



JORVIK VIKING FESTIVAL 16 - 26 FEBRUARY 2006 A BATTLE OF LOVE

Since its inception 21 years ago the JORVIK Viking Festival has brought terror to the citizens of York, but now all that is about to change.

This month, the city will still resound with battle cries, the clash of steel and the shrieks of helpless victims (well, on-lookers) but we will also be exposed to the gentler, more loving side of the plunderers from across the sea.

King Sihtric of Dublin is set to marry Princess Edith, the sister of Aethelstan, the West Saxon King of England in a spectacular Royal wedding ceremony at York's great Minster.

But there may be some resistance - so beware of fierce local subjects, battle drills, the famous Trial by Ordeal, the Bloody Battle at Clifford's Tower and of course, the long ship race on the Ouse.

This year's programme promises the same thrilling blend of spectacle and culture that regular participants have come to expect, with some exciting new additions and an international twist.

Highlight events

1. Event launch (Wednesday 15th February, pm)

Spectacular light projection onto Clifford's Tower will warn the city of the imminent arrival of Viking troops including torchlight procession.

2. Mythical landscape (Friday 17th February)

Tree of life artwork for people to come along and contribute to. This will be an installation in the form of a stage set that explores the nine worlds of the Vikings. The artist Lisa Nicholson is a prolific regional artist.

3. Boat burial re-enactment (Saturday 18th February)

A Viking will be laid to rest in an attractive boat and surrounded by his personal belongings. This is a Viking 'ritual' and the tone of this will be quite humorous.

4. Trial of Strength (Wednesday 22nd February)

Beard tugging, hand to hand combat, drinking competition (not beer) plus more. All contained in a cordoned off area St Sampson's Square in York.

5. Vikings in Action (Saturday 25th February)

Main day of activity - boat race, royal wedding, battle. 150-200 Vikings attend from all over the world - Russia, Poland, Belgium, France as well as Scandinavia.

* Festival Highlight *

6. The Royal Wedding, York Minster, 7.30pm

A spectacular re-enactment of the wedding of King Sihtric and Princess Edith in the candlelit atmosphere of York Minster. Join warriors, traders, musicians and Very Important Vikings to celebrate this historic union. A unique occasion not to be missed!

-ENDS-

A full, detailed programme of events is available on request, please contact Emma Hunt on 01904 543413 or ehunt@yorkarchaeology.co.uk.

Alternatively visit: www.vikingjorvik.com