

THE SENTINEL

August 31, 2020 MM--Issue 2



FROM THE CHRONICLER

It is hard to believe that since the last issue of the newsletter in February, we have barely seen one another! Little did we know the Six Months 'til Pennsic Party back then would really be the *Eighteen Months* Until Pennsic Party... But we are St. Swithin's Bog; we are family. We have managed to stay connected without SCA events or even practices. There have been online socials, business meetings, and bardic rallies using Zoom. A plethora of pictures from members' photo archives have been shared via social media. Some of our lucky members may have even been visited by someone we dubbed as the "Meade Fairy."

Submissions for the next edition will be due to me by the end of January, if you would like to contribute. I can of course make exceptions if needed, so please contact me if you have anything you would like to share, ideas, or concerns regarding publication. We are in agreement that most notifications (if not all) regarding practices, meetings, and events are published online in our Facebook group or page.

This is the current issue of the Sentinel, a publication of the Barony of St. Swithin's Bog of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.) The Sentinel is available from Melanie Mayse call or text to request a copy. The newsletter is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. ©2017 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

Master Illadore, our Kingdom Seneschal, has asked our chroniclers to pass on a reminder that "doxxing" is against SCA policy and will not be tolerated. "To dox" is defined as publicly identifying or publishing private information about someone especially as a form of punishment or revenge.

I did a little research on medieval plagues per member request and notated a few interesting details that you will find included at the end of this addition of the newsletter. Let's all be grateful for the evolution of science, my friends! Even if we know very little now in the grand scheme of things, it is still so much more than we could ever understand in the past... I hope this edition finds you in good health and please, let's all take care of each other. I will leave you with the wise words of an Ancient Greek.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." --Aesop

Chronicler is a required office for a Barony and applicants must hold a membership in the SCA (any level). Primarily the job entails editing and sending reminders for submissions and publishing the newsletter. Interested parties should have reliable access to the internet and computer software along the lines of Microsoft Publisher or Word—and the ability to save or convert the document to a PDF format. If you are interested in offering your support as a drop dead officer please contact me!

--Nilly*

REGULAR LOCAL MEETINGS / PRACTICES

Meetings: Monthly meetings are generally held on the 1st Sunday of each month, but can vary. Recently we have decided to postpone all business meetings until December at this time, due to the SCA canceling all events and practices until at least January 31, 2021 because of the current COVID-19 Pandemic. Updates will be posted to the Barony's eGroup and/or Facebook group. (Contact the Seneschal for more information if needed.)

Please see the **Officer page** for contact information.

Join the **Google Group**: Contact His Excellency, Baron Gunther

Facebook group: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/ StSwithinsBog/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/StSwithinsBog/)



...Official Practices Cancelled Until Further Notice...

The Banner Lord of St. Swithin's Bog

One of our talented members has used quarantine to further develop his sewing skills and delighted so many in the Barony with banners of their personal SCA heraldry devices. At this time, Lord Richard Foxmoore (Richard Fox) has completed 57 sewn and embroidered banners commissioned by the populace of Aethelmearc. We are really looking forward to be able to display our new heraldry items when events resume!

Johnstown Library Video Demo

Our Barony Chatelaine, Laird Jason Teague (Jason Zimmerman), has coordinated with the beloved and talented Nicky Allison to compile an SCA video demo for the Johnstown Public Library's summer reading program. The video, consisting of a collection of short interviews and images from past events, has been shared to the group page and can also be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/439877088>.

Gunther and Rosheen's COVID 19 Baronial Extension

Our current Baron and Baroness have requested permission to extend their reign an additional year to allow for the completion of their intended Baronial vision. The request has been voted upon and it has been agreed that Gunther and Rosheen will continue as our Baron and Baroness for an additional year. Vivat!

Social Distancing Protocol On Hold

Our Seneschal Lord Arvik Hyttainen (Tim Johnson) has collaborated with our marshals to come up with some general social distancing guidelines for the re-opening of official practices, but due to the increasing local numbers of COVID cases and the order of our SCA Board of Directors, practices have not been resumed at this time.

New Pottery Wheel in the Bog

Our amazing Arts and Sciences tile man, Master Ian Campbell of Glen Mor (James Mowry), has ordered a pottery wheel sponsored by donations from many Bog members, having the intent to provide each donor with a finished mug or bowl. We are all excited to seeing his new creations!

St. Swithin's Bog Business Meeting; March 8th, 2020; 2:00 PM; Galleria Mall

B&B

Received a wonderful letter from the Kingdom Bardic Champ.... she really loved Kingdom 12N and had glowing comments about the Bog & the event. She said that when TRH Maynard & Liadain step up, they plan to have musical interludes during court & possibly other times. She is willing to help with anything bardic that we need, especially for 3 Day.

Letters of intent for the next B&B will be requested in the fall. If you have any questions about the position, please contact us.

We will be posting a list of events that we're definitely attending and also a list of possible events that are TBD.

Exchequer –

Checking \$5180.87

Savings \$3402.46

Brian has added the Exchequers page to the Bog website under Heraldry and Reports. I have put the 2019 and 202 reports. I will add prior years as I have them.

A&S

Thanks for coming out today & please let me know what projects you're working on & if you attend any classes, events, etc. so that I can add the info to my quarterly reports.

I went to a class in Pgh for making mosaics, it was really good & I will share what I learned. I also purchased some supplies for making stained glass. I will post more info on both. The next A&S day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 18..... will check with the mall & then announce.

Chatelaine

The demo for the Boy Scouts went really well.... we had limited space, so only a few of us went. They really enjoyed it & had lots of questions.

I was contacted by Ron (from Heritage) about the Duman's Demo. They are excited to have us back & there are plans in the works. I would like to incorporate the Newcomers Event with the demo this year. The date would be September 12-13. He also asked if we had any merchants that might be interested in setting up a booth.

MOL

Check your auth cards. If you're interested in how this works, please volunteer to sit at the table & learn how it's done. You get a great view of the fighting/fencing.

KM

Fighting today after the meeting

Fencing

Fencing today after the meeting

Archery/TW/Siege
Season startup will be soon

Youth – N/A
WM – N/A
Chronicler – N/A
Historian – N/A

Herald
Golden Cattail & 2 badges for youth have been submitted – looks good..... Ed will also be submitting a name & device soon
In the last six months, we have submitted more new items than any other group.

Scribal
We are working on all of the assignments we have received. If you want to come & work on anything or learn, please stop in.

OLD
Plans for 3 Day are going smoothly, more info as available.

Siege Event – Ed & Isteri to co-autocrat, checking on date, probably June 20

NEW
Andrea – just a reminder to clean out your liquor cabinet and bring items for the bar at Pennsic, we appreciate any & all donations.

Craig – Blacksmithing demos coming up, Rose will post them in the FB group.

Devin – He and Robert have returned from White Hart with a tale of heroism. Robert and another fighter saved a young boy from drowning at the event. Somehow he had fallen into the river and they both rushed to the rescue. All are OK. (applause & vivat)

12N 2021 – date scheduled with Masonic Temple for January 16, 2021

Saint Swithin's Bog Business Meeting

April, 5th 2019 2:00pm

Baron and Baroness:

We know that during these very strange times it has been difficult for many of us to deal with self-isolation, especially with Spring fever kicking in, but we want to remind everyone that this will pass. We are saddened by the cancellation of events and practices and the memories that could have been, but we couldn't bear to think of a future without any of you. We will be making fond memories again soon, but for now...please, please, please be safe....and wash your hands!

There are many efforts to keep our wonderful hobby moving and connected that we encourage everyone to participate in. An online bardic circle, the final court of Their Graces, Timothy and Gabrielle's reign, and the Coronation of Their Majesties, Maynard and Liadain, along with numerous classes were all done via the internet. We saw that many of you were able to attend these events. Please continue to do so! We miss you all!

Seneschal:

First and for most, I want to thank you all for your patience and diligence as we go through this crisis. I am sure it is going to be hard on a lot of us. During this time if you need someone to talk to, I will be here. I am a good listener. Please remember safety first.

All official practices are cancelled until further notice. This was a tough call, but with everything going on and what the B.O.D. is bringing to us, it is something that we must do so we can get back to normal as soon as possible.

Exchequer:

<u>Checking:</u>	\$5177.87
<u>Savings:</u>	\$3403.18

Art and Science:

Old Business

A + S event was held on Sunday, March 8th in conjunction with the March business meeting and pot luck at the Community room in Galleria Mall. Presentation on Crocheting was done by Mary Beth Millar. About six people participated. She brought in examples of crocheted items, handouts, yarn and crochet needles. She explained and demonstrated different ways to crochet and gave personalized help. Other people did various other A + S work: Wire weaving a necklace; quilting; pinning and sewing a veil; making a tabard for Gold Key. During the business meeting, I told how I attended a class on making mosaics and showed what I had made. I announced that I would hold a class on making mosaics and asked that people let me know if they wished to participate since I had to prepare the boards.

New Business

I posted on Facebook a picture of the mosaic I had made and again requested that people let me know who wants to participate. I told them that I would prepare 6" x 6" boards for them and to save time they should make a sketch of what they would like on their mosaic. I will give them further instructions and a list of items they would need to bring later. I have had the boards cut and I painted them. I will order some mosaic tiles and other items that will be needed. I will make handouts, also.

I reserved the Community Room at the Galleria Mall for the next A + S event for Sunday, April 19 th, but that has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus lockdown.

Other: The Crafters Cleanout on May 30 th has been rescheduled for August 29th starting at 8:00 AM at the Delmont volunteer Fire Department in Delmont, PA.

Chatelaine:

I have nothing to report.

MOL:

Nothing new to report.

Social Media Officer:

Nothing new to report.

Knight Marshal:

Please don't let this superbug of 2020 interrupt your practice at home. KEEP BUSY! Work on your pells, build your skills, repair your armor, repaint your shield. Again, don't let this bug deny you the opportunity to keep your skills sharp.

Fencing Marshal:

Nothing new to report.

Youth Fencing:

Nothing new to report.

Youth Heavy:

Nothing new to report.

Archery:

Nothing new to report.

Thrown Weapons:

Nothing new to report.

Web Minister:

Nothing new to report.

Chronicler:

The mini edition of the Sentinel for Jan/February is out, a little late due to technical issues. Next edition is regarding March through August. I am up for any type of feature articles I could include. Perhaps Something about all of the recent banners made by Richard Fox if he is okay with that, and other projects members might be working on in quarantine. Beggars in garb for virtual court could be fun to include as well! Please let me know if you have anything to contribute and stay healthy.

Herald:

Nothing new to report.

Historian:

History is happening.

Scribal:

Nothing new to report.

Siege:

Nothing new to report.

Chamberlain:

Nothing new to report.

Old Business:**Three Day:**

3-day planning continues to move forward and we have a wonderful event planned. Not only is our Arvik planning a delicious feast and sideboard but we have many activities planned. Just a reminder that there will be a populous Choice A&S display and competition, and the Iron Scribe will again be held with wonderful prizes for the winners. There will also be TW, archery, and heavy fighting. We are pleased to again hold the Fields of Chivalry and will be hosting Hagar's Road Show Drive By hosted by THL Bran. This will be a buy in tournament with a handmade period item to enter the tournament. The prize is a handmade Viking item made by Bran himself. You will not be disappointed. Her Duchess Anna Leah will be hosting a Largesse competition this year! And we are putting out a call for bards. We are looking to incorporate musical interludes throughout court and feast so please contact me if you are interested in performing. Site tokens are being cast and I am excited to be able to share them with you soon. I look forward to when we can join together in Viking revelry and celebrate our friendships and the Glory of our Barony and Aethelmearc.

New Business:

Nothing at this time.

St. Swithin's Bog Business Meeting via Zoom
June 7th at 6:00pm

Baron and Baroness:

- There is not much going on. We cannot wait to see you one and all. Just remember to be safe.
- With COVID-19 going on, we would like the champions of this year to remain the champions so they can be in the 7 Pearls championship.

Seneschal:

- I hope that everyone is doing well. At this time, we are still not having official practices until I hear from Kingdom and the B.O.D. (Board of Directors). I will be talking with Kingdom shortly on this matter and as I get information, I will let you know. Please be patient as we go through this ordeal.

Exchequer:

- Checking:
\$3403.25
- Savings:
\$5140.70

Arts and Sciences:

- Currently still not having meetings
- Going to check with the Galleria and see if we will be able to set something up next month.
- There are many people working on projects, from making banners, needle point and crocheting.
- JP Gilles stated that the community room is open.
- Looking to do a mosaics class. Those that are interested please let me know. FYI.. It will take four or more hours depending if we do the grouting.
- There are classes on Facebook and You Tube. For instance I have watched a video on Ancient Roman bread. I have not tried yet since I have to find spelt flour.

Chatelaine:

- Nick Allison has been working on the video for the demo. He has two videos (the videos were shown). We still need to do interviews. I would like to have one representative from each activity.

MOL: • Nothing at this time.

Social Media Officer:

- Nothing at this time.

Knight Marshal:

- Nothing new at this time.

Youth Activities:

- Nothing at this time.

Thrown Weapons:

- Getting ready to make some new stands.
- Upcoming practice schedule.

Heraldry

- Rummy John's name and device submitted.
- Still looking for a new Herald. Anyone interested please let me know.

Web Minister:

- Nothing at this time.

Chronicler:

- Nothing at this time.

Historian:

- Nothing at this time.

Scribal:

- Individual assignments are still on going at this time.

Siege:

- Nothing at this time

Chamberlain:

- Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

- Three Day is cancelled this year. There are just too many factors to worry about. Diana thanked everyone for all the help as well as the understanding.
- Sherry made a motion to continue the same bid, with the same autocrat and feastocrat for the 2021 season. All was in favor of the motion and this was passed.
- Diana will correct dates and resubmit.

New Business:

- Due to COVID-19 and the year being pretty much a loss. Tim made a motion for a poll to allow our current Baron and Baroness extend their reign by one year so they can complete what they wanted to finish. The vote was taken and all was in favor.
- A poll will be made and sent out through our Google email group in the coming weeks to vote so everyone can vote.
- Bylaws will also be changed to reflect this.
 - The by law will state (not exact words) that under extreme circumstances such as
pandemic etc. a vote can be taken by the populace to extend the Baron's and Baroness's by one year.
- Deven stated that he is still collecting items for his library.

FINAL NOTE: I want to thank everyone for their time and patience while we go through this. I know this pandemic has been hard on all of us. We are so used to doing things with one another and just doing things in general. Please hold it together just a little longer. We will be able to play soon. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me, or message, or text me. YIS ~ Arvik

St. Swithin's Bog Business Meeting via Zoom August 9, 2020 at 6:00pm

Baron and Baroness:

We have nothing new at this time.
Just remember to remain busy and look to the future. Keep safe!

Seneschal:

The Board of Directors have cancelled all events until January 31, 2021. They are allowing some practices under the guidance of our deputy Seneschal, however at this time we do not want any official practices due to the increase of numbers in our county and neighboring counties.

Exchequer:

Checking: 5165.87
Savings: \$3404.13

Arts and Sciences:

Kingdom has been offering a lot of online meetings and classes, please check them out. People have been keeping up their arts and sciences, doing things such as painting scrolls, making banners, and a bunch of other stuff.

Chatelaine:

The video is completed and looks amazing. We are still attempting to get some of the releases but they will be signed with in the next few days. If we cannot get the release we will just put in a different picture.

MOL:

Nothing at this time.

Social Media Officer:

Got in contact with the agent that handles the venue for our 12th Night and cancelled the reservation.
There are still some classes going on in the Pennsic University online.

Knight Marshal:

Nothing new at this time.

Youth Activities:

Nothing at this time.

Thrown Weapons:

Getting ready to make some new stands.

Heraldry

Nothing at this time.

Web Minister:

Nothing at this time.

Chronicler:

News letter will be out at the end of August.

Historian:

Nothing at this time.

Scribal:

Individual assignments are still on going at this time.

Siege:

Nothing at this time.

Chamberlain:

Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

12th Night Cancelled.

New Business:

A motion was given that since we are pretty much dormant at the moment due to Covid-19 that we suspend all business meetings until December. A vote was given and all were in favor.

FINAL NOTE: I want to thank everyone for their time and patience while we go through this. I know this pandemic has been hard on all of us. We are so used to doing things with one another and just doing things in general. Please hold it together just a little longer. We will be able to play soon. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me, or message, or text me. YIS ~ Arvik

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Rhio/Rhiannon of Ravenglass (Priscilla Stankovich)

PLEASE CONSIDER OFFERING YOUR SERVICES AS A DROP DEAD OFFICER! It's a great way to understand what each position entails and to be involved in our barony. Contact any of the above with questions or interests! Thank you :)

Plague Days Upon Us Once Again

The Black Death affected Europe during the Late Middle Ages and is estimated to have killed 30% to 60% of Europe's population. The plague may have reduced the world population from an estimated 475 million to 350 million in the 14th century.

Medieval people believed that the Black Death was sent by God and tried to combat it's sickness with prayers and processions. Some people realized that the only way to maintain safety from the plague was to run away. **Boccaccio's Decameron** is a series of tales told by a group of young people hiding out from the Black Death outside of Florence.

Doctors were completely ill-equipped to deal with the Plague. They tried blood-letting or rubbing onions on their patients. They had patients drink vinegar and crushed minerals, or even arsenic. Another idea was rubbing chunks of dead snakes on the boils. Sure, that's got to do the trick! Some folks were told to sit near a fire or inside the sewer in an attempt to drive out the fever with heat.

In the 16th century during the later waves of plague, medical historians say a French doctor named Charles de Lorme likely designed the "plague doctor" mask and garb that could be considered the earliest hazmat suits. European doctors believed that the cause of the disease was associated with evil or bad air called 'miasma' that bore infection. To counter this infectious smell, the long, bird-like beak of the physician's mask was stuffed with dried flowers, herbs, and spices.

The phrase 'quarantine' was coined in Venice in the early 15th century, based on a 40-day period of isolation used for ships arriving at infected harbors. There were some Biblical story references of using 40 days as a measurement for purification, which may be where this quantity of 40 days came from. The modern word was derived from the Italian words quaranta giorni, which mean 40 days. But the city of Ragusa [present-day Dubrovnik] had actually practiced a quarantine legislation of 30 days in 1377, before the Venetians ever came up with the term.

Cities that were able to keep plague outside of their communities were those who implemented quarantine. They had border controls at city gates, harbors, and mountain passes. They used individual health passports to identify from where a person was coming. They even had spy networks to pass on the information that plague had broken out in different cities or areas.

Ragusa was a pioneer in 'quarantine.' The city's sophisticated measures to isolate the infected and control borders during the late 14th and 15th centuries were beyond it's time. Ragusa's last plague was in 1533, while in England it was 1665. In the Baltic region 1713, and Northern Africa and the Middle East the 19th century. Italian regions began to follow Ragusa's example, and then the other regions of western and central Europe followed.

