

STAGING SERVICES
PRESENTS

MEDIEVAL



THE MIDDLE AGES, LASTING FROM THE 5TH CENTURY TO 1485, ARE BEST KNOWN FOR THEIR VIOLENT REVOLTS AND REVOLUTIONS, GRUESOME PUNISHMENTS, FEASTING AND FETES, GALLANT KNIGHTS AND FAIRY-TALE PRINCESSES.

BUT WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE ON THE HOME FRONT IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND AND FOR THE MEDIEVAL PEASANT?

"PEASANT" IN FACT BEING A 15TH CENTURY FRENCH TERM COMPRISING FREEMEN, SERFS, COTTERS AND BORDARS, AND SLAVES.

FACTS

- LAW AND ORDER WAS HARSH IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND - **PEOPLE WERE SUBJECT TO DEADLY PUNISHMENTS** FOR SIMPLE CRIMES.
- **ANIMALS WERE CRIMINALS** AND RECORDS SHOW OF ANIMALS BEING TAKEN TO COURT FOR KILLING PEOPLE, AS WELL AS SMALLER CRIMES.
- **CLOWN SHOES WERE 'IN' FASHION** FROM THE 1330S ONWARD, MEN CONSIDERED LONG-TOED SHOES AS THE HEIGHT OF FASHION.
- FOOTBALL WAS BANNED AND ARCHERY WAS
- **BEARS ROAMED THE COUNTRYSIDE** - ENGLAND USED TO BE THE NATIVE HOME OF BROWN BEARS, BUT THEY BECAME EXTINCT AROUND THE 11TH CENTURY
- **ONE NAME WAS ENOUGH** - PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF SURNAMEN IN ENGLAND IN 1066, EVERYONE HAD JUST ONE NAME. WHEN SURNAMEN WERE INTRODUCED THEY WOULD OFTEN INCLUDE A NICKNAME SUCH AS "RICHARD RED" (RICHARD HAVING HAD RED HAIR).
- **THE PEOPLE WEREN'T THAT FILTHY** - MEDIEVAL ENGLISH PEOPLE BELIEVED IN THE MOTTO, "CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS," AND IF THEY COULD, WOULD BATHE REGULARLY IN PUBLIC BATHS.

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