

HAPPY ARDORHANKFEST



IN THIS ISSUE:

Service In the SCA

How to Start a New Hobby in the SCA

How to Make Nettle Cord- A Newbie's Perspective

Recipes from the March 31 Day of A&S

And so much more...



From The Chroniclers Desk

In this issue we are reaching out to newer members in the Glenn Linn, and I hope to be able to use the articles contained here in for years to come. Though this quarter's newsletter is targeted at newer people, I hope everyone takes the time to read over the articles people have worked hard to put forth. There is something for everyone.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this issue. Because of the demanding time of year, there are a few holes in the officer report section. I have decided to fill them with mirth and merriment bound around a tiny grain of truth. Consider it a game to find them and an incentive to read them.

Uallch O'Slatara



The Kid's Corner

HEYKIDS!!!! Take a look at the following block of letters and see if you can find all of the words listed below it. No really, take this and go find all the words...every one of them because you know what happens if you don't.....

U W F Y S C T O I T I G E R C
 G O K C P Y S E T R U O C I Y
 Y R Q S I K N J V I U C S R R
 H A I K N H I A L E H U E B E
 F I H I N T O O C I M H E G S
 R I G N I I R N V I C P X N P
 S H G G N D V A O R L V E I E
 T E F H G A L D A R Z E Y C C
 N W R C T R L E R U A L P N T
 A A H V Y I K I N G D O M E O
 V N T Y I H N S E Y D A L F W
 B R S T V C R G E Q U Z I N T
 L B J I A T E L U N F E Z M V
 E V W Y X R P Z Q T K N C C S
 W L Z H P I L S D K K S S E B

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| ARCHERY | HONOR | LAUREL | RATTAN |
| CHIVALRY | KING | LORD | RESPECT |
| COURTESY | KINGDOM | MUSIC | SERVICE |
| FENCING | KNIGHT | PELICAN | SPINNING |
| FIGHTING | LADY | QUEEN | TIGER |

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Curious? Want More SCA?

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR THE SHIRE OF GLENN LINN, OUR ACTIVITIES AND THE "CURRENT MIDDLE AGES," CONTACT US. WE OFFER FREE PRESENTATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR CHURCH GROUPS, SCHOOLS, YOUTH GROUPS, CLUBS, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

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Greetings All:

We were holding Shire of Glenn Linn Arts and Science (A&S) sessions as they are planned. I will be putting them up on our website calendar. If you would like to teach a class please feel free to email me at the link on the Shire web page.

This issue is focusing on new comers so I have a few new comer tips that I wish someone had told me when I first started:

- Start out simple, you do not have to know everything you are or what/who you want to be when you first start.
- Attend a meeting any type of meeting or gathering and introduce yourself. That way we can help get you information on the things you want to learn about.
- Go to a local event.
- Ask about loaner garb for your first few events so you can try some different things out before you spend money on garb you don't like
- Buy your camp set up a little at a time as it can be a huge expense to do all at once.
- Attend Birka if you can as at that event there are a ton of merchants to browse and you can find a large selection.

Thank you for your time. I hope you have found this helpful. I hope to see you at an A&S session soon.

Lady Saffir Weaver

Mistress of Arts & Sciences for the Shire of Glenn Linn



Keepers' of Athena's Thimble
East Kingdom Embroidery Guild



Did you know anyone can become part of Athena's Thimble!
All are welcome at any meeting to learn something new or to show off your own talents and to meet friends and relax!

We normally meet in Albany at Lady Ruth's home.

We can be found on...

Website: <http://www.athenasthimble.com/index.htm>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KeepersOfAthenasThimble/>

If you need directions, please email Arnliof at: redlioncanoe77@gmail.com





The Sword Is Sharper Than The Pen

- Words from the Knight Marshal -

I am sorry to report to you that the knight marshal is currently unavailable for this report. After battling the sun and consuming a surfeit of cookies at the July business meeting, he was unable to fight off the advancement of the Lord of Horizons and is being forced to go from house to house in the shire to see if tiny glass strands will fit in computers. His final words were "The MOL did a great job at The Great Northern Thyng!"

Please be aware that a fighter practice was held under Hugar's direction to great success, allowing for authorizations. The Great Northern Thyng was marshaled under his direction and a good time was had by all participants.

Our knight marshal is still able to be reached remotely, and fight practices are being offered by the ever accommodating Asgar.



Words From The Web

Greetings from the web!

Welcome to my forum said the spider to the fly...MwaHaHa. So what is new? Lots actually. Once the Great Northern Thyng had passed I was able to start dedicating time to updating the web page again. I hope that the effort is serving the Shire, and especially new folk to the Shire. The following has been updated:

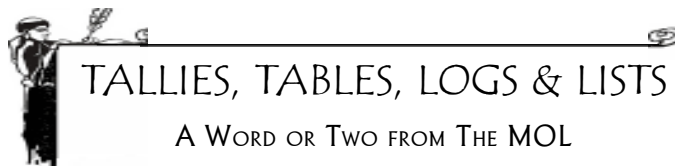
01) The JAVA error has been fixed. The drop down menu has been changed to a simple index so now no one should encounter any trouble visiting the sight.

02) The Domesday book has been updated and now shows the Shires entire membership over time in a graphic format.

03) Some changes were made to how pages were linked together in order to make the new index a bit smaller. I think this also makes the page a bit easier to use.

04) The active members forum page has been put behind a password in order to keep it private and for active members only. The need for this was discussed in the business meeting.

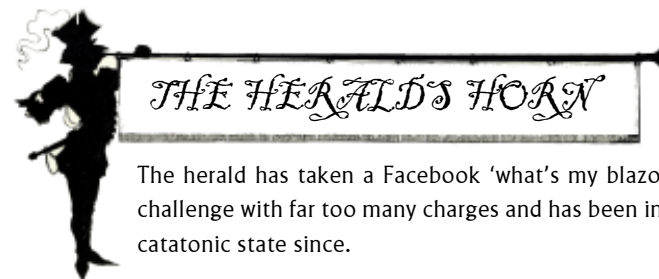
Hrotger the Terving



TALLIES, TABLES, LOGS & LISTS

A WORD OR TWO FROM THE MOL

The MOL was captured by the King of Burgers and is being forced to work in the kitchens dunking helpless tubers into vats of boiling oil. We are planning a rescue operation as soon as the Knight Marshal is let go of his obligation to the Lord of Horizons. All members of the shire are encouraged to hone their marshal skills to aid in this quest.



THE HERALD'S HORN

The herald has taken a Facebook 'what's my blazon' challenge with far too many charges and has been in a catatonic state since.



Chatelaine's Corner

I wanted to take this time to reach out to every member, new and old, that I am here to help. It is, in fact, my job to help you. So ask. I am available through e-mail, phone, and facebook for your questions. I would be happy to visit you and help you make your first garb. Need help researching something? I'm here! You've been in the society for 20 years, but now you're ready to take your Irish persona seriously? Oh- me, me ,me! I can help with that! Want a corset to die for? I have no idea- But I will find someone that can help you!

The chatelaine doesn't just run demos and help new members, a chatelaine also helps established members with new interests, and cheers you on as you take your first steps into the unknown. I won't do things for you, but I will help teach you to do them for yourself. I can't give that help unless you ask. So here is my promise as chatelaine to you- I will be available. I will help you to the best of my ability. I will strive to make your time in Glenn Linn an enjoyable one. Together, we can do this.

-Ullach O'Slatara



Tossin It Out There

Words from the thrown Weapons Marshals

Two quarters have passed and aside from thrown weapons at the Great Northern Thyng, the Shire has had no thrown weapon practices in 2019. The first half of the year was monopolized (for me at least) in getting the Great Northern Thyng put together. The further lack of practices is a combination of no longer having a dedicated site to hold them combined with a lack of any interest being expressed in holding them. Our final combined practices for Archery and Thrown weapons in 2018 usually involved the two marshals...just the two marshals, and with a lack of interest in a particular activity there is really no need to plan on holding them. That being said, I am ready and able to run thrown weapon practices as soon as I have individuals who have a desire to do so.

Hrotger the Tervingi



The name September comes from the old Roman word 'septem', which means seven, because in the Roman calendar it was the seventh month. The Anglo-Saxons called it Gerst monath (Barley month), because it was their time when they harvested barley to be made into their favourite drink - barley brew. They also called it Haefest monath, or Harvest month.

The Romans believed that the month of September was looked after by the god, Vulcan. As the god of the fire and forge they therefore expected September to be associated with fires, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

WORTH NOTING....

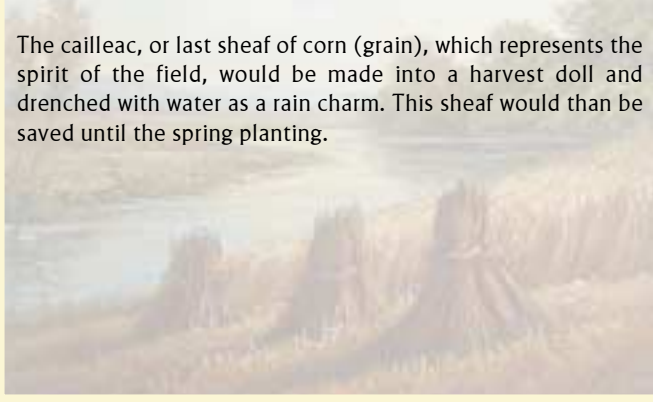
Harvest celebrations are an ancient and widespread tradition, closely tied to our agrarian past, stretching from antiquity and surviving to modern times in many regions.

The traditional feast of Harvest Home, also called Ingathering, was celebrated in England, Ireland, Scotland, and northern Europe at the time of the Harvest moon, which is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox. The word "harvest" itself comes from "hærfest" the Old English word for autumn.

Though Harvest Home traditions varied from village to village, all were meant to celebrate the conclusion of the farming year and the completion of a successful harvest.

Typically, the local landowner hosted the celebration, with the head reaper appointed to preside over the festivities as Lord of the Harvest. Participants would celebrate by singing, shouting, and decorating the village with boughs while awaiting the arrival of the "hock cart," the wagon that carried in the final load of the harvest.

The cailleac, or last sheaf of corn (grain), which represents the spirit of the field, would be made into a harvest doll and drenched with water as a rain charm. This sheaf would then be saved until the spring planting.



- 925 Athelstan becomes King of Wessex and Mercia
- 1068 Birth of Henry I
- 1143 Mandeville is arrested
- 1148 Conrad III leaves the Holy Land
- 1151 Geoffrey dies
- 1181 Lucius III becomes Pope
- 1187 Saladin captures Acre
- 1190 Messina
- 1216 William of Cassingham
- 1256 The Welsh invade the coastal plains
- 1276 John XXI becomes Pope in September
- 1290 Margaret, 'Maid of Norway' dies on voyage
- 1299 Edward marries
- 1310 Edward campaigns in Scotland
- 1314 Edward loses power to Lancaster
- 1325 Prince Edward in France
- 1326 Isabella and Mortimer land to take the throne
- 1327 Edward II murdered at Berkeley Castle
- 1339 Edward in Northern France
- 1347 Edward accepts truce
- 1399 Bolingbroke accepted by Parliament
- 1400 Glendower proclaimed Prince of Wales
- 1450 Richard returns from Ireland
- 1460 Richard, Duke of York returns
- 1461 Pembroke Castle captured
- 1469 Riots and rebellions
- 1484 Truce signed with the Scots
- 1485 Earl of Warwick arrested
- 1492 Columbus reaches the Canary Islands
- 1492 Columbus sails across the Atlantic
- 1559 Coronation of Francis II, King of France





The SANGSCHAL SAYS....

As A Moth Is Drawn To Light

As it is for many of us, The Shire of Glenn Linn, and the SCA in general, my "chosen family," go far beyond traditional friendship. Over the past 60 years, I've been part of many organizations. This one, though far from perfect, transcends all the others. As I enter my eleventh year, I can see where it all started – with King Arthur and the Round Table, back in 1954 when I was five years old.

Hospitalized for two weeks, I became friends with a boy in the next bed. Before he returned home, he gave me the snap-together plastic castle we'd been playing with, the two brave knights on mighty steeds, and an archer kneeling on the parapets with his longbow.

Years later, in Cub Scouts, I learned about chivalry – not "might makes right," but "might FOR right." And, like many kids, my favorite TV shows included "Ivanhoe" and "Robin Hood."

Fast forward to 1989, and raising a family in the Adirondacks. The community section of our weekly paper said a "medieval group" was trying to get started in Glens Falls. I couldn't – family duties and work schedule...well, I couldn't. But I kept watch. Probably five years later, three kids in the car, I stopped along the road at the Warren County Fairgrounds. There, an unusual sight, an encampment of funny-looking tents, and two people in shiny armor, battling with swords and shields in an open field. Invited in, but I couldn't. Had to be on my way. Then, one day just a year later, at Crandall Park in Glens Falls, I saw them again, only there more. I stopped by and toured the tents, but, again, I couldn't stay. Then the next year, again. But this time, I followed up with a stop at an indoor exhibit they were holding downtown. They had books, history books about the Middle Ages, clothing books, story books. I told them I'd be back. And I did.

My next stop was again in Crandall Park, a week or two later at a Wednesday evening fight practice. I wasn't eligible to wear armor and fight, but I did meet some very nice people. And I decided to join right then. I needed friendship in my life, and these looked like they might be good. A little unusual, being in armor and all, and maybe a bit "nerdy," but they were incredibly welcoming, wonderful people. I told them I would give them a try. Ten years, going on eleven. Now I get to be the welcoming guy. These are my friends. These are my people. These can be yours, too. You can come right in, or, like a moth drawn to the light, circle around, hang nearby, check us out. You may find that we're "your people," too.

Lord Tomas an Bhogha O'Neill

(Tomas of the Bow of the O'Neill's)

What's On YOUR Calendar?

You're invited! Every member of the public is invited to take part in our activities, workshops, meetings, or events. Workshops sometimes require a material fee. Entry fees, if any, for some events are reduced for registered members. However, formal membership is NOT required.

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

Business Meetings: Held the second Sunday of the month in the Crandall Room at Crandall Library, 251 Glen St, Glens Falls, NY 12801, from 14:30 to 17:00. The upcoming dates are Jan 13, Feb 10 and Mar 10.

Arts & Sciences: The A&S workshops usually have a pre-scheduled class or activity, such as for making garb (clothing), accessories or crafts, Medieval Games Night, or Glenn Linn Minstrels singing practice. Time & Location TBA

Cooking Guild: The Glenn Linn cooking guild meets sporadically to cook and eat dishes from various cultures and time periods. Participants have the opportunity to take the lead on selecting and researching a particular culture and / or time period. Time & Location TBA

PRACTICES

Seasonal Outdoor Activities are currently on hiatus but Look for them to return with the nice weather.

Archery Practice: 1 May through 31 October, Time, Day and Location to be announced

Thrown Weapons Practice: 1 May through 31 October, Time, Day and Location to be announced

Heavy Combat Practice:
Time & Location TBA

Youth Combat Practice:
Time & Location TBA

Fencing Practice:
Time & Location TBA

Seige Engine Practice:
Time & Location TBA

Please Note: Specific information on all activities date, time and location can be found on the official Shire Calendar on our Web Site. The official Shire of Glenn Linn Web Site is the only "official" source for information about the Shire and its activities.



EPICURIA



Recipes from the March 31 Day of A&S
By Lisabetta vedova di Alessandro



We had an awesome time cooking feast for the Day of A&S, and everyone loved the food! I've had several people request some of their favorite recipes, so I'm sharing the most requested ones with whoever would like them.

Salmon Pie (14th Century German)

- 1 lb salmon fillets
- 1 tsp parsley
- 1/4 tsp sage
- 1/4 tsp ginger
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 1/8 tsp anise

Pastry for double crust pie

- Preheat oven to 350.
- Remove any skin from salmon. Roll out half of the pastry on a floured surface and place salmon in the middle. Add remaining ingredients and cover with the rest of the pastry. Seal edges with water and cut to shape (as a fish) if desired. Bake at 350 until golden, about 40 minutes.

Kings Chicken (14th Century German)

- 1 pound cooked chicken, cut up
- 7 eggs
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- pinch ground anise
- pinch saffron
- salt and pepper to taste

Pie crust

- Mix the eggs and spices until well-combined. Place the chicken in the pie crust and pour on the egg mixture. Bake in a 400-degree oven until done, about 40 minutes.

Spinach Tart (15th century England)

- 1/2 lb spinach, washed and chopped
- 1/2 cup parsley
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups mozzarella, grated

- 1/2 cup parmesan, grated
- 1 tsp chervil
- 1 tsp fennel
- 1 tsp powder fine (see below)
- Pie crust

To make powder fine:

- 3 tbsp ginger
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1 tsp grains of paradise (or 1/2 tsp black pepper with a bit of cardamom and ginger)

- Mix all spices together, store in a sealed container.
- Wash spinach and parsley, and chop them well.
- Beat eggs in a large bowl. Add greens and remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into pie crust and bake at 350 until firm, about 1 hour.

Mushroom Tart (14th century France)

- 2 lbs mushrooms
- 2 cups Swiss cheese, grated
- 2 tsp powder fine (see below)
- Pie crust

To make powder fine:

- 3 tbsp ginger
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1 tsp grains of paradise (or 1/2 tsp black pepper with a bit of cardamom and ginger)

- Mix all spices together, store in a sealed container.
- Sauté mushrooms in a small amount of oil to cook the mushrooms and release their water. Drain and cool. Mix with the spice powder and cheese, place into the pie crust, and bake at 375 for 30 minutes.



Epicuria...

Tart of Onions (14th/15th century)

1 medium onion, finely chopped

6 eggs

2 cups mozzarella, grated

Pinch saffron

Pinch salt

- Beat eggs, add other ingredients. Pour into an unbaked pie crust. Bake at 350 until lightly browned on top, about an hour.

Alows de Beef (15th century England)

2 lbs beef steaks

1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

1/2 medium onion, slivered

4 hard-cooked egg yolks

2 tbsp bone marrow (may substitute suet or butter)

1/4 tsp ginger

1/4 tsp salt

Pinch saffron

Ginger, cinnamon, hard-cooked egg yolks, and vinegar as a garnish

- Slice the steaks vertically across the grain to be about 1/4 inch thick. The final portions should be about the size of the palm of your hand.
- Mix parsley, onions, egg yolks, marrow, ginger, saffron, and

salt together.

- Put two or three tbsp of the mixture on the center of each steak, roll them up, and secure with a toothpick.
- Roast at 350 until filling reaches 165, about 20 minutes.
- Sprinkle with spices, vinegar, and crumbled egg yolks.

Rice Tart (16th Century German)

2 cups cooked rice

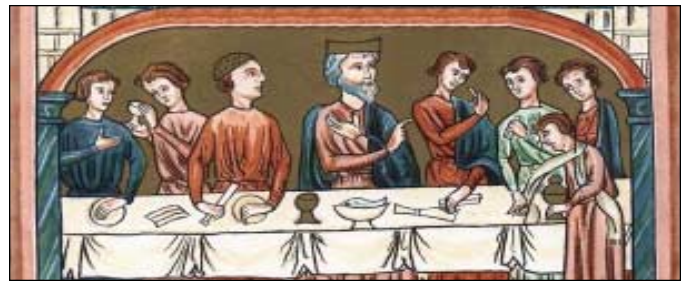
2 eggs, beaten

1/4 cup chopped or sliced almonds

2 tbsp chipped butter

pie crust

- Mix rice and almonds.
- Add beaten eggs.
- Put rice mixture into pie crust and cover with butter. Bake at 350 for about 30 minutes or until golden brown.



OYEZ! OYEZ!

What is the Valiance Proposal?

The Valiance proposal is designed to provide a pathway to peerage recognition for those individuals in each kingdom who excel in both quality and skill in archery, thrown weapons, siege, equestrian, or any other SCA martial activities not covered by the existing peerages.

TO FIND OUT WHAT THE MOVEMENT IS ABOUT

<http://endlesskills.net/valianceproposal.pdf>
<http://bit.ly/ValianceProposalInfo>



The Gathering of the Knitters

Please come and join us at our monthly gathering of knitters! Feel free to bring any knitting project you are working on!

If you are new to knitting, we would be happy to help you learn more! All are welcome!

Come enjoy an afternoon of knitting companionship. And learning! Period knitting...any knitting..we love knitting!

For information about our scheduled meetings, directions or if you have any other questions, please email me at:

redlioncanoe77@gmail.com

I wish everyone near and far happy knitting!

Lady Arneif the Red





WHAT NEWS?

A QUARTERLY COLUMN OF CURRENT COGNIZANCE

Greetings to the future, for it is to you I direct these columns. So what is new and noteworthy this issue? Well, as we did not have a June addition of the Cascadian (because we were all very busy getting ready for the first Great Northern Thyng) I will have to cover 6 months worth of information this time. Luckily, and perhaps sadly, that will prove easy.

After our large multi class A&S in March it was decided to focus on doing the same format every three months. A large gathering of various A&S classes with a meal at the end. Such was our desire. Reality however was that nothing happened. June came and went, dominated as already noted by our preparations for GNT and September arrived without nary a word about holding said A&S. Of course, with no one stepping up to take the lead in organizing and running the activity there is little chance of it happening. This has sadly been a symptom of the Shire for the past year or so. Many things that could have been happening did not. We have had no archery or thrown weapon practices, primarily because we choose to let the Argyle archery site go when the Shire member who lived in Argyle decided to leave the group, and both the Archery and Thrown weapon marshals had mundane occurrences preoccupy their time. It should also be noted that there was no hew and cry from the populace as it is bemoaning the loss of said practices. This is also symptomatic. The last few combined archery / thrown weapons practices that we did have were attended by only the marshals...and it is a bit much to ask our marshals to drive a distance and set up and take down a range if no one will be attending. The Shire and its officers are there to support the populace in the activities that interests them. When no interest is shown, I suppose no activities will occur. Contrasting this general malaise we did have a large spat of activities out in the Salem region of the Shire. Our Chatelaine contracted the Shire to participate in a program called Lunch Learn and Play where each day, for a week, Shire members presented different aspects of the middle ages to a group of school children of various ages. On most days of the week we had at least two shire members present, one day we had three and I believe one day on one person was available. As these occurred during the day, when most people work, it shows the level of community engagement that we are dedicated to in order to help out over the course of a week. Also in Salem, in conjunction with



the Old Courthouse we were able to present a class on basic mead brewing, a class that is a precursor to a Viking cooking class coming up later in the year.

Finally, the Great Northern Thyng occurred. There were certain metrics we were attempting to hit with this event. Northern Region War Camp has been having declining numbers over the past three to four years. It had in fact been per-empted by EK 50th last year and, because of how the 4th of July fell this year, we only had a short weekend to work with. All of these factors lead to a determination to make this years event different, and in doing so, see if we could determine what, if anything will bring the numbers back up. To that end we tried several initiatives: We opened the event to and invited members from various similar organization (foam fighting and LARP groups) like Amtgard and Hearthlight to attend and planned activities just for them (we had very little turn out – it appears that these groups are very insular and only those members who are already participating in the SCA will likely cross play). We planned a lot of non-combat and youth activities, including pushing dance, performance and field games (we had mixed results – dance had four dancers, one caller, two musicians and one spectator, field games were lightly played, the dedicated mead hall for performance was well used and attended (but primarily by the performance community etc.). We developed several themed combat games (the ones that were played were enjoyed – but we only had around 30 heavy fighters attend). We made a push for siege (no one came---looks like siege in the East is just not a thing) and Combat Archery (pretty much the same turn out as Siege). We had a reasonable number of classes, and thank you to the EK Brewers Guild and EK College of Performers who were both heavily involved in teaching and other activities at our event. Unfortunately, as noted above, most of the people drawn to the brewers and performers activities were folk already involved in those communities. In addition, the process by which we set up classes and class locations became an issue when we had no man power to actually move table and benches around. Thank you to those who stepped up at the last minute to lend a hand, particularly the children of the autocrat who had a hand on almost every table and bench that got moved.

Was the event successful? Almost everyone expressed that they had a good time. We did not meet our metrics. Not only did we not increase the attendance, but it in fact was down by another hundred people or so. Clearly most of the things we tried (and put time and money into) did not return on our investment. That being said, there were a couple of things that were successful. First, we pushed to increase the number of merchants so that we could rightfully claim to have a real market at our event. This worked with there being




around 27 merchants on site. In conjunction with this, we opened the site for a Demo on Sunday that brought in around 100 people who enjoyed themselves visiting the market and watching the charity tournament. Many of the merchants noted that the demo portion of the event made their margins for them at the end. Hopefully, going forward the Demo and Market can be expanded on.

That is it for now. As always, keep in mind that this is only my perspective on what is worth noting for future Shire folk to look back on. To that end, both good and bad will be included here for both caution and inspiration.

PRITHEE PAY HEED...

The Cascadian is the quarterly news letter of the Shire of Glenn Linn. That means it is your news letter. There are details that are required to be included (the boring bits), but almost anything else you (yes, ANY and ALL of you) would like to see can be included in these pages (the potentially fun, entertaining, and informative bits). But you need to tell us what you would like to see.



Service In the SCA By Ullach O'Slatara

The dream that is the SCA is a beautiful one— honor, chivalry, a like minded collective of people who strive for all that was good in a past we feel drawn to. There are things we do every day to further that ideal in ourselves. We cultivate our skills and better our gear and make our piece of the dream a reality.

The dream, like anything else worth doing, takes work. As part of a group of people, we know it cannot be sustained without the service of others to the greater whole. But service, by its very nature, involves self-sacrifice. We give up our time at an event to help check people in at the gate. We spend an entire Saturday helping a new fighter make armor. We give the person without a sewing machine a gown for her very own.

Some may ask why bother? Life is hectic— there are lawns that need mowing and dishes to do and shows to binge watch. Why? Because without service, the SCA simply could not exist. We are like the crew of a longboat without wind in its sail. We can go nowhere unless we all pick up an oar and row. If no one volunteers to be autocrat, there will be no event. If no one steps up to be seneschal, there will be no group. If no one leaves the merriment of the feast table to help the kitchen with clean up, the cooking staff will feel unappreciated and there will be no more feasts. But for all the hassle service seems to be at the outset, the reward at the end is always greater, even when you don't realize it.

Maybe that event you went to in another shire was inspired by the one you held last year. The time you took to instruct someone in mead making led them to become a master brewer. Because you were always ready to lend a hand, your children grew to do the same. Dreams are things to strive for— they can only be as real as we make them. If we want it badly enough, we can make ourselves, our shire, the society a representation of the honor and chivalry we long for— a world apart, but interwoven into our own lives. And in this way, the service we give has the ability to change more than ourselves.

How to Start a New Hobby in the SCA By Ullach O'Slatara

Starting a new facet of your SCA hobby is at once thrilling and intimidating. Maybe you always wanted to try your hand at weaving. Perhaps you tried some home-brewed mead and you've been trolling brewing sites into the wee hours dreaming of making your own. It could be that ever since you saw the demo in a neighboring shire, your blood has been itching to pick up a blade and fence. But how do you get from wanting to do something to actually doing something?

First of all, find out all you can about your new passion. Understand the amount of time it will entail, learning period board games won't demand the kind of attention learning to play an instrument will. The Shire of Glenn Linn website has several hornbooks which serve as great introductions to a number of activities. There are Facebook communities dedicated to things like bardic arts and armor making. Joining one of these is a great way to connect with people. Once you find a person who is active in your new skill, don't be shy about asking them for guidance— people love to talk about their interests. If you can't find anyone, talk to your chatelaine, they should be able to point you in the right direction.

Secondly, allow yourself to be a beginner. We all want to find that thing we excel at without effort, but in reality, we all make mistakes and mistakes is how we learn. Put yourself in the proper perspective. Chances are you have a skill that you have spent time cultivating, you remember the time you took getting to where you are. If you have a beautiful garden, you wouldn't fault a beginner for having a weedy patch with some errant tomatoes. You would understand and help them. People who have spent decades as a bardic performer won't be upset when you take to the stage and fear tightens your throat and sours your notes. They will, however, help you get past it.

Have faith in yourself. If you do the work, you will improve. It is as simple as that. No one expects you to devote three hours a day to embroidery practice, but as long as you stay committed to your new hobby, and keep making the mistakes necessary to learn, you will get

Continued p. 13



WHAT TO TAKE CAMPING AT AN SCA EVENT

You're headed out your first SCA camping event. But you realize the 'essentials' you have lined up in your kitchen won't fit in your car. What do you bring (or not bring)?

A tent. Obviously, you need a place to sleep. Any tent will do as long as it fits your family comfortably. There is no need to make it a period or even a canvas tent. Plenty of people camp in modern tents; they are affordable and pack down neatly. Just remember that 'sleeps 8' means there is room for eight people to sleep in there, not eight people and their gear. If one or more family member is a fighter or fencer, count armor as a person. If the weather turns foul, you'll want this to stay inside the tent. (Ok, you'll have to put it inside the tent, you may not want it in there after a day of fighting).

A tarp. A good quality tarp to put under your tent will not only help to keep it insulated, but will help prevent the bottom of the tent from getting wet. If you put a wet tent away, you will unpack a tent and mildew the next time you set up.

Sleeping bags. If you're going to splurge somewhere, it should be here. Spring and fall events can get chilly. You don't need an air mattress, but if you have room, it doesn't hurt to bring one or even a just bed roll. The ground is hard. If you're going to make a habit of this, you'll want to be comfortable. Don't forget to put a layer between the air mattress and the tent. For cold nights, it helps to put a sheepskin between you and the air mattress as well, but I've used cheap 'fuzzy rugs' for my children, and they work as well.

Food and drinks. I never bring enough drinks for my kids. They go through an amazing amount of liquid while camping, but end up eating less. My best advice- stick with as much pantry stock as you can— things that don't need to be refrigerated. Peanut butter and jelly, crackers, homemade cookies, apples, etc. Chances are you'll end up being offered food from those around you, so bring something you can share as well. If you're going to cook, keep it simple. One burner, one pot, one pan. My pot has a lid that doubles as a strainer. I only bring that and wash it between meals.

Plates and cups. You can do paper, but if you're going to be roving around the event, it is best to bring feast gear (and your shire may have some for loan), along with a basin, sponge, and soap for washing up. A three year old with a juice box is fine, but an adult shouldn't be wandering around with a can of seltzer. Pour it in a mug and take it with you.

Garb. You can go the whole weekend in one outfit, and it's completely period, but it's always good to bring one extra. Your shire had loaner garb available in several sizes. Camping can get messy and young children, fighters, and fencers especially will need extra clothes.

Toiletries. Tooth brush and toothpaste (sorry, mints don't cut it), deodorant, nail clippers (I need these every time), and most importantly, baby wipes— they are like a bath in a box. Some sites have showers, but unless it's incredibly hot or you're a combatant, you

probably can go without for the weekend and won't need shampoo, towels, etc.

Seating. One or two camp chairs are good, but a cooler can double a seating, and kids don't seem to mind sitting on the ground.

Light. Two lanterns are good. One for the tent and one for walking around the event at night. Period looking ones are nice, but focus on safety first. Lanterns should give you good visibility. Actual firelight is best left in the campfire.

Blue card and other essentials. Your blue membership card (if you have one), authorization card, medications, and other important items should be kept readily available when you get on site. Visually confirm you have these things before getting into the car to leave. There is nothing like getting half way to an event and in a panic realizing you've left your daughter's medication on the kitchen counter.

Fun stuff. Your bow, the embroidery your working on, your armor, etc. Always check out your gear before you pack it. Look over every piece for needed repairs and insure it is all there. That gorget has a sneaky way of crawling out of the armor box.

A plan. Check out the event website before you go and decide what everyone wants to do. Remember, some activities, especially marshaled activities, may actually start later than listed. Everyone should get to do something. If childcare is an issue, this may mean your wife doesn't get to fence for the entire weekend, but will have to watch the kids so you can take a class. Whether you're camping as a family, or with a group of new friends, support each other. Watch your daughter throw axes, or go dancing with your friend (even if it's not your favorite). Watching the people you care about have fun will make the event even better.

A checklist. Write everything down that you might need and check it off as it's packed.

That covers the basics, but before you get tempted to cram the corners with odds and ends, lets go over what you DON'T need.

Electronics. One phone for emergencies is fine, but neither you nor your kids will need to be tethered to the virtual world; there is just too much to do.

The medicine cabinet. It's easy to over think the 'what if' situations, but chances are you won't actually need the poison ivy soap or the ace bandage. Someone on site has a first aid kit if you need one (Check with the autocrat, at gate, or with any marshal).

The entire kitchen. Plan on simple meals plus a few snacks. Have your family help decide on the food choices. Don't pack yogurt and donuts and plan on making eggs for breakfast. Just pack the donuts. If your family wakes up and suddenly decides they don't like donuts, they can always go hungry. Hunger is period. (Spoiler alert- they eat the donuts in the end).

Fire wood. If the site allows, and you plan on making a fire, chances are you'll either be able to forage around the site for dead wood, or there will be a store nearby that sells it. Many states have regulations

Continued p. 13



How to Make Nettle Cord- A Newbie's Perspective

Ullach O'Slatara



Stinging nettles, also called "seven minute itch" is one of the first plants to appear in the spring. The early leaves provide many essential nutrients vital in replenishing the body after a long winter. But as the season wears on and the plant becomes too fibrous to eat. However, its usefulness is not lost, but rather changed.

Nettle's tough fibers make an impressive cording that is not only period, but incredibly useful. In this article, I will describe my first attempt at making this cord. Why not practice first and then show us, you may ask? Well half of the point is to document where I had trouble, what I did wrong, and what I learned for next time. I am new at this— and that's ok.

First, find your nettles- they like to grow along stream banks. You can tell them apart by their fuzzy stalks. These little spines are the stinging parts- wear gloves— not just rubber gloves, like I did— the spines on the bottom are tough and will still get to you. (I had tingly fingers for about 12 hours). Wear work gloves.

Pick your nettles and strip them of leaves. Next, rub the stalks to dislodge the spines. Now you can take off your gloves and move on with the fun.

The stalks need to be flattened. Some do this with their hands, and some LIGHTLY tap them with a wooden stick against a hard surface. Well, Ullach is not always so gentle and I rather bashed them to bits in my version of lightly. It all worked out, but I could separate fewer usable fibers that way.

Ideally, if you have accomplished such a gentle touch, you can then split along one side of the plant with your thumbnail. Upon opening it, you will see some soft material in the center. You don't need this, you need the outer layer. To separate them, bend the nettle in half until the inner portion breaks and peel it away from the fibrous exterior. Do the same thing



on the other side.

Now you have a limp and sturdy green part which you can separate into smaller strips. This is pretty easy, even I didn't mess it up. You may notice that the strips of nettle have a thick end and a tapered end- this is good, you will need this later.

Right now, you could twist it into cord. I have also heard that you could use the untwisted strips to secure arrow tips as the strips alone make an excellent binding tape.

If you have the time, let it dry. It will become much thinner.

Once you have your dry nettle strings, it's time to get rolling! Take a few strands together and bend it in half. There are many versions of how to do this next part. This one seemed the easiest to me, but more are available online. Which ever method you choose, it will take some practice. I didn't get mine quite right, but since it's my first time, I don't feel bad about it.

I chose the roll on your lap method. The nettle (folded in half) is kept as two separate cords and rolled in the same direction, keeping one hand over the bend. As you continue to roll, the half with the bend emerges from the back of your hand with a twist in it as it coils around itself. What really needs to happen is that the pieces are rolled in one direction and then twisted together in the opposite direction. I didn't quite achieve that bit of magic all the way through, so I will try other methods next time.

Now as you progress, you will start to run out of nettle to twist. This is where your tapered ends come in. Take two more bundles of nettle strands and place the taped end over the remaining few inches of untwisted nettle in your cord. Give them a little twist to secure them, and then carry on with your task. This was actually the part I was the most worried about, but I had no difficulty what so ever. You may have some bits that stick out, but you can trim them off later, if you want.

Once you have reached your desired length, just tie it off to keep it from unraveling.

Now you can make yourself the medieval version of a para-cord bracelet! The next time you need a bit of string at an event, you've got it covered. I don't know if there is any evidence for this as an actual utilitarian adornment, but it fits the way I think, so I'm adding this little gem to my accessory list.





How to Start a New Hobby in the SCA

to a point where you feel comfortable with your skill.

Finally- share! Don't keep all your sweet, sweet skills to yourself—pass them on. One day someone will come up to you, eyes peeking out from under a heavy brow and humbly ask for help because they want to do what you do. Help them. Even if you are still improving—and you will always be improving— you can at least help them take the first few steps.

The only question left to ask is what do you want to learn now?



WHAT TO TAKE CAMPING AT AN SCA EVENT

against bringing in outside fire wood.

Frustration. New surroundings can put people on edge, but remember you are among friends. Need help setting up camp? Ask, people will assist you. Forgot the milk? Someone has extra or will get it for you when they make a store run. Your teenager doesn't want to go to the archery range with you because they're busy carving a chunk of wood into a masterpiece? Meh. Let it go. Not everything will go as planned. There will be surprises— usually pleasant ones. And even the worst events have bright spots.



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It looks like Master Helm has been taste testing again...



SUMMER HAS COME [Irish Traditional]

Summer has come, healthy and free,
Whence the brown wood is aslope;
The slender nimble deer leap,
And the path of seals is smooth.
The cuckoo sings sweet music,
Whence there is smooth restful sleep;
Gentle birds leap upon the hill,
And swift grey stags.
Heat has laid hold of the rest of the deer—
The lovely cry of curly packs!
The white extent of the strand smiles,
There the swift sea is.
A sound of playful breezes in the tops
Of a black oakwood is Drum Dail,
The noble hornless herd runs,
To whom Cuan-wood is a shelter.
Green bursts out on every herb,
The top of the green oakwood is bushy,
Summer has come, winter has gone,
Twisted hollies wound the hound.
The blackbird sings a loud strain,
To him the live wood is a heritage,
The sad angry sea is fallen asleep,
The speckled salmon leaps.
The sun smiles over every land,—
A parting for me from the brood of cares:
Hounds bark, stags tryst,
Ravens flourish, summer has come!



SUMMER IS GONE [Irish Traditional]

My tidings for you: the stag bells,
Winter snows, summer is gone.
Wind high and cold, low the sun,
Short his course, sea running high.
Deep-red the bracken, its shape all gone—
The wild-goose has raised his wonted cry.
Cold has caught the wings of birds;
Season of ice—these are my tidings.

