

# The Scarlet Letter

## Shire of Loch Ruadh



Glamis Castle—Scotland (courtesy of Alric Morgannwgg)

The Scarlet Letter is a  
bi-monthly publication  
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[www.lochruadh.org](http://www.lochruadh.org)

**July/August 2011**  
**Anno Societatis XXXXVI (C.E.2011)**



# Words from the Seneschal

One Final Time, Greetings unto the Populace of Loch Ruadh!

I was a bit premature in declaring that my missive in the May-June issue of the Scarlet Letter to be my final one as Seneschal. But, though that one was merely the penultimate, this is indeed my last missive as Loch Ruadh's Seneschal.

Most of you will have learned by now that Lord Terrence adte Syke is to be the next Seneschal of Loch Ruadh. Vivat and congratulations, Terrence! All Seneschals complain about the job, but it is one that is essential to the continuation of any group, and one that can prove very satisfying as well, as you represent the folk of the group and help keep it moving and growing. My thanks to Terrence and also to Lordy-Lord Kazimierz Złowieszczy for stepping up and applying for the job. Baroness Alys, the Central Regional Seneschal, told me that the choice between the two candidates was a very difficult one, as she was sure that either would do an excellent job. I hope everyone will join with me in supporting our new Seneschal, especially as he finds his "sea-legs" in the first few weeks on the job.

I have not yet been informed by the Central Regional Herald as to his decision on the next Herald of Loch Ruadh, but as Lord Alric Morganwgg has been the only candidate to submit an application for the position, and I know that he is more than well qualified for the job, I feel fairly certain that he will be The One (Herald-wise, at least).

Since my last missive, we have sadly once again been diminished by the loss of a beloved member of our Shire. The passing of Lord Dad, Gruffydd ap Mawr, brings us together yet again in sorrow and mourning. However, we also remember the good times that he shared with us, the efforts that he put forth for Loch Ruadh, and the positive force that he was for us all. Our sympathy and support goes to his family; we are here for you when you need us. Gruffydd and you all are part of the family that is Loch Ruadh.

Gruffydd's passing has opened the office of Knight Marshal. The office opened for applications at Officer's Meeting in May, and will remain open until Officer's Meeting in July. As always, you must be a paid member to be an Officer. Applications need to be sent to the Central Regional Knight Marshal and to Lord Terrence (as the new Seneschal). So far, we have one appli

## Seneschal (con't)

cation in hand from Lord Sigmarr Aunnson (who most of you probably know better as Robbie). At my request, he has also agreed to serve as the Acting Knight Marshal until the Office is officially filled.

I am also saddened to announce that Lady Marion Faye Holms has decided, for personal reasons, to resign her position as Hospitaler. Lady Marion took on the office of Hospitaler with much enthusiasm and vigor, and I am sorry to see her leave it early. Vivat to Marion for all her efforts as the Hospitaler of Loch Ruadh! The Hospitaler's Office opened for applications at Officer's Meeting in June, and will remain open until Officer's Meeting in August. We have two applications so far, the first from Lady Katheryn Magarete de Ryes, and the second from Lady Constance Culvern. As Kat had been the first to apply, I asked her to serve as the Acting Hospitaler until the position is officially filled, and she agreed to do so. I am very pleased to have applications from two members of the Shire who are not only experienced members of the SCA, but who have both done much work over many years for the Shire.

King's College was a great success. A hearty Vivat! to Lord Alric as the autocrat, and to everyone who helped out! Not only did the event itself go off without problem or incident, but it also served to enrich both the Kingdom's coffers and our own. It goes without saying, but I will say it anyway – I am very proud of Loch Ruadh and its people. We can do anything we set our minds to, and we prove it time and again.

Preparations for the Fall Brawl will now get underway in earnest. October is still several months away, but there is much to be done, and the Autocrats, Lord Kaz and Lady Kat, will need the able assistance of everyone in the Shire to make sure the event is as fun and successful as the Shannon River Raids last fall.

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve Loch Ruadh as Seneschal for these past two years, and I thank you all for the support and help that you have given me. As we move forward, I will continue to support those who serve as our Officers and allow us to continue our recreation of the Middle Ages as they should have been, and trust that all my brothers and sisters in the Shire will do so as well.

In Service to Loch Ruadh,  
Padraig



**The Shire of Loch Ruadh invites you to attend**

# **Fall Brawl**

**October 14-16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## **Location**

8581 State Highway 171 or State Highway 171 and County Road 1458  
Hillsboro, Texas

## **Planned Activities**

Titled Bard competition, Titled Artisan competition, Premier Chivalric Champion tournament, youth boffer & chivalric tournaments, archery tournament, rapier tournament, youth activities, feast, Newcomer's Point, and MORE!

## **Amenities**

Limited electricity, potable water, flush restrooms, pay as you use showers (to be confirmed), and an abundance of open fields for archery, list fields, camping and other activities.

## **Site Fee**

\$12 adult

\$8 children ages 13-17

\$6 children ages 6-12

\$36 Family Cap

\$5 Non-Member Surcharge if not a paid member of the SCA

Make checks payable to: SCA Inc., Shire of Loch Ruadh

Feast is included in Site Fee

## **Co-Autocrats:**

Katheryn Margarete de Ryes

MKA: Cat Gallon

2817 Major Street

Fort Worth, TX 76112

Ph. 254-424-8955

fem\_cat@yahoo.com

Kazimierz Złowieszczy

MKA: Dennis Polley

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Fort Worth, TX 76123

Ph.817-263-2969

kazoflr@gmail.com

No Calls after 10 PM

Site is wet, period containers only please. Pets are not allowed. Service animals are allowed but must be with their person at all times.

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend with a 21 year or older adult with a signed and notarized Minor Event Waiver Form from the parents.

# Notes and Challenges

## To the Populace of Loch Ruadh

I lack words to properly thank you for the wonderful King's College you hosted. I was honored to have the amazing help from members of your populace. I feel more unworthy because I do not even know these good gentles' names.

I was lost between the buildings trying to find a way to get to my first classroom with two carts loaded to the brim and was rescued by a lovely lady who then guided me and my friend all the way to my room and stayed with me to help set up. She was able to obtain the help of a good lord who picked up all of the buckets and carts over the steps to allow us to continue to our room.

At the end of two hours he returned with another wonderful lord to make sure that I could get back to the other building for my second class. I had a wonderful time teaching and can not express my gratitude for this help and kindness shown to me. I have often experienced the graciousness of the SCA but have never been treated as wonderfully until I visited the lands of your shire. Your populace made me feel like nobility and I will always remember that.

I hope that my modest words can portray a small percentage of the gratitude I have for your shire. Thank you for all of the assistance that was so graciously given to me and for the wonderful service you have given to the Kingdom for hosting this event.

I remain your humble servant,  
HL Delphina de Champeaux

# Herald



Greetings Shire,

This is my last missive as your Herald. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Herald for the last two years. I have enjoyed the job immensely.

We have one very capable candidate for this open position and he may be confirmed by the time this issue is released. Please keep him busy with lots of submissions. Also, if you are interested in serving your Shire and picking up obscure bits of knowledge, please consider applying for a Deputy Herald position.

Your Soon-to-be Retired Herald,  
Pan Kazimierz Złowieszczy  
Lordy Lord Kaz the Sinister

## Kaz's Kurrent Konundrum

*I am starting a new series of brainteasers for each issue. The answer to each Konundrum will appear in the following issue. If you want to verify your answer before then, please contact me.*

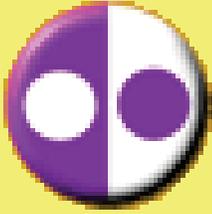
*...and now for the first Konundrum-*

During a tournament, two knights are tied for first place. To decide the winner, the King tells them, "See the tower on the horizon to the east? The one whose horse arrives last at that tower's gate will be the winner of the tournament."

Upon hearing this, the two knights rush to the stables, where each of them quickly mounts a horse and heads for the tower at full gallop!

How do you explain the apparently illogical behavior on the part of the two knights?

Mazza, Fabrice, and Sylvain Lhullier. *The big book of riddles, puzzles and enigmas*. New York: Metro Books, 20082007. Print.



# Minister of Children

Greetings!

May and June have been busy months!

I have created a Handbook Committee group at <http://groups.google.com/group/handbookcommittee>. Lady Nan Turnbull was added to the group and made Chair of the Committee. The Committee is comprised of our Crown, Kingdom Seneschal, a Baron and Baroness, and several Ministers of Children. Lord Ivan Eriksson has written a Page School Handbook for us to work on. I have written a Minister of Children Handbook as well. We have been working on them so that they will be ready in time for Round Table in July. Both Handbooks are now finished and are just about ready to be sent to Crown for final say.

I will be teaching a Minister of Children Warranting class and a Page School Orientation at Round Table on July 16. I am also in the midst of setting up the Page School Program. I hope to have it in full swing by the fall. There have been some wonderful people helping me:

Lady Nan Turnbull  
Baron Pukhta "Pooky" Lovtsevich  
Lord Ivan Eriksson  
Lord Ragnar Ragnalsson  
Saerlith Ragnarsdottir  
Ronin Ragnarsson

I could not have done this without you! Thank you all so much for your help!

Yours in Service,

Lady Cait O'Hara, CRA  
Minister of Children



# Hospitaler

Greetings from the Acting Hospitaler,

I want to take a minute and thank Lady Marion Fay Holms for her enthusiastic service to the Shire in the office of Hospitaler. Lady Marion is always welcoming and giving of her time and I will have a tough time being as energetic in my endeavors as acting hospitaler. Just to remind you all, the office is now open for bids and will close on August 17<sup>th</sup> at Officer's Meeting.

Until that time you are stuck with me! I have already had the pleasure of sharing the SCA and Loch Ruadh with two young adults at King's College when they got curious and wandered in for information. I was able to give them some of the very basics of the SCA as well as our Shire's contact information. I am hopeful that this is just the beginning!

What does that mean when I say you are stuck with me?! Well aside from the fact that I will now be running amok as a slightly deranged cheerleader...I will be asking YOU to cheer along with me. There are some great resources available to society members to use when recruiting newcomers and I want everyone to be at ease when talking about the SCA with friends, family, and yes total strangers. To that end, I will eventually schedule a "SCA Cheerleader Camp" where we will talk about terms to use, brochure wording, poster design, newcomer recruiting, and (cue the ominous music) DEMOS. Yes, there will be demos.

Until then, look for events and gatherings where a newcomer won't feel overloaded with information or business. Bring them to a bardic, A&S gathering, or weekend/daytrip event. Check our Shire's calendar; there are a lot of very fun things to bring them to coming up. PLEASE let me know if you plan to bring a newcomer and I will bring one of the newcomer goodie bags that Lady Antonia and I designed last fall.

I will also begin hosting a newcomer raffle in the very near future. Every newcomer (person who has never attended an SCA gathering or event before) attending a Loch Ruadh event or gathering will be entered to win a prize that I will supply. The prize might be small...it might be huge. You just never know what will happen with me in charge of something.

Until then, let's show people how much FUN can be had with our Shire!

Yours in Service,  
Lady Katheryn de Ryes (Kat the Blackhearted)



# Exchequer

Greetings unto the populace of Loch Ruadh

King's College was a success with the gate totaling \$1614.00. From this amount we will deduct expenses and the split with Kingdom. Now we can start working towards our fall event. At the present we have \$3443.64 in our account before the split with Kingdom for King's College.

Lady Vivian McKinnon  
Exchequer

# Archery Marshall

Greetings

Sigmarr, the acting Knight Marshal, and I will be trying to work out a combined archery and fighter practice. We would also like to add some combat archery in the near future. At this time there is an archery practice scheduled for July 17th. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

In Service  
Lord Tegward McCauley

# Chronicler

Greetings

My time as your Chronicler will be coming to an end is just a few months. If you have ever thought about wanting to be a publisher/editor, this is the job for you. I would love to have a deputy interested in taking over this position. It is a great creative outlet. If anyone is desirous of becoming my deputy, please let me know. The new chronicler will take over with the Jan/Feb, 2012 issue and that office will be up for bid in September.

In Service  
Lady Fiona inghean ui Mheadhra



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# Knight Marshal

Unto the Shire of Loch Ruadh

It is with a sad heart that I take over as acting Knight Marshal upon the passing of a good man, Lord Gryffdd Mawr ap Rodri. Gryffdd (Dad) was a newly authorized combat archer and heavy fighter and I wish that I could have fought next to him just once before his passing. I can only imagine the stubborn tenacity he would have shown when taking the field in defense of our lands. I hope that my future performance as Knight Marshal in some way reflects the admiration I had for him.

As the new acting Knight Marshal I look forward to re-energizing the fighters of the Shire with practices, classes, workshops and recruiting. I have already worked with Lord Tegwarded on scheduling practice to once again coincide with his scheduled archery practices.

The next heavy fighter practice will be Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at the home of Lord Tegwarded and Lady Catrin. Directions to the house can be found on the Loch Ruadh website.

I look forward to serving the Shire and I hope to see more of you out on the field very soon.

In Service,  
Lord Sigmarr Aunsson  
Acting Knight Marshal



A youth fighter grows up to be Knight Marshal  
(courtesy of Alric Morgannwgg)

# Minister of Arts and Sciences



Greetings from the A&S Minister

Scribes was attended by 5 people and 2 scrolls were completed thanks to Vivian and Sybil.

I hope that everyone enjoyed King's College it was quite a successful event that ran fairly smoothly and was well attended. Classes were well attended and all seem to enjoy the day. Vivat, to the Autocrat and all the worker bees who showed up to help your efforts ensured the success of the event.

During the month of July we will have a lucet class prior to Ceilidh at Kaz and Antonia's home. Please watch the list for the date. There has been discussion of holding this combined gathering the weekend of the 30<sup>th</sup> so that Shire members will be free to attend Rosenfeld's Fiber Arts Symposium on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

During the combined Fighter and Archery practice on the 17<sup>th</sup> I would like to invite all to join us to share their fondest memories of the SCA in general and Loch Ruadh in particular.

The 6<sup>th</sup> of August we will have a Garb WS to work on our Champion's Cloaks, please come out to help design and make them. Many hands make light work. Ceilidh on the 27<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Padraig. During Fighter Practice this month we will have period board games.

Plans for our Fall event will move in to high gear now that King's College is complete. Watch for meeting and work day schedules and volunteer as your skills and time allow.

In humble service,  
Lady Catrin verch Reis Of  
Minister of Arts and Sciences

# Memories of Dad



Dad wore this to work at the city of Fort Worth for Halloween one year. Going to buy your dad a wig and then hemming his skirt is a proud day in any daughter's life.

Armored up for combat archery at Three Commanders.



Shoes on the firepit in tribute.



Gruffydd and the Sole Less boots.

On one of the work trips to our Gulf War land, an "incident" occurred. After a hard day of work, we were sitting around the campfire, having a libation when Gruffydd cast his eyes upon his boots. He had been sitting with the bottom of his feet to the fire, a bit too close apparently as the soles of his boots were peeling off. After checking out this happening thoroughly, Gruffydd proceeded to re-heat the boots and soles at the fire and simply stomped the soles back onto the boots.

Gruffydd - always ready with a smile. Always ready to bear a hand when there was something that needed doing. BUT, there was the Haggis—I think he could have left the Haggis at home or Tim Buk To --- that stuff is kind of like Lute-Fisk – an acquired taste or cultural phenomenon.

# I'll See You After

Word and music: Padraig Ruad O'Maolagain

Songs performed by firelight, and stories to be told  
Memories like jewels set in shields of finest gold  
I'd be so much poorer if you hadn't been my friend  
Now you've gone on before me, but someday we'll meet again

Chorus:

I'll see you after  
'Tis so hard to say farewell  
I'll see you after  
And only time will tell  
How long a span each of us has  
Before we're called away  
I'll see you after  
Some bright and joyful day

Our tankards raised in friendship, our voices raised in cheer  
No other place we'd rather be than with each other here  
An empty spot among us that no one else can fill  
But calling back the tales of old can keep you with us still

Chorus

I've wandered farther than I should, and can't find my way back  
The path that I am set upon seems a wide and friendly track  
One day you will follow me along this road so fair  
Look just inside the open gate, I'll be waiting for you there

Chorus



# Kingdom Calendar

## July:

- 1-3 *Out of Kingdom—Knowne World Dance Symposium—Mynydd Seren (Bloomington, IN)*  
*Out of Kingdom—Battlemoor II: Outlands 25th Year (29th-4th)-Outlands (Rye, CO)*  
*Fourth of July Weekend*  
*Unofficial Event—4th of July Parade and Demo (july 4th, Belton, TX)*
- 8-10 **Crown Tourney—Adlersruhe/Bonwicke (Moobeetie, TX)**
- 15-17 **King's Round Table—Steppes (Dallas, TX)**
- 22-24 *Unofficial Event—Fiber Arts College (Tyler, TX)*
- 29-31 *Out of Kingdom—Pennsic XL (Land Agent—Mistress Seraphina)*

## August:

- 5-7 *Out of Kingdom—Pennsic XL (Land Agent—Mistress Seraphina)*
- 12-14 **Hotter than Hellsgate—Hellsgate (Killeen/Ft. Hood, TX)**  
*Out of Kingdom—Pennsic XL (Land Agent—Mistress Seraphina)*
- 19-21 **Central Region Academy of the Rapier and Steppes Artisan—Multi Group event (Athens, TX)**
- 26-28 **Laurel's Prize Tournament—Namron (Ardmore, OK)**

# Loch Ruadh Calendar

## **July:**

**6th Populace (7:30 pm) IHOP on Quebec**

**17th Target Archery Practice and Fighter Practice (1:00 pm)**

**20th Officer's Meeting (7:30 pm) IHOP on Quebec**

**30th Learn to use a Lucet loom (5:00)**

**Fall Brawl Coordinator's Meeting (6:00)**

**Ceilidh (7:30) visiting and singing**

**All 3 events to take place at the home of Lord Kaz and Lady Antonia**

## **August:**

**3rd Populace (7:30 pm) IHOP on Quebec**

**6th Garb Workshop/Regalia Workday (10:00 am)**

**17th Officer Meeting (7:30 pm) IHOP on Quebec**

**27th Ceilidh and Pool Party (5:00) at the home of HL Padraig and Lady Amber**

For event locations and more detailed information, please check the Loch Ruadh online calendar.

### **Seneschal**

Lord Pdraig Ruad O'Maolagain  
(Sam Milligan)  
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Lady Katheryn Margarete de Ryes  
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### **Archery Marshal**

Lord Tegwared McAuley  
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archery@lochruadh.org

### **Exchequer**

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### **Herald**

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# Officer Information

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### **Acting Knight Marshal**

Lord Sigmarr Aunsson  
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### **Web Minister**

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### **Minister of Children**

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moc@lochruadh.org

## Please Note:

All Loch Ruadh meetings, practices, and gatherings are posted on the Loch Ruadh online calendar at [www.lochruidh.org](http://www.lochruidh.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](http://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 Senechal or any other Officer for directions. The Scarlet Letter is available from Pamela Boles at 108 NE Rosamond, Burleson, TX 76028

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Contributions to The Scarlet Letter are welcome. Submissions are due on the 20th of August for the next issue (Sept/Oct 2011) and may be submitted to:  
[chronicler@lochruidh.org](mailto:chronicler@lochruidh.org).

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