



SHIRE OF AL-SAHID NEWSLETTER

SCORPION TALES

FEBRUARY 2007

AROUND THE SHIRE

FEBRUARY SHIRE MEETINGS AND CRAFT DAY

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c) You must send a letter to the editor of this newsletter, stating which articles you have used, and in which publication the material has been reprinted. THL Caitlin (Christine Taylor P.O Box 3499 Wrihtwood, CA 92397)

On February 25 both Craft Day and the Shire meeting is at Lady Jane and Lord Gregor's home. Craft Day (Craft Afternoon?) will start at 12:00 pm, but their home will be open for friends at 10 am. (If you are not a friend, then stand outside... JUST TEASING!) The Shire meeting will start at the same location at 3:00 pm.

We will be lighting the barbeque and smoker so please bring your own meat and something to share. For directions please contact Lady Jane or Lord Gregor at 760-244-9129 or by email at: sealynn@hotmail.com.

The craft we will be doing is Mongolian Hats. If you want to make one please bring 1 foot of a heavy solid Fabric or 1/2 yard of a brocade type fabric. Also 1 foot fleece

fabric for lining. We will also be working on Banners. For information contact Lady Jane.

FIGHTER PRACTICE

Fighter Practice is usually at 12:00 pm at Sir Killian's, although Estrella will likely interrupt the proceedings. For confirmation, directions and more information about how to hit your friends for fun and profit, please contact Sir Killian

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JANUARY OFFICER REPORTS

by LADY JANE

Seneschal: Need to contact Valdis about getting the Library so it is more accessible to the members. Mark's friend Hiram is now a paid member and Mark is going to broach him about learning to become a her-

ald, he seems to be the right type of person for the position.

Art & Science: Planning to work on the banners all year starting with the shires and than making everyone else's. It will be the "year of Banners" with the hope to complete

as many as possible by Highland War. February Craft night Jane will also teach how to make Mongol Hats. Blase will be talking to members about teaching other classes throughout the year.

(Report, Continued on page 3)

Announcement: You Could be Famous!

By Mistress Tonwen ferch Gruffudd Aur, OL

If you have an area of interest that you are passionate about and have a flair for writing, you could be exactly who we're looking for! The editorship of the *Compleat Anachronist* (CA) is changing hands, and we're actively recruiting contributing writers, reviewers, and illustrators.

The *Compleat Anachronist* is published quarterly and is dedicated to in-depth exploration of specific topics of medieval life. It is available by subscription to members of the SCA, or can be purchased through the SCA marketplace.

- **Prospective Writers:** You are invited to send manuscript proposals to the new editor. Proposals may be as short as a few paragraphs that describe your ideas for a manuscript, or as involved as a complete draft of a manuscript. Prospective writers should consider topics that can reasonably fill 40-50 pages of 10 point font text, including illustrations.
- **Reviewers:** Assist the editor in reviewing manuscripts. Reviewers may recommend changes, deletions, or additions to what the writer has presented, and help the

editor check resources and references. We do the best we can to use reviewers whose interests are similar to the topic of the manuscript they are reviewing, so the more reviewers we have, the better.

- **Illustrators:** We're looking into the feasibility of using photographs in the CA. However, there may be times that the author of a manuscript is unable or chooses not to use photographs. Illustrators are needed to help authors produce line drawing and other artwork for their manuscripts.

If you are interested in taking part in some exciting changes planned for the CA, please contact the new editor:

Rae Hadley

Tonwen ferch Gruffudd Aur

houndofzeus@pacbell.net (until the CA editor e-mail address is transferred)

In service,

Tonwen ferch Gruffudd Aur, OL



To ALL SHIRE members who ARE ESTRELLA-bound:

May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;
 the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
 may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Traditional Gaelic Blessing

(Team building, Cont. from page 1)

Chatelaine: Nothing to report. Asked Gregor to replace her. He will think about it.

Chronicler: Not present. Jane taking notes for her.

Constable: Nothing to report. Considering asking Ulrich to be a deputy.

Exchequer: Sent signature cards to Kingdom. Kingdom planes to sign and return the cards to a bank close to her and have it sent inner bank back to us. We will than verify the card. There are potential problems possibly arising and will be handled as required. Dooms Day report will be sent as soon as Ryan can sign it.

Herald: not present.

Lists: Not present. Nothing to report.

Marshal: Blase and Jared are new fighters. There was a third gentleman tested but we didn't know if he was warranted to fight.

Children's: Starting to do inventory for change of office.

Presentations: missed 12th Night presentation due to illness. Plan to do the presentation at Festival of the Rose.

Chirurgion: Nothing to report. Donated a small supply.

Webwright: Not present.

OTO Business:

Anniversary: March 31 is in February CP. Dun Or donating Champions Cloak for Rapier Champion. A&S

Contest sponsored by Fritz: the story of how the Shire got its name and what does it mean. Documentation needed or best story, Fact or Fiction.

Need head count for Royal lunch provided by Blase and William? Insurance Rider needs to be given to the City for Anniversary and War. Checking on Port-a-Potty from City or A1. Rapier to be run by Baron and Baroness of Dun Or. The Queen would like to see an A&S table. Crimson Spade possibly sponsoring a board game Champion (need to contact for more information). Ryan or Ishmael to run Archery. Ryan doing throwing demo. Youth Combat awards already gotten. Requested information on award budget.

New Business:

Gregor brought up making a privacy wall to go around the Shire camping site. Possible panels painted by Shire members with their arms. Holly to check on price and width of canvas fabric. Ryan and Blase to get picture at Estrella for Ideas. [Caitlin thinks this is a great idea and wonders if we can soundproof it too.]

Ryan would like to check into replacing screen shades with better pop-ups. Gregor will check out the prices at the EZ-UP Factory Outlet for 10x10, to 10x20 sizes.

An autocrat needed for Highland War.

The video that Valdis found from Atlanta Kingdom about introduction to SCA was approved at kingdom level. Blase was requested to get permission to link it to the king-

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Stefan's Florilegium: Selections from "non-alcoholic beverages." Used with permission.

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dom.

Gregor made a motion to get business cards made to hand out to interested people with contact information, passed. Everyone else is requested to think of designs for card.

Basic description: cream card stock, Shire arms with 6 to 9 lines of information.

Need ideas for Highland T-shirt with a date on it. Suggestion to print more moonlight tourney T-shirts.

Magdelene made a motion to move Craft Night to meet before Shire Meeting. All in favor.

Starting in February, Craft Night will be held before the Shire Meeting starts at 12:00. Times and topics will be in the newsletter.

Deputy of Kingdom Rapier e-mailed shire about any Rapier needs.

Estrella- Madelena Hidalgo de Valencia is asking for volunteers to staff gate on Thursday, February 15.

Kingdom sent an e-mail to Seneschals requesting to respect sites that are DRY. Or we will lose it.

Request to see how many people attending Estrella – 9 or more possible: Unbelted – 8 or more possible: Starkhafn Anniversary – unknown at this time but it was suggested we attend if possible.

Holly and Nathan will wed April 14 (the same weekend as Crown Tourney). Shire members are invited with a request you wear your finest garb.

Officer Nominations

Seneschal: Lady Jane's nomination was motioned, seconded and approved. Congratulations!

March Shire Meetings:

The March meeting will be on March 18 at Holly and Nathan's. Bring chairs! The craft meeting will start at noon and the Shire meeting will start at 3:00. Details will appear in the March *Scorpion Tales*.

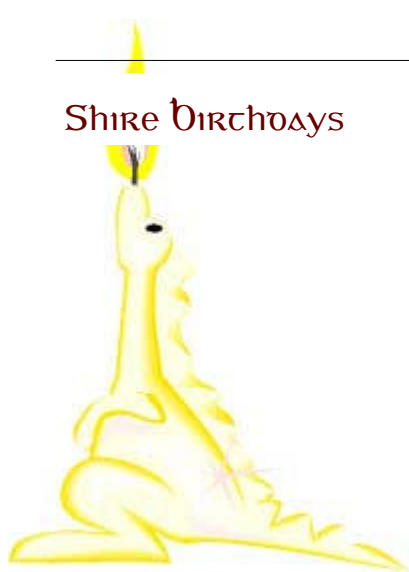


Shire Birthdays

February

Lord Logan	2/9
THL Caitlin Christiana	
Wintour	2/12
Lady Blase De Angelo	2/15

Happy
birthday!!



HUMOR CORNER

Greetings Shire! William the Bloody here with the all-new *Scorpion Tales* humor corner! Every issue I will hand down a little bit of SCA related humor, sometimes different, always funny. Though I suppose funny is just a matter of opinion. If you have anything you'd like to recommend or contribute or just feel the need to comment, please feel free to drop me a line@bladealchemyist@earthlink.net.

Cheers,

William The Bloody.

BLOW CALIBRATION FOR NEW FIGHTERS

1. "I am not even sure that touched me."

2. "I am not sure that touched me, and if it did I KNOW it's no good."

3. "I am sure that touched me, and I know it's no good."

4. "I am sure that hit me, and I know it's no good."

5. "That hit me. It was marginal but I don't want this person walking away thinking I am a goon."

6. "That hit me. Not perfect- but I can't deny that it's worthy."

7. "That hit me. Not perfect- but it's worthy!"

8. "Well struck!"

9. "Wow! I hope I don't hit that hard!"

10. "OH MY GOD- MY EARS! OWWW!"

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other word would smell as sweet."

--From Romeo and Juliet (II, ii, 1-2)

ARS CAIDIS

by THE CAIDIN

The new *Ars Caidis* is out! This issue is "Persona," and is \$5. I sold out at Festival of the Rose but am printing and binding more, and will have them with me or the next Shire meeting. I also have earlier copies available at \$3 apiece.

You too can contribute to *AC*. I'm going to be keeping the themed issues but also using articles on other subjects, so if have or can write an article on an arts or sciences theme, I would love to have it. I also publish period style poetry. Upcoming themes include Scribal Arts for this spring, Performance Art for summer, Ghost Stories for fall (my favorite!) and Weapons for winter. And remember, I do accept articles on other subjects!

(Around the Shire, Continued from page 1)

at kiltek@earthlink.net.

Costuming Suits

There will be no Garb Gatherings in February due to War. Those of you going to war have fun.

PROJECTS AND PLANS

Now that THL Caitlin is back, work can proceed on the Shire Persona Project. I will be stalking you (oh excuse me, I mean politely inquiring) to help you / encourage you / tie you down / until you get your persona down on paper.

The background of this is that I am collecting the persona write-ups of as many Shire members as I can and putting them online — with permission, of course! You can find Persona and other links here:

www.ctaylor-co.com/SCA/

Home.htm.

Banners will also be going on all year.

News Around the Shire

- Holly and Nathan are getting married April 14! Hurrah!
- THL Caitlin won the People's Choice bardic competition at Festival of the Rose, and fervently thanks her enthusiastic cheering section. I love you! ☺
- To all Shire members: Please send me your good news — awards, accomplishments, wedding dates... and let your friends celebrate with you.

"Justice is the constant and perpetual wish to render every one his due."

-- Emperor Justinian in Institutes

Non-Alcoholic Drinks for the SCA

Brought to you by THL Caitlin

In honor of the Kingdom admonition to *stop drinking at dry sites for Pete's sake!!!* I have collected some non-alcoholic recipes that sound rather lovely. These are from Stefan's Florilegium, the incredible resource from THL Stefan li Rous. The recipes are from various authors.

Norse Spiced Cider — LORO THORFINN

My personal favorite: Norse spiced cider. (Not necessarily period)

- 1 gallon of fresh-pressed cider (there is a version with spring cider which is slightly

alcoholic)

- 2 cups of white wine vinegar.
- 2 pounds of honey.
- 1 lemon, diced into .25" cubes. (include the rind!)
- 2 tbsp of ground cloves.
- 1 tbsp of ground cinnamon.
- 1 tbsp of ground ginger. (optional. Sometimes causes a bitter taste)
- .25 cup of whichever mint you prefer.

Set the cider to simmering. Dissolve in the

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honey. let cool for a bit, add in the vinegar. Simmer on low heat while stirring in the spices. Raise the heat a bit, and serve hot. Each cup should have a sprinkling of mint o'er the top as it's served.

As this drink sits on the hearth, it grows in potency....be wary of quaffing the dregs! (Thou, 'tis said that the bottom of the pot will rid a man of the chills of the deepest of winters with but a sip...)

For a summer drink, I like to mix a quart of apple cider with 1 cup of white wine vinegar, fill the rest of the bottle with honeywater (water with a fair bit of honey dissolved into it) and let it steep with commercially prepped mint teabags in the sun for a day. Good served chilled around a bardic fire.

Thorfinn Halfblind (Ken Burnside), Marche of Ered Sul, Atenveldt

Twilsey — Mistress Rowan

One of the 'lower class' drinks was twilsey: plain or flavored vinegars and water. Sounds nasty but is really quite refressing. [Raspberry vinegar makes my favorite. Just go easy on the vinegar until you find the taste you like. :}]

Her Excellency Mistress Rowan O'Callighan, Barony of Blatha an Oir, Kingdom of An Tir

Coriander Water — Lord Jason

Another pleasant and inexpensive period, non-alcoholic beverage is Coriander water. The taste is subtle, but quite pleasant. Coriander is a spice readily available in many grocery stores. It is a hard, round seed that looks sort of like little brown balls about half to one-third the size of a green pea. A Viscountess I knew many years ago (in AS 12 or so) said she had found reference in period to water flavored with Coriander. The way she did it was to place the seeds whole in a pitcher of water, preferably overnight. When serving, decant carefully so most of the seeds remain in the pitcher. They can be re-used several times at

a given event by refilling the pitcher. Once the seeds are soaked, they will flavor the fresh water quite readily. Rinse out and discard the seeds at the end of the event, so they don't spoil in the decanter.

HLS Jason of Rosaria, Ansteorra

Fruit Vinegar—Dame Aoife

Aoife Here, with a recipe for, "Sherbet", "Fruit Vinegar" or "Shrub" as it is known in Jolly Old England. This one was simply gobbled up at the Known World Party last Pennsic. It works best with raspberries or blackberries. Blueberries are good, but the beverage does not turn blue (it is clear, and also tastes kind of "green"). I haven't tried strawberries, either. It also has the added virtue of being extremely simple to make!

For the Fruit Vinegar:

Take equal parts (by volume) of vinegar (white or cider), and your favorite soft fruit. Lightly mash the fruit (stones or large seeds removed), pour on the vinegar, and cover tightly. Every day for 5 days, stir the mixture in the morning and at night. After 5 days, pour the vinegar into a strainer with a bowl beneath. Squeeze the fruit with a spoon or your hands to extract ALL the juice. Discard the fruit.

To make the Fruit Syrup from your Fruit Vinegar, add equal amounts of sugar (by volume) as you have fruit vinegar. Stir gently until sugar is dissolved. This in itself is a good sauce for summer desserts. this will store for months on the shelf with no refrigeration. Small Lumps may form due to pectin. This is OK, they will dissolve.

To make Sherbet (ie: Shrub) from your syrup, pour 1/2 oz of syrup over water and ice to make a total of 8 ozs (that's 1/2 oz syrup to about 7 oz of cold liquid). Bubbly water makes this even nicer. Adjust the amount of syrup to taste, of course, but too much will make the flavor waaaaay too intense.

Dame Aoife