

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

Issue 47

Odin's Day, July 28, 2004

Contact email: afa@lanset.com

Please tell your friends about *AFA Update* and suggest they subscribe! They can do so by going to AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AFA WEB SITE UPDATES

We've made a number of changes to the web site since the last *AFA Update*. We've completely redone the first page content, giving it a much more welcoming tone. Lots of dated material has been dumped. The AFA's "Frequently Asked Questions" has been brought up to date, and the "Asatru Primer" reworked.

We've also improved the look of the online store, and added the CD versions of our audio tapes to the product list.

Drop in and pay us a visit at www.runestone.org !

THE ONGOING DISMANTLING OF THE ANCIENT EUROPEAN PAST

In our last *AFA Update*, we urged you to take action on the Thornborough site in England - twelve times the size of Stonehenge, and endangered by quarrying. I am proud to say that we started a bit of an avalanche, and that this information has been posted all over the Internet. My congratulations to you, our readers, for a job well done!

The Asatru Folk Assembly will continue to be involved in projects of this sort, in addition to all our regular endeavors. Europe's ancient past has been well protected in some places, but in other locations massive damage is being done. One Irish official was quoted as saying that the country has lost ten percent of their protected sites in the last ten years! There are any number of reasons for this ongoing loss, but the one cited in news accounts is "the change in farming patterns." In other words, the small family farms are being wiped out and the new landowners feel no attachment to the places they have acquired.

The connection to the past, to the ancestors and to the sacred soil in which they rest, is one we must cherish. If we can help preserve the holy places and archeological sites in general, we make it harder for the culture-mulchers to reduce the world to one big “produce, consume, and obey” hive. And that, I think, is something that would please both the Holy Powers as well as that long line of forebears!

CREEPING DESECRATION AT THE WHITE HORSE STONE

The White Horse Stone is said to be the place where the Saxons, under Hengist and Horsa, defeated the Britons at the Battle of Aylesford in 455 CE. This victory ushered in the Germanic occupation of England. The Odinic Rite has often held blot at the location.

It seems, though, that creeping desecration is making its move on this sacred site.

The following alert comes to us from Hengist Thorsson, Internet Information Officer of the Odinic Rite (www.odinic-rite.org) and we pass it on to our readers for action. Please note that time is short - **a decision will be made next Monday, August 2nd!**

Orange wants to install a 15 meter mast (antenna) within feet of the Stone and adjacent to the Pilgrim's Way. They say it is temporary but once installed I don't think it will ever be removed.

The mast, if given planning permission, will be in the hedgerow next to the Cursing field where the Stone stands, too.

It is an area of natural beauty and the White Horse Stone is an ancient monument.

*If you can, please write to
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Attn: Steve Humphrey and Jill Hamilton
Director of Planning and Engineering Services
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling, Kent
ME19 4LZ*

Please quote the Application No: TM/04/02250/FL

If a lot of letters are received it will go to a committee to be considered, instead of being nodded through by an officer from planning.

[NOTE: Given the short response time, this will not work for people living in the United States.]

I have telephoned to Tonbridge and Malling Council and am told that comments and objections must be received by 2nd August. (That is this coming Monday). The person dealing with this is Jill Thompson her phone number is 01732876234. Her email is jill.hamilton@tmbc.gov.uk

I also spoke to the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling yesterday who has promised to support us.

LATEST NEWS ON IRISH VIKING SITE

From the Waterford (Ireland) *News and Star*, July 23, 2004

The initial phase of the archaeological excavation at Woodstown has just been completed. A further complete excavation can only be carried out under the order of the Minister for Environment, Martin Cullen. His decision is expected in the Autumn... Sitricus [Sigtrygg] is credited as being the first Viking to lead his warriors into what we know as Waterford City – he most probably led them up the River Suir to the site now being excavated at Woodstown. The first thing you notice as you drive down the slope from the Old Kilmeaden Road are the spectacular views as the river bends off into the distance; it is unlikely that Sitricus was concerned with the view.

He and his twelve ships would have used the shelter of the bend in the river and from this point could have controlled all that did or did not go past. There may well have been a settlement of a tribe known as the Decies on the Waterford side of the river and a settlement of the Eoganachta on the Kilkenny side. From their new position, at least for a while, the Vikings would have fought fiercely with both...

For more, see

<http://www.waterford-news.ie/news/story.asp?j=15116>

PROTECTION NEEDED FOR WATERFORD SITE?

The Save Tara-Skryne Valley Campaign, an activist group set up to protect the Hill of Tara and other archeological sites in Ireland, announced recently that the Woodstown Viking site near Waterford is one of a number of threatened sites. According to the organization, the Irish government and corporations are engaged in the destruction of “Ireland’s finest native, Norman, and Viking national monuments” through ill-conceived development

The group has erected a new website at www.archaeology-anonymous.org to expose what it calls a series of “cover-ups” concerning threats to these and other locations.

IRELAND: ANCIENT LAKE SETTLEMENT FOUND

From the July 26 issue of *Irish Times* -

Evidence of a 7,200-year-old lakeshore settlement which spanned at least 1,000 years has been uncovered in a Co Longford wetland. Tim O'Brien reports.

The remains of a crannóg-like settlement which has been dated to 7,200 years ago were found by Swedish archaeologist Dr Christina Fredengren, who is currently working close to Lough Kinale near Abbeylara.

The find is significant because it also contains evidence of alterations which were carried out about 1,000 years later - indicating if not a previously unknown 1,000-year continual civilisation in Longford, then certainly some progression from hunter gatherers to farming settlers.

The main feature of the find - a stone platform of 12 metres in diameter overlaid with brushwood and the remains of three fireplaces - is thought to date from the late megalithic period, which makes it older than the Loughcrew cairns or the pyramids of Egypt.

WICKER MAN

Wicker Man hardly qualifies as an Asatru movie, though many of us have enjoyed watching the undoing of Sergeant Howie at the hands of Scottish pagans. This film classic is now celebrating its thirty-first year of alternately shocking and pleasing audiences in theaters and living rooms around the world.

A noteworthy article appeared recently in *The Scotsman*, discussing the lasting appeal of *The Wicker Man* - and informing us that there's now an annual Wicker Man Festival, held at East Kirkcarswell Farm, on the Solway Coast near the Scottish town of Dundreannan. Six thousand people showed up for the inaugural even a few days ago. The festival features song and dance, but, I think, no sacrificial policemen.

Here is a link to the article in *The Scotsman*, as well as one to a site about the movie itself.

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=853662004&20040726025901>

<http://www.dalbeattie.com/scotland-creetown/thewickerman/>

ODIN LIVES! SPONSORS CONCERT IN OHIO!

Odin Lives! Radio is please to announce that Väsen will be appearing in the Holland Theater, Bellefontaine, Ohio, on Monday, September 20th, 2004 at 7pm EDT.

Väsen is *the* premier Swedish folk music ensemble. Featuring Olov Johansson playing the Swedish keyed fiddle (nyckelharpa), Roger Tallroth on guitar, Mikael Marin, viola and percussionist André Ferarri, Väsen helped launch the Nordic Roots revival in Scandinavia and the United States.

Tickets are only \$15 in advance, and can be purchased directly from *Odin Lives!* Radio by visiting the events page at:

<http://www.odinlives.org/events.html>

IMPORTANT DATES

August 9 - Day of Remembrance for King Radbod. This Frisian king ejected Christian missionaries and upheld our ancestral faith in his land, against great pressure. Pour a libation to the ancient Frisian Goddess Friagabi, "Giver of Freedom" and declare yourself free from alien creeds.

August 21 (approximately) - Freyfaxi. Late August was the time for a harvest-related holy day celebrated in some parts of Viking Age Scandinavia. In modern Asatru, this date has been named Freyfaxi, after the horse of the Vanic deity, Frey. Freyfaxi centers around the stallion as a symbol of fertility for the coming harvest.

September 9 - Day of Remembrance for Herman of the Cherusci. Herman learned the art of war under the Romans, then deserted the Imperial eagles to lead his tribe in revolt against the Mediterranean intruders. In the fall of the year 9 CE, he annihilated three legions in the Teutoburgerwald, a victory which saved Germania from Roman occupation. Plant an oak tree, eat in a German restaurant, and remember Herman with a glass of fine beer from the Fatherland!

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen
Asatru Folk Assembly

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THESE
UPDATES?** He or she can subscribe by going to [AFA_Bearclaw-
subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahogroups.com).

VISIT OUR WEB SITE at <http://www.runestone.org>.