

Newsletter of the Barony of Politarchopolis

GRIFINTAYLE



“Virga Non Universi Sum”

Griffintayle is published by and for the Barony of Politarchopolis. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism and does not delineate SCA policy. Griffintayle is produced by Anwyn Davies, 9a Cooper Place Watson ACT 2602. Griffintayle has an email version available. Secure your postal copy by subscription - \$8.00 per year. Baronial Homepage: <http://www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis>

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Other Upcoming Events:

27th-29th Feb – Tavern Feast, Stowe On the Wowld (Sydney Western Suburbs)

8th-13th April – Rowany Festival, Crossroads Medieval Village, Yass

3rd-4th June – Midwinter Coronation, River Haven (Brisbane)

Editor's Note: I have no details for the Stitch and Bitch beyond the date – please contact the A&S officer for more details.

Politar chopolis Regnum

SCA Politar chopolis, PO Box 1294, Belconnen ACT 2617 Email politar chopolis@sca.org.au
To subscribe to the Politar chopolis email list, go to <http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/polit>

Please see elsewhere on the Politar chopolis webpage for Regnum details

Regular Meetings

- ☼ **Baronial Meetings:** the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.
Check with the Seneschal for location
- ❖ **Baronial heavy fighter practice:**
 - Sunday: from 3:00 pm at Haig Park, O'Connor near scout hall, Fencers and heavies welcome.
 - Wednesday evenings: from 6:30 pm, at Mawson Oval.
- ♣ **Rapier practice:** Sundays, starting with Side Sword at 1.30 pm at Haig Park O'Connor.
- ♣ **Archery practice:** Sundays, 10:00 till 12:00 at Tuggeranong Archery Club, Western end of Soward Way, Tuggeranong. Cost 5 gold to non TAC members Range fees to TAC members
- ♣ **Twilight Twang Archery Practice:** 5.45pm to dusk, weather permitting. Location and costs as above.
- ♣ **Arts and Sciences:** Sundays - after fighter practice, same location.
Wednesday - between 12:30 and 3:00pm at the Mummery. Contact the Seneschal for location details and to confirm the session is on.
- ♣ **Baronial Dance Classes:** 2-4 pm Sundays at the Scout Hall, Haig Park, Turner
- ♣ **Cordon Rouge Open Herald Nights:** Tuesdays from 8pm – call Paul on [0407 468 244] for location details
- ♣ **Scriptoria:** Held by the College of Scribes every 2nd Saturday of the month. Call Jon on 6259 5842 for more details.
- ♣ **College Dance Classes:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, from 6.30 pm at ANU Copland Building G030.
- ♣ **College A & S:** Every 1st, 3rd and 5th (if applicable) Wednesday of the month, from 6pm at ANU Copland Building G030
- ♣ **Mid week Boffer and A'n'S meeting:** Every Wednesday 3.30 - 5.00pm. Room 3 of the Tuggeranong Community Centre Cowlshaw Street, Greenway. Please check the notice board on entry as meeting may have been moved to a different room - will be under House Anaticula (SCA)

Please check all details are correct and contact the Chronicler to correct any errors. "Griffintayle" is published monthly, editions are printed the weekend following the Baronial Meeting. It is distributed in print and electronic forms. All submissions need to be received by the Chronicler by the 1st of the month for general and event notices, Officers Reports by the Wednesday evening of the Baronial Meeting.

Upcoming Events

A Midsummer's Revelry – Boffer War

When: 18th January 2004

Where: Fadden Pines in Fadden, off Bugden Ave.

The laird's daughter has gone a walking in the forest, grieving for her betrothed. Screams can be heard from the forest even in the village and the laird calls his warriors to arms. What has happened to their first daughter? What will they find?

The King of the Fey has noted the lady's beauty and decided she will make an excellent addition to his... court. Much revelry of the sword beacons.

A short Tourney will be fought from those who consider themselves worthy for the role of the Fey King. Also on offer this day are; a forest battle, a bridge battle and a fort battle, not necessarily in that order

Equipment needed for this battle is a gambeson, your own boffer, although boffers belonging to Household Anaticula will be available for loan, and if you have a helmet please bring it along. Specs for Boffer construction (in accordance to the fledgling Boffer Handbook) can be acquired by emailing either Darby at - alinta@hotmail.com or Rhodri at rthcs@hotmail.com

Inspections at 11am, War at Noon.

Price: Free. Although a 5 gold pieces deposit will be charged to those who borrow Household Anaticula boffers. This will not be returned if you break it.

Baronial Investiture

When: Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1 February

Where: Saturday from 1pm at the St Margaret's Holy Cross Hall, corner of Antill Street and Philip Avenue, Downer

Sunday morning 10-noon, Tuggeranong Archery Club, afternoon Haig Park.

Come one, come all Politarchopolans as, with Their Majesties leave, Edmund Ale-conner and Leta von Gosslar step up to assume the care of the Barony from François Henri Guyon and Aelfthythe of Saxony.

Saturday from 1pm at the St Margaret's / Holy Cross Hall Street and Philip Avenue, Downer), will feature tourneys, games and courts, with feasting and dancing long into the night.

Sunday will feature archery at the Tuggeranong Archery Club from 10 am to noon (additional mundane fees apply to shoot) and more fun and fighting at Haig Park in the afternoon.

For more information e-mail the Steward, Oriel of the Gypsies, at oriel@webone.com.au. Bookings only accepted with payment and should be made to the Steward, Oriel of the Gypsies (Vicki Whitehorn).

Any dietary requirements or food allergies should be advised at the time of booking. Please make cheques payable to SCA Politarchopolis.

Until 12th night - members \$15, non-members \$17.
From 12th night to 25 January - members \$17, non-members \$20.

From 26 January to at the door - members \$20, non-members \$23.

In service
Oriel

Events Elsewhere

Border War VI

Who: Borderscros (Albury-Wodonga)

Where: "Noomaneena, Mt Buffalo Rd, Porepunkah

When: February 27th – 29th, 2004

Border War is moving!

With tensions rising in the southern regions of Lochac, the Shire of Bordscros has taken possession of Fort Border-Storm in anticipation of imminent conflict. With both Baronial neighbours investing new Barons and Baroness', the uneasy truce may be broken by a new war hungry ruler intent on invading the fertile expanse of Bordscros!

The call has gone out, join us in the alpine retreat of Noonameena for what could be the last stand!

Accommodations Costs:

Camping: \$8 per night

Dorm Rooms: \$12 per night

PRICE: Members: \$35 (Before the end of November)

Members: \$45 (Before the end of December)

Members: \$55 (Before the end of January)

Non-Members: add \$10

Detailed directions to site will be given upon booking or request.

STEWARD: Lady Cassia de La Rose (Carole Rhodes)

Email: cazzie@myaccess.com.au

BOOKINGS: Bookings can be made by emailing the steward or Bordscros@hotmail.com (please be sure to include 'Border War' in the subject heading) or contacting any of the Shire officers listed in the Kingdom Regnum.

WARNING: EARLY BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL!!!
The dorm accommodation will be allocated upon first in best dressed, if you want a good room, book early! The rooms range from two bed to a room through to eight beds to a room.

Contact thanatos@myaccess.com.au or cazzie@myaccess.com.au for any questions regarding the event.

Tavern Feast

Who: Stowe on the Wowld (Sydney, Western Suburbs)

When: Saturday, 28th February, 2004

Where: The Baronial Pavilion, Pendle Hill Scout Hall, Civic Park (off Civic Ave), Pendle Hill (not far from Pendle Hill Station)

It's coming around again! Stowe on the Wowld invites one and all to their annual Tavern Feast (Huzzah!) The scene is set at a seaside port and townfolk have heard news that raiders are working their way down the coastline and should be arriving on the morrow. With our warband being out of town (defending the Barony from raids), it is impossible that we will be able to fend them off, with dawn seeing the demise of the town. There is one way to escape with your fortune and sanity intact and that is on the Good Ship Rising Sun, only there is only room for one passenger left. So, with your pouch of coins, you make your way to the Archers Arms tavern to win your fortune and your freedom and raise the fee you need to join the ship. You quickly come to realise that people will do anything to escape...

Feast commences at 7.30pm.

Cost: \$15 (members/colleges), \$20 (non-members).
Special rate of \$10 if this is your very first SCA event and the Steward receives verification from your group Hospitaller or Seneschal
Make Cheques Payable to: 'SCA Stowe on the Wowld'

The event will be capped at 65 people, and due to this being a previously popular event, bookings are essential and only accepted with payment (Get in early!) Book to: The Steward, Finnabhair an Einigh ui Binnech - email funkyfinn@fastmail.fm

Let the Steward know if you have any food allergies or specific dietary requirements.

BYO Chair and ways to win your exit.

There will be the traditional A&S comps for best brew (either alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and best entertainment piece

Rowany Festival 2004

When: Thursday 8th - Tuesday 13th of April 2004.
Where: Crossroads Medieval Village, Yass.

Christmas is Coming! And so is Festival. Please book for Lochac's premier event early. For your convenience, the deadline to gain the cheapest price for Festival has been moved back to December 15th. Book Early to Gain Cheap Admittance!

The Equipment Booking Form (which will require a separate cheque/ payment) will be available online and in Pegasus very soon. If you are a new camping group then please get in contact with the Steward: festivalsteward@sca.org.au as soon as possible to arrange a site.

This year's Rowany Festival has the potential to be the best ever! This will only occur if the populace of this great Kingdom make every effort to make it so! Please contact the Steward if you have any ideas, plans or offers of assistance.

The great advantage of using the Crossroads Medieval Village Site is the potential for improvement that it contains. Already since Festival 2003: The Guildhall has a roof (and will soon have walls); a Grand Staircase has been built linking the Guildhall with the List Field Space; more grass has grown and many, many, more trees have

been planted. To continue this grand march of progress WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Site Preps that are planned until Easter 2004 are as follows:

February 14th and 15th

March 20th-21st

You can check out the Festival 2004

Website: www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival

Donyale is looking for volunteers to run **Collegia** at Festival. To get a class listed:

- * Send an email, donyale@iprimus.com.au
- * You MUST put Festival A&S in the subject line
- * Include the subject of your talk, a brief description, your full SCA name, mundane name and contact number
- * Give an indication of preferred times or events you can or cannot clash with.
- * For best timeslots, get your info in no later than December 19, 2003.
- * Please mention any special conditions such as cost for materials, specific clothing or BYO materials that need to be included in your listing.

Midwinter Coronation

Who: River Haven (Brisbane)

When: 3rd-4th July

Where: Sat: St Edwards Function Centre, Chatswood Road Daisy Hill, QLD, 1pm - 11pm

Sun: Artesanos Hall, Wesley Street, Lutwyche, QLD, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Come along and join River Haven for a Winter Frolic to celebrate the Coronation of the 5th King and Queen of Lochac.

Prices: Up until 18th June \$35M \$40NM

Up until 25th June \$40M/ \$45NM

Children 6-13 Half Price. (Family Price on Application)

Billeting Available, Most diets catered for.

Event capped at 200.

Stewards Caelia the Fair and Beatrice Malatesta. (Michelle McDonald and Kellianne Kane) alshell@bigpond.com
BOOKINGS with payment please to: Sibella da Montefeltro (Allison Brown) 4 Gragin Place, Parkinson QLD 4115 hobbit_hall@optusnet.com.au

Officers Reports

Baron and Baroness

To the Barony do Aelfthrythe of Saxony and Francois Henri Guyon, Baroness and Baron send greetings.

Our final message to our beloved populace sees us sweltering in the grip of summer. It is compensated with a very profitable Christmas season, and we are currently wading our way through books on Leichtenauer, Caravaggio, Venetian convents, English re-enactment groups, and Copernicus' "on the revolutions of heavenly spheres".

Two events await us this month. The Boffer War on the 18th at the Fadden Pines will be a good test of the Lochac

Youth Combat Rules and promises much in the way of an agreeable event.

The Final event is Our Divestiture of the 31st of January. We remind all of our officers and members of all guard units (Baronial and the Northern Ward) that you all have your parts to play at this event. If anybody still has any officer or guard regalia still at their house, we ask that they bring these to the event. And please remember that the new Baron and Baroness can't give out any awards if you haven't nominated anybody.

We have greatly enjoyed being your Baron and Baroness over the last three and a half years. We ask that you receive and support our successors with as much enthusiasm as you have supported us.

Ælfthrythe and François.



Other Officers Reports -

None. It's January, there was no Baronial Meeting, and all the Officers are off on Holiday, which means it must be

Silly Season!!

Q: How many Kings does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Hey, it's dark...and it's good to be the King.

Q: How many Queens does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: You tell me, ducky.

Q: How many Seneschals does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Only one, but you've got to catch them first.

or

One - to delegate it to someone else.

Q: How many Chirurgeons does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** two - one to change the lamp wick & the other to treat the old lamp wick for third degree burns.

Q: How many Heralds does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: six - one to mumble mumble FIVE mumble mumble mumble ON THE ERIC!

Q: How many Marshals does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Two - one to change it & one to check that it's authorised to be alight.

Q: How many Captain of Archers does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: None, a Captain of Archers already has enough lights.

Q: How many Arts & Sciences Ministers does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** One, but it will take fifteen months while they research period methods of making lamp wicks, make the lamp wick, submit it to Kingdom competitions on lamp wick making, wait for the lamp wick to get back from Crown, photograph it for posterity, and finally change it. And then they won't let you light the new one.

Q: How many Reeves does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Four - one to change it & three to countersign the cheque.

Q: How many Lists officers does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: It depends on whether it's being done double elimination or round robin.

Q: How many Chroniclers does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Write me a report & I'll publish it.

Q: How many Tent masters does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** One, but all the wicks are being used as emergency guy ropes right now.

Q: How many Hospitallers does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** One, but they'll insist on introducing the new lamp wick to everyone first.

Q: How many Historians does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** "Verily, the lamp was first lit on the 22nd day of May, A.S. XXIX..."

Q: How many Quartermasters does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: One, but they've got to find it first.

Q: How many Constables does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Two - one to change it & one to check the waivers.

Q: How many Trolls does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: One -and three billy goats gruff.

Q: How many peers does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Ten - five Pelicans to do the paperwork, four Laurels to do the research & one knight to tell his squire to do it.

Q: How many Lochac knights does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: One, but Jade does it better.

Q: How many Laurels does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Laurels don't change anything, ever, got it?

or

None, that's a service job.

Q: How many Pelicans does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: None - once they get their peerage, Pelicans don't do anything.

Q: How many wannabe Pelicans does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: It's already changed!

Q: How many bards does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: seven - one to change it & six to sing close part harmonies.

Q: How many Storytellers does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: "Twas on a dark & stormy night when first we set out on the quest of the lamp wick..."

Q: How many Heavies does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: What's a lamp wick?

or

None - "Light!"

Q: How many Lights does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: None, they can't get within five yards.

Q: How many Rapier Fighters does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Hmmm...Short sword and lamp...interesting weapon variation...

Q: How many flustered Festival campers does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** Lamp wicks! We forgot the lamp wicks!

Q: How many Scribes does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: None, they'd prefer to do their own illumination.

Q: How many {insert your favourite boring person here} does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** One.

Q: How many dancers does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Are we doing the Rowany, Polit, Stormhold or Innilgard version?

Q: How many costuming Laurels does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Two - one to change it & one to sneer that it's an unperiod wick.

Q: How many College Officers does it take to change a lamp wick?

A: Ask me after the exams.

Q: How many Old Farts does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** We did the changing lamp wicks thing seven years ago & got bored, so we don't do it any more.

Q: How many Bobs does it take to change a lamp wick? **A:** None, that's women's work, & Bobs are all lusty lads, way-hey!

Q: What do you get if you cross a Marshal with a hen? **A:** "Lay on!"

News of the Realm

Awards given at Twelfth Night:
 Jarl Alfar of Attica and Countess Elspeth Turbeville -
 Augmentation of Arms
 Yolande Kesteven - Order of the Laurel
 Helga von Helga - Order of the Golden Tear
 Gwir verch Madog - Order of the Golden Tear
 Pippa Sparks - Order of the Southern Cross
 Nerissa de Saye - Countess
 Alaric of Bangor - Earl
 Lochie of Woodrose - Mouse Guard
 Healfdene Daefendson - Lochac Order of Grace and
 Queen's Champion

The A&S website has been updated. There are pics of the November Crown A&S entries. There is an extended list of A&S competitions until the end of 2004. This and many more interesting things can be found on the site at: <http://www.sca.org.au/artsandsciences/> such as list of A&S officers, past newsletters - to know what is going on in other groups in Lochac. Officer requirements and procedures, past competition winners. Documents and forms and an A&S calendar.

Booking For Festival – at the Festival Steward's request, there is a copy of the booking form for Festival in this month's Griffintayle.

Every year a private Mass is performed at Rowany Festival, on the morning of Easter Sunday. This Mass is not run by the SCA. If you are interested in being involved in singing the music for this Mass, which for Festival 2004 will be Lassus's "Missa super Frere Thibault" (1570), or finding out more about the Mass in general, please contact Mistress Bethan of Brockwood (Sasha Curtoys) onscur0041@mail.usyd.edu.au or go to <http://www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival/mass/> where you can download the sheet music (in noteworthy or .pdf format).

A Memorial Book has been written about the varied life and wild times of Murgatroyd. -
 "Spit the Dummy Press is proud to announce the first printing of Th' Noo Special Edition #1 - The Life and Times of Cecil G. Murgatroyd.
 One hundred and thirty four pages of pure Murgy!
 Compiled largely from his own extensive archives, with contributions by some of those who knew him best.
 Includes:
 Introduction by The ArchWizard of New Zealand
 Explanations of the inexplicable written by Murgatroyd

himself (in the months before his passing).

Articles and contributions by Paula Ferrari, Lisa Clark, Liz Christensen, Pam Chiles and Her Majesty the Queen (of England).

The entire issue of the Imperial Illustrated Gazette Volume 4 Number 1 that Murgy edited back in 1980.

A special contribution by members of Murgy's family. Colour covers.

Lotsa pictures.

As a bonus, the first 50 magazines sold will contain an original "Careless Days" sticker.

Wizard! Available to you at \$15 per copy (NZ\$16 per copy). To order a copy, please contact:

Darryl Aylward

30 Lillimur Rd

ORMOND Vic 3204

email: djra@attglobal.net

Photos from 12th Night coronation can be seen on the Krae Glas website at

http://www.sca.org.au/krae_glas/gallery/12th_night

In addition, pictures from the recent St Catherine's Fair in the Barony of Ildhafn, a set can be viewed at

http://paradise.gen.nz/~sloth/031121_index.html

From The Kingdom Seneschal - this is now on Del's web site. <http://www.sca.org.au/seneschal/> It includes advance notice of a proposal to add a per-head levy to all events throughout the Kingdom, to help the Kingdom with some of its ongoing costs. The details will also appear in Pegasus once we've had a chance to discuss them at a kingdom officer level.



Sad news. Sir Gawayne (Duncan Gill) died on evening of Monday the 5th of January. He had been fighting leukaemia for some time. In December he suffered a relapse and was admitted to hospital on December 27th for more chemotherapy. Whilst there, he developed a chest infection that his severely weakened immune system could not fight off.

Sir Gawayne was the last Prince of the Principality of Lochac, reigning with his lovely Princess, Yve. His funeral will be at 10am Monday the 12th of January, at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Camden Way, Leppington. There will be a wake held by his family after at the Civic Hall on the corner of Nuwarra and Seton Roads.

He was a true Knight of Chivalry, in all spheres of life, not just the SCA. He will be missed by many.



News From Polifarchopolis

The College of St Aldhelm is still looking for thespians, musicians, acrobats, extroverts and anyone else who feels like being the centre of attention for their amazing play, to be performed at Divest/Invest. If you

want to get involved in any way (acting, music/drums, helping back stage) please email Claire Buller (director) at Astarith_22@hotmail.com asap.

A Reminder - Dance Practices will be specialising in the dances chosen for Divest/Invest. They are:

Set One

Red and White Almain, Known World Pavane, Known World Galliard, Known World Basse Dance, Known World Tordion, Ballo di Fiore for 2, Mimed Bransles - Washerwoman's, Mimed Bransles - Pease, Mimed Bransles - Clogs, Mimed Bransles - Horses, Mimed Bransles - Hermits, Ruffy Tufty, Petit Vriens

Set Two

Leoncello, Gathering Peasecods, Contentezza D'Amore, Tinternell, Cut Branles - (1) Bransle Cassandra, Cut Branles - (2) Bransle Pinagay, Cut Branles - (3) Bransle Charlotte, Cut Branles - (4) Bransle La Guerre, Cut Branles - (5) Bransle Ariden, Goddesses, Rostiboli Gioso, Lo Spagnoletto.

On the weekend of the 17/18th of January there is to be work done on the fort for the wars at Festival. If you have tools of the wood working style.....saws, chisels, power tools.....dynamite....please bring them along. A BBQ will be supplied (BYO food) and beer/cider will be provided for the Saturday evening. Please contact me Edmund Ale-conner on 6278 5234 off list if you are interested in helping.

From the Baron-to-Be:

“Greetings unto to all. (the following has been heavily plagiarised from the Atlantian Siege Guild....thanks to Baron Jonathas member of the Atlantian Siege Guild:) Let it be known that I, Edmund Ale-conner will be sponsoring a Tabletop Siege Engine competition. This is to be held in Politarchopolis sometime in June/July of 2004 (specific date will be published in the near future) The primary goal of this competition is to promote interest in the area of siege craft.

Siege engines are required to be design and built as a class A and SCA battlefield ready and must be of a period design . This is so my spies.....ahem, those interested in using the design to build combat ready engines may study the engine for inspiration. SCA siege rules can be found at the following site.

http://www.sca.org/officers/marshal/combat/siege/siege_engines_handbook.pdf

All engines must be of period design. Documentation is not required.

All ammunition will be a standard sized marshmallow, this will stimulate a one pound rock....a soft and yummy one at that! (Flaming marshmallows are strongly discouraged) The fully assembled engine must be able to fit inside a 1 foot cube box.

Ammunition may not be tampered with in anyway prior to shooting and will be provided by me. (of course there will be extra for those inclined to eat their ammunition.)

If at any time during the competition your engine fails mechanically it will be removed from the competition.

If there is enough entrant's, engines will be divided into the following classes: catapult, ballista, and trebuchet.

The competition will be divided into to three stages.

One: accuracy and range.

Two: engine vs engine.

Three: appearance.

Households are encouraged to enter. This competition is open to all ages. You can contact me for diagrams and simple plans if you are unsure on where to start.

Any question can be forwarded to edmunds_ego@optusnet.com.au

In service

Edmund Ale-conner”

Festival Site Preparation
February 14th - 15th, 2004

March 20th - 21st, 2004

What is a “Rowany Sponsored Site Prep”. Well may you ask this question, as we need as many people as possible to put time and effort in before the Festival begins to ensure its success. These weekends are working bees organized by the Barony of Rowany to improve the site and amenities of the Rowany Festival site. At these site preps we undertake works predetermined by the Barony to be work which primarily assists the running of the Rowany Festival each Easter. As many respondents to the 2003 survey indicated that improved facilities and infrastructure at the site was a priority, this is an opportunity to do something immediate about it.

The activities and goals of each of these weekends will be posted in advance elsewhere on this webpage as soon as they are decided. Every weekend will include time for individuals to work on their own campsites, paint rocks, remove unsafe locations, clear rocks, plant trees and other works to improve the “livability” of the site.

The “sponsored” part of the deal is that the Barony will provide two lunches, a breakfast and a dinner to anyone who tells us they are planning to attend!

Why should you attend site preps?

* To improve the Festival Site (especially to increase infrastructure and correct some safety hazards that were recognized in 2003)

* Camp / Drink with your friends in the evenings

* Visit friends in Yass or Canberra (the February site prep runs in conjunction with the St Valentine's ball)

* Relieve Hrothgar's stress in the lead up to Festival

* Improve your personal campsite

Goals for November Site Prep

* Put walls on Guildhall.

* Permanently erect Fort.

* Paint Rocks.

* Plant trees.

* Have Fun!

* Eat Sausages and Buns.

“**T**his is your Baronial Herald speaking. Many of you may have noticed that I've been fairly crap at getting my heraldry work done lately (oh, the last eighteen months or so...). However, I lack credible offers for a replacement, so I'm going to keep on trying. As part of this, I've set up a herald's weblog, “Red Tape”, at <http://flurf.net/redtape/>. This is where I'll be putting notes of things I find - new and overdue submissions, heraldic Things To Do, notice of events I'll be showing up to, reports on courts, and so on. Everyone is welcome to look at it; it won't be exciting, but with any luck it will be at least semi-regular: the plan is to put something on there at

least every three days, even if it's only a status report on how much work I still have to do."

Rquest from the Baronial Herald – does anyone have a copy of the Baronial Investiture Ceremony, as it seems to have gone astray...



Louisa Reynell (mka Louise Volk) wife of Dafydd ap Donal ap Gwilym (mka David Osbourne) died the morning of January 5th.

Louisa was very active in Politarchopolis for some time around ten years ago and was the mainstay of the chirurgeonate in this Barony. Dafydd was one our past seneschals and herald for years. Both he and Louisa were instrumental in the development and advancement of Politarchopolis as well its growth throughout the Shire years.

Louisa leaves behind her Dafydd and her fifteen year old daughter Penny. Our thoughts are with them.



Recipe of the Month

Danish Mead (1616)

Source:

Cook book: Containing A hundred useful pieces, Which are about brewing, baking, Cooking, aquavit and mead to make, As is useful in house Holding &c. Which before not in our Danish Language is issued in print. Printed in Copenhagen, by Salomone Sartorio, 1616.

Original recipe:

For each part good, clear honey, take eight parts fresh spring water. Pour this into a large cauldron and simmer together on a slow fire, and take care the fire doesn't smoke, and skim it carefully and often, as long as you see any scum rise to the surface. Do this until the water is beginning to be beautifully clear and clean. The longer you want to keep this mead, the longer you should boil it. When it cools off, then pour it into a barrel, but do not fill it to more than three fingerbreadths below the brim, so there is room for the fermentation. If you want your mead to smell and taste strong and lively, then place the following spices, well crushed, in a sack and hang it in the barrel. For one barrel of mead, take: pepper, 6 lod, Ginger, 8 lod, Grains of paradise, 2 lod, Cloves, 3 lod, Galingale, 3 lod, Cinnamon bark, 10 lod. When it is well fermented (Some fry an apple and smear it with yeast and cast it into the barrel), then let it stand tightly closed for 3 months, before it is drunk.

In certain places in Livonia it is customary to bury the barrel deep into the ground and cover it with earth and let it lie for a long time. This mead becomes so strong and potent that it far surpasses wine, when you want to make somebody drunk.

Translated by: Mistress Marienna Jensdatter, OP (Maggie Forest)

Redaction for 5 Gallons of Danish Mead:

Sat 9 June 2001,

Bottled 2 weeks before Easter 2002.

Ingredients:

8.005 Kg Stringy Bark Honey (or any other mild favoured honey)
48g Black Pepper
64g Ginger
16g Grains of Paradise
24g Cloves
24g Dried Galingale Chips
80g Cinnamon Sticks

Assumptions:

A lod is around 8 grams.

Method:

- Boil Honey for 2 hours, with about 8 litres of water.
- Skimming the scum (mainly wax) off the honey every 15 minutes
- Add Honey and water mix to fermenter.
- Add spice bag containing spices.
- Wait 5 minutes and add Honey and water mix, and spice bag to fermenter.
- Cool fermenter rapidly in cold water bath.
- Add yeast nutrient, food acids, and yeast when mixture is about blood temperature..
- Ferment.

By Drake Morgan

A Farewell to Arms

To Queen Elizabeth

His golden locks Time hath to silver turned;
O Time too swift, O swiftness never ceasing!
His youth 'gainst time and age hath ever spurned,
But spurned in vain ; youth waneth by increasing:
Beauty, strength, youth, are flowers but fading seen;
Duty, faith, love, are roots, and ever green.

His helmet now shall make a hive for bees;
And, lovers' sonnets turned to holy psalms,
A man-at-arms must now serve on his knees,
And feed on prayers, which are age's alms:
But though from court to cottage he depart,
His Saint is sure of his unspotted heart.

And when he saddest sits in homely cell,
He'll teach his swains this carol for a song:
'Blest be the hearts that wish my sovereign well,
Curst be the souls that think her any wrong!'
Goddess, allow this agèd man his right,
To be your beadsman now, that was your knight.

George Peele, 1558? – 1597

The Merchant's Story

In the town of Pavia in Lombardy there lived a worthy knight by the name of January. Although throughout his long and prosperous life he had partaken often of the fruits of love, he felt no need for marriage until he passed his sixtieth year, when suddenly he was overcome by a violent urge to become a wedded man.

"A young and beautiful wife," he concluded, "would be the fulfillment of my wealth and glory. Obedient, loyal, and untiring, she would attend to my every need in my waning years, and further, she may well present me with an heir."

"Not so!" argued some. "A wife's interest will be more toward your fortune than toward your well being, and further, her unbridled passions may place your honor at risk."

But January listened not to these negative voices, paying heed instead to those who praised the virtues of womanhood and the benefits of marriage. And thus he soon announced to his friends his resolve to find a bride, "But," he asserted, "she must be under twenty years of age, for young veal is tastier than old beef."

His friends tried to dissuade him from this resolve, but to no avail, and at last -- driven onward by unrelenting fantasies -- he found the woman who satisfied his dreams. Although not of high rank, she was young and beautiful, and, in his love-blinded perception, she was also compliant and self-disciplined. Further, like old January himself, she too bore the name of a season: May.

Marriage documents were executed, the holy sacrament of marriage was duly performed, and the priest united January and May as husband and wife.

One wedding guest was particularly moved, a robust young man named Damian, who served as a squire to Knight January. Ravished by May's fresh beauty, the squire fell madly in love with his master's young bride.

No one knows what young May was thinking in her heart as old January -- with his beard of stubble and loose skin shaking about his throat -- labored in the field of love. But Damian's thoughts were not entirely secret. He poured out his soul with pen and ink, then managed to slip the letter into the hand of his beloved May without being seen by the ever-watchful January.

May's only opportunity to read the letter came in that small place where everyone goes alone. There she committed Damian's message to memory, then tore the letter into pieces and threw them into the privy. But one thing is certain. She took no offense at the young squire's forwardness, for as soon as she could steal a few minutes' time, she composed a letter to the young squire, promising him the satisfaction he desired of her as soon as the time and place might present themselves.

In the meantime old January's fortune turned against him, and he lost his sight. The curse of blindness increased the knight's possessiveness and jealousy toward his young wife. Fearing that she might succumb to some temptation under the cover of his darkness, he never let her go out unless he himself had her by the hand. Nevertheless, by using private hand signals and smuggled letters, she communicated her forbidden love to Damian, and invented a plan whereby it might be consummated. The tryst was to take place in a private garden where January and May often walked together. Following his beloved's plan, Damian let himself into the garden at the appointed time, then hid himself in the branches of a pear tree that grew there. A little later January and May, hand in hand, approached the tree, when May suddenly declared an intense appetite for a pear from the nearby tree.

"Do let me climb the tree and pluck a pear," she begged of her husband. Then recalling his blind jealousy, she added, "You can hold your arms around the tree to make sure that I am alone."

Not wanting to deny her this innocent request, he stooped over and let her step onto his back. Taking hold of a branch, she pulled herself into tree and into the arms of the waiting Damian. Now ladies, please take no offence, but I must tell the story as it actually happened. Damian forthwith lifted her smock and thrust away, with the deceived husband blindly hugging the tree beneath them.

However, this shameful tryst was not entirely unseen. The king and queen of Fairyland saw all, and the king -- horrified at the cuckoldry -- resolved at once to restore the old knight's sight immediately and thus expose his wife's and his squire's faithlessness. "Do that!" replied the fairy king's wife. "But nothing bad will come to the young woman, for I will give her a bold and quick answer that will excuse her and her lover from all guilt."

And thus it happened. As granted by the fairy king, sight miraculously returned to January's aging eyes. But his rejoicing was short lived, for looking up, the first thing he saw was his wife engaged in an act that polite words cannot describe.

"Strumpet!" he called out angrily. "What are you up to?"

Now it was the fairy queen's turn to ply her magic, and -- as promised -- she put a quick response onto the wayward wife's tongue.

"Sir," replied May, "have patience. Don't you see what I have done? I was told that the only cure for your blindness would be for me to struggle with a man upon a tree."

"Struggle?" said he. "It went right in!"

"Oh no!" said she. "You caught a hazy glimpse, my good sir, but your sight is still poor. Things are not as they first appeared to you." Then she continued, "This slander is my reward for helping you to see."

"Never mind!" said he. "Come down. But it did appear to me that Damian was enjoying you with your smock upon his breast."

"Think what you will," said she, "but it was only a false vision following your long blindness."

With that she jumped down from the tree, and January led her happily back home

From "The Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer, 1340? – 1400. Retold by D.L. Ashliman.

Two Blackwork Patterns in Elizabethan Style – Roses and Grapes

