

Costume Information Sheet

Anglo Saxons and Vikings

Date: 917

Where are you going?

You are coming to the remotest part of the Tatton estate in an area near the Old Hall. We know that there was once an Anglo Saxon farming community here because archaeologists have found evidence of several buildings including an Anglo Saxon Longhouse. The original buildings rotted away a long time ago, but with your help, we hope eventually to reconstruct the community which once lived here. The name TATTON comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'TATA'S TUN' meaning Tata's Farm.

Vikings at Tatton

Sigismund is a Viking Jarl who has come to Tatton to negotiate with the Anglo Saxon Thane who owns Tatton on what land is to be his to settle. He has brought with him a party of housekarls, karls and thralls. They are mainly freemen, farmers, craftsmen and merchants but thrall are effectively slaves. Vikings organise themselves very differently from the Anglo Saxons and having won the land by conquest, it has been settled and farmed by the karls as free and independent people with the Jarl acting only as a military leader. Disputes are settled by an Allthing, which is held several times a year and is not necessarily controlled by the Jarl.

Anglo Saxons and Vikings

On the day, you may find that you are going to be a Viking or an Anglo Saxon. As a Viking you are cold and hungry from your journey. You need to build a camp and find some food and shelter, or will you steal it from someone else? If you are a resident Anglo Saxon, how are you going to survive? Are you protected from the Vikings? Will the gods help you? WAIT AND SEE.....

What to Wear

We find that a sort of costume, even a simple one, helps you to imagine what it might have been like as a Viking. Please bear in mind that it can get cold being outside, so try and wear something warm underneath your costume.

Girls

Wear a long dress underneath a tunic which would have been woollen and resembled an apron. It was held up by a pair of brooches, sometimes joined by a chain or string of beads.

Over the tunic you might like to wear a shawl. Legs and feet should be covered with thick woollen socks and soft leather shoes.



Vikings



Boys

Wear a woollen shirt underneath a tunic which can be made by folding a rectangle of material in half and cutting a hole for your head or a three-quarter coat and a belt made from fabric.

You can wear long cloth trousers held up by a sash or a drawstring with thick socks and a pair of soft leather shoes or long leather boots.

Both men and women wore fur or woollen hats and cloaks in cold weather.
The cloaks were fastened at the shoulder with a brooch or a pin.