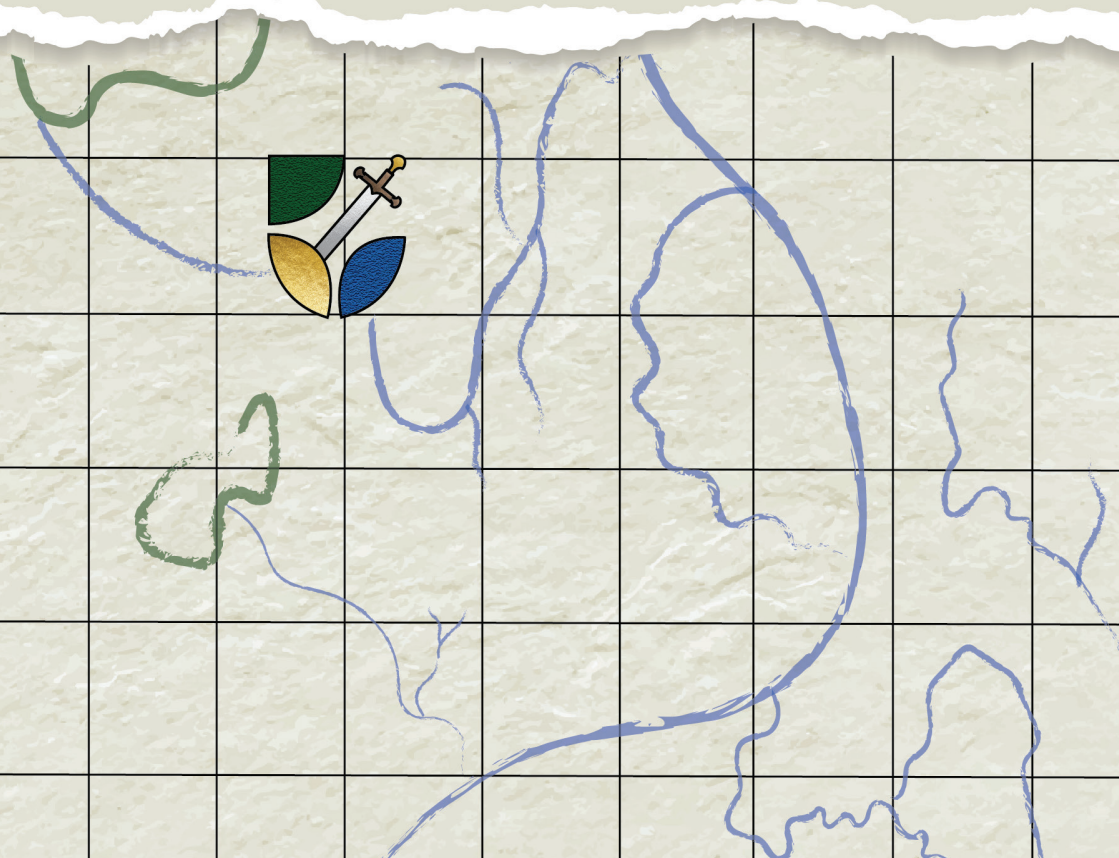


The Official Guide
to

Riverbend Medieval Society



The Village



Meadhall



Gatehouse





Key: ●

- 1- Blaketon Hall
- 2- Chapel and Lychgate
- 3- Blacksmith
- 4- Craftrooms - Frayed Knot, Chandlery
- 5- Potter's Workshop
- 6- Cordwainer's Workshop
- 7- Weaver's Workshop
- 8- Guildhall and Brewer's Lodge
- 9- Crinklebottom's Inn
- 10- Jeanie's Shoppe. Reception
- 11- Ladies Teahouse
- 12- Room of Wonders
- 13- Shiel's Shelter
- 14- Tailor's Workshop - Sewing Room
- 15- Armoury and Gool
- 16- First Aid Room
- 17- Cookhouse
- 18- Theatre
- 19- Bergenhof Craft Room
- 20- Great Hall - Meadhall
- 21- Saxon Cookhouse - Kitchen

Key: ●

Localities

- 1- Arena
- 2- Markets
- 3- The Common
- 4- Pyddleton Park
- 5- Arundel Settlement
- 6- Romney Stoppe
- 7- Upillbacommon

EMERGENCY Exits: ☚

☚ To
South Road
Circle of four
Directions
Sun Circle

WEST NORTHERN
Road
Entry/Exit-

J Blake
2023

T A Blake



Contents

In The Beginning...	1	Riverbends Medieval	
Our Lord and Lady	2	Competitions	19
The Loyal Guardsman	2	Full Armour Sword Fights	19
		Medieval Archery	20
Beyond the Village Gates...			
	3	The Hedge Witches	23
The Viking Village	5	Crinklebottom's Inn	25
		Importance and Influence	26
The Romani Village	7		
Identity and Soul	8	Poem	28
Enter the Village		Signatures	29
Market	10	Signatures	30
Riverbends Silk Road	12	Signatures	31
Labour and Trade	13	Signatures	32
		Signatures	33
The Armoury	15		
Shields and Swords	16		

In The Beginning...



In 2015 on the outskirts of Tiro in the Queensland Bush... there was a little village; a reflection of 14th century Medieval England. Beyond the fortress wall, cars cease to exist and the clock winds back 1,000 years. But with wallabies bounding past and surrounding eucalyptus trees, this little medieval world has a distinctly Australian setting.

Riverbend is the first of its kind, being the only Medieval Village in South East Queensland. While it began as a personal project Riverbend has grown into so much more. Within a few years his initial build had transformed into a medieval hamlet, including over 70 buildings with 3 different camps; totalling 60 members from around the region.

Walking through the tall wooden fortress gates, you could be forgiven for thinking you were no longer in 2020, but back in the 1400s...

Our Lord and Lady



Riverbend is a work of heart; a love story at it's focal point. Terrance Blake and Tonya Osbourne were married in 2013 and honeymooned in Europe, upon returning home they began to bring their dream to life.

They worked hard on saving for a massive task ahead; finding the right property to build their dream home. This was not an ordinary house or yard, but a 14th Century Fortified Manor. 8 years later the plans have been drafted waiting approval.

The Loyal Guardsman

Lord Terrance and Lady Tonya sourced only the best security for their Kingdom, two loyal and very handsome guardsman.

Squire McHendrie and Squire Wee Douglas are the Lord and Ladies Irish Wolfhounds who roam the village, keeping an eye on things and alerting the Lord and Lady to any danger.



Beyond the Village



At the heart of every village, there is a town hall. An important building that brings the community together to discuss important business, address concerns and keep the peace. The town hall at Riverbend is no different.

As Riverbend Medieval Society is a feudal medieval hamlet founded by Terrance Blake and Tonya Osbourne, the village is, in essence, run by them. However; when it comes to the society of re-enactors that make Riverbend so special, they have a more diplomatic approach to their community, and as such the town hall is the perfect place for meetings.

While Terrance and Tonya remain founders, they themselves have stepped down from the Medieval Society's democratic operations to focus on expanding the village.

The Town Hall

Gates...



This particular building is quite special to Riverbend, as it not only is apart of their medieval hamlet and prospering fuedal society, it is also a crucial part of Riverbends Event Service. From \$26 a night you can stay at Riverbend in one of the many buildings within the village. However, another option for those uniquely inclined is to book a wedding.

It is here in the town hall that you and your fellow guests will dine like kings and queens. Equipt with a ornate head table and medieval decor such as candles, skulls, horns and hides; it is the perfect location for those seeking something truely special.

At sunset the hall fills with light beams through the cracks, creating the perfect atmosphere for a romanic evening. To which you will head over to tie a ribbon on Riverbends very own wedding tree, to commemorate your special day and bless the universe in favour of your happy ever after.

The Viking Village



Arundel

Arundel is apart of the Scandinavian Viking community here at Riverbend. You may be wondering what vikings have to do with 14th century England, well in the 8th century; vikings made their way to England; from around 860AD onwards, Vikings stayed, settled and prospered in Britain, becoming part of the mix of people who today make up the British nation. In fact they had quite a profound and lasting effect, as even today their legacy is reflected in our most fundamental and rudemantary language.

Such as days of the week, which mainly come from Norse gods – Tuesday from Tiw or Týr, Wednesday from Woden (Odin), Thursday from Thor and so on. Many of their other words have also become part of English, for example egg, steak, law, die, bread, down, fog, muck, lump and even scrawny all come from the vikings of old.



The Romani Village



The origin of the Romani was a complete mystery until late in the eighteenth century, today, it is generally accepted that they emigrated from India to Persia during the Early Middle Ages, and in the High Middle Ages settled in Byzantine regions.

The migration of the Romani into western Europe was in the early fifteenth century, and so coincided with the northern Renaissance in the visual arts. The new interest in depicting nature, the world and its people made the travelling exotics a subject of artistic curiosity. Medieval Europeans, who rarely travelled far from their native villages, found the Gypsy lifestyle totally alien. Dressing distinctively, travelling and living in brightly painted horse-drawn wagons, Gypsies made their living by horse-trading, metalworking, music and dance, healing and fortune-telling.

Their skills, especially their knowledge of horses, made them useful but, in the case of fortune-telling and healing, gave rise to suspicion of witchcraft and black magic.

Identity and Soul

As the Romani did not subscribe to a sedentary lifestyle, to accommodate; they lived in what was known as a Vardo.



Vardos were a style of wagon, to be attached to horses and transported; as the Romani made their way across country. Painted upon the Vardos were Hungarian Story Tiles, a form of painting unique to each family; capturing the countryside as they passed through, reflecting their family history and milestones. The status of the Gypsy family could be seen

by the decorations on their Vardo. The more intricate the design the richer the family were.

At Riverbend each caravan is decorated with vibrant paint by stencil or by hand. Each caravan has a unique vision. Emerald, a caravan occupied by a resident re-enactor has decorated her home away from home with a homage to nature. Delicate ivy leaves cover the trims, flowers of all varieties deorate the walls with large butterflies flanking the door.



Skye, the front-most caravan is painted with hungarian story tiles, depicting a love story. A woman, on her own, tending to her farm, soon falls in love with a man. They take care of the farm together, growing together. They marry and start a life together as husband and wife. As their story unfolds new paintings will emerge on Skye.



Enter the Village Market



Most people in England in the fourteenth century lived just over four miles from their nearest market, which meant that both buyers and sellers could get there and back in a day. By the fourteenth century, it wasn't just merchants who were selling; peasants were growing crops to sell and they sold them in the nearby market towns. Items such as poultry, eggs, fruit, vegetables, honey and wax would line the streets of market towns, church bells tolling to commence the days trade.

Markets weren't just about local produce, however. You could also buy, depending on which merchants were there, luxury goods such as sugar, almonds and dates. Spices such as aniseed or liquorice, exotic foods such as figs or ginger; but foreign foods weren't the only luxuries. Cloths and threads from silk to linen, furs and leatherware could also be purchased.



River bends Silk Road



“For more than 1,500 years, the network of routes known as the Silk Road contributed to the exchange of goods and ideas among diverse cultures.”

The Silk Road is neither an actual road nor a single route. The term instead refers to a network of routes used by traders from when the Han dynasty of China opened trade in 130 B.C.E. until 1453 C.E., when the Ottoman Empire closed off trade with the West. The Silk Road extended approximately 6,437 kilometers across some of the world’s most formidable landscapes, including the Gobi Desert and the Pamir Mountains.

It is hard to overstate the importance of the Silk Road on history. Religion and ideas spread along the Silk Road just as fluidly as goods. Towns along the route grew into multicultural cities. The exchange of information gave rise to new technologies and innovations that would change the world. The horses introduced to China contributed to the might of the Mongol Empire, while gunpowder from China changed the very nature of war in Europe and beyond.

Labour and Trade

The role of the merchant became even more important and entrenched in society in the wake of the thirteenth and the fourteenth centuries.

The nobility became richer and the peasants were better placed to purchase goods that the merchants came with from other countries. The Crusades, some of the bloodiest wars of the middle ages were not just about religion, they were also about different groups of merchants seeking to gain control of the major trade routes.

Merchants earned a position as those who worked, but their social standing was certainly much higher than that of the peasants. As the peasants toiled in the field and the lords made merry in their castles, the merchants in the middle ages were busy travelling across the Mediterranean and Europe; including Spain, England, France, Russia and Scandinavia.



Shoemaking has been a handicraft for most of



history, manufactured by hand and a rather time-consuming activity. Medieval shoemakers or cobblers designed and created footwear using leather, hide, burlap and wood. Although shoes were a necessity, shoemakers in the middle ages only earned average wages. This was also influenced by the high cost of materials. In time, cobblers designed shoes and boots with cheaper ones that still appealed to the mass populace. Cobblers who specialised in luxury shoes for noblemen were known as Cordwainers, they specialized in luxurious styles the utilised better-quality materials.

Blacksmiths were central to medieval times, often setting up shop in a place of importance in the center of the village. They would make not just weapons but nails, furniture, locks, horseshoes, and armor. The blacksmith became essential to any town, and their techniques improved accordingly.

Blacksmiths learnt their trade from a Master, who often employed several apprentices from a young age. Advancement from apprentice to Master was by no means guaranteed, and rested entirely upon being noticed as a talented worker who was likely to be worthy of patronage. The Blacksmith is often innately connected with that of the knight; for whom he is immortalised as supplying with a steady stream of swords and weaponry.



The Armoury



Our blades are sharp and our swords are deadly,
enter at your own risk!

In every medieval castle there was an important room known as the Armoury. This was where all the weapons and armour were stored, and it was a place of great secrecy. Only those with permission were allowed to enter, and it was often guarded by fierce warriors. So what can be found in a medieval armoury? Any well prepared hamlet has a wide selection of swords, knives, and other blades, as well as a variety of helmets, shields, and armour.

Knights in armour figured in English history for around 450 years, but what they wore and how they fought changed a lot over this time. By the Battle of Agincourt (1415), many knights were wearing complete 'suits' of plate armour. The Battle of Flodden (1513), near Etal Castle, was among the last big English battles where some knights fought in full armour.

Shields and Swords



Trained since childhood and practised at tournaments, the skilled knight could inflict fatal injuries on even an armoured opponent. To aid in protection and defence shields were a key accessory for any warrior. Shields were normally made of wood, animal hide, woven reeds, poplar tree, lime, or another split-resistant timber. Shields were frequently covered with leather or raw-hide, this was the perfect place to display the coat of arms of one's family and so were frequently painted. Leather, chainmail, helmets and other accessories as well as plate armour were used to further protect the knights on the battlefield in the 14th century.

The sword, symbol of the chivalric code and his noble status, was above all the knight's most important weapon. With a heavy blade one metre in length, a 'great sword' had to be held with both hands and was remarkably stable in design from the 11th to 15th century CE. The medieval longsword used by knights may be categorised into six general types, each with their own variations in dimensions, but all meant to both thrust and cut. Other than the long sword there was also:

- The Arming Sword
- The Knightly Sword
- The Broad Sword
- The Falchion
- and The Rapier







Riverbends Medieval



Full Armour Sword Fights

Buhurt is a modern-day full contact combat sport which involves fighters using blunt steel weapons and armour characteristic of medieval times. The name originates from the Old French word “béhourd” which means to “wallop”. It is this style of full armour fight that really draws in the crowd at Riverbend.

Everything is conducted safely, all participants are required by the medieval society to be fully trained and continue to practice before they ever step foot into the ring. While all fighters are required to wear adequate protection and armour, it does differ depending on which community you are apart of. For example, english knights would have different armour to the scandinavian vikings.

Complete with chain-mail armour, great helm, hauberk and large swords, the knights fought against their opponents, encouraged by the roar of the crowd sitting around the arena.

Competitions



Medieval Archery

Archery has a long history. It first originated approximately 10,000 BC in the Paleolithic period. In the Middle Ages, the longbow was one of the main weapons of medieval times. Archery was incredibly important in the Middle Ages that archery training was even written into the law. England established the first medieval archery law in 1252, requiring all men between the ages of 15 and 60 to be trained in archery.

At Riverbend no-one is balancing an apple on their head blind-folded, but the archery competitions are thrilling none the less. Primarily using Longbows, Recurve and Horse-Bows, the archers of Riverbend practice Target Shooting.

Target archery is scored quite simply. The scores run from ten down to one, with the scores getting lower the further away from the center of the target you hit. Each different colored section away from the bullseye your arrow hits, the score gets lower. The “bullseye” is worth ten points and is mainly referred to as the X ring; It’s also used for tie breakers – whoever shoots closest to the X wins.





The Hedge Witches



Hedge witches as practitioners and maidens to nature, Riverbend has both a garden as well as a herborium for the resident hedge witches. While there is no one definition of Hedge witch in the spiritual community, a hedge witch is traditionally defined as a witch who is a solitary practitioner of the herbal arts - both, medicinal and spiritual.

A hedge does not follow the tenets of any sect or organized religion, her craft is her own. The practice of witchcraft is misunderstood and has been for centuries, thought it was not made a capital offence in Britain until 1563 although it was deemed heresy and was denounced as such by Pope Innocent VIII in 1484.

Riverbend welcomes all spirituality and connections to the faiths of old. On sight they have a ceremonial ring used for knighting ceremonies and spiritual gatherings for wiccans, pagans and other events. Pagan Observances are held every six weeks or so in accordance with the southern hemisphere rituals and celebrations of Sabbats, Cross Quarter Festivals as well as Sun and Moon events.



Crinklebottom's Inn



In England, inns were primarily found in towns and cities and most of them very quickly became landmarks of the settlement they were in. The inn of a town was usually located in a central location such as the town square, or in places where trade roads met.

The medieval inn served both food and drink. The drink was sourced from the local vintners and breweries, while some inns had cellars containing the most exotic of wines and beer from all over Europe and the world. The food was, in most cases simple: pottage (stew), bread and cheese were quite common. Having said that, a medieval inn was also host to the largest banquets and feasts of the time, serving elaborately designed dishes. These medieval inns would give rise to the restaurants of the Renaissance.

Importance and Influence



Inns were places where people met to socialise and talk. This made them cultural and political hot beds. Many of the early Renaissance ideas starting spreading from the backrooms and halls of these establishments. It was not rare for political uprisings and mobs to begin within an inn. The innkeeper was a very rich and influential man in most towns. He was part of the urban elite, part of local government, and also acted as expediter and banking agent for mercantile transactions. As we mentioned before, many of these innkeepers were also involved with trade and commerce, and acted as deal brokers for merchants, making them invaluable to the town.

As trade grew, some inns, and especially coach inns, added accommodation for travellers visiting or passing by. This accommodation varied wildly in quality, but for most medieval inns the quality was fairly low and consisted of several straw beds in back common room. An exception to this rule were inns constructed in major cities, which also sometimes included high class accommodation. In the 1400s, it was common that a medieval inn would also have one or two private function rooms, which could be hired by local guilds or for private events. In some cases, the inn became a place for people to store their gold and many inns had locked cellars.





And the sun took a
step back,
the leaves lulled
themselves to sleep
and Autumn was
awakened.

~ Raquel Franco

Signatures

Lord Terrance



Lady Tonya



Signatures



Signatures



Signatures



Signatures





Riverbend
Medieval Society

