

THE ANCIENTS TELL TALES OF HOW LIFE FOR VIKINGS*, AWAY FROM HOME, WAS TOUGH AND NOMADIC. SO IT WAS, WHEN THE CLAN OF HALDAN** MADE CAMP BY THE LAKE IN THE FOREST OF WALTHAM, IT WAS A WHILE BEFORE THEY MOVED ON. INSTEAD THEY FEASTED ON THE FISH AND FOWL READILY AVAILABLE, AND CAROUSED THE NIGHTS AWAY.

BUT FOR THANE HALDAN, THIS WAS BUT A RESPITE. THE HAMLET OF HALE END WAS IN HIS SIGHTS. THERE WERE RICHES TO BE MADE ON THE BANKS OF THE MIGHTY RIVER KERCHING. HOMES AND CHURCHES TO BE RAIDED; AND BOOTY TO TAKE HOME.

MEANWHILE, IN THE HAMLET OF SEWARDSTONEBURY THE CLAN OF SEWARD*** WAS GROWING IN STRENGTH. THEY HAD MASSED RICHES FROM RAIDS ON THE WALTHAM ABBEY, AND SETTLED FOR A WHILE ON THE BANKS OF THE CUCKOO BROOKE. BUT THE WARRIORS WERE RESTLESS. THEY PACKED UP THEIR BELONGINGS AND HEADED DOWN THE CUCKOO BROOKE UNTIL THEY REACHED ITS JOINING WITH THE KERCHING. NEWS HAD REACHED THEM OF A MIGHTY LAKE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALTHAM FOREST, FULL OF FISH AND FOWL FOR FOOD, AND VAST RICHES TO BE GAINED FROM THE HAMLETS OF HIGHAMS AND HALE END.

THE SEWARDS FOLLOWED THE COURSE OF THE RAMBLING RIVER KERCHING UNTIL IT FLOWED INTO THE MIGHTY LAKE WHERE THE HALDANS WERE ENCAMPED.

AND SO IT WAS, ON THE 8TH DAY OF MAY, WHEN THE FOREST WAS ABOUT TO BURST INTO GLORIOUS LEAF; THE LAKE WAS REPLENISHING IT'S BOUNTY FOR ANOTHER YEAR; AND THE SKY WAS FULL OF RETURNING BIRDS; THAT THE TWO VIKING CLANS MET ON THE PLAINS OF HIGHAM BENSTED.

OUR SPRING FESTIVAL IN THE HIGHAMS PARK ON SUNDAY 8TH MAY HAS A VIKING THEME

COME, AND BEAR WITNESS TO THE OUTCOME OF THEIR SKIRMISHES. JOIN THE FEASTING AND CAROUSING FROM **11:AM ONWARDS**. SUPPORT A CLAN:

WHERE WILL YOU PIN YOUR COLOURS?

CHOOSE A CLAN, AND COLOUR IN YOUR EMBLEM IN SHADES OF THE APPROPRIATE COLOURS.

IN THE RED CORNER
THE HALDANS



HALDANS

IN THE BLUE CORNER
THE SEWARDS



SEWARDS

*THIS IS A PURELY FICTIONAL TALE, MADE UP OF OLD SAXON NAMES AND PLAYING WITH NAMES OF REAL PLACES FOR A BIT OF FUN SUCH AS KERCHING FOR THE RIVER CHING - BEING A REFERENCE TO BOOTY.

**THE THANE OF HALE END IN THE DOOMSDAY BOOK WAS THANE HALDAN.

*** IT IS BELIEVED THAT SEWARDSTONEBURY WAS NAMED AFTER A FAMOUS SAXON WARLORD CALLED SEWARD!