to confirm and accept the Templars in 1139AD.

What commenced then is the famous order that became hugely rich through gifts, grants, inheritance, and the invention of the travelers cheque (or safe exchange of money by written pledge for a small fee).

In 1146AD, the 2nd Crusade began and the Templars adopted their distinctive ‘Cross Pattee’, or ‘equal armed cross’, which is nothing whatsoever to do with the cross of Christianity. Time spent in the Middle East was casting its influence.

As time progressed the Templars produced a myriad of variations on this theme and included a cross shaft and ‘Calvary’ steps on their tombstones and depictions, giving the illusion that the cross was a Christian one, while closer examination shows it clearly not to be. Even the ‘shaft’ was often co-opted into another form such as foliage, a tree, a plant stem, a spear pinning a beast at the foot of the gravestone, etc.
Some tombs show a circle containing the ‘Tau’ cross in the shape of the letter ‘T’ instead of a full wheel cross. This represented the Medieval view of the world, that it was divided into ‘Asia’ in the whole top half of the divided circle, ‘Europa’ in the lower left-hand quarter, and ‘Africa’ in the lower right-hand quarter, with Jerusalem at the center of the circle where all three ‘zones’ met. Evidently the knights so buried were well traveled ‘men of the world’.

On the 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 1187AD the famous Islamic warrior ‘ala ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub’, or in Kurdish ‘Saladin’, re-captured Jerusalem and, despite the famous 3\textsuperscript{rd} Crusade featuring King Richard ‘Coeur-de-Lion’ in 1189AD, continued to hold it up to his death in 1193AD.

There are then many more Crusades, the 4\textsuperscript{th} Crusade (1202AD) which included many children, the 5\textsuperscript{th} Crusade (1218AD), followed by 6\textsuperscript{th} (1228AD), 7\textsuperscript{th} (1239AD), 8\textsuperscript{th} (1240AD), none of them successful, then in 1244AD Jerusalem was lost back to the Turks. The 9\textsuperscript{th} Crusade is undertaken in 1248AD, followed by the 10\textsuperscript{th} (1271AD), both fail until, in 1291AD, the Holy Land is finally entirely lost to the Saracens and no strongholds are held by any European Crusaders. The Templars are now the richest religious order in history, they have the largest navy and the world’s first permanent ‘standing army’, but they are essentially out of a job. The apparent end of the order is then a swift decline.

On Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} October 1307AD, King Phillipe IV ‘The Fair’ of France ordered the arrest of all Templars – although someone had clearly tipped them off as their navy departed France the evening before and very few knights remained in their preceptories to be arrested. On the 22\textsuperscript{nd} March 1312AD, a ‘Papal Hearing’ officially dissolved the Knights Templar and instructed that all property should transfer to the Knights Hospitaller, much to the annoyance of King Phillipe who wanted to seize it all for himself.

On the 18\textsuperscript{th} March 1314AD the last Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, and Geoffroi de Charnay, Preceptor of Normandy, were roasted to death in a fire pit on an island in the River Seine in Paris, and famously swore with their dying breaths to see the Pope and King at God’s judgment before the end of the year. Amazingly, both King and Pope died before year end. Recently discovered Vatican documents show that Pope Clement V absolved the Templars of all wrong-doing, however on the 20\textsuperscript{th} April, Clement died, followed on the 29\textsuperscript{th} November by the then ruling King Philip IV ‘according to the Templar curse’.

Meanwhile, back in Britain, the first three King Edwards favoured the Knights Templar and gave them ample time to re-locate to Wales, Ireland and Scotland, and to hand over their property to the Knights Hospitaller. It is now almost certain that Templars appeared at the battle of Bannockburn in Scotland fighting for Robert the Bruce in 1314AD. In 1319AD, the newly formed ‘Knights of Christ’ become recognized as an order, and it is 1334AD before King Edward III finally dissolves the Templars in England. In response, the King then forms ‘The Knights of the Round Table’ and ‘The Most Noble Order of the Garter’ by 1348AD. Continuity of Templar and Hospitaller traditions and beliefs is hardly surprising under these conditions.

A couple of testaments to the Templars, foresters, knights, monks, and their belief systems, still survive to torment us and defy perfect interpretation.

Andvari, meaning “careful one” in Old Norse, was a dwarf who lived underneath a waterfall and had the power to change himself into a fish at will. Andvari had a treasure of gold and a magical ring named Andvaranaut. It is said that his magic ring helped him become wealthy.

Loki used a net provided by the Norse goddess Rán, to catch Andvari while he was shape-shifted as a pike. Loki then forced Andvari to give up his gold and his magic ring.

Furious at Loki and at losing his treasures, Andvari cursed the stolen gold and magical ring to destroy anyone who possessed it.

One day, the Æsir gods, Odin, Loki, and Hœnir, were traveling and came across Ótr (otter), who was shape-shifted as an otter. Ótr was the son of Hreidmar, King of the Dwarves. Loki killed the otter (which was Ótr shape-shifted as an otter) with a stone and the three Æsir, Odin, Loki, and Hœnir, skinned the otter.

Later that day, the gods came to King Hreidmar’s dwelling and showed off the otter’s skin. Hreidmar, King of the Dwarves recognized the otter skin as being the hide of his son Ótr and demanded justice.

King Hreidmar and his remaining two sons, Fafnir and Regin, seized the gods and held them captive while Loki was sent to gather a ransom (weregild). Loki was to have the otter skin of Ótr stuffed with gold and have the outside of it covered with red gold. This was the weregild demand as reparations for slaying Ótr.

Loki fulfilled the task by gathering the cursed gold of Andvari, as well as the magical ring, Andvaranaut. Loki knew because of Andvari’s curse that the items would bring about the death and destruction of whoever possessed them.

The dwarven king Hreidmar accepted the Ótr filled bag with Andvari’s magical ring and gold as weregild and released the three Æsir.

The curse causes Fafnir to kill his father Hreidmar and take all the ring and all the gold for himself. He became very ill-natured and greedy, so he went out into the wilderness to keep his fortune, eventually turning into a serpent or dragon (wyrm, serpent) to guard his treasure. Fafnir denied his brother Regin his share.

Regin seeks the aid of Sigurd, whom agrees kill Fafnir to avenge him and his father Hreidmar.

Sigurd kills Fafnir and drinks some of Fafnir’s blood, gaining the ability to understand birds. The birds advise Sigurd to kill Regin, because he’d been corrupted by the ring and was plotting Sigurd’s death. Sigurd beheads Regin and keeps the ring and treasure for himself.

Sigurd then meets the shieldmaiden Brynhildr, whom pledges herself to him but also prophesies his doom and marriage to another. The ring’s curse affects Gudrun, a beautiful but evil woman rumoured to be a sorceress. Sigurd gave the magical ring of Andvaranaut to Gudrun as his morning gift to marry her daughter.

Corrupted by the Andvari’s cursed ring, Gudrun plots against Sigurd and Brynhildr to get the gold for herself and her family. Tragedy follows and after the deaths of Brynhildr and Sigurd, Grimhild’s brother Gunnar acquires Andvari’s gold and hides it in a cave.

Years later, Andvari discovers the cave and finds his hidden lost gold.

However, his ring, Andvaranaut was lost forever. Legend claims he spent the remainder of his days in search of his lost ring…
Hidden in these two interesting wood-cuts of scenes of conflict are two characters shouldering modern looking rifles, or their early ancestors, which were virtually unknown in the 14th century. This clearly shows that the concept of powder firing weapons had migrated from China to central continental Europe over the preceding couple of hundred years, well before the journeys of Marco Polo. Like the crossbow, it also appears these weapons were regarded as the tools of demons (see enlargement) although the original battle of 1288 may have been ‘modernised’ by the engraving of 1499.
Submissions

We will take submissions of articles, interesting images, or anything you think might fit via email for the next issue of the Milestone Magazine. You can email them over to milestone@vikingmedievalmarkets.co.uk no later than 2 weeks prior to the release date of the next edition of the Magazine. All content will be at the mercy of the editor in chief before publication.

(The magazine release date is normally the first Monday of March, June, September and December).

Contact Us

You can contact the VMM team in many different ways.

As always, you can contact Mark on mark-olly@hotmail.co.uk. You can also contact the magazine on milestone@vikingmedievalmarkets.co.uk

Click the images below to be directed to the VMM’s website, Facebook page, Twitter page or Instagram page.

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