

The Scarlet Letter is a
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available free online at
www.lochruadh.org

Vivat! Shannon River Raid!



The Scarlet Letter
Shire of Loch Ruadh



Greetings unto the Populace of Loch Ruadh!

What an incredible event! The Shannon River Raids was a classic Loch Ruadh weekend event, and I have heard nothing but praise about it from those who attended. Despite being up against two much larger events that drew off many potential attendees, we still had 97 people sign in at Gate, and every one of them appeared to enjoy themselves greatly. Even the brief periods of rain couldn't dampen the spirits and enthusiasm of the friends who gathered with us, especially the children, who had a wonderful time at the activities designed just for them.

I am very proud of our Shire, and of all the hard work that everyone put into making sure that the Shannon River Raids went off without a hitch, especially our Autocrats, Lord Alric and Lady Katheryn. No event is ever entirely problem free, and this one was no exception, but they stepped up with contingency plans and work arounds, and made sure everything that was supposed to happen did. While the schedule slipped as necessary, every activity took place, and the day was topped off with a delicious feast and entertaining Court.

I know that I echo the Autocrats in my thanks to everyone who worked on the event, and I will leave it them, as is their right and privilege, to thank the coordinators and helpers individually. Vivat! to all those who put in the effort that made the Shannon River Raids another successful Loch Ruadh event. I would like to express my personal thanks to Baron Armand and Baroness Ameline for representing Their Majesties in Court, enabling us to give out Awards. This nearly came at great personal cost to Baron Armand, as he had to swear fealty to the Crown to be able to sit Court, and he almost made the mistake of promising to behave himself. Vivat! to Their Excellencies, and to all those who received awards, recognition and prizes in Court.

Due to bad weather, we still need to have another workday to finish the standing stones that will help complete our Gulf War gate layout; those are six square posts, similar to the corner posts already in place on the land, but larger – ten feet tall, sunk three feet into the ground, giving us seven foot tall posts. We also need to decide on a weekend to make the trip to King's Arrow Ranch to put the “stones” in place and perhaps do

Seneschal (con't)

more work on the gate itself (it needs several more coats of concrete to strengthen it and improve the appearance even more). This needs to be done prior to Gulf Wars, and if not before the end of the year, then as soon as possible in the new year.

'Tis nearly the holiday season, and also the planning season for Loch Ruadh. We need to decide what kind of event we want to put on in 2011, and when to do it. Open dates can be found on the Event Planning Calendar on the Kingdom website. Anyone wishing to autocrat an event needs to submit an event proposal including a proposed budget to the Officers for discussion and presentation to the Populace for voting. Make sure to include proposed primary and alternate dates, and a proposed location. We also need to start our planning for Gulf Wars encampment, and we have scheduled a planning meeting for the weekend after Thanksgiving, Saturday, November 27th, just before Celidh.

If you haven't already done so, please take part in The 2010 SCA Census. This online census is SCA-wide, and is designed to gather information to address key issues facing the SCA as a whole. No personal data is gathered, and the census survey is completely anonymous. You do not have to be a paid member to complete the Census; the Board of Directors is interested in the opinions of everyone who participates in the SCA. You can find the census survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCA2010Census>. It takes about twenty minutes to complete, and will be open through December 1st.

As always, don't hesitate to speak with me in person, call me or email me with any ideas, questions or concerns that you have about the Shire.

In Service to Loch Ruadh,

Padraig



The Bloody Baron
Padraig Ruad O'Maolagain

He was a valiant warrior, a leader true and bold
He had no love for power and he held no lust for gold
The people thought well of him, so it may be hard to see
Why he was called the Bloody Baron of Elfsea

His Baroness was beautiful, bodacious she was called
And oft the time her grace and charm lit up a dreary hall
The Baron loved his Baroness, as well did she love he
The lucky, Bloody Baron of Elfsea

He retired from the politics, and took his leave of war
Stepped down from all the stress and strife, won't do it any more
But contentment's not his lot in life, for it's still plain to see
He was once the Bloody Baron of Elfsea

To anyone who'll listen, he labors to deny
But for all the good it does him, he ought not even try
It's true he's still a baron, but he insists, you see
He's no longer the Baron of Elfsea

He struggles to avoid the roil and keep above the fray
And wishes that the squabbling would all just go away
But once you've worn the coronet, they'll never let you be
To them you're still the Bloody Baron of Elfsea

So the story does proceed until this very day
And sure, you're thinkin' to yourself, that someone ought to pay
I confess, this bard's to blame, but I got away scot-free
For naming him the Bloody Baron of Elfsea

Herald

Greetings Good Gentles,

Oyez, Oyez, OYEZ

The Herald is BORED!! (that's bored, not boring, Padraig) I have one submission I am conflict checking and one I am tracking through the process. If you have a name or emblazon you are using and have not registered, please, please, PLEASE get with me and let's get that rascal registered. If you don't, someone else might....

--

Pan Kazimierz Złowieszczy
Lordy Lord Kaz the Sinister

Chronicler

Greetings

The SCA corporate office has designed 3 new release waivers that must be used by all Chroniclers and Web Ministers. One release is for all articles, and artwork, one for photography, and a third for photography models. According to our Kingdom Chronicler, these waivers go into effect as of November 1st. I will be bringing copies of these waivers to our next populace meeting. I have already obtained the release necessary for our Scarlet Letter cover photo of the gracious Baron and Baroness. I know these waivers will make publishing a little more difficult, but our Shire will rise to the challenge, as they always do.

In Service

Lady Fiona inghean ui Mheadhra



Archery Marshall

Greeting to the Populace

The river has been raided and the dust has settled. I would like to thank Gryffydd for taking care of Archery competition at the event. I am glad he was able to run the shoot since he worked for 4 years as Archery Marshall, and he planned the format. I wish I could have been there to see it but mundane life has to come first, at least sometimes.

In the next few months, we will probably make several changes to the practice times and formats, to try and help people who can't make it out on Sundays. If anyone has any suggestions, let me know. With the holidays almost upon us, we only have 2 planned practices. One practice in November on the 14th and we will work in one more practice, possibly the 19th of December. This will be open to suggestion until December populace, when we should make a decision to get it on the calendar in time. I am open to suggestions regarding times, as well as format. I would like to work in some target practice for our new combat archers, and no, I am not volunteering to be a target, but I have ideas on that, too.

I would like to plan a work day before the year ends, to build and repair equipment. This would be utilized to repair Shire equipment as well as personal. I think a few people may need to make cross bow bolts. We might possibly have a class or two on arrow building and string making, for those who haven't done it before. I would also like to plan a field trip to the new archery shop in Weatherford. I plan to hold off on the field trips and some other things until Gryffydd is up and around again.

If things ever slow down at in mundane life, I am considering some sort of web presence for archery. It would include instructions, and pictures of archers and links. That will have to wait until later, maybe in December when I have off for Christmas. That's enough rambling for now. I will close and hope it is not too late to submit this to Fiona.

Inservice

Lord Tegwared McAuley



Many Thanks!

Greetings

Many thanks to all who helped set up the Archery Range. Thanks to Catrin for bringing out the Shire Archery Equipment. Thanks also to the "Big Guy" who helped me so much. The Archery contest was a great success. We have a Champion in both the Adult and the Children's category. Lord Dunston is the winner in the adult, and Bryan - son of Lady Sybil and Lord Rolf took it all in the children's competition. Scoring was as follows-1 point for a hit on the fortress or the ship, 2 points for each hit on a captor-be he/her a Viking or a Celt,-3 points for shooting the hostage in the middle. Quite a good eye needed to make points. Vivat Lord Dunston! Vivat Bryan!

In service,

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri

Greetings to the Populace

Many thanks to all who helped me with Feast. I believe it was a success. Thanks to Fiona, Antonia, Catrin, and Kat-without your input I would have been lost. Thanks also to Sybil and Vivian who gave me lots of food ideas for Feast and magical tools with which to prepare it. Thanks also to Amnesty for helping in the Kitchen. Many thanks also to Francesca and my grandson, Nathan, for their help. To all of the other wonderful people who helped in so many ways--thank you all. Although your name has escaped me, I also would like to thank the good gentle that served as Hospitaler at Newcomer Point and made it possible for me to dedicate my time to feast. Thanks to all we had a wonderful meal.

Lady Marion Fay Holms,
Feastocrat

From the Fian Ruadh Commander

For those that did not attend the Shannon River Raid event, or the Fian Ruadh meeting after, I have been chosen as the new Fian Ruadh Commander. Thank you for placing me in this position of trust. My goal as Fian Ruadh Commander is to explore new ways for Fian Ruadh to function as a tactical unit, using all the fighters available to support each other and including shieldmen, spearmen, and archers, and even with room for fast moving swords or Florentine fighters. I have a few ideas on melee combat and tactics on the shield wall that I will bring up. Please bear in mind that I'm still exploring and experimenting with these ideas. I've already discussed some of them with several fighters in Fian Ruadh and see reasons they may not work, but I'd still like to experiment with them. I will be discussing them at a future practice. I also want to encourage anyone that wishes to fight, but hasn't been authorized yet, or doesn't have armor ready. To include some of these people I would like to have some (unofficial) unarmored practices using foam or boffer weapons. This would also benefit those that are out of shape or out of practice, as they won't require full on combat. I know that I am not the most experienced fighter to hold the position of Commander, and am aware the majority of Fian Ruadh has worn the Commander's baldric at one time. Please don't hesitate discuss anything with me, or give me your guidance and thoughts at any time.

Thanks!,

Terrence Fian Ruadh Commander

Exchequer

Greetings unto the populace of Loch Ruadh.

Our event has passed, it was windy, wet and I for one had a great time anyway. The books are balanced and the final tally is 97 people in attendance and we brought in \$1090.00 and an \$8.00 donation for a total of \$1098.00. This brings our coffers to \$2847.55. As far as I know no one went over budget as all the feast receipts are not in just yet, with Dad being indisposed at this time. I would like to thank Laird Sean for graciously donating all the water bearing supplies.

In Service to the Dream
Lady Vivian McKinnon



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Officer Information

Minister of Children



Greetings Loch Ruadh!

My family really enjoyed the Shannon River Raids. I would like to thank the following for their help with the MoC activities:

First, a big thanks goes out to Baroness Dana. You helped keep the ducks in a row and you made my job so much easier.

Thank you to all the parents who stayed to help out with their children. You made the MoC a family affair and it was a welcome sight.

Thank you to Annest. You were great at finishing the crafts that I had not been able to complete. Your donations to the MoC craft box were also much appreciated.

All the other volunteers who stopped by to lend a hand - thank you. It is very true that many hands make light work. Your time with us was greatly appreciated.

Lady Sybil and Lord Rolf - thank you for your help at the Punkin Chunkin. I loved the way Lord Rolf "took care of" all of the unbroken pumpkins. Lady Sybil did an excellent job of keeping the little ones in line while they waited to chunk their pumpkins.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank Lord Ragnar. He not only put up with me at my most stressed, but he helped make my weekend truly wonderful. He passed out supplies, fetched forgotten items, and helped keep the little ones safe and happy.

The entire Shire of Loch Ruadh has been a place I am proud to call home. Thanks to everyone here who always make this a place where children are loved and made to feel so important. Thank you all for your kind support.

Lady Cait O'Hara
Minister of Children

Greetings!

Fast Facts on Medieval Knights

The Medieval Times encompass one of the most exciting periods in the History of England and Europe. The dynasty of the Middle Ages include Kings and Queens such as King Henry VIII and his daughters

Fact 1 - Fighting on piggyback introduced the young knights to the balance and skills required in mounted combat

Fact 2 - Sometimes a knight would appear with no heraldic markings

Fact 3 - The decline in jousting started with the invention of the musket firearm in 1520

Fact 4 - Training took 7 years as a page and another 7 years as a Squire before becoming a Knight

Fact 5 - Knights met each other at combined speeds of 60 mph when jousting

Fact 6 - Lances were measured, so no one knight had a longer lance

Fact 7 - The word Squire is derived from the French words "Esquire, Escuyer" which originally meant 'shield bearer'

Fact 8 - Pavilions were the name given to the bright, round medieval tents of alternating colors which housed the knights and their surgeons

Fact 9 – A disgraced Knight had his spurs hacked off and his shield was hung upside down as a sign of dishonor

Fact 10 - Full Plate Armour was introduced during the 15th century weighing approximately 50 lbs

Fact 11 - Of the seventeen entries in the Knights Code of Chivalry, according to the Song of Roland, at least twelve relate to acts of chivalry as opposed to combat

Fact 12 - A vassal or squire was employed by the Knight to act as his 'Kipper'. A Kipper was expected to collect the 'Spoils of Combat' during a tournament

Fact 13 - A grandstand, called a Berfrois, was built a full story above the level of the lists which housed the ladies and other noble spectators of jousting tournaments

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Greetings!

I hope everyone thoroughly enjoyed our Shannon River Raid. I know I did. Our Premier Titled Artisan Competition was a grand success. We had Artisans from the Steppes, Dragons Fire Tor, and our own Shire. Three of the entrants had not displayed before and all were wonderful to see. The work that went into our regalia for the Titled Artisan was amazing. The cloak is quartered Red and Black with our emblem appliquéd on the back, the staff is hand carved and topped with an inset crystal. For their fine work on our regalia, Vivat to Alex, Lady Katheryn, Lady Fiona, and Lord Terrence. The competition was judged by Baroness Ameline, Mistress Caterina, Mistress Hanna, Baroness Dana, and Lord Terrence. They spent an hour discussing the merits of our entries before coming to a decision. My thanks go out to them for their diligence and for lending their support to the competition. Many thanks to the artisans for displaying the work of their hands for us to view, and for braving the elements. The next time you see Lady Gunnhildr Hroaldsdottir of Bryn Gwylad, congratulate her on being our Premier Titled Artisan! Her knitting is lovely, her tarts heavenly, and her passion for the arts unbounded.

By the time you read this missive, we will have already had our Scribes and Illuminators and open Library night hosted by Baroness Dana at the home of HL Caerell, and HL Aingeal. If anyone has commentary on the new rotating schedule for our activities, please let me know when next I see you. Scribes will be the only scheduled activity for November and there is no activity scheduled for December. I have done this due to the increased family activity of many of our members during the holidays. Should you wish to host an activity during this time, feel free to post to the list or send out a call to your nearest and dearest Shire members. I would like to schedule a class in January. If there is something you are burning to learn, please let me know so that I can contact an artisan accomplished in that medium to teach us.



Our schedule for next year will alternate Scribes, Garb Workshop, and a class or activity on a rotating monthly basis. Ceilidh will continue to be held monthly. January: Class or Activity, February: Garb Workshop, March: Scribes and Illuminators, April: Class or Activity, May: Garb Workshop, June: Scribes and Illuminators, July: Class or Activity, August: Garb Workshop, September: Scribes and Illuminators, October: Class or Activity, November: Garb Workshop, December: No Activity. While preparing for next year's event some of our standard activities may be cancelled to schedule workdays for the event. Changes will be announced at Populace and Officer's meetings, and posted on the website. I would like to propose a project for painting banners to mark each of the disciplines or Offices represented at our events. This would include: Chivalric, and Rapier (to adorn the list mistress pavilions), Archery, Arts and Sciences, Hospitaler, Bardic, and Gate/Troll. I will bring this up for discussion at Populace and Officer's Meeting.

I am not able to attend a large number of events on a regular basis at present. Should you know of an artisan in our group who enters a competition please let me know so that we can honor their efforts. This month I am aware that HL Aingeal entered a competition at Axeman, and that Lady Sybil O'Dowd and Chris entered our Premier Titled Artisan competition. VIVAT to all three!

In Service,
Catrin verch Reis Of,
MoAS Loch Ruadh

Kingdom Calendar

November:

5-7 Coronation—Shadowlands (Bryan/College Station, TX)

12-14 Queen's Champion—Loch Soilleir (Clear Lake, TX)

18-21 Bordermarch Autumn Melees—Bordermarch (Beaumont, TX)

26-28 *Thanksgiving Weekend*

December:

3-5 Wiesenfeuer Yule Revel—Wiesenfeuer (Okla. City, OK)

3-5 Stargate Yule and Kingdom Eisteddfod—Stargate (Houston, TX)

10-12 Baronial College—Elfsea (Ft. Worth, TX)

24-26 *Christmas Weekend*

Loch Ruadh Calendar

November:

1st—Scribes and Illuminator's Meeting and Open Shire library (6:30 pm) HL Aingeal's home

3rd—Post Shannon River Raid Meeting (6:00 pm) IHOP on Quebec

3rd—Populace (7:30 pm) IHOP on Quebec

6th—Demo (Hillsboro Middlefaire site) all day

14th—Archery Practice (2:00) Lord Tegward's home

17th—Officer's Meeting (7:30) location TBA

27th—Pre Gulf War Meeting (5:00) location TBA

27th—Ceilidh (7:30) location TBA

December:

1st—Populace (7:30) IHOP

15th—Officer Meeting and mini Yule Revel (7:30) location TBA

For event locations, check the Loch Ruadh online calendar.

The Happy Song
Padraig Ruad O'Maolagain

Being Celtic, most of the songs I sing are about death and mayhem, so I thought I'd write a happy song. But it didn't quite turn out that way...

Chorus:

This is such a happy song
That everyone should sing along
Come join in the happy song
To Heaven we will go

The Dark Ages were not much fun
Barbarians came on the run
Doom and gloom for everyone
To Heaven they did go

Joan of Arc, a mighty dame
Saved the French from fear and shame
So then they sent her up in flame
To Heaven she did go

The Vikings burned the churches down
Killed the people in the town
Sent them all to glory bound
To Heaven they did go

Anne Boleyn she got the chop
The headsman took some off the top
Her head in to the basket dropped
To heaven she did go

King Harold got shot in the eye
I'm pretty sure it made him die
They buried him at sea to lie
To Heaven he did go

Vlad Tepes stuck folks up on stakes
While still alive and let them ache
Wouldn't give a guy a break
To Heaven they did go

King Richard led a great crusade
His knights the Holy Land did raid
Many Saracens they slayed
To Heaven they did go

Scotland's Mary got the axe
The headsman gave her many whacks
Should have paid that shopping tax
To Heaven she did go

Bubonic plague killed lots of folk
Gasping out their final croak
Corpses burned and stinking smoke
To Heaven they did go

Some day we're all going to die
Doesn't help to scream and cry
See you in the bye and bye
To Heaven we will go

Ruadh Noices

Congratulations to my son Mario for not only receiving his authorization to fight boffer, but for also taking home the prize for the youth combat at the Shannon River Raid!!

Thanks to the four fighters who fought till they dropped at the Raid. You guys really put on an entertaining and well-fought spectacle. It made me not regret missing the War of Ages.

Please Note:

All Loch Ruadh meetings, practices, and gatherings are posted on the Loch Ruadh online calendar at www.lochruadh.org, and reminders are sent out on the Loch Ruadh email list. The email list is maintained on the Kingdom of Ansteorra web server and can be accessed at www.ansteorra.org. Both of these contain address information with online map links for directions.

If you don't have a computer or email access, please contact the Seneschal or any other Officer for directions. The Scarlet Letter is available from Pamela Boles at:
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Shire of Loch Ruadh