

NEWSLETTER

The Viking Moot at Moesgård Beach 20th-26th July 2009

Dear Vikings,

Thanks for a great Viking Moot in 2008 when we set a new record for participants – just over 700! It was a lovely sunny week which we hope you enjoyed as much as we did – and remember it with a smile on your face.

We in the Steering Group are busy planning this year's Viking Moot, and this newsletter brings you the latest news. We are looking forward very much to seeing you all again!

Registration

Moesgård Museum sends out invitations to Vikings we would like to see at the Viking Moot. The invitation accompanies this newsletter.

The warriors are invited, as the only participants, in groups, and registration is coordinated and processed by the warriors' representative in the Steering Group, Mikkel Pauli Mønsted.

Traders, craftsmen and cavalry receive personal invitations. This means that an invitation applies solely to *the person invited together with their spouse/partner and any children below 18 years of age*. Children over 18 years of age must submit their own application to take part – even though they are still living in their parents' tent (this should, of course, be stated on their application if it is the case). If they wish to have their own tent, they must apply to take part on an equal footing with other applicants.

With the exception of the warriors, we do not invite groups who then decide themselves who and how many will take part. On the other hand, we are happy to invite individual members of groups who are then allocated places together. If a group wishes that a new member participates in the Moot, the member must apply to take part on an equal footing with the other applicants.

Sale of food and certain craft activities may require assistance from people outside the immediate family. If there is a need for this, the number of assistants must be agreed with the event leader Peter Hambro Mikkelsen, and be stated on the registration form.

Generational change, by which children take over their parents' place/stall, may only take place with the permission of the Moot authorities. An application should be

submitted by the child who wishes to take over the place/stall and this will be evaluated on an equal footing with other applicants.

Registration deadlines

The deadlines for registration for the Viking Moot 2009 are as follows:

Cavalry: 1st May

Traders and craftsmen: 15th May

Warriors: This will be decided by Mikkel Pauli Mønsted who will inform the warriors together with their invitation

Application

Applications to take part must be received by event leader Peter Hambro Mikkelsen by 1st May at the latest. Responses will be sent out in early June.

The application must contain contact details (name, address, telephone number, email address), description of equipment and activity as well as reasons for wanting to take part in the Viking Moot. Applications from warriors and warrior groups will be forwarded to the warriors' representative in the Steering Group, Mikkel Pauli Mønsted. Horsemen's applications will be forwarded to Peter Barner Rasmussen, Anette Stenholt and Diana Gyldenløve, who co-ordinate applications from the cavalry and manage the cavalry waiting list.

Among applications from traders and craftsmen, priority will be given to those Vikings who concentrate primarily on communication and demonstration of craftwork. We also prioritise people who want to live on-site during the week prior to the open weekend and be part of the community.

Rules for trades and crafts

Moesgård Museum has now put in writing the so far un-written rules which apply to trade and craftwork. The rules accompany the invitation and are a step in the continued tightening up of restrictions concerning the wares on sale at the Viking Moot.

The aim of the Viking Moot is to create a market which gives as authentic a picture of a Viking market as possible; the public should have the experience of travelling through time. This means, among other things, that all participants must possess Viking tents and costumes, that the wares on sale correspond to those which could be found at a Nordic Viking market in the period c. AD 800-1050 and that the working craftsmen must use exclusively Viking Age methods and copies of tools of that time.

If a warrior or horseman wishes to set up a stall, an application must be made to the event leader for permission by 15th of May at the latest. Those warriors and horsemen who normally have permission to set up a stall will automatically be sent a registration form before Easter.

Driving and parking on-site

Just as in 2008, there will be no vehicle movement on part of the camp from 12 noon on Tuesday 21st July. Loading and unloading on the market square will be permitted by the Viking Inn; vehicles should be removed as soon as loading/unloading is complete. On the market square there will be wheelbarrows and luggage trucks which can be used to transport equipment and wares further up into the camp. Parking on-site is completely forbidden without a VIP pass; this is only given to employees of Moesgård Museum.

Vehicle movement on the beach is not allowed under any circumstances.

We emphasise that it is the responsibilities of participants to ensure that they have the necessary assistants if they arrive later than noon on Tuesday and need help to transport their belongings to their allocated place and to set up! The Museum's employees are unable to help.

In the case of traders and craftsmen, we aim to produce a plan showing your location to be sent out by email at the beginning of July (remember therefore to write your email address CLEARLY on the registration form). This means that you can arrange help in advance if, for example, you are located on the beach. No swapping of places with other participants is allowed.

A few changes are unavoidable

The overall layout of the camp corresponds to that of previous years: The warriors live in six fields and at the woodland edge to the south, the cavalry has five fields to the north, while traders and craftsmen are located on the beach, the market square and the dolmen area. However, no-one can be certain of having the same place as last year. It is important for us to ensure flow and dynamics and this can prompt certain changes. The place you are allocated is not open to discussion.

Arrival by 9 pm Friday at the latest

In an attempt to make Saturday morning calmer we decided last year that all participants must have arrived at the Moot by 9pm on Friday at the latest. This seemed to work well so this rule also applies in 2009!

We should also make clear that it is important that participants contact one of the members of the Steering Group before beginning to erect their tent. Prior to the Moot a comprehensive plan is worked out showing who is placed where so there is room for everyone. In 2008 the site reached its maximum capacity with respect to number of participants: It was only possible to make everything function because everyone followed the instructions of the Steering Group.

Do you have item/events for the programme?

In recent years, Moesgård Museum has had great success in erecting an information stand by the crossing over Giver Å, where most visitors arrive. Experience from here, and from the town market in Århus in May 2008, has shown that the public want programme items to follow.

At the Viking Moot we usually have two items on the programme each day: a warriors' battle and a cavalry show at 12 noon and 3pm. This year we would like to offer more events on the programme and we would therefore encourage you Vikings to come with offers of "events" both large and small, also in the morning. There could, for example, be demonstrations of making fire, yarn dyeing, weapon use and metal casting, talks about equipment or crafts – or special workshop activities for children. Only your imagination sets the limits! We reserve the right to decline events if too many are offered. Everyone who offers an event will have an opportunity to see the final programme by email before it is printed. Suggestions for programme items should be sent by email to Lene Birgitte Mirland by 15th May at the latest.

The printed programme will be included together with an overview of the warriors' two sides in a printed booklet about the Viking Moot, which will be sold from the information stall during the open weekend.

The Viking Inn

Moesgård Museum's Viking Inn will also be open this year and will serve food and drink to everyone who wishes to eat and drink at the inn. Lars Levin Hansen will continue as "innkeeper" and will appoint a chef to take responsibility for the culinary experiences.

The Viking Inn is open from Tuesday-Saturday 21st-25th July:

Beer sales to Vikings: Tuesday-Friday 12 noon to 12 midnight and Saturday 5 pm to 12 midnight.

Food for Vikings: Tuesday-Saturday – see times on the notice at the Viking Inn when you arrive.

During the weekend the Viking Inn will be open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm. Beer will also be served from the Beer Tent on the beach.

Talk

As in the two previous years, Moesgård Museum will be arranging a talk in the Viking Inn. Definite agreements have not yet been made with the speaker but the subject of the talk will probably be runes and runic inscriptions, in the light of Moesgård Museum's current exhibition: *Runes – from graffiti to gravestone*. The time, the speaker and the title will be advertised on a notice in the Viking Inn.

Free firewood

Moesgård Museum will ensure a supply of free firewood to participants in the Viking Moot. It is not necessary to order in advance.

Clearing up, dogs – and toilets

The Museum's employees spend a lot of time clearing up the Moot site – both during and after the Moot – and this is not fair. We emphasise therefore, also this year, that all participants are responsible for clearing up after themselves and for ensuring that no

rubbish, broken effects or other items are left lying around the site. Use the refuse container!

Dogs *must* be kept on a lead at the Moot site all week!

As in the two previous years, festival toilets, incl. handicap toilets and urinals, will be provided in 2009. Remember that beer cans, toilet rolls and the like must not be thrown into the toilets as this means they cannot be emptied (and it is in all our interests that they can!).

If you are unable to take part

It sometimes happens that someone is unable to attend the Viking Moot one particular year. If so, it is necessary to cancel by contacting Lene Birgitte Mirland if you wish to be invited in the future – otherwise your name will be removed from the invitation list and a new participant will have the opportunity to take your place.

Steering Group – contact

The overall control of the Viking Moot is in the hands of a steering group which comprises representatives from the Vikings and Moesgård Museum:

Vikings

Warriors: Mikkel Pauli Mønsted, Strandparken 6, 2,1, DK-8000 Århus C, mikkelpauli@gmail.com

Cavalry: Peter Barner Rasmussen, Hovervej 124, Hover, DK-6971 Spjald, vikingerytteriet@gmail.com

Traders: Lars Bibby, Ulvskovvej 140, DK-8300 Odder, lars@bibby.dk

Craftsmen: Poul Riis Svendsen, Glenshøjparken 75, DK-5620 Glamsbjerg, poul.riis.svendsen@get2net.dk

Moesgård Museum

Peter Hambro Mikkelsen (event leader, finances, applications, fire services), farkphm@hum.au.dk, tel. +45 8942 4532 and +45 2899 2538

Lene Birgitte Mirland (traders and craftsmen, contracts, PR and marketing, information stall), moeslbm@hum.au.dk, tel. +45 8942 4537 and +45 2899 2169

Søren Petersen (equipment, construction, toilet facilities, fire wood, electricity, water)

Lars Levin Hansen (the Viking Inn, sale of beverages)

Arvid Ramsbøl (construction, tents, archery, Moesgård's activity area)

Claude Guillou (construction, tents, Moesgård's activity area)

Louise Villadsen (Moesgård's activity area)

If you have questions or suggestions for the Viking Moot then please contact your representative in the Steering Group. You are also welcome to send an email to Peter Hambro Mikkelsen.

See you soon!
The Steering Group