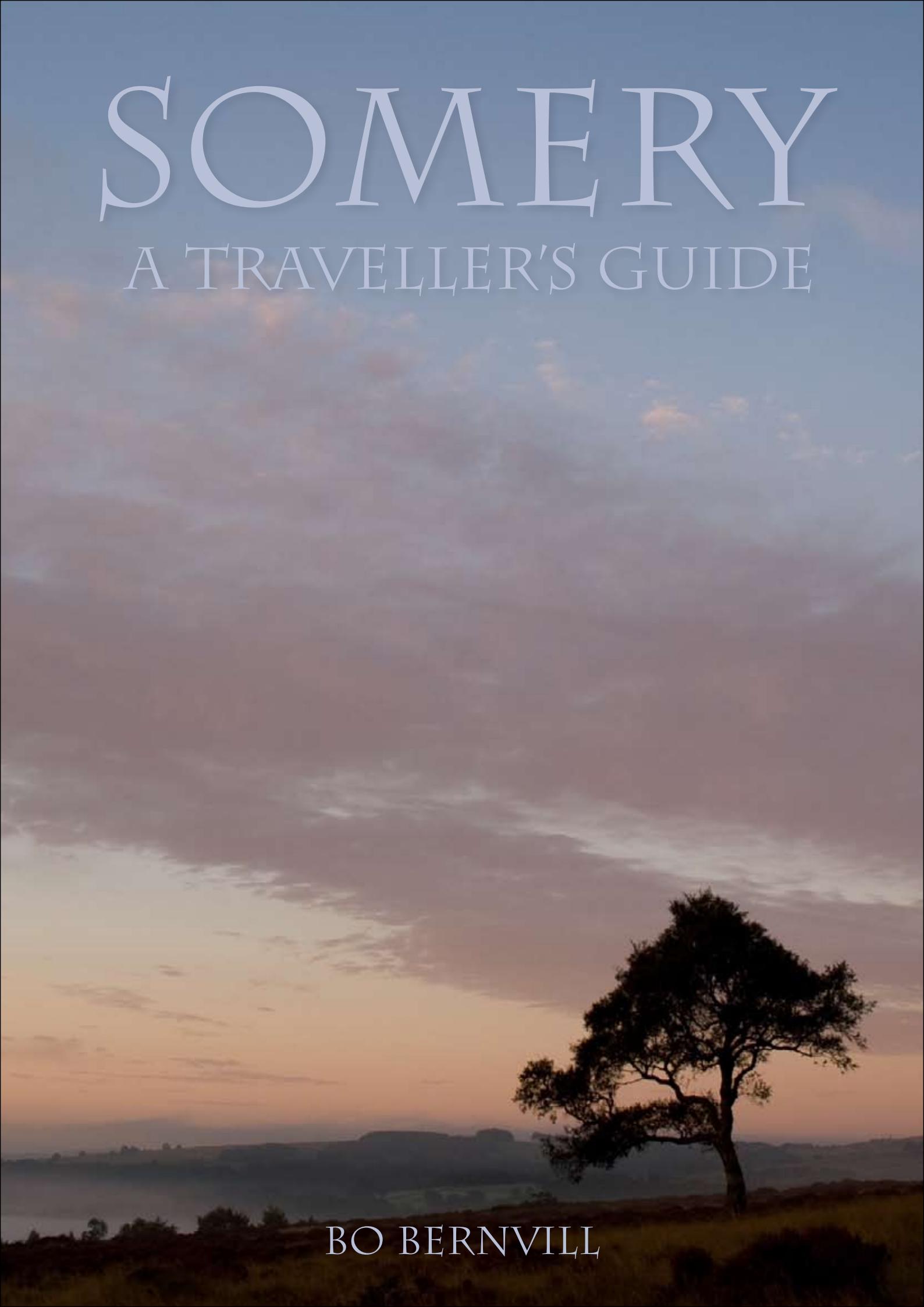


# SOMERY

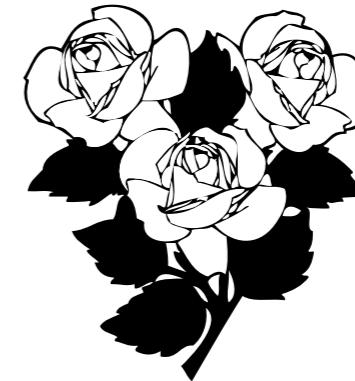
## A TRAVELLER'S GUIDE



BO BERNVILL

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SOMERY  
A TRAVELLER'S GUIDE



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# FOREWORD

Dear Reader.

This book is intended for the traveller in that special world called Imagination. Some would say that Somery does not exist. That is true, in the same sense that Middle-Earth, Utopia and Hogwarts do not exist. But still, to some people, when reading the books, those places may feel as complex and vivid as if they actually did exist. To me Somery is such a place, even if it is merely there in my head. I see it as a tool for my imagination; a trigger for my creativity.

Why, I still hear some of you ask, do grown up men spend hours on something that might seem so meaningless as creating imaginary countries? Well, you could ask the same question about many things. Why do people collect stamps? Why do people dress up as characters out of Tolkien's books? Why do people spend a whole weekend playing computer games on a network? We all get something back that makes us smile, and enjoy life.

Bo Bernvill  
Kaxholmen 2008



# SUNDRIES

## HOW TO GET THERE

Somery has regular airline connections with a number of large cities. Most flights arrive at Sherthevear International Airhaven outside Sibury, or at Wimprish Lofthaven near Melster. If you travel by boat, you are most likely to arrive at Eamouth, Melster, or Sibury which are the most important harbours in the country. If you decide to arrive by land there are two main roads leading into Somery, one from Terra Extremis to the east, and one from the south, from Cimera. There is also a road over a pass in the Angel Mountains. Apart from these there are naturally several smaller roads crossing the border. If you enjoy the train you are less lucky, but there are far-reaching plans for connecting the railway systems of Somery and neighbouring countries.

## WHEN TO GO

Somery has in most areas a rather mild climate, which means not too hot summers, and not much snow in winter, apart from the Angel Mountains area, and to a certain degree the Rimn Hills, which would be your destination if you are into winter sports. Naturally the climate tends to be somewhat cooler in the northern parts of the country. This means that virtually any time of the year is a good time to go.

The Dellswyshire Dawes in the Angel Mts and Rowry Dene in the Rimn Hills are excellent for skiing in winter, but also for hiking and mountaineering during the summer season. Contact your local travel agency to get more thorough information on when to go where.

There is also a number of cultural events throughout the year what may be worth giving some attention.

## EMBASSIES

Somery has diplomatic relations with a number of countries and most embassies

are located within the ward of The Close in central Sibury, in *Erndwick Hamlet*. Telephone numbers and addresses for these are easily found in phone books.

## BANKS AND EXCHANGING OF CURRENCY

Opening hours vary, but usually banks are open from 9:30 to 15:00, Monday to Friday, with one day (or in rare cases two days) a week open until 17:30. In the larger cities they tend to have extended opening hours but do not take this for granted.

Exchange offices do more commonly follow this trend. So called 'cash machines', in Somery usually marked '*Breightomfee*', are common in all larger cities and most towns of some size. Here you can use a number of major credit cards. Many hotels also exchange foreign currencies and cash traveller's cheques but usually at a less favourable rate. Do not forget your passport when you intend to exchange money.

The Somerish currency is commonly known to be a tricky one before you get used to it. Basically 1 Somerish rose is 40 pennies. Other terms that pop up are really the names of various coins, a 'coren' being half a rose (20 pennies), a 'ferthing' a quarter (10), and a 'teithe' a tenth (4). Added to this is the 'bannock' which is a quarter of a penny, which means you need 160 of those to make a rose.

## GETTING AROUND: DRIVING

As a foreigner to drive in Somery you need a valid driving licence, a certificate of registration for your car, a nationality sign and a red warning triangle. You also need a third party liability insurance. Driving without a safety belt is illegal, both in the front seats and the back. Drinking and driving is strictly forbidden and can cause, apart from spending time in jail, expulsion for a number of years. Speed limits are generally 50 kmph (ca 30 mph) in populated areas, 70 (ca 45) or 90 (ca 55) on country roads and 110 (ca 68) on motorways, which are usually so called 'link roads'. Naturally it's good to know the local road signs (see next spread).

## GETTING AROUND: GOING BY BUS AND TRAIN

Somery has an extensive public transport system and it is possible to get almost anywhere in the country by train or bus. For a foreigner there are several options with so called 'howeless shrithers' (carefree movers), which can give you e.g. unlimited travel at an affordable price on most trains and buses for a period of 8 or 15 consecutive days, or 15 travelling days in a month, etc. Contact your local train ticket office for more information.

## WEAPONS

The Somerish weapon laws are very strict. For the possession and use of any

kind of gun (air-rifles excluded, although you do need a permit to use them within populated areas) you need a licence. The carrying of a gun in a public place is only allowed for the Lathe Warden on duty.

At all times, when a gun is not used for hunting or at sport events or the practice for such, it must be locked away in an legally approved locker.

## ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUGS

The possession and use of all drugs apart from alcohol and tobacco are illegal, apart from such drugs that are prescribed for documented illnesses. The possession and use of alcohol and tobacco are restricted to adults, i.e. those who are at least 18 years old. Note that smoking is not allowed in most public buildings, restaurants, shopping malls etc. The Somerish alcohol culture spells 'temperance' and drinking alcohol let alone getting drunk during a working week is considered very bad taste. If you should bump into a drunk person, it's most likely a foreigner, and probably heading for jail before long, to sleep it off.

## BEACHES

The beaches are not exactly what Somery is famous for, even though there are quite a few nice ones, the most popular being the ones along the Dunes coastline in Morentwyshire, and around Town and Meaham on the east coast.

## NIGHT LIFE

If you're looking to get pissed and dance your arse off, Somery is most likely not the place for you, but if you're into enjoying a late night at a cozy 'cotshirt' (jazz) club, you might find what you want among the music clubs of Sibury and Melster.

## ART AND CULTURE

Now, this is probably Somery's strongest card, with several theatres, concert houses, and art galleries all over the country, not to mention the abundance of regular music events throughout the year, culminating at the Allsomerish Whit Kirthfair in Sibury at the beginning of June. Those who are into architecture will find lots to look at, of which one of the highlights is the historical centre of Willowbury, with its wellpreserved streets lined with half-timbered houses, and the stone buildings, including the old theyn hall, from the VIth - Vth century AP, in Prydwirth.

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Skiing is best in Dellswyshire Dawes in the Angel Mountains, and in Rowry Dene in the Rimn Hills. Mountaineering can also enjoyed in these same places during the warm season.

Boating on the canals of Shireddin Wetlands and Avillion Evens, and sailing

in the archipelagoes of Melynion (around Isle of Milne) and Orcadion (Orchid Islands) are activities enjoyed by thousands.

Willset Moors to the north have plenty of hiking trails, and those that way inclined should also try the Lancreigh Shoreline National Park, with dramatic trails along an ironbound coast.

### **THE NATIVES**

The Somerish may seem shy and cold at first, but once you get beneath the surface you will find a very kind and hospitable people, especially if you visit one of the music events.

### **MOREOVER**

In July practically the whole of Somery is at a standstill since most industries close for four consecutive weeks although there are slight variations. People in the cities travel to the coasts and their countryside houses to rest, and the tourist attractions are frequented by people from all over the country as well as foreign tourists who are now starting to discover the gently attractive pleasantness of the low pace of the warm season in the Summery Lands.

May can offer nice sunny weather and in spite of temporary lack of cloudless skies and the occasional showers, which are ensuring the wellknown greenness of the Somerish dales and hills, swimfriendly weather is far from uncommon. So, don't hesitate, book a week or two in any one of the pleasant seaside resorts, such attractive waterfront gems as Town, Meaham, Sundmere, Shester and Silchton-on-the-Dunes.

If you're into boating you will enjoy excellent sailing in Melynion and Orcadion archipelagos. Contact the Milnish Wilseylendwick (Sailing Tourist office) in Colme, Hatherwick, or Coverbyn, or the Orcadish Wilseylendwick in Sherminny or Dawwellis for more information.

Walking can be enjoyed also on several locations. We recommend the Lancreigh Shoreline Pathway with its ironbound coast and breath-taking sights, the Moorland Pathways of southern Shirleith (Branmoor Hills, Coymoor Wolds, and Willset Moors) with their heatherclad slopes, and the wealth of footpaths of North Melstershire. The Wilferrendwicks (tourist offices) in Archill, Stambeigh and Simouth can give extensive information on maps, available cabins for accommodation, and camp sites in the areas. Other suggestions and more information can be obtained through

The Somerish Rede of Wilfore (SRW)  
(The Somerish Tourist Council)  
34, Willows High Str.  
SIBURY SY1 WL2  
SOMERY





## ANNUAL EVENTS

### **ALL SOMERISH WHIT KIRTH FAIR**

*Sibury, early June*

Of all the music festivals in Somery, or *kirthfairs* as the Somerish call them, this is the most prestigious one, and also a springboard from relative anonymity to nationwide fame. Several of the most popular artists in Somery, like Annideigh Carra and The Mirth have made their breakthrough during this festival. The styles of music performed during the week range from classical over traditional folk to contemporary pop music.

### **DWIMMERDELL DREAM FRELS**

*(Dwimmerdell Music Festival)*

*Swanbury, Cornantshire, July*

This is one of the most famous pop and rock festivals in Somery, and this year it features, among others, Derwent Dunyon, Men in Plaid, and Annideigh Carra. The festival area is situated not far from the banks of Lake Ishill. This is a perfect opportunity to get a broad selection of what Somerish pop and rock music of today has to offer.

### **EWSTETH EFTNEWING FRELS**

*(Ewsteth 'Renaissance' Festival)*

*Ewsteth, Ewst, around July 22*

Where would a festival dedicated to the history of Somery be celebrated if not in Ewsteth where this country once was formed. People, locals and many tourists alike, dress up in characteristic clothes of the period, and music of the time can be heard all over town during the festival. If you don't have any clothes typical

of Somery at the beginning of the new era such clothes can be hired in several shops.

### **YELLET DENE KIRTH AND LEITH FAIR**

(*Yellet Dene Folk Music and Poetry Fair*)

*Skeith, Emmerset, Late July*

This is one of the most popular music events of the summer season. It is dedicated to Somerish folk music and poetry, featuring published poets as well as amateurs. Apart from the official performances you will find dozens of amateur musicians playing together, enjoying and communicating the language of the music deeply rooted in old Somerish tradition, still in constant development.

### **MICHEL MODEN BLOSSOM FRELS**

(*Michel Moden Flower Festival*)

*Michel Moden, Ombridgeshire,*

*Early August*

Flower Festivals are in no way uncommon in Somery, but few people celebrate it with such enthusiasm as the villagers of Michel Moden. Florists from all over the shire participate in the flower parade, and the festivities are concluded with impressive fireworks.

### **WIELDSWORD WAVERSEEN FRELS**

(*Wieldsword Theatre Festival*)

*Melster, Melstershire, early August*

Enjoy the plays written by Shurrill Wieldsword, the most famous Somerish playwright ever, during a week in early August. Among his works the following can be seen, both in Somerish, and, at a limited number of performances, in Ingallish, 'The Great Departure', 'Druig Wurrend', 'The Eleventh Thane of Mar', and 'Three Crowns & Three Roses'.

### **THREE DEANS QUIRE FRELS**

(*Three Deans Choir Festival*)

*Dunne Eaden, Bramleighshire,*

*mid August*

The three cities of Bramleigh, Dunster and Dunne Eaden alternates as host for this annual festival dedicated to choir music, old and new, a cappella and with orchestra. This part of lathe Lynnest, known as *the Deans*, is famous for its choral music and originally only local choirs were allowed to participate, but

in the last three decades choirs from all over Somery have been welcome. The invitation of foreign choirs is currently being discussed and next year's event (303), taking place in Bramleigh, may very well feature the first participation of a foreign choir in the festival.

### **WEDNESBURY QUICK TIVERING FRELS**

(*Wednesbury Film Festival*)

*Wednesbury, Winstershire, late August*

See the newest commercial films, meet the actors on premiers, enjoy independent movies, and laugh at the latest turkeys. How a film festival in an insignificant mid size town like Wednesbury has managed to get such a reputation and nationwide respect remains a riddle, but somehow they have pulled it off. Mingle with the movie makers and see the stars of the screen in the flesh, and maybe even see a movie.

### **NATIONAL HOLIDAYS**

**JANUARY 1**

#### **NEWYEARES DAY**

Welcoming the new year.

**JANUARY 2**

#### **TWELFTE DAY YULES**

The last day of the Yule celebration.

**MARCH 22**

#### **LENTES EMNIGHT**

Celebrating the coming of Spring, a holiday of Hope.

**MAY 1**

#### **MAYFAIR**

Celebrated on the eve (Mayfair Eaven) before with bonfires, and on the day itself with parades and marching bands.

**1ST SUNDAY  
AFTER JUNE 1**

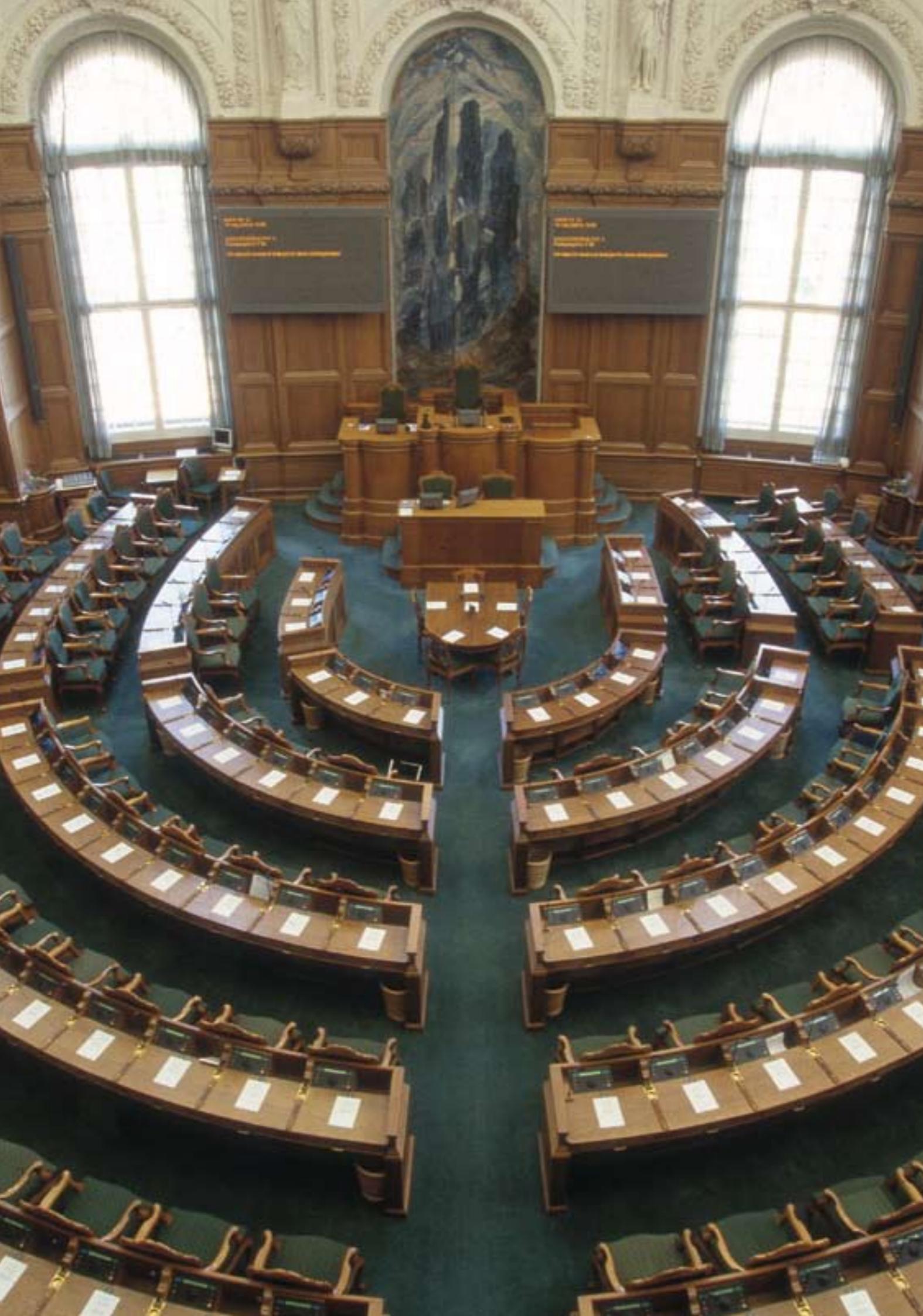
#### **WHITFAIR**

The big Music Holiday of the year. The Allsomerish Whit Kirthfair in Sibury lasts a full week starting with this day.

**JUNE 22**

#### **HEIGH LEAME (MIDSUMMER)**

This may be the biggest holiday in Somery. It dates back centuries and is deeply rooted in Somerish traditions. Midsummerpoles are raised, covered with leaves and decorated with flower wreaths. Lots of music and round dancing. The day before Heigh Leame is known as Leame



# GOVERNMENT

## NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Somery has a parliamentary government. The legislative body is The House of Elders or The Eldership, elected by the people by proportional representation.

The chairman of the Eldership is the Speaker, who, in accordance with results of the elections, appoints the Reeve, who is the leader of the country and who in turn appoints the Maistership, and Ambassadors. In his temporary absence the Speaker is deputy Reeve. The inner circle of the administration is called The Maistership.

The local government is maintained by the Shires.

## THE HOUSE OF ELDERS

The House of Elders is the legislative body of Somery. It is elected through proportional representation. This means, in simple terms, that a party that gets e.g. 40% of the votes gets 40% of the seats in the House, although the reality is more complicated than that. The lower limit for a party to enter the House is 4%, to prevent a myriad of small parties in the House.

There are 349 seats in the House, 310 of which are distributed according to the population of the constituencies, and 39 extra seats to compensate a possible imbalance. Currently five parties or flocks are represented in the House.

## THE FLOCKS

The parties or *flocks* as they are called in this country, that are represented in the House after the latest election in 300, are the following:

### WRIGHTS (w)

This is the biggest party in the country. Its leader, currently Coleridge Earts Willish, is also the leader of the Maistership and therefore Reeve of Somery.

(w) wants a mixed economy of free enterprise as well as governmental influen-

ce. Companies and activities vital to society, like nationwide communications, healthcare, and social security should be in the hands of the State. Full employment, careful use of natural resources, equally distributed prosperity, economical development and social security are important goals.

The party currently holds 157 seats in the House of Elders

#### **NIGHSTERS (n)**

(n) wants less influence from the State, and more autonomy to local government units. Freedom and security in a healthy environment, and a responsibility for coming generations are of importance, as well as equality, solidarity and private ownership.

The current leader is Mawdlys Awvish.

56 seats in the House are currently held by (n).

#### **KEEPSTERS (k)**

Freedom is an important concept for (k), as well as individuality. The family is the institution on which society is built. Free enterprise should exist with as little governmental influence as possible, including healthcare, communications and social security. Taxes should be lowered to a minimum. (k) is also for a common market in an economic union with neighbouring countries, especially those of the former Albion-Merit .

The current leader is Shorill Maisher.

(k) holds 31 seats in the House.

#### **FOLKWEAL (fw)**

(fw) could be described as a more radical version of (w), with more governmental influence, and a development towards complete removal of social classes, through redistribution of wealth and income between classes and between sexes. The initially revolutionary aspect of the changing of the social structure has in the course of time been replaced by one of gradual development.

The current leader is Rony Clowther.

21 seats in the House are held by the party.

#### **FREESTERS (f)**

A free economy with responsibility for the weak and poor, equality between the sexes, and the importance of freedom and equal rights for all are central ideas for (f). Political solutions should be flexible in accordance with the problems involved.

The current leader is Loryn Cairlowe.

The party currently holds 83 seats in the House.





# GEOGRAPHY

The Shires of Somery occupy the northwestern peninsula of the Old Continent, i.e. the land west of longitude 15° E and north of latitude 27° N with the exception of the land east of the ridge of what in Somery is known as the Angel Mts. What is now the independent state of Somery was during a thirteen year interval a part of the province of Wesmeria of Meritē. The country borders to the south on the Principality of Cimera, formerly a part of Eichensehria, and to the east on the part of the former province of Wesmeria which, after having been under Christianan administration, is now the independent state of Wesmerite; and Terra Extremis which is administered by the Directorate of Draconia. The longest distance from east to west is 1350 km (839 mi), and from north to south 1585 km (985 mi).

Topographically Somery has a rather varied landscape, e.g. the mountainous borderlands of the Angel Mountains to the southeast; the wide valleys of rivers like Elven and Avon; the partly forested Weald, where Michelweald is the largest continuous woodland; the rolling Lynnest Wolds with quaint little dales; the hilly regions of Rimn Hills and Branmoor Hills; the beautifully set lakes of the Shirdover Lakeland; the moorlands of Willset; the wetlands of Shireddin; the coastal lowlands of Crownburyshire; the flatlands of Wednesbury Emnet, and Holbury Emnet; and the stretches of iron-bound coastlines of the West coast.

Rivers include Lynne, 499 km; Omma, 457 km; Avon, 381 km; Weden, 362 km; Elven, 327 km; Cam, 285 km. The largest lake is Michelmere, Erset, 302 sq.km. Others include Lake Linneigh, Cornantshire, 165 sq.km; Coywater, Emmerset, 165 sq.km; Blackmere, Erset, 161 sq.km; Lake Ishill, Cornantshire, 152 sq.km; and Brillwater, Ombridgeshire, 141 sq.km. Isle of Milne, Sireset, is the biggest island, covering 1,027 sq.km. The Orchid Islands include Isle of Inwirth, 753 sq.km, Isle of Ennowe, 394 sq.km, and Isle of Ingles, 325 sq.km.



# THE SHIRES

## BRAMLEIGHSHIRE

**Area:** 18,251 sq.km (15)

**Approx. pop.** 735,000 (18)

**Pop.density:** 40/sq.km (15)

**Shire seat:** Bramleigh

**Mail code:** BR

**Motto:** Cyfoethog pob dedwydd (**Wealthy are the happy**)

The shire lies in the northern part of lathe Lynnest and covers the two valleys of the rivers Dunne and Whill, separated by the gently rolling uplands of the Warrow Downs. Part of Michelweald covers the eastern part. The Dunstith Downs, to the west, form part of the boundary against Campshire.

Three old districts or deans make up the present shire, Dunne Netherdean (basically the Dunne valley south of Overgreen Wold), Dunne Overdean (the upper Dunne valley), and Whilden (centred in the valley of the river Whill). These deans were over the years in varying degrees connected to lathe Lynnest but when the great shire reform came to be they formed a shire of their own.

The shire is famous for the Three Deans Quire Frels, an annual choir festival, with Bramleigh, Dunster, and Dunne Eaden taking turns as host.

## CAMPSHIRE

**Area:** 38,821 sq.km (3)

**Approx.pop.** 1,200,000 (9)

**Pop.density:** 31/sq.km (21)

**Shire seat:** Campton

**Mail code:** CA

**Motto:** Amare non bellum inferre (**To make love, not war**)

The shire covers the part of lathe Mar called Camden Mar, i.e. the valleys of the

rivers Cam and Dewre, both flowing into the Mordewre Bay. The thane of Mar had his court in Marthen, which is in today's Marthenshire, while Camden Mar was ruled on his behalf by a stead thane seated in Campton.

The eastern and northern boundaries are formed by the ridges of the Rimn Hills, which boast with some of the highest hills north of the Angel Mts, crowned by Monrowry Hill in Hundred Rowry. Being the highest peak of the Rimn Hills it contributes to the northern part of the shire being a mountainous inland. For those interested in skiing the Rimn Hills may be a cheaper alternative to the sometimes overcrowded Dellswyshire Dawes, although snowfall can be fickle.

### **CORNANTSHIRE**

**Area: 15,814 sq.km (18)**

**Approx. pop. 600,000 (23)**

**Pop.density: 38/sq.km (16)**

**Shire seat: Cornant**

**Mail code: CO**

**Motto: Cornu Copiae**

The shire, being the northern part of lathe Daylowe is dominated by Dwimmerdell, i.e. the valley of the river Cornant. In the valley there are two big lakes, Ishill, and Linneigh, and about halfway between them lie the Dwimmer Falls, Somery's biggest, if not highest, waterfall. Breightlith Downs, forming the shire's northern border, have a rather dramatic end in the cape of Breightlith Gore. In the south lies the rather sparsely populated Widden Uplands.

The town of Swanbury is famous for the Dwimmerdell Dream Frels in July. This is one of the most famous pop and rock festivals in Somery.

### **CROWNBURYSHIRE**

**Area: 18,782 sq.km (13)**

**Approx. pop. 1,600,000 (6)**

**Pop.density: 85/sq.km (4)**

**Shire seat: Crownbury**

**Mail code: CR**

**Motto: Crowned art thou mongst shires**

The shire occupies the northwestern part of lathe Avillion and the Mowe Valley in Sutherewland. The Mowe Downs mark the old boundary between the lathes. Crownbury was the capital of Somery for a few years after the union in 2 AP, before it was moved to Sibury. Much of the population is concentrated to the Crownbury and Stillham areas, outskirts of the Sibury Metropolitan Area.

### **DELLSWYSHIRE**

**Area: 32,644 sq.km (7)**

**Approx.pop. 730,000 (19)**

**Pop.density: 22/sq.km (25)**

**Shire seat: Dellswy**

**Mail code: DE**

**Motto: Ken the Hills**

The shire, geographically identical to lathe Norther Troy, is to the greater part covered and enclosed by the Angel Mountains, and thus featuring the most mountainous region in the country, known as the Dellswyshire Dawes. This is the winter sport centre of the country and also the home of the best Somerish skiers. Ternham, Hd. Highdawe has bred both Sanx 301 Vex Games bronze medallist Oshean Willern, and gold medallist Cannard Sedgwaugh, and Perwy Ellish, bronze medallist in Nordic skiing has his origin in the neighbouring town of Ewich-upon-Frothe. All the members of the VexGames female ski jump team are from Hd. Wendawe.

The most famous winter resort is the Silver Tree Winter Spa in Highdawe. Also in summer the shire offers plenty of recreation, including walking and mountaineering. The larger part of the population is found in the northern half of the shire, around Dellswy, and to some extent along the rivers Dillys and Wen.

### **ELVERY**

**Area: 41,847 sq.km (1)**

**Approx.pop. 2,000,000 (5)**

**Pop.density: 48/sq.km (13)**

**Shire seat: Eamouth**

**Mail code: EL**

**Motto: Naye deem by bare onseen**

The shire basically covers the valleys of the river Elven and its tributary Siona, i.e. the northern parts of lathes Elvery and Suther Troy, and the valley of Myle. The metropolitan area of Eamouth, including the boroughs of Freywold and Milldale, is the third in size of population in the country.

Elvery now is, together with the shires of lathe Avillion, the centre of Somerish agriculture, but also has successful industries, like Morlett Automotive in Thirfield. Eamouth is also Somery's most important harbour on the west coast.

### **EMMERSET**

**Area: 21,771 sq.km (11)**

**Approx. pop. 765,000 (16)**

**Pop.density: 35/sq.km (18)**

**Shire seat: Skeith**

## **WILLOWBURYSHIRE**

**Area: 27,312 sq.km (8)**

**Approx. pop. 1,120,000 (10)**

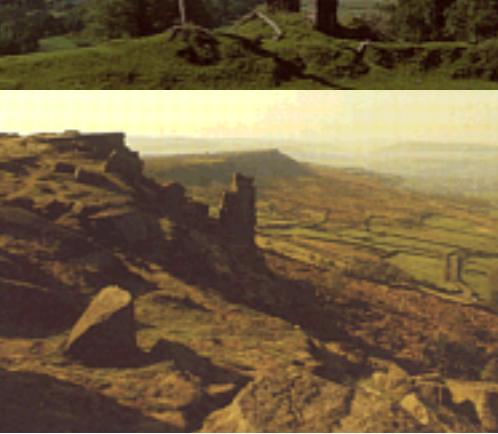
**Pop.density: 41/sq.km (14)**

**Shire seat: Willowbury**

**Mail code: WB**

**Motto: Caer Helygen**

The shire covers the upper valley of the river Weden, and that of its tributary the Ush. The area is quite hilly, rising in the west to join the Rimn Hills, and to the south lie the forested North Friths uplands, being a part of Michelweald. Willowbury, the shire-seat, was for periods of time the capital of lathe Sutherewland. The city's old centre, Eldertown, situated on a peninsula created by rivers Ush and Weden, shows a large number of spectacular half-timbered buildings.



## **WILLSET**

**Area: 10,939 sq.km (23)**

**Approx. pop. 650,000 (20)**

**Pop.density: 59/sq.km (11)**

**Shire seat: Tostrith**

**Mail code: WS**

**Motto: Volve me in trifolium**

The shire covers about a third of lathe Shirleith. The Williver and Tor valleys dominate the northern part, while the heaths of the Coymoor Wolds cover the south. Most of the population is spread along the valleys and the Tostrith Bay. Close to Stambeigh stands one of the country's most noteworthy stone circles.

## **WINSTERSHIRE**

**Area: 14,847 sq.km (20)**

**Approx. pop. 1,500,000 (7)**

**Pop.density: 101 (3)**

**Shire seat: Winster**

**Mail code: WI**

**Motto: Weden is thy blee (Blue is your colour)**

The shire covers the central part of lathe Sutherewland, i.e. the lower Weden valley, the Wednesbury Emnet, and the Kenna valley. The Emnet dominates the terrain in the north, while the south, bordering on Lynnestshire, meets the hilly, forested North Friths of the Michelweald area. The coastline consists of long sandy beaches, with the exception of the Wedneslow Wold area which features low cliffs and pebbled shores.



# THE ISLE OF MILNE

The Isle of Milne is situated off the northwest coast of Somery, in the shire of Sireset. Together with the isle of Thirnseigh and a great number of other small islands it forms the hundred of Milne, its seat being Colme, its largest town.

The main island covers ca 1,027 sq. kms, stretching ca 44 kms from east to west, and ca 53 kms from north to south.

The island is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Somery, but in spite of the invasion of visitors during the summer season the island seems to be able to swallow them all, and it's not unheard of to find plenty of spots unspoilt by tourists, and maybe even a small beach all to oneself.

The island is almost divided in two with only an isthmus, covered by the town of Colme, connecting them. The southern part, Thorse, has some lowlands, Barsum Deane, to the west but is mostly dominated by the hilly area of Thorse Downs to the south and southwest. Thorse also has the island's largest woodland area, Rownop Wode.

The northern part, Pnglewyn, is considerably lower with a few hills, The Overland, to the west and an open plain, The Emnet, to the east. The north is more densely populated and most of the area is cultivated, while the south has quite a few moors and woods which may appeal to outdoor people.

There are nine NPAs (Nationally Protected Areas, with protective restrictions for visitors) worth attention on the island, among them the caves of Stancleves, the forest of Rownop Wode and Thorse Peaks. Below is a list of them and other places that may be worth a visit.

**Barsum** (D 5). While most towns on the island has a weekly market, none of them is as famous as that of Barsum. During the Michelfair week in late September it grows to be by far the most popular on the island and the Turrow Market, a gem in itself surrounded by old merchant houses, is crowded with people from all around. Contrary to most markets the greater part of the goods offered is not a lot of junk, and it's not unlikely to make a find or two, parti-

cularly at the flea market in the Town Hall annex.

**Colme** (E 4) is without competition the largest town on the island, with a population of 20,000, and is consequently its commercial and administrative centre. Here is where most tourists arrive, by ferry or by air.

The town is quite old and has an almost intact town wall, and a noticeably regular street pattern which some would like to date back to before the arrival of the Summer clan.

The name is popularly believed to mean 'stone circle' (Es. 'cylch mean'), referring to the ancient stone circle in Culmean Green to the north of the town centre.

Not far outside the town, to the northwest, you find Craxholme Goar NPA.

**Craxholme Goar NPA** (C-D 4) just outside Colme is a popular place to go for the Colmers in their free time. The peninsula of Craxholme Goar is a combination of grasslands and cliffs ending in wetlands to the west, with plenty of birdwatching opportunities. Certain areas are further restricted during breeding season, late spring - early summer.

**Downfareth** (G 6) is best known for being near the Stancleves caves but holds a quaint small town charm of its own that is well worth discovering. Across the firth with a great view of the town lies Erlscather, a hill that is a well known landmark. Tales are told about the Erlqueen who, sitting on the hilltop, tries to lure sailors with her sweet song to run aground.

**Ernewick neigm Sea** (C 6) is the natural centre of the Bight of Sands area, which boasts some of the best beaches on the island. All along the seaside there is a great number of guesthouses to meet the invasion of guests in the summer. You can also find apartments to rent, with great views of the sea. If you are tired of basking in the sun and splashing in the waves you can always make a trip to Withersands NPA and enjoy the birdlife.

**Fixen Howe NPA** (D 2). While the Pnglewyn Overland mostly descends slowly northwards, Fixen Howe is a dramatic exception. It is like part of the slope has forgotten to continue downwards and then suddenly remembered. To the south the hill is gently rising to its summit while to the north it drops dramatically which offers a splendid view of the lower lands surrounding Foxton Hield to the north and the sea in the distance. It probably has gotten its name from the fact that foxes (*fixen* = female fox) are quite common in the area.

**Goswolme** (G 3) is the island's second town in size. Its most famous sight is the stationary tall ship Eithmarow in the harbour which serves as a hotel and youth hostel. It also has a popular marina, and is the start and finish of the Cul-lamellin Cup, which is among the most prestigious of sailing competitions in the country, claimed to be the oldest still held.

**Mewme** (G 3) is among those little towns whose population take pride in making their town centre green and blooming. As you walk along the streets you will find garden upon well tended garden, and late July people gather in

the Town Eddish for the annual floral festival to enjoy each others efforts and maybe find somethings to add to their own green spot. The festival usually attracts a lot of people.

**Milngor** (A-B 7) is almost as far west as you can get in Somery, and, according to legend, this is where the Summer clan first went ashore. There is a monument in stone in the harbour commemorating this event. The plaque on the monument is engraved with the phrase "*Into the Summer lands*" in both Somerish ("*In to tho someres land*") and Classic Estron ("*I mewn i'n tiroedd hafaidd*").

**Outerith NPA** (I 8), a small islet about 500 m wide and 800 m long, situated about 5 km to the east of Sutherholm Aiths, is the breeding ground for thousands of various seabirds, like seagulls, cormorants and puffins. There is a regular boat service from Meryot Sheat during the summer season, but visiting the island is further restricted during breeding season, late spring - early summer. Getting ashore can be complicated in rough weather since there is no natural harbour.

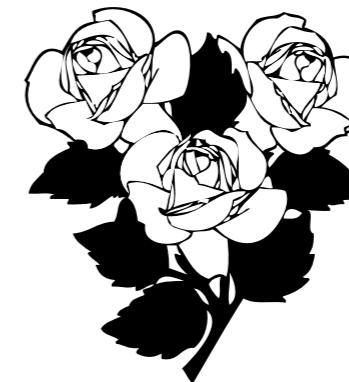
**Rownop Wode NPA** (E-F 5-6) is an area of partly quite dense deciduous woodlands, put aside to be protected, containing oak, ash, hornbeam, hazel and hawthorn. A group of particularly old oaktrees are worthy of attention.

**Stancleves NPA** (F-G 6-7) is one of the few cave systems in the country that are at least partly accessible to the general public.

Myths have it that it's the home of the Erlfolk, and when man appeared and discovered the caves they just moved farther into the caves. If someone by chance would find the secret passage to the inner caves they are, according to legend, certain never to be seen in this world again.

**Sutherholm Aiths** (H 8) have regular boat services from Downfareth, and also Meryot Sheat.

**Thirstowe** (D 6) is the biggest town of Thorse, and the island's third in size.





# PEOPLE & CULTURE

## PEOPLE

Talking about the ethnicity of the people of Somery is futile. Over the centuries any people who has migrated here have soon found themselves assimilated to the native population. If you ask Somes about their ethnic background they will look at you, amused, and ask what on earth that has to do with anything. Maybe they will quote the old Somerish saying "*Folks been o' tweyn kins, friends thu' knowst, an' friends thu'st yet ta meete*".

Seriously, the Somerish culture is a mainly a mix of the Estron, being the legendary original people living on the peninsula, and the Summer Clan from Christiana, who first colonized the Somerish peninsula about 1,500 years ago, and whose language was taken over by the Estron, adding their own spice to it, intermarrying with the Christianan settlers, mixing their own culture with theirs, until out of that mixture came a new culture, which could be cathegorized as nothing else than Somerish.

## MUSIC

Music is possibly the essential part of life for the Somerish. You could easily say that music is the glue that keeps the Somerish society together. The so called kirthfairs, i.e. music festivals, are frequent and big events and during the Whit-fair holiday people from all over the country come to Sibury to join in the biggest celebration of the year to music, The Allsomerish Whit Kirthfair.

**FOLK MUSIC** is the core of the Somerish music. Virtually every kind of music written and performed in Somery has traces of the ancient musical tradition of the peninsula, going all the way back to before the first Christianan settlers arrived. The most popular instruments in Somerish folk music are flute, *cithern* (a lute-like instrument not to be confused with 'zither'), harp (also known as gammonwood), *cruit* (a kind of violin, also called *fithel*) and *olderd* (double

bass). The music is mainly pentatonic, often with a sadness woven into the gaiety of the tune and the dance tunes can be very captivating. Both pop and classical music in Somery owe a lot to the music that has its roots deeply buried in the folk tradition.

**Pop Music** of Somerish origin is wellknown and several groups and artists are working towards international breakthrough. Somery's currently biggest pop/rock act is *The Mirth*. This group, based in Tull, Melstershire, plays a wellcrafed mix of electrified rock and folk music with classical influences, of which the latter can be clearly seen by the fact that the set includes two celli, a violin, and flute/oboe, beside the traditional guitar, keyboards, bass and drums. A couple of concerts have been given with the Melster Philharmonic.

A more traditional set is represented by Strawtonian group *Derwent Dunyon* whose music is mainly guitarbased, with impressive singing in parts.

Among the solo artists of the singer/songwriter tradition the brightest star right now (301) is *Annideigh Carra*, born in Milltree, Morentwyshire, who had her big breakthrough at the Whit Kirthfair in Sibury 300. With an soft, quite intimate voice, backed by her own guitar, double bass and light drums, maybe a string quartet or a piano, her songs have a personal touch that apparently appeals to a lot of people in this country.

*Gray Slawke* from Curwich near Sibury could be considered her male equivalent although his music is more electrified. His lyrics are more down to earth, and more about broken hearts and disappointments in life.

*Men in Plaid* from Eamouth represent the more humorous side of music, but with lots of talent and musicianship.

**CLASSICAL MUSIC** Some of the most beautiful classical music in Vexillium originates in Somery. Of the most prominent Somerish composer the following could be worth mentioning, along with some of their most appreciated works:

Ennan Wildale (25 BC - 41 AP) (*The Months Suite*);  
Shon Frewde (15 BC - 50 AP) (*The Cairveryn Concertos*);  
Ennan Caurtner (141 - 204) (*Avillion Suite; Overseas Symphony*);  
Shorill Stanwade (152 - 224) (*Marrish Symphonies; Summer Rhapsodies*);  
Raeve Waugham (172 - 258) ('*Roshyn Wyn*' for orchestra and voices; '*Meadow Birdsong*' for violin & orchestra)

There are several symphony orchestras in Somery, but the most respected ones are The Sibury Symphonia, currently led by the Hon. Erryl Osprey, and The Melster Philharmonic Orchestra, led by the Hon. Ean Gossish. Every Spring around the Evenlight Holiday there is a big festival of Classical music, *Ver Musicae*, alternatively taking place in Sibury and Melster.

Freeform or Cotshirt probably has nothing to do with cotton shirts, but more

likely with the phrase "cut short", as in syncopate. It probably started developing at the turn of the last century in the late night music clubs in the Sibury region. It's the most complex music style performed in Somery. Popular intruments used include double bass, drums, guitar, piano, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and flute. There are several variations of the style.

## ARTS & CRAFTS

Another almost equally essential part of the Somerish society is art of all kinds. The most important art museum is the Ealin Gallery in Sibury, which has the biggest collection of Somerish and foreign art in the country. Other museums worth mentioning are the Calla Museum of Art in Melster, and Cairdry Hall in Strawton.

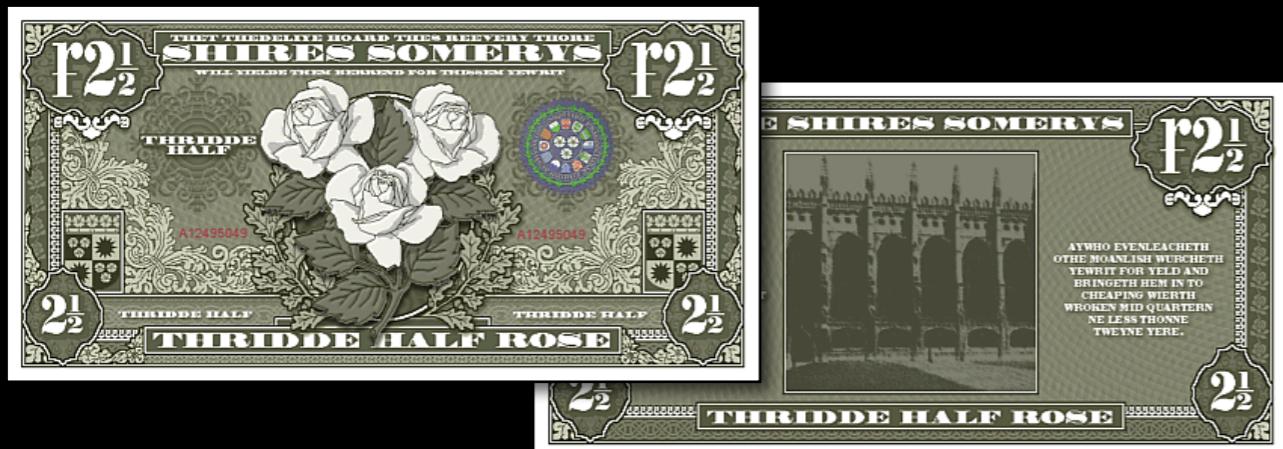
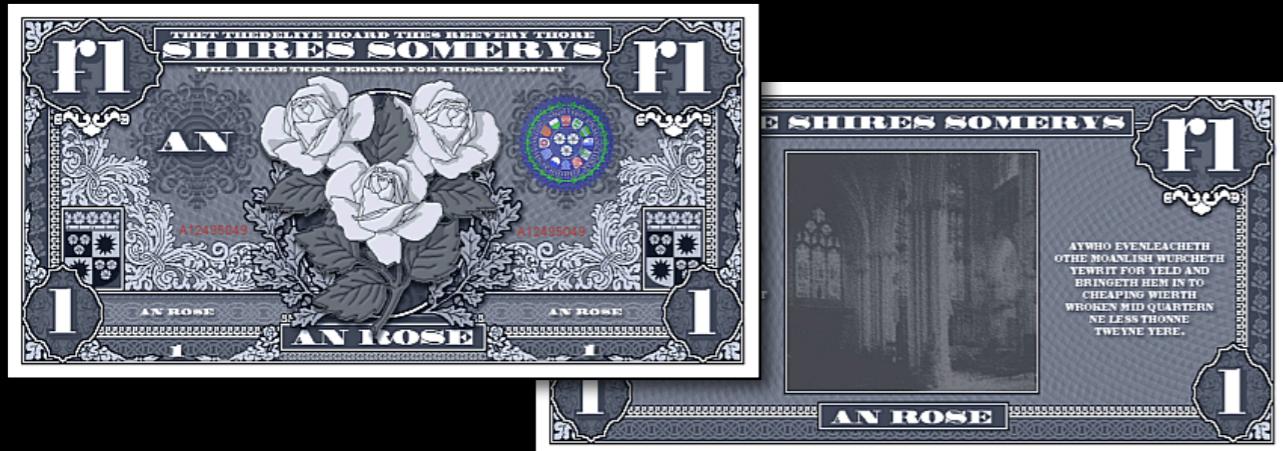
The most significant features of the folk handicraft are the "love keys", that young men used to carve in wood and present to a possible life partner, as a token of their affection and will to pursue her. Nowadays these lovekeys are also given as gifts to close friends of both sexes, parents, children, or anyone else that you feel close to. The latest trend is to bring a lovekey and a small posy of flowers the first time you are invited into someone's home. They are also popular souvenirs among foreign tourists.

## THEATRE

If there is such a thing as a national stage of Somery it would probably be the Quairdy Boards in Sibury, where many of the actors who have later gone on to work with TV and film have made their debut. This is the oldest theatre stage in the country, and it is the dream of many a playwright to get their work performed here, just like it is a dream come true for any actor to tread these boards. There is quite a number of other stages in Sibury, too, not to mention the Wieldsword Playhouse in Melster, which is considered almost as respectable as the Quairdy.

## RELIGION

Somery has freedom of religion, but faith is very much a personal matter. There are buildings that were once built for religious purposes but many of these are now used as town halls, hundred courts, concert halls, museums or similar secular activities. The government is completely secular and in no way affected by religious beliefs, and groups with marked religious purposes are not as such allowed to form political parties. Marriage through religious ceremonies is a traditional custom only, with no legal binding, which has to be confirmed before witnesses by an authorized governmental official. Burial ceremonies are likewise performed by officials appointed by the government. There are no official statistics on religious affiliation. If music were a religion it would, without a doubt, have the largest number of followers in the country.



# CURRENCY

The Somerish currency is the *Rose* (f). This is divided into 2 *Corne* (sing. *Coren*), in turn divided into 2 *Ferthings*. A Ferting equals  $2\frac{1}{2}$  *Teithen* ('), each Teithe is divided into 4 *Pennies* (p., p or in isolated cases "'). Each penny is divided into 4 *Bannocks*. Thus 1 Rose = 2 Corne = 4 Ferthings = 10 Teithen = 40 Pennies = 160 Bannocks When amounts are written the most common ways is this, e.g. 3 rosen, 8 teithen and 1 penny = f3/8 or f3/8'1. When the amount doesn't include pennies the sign ' for teithen is usually omitted, thus e.g. f3/8. If teithen are not included it is usually written thus, f3/2, f3/-2 or simply f3/2. When only rosen are included in the amount it is usually written, e.g. f3/- or f3. When the amount does not include rosen there are also a few ways of writing, like f-/8 or f-/8'3 (or just 8'3). A coren is usually written f-/5, or 5' and a ferthing f-/2'2 or 2\_2 but these amounts are almost invariably referred to as a coren and a ferthing. When including the bannock in writing it's placed after the penny as a single quote mark for each bannock, thus 3 rosen, 5 teithen, 2 pennies and 2 bannocks = f3/5\_2". If the penny is excluded it's replaced by a hyphen, f3/5-".





# HISTORY

## **EDRANNASHAN**

One day, almost 8,000 years ago, someone decided to leave a mark to posterity, and thus giving us a view of the way the world was looked upon, and a glimpse of the way of life all those centuries ago. In a cave near the hamlet of Edrannashan, in Hd Highmond, Suthershire this someone covered the walls with very vivid paintings of people, animals and symbols, possibly religious, revealing an imagination of amazing depth. This is so far the oldest sign that has been found of human activity on the northwestern peninsula of the Old Continent. Seeing that all other antiquities are of a later date it's probable that the land was occupied by people coming from the south, over the Angel mountains, making Edrannashan one of the first stops on the way. If these people were the Estron or if they came later to dominate an earlier settlement of people is something we will probably never know. We can only speculate, basing our guesses on the artefacts, mounds, stone circles and other traces of human inhabitation and activities found all over the peninsula. What we with some certainty do know is that the Estron were in full control of the land about 1,800 years ago, when the Somerish arrived from *Mystgallia*. Written sources from the period before that are very few, and to the most part limited to stone carvings of which some still defy interpretation, and most texts describing its history in more detail have been written down centuries later.

## **THE GREAT DEPARTURE**

Some time around 1400 BP there was a dramatic change in the religious climate in *Mystgallia*, present day Christiana. Cruis, a founder of a new religion demanding the unconditional abandonment of all other gods, had begun his teachings and this in such an convincing way that soon an overwhelming number of people on the island had embraced this new faith. With the number of followers increasing an equally increasing pressure was put upon those who wished to re-

main within the ancient religious framework of their forefathers.

The most significant group of these opponents to the new religion was the so called *Summer clan*, sometimes referred to as the Fifth clan of Mystgallia. Worshipping the sun god *Leoma* as their singular deity they were the odd man out among the clans, and were to become even more so as the new religion won an ever greater part of the population. Eventually there was too great a pressure on the clan to convert, which left them, basically, with two options, staying and converting, or leaving. A small number chose to give in to the demands and to accept the new faith, while the majority, under the leadership of its legendary charismatic leader, *Begimend Sunnanwine*, decided to search for new lands where they could freely follow their old traditions. According to old Summer clan legends there was a mythical continent, known as the *Summer Lands*, beyond the eastern seas, the home of their god, the sun, which he left every morning to watch over his creation. In their exposed situation people of the clan began considering the events a sign to search for that land, to find what they increasingly felt was their true home.

### THE GREAT VOYAGE

Although some legends may tell you differently the great migration of the Summer clan probably wasn't one singular event, a voyage including all the members of the clan. It's more likely that it happened in waves, as told in Aewil Arweordlic's "History of the Somerish people", starting with a group, possibly guided by the supposedly godinspired leader Begimend Sunnanwine, who, when new land was indeed found, sent a message back telling the good news, inspiring other groups to follow, until eventually practically all the people belonging to the clan had left Mystgallia, at least those who were faithful to their old ways.

A multitude of legends are connected with this voyage, and most of them have some kind of supernatural ingredient. Among the most popular ones we find the story of the evil ocean spirits or seafivels trying, with various tricks, to prevent the seafarers from reaching their destination, the battle with the sea monster Wælgenga, and the speaking dolphins sent by the sun god to guide the seafarers on their perilous quest.

### DEULLEW

The first land that was sighted, according to the legend, was *Enys Melyn*, i.e. the Isle of Milne, where the clan for the first time met the Estron. They were greeted in a friendly way, and symbolic gifts were exchanged. The clan became aware that also this people worshipped the sun, and this convinced them that they had found what they were looking for. The island was at that time part of the Estron kingdom of *Deullew*, whose name still lives on in the lathe of Daylowe. Its main settlement was *Tregwellt* which was situated near what is now Strawton, where

the possible traces of the foundations can still be seen. Here the newcomers were greeted and welcomed by king *Ierll* and his court. They were shown much hospitality, but when the king became aware of their intentions to settle down in his land, he was worried, and spoke of fairer lands which they would find if they travelled to Avillion, and *Trefwyn Uchel*, the seat of the High King Brennan. They were told through sign language, and similar ways, how to get there, and as they travelled north to pass Breightlith Gore a messenger was sent back to Mystgallia to tell their kin about what they had found.

### AVILLION

The ships passed through the Orcadian Archipelago and followed the coast where it turned south, here and there watched by the curious eyes of the local people. Several days passed and some people started talking about having been fooled by the king, and wanted to go ashore at the next suitable place, and settle there, but Begimend urged them on, himself wanting to see what Ierll had been telling him about. Finally they reached what is now Sibury Firth and here they were met by a ship whose captain, after learning their business, welcomed them and offered to guide them to *Trefwyn Uchel* (today's Trevenill, near Bridglea), which Begimend and his people accepted. They followed the Estron ship up the river until they reached the king's city. Begimend and his closest men were brought to the king who welcomed them. When he heard the reason for their arrival he and the people of *Trefwyn Uchel* showed them hospitality, as brothers in the worship of the sun, and took them into their homes, awaiting a decision of the king's council.

### SETTLEMENT

After a few days of discussion the council decided to provide the newcomers with help and guidance as to where they could settle down further up the river and they also agreed that there would be room also for the expected clan members arriving from Mystgallia. After a month or two more of the clan ships with eager new settlers started arriving, and all were welcomed. The Estron and the Summer clan lived side by side in harmony and peace for a long time.

### CONFFLICT

The main cause of what was to come could probably partly be blamed on the difference in birth rate between the two peoples. Traditionally the Clan had big families, while the Estron had considerably smaller ones. As time passed it came to a point where the Clan all but outnumbered the Estron in Avillion, and this caused distress among some groups who complained to the king, who disregarded this as a point of less importance, and reassured the people that this was not a problem. This did not satisfy them, and soon unfounded rumours of the Clan started spreading among the Estron. Tension started rising, and now



# THE LATHES

During the known history of Somery various parts of the country have dominated over others, and even, during periods of time, fought frequent wars with each other. It is only in the last three centuries that there has really been a movement of Somerish nationality, after the signing of the Ewsteth Writ, although the peninsula itself, in written record practically from the start has been referred to as Somery (OS. *Sumorige*) or The Summer Land. Before the final unification in the early 1st century the peninsula was divided into 12 lathes or small countries which have been rather separate entities over a long period of time, although culture and governmental structures have been fairly similar throughout what gradually has become the Somery of today. The borders have varied through occasional wars and border disputes, but the traditional division originates from the comparatively consistent borders during the decades just before the union.

## AVILLION

*Upper and Nether Avonshire, Siburyshire, Crownburyshire except Mowe Valley (Hds. Shipton, Moway, & Upper, Mid & Nether Modale).*

The name (OS. *Æfillium* < Es. *Afillion*, ) means "the land of apples", and has probably been the name of this region long before the Mystgallians arrived. Originally Avillion was the name of the fertile lands between the rivers Avon and Wren, the Avillion Evens, in Upper Avonshire, and this has always been the heartland of the lathe, the centre of apple growing and the production of the Somerish cider, the muist. In Avillion is also, according to legend, where the first Mystgallians, from what is today Christiana, finally settled and the seed, to what is now Somery, was sown. Avillion was the first region referred to as a lathe. Plenty of historic sites can be found all over the lathe, including one of largest stone circles in the country, close to Kirstwall, UA.

## **DAYLOWE**

*Cornantshire, Sireset.*

The lathe got its name (Es. *Deullew*), sometimes used in its older Somerish variety *Tweylowe* (OS. *Twegenleo*), from the two lions in its coat of arms, which it took over from the thane family of the same name, which traced their ancestry back to a line of legendary Estron princes. The heartland is the Sire valley and the area around Elfish Bay. Just outside Strawton are the remains of *Tregwellt*, the former seat of the thane, where, according to legend, king Ierll of Deullew welcomed the first settlers of the Summer Clan. The coast to the north and the Cornant valley, also known as *Dwimmerdell* (OS. *Twegenmerdel*, 'the valley of two lakes') was colonized by the Daylwenians and later incorporated into the lathe.

## **ELVERY**

*Shire Elvery except Hds. High Elvendale and Lean; Ledgwickshire except Hds. Swindawe, Brunneigh & Highop; Suthershire, except Hds. Sweighmond, Highmond & Craydawe; Hd. Troswy in Lynnestshire.*

The name (OS. *Elferig*) simply means "the land by the river Elven". The heartland developed around the Elven estuary and Windross Bay, but later the people of *Sutherfold*, i.e. the land centred around The Ledge, and the valleys of the rivers Blake and Dill, subdued themselves to the thane in Eamouth.

## **FARNSET**

*Farnset & Orchid Islands.*

The name (OS. *Færnsæti*) is of obscure origin. The popular interpretation is "the far settlement", while others say it's the "land of the travellers". Whichever is right, it is the most remote lathe, seen from Avillion, and it could be seen as "the far side" of the peninsula, for the settlers coming from the west. On occasions the Orchid Islands are counted as a separate lathe, but it has been under the same rule as the Malgary Peninsula for a larger number of years than not. The name is probably a misinterpretation of the Estron name of the islands, The Islands of the Kestrel (E. *Ynysedd Yr Cudyll*).

## **LYNNEST**

*Bramleighshire, Lynnestshire except Hd. Troswy.*

Lynnest (OS. *Hlynnesæti*, 'the settlement on the river Lynne') originally consisted of four parts, True Lynnest, i.e. what is now Lynnestshire, and the three districts or deans that now make up Bramleighshire, Dunne Netherdean (basically the Dunne valley south of Overgreen Wold), Dunne Overdean (the upper Dunne valley), and Whilden (centred in the valley of Whill) (these three districts are represented by the three clovers in the present coat of arms of Bramleighshire).

## **MAR**

*Washfordshire, Marthenshire, Campshire.*

The name is most likely taken from the river by the same name, whose valley is the heartland of the lathe. The etymology of the name is obscure, but it is probably of Estron origin. The lathe had two main parts: *True Mar*, roughly covering today's Washfordshire and Marthenshire; and *Camden Mar*, centred around the estuaries of the rivers Cam and Dewre. The thane had his court in Marthen, while Camden Mar was ruled on his behalf by a stead thane seated in Campton.

## **NORTHEREWLAND**

*Melstershire, Erset, Ewst north of the Ewe.*

The name (OS. *Norðerewnland*), which can often be heard pronounced as if written Noyland, obviously means "the land north of the river Ewe". Consequently the lathe covers - apart from modern Melstershire and Erset - the part of Ewst that lies north of the Ewe. Prydwirth, the old capital of the lathe, is a beautiful town, with several historical buildings, representing virtually all styles and ages. The wellpreserved ancient thane hall is well worth a visit.

## **NORTHER TROY**

*Dellsuyshire*

The name (OS. *Norðer Troie* < Es. *Troed* (Leth)) means "the northern foot (of the mountain)". The lathe has always been a bit isolated from the rest of Somery, although thanes of Avillion have claimed supremacy over it from time to time in the course of history.

## **SHIRDOVER**

*Ombridgeshire, Emmerset.*

The name (OS. *Scirdofre* < Classic Estron *Tirdwfr*; Modern Es. *Diéuthûl*) means "waterland" and would refer to the lakeland to the far west, which was once the heartland of the lathe. This was soon moved eastward to the confluence of the Omma and Emmer rivers. In Lathe Shirdover, as well as in Lathe Shirleith and Lathe Farnset, is where the Estron language stayed alive the longest. Wister was its first capital, then known as Annith (Mod. Es. *Aniē*), until the thane moved his court to Ombridge, Cl. Es. *Pont Arwith* (Mod. Es. *Bons Aluie*). The tradition of Estron woodcarving lives on in the lathe, and "lovekeys" are popular souvenirs.

## **SHIRLEITH**

*Morentwyshire, Willset.*

The name (OS. *Scirleop* < Es. *Tir Leth*) means "the north country", and the lathe was together with Shirdover and Farnset the last stronghold of the Estron



# LANGUAGE

## SOMERISH

Somerish is the official language of the Shires of Somery, and spoken by very few people outside its borders. At a quick glance the Somerish language may resemble Ingallish, with which it is related, but its grammar is rather different, and its vocabulary and spelling is quite archaic in comparison. Most Somerish people have quite a good knowledge of Ingallish, though.

**VOCABULARY.** The main reason for the difference in vocabulary between Somerish and Ingallish is that more than half of the Ingallish words are loanwords, mainly from Liliani, while Somerish has kept most of its original words, e.g. *lore* for science, *tilth* for agriculture, *kingly* for royal, *chirtness* for beauty etc., and the incorporation of several Classical Estron words, e.g. *kirth* for music, and *pridworth* for beautiful, alongside with Ingallish ones. You can also find more archaic spellings, like the kept 'l' in *whilch*, Ing. which, and *sulch*, Ing. such, and that some words have developed differently in comparison with Ingallish, e.g. *altheigh*, Ing. although, *swote*, Ing. sweat (noun), *yieve*, Ing. give.

**PRONUNCIATION.** It is possible that a person with a normal knowledge of Ingallish could read and understand much of a Somerish text, but when it comes to understanding the spoken word, it is more doubtful. Generally the Somerish pronunciation is more orthographic than the Ingallish. E.g. 'gh' after 'i' at the end of words and between 'i' and 't' in words like 'night' and 'right' is clearly audible as a palatal fricative, 'wh' is a voiceless equivalent to the voiced 'w', the 'k' is audible as a light 'd' sound in words like 'knight' and 'know', and the 'w' in e.g. 'write' can be heard as a 'v'-sound.

**DIALECTS.** Dialectwise there are few variations, although people in the larger

Most neuter words, though, have no ending in the plural, e.g.

house	house	<i>house</i>
sheep	sheep	<i>sheep</i>
horse	horse	<i>horse</i>
bearn	bearn	<i>child</i>

Some nouns have developed irregular plural forms, e.g.

mother	medren	<i>mother</i>
brother	brethren	<i>brother</i>
doughter	dighthren	<i>daughter</i>
eye	eyne	<i>eye</i>
cow	kine	<i>cow</i>
year	yere	<i>year</i>

Some nouns have a vowel change in the plural without an ending, e.g.

book	beech	<i>book</i>
mouse	meese	<i>mouse</i>
noot	neet	<i>nut</i>
man	men	<i>man</i>
goose	yeese	<i>goose</i>

Nouns ending in -end, based on the present participle, are usually unchanged in the plural.

## ADJECTIVES

Adjectives have two forms, weak and strong. The weak is used when the adjective is preceded by the definite article or a demonstrative or possessive adjective of some form, and is formed by adding an -e unless the adjective already ends with that letter. The strong form, using the -e only in the plural, is used in all other contexts. Adjectives ending with an -y replace this with -iye.

an ald man	<i>an old man</i>
the alde man	<i>the old man</i>
alde men	<i>old men</i>
the alde men	<i>the old men</i>
an new house	<i>a new house</i>
thet newe house	<i>the new house</i>
newe house	<i>new houses</i>
the newe house	<i>the new houses</i>

thet newe house thes alde man

*the new house of the old man*

the newe house thore alde men

*the new houses of the old men*

an seely mewle

*a happy girl*

the seeliye mewle

*the happy girl*

seeliye mewlen

*happy girls*

the seeliye mewlen

*the happy girls*

the seeliye mewle on them alde house

*the happy girl in the old house*

the seeliye mewlen on thome alde house

*the happy girls in the old houses*

Comparison is formed by adding -er, and -est. Some adjectives mutate in comparative and superlative, e.g.

ald	elder	eldest	<i>old</i>
yong	yinger	yingest	<i>young</i>
long	lenger	lengest	<i>long</i>
strong	strenger	strengest	<i>strong</i>
heigh	hier	height	<i>high</i>
neigh	near	neighth	<i>near, close</i>

Some adjectives have irregular comparison, e.g.

michel	more	meast	<i>big</i>
littel	less	least	<i>little</i>
good	better	seelest	<i>good</i>
	seeler	best	
uvel, wersly	werse	werst	<i>bad, evil</i>

An unstressed -e- in the last syllable of a disyllabic adjective is generally dropped when the word is inflected.

an coren king	<i>a chosen king</i>
the corne king	<i>the chosen king</i>
an weden house	<i>a blue house</i>
thet wedne house	<i>the blue house</i>
an michel town	<i>a big city</i>
the mich(e)le town	<i>the big city</i>

Note that if an adjective is used as a noun it keeps its uninflected form in the



# SPORTS

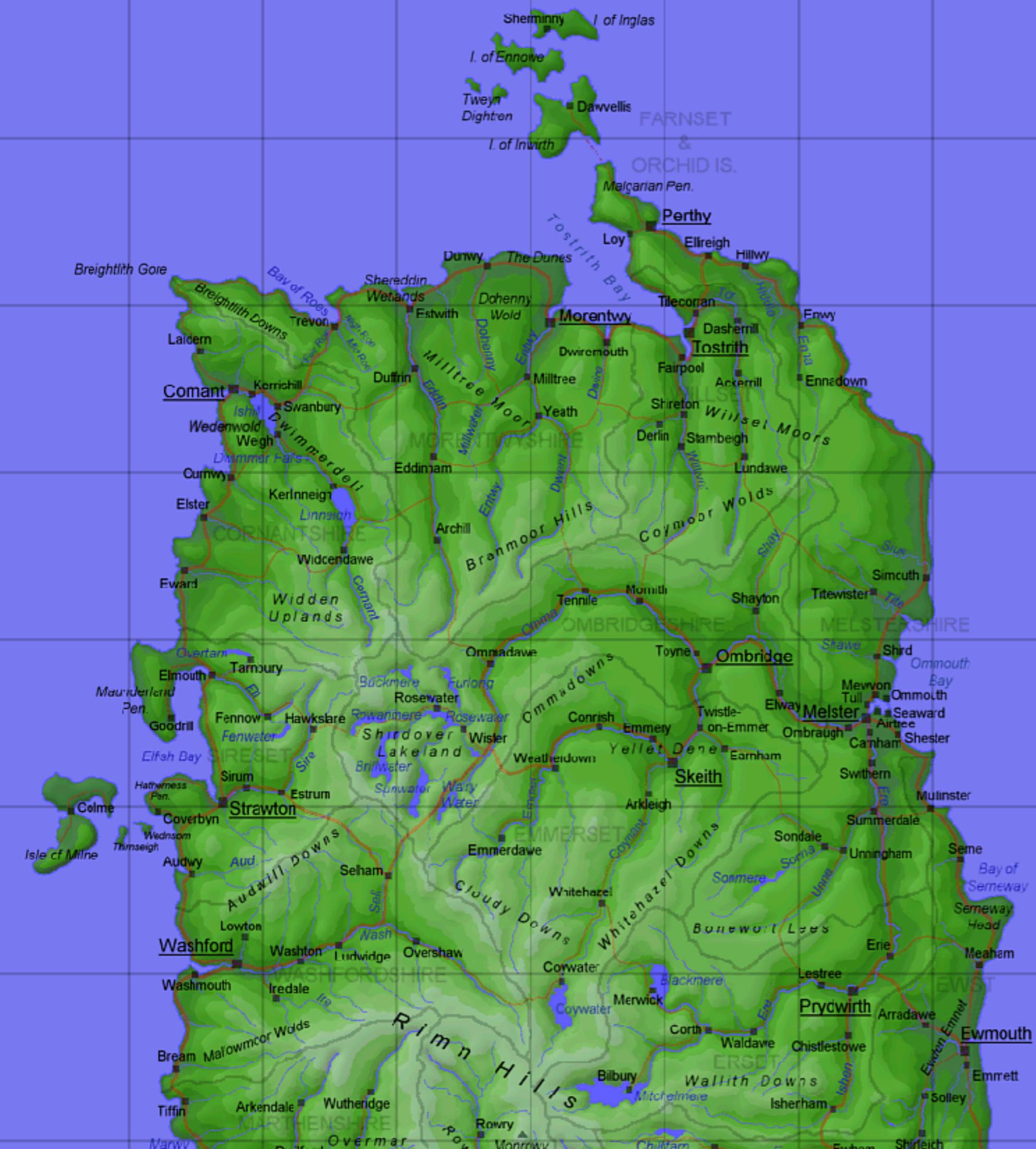
## STUMPWICKET

The national sport of Somery is called stumpwicket, commonly known as stumps. The game is played on a oval grass field of no fixed size (usually about 150x120yds) in whose centre there is 22 yds long and 10ft wide pitch, with a "wicket" (three wooden stumps, 28 in high, with two wooden bails on the top) at each end. Two teams of 11 players each alternate as bowling and batting team.



The aim of the bowling team, of which the main part is spread over the field, is, by letting a player, called the bowler, throw the ball from one end of the pitch to the other for the main purpose of knocking down the wicket, to dismiss 10 of the eleven players of the batting team. This can be done in various ways. One way is to hit the wicket with the ball. This is called "bowled". The wicket is guarded by one of the batsmen, whose job it is to stop the ball from knocking it down, and to change places with the batsman standing at the other wicket as many times as possible, while the ball is in play. Another way is for one of the players in the field to catch a ball struck by a batsman before it touches the ground. This is called caught. A third way is for the wicket keeper (the player of the bowling team who stands guard by the wicket) to knock the wicket down while holding the ball in his hand, while the batsmen are still running between wickets. This is called run out. A fourth way, and a very difficult thing for the umpire to judge, is leg-before-wicket, mostly abbreviated as l.b.w. If a ball thrown by the bowler, without hitting the bat, hits the batsman on his body in such a way that the ball would otherwise have hit the wicket, he is out l.b.w.

The aim of the batting team is for the batsmen to change places as many times as possible while the ball is in play. Each run (one switch) gives 1 point. If the



# SOMERY

## A TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

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The book introduces you to the country from different aspects, such as music, sports, language, politics, etc. It also contains recently updated maps and a special section on the Isle of Milne which is recently becoming an increasingly popular part of of the country to visit.

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