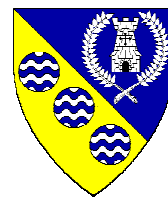




Griffintayle



December 2009, AS XLIV

Upcoming Events

December

5 William Marshall Tourney and Feast (page 5)

12 Yule Tourney and Feast—Rowany

January

9 KINGDOM – Coronation—Okewaite (page 5/6)

February

13 St Valentines Picnic (Alexandra, page)

27 Proposed College Newcomers Feast (Adam)

April

1-6 Rowany Festival (page 5)

May

7 –9 May Crown, Rowany.

29 Privateers Feast (Adam)

August

17—19 St Vitus' with Proposed Bal D'argent Bid (Joanna)

November

20-21 Proposed Valhalla War (Adam)

Activities

Baronial Council Meeting:

Last Wednesday of each month at 6pm: Haig Park Scout Hall, Turner (before A&S).

St Aldhelm College Meeting:

Monday 5:30 pm G029 Copland Building, ANU

Arts & Sciences

Arts and Sciences Main meeting:

Sundays 3:00 pm, Scout Hall, Haig Park, Turner

Arts and Sciences Meeting:

Wednesday 7:00 pm, Haig Park, Turner

Baronial Dance Classes:

Sundays, 2:00 pm, Haig Park, Turner

Scriptorium:

2nd Sunday of each month, 2:00 pm, Haig Park

Baronial Dance Classes:

Sundays, 2:00 pm, Haig Park, Turner

Choir Practice:

1st Sunday of the month 4:00 pm, Haig Park, Turner

Pot Luck Feast:

1st Sunday of the month 5:30 pm, Haig Park, Turner

Combat Activities

Armoured Combat Practice:

Main Practice: Sundays 3:00 pm, Haig Park, Masson St, Turner

Alternative Practice: Tuesdays 6:30 pm, Park in Edwards St, Higgins.

Rapier Practice:

Sundays 2:00 pm, Haig Park, Masson St, Turner

Archery Practice:

Sundays 10:00 am till 12:00 pm (1st Sunday of the month is an Inter Kingdom Archery Competition)



Seneschals Note

Well we have had the first part of the storage cleanup, and an accounting of equipment held by the B&B will follow it up soon. The good part - there was not that much junk. The bad part - there was not that much junk. We will be formulating a plan to store it all better once the inventory is complete.

Negotiations for hall hire has stated. The hall is a wonderful asset - but we need to cover it's cost. I'm interested in your feedback on how to best recover that cost.

The calendar is slowly filling - but there is plenty of space for more events for the keen autocrat. Please look at the Griffintayle calendar, and get inspired!

Admin dates: December 06 2009 for the last Baronial day, January 27 2010 for the next council meeting.

Ysambart

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 25th November 2009.

Hierophant (Bat): Eventual successor/ replacement/deputy has been found in Andreas Reinhardt (otherwise known as Macca). Plan is to hand over by Easter 2010 (as then we will be moving to Tasmania). Handover will happen after the website is updated.

Note, currently Lochac has two main email lists, the shambles and announce. It has been proposed that we can now subscribe the Polit list to announce, so that all Lochac's event announcements etc come to Polit (the lists will ensure de-duplication). Everyone is in favour (also proposed this online), Bat will make it happen.

A&S (Caera): Happy with the fact that Kingdom A&S officer was really impressed with our cushion and demanded lots of pictures. Otherwise nothing new on last month.

Hospitaler (Jonathan): Is back! Will catch up soon... Looking for a marshal to run a tourney at CanCon (proposed Saturday 24th January).

Archery (Ulric): Field course is open again and is good.

Just a reminder that this Sunday will be our last **IKAC** for the year, so bring your best along for the usual 10am start. This is a **Town Archer**, so is a garbed event.

The following Sunday will be a **novelty shoot**. As this will also be Baronial Sunday, this will be a garb-optional event, but remember to use lots of sun-block if you don't wear garb.

Also, the Tuggeranong Archery Club, as part of the Tuggeranong Festival, will be holding a "come and try it" session from 9:30 to 11:30 on

the day, so be prepared for a few extra onlookers.

Reeve (Aeveril): ANZ recently raised their account fee from \$15/month to \$22/month. After some shopping around and waiting for calls back from ANZ, found an account type with them that has no monthly fee (classic).

Quarterly report has been given to Seneschal and Kingdom Reeve.

Still waiting to St Vitus banking.

\$143 banked as Kingdom levy.

Sigmund has been reimbursed for the Sleepy Ermine tavern (as he floated it).

Confirmed no Baronial day in January (so no need to pay for that bit of hall cost).

Will keep paying for hall as currently doing until Bart is finished negotiating 2010 contract (currently Wednesday nights look to cost \$25/ week).

Baron (Alessandro): Tonight is the night we'll go through the storeroom. Last Baronial day for this year in two weeks! (see above for archery details).

No December meeting and No January Baronial Day.

Its been a good year!

Portia: Note for 12th night some baronies have already made big group bookings for accommodation in Goulbourne, so best to book soon.

Seneschal (Ysambart): nothing critical right now. Calendar for 2010 is filling up—more welcome, mid-year free. Currently working on a Gunpowder event with Owen, Valentines is advertised (see page___), the college will be hosting newcomers, Privateers and Valhalla are also being prepared.

Checking with new royals when they might like to visit.

Helouys: Asked when is a good time to put in a event bid/start advertising. Advised best to be 3 months (+) out.

Herald (Catherine): Gunnarr (Jason Verrier) has stepped up to be deputy, with an interest in book heraldry.

Marshal: Duke Sir Cornelius is stepping down to be replaced by Rauf le Brewer.

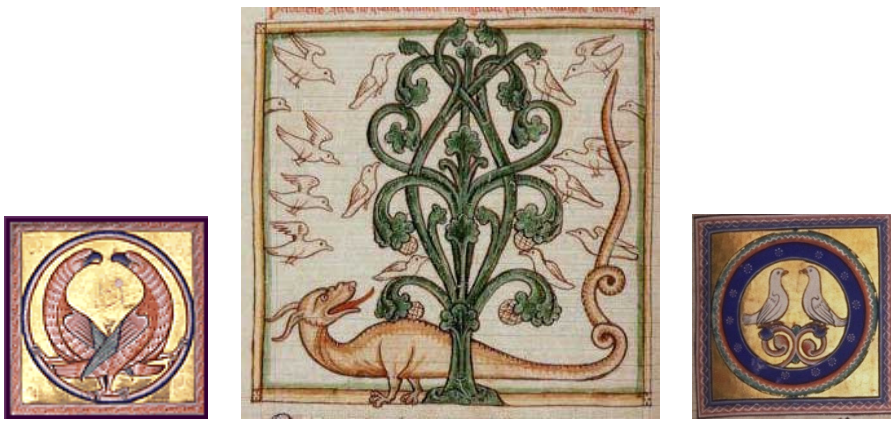
St Vitus 2010: proposed budget/details given to Seneschal.



The Lionheart Company Presents:

The Festival of Birds

St Valentine's Day Tourney and Feast: Saturday 13 February 2010



The English associated lovers with the feast of Valentine because on that day "every bird chooses him a mate." So in honoring the day of St Valentine come one, come all for a day of lounging by the lake watching the Rapier Tournament and seeing who will be the next Baronial Rapier Champion. All to be followed by a delightful Feast in homage to our small, and large, feathered friends.

A&S competition will be a celebration of all things feathered and bird related. Any object with feathers or birds.

Location: Belconnen Sea Scout Hall - Beissel St Belconnen

Times:

Tourney: Lists opens at 2.30pm with Tourney beginning at 3.00pm sharp!

Feast hall opens at 6.00pm with feast starting at 6.30pm. Lights-up at 11.00pm with hall closing at 11.30pm.

Prices:

Tourney/Day Cost: \$3 members, \$5 non-members

Feast (inclusive of Tourney):

Members - \$26

Non-members - \$33

Children under 5 free, children under 16 half price. Contact steward for hardship cases or family rates.

Steward (inc bookings): Alexandra Hartshorne (Alex Rapp) 0423 658 386 or by email to 'the_menagerie@optusnet.com.au'

William Marshal Tourney and Feast 5th December 2009

Full details on Stormhold website,
www.sca.org.au/stormhold/wm09 or see
November Griffintayle.

Rowany Yule XLIV 12th December 2009

Enjoy tournaments, A&S Competition and an English Feast.
The whole event to be held at Harold Corr Community Hall, Cottage St, Werrington NSW.

There are limited bookings for the feast. Early bookings are essential. Booking closing date is the 7th December. Booking costs for the event are Adults Mem 30/ Non 32 gold. Door price is 40 gold. 5–14yrs half price, 0–5 free.

All bookings to be made through
pandorayule@hotmail.com (household) ph:
(02) 9628 0657 Bella & Valentina 040 539 5514
Valentina.bdragon01@optusnet.com.au Nagar
phone 0405596168

All cheques are to be made out to SCA Rowany
Please post to Attn. Mark Ng 2 Kingsley Street,
Blackett 2770 NSW

Site Opens at 11am
Heavy tourney: List field and Inspection opens
at noon
Tourney begins at 12:30pm
Marshall in charge: Alfar of Attica 041 618 2229
Tourney format: Round Robin & Double
Elimination
Fencing Tourney: approx time 3:30pm
Rapier Marshall in charge: Tariq Ibn Jelal
Hall Opens at 6pm. Feast begins at 6.30

Rowany festival 1st–6th of April, 2010

Full details, printable booking forms and online
booking facilities online at
www.rowany.sca.org.au/festival/

Site Address: Glenworth Valley, Cooks Road,
Peats Ridge, NSW
Prices until 12th Night (January 8th)
SCA Member \$85; Non Member \$90; Child \$43;
Family (Member) \$213; Family (Non Member)
\$223.

Twelfth Night Investiture, 8-10 January 2010

Canton of Okewaite (Goulburn NSW)

***"Lochac excels in chivalry, in service and
the arts.***

***Lochac lacks for nothing, unless it be
enough PURPLE."***

Full details online (incl: accommodation/
transport)

www.sca.org.au/okewaite/purple.htm

FRIDAY – INFORMAL GATHERING

Details about Friday activities [online](#).

SATURDAY – THE SERIOUS STUFF

The [St Saviour's Anglican Cathedral](#) is a beautiful
setting for an event, with a fine feasting hall.
There will be a tournament on the Cathedral
lawns, a buffet lunch and then the main feast on
the Saturday evening.
There will be courts – details to be finalised with
Their Majesties.

SUNDAY – HAVE A GO DAY

Details about Sunday activities [online](#).

BOOKED AND PAID up to ROWANY YULE FEAST (12 Dec)

SCA Members \$45; Event Members \$50;
Concession \$30; 15-17 \$15; Under 15yo free.

AT THE GATE

Adults \$72; Day Pass: \$10, U15 free (no food,
off site by 6.30 pm) Payment can be made at
Rowany Yule, or by direct deposit ([details here](#)).

Admin details

Hosting group: Canton of [Okewaite](#), sponsored
by the Barony of Rowany
Event Steward: Master Cristoval (Rhys Howitt)
Feast Steward: Lady Alys Dietsch (Allison Kirby)
Phone: 02 4829 7205 AH
okewaite@sca.org.au or rhysh@webone.com.au



Arquebusier

... as told by Owen van Acker

Owen von der Norden (Owen van Acker), has adopted the persona of a late Sixteenth Century *arquebusier*, modelling his firearm, accoutrements and dress on those of an English soldier during Elizabethan times (1558 – 1603). He made his own *arquebus*, which is now a licensed firearm. This is Owen's story.

According to Peterson (1963), the name *arquebus* is believed to derive from the German words *hak* and *buchse*, meaning hook and gun respectively. In combination, *hakbuchse* was thus a gun with a hook, a reference to the early forms of the firearm, which had a small projection on the underside of the barrel that could be hooked over a wall to absorb some of the recoil when fired. *Hakbuchse* was a generic name given to a number of firearms being developed between the late fifteenth and early seventeenth centuries including hackbuts, hakbuchsen, harquebuses, arquebuses, calivers, petronels and muskets, as well as others. However, matchlock guns were produced in a variety of lengths and bore sizes and there is confusion amongst contemporary writers in naming the different classes of guns. Terms vary from country to country. (Akehurst: 1972)



Owen von der Norden and his arquebus. This hand-made gun is a handsome piece of weaponry.

When and where firearms were invented is the source of some debate but by 1600 guns, cannon and rockets had been in regular use for well over two centuries. These weapons generally fired a variety of projectiles, not necessarily tailor-made, and were used more for psychological reasons of noise, fire and blast than precision shooting. Indeed, after Friar Roger Bacon's early experiments with gunpowder in England it was noted that

"... there was a new noise in the world. A brilliant orange flash leaped from a tiny package of black dust. Thunder smote the ears of the bystander and a cloud of white smoke filled the air. There was a strong smell of sulphur, too, a hellish atmosphere that signified the presence, and perhaps the directing hand, of the Devil himself." (Peterson:1963, p16) However, from its early beginnings, gunpowder and firearms received bad Press, not only for the perceived associations with the Devil but in comparisons with the more favoured weapon system of the time, archery. Several countries and kingdoms also banned firearms and in 1542 an ordinance of Henry VIII drew attention to the criminal use of firearms: *"...evil disposed persons have wilfully and shamefully commytted, perpetrated and done diverse detestable and shameful murders, robberies, felonies, ryotts and routes with crossbows, lyttle short hand guns and little hagbutts..."* (Akehurst:1972, p92) Sadly, the newfangled gunpowder had already reached star status as a war weapon when the unfortunate James II of Scotland was *"dung in two by a piece of misframed gune that brake in the shutting, by which he died hastilie."* This was at Roxburgh, Northumberland in 1460. (Rosa and May:1974, p8) At the turn of the early seventeenth century in Europe, the musket¹, by which the wide variety of firearms, including *arquebuses*, were now more commonly known, was taking over from the bow. In England the longbow, once so successful on the battlefields of Europe, was at last officially relinquished in 1595. (Akehurst:1972, p12)

Owen von der Norden has been interested in weaponry for many years, particularly archery and the use of projectile weapons. As a member of the Society he made his own paraphernalia used in tournament. Interest in firearms was furthered during military service as a gunner in the Royal Australian Artillery although Owen admits that he can not recollect a specific time when it was decided to build an *arquebus*.

1. The name musket derives from the Spanish word *mosquette*. The word appears as early as 1535, although tradition has it that the Duke of Alva developed the gun and introduced it into Spanish service about 1550 during fighting in the Netherlands. (Peterson: 1963, p47)

As can be imagined, making a firearm without specific gunsmithing ability posed a few problems for Owen especially when the type of firearm in question was first built over four hundred years ago and ceased production not long after. Where to find a blueprint of such a beast? What materials were currently available to build the piece? How would one go about the task? In Australia, all firearms must be licensed. Would the police grant a licence for an archaic style of firearm or would all the research and work be to no avail in the bureaucratic world of firearms licensing? Owen spent a long time pondering these and other questions before deciding to go ahead with the project.

A useful picture of an *arquebus* was found at website <http://raabs.homepage.t-online.de/inhalt.htm>. After studying the picture and drawing a plan, various materials were purchased in preparation for the build. Readers will be familiar with the saying – lock, stock and barrel – the main three components of a firearm. Each of these three components consists of several parts. The lock, for instance comprises the serpentine, sometimes referred to as “the dog”; a return spring; lever device; and a trigger mechanism, including the trigger guard. The barrel includes the priming pan while the stock is basically just a shaped piece of inletted timber fitted with a metal shoulder pad at the butt end and two metal bands to hold the barrel in place. The ramrod, used to tamp down the powder charge, wad and ball, fits into the stock proper but protrudes under the fore end of the barrel. In effect, these were the components which Owen had to either make or purchase.



The lock and trigger mechanism of the arquebus. Note the s-shaped serpentine or “dog” and firing pan cover at the upper centre of the picture. The flat metal plate on the side of the weapon hides a simple spring and trigger-release mechanism.

As may be expected, and given the foregoing historical notes about exploding guns, safety was of prime concern. Having a charge of gunpowder flare and burn in close proximity to one’s face is a daunting prospect and one which demands respect. Gunbarrels are not just metal tubes: they are precision instruments, not easily made, even by a gunsmith. Owen therefore decided to purchase a ready-made barrel but make and fit the lock, trigger and stock himself.



The picture effectively shows the bore size (0.620 inches or 20 gauge) of the weapon.

The calibre of Owen’s *arquebus* is 0.620 inches (or 20 gauge). *Arquebuses* were generally made as 16-gauge weapons with shorter barrels than some of the other firearms of the time. Gunbores were calculated according to the number of lead balls of the diameter of the bore that went to make one pound weight. Accordingly, a 16-gauge gun fires a *larger* ball than a 20-gauge weapon simply because one pound weight of lead produces fewer balls.

Calculating sizes and measurements of the components was difficult, as was machining the parts. In most cases it was a matter of trial and error. Frequently, as one part was made it would not fit or function properly with other parts, necessitating a rebuild. Spring-tension and trigger-release mechanisms are pre-

cise components and must operate within limited tolerances to make the weapon work properly and safely. These two critical parts took the most precise work to complete.

The stock was made from a substantial piece of walnut which was measured and marked for sizing and inletting. The uncut stock blank measured 160 cms x 20 cms x 5 cms but was cut to the approximate measurements, shaped and inletted to receive the metal working parts. Only basic tools such as a panel saw, coping saw, chisels, rasp and sandpaper were used. One of the most difficult tasks was to create an internal tube in the stock for the ramrod. The 12 mm diameter rod 110 cms in length was machined from oak but had to fit in and along the underside of the stock – in

effect penetrating the timber as far back as the trigger mechanism. Access to operate a drill in this restricted area was difficult. Getting a drill bit of sufficient length to complete the task also posed a problem but was overcome by initially using a standard length drill bit until it reached its maximum depth. A small length of steel rod was then welded to the non-cutting end of the bit. The iterative process continued until an internal tube of sufficient length and diameter was drilled.

After sanding the stock to create a smooth finish, several coats of pale-boiled linseed oil were applied to protect the wood from moisture and enhance the dark, wavy grain of the walnut. The firearm was now finished.

Accoutrements² and stores needed for the test firing included two types of powder; lead shot; wadding and a match. A match is a short length of loosely wound cord, soaked in saltpetre (potassium nitrate – K_2NO_4), usually alight and smouldering at both ends although in range firing, just one end is primed. A small brush and a pick about the size of an awl are also carried to remove gunpowder residue as well as clean the firing pan and touchhole. Lead balls are carried in a small leather pouch and priming powder in a hip flask. Priming powder is basically blackpowder dust whereas the actual charge is coarser grained “corned” powder³. The corned powder is carried in small wooden flasks about the size and shape of salt-shakers, each known as a “charge” although the modern term is “apostle”. These dangle from a leather bandolier worn diagonally across the chest. Each charge holds enough powder for one shot. Paper wadding is used to seat the bullets.

Thus outfitted, the next step was to prepare, prime and fire the weapon, all of which will be covered in a separate forthcoming article, suffice to say that the initial firing was completed without incident and happily Owen is still with us.



The picture shows the firing pan open and ready to accept a charge of fine black powder.



The picture shows the substantial size of the arquebus. Its weight helps to absorb some of the considerable recoil when fired.

Will of Derwent

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Akehurst, R., *The World of Guns*, Hamlyn Publishing Group Limited, London. (1972)

Bradbury, J., *The Medieval Archer*, The Boydell Press, Woodbridge. (1996)

Carey, A.M., *English, Irish and Scottish Firearms makers*, W & R Chambers Ltd, London and Edinburgh. (1954)

Peterson, H. L., *The Book of the Gun*, The Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd, Feltham, Middlesex, England. (1963)

Rosa, J.G. and R. May, *The Pleasure of Guns. The intricate and beautiful work of famous gunsmiths*, Octopus Books Limited, London. (1974)

2. A separate article is being prepared about researching and making the necessary accoutrements of an *arquebusier*.

3 “Corned” powder is granulated blackpowder. It was found that adding a small amount of water to the mixture and then squeezing the sticky mass through a sieve produced hard little grains that burned much more quickly and cleanly. (Peterson: 1963, p49) Both priming- and coarse-grained powder are now available commercially.

Your Chronicler's Musings...

Once again thanks to Will for the lovely pictures and the fascinating article!

Please note the dates for Baronial days and meetings for the end of 2009 and start of 2010! I hope to see many faces happy and refreshed in the New Year, and especially at St Valentines!

Please keep an ear out for news about the College Newcomers event too, help for tourney/demo's always welcomed.

I'll be putting out a Griffintayle in January to keep you all up to date.

Sorry if this issue is a little long, I couldn't bare breaking the article up!

Yours, *Zanobia*



Contacts



Lochac:

King: Gabriel crown@sca.org.au
Queen: Constanzia crown@sca.org.au

Seneschal: Bartholomew Baskin
seneschal@sca.org.au



Politarchopolis

Politarchopolis is the branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism based on the Australian Capital Territory and surrounds

Baron and Baroness: Alessandro von Florenz and Isobel le Bretoun (Simon and Kate Price)
The Baron and Baroness oversee the general activities and operations of the Barony and act as the regional representatives of the Crown.
Email: politarchopolis@sca.org.au



Seneschal: Ysambart Courtin (Bart Beswick)

The Seneschal is the representative for the Barony in the outside world and acts as the chief administrator, similar to a group president.
Email ysambart@gmail.com

Deputy Seneschal: Honore de Corbeau (Georgia Winter)



Reeve: Aeeveril of Ambledune (Danni Crawford)

The Reeve is responsible for the financial affairs of the Barony. Email: danianha@hotmail.com



Arts and Sciences Minister: Caera

Sionnach (Brooke Perkins)

The Arts and Sciences Minister coordinates the study and practice of the medieval arts and sciences within the Barony.



Herald: Catherine of Glastonbury

The Herald is responsible for all forms of announcement within the Barony and is assumed to be speaking on behalf of the Crown. Heralds are also responsible for assisting the populace with submissions, such as when devising names or heraldic devices such as coats - of - arms.



Marshal: Cornelius von Becke (Cornelius Weber)

The Marshal maintains the safety of the populace during Society combat activities, both those who are actively involved in addition to those who are spectators. The marshal is also responsible for ensuring that each combatant is authorized to participate and will adhere to the Society conventions of combat.



Rapier Marshal: Gabrielle of the Marshes (Jenni McInnes)

The Rapier Marshal coordinates the group's fencing activities and maintains their safety standards. Email: jennifer.mcinnnes@gmail.com



Captain of Archers: Ulric of Ambledune (Ian Crawford)

In conjunction with the Marshal, the Captain of Archers coordinates the group's archery activities and maintains their safety standards.

Email: danianha@hotmail.com



Keeper of the Lists: Elizabeth de Foxel

The Keeper of the Lists records all the authorised combatants within the Barony as well as those who enter fighting events and the outcomes of martial contests.



Chirurgeon: Catherine de Boniface (Gina Casey)

The Chirurgeon is the Baronial first aid officer. Email: gkcasey@ginacasey.com.au

**Hospitaller:** Jonathon of Loch Swan

The Hospitaller is the initial point of contact for most newcomers and helps them feel welcome in the Society. The Hospitallery also coordinates requests for public displays.

**Chandler:** Vacant

The Chandler loans out garb and feasting utensils to newcomers. She also stores the Barony's banners, tablecloths, cooking and serving equipment for the Barony to use at our events.

**Constable:** Valentine der Spieler

The Constable is responsible for the maintenance of Society law. The constabulary is also responsible for lost property.

**Chronicler:** Zanobia Adimari (Clare Rix)

The Chronicler is responsible for the publication of Griffintayle, the Baronial newsletter. To subscribe, please see the endnote.

Email: clare.rix@iinet.net.au

**Hierophant:** Karl Faustus von Aachen (Paul Sleight)

The Hierophant is responsible for the Barony's internet publications, the electronic copy of the Griffintayle newsletter and the baronial email list.

Email: bat@flurf.net

**Saint Aldhelm**

The College of St Aldhelm is the branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism based at the Australian National University.

College Seneschal: Alice verch Owain (Fiona)

Club president equivalent. Official contact.

Email: fifiwoofwoof@gmail.com

**<http://www.facebook.com>**

Polit can now be found on the popular social network site. Search "Barony of Politarchopolis" and join the group or type in <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=20169734823>

<http://the.lochac.net>

The Lochac Network is a new independent initiative to take the work out of networking in Lochac.

Endnote

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 published monthly, by the first of the month. "Griffintayle Newsflash" editions are published electronically as required. All submissions must be received by the Chronicler by the last Monday of the month for general and event notices.

Submissions are very welcome, otherwise you know Zanobia is just going to make this the official business and then a big section about how awesome norse garb and embroidery somebody else writes me something!

Griffintayle is published on paper and electronically. SCA policy dictates that electronic publications do not include non electronic contact details unless expressly released. The following details are released to help with bookings, subscriptions and official business:

All official SCA business:

SCA Politarchopolis

PO Box 6876

Charnwood ACT 2615

Email: politarchopolis@sca.org.au

Please subscribe to the paper copy by posting \$8 to the Chronicler. Please subscribe to the electronic copy via the website or the chronicler's email.

To subscribe to the **Politarchopolis email list**, go to

<http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/polit>