

# WARANGJAN

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NO 7



EDITORIAL POLICY

"THE VARANGIAN VOICE" is a whenever I get my act together, official newsletter of the NEW VARANGIAN GUARD.

Whenever possible, sources have been listed, and all care taken to ensure credit is given where it belongs.

Should at sometime a readers nickers get in a knot because a date may be wrong, a name misspelt, or some other error made... be assured, no harm was intended...

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Articles are submitted by anyone interested enough to do so, if you do not like whats in it.... put in something better.

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## EDITORIAL

The weekend at the Grampians was quite interesting and had some amusing aspects when looked at in hindsight. Your editor and family arrive in Halls Gap and tried to find the hotel, only to discover it does not exist - problem no. 1. Sometime later the rest of the group arrived and with a lot of ribbing about hotels and their existence, we set out for Zumsteins camping area. We arrived, started to set up camp when an officious caretaker turned up and ordered us to leave because we had a dog. Your editor was mumbling about shooting people. A spearman was seen clutching his weapon and mumbling. A bit later the caretaker came back and told us where we could camp for the night. Next day we went to Troopers Creek and set up camp. We visited a cliff where a waterfall normally runs, but did not. Intrepid archers scaled a mountain range both ways and visited a lake, but found no deer. Halley's Comet, one of the reasons for being there, put in its most pathetic performance, and was practically invisible. But apart from these minor upsets, everyone enjoyed themselves.

### OLD SCOTS LAWS

#### Of Burrowgreffis Bakande or Brewande.

Nane aldirman, bailye, na beddel sall bake brede na brew ale to sell wythin thar awin propir house durande the tym thai stande in office. - Ibid 11X

TRANSLATION:

#### Of Town Officials Baking or Brewing.

No provost of a burgh, bailliff, nor town's officer shall bake bread nor brew ale to sell within their own perculiar house during the time that they hold office. - Ibid. 11X

Bread and ale were among the chief articles of the diet. The prices were fixed from day to day or from week to week by the town officials, called "tasters" or "appreciators", and the provost and bedal or officers were forbidden to deal in them in order that they might not be suspected of meddling with the fixing of prices to their own advantage.

NOTE: The Officials were elected yearly at the Head Court held about the time of Michaelmas.

#### The Court of the Dustyfoot:

With the opening of a fair a peace was proclaimed.

A court was temporarily set up and was called the Court of Dustyfoot, for the speedy termination of any suit or quarrel that might arise at the fair. According to the statute "Of Stabillying the pece of Fayris", so-one could be arrested during the fair or as long as the peace of the fair lasted, except those breaking the peace either come to the fair, abiding in it, or going from it; except also known traitors and such as were guilty of crimes so great that the church would not grant protection, but would allow the misdoer to be arrested even at the alter.

Refs: Title: Specimens of Scottish Literature. 1325-1835.

Author: W.M. Metcalfe, D.D.

Pages: 23 and 144

STEPHEN THE BEAR  
S.F. WYLEY  
7/7/'86

# GO CASTLEMOUNTAIN 87

It is only 8 months to the conference at Castlemountain via Wisemans ferry in Easter '87 being hosted by "1066".

The fee, I believe has put some people off going to this event and some people are even trying to organise another conference for the same weekend at another venue in N.S.W.

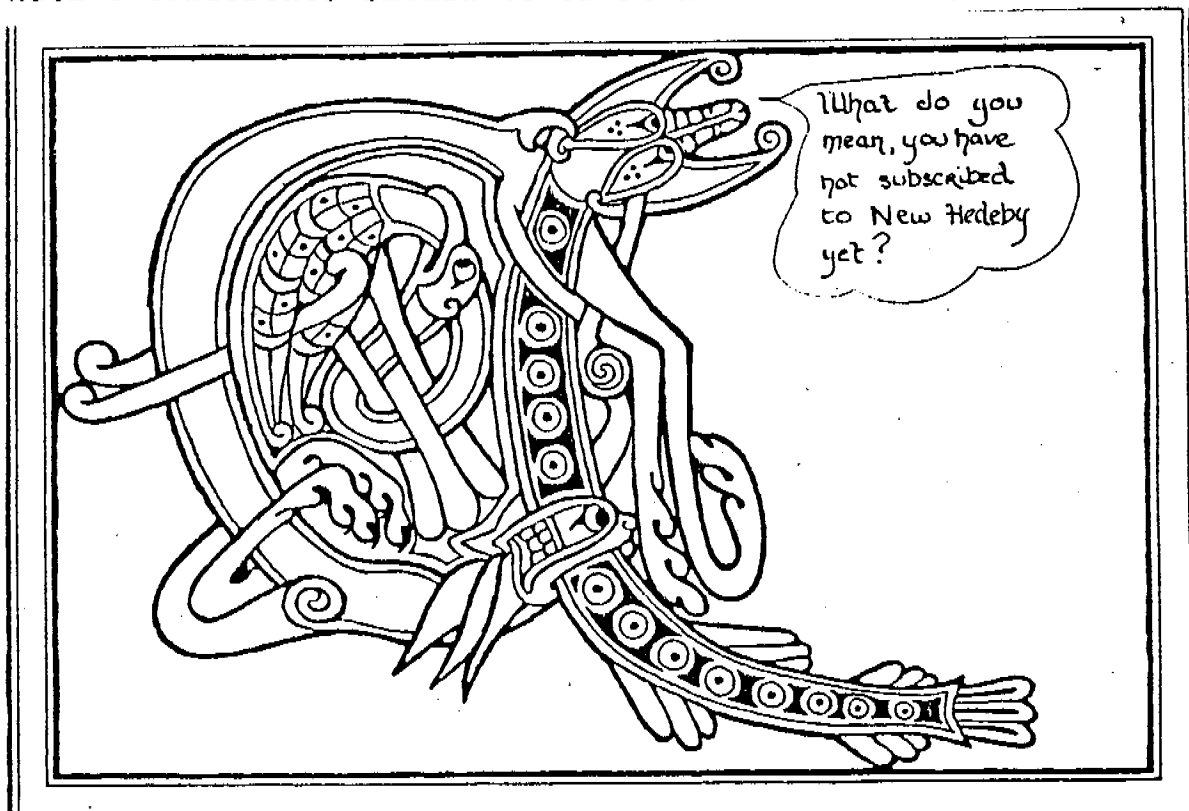
This, I believe is totally counter-productive to the loose fraternity of clubs that has grown out of two conferences and two gundarros.

The \$85 being asked for by "1066" is not excessive, especially when cost increases are taken into account over 2 years. The site has to be hire and full catering for 3 days is being done by Castlemountain enterprises. It is being organised for Friday arrival, Monday departure with meals supplied from Friday lunchtime to Monday lunchtime, with a medieval banquet Saturday night. Huts with mattresses are available and hot shower facilities.

If the N.V.G. had not had "four winds" available, we would not have been able to do things as cheaply as we did.

So, let's give "1066" all our support and go Castlemountain '87. The deposits of \$20 are urgently needed by the end of September and the total amount would be appreciated. We had this problem getting money out of people, so surely we can understand and send our monies promptly..

"1066" are also subsidising the conference out of Club funds and it is a very substantial amount. So let's get our act together and never let it be said the N.V.G. let them down. I personally think the people attempting to organise an alternative conference should be taken and reamed out.



## MALDON MIDWINTER? FEAST

The Guards slightly late midwinter feast at Four Winds on the 26th-27th of July was indeed a success. Congratulations to Roy and Margie for the fantastic food, although not as much was eaten as we had originally expected.

As well as the NVG we had several representatives from the SCA and a number of people interested in the Guard. everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and helped to make the weekend a memorable one for all involved.

People started arriving on Friday night, some almost didnt make it! Andrew Brew was nearly left on the side of the road just out of Kyneton after having to push start a car and not being able to keep up with it (they were going up a hill!). The same car then broke down in Castlemaine and our intrepid mediaevalists only made it to Four Winds with the assistance of a passing motorist(leaving the car behind).

They arrived as Roy and myself were about to leave on a rescue mission. Meanwhile back at the house everybody else was talking and drinking and generally getting into the right mood for the remainder of the weekend. One highlight of the evening was the attempt made to redesign the lounge room by removing the stove pipe.

Saturday morning, everyone was sluggish (it cant have been the drink of the night before?). Steve Wyley who was very hung over but was dragged to Castlemaine to retrieve the stranded car, and Steve, Jane and Alison went into Maldon for last minute supplies.

When people finished breakfast I inflicted some stange mediaeval tortures upon an unsuspecting populace! The games were well received by the spectators but the participants soon became lethargic and went in search of lunch. Tarren loved playing "guided missiles" with those that could still stand it after the games.

In the afternoon most people took the opportunity to practice their archery skills after this Steve and Alison placed the treasure hunt tokens. When the clues were posted everyone was left temporarily mystified. Quite some time and a number of broad hints later all the tokens were found. That evening the Feast was held with much eating, drinking and merriment, as well as some dancing, singing and games. The prizes for the treasure hunt were presented and competitions wer held for singing and recitation. Jane Routly won an oil lamp, made by Steve, for the singing and Margie won a pottery jug full of mead for her recitation. It was quite late when the feast finally broke up, some may have wished for an earlier night, one person had actually erected his tent in anticipation in a semi secluded spot- a first in all the times he had been to Maldon.

Sunday dawned on many a sore head, breakfast was a long meal lasting through many sittings. Those who could found their way down to the archery competition. Brew and myself (bribe us today!) judged the archery. A good performance was made by all but Steve Wyley won the six arrows narrowly beating Frenchy. Competitors shot at a life like rendition of one of the judges(there was more life in the target than the Brew). The fort battles followed shortly after with much fun for all.with arrows flying and steel clashing. In the second battle the fort was overrun but the attackers forgot to kill one of the defenders (where were your slave chains Steve?). (who would pay the other half of the telecom bill Michael?) For those who wondered if Roy was really there that weekend, well he was you just had to look in the right place- by a stove, near a cooking pot. with knife standing over chopping board. In fact Roy started cooking Friday night (or was that wednesday) and didnt stop till Sunday. At one point we thought we might have to forcibly restrain him to stop his culinary efforts. (you can take the apprentice out of the chefs course, but you cant take the chef out of the apprentice).

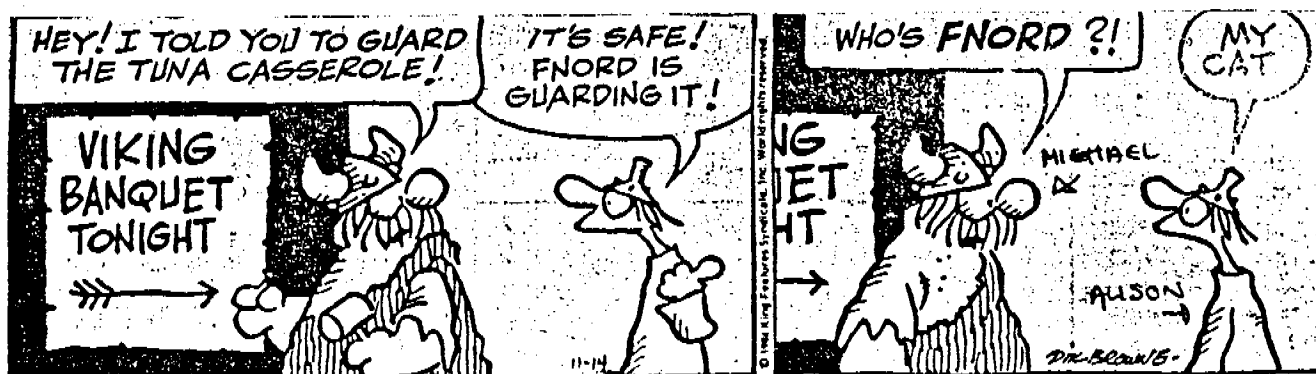
Thankyou to everyone who helped to make the feast a success and a special thankyou to Steve and Margie for providing the venue, Roy for his culinary efforts and to everyone who helped clean up.

## TURNIPS STUFFED WITH APPLES

2 White turnips, each the size of a large apple  
Salt to taste  
1 cup of peeled, minced apple  
2 tablespoons currents  
2 egg yolks, hard boiled  
2 tablespoons breadcrumbs  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon powdered ginger  
1 tablespoon brown sugar  
1 cup water  
1/2 cup dry white wine or rose  
1 tablespoon butter  
dash vinegar  
1/8 teaspoon ground rosemary  
pinch mace  
8 pitted dates

- 1) Peel the turnips, and flatten them by slicing off both top and bottem so they can stand upright on either end. Cut each turnip in half horizontally.
- 2) With a sharp knife, cut a deep circle 1/8 inch from the rim of each half as if you were cerving a grapefruit. With the knife or the sharp point of a potato peeler, lift out bits of turnip meat until each half looks like a small bowl. (If you wish, dice these excess peices of turnip and end serve them raw in a salad...) Sprinkle each half with salt.
- 3) In a bowl combine apple, currents, egg yolks, bread crumbs, salt, cinnamon, ginger and brown sugar. Heap mixture into each turnip half.
- 4) In a large enameled pot, bring water and wine to a boil. Add butter, vinegar and spices. Stir,
- 5) Reduce heat to simmer. Place stuffed turnips in pot; each should stand on flattened bottem.
- 6) Cover and simmer for 50 minutes or until turnips can be easily pierced with a fork. About 5 minutes before turnips are done, add dates to the simmering liquid.
- 7) Serve stuffed turnips in a bowl, placing one or two boiled dates on each. Spoon wine sauce over them.

From: "To the Queen's Taste"- Elizabethan Feasts and Recipes.  
SASS L. John Murry (Publishers) Ltd London. 1976

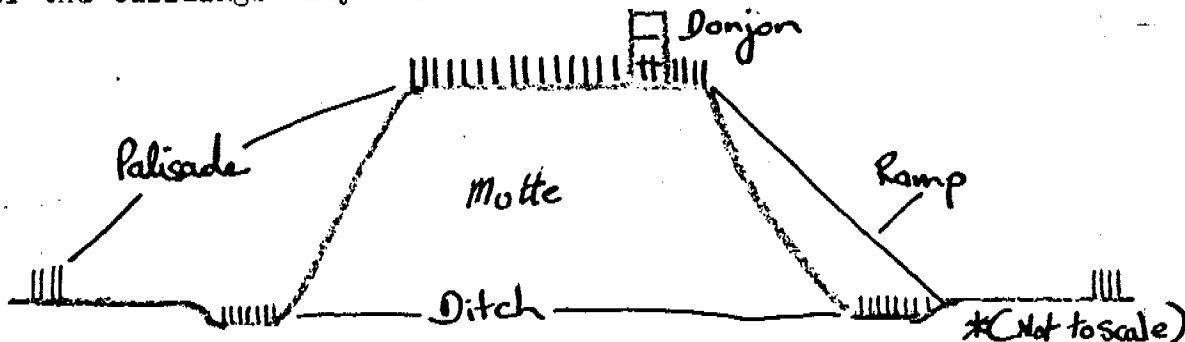


## MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLES.

The motte and bailey were chiefly introduced by the Normans, even though a few were built before 1066. The Normans found them a very successful device for consolidating the conquest of land, and creating a base for further conquest. The Normans used local labour to build the earthen mound which was called a motte, from the Norman word for turf. The motte was usually about 50ft high and had steep sides. Around the base was a ditch which had been created by the removal of the earth taken to build the motte. The ditch was either filled with water, or with sharp stakes if water was not available. In either case, the ditch was a formidable obstacle which had to be crossed before the motte was climbed. Later the area around the base of the motte was enclosed by a palisade of stakes and this enclosed area was called the bailey. Outside this palisade there might be another ditch. The bailey was used for enclosing minor buildings, or in time of attack, cattle and sheep.

On the summit of the motte was a wooden tower of two or three storeys surrounded by a palisade, the tower was known as the donjon, and later was called the keep. When the wooden palisade on some mottes were replaced by a stone wall, it was known as a shell keep. The owner of the castle lived at the top, and the soldiers below but it was all a bit cramped and movement from floor to floor was by means of ladders. All cooking took place out of doors, and this must have been hard under adverse conditions. The donjon was also used for holding prisoners, thus the underground dungeon originated well above ground, and the moat derived its name from the motte from which the earth for the mound was excavated.

The Normans were resourceful people and made the best use of the ancient earthworks at Thetford in Norfolk, this they adapted as a motte, it is the tallest in Britain, being 120 feet high. They also used convenient crags, and where timber was scarce they built in stone from the beginning, this had to be done at ground level because new mottes could not take the weight of the stone. And the building of stone donjons on older mottes was not very successful either. The Normans realized that a stone donjon on level ground could be a formidable defence if strong enough, and the White Tower of the Tower of London is a typical of the buildings they erected to this end.



Reference: Castles in Britain  
by Philip Warner 1981.

# A GLOSSARY OF CASTLE TERMINOLOGY.

## Arrow Slit

Narrow slits in towers or curtain walls to allow archers to shoot through, being carefully spaced to avoid weakening the masonry. Generally there are two kinds: the single, upright slit, and the cross slit, for the use of the cross-bow.

## Ashlar

Worked stone, masonry, or squared stone in regular courses.

## Bailey

The outer enclosure or court of a castle and later applied to any court within the series of walls. Sometimes used synonymously with ward.

## Barbican

Another defence to the castle, often defending the approaches to a bridge or gatehouse.

## Bastion

A low, solid projection, generally sharp angled, designed to provide the maximum amount of flanking to the curtain walls and to its neighbouring bastions and at the same time providing a small target as possible to the attackers.

## Berried

The tall, narrow tower characteristic of many castles in German speaking countries.

## Bracket

A piece of stone or wood projecting from a wall, to support boarding or machicolation.

## Chemise

Usually applied to the wall protecting a keep either by surrounding it completely or joining onto it.

## Concentric Castles

A term generally applied to the form of castle introduced in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and more frequently in later centuries which consists of two or more complete circles of walls within one another, the aim being to present the enemy with sides of equal strength at the same time permitting a quicker response to attack on any part of the garrison.

## Console

A synonym for bracket, generally applied to the supports from which machicolation was built on.

## Crenel

The notch or indentation in the battlements (see merlon).

## Curtain Wall

The wall connecting two towers or bastions.

## Dead Ground

Any area at the base of a fortifications where the attackers cannot be reached by the arrows or projectiles of the defenders (see flanking).

## Ditch

A wide trench designed either to stop the enemy crossing or hampering them in doing so. In this sense it is used to mean a dry trench.

## Merlon

The rising part of a parapet, the opposite to the crenel.

## Moat

The water filled ditch surrounding a castle, sometimes wholly artificial, sometimes partly natural in origin. Just as 'donjon' from signifying the highest part of a castle came to be dungeon to denote the lowest, so moat, deriving from motte, was transferred from the motte to the ditch from which it was excavated.

## Motte

A hillock either artificially created or naturally, often carrying a wooden tower.

## Murderhole

A term sometimes used for the openings in the floors of rooms in gatehouses above the passage from the entrance or in other important places.

## Obliette

A secret dungeon whose opening was a trap door from above, few seem to have existed.

## Portcullis

A heavy grating suspended on chains worked by winches which could be dropped quickly down vertical grooves in the gatehouse or at other important entrances.

## Rempart

A mound of earth raised as a defensive wall.

## Ringwork

A loose term describing any earthen defensive enclosure, regardless of period, size, or function.

## Donjon

Another and older term for the keep, deriving originally from the latin dominus ('lord'), and was later corrupted into dungeon meaning a prison.

## Drawbridge

A bridge, generally hinged at one end and free at the other, that could be drawn up to prevent an enemy crossing the ditch or moat in front of the gate. Its simplest form is a movable plank; others were pulled up by chains worked by pulleys. The most elaborate worked on a counterpoise system; the chains were suspended from beams which, when the bridge was drawn up, fitted into recesses provided for them above the entry. Others worked on a pivot so that the inner part of the bridge fell into a pit while the outer part completely covered the entry.

## Embrasure

An opening for guns to fire through in the parapet or in the wall.

## Enceinte

The main enclosure of a castle.

## Flanking

The art of disposing fortifications so that, for example, the approaches to each tower are covered by neighbouring towers. Its chief purpose is to eliminate dead ground.

## Ganerbenberg

A German term for a castle under the mutual ownership of several heirs.

## Gatehouse

The fortifications specially designed to guard the main or other points of entry into the castle.

## Gunloop

An aperture for firing hand guns through the equivalent in artillery terms of the arrow slit. These took many forms: the essentials were a round hole for the barrel of the gun and a slit, sometimes vertical, and sometimes in the shape of a cross, for sighting and to allow the gases to escape.

## Boarding

A covered wooden gallery projecting from the top of a tower or from a curtain wall to provide vertical defence.

## Keep

The English term for donjon, the strongest and generally the biggest building in the castle, used often both as the last refuge and, more especially in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, as a residence. Its earliest known use is 1586.

## Lists

A term for the area set aside for jousting and wrongly applied in the last century to the spaces between two lines of towers and curtain walls in concentric castles in belief that jousts took place there.

## Machicolation

An opening or, more often, a series of openings either built out on consoles or provided by the gap between a recessed wall and the buttressed arch standing before it, from which projectiles and liquids could be thrown on to the enemy at the foot of walls or towers. The term is usually reserved for the stone constructions which in many countries superseded the use of wood for the same purpose (see boarding).

## Schildmauer

The especially strong wall guarding the only line of approach of a castle built on a mountain or on a spur in certain parts of Germany.

## Spur

An angular projection applied, for example to the base of a drum tower to hinder mining. It had the same purpose as the talas.

## Talas

The sloping or scarped side of a wall (also called the batter).

## Tourelle

A turret projecting from a larger tower acting either as a watchtower or if provided with machicolation, for vertical defence, just for decoration.

## Towerhouse

The term applied to the residential towers of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Transitional Keep

The term applied to the French and English polygonal keeps of the 12<sup>th</sup> century whose design was intended to overcome the disadvantages of the square or rectangular keep.

## Turret

A slender tower of tourelle projecting from a larger tower.

## Ward

A court yard of a castle.

Reference: Castles of Europe

by William Anderson

STEPHEN THE BEAR

S.P. WYLEY

8/7/86



Article from "THE AGE" 22/4/'86

### LATE BREAKFAST

A year ago, the body of "Pete Marsh" was discovered buried in the Cheshire peat moss. The body was moved to a nearby mortuary until radio-carbon dating assured a cautious coroner that the corpse was genuinely prehistoric. Since then, Scientists have subjected Pete (officially known as the Lindow Man) to intense scrutiny. In between times, he is kept in a specially built coffin-cooler at the standard morgue temperature of 4°C. A forensic scientist Dr. Ian West pieced together Pete's grisley end. Around 550 BC, he was struck twice on the head with a heavy instrument, garrotted and, finally, his throat was slit. The, according to Professor Frank Oldfield, a palaeo-environmentalist from Liverpool University, the body was tipped face down in a shallow pool. Killers liked to make sure, back in 550 BC.

Now, "New Scientist" reports that recent experiments have revealed exactly what Peter had for breakfast on that fateful day. Gordon Hillman, from the Institute of Archaeology, found the stomach contents were a mixture of small tail-grain, chaff and weed seeds...Using a new technique called electron-spin resonance that can measure the highest past temperature to which plant matter has been subjected, - Hillman believes the peat man's last meal was baked rather than boiled. He ate bread for breakfast, not porridge.

## When women were tough

THE Celtic warriors of ancient times were a fearsome lot, but the women of Ireland were even more terrifying, a leading scholar suggests.

The Romans who fought the Celtic barbarians in Europe had quite a bit to say about the women, according to Patrick Ford, a professor at UCLA and eminent authority on Celtic history.

"They described Celtic men

as very powerfully built, with drooping moustaches and so fearless that they sometimes went into battle naked," he said. "But when they talk about Celtic women, they say that if the men were powerful and terrifying, the women were more so.

"One writer says that if a Celt calls his wife in to help him in a battle, the opponent has no chance whatsoever."

"The Australian" Tues. 6/5/'86

Among the Scandinavians, every tree almost, was an Oak; ie, the word Oak was vaguely applied to trees as the word Apple among ourselves is applied to fruits, (various types of apples.)

From "Flower Lore" Pub. 1884. Re Pub. 1981 by rev. H. Friend, F.L.S.

TURNERS HORSE HIRE  
Midland Hwy.  
GUILDFORD.

\$7 hour. \$30 per day.  
For groups of 10 or more. With a weeks notice.

It is proposed to organise a day with the above establishment on the weekend of the 25-26 of October.

Feedback to Michael please on the suitability of this weekend.

NVG Inc. WEAPON PRACTICE

Meeting dates for the remainder of 1986 are:

SEPT. 7	OCT. 5	NOV. 16	DEC. 7
20	19		21
	26		

NOTES

SEPT. 7 -Archery, combat archery and general practice at 11 Harvest Home lane Epping.

SEPT.20 -Fighting and feasting on a Saturday (see Below)

OCT. 26 -Leaves the Cup Day weekend free for those planning long weekends

GENERAL + Practice starts at 10.30AM and will run till 12.30. those who are able may wish to stay later and get in some fighting and/or bring their lunch and socialise.

NVG Inc. CHORAL GROUP

DONT SIT THERE STUNNED BY THE HEADING, if you are interested in singing Medieval songs call Michael or Alison on 882-6304.

The Guard looks like acquiring several persons with experience in Choral groups, so the future for the gentler arts in the Guard appears brighter.

OTHER EVENTS

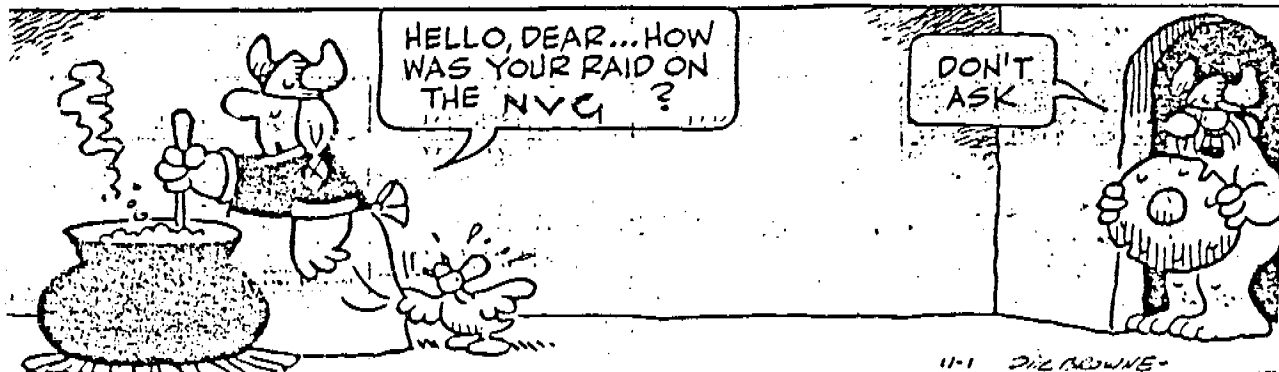
Horse Riding - no firm date yet. we are waiting for better weather. suggestion at present is to go to a riding school near Maldon on a Saturday spend the evening socialising, and for those masochists amongst us, go riding again on the Sunday.

Grempians - a slightly more successful hunting expedition?

ROY'S VIDEO FEAST

On the 20th of September at 4-6 Wangaratta Rd Richmond at about 7.00PM a most wonderous event will occur. Roy (cant get him away from a stove) Castell with some help will be providing a delicious assortment of medieval dishes for the meagre sum of \$5.00. BYO drink, bowl, knife, spoon and goblet. This feast will be crusader style so you will need a cushion. After everyone has had their fill of eating, drinking? etc. a selection of appropriate videos will be screened (final decisions yet to be made but following under consideration Arthur the young warlord, 301 spartans, Hearts end armour, any other suggestions considered). Roy has advised that there is sufficient space for anyone unable to make their way home to sleep the night.

Firm numbers attending required by 10 September, money ASAP.



### Caeser invades Britain

The first date in English History is 55 B.C., in which year Julius Caeser (the memorable Roman Emperer) landed, like all other successful invaders of these Islands at Thanet. That was in the Olden Days, When the Romans were Top Nation on account of their classical education etc,etc.

Julius Caeser advanced very energetically, throwing his cavalry several thousands of paces over the river Flumen; but the Ancient Britons, though all well over military age, painted themselves true blue or woad, and fought heroically under their dashing Queen, Woadicea, (as they did later in thin red lines under their good queen Victoria).

Julius Caeser was then therefore compelled to invade Britain again the following year (54 B.C., not 56, owing to the peculiar Roman method of counting), and having defeated the Ancient Britions by unfair means, such as battering-rams, tortises, hippocausts, centipes, axes, and bundles, set the memorable Latin sentence, "Veni, Vidi, Vici," which the Romans, who were all very well educated, construed correctly. The Britons, however, who all used the old pronounciation, understanding him to have called them "Weeny, Weedy and Weakly," lost heart and gave up the struggle, thinking that he had already divided them into All Three Parts.

### The Roman Occupation

For some reason the Romans neglected to overrun the country with fire and the sword, though they had both of these; in fact after the Conquest they did nothing, did not mingle with the Britons at all, but lived a semi-detached life in villas. They occupied their time for 2 or 3 hundred years in building Roman roads and having Roman baths; this was called the occupation, and gave rise to the memorable Roman law, "He Who Baths First Baths Fast", which was a good thing and still is. The Roamn roads ran absolutely straight in all directions and all led to Rome. The Romans also built towns wherever they were wanted, and, in addition, a wall between England and scotland to keep out the savage Picts and Scots. This wall was the work of the memorable Roman Emperer Balbus and was thus called Hadrien's Wall. The Picts or painted men were so called to distinguish them from the Britons (See Woad.)

From "1066 and all that" - Sellar & Yeatman. 1930 Metuen & Co.