



# Ɖa Engliscan Ġesiðas The English Companions

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## Wiðowinde

(Bindweed)

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NEAR THIS SPOT IN THE YEAR 1067, BY ANCIENT TRADITION THE MEN OF KENT AND KENTISH MEN, CARRYING BOUGHS ON THEIR SHOULDERS AND SWORDS IN THEIR HANDS, MET THE INVADER, WILLIAM, DUKE OF NORMANDY. THEY OFFERED PEACE IF HE WOULD GRANT THEIR ANCIENT RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OTHERWISE WAR AND THAT MOST DEADLY. THEIR REQUEST WAS GRANTED AND FROM THAT DAY THE MOTTO OF KENT HAS BEEN "INVICTA" MEANING UNCONQUERED.

**Inside this issue: Anglo-Saxon Ancestry; The Wanderer;  
The Last Anglo-Saxon Earl; Caedmon; Elegy to Eadgyth  
and much more**



Contributions, letters and news items are welcomed, from *gesithas* and others. Please see *Guidance for Contributors* page for further details

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*Bocere* (Editor): Adrian Howells  
37 Meadow Lane  
Alfreton DE55 7EZ  
Email: [adrian.bocere@googlemail.com](mailto:adrian.bocere@googlemail.com)

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The Invicta Memorial set in the graveyard of St Peter & St Paul's Church, Swanscombe, Kent. This commemorates the tradition of when the Kentish Men and Men of Kent in 1067 confronted William at Swanscombe, and demanded the retention of their ancient rights. They camouflaged themselves with leafy tree branches and fooled William into believing that they were a much larger fighting force. He consented to their demands and, one of their ancient Saxon rights remained legal until 1925, that of Gavelkind where all the sons equally inherited their father property. The memorial was first erected at nearby Park Corner in 1958 and moved to its present position in 1994, and is complemented by the lower part of St Peter's and St Paul's church tower, which has an Anglo-Saxon splayed window constructed of reused Roman tiles on its south-side. (photo from Brian Murrell)

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Founded in 1966, *Da Engliscan Gesiðas* (The English Companions) aims to bring together all those with an interest in the history, language and culture of Early England AD 450-1100. All aspects of the foundations and growth of English culture are covered, including language and literature, archaeology, anthropology, architecture, art, religion, mythology, folklore and material culture. Though we try to stimulate interest and debate on relevant subjects through the pages of *Wiðowinde* and our website, The English Companions does not follow any particular interpretation of history, and maintains a strictly neutral line on modern political and religious matters.

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