

SCA Shire of Darton

Medieval Crafts and Culture

**Ever wanted to learn about medieval history,
arts and crafts, society and culture?**



Arts and Sciences Meetings

Wednesday 7pm-9.30pm, all welcome.

Contact Lady Robyn on (0211) 504 876 for details.

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THE CLARION



The newsletter of the Shire of Darton, of the Kingdom of Lochac, January AS XLII (2008)

"I am of opinion that one must be very cautious how one values oneself, and equally conscientious to give a true report, be it better or worse, impartially." – Michel Eyquem de Montaigne (1533-1592)

From the Chronicler

A Very happy new year to everyone!

Master Stefano

From the Deputy Seneschal for Recruitment

'Just One More Step'

SO Often with medieval and renaissance recreation, it's the little things that make all the difference.

Making it real for yourself and for others is sometimes addressing the little things. I don't mean medieval clothing and fabrics, or not talking about work at events, I'm talking about what you put on the table at events. Be they a picnic or a Crown tournament, I think they should all be approached in the same way.

I found that thinking about how to hide my necessary yet mundane items was a turning point in how I played the game.

For example, drinks at events. Bottle bags were the thing for a while, some people still have them, and I still use them when there is a dire need. But fabric over your bottle doesn't appear to be appropriate either, as I've found no documentation yet of a bottle covered with a cloth bag.

So I got myself a ceramic jug. I decant my drink into that at events, not so elegant; and sometimes my modern bottle found its way onto the table late at night, not so flash, coming into a feast hall to find dozens of modern

bottles sitting on the tables in the morning light.

Stefano soaks and scrapes off all the labels of the modern glass bottles going to an event, be they for a picnic or a camping weekend. The glass bottles, naked, are kept hidden until they are decanted into jugs or other more period vessels. Usually the decanting takes place in a cabin, or a kitchen tent, and then the modern bottle is hidden again.

This solution appears to work well, no modern glass bottles make it into the hall, and even if they do, they don't scream "I'm modern" as they have no labels.

The approach taken with plastics is more severe. Leave it at home.

I was aghast at this, when we first went to camping event together. The time taken to achieve this aim was immense, two nights soaking and scrubbing glass bottles, and a whole other evening transferring food from plastic bags and containers into ceramic containers and fabric bags. Now it's quite a normal thing to do.

The smaller the event, the less work involved. Some transference of food is done in the car, especially if there has been a food run. Fabric shopping bags kept in the car are used to transfer food to the kitchen tent. Food brought for picnics on route are transferred to period containers in the car.

We've not finished our journey to a period encampment.

We still have plastic bags for our rubbish, which gets hidden in a wicker basket. We've decided we will get a lidded rubbish basket, and

another for glass bottles, so we can recycle them at home.

For tea towels and towel we know we need to have plain linen. We've been bringing modern cotton or flannel ones to events so far. But all this requires is the hemming of tea towel and towel sized pieces of fabric; how easy is that!

My coffee habit is also a constant source of conflict. Last camp it got a little out of control, but Stefano heroically ignored it. I've got some ideas, and I'll have another go at it next camp. I've got a little chilly bin for milk, this needs its own chest, so it can be hidden not only from everyone else, but from Stefano as well. Another task before next camp.

Like everything else in the SCA, you can take this type of periodicity one step at a time. Some ceramic jars, so now you can hide your spreads. Some leftover linen from making a garment, so you make one, or two, or three linen tea towels. You know a keen wood turner, so you can get them to can make you a cover for your coffee plunger. Such steps, even little ones, can lead to the improvement of your equipment and increase not only your enjoyment at being more medieval, but that of others too.

So next time you head out to an event, have a look at your gear; how much plastic can you see? How much plastic do you need? What can you leave at home? And what can you leave in the car?

Happy eventing!

Lady Sancha da Sylva

Regular Meetings

HEAVY Fighter Practice and Rapier Practice. Sunday 10am-2pm. All welcome. Contact Sir Asbjorn on (04) 9760 220 for details.

ARTS and Sciences Meetings. Wednesday 7pm-9.30pm. All welcome. Contact Lady Robyn on (0211) 504 876 for details.

DARTON Council Meetings. Held at the arts and sciences meeting from [7pm] every first Wednesday of the month. All Welcome. Contact Fru Marienna on (04) 9760 220 for details.

Upcoming Events

CANTERBURY Faire, 1st – 6th February 2008, Waipara, North Canterbury, Southron Gaard. New Zealand's largest SCA event, with days of camping, feasting, arts, tourneys, wars and unceasing conviviality in the leafy green surroundings of Waipara.

No Mud! No Dust! No Venomous Fauna!
Bookings are open!

"Imagine the scene: 150 or more gentles garbed in soft wools and linens. Banners and pennons fly gently in the breeze that stirs the firs. Nearby is a coffee house, where stories of past renown and future conquest are spun, while spindles twirl a more tangible yarn. To one side, knights and nobles practice the arts martial, while consorts discuss bruise remedies. Flocks of charming children run errands when not playing on the lush green grass. A short walk away there is singing beside the waterhole and splashing in the cool deep waters. A hedgehog snuffles idly by..."

[//sg.sca.org.nz/cf.htm](http://sg.sca.org.nz/cf.htm)

MAY Crown AS XLIII, 9th – 11th May 2008. The Shire of Darton invites you to attend May Crown in Darton. Enjoy a weekend of festivities centred around our finest fighters competing for their consorts to be the next Crown of Lochac.

Relax in our tavern on Friday night, watch the pageantry and chivalry of a crown tournament followed by a fabulous feast on the Saturday, and then on Sunday enjoy the spectacle of a rapier tourney. Come and experience the hospitality that Darton is renowned for.

[//darton.sca.org.nz/index.php/standard/12/109](http://darton.sca.org.nz/index.php/standard/12/109)

Darton Council Minutes

December 2007

Meeting opened: 7:05 pm

Attending: Alasdair M, Alistair R, Hannah, Maggie, Martin, Melissa, Robyn G, Robyn M, Selwyn, Sharon, Stephen, Tamara

Late arrivals: Amanda, Anthea, Ben, Jenny, Kerry, Maura, Zane.

Apologies: Christopher, Richard, Susan.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Seneschal: January and February council to be held at Melissa and Alasdair M's house in Paparangi. January council meeting will be on the second week instead of the customary first week of the month, due to the holidays. January council will be on January 9, 7pm at 56 Beazley Ave, Paparangi. Ring 976-6214 for directions.

Recruitment: Many ideas but nothing put into action yet.

Quartermaster: Needs to get list finished for SCANZ insurance. Maggie has two boxes of gold key and table cloths, etc to be stored temporarily with Al & Mel.

Châtelaine: Corresponded with person coming over in March from California. Will get Lochac Châtelaine handbook and review.

Herald: Sent apologies. Nothing to report.

Marshal: Nothing to report.

Lists: Nothing to report.

Reeve: No report.

Constable: Stepping down. Robyn of the May is applying to kingdom for warrant as successor.

Fencing: Tuesday and Thursdays at Robyn and Selwyn's there is currently fencing practice and fighter's garb A&S. Selwyn & Robyn making five cloaks for the fencing school and have fencing school badge they would like to submit

to herald. As many as five potential new authorizations by Canty Faire! Last fencing/A&S classes on 13th of December, will resume after January Council meeting.

Archery: Two people keen to try combat archery. Important note: If you want archery supplies from Selwyn's local contact, you must contact Selwyn with interest not later than January council meeting.

Chronicler: Clarion is out. No word from kingdom to explain delays in Pegasus. As always, please send me your articles, artwork, photos, etc.

A&S: Robyn stepping down in January, Alasdair M to step up. Al to apply formally through kingdom for warrant. Running newbies garb workshops (see "fencing" section for details), will have one night per week after holiday break. Date and time to be announced at January council meeting. The last A&S day before the holidays is next Wednesday, 12/12. A&S will resume on Wednesday 16 January at Stephen and Tam's place. Anyone who can't get there on their own, please post to list as others are happy to help with transport! A&S will continue at Stephen & Tam's until mid-March.

Chirurgion: Maura has put up her hand to be our new chirurgion. Will apply with kingdom for warrant.

PAST EVENTS

Richard still dealing with bond from D.A.

FUTURE EVENTS

Christmas picnic: 2pm on Saturday 8 December at the Magpie Lawn in the Botanic Gardens. Garbed, bring food.

Guerilla Shop: Saturday 8 December, 10am. Meet at Global Fabrics. Will carpool from there.

March Camp: w/ MLH: Date still TBD.

Crown: Richard dealing with bond for site, haven't heard outcome. Working bee on 1/12 was great success. A&S on Wed 12/12 will

continue sewing tabards. Four bookings for crown to-date, cheques passed on to Richard, he was to open new account for Crown.

Tam has partial order from Dharma – silk has arrived but not the dye. Tam has ordered some test pots of dye from AKL, will be cheaper if they turn out okay. Still need frame materials for banner making. Stephen priced out a frame at approximately \$80 for materials.

Prototype of online booking form is done. Hope to have up and online by the weekend.

OPEN BUSINESS

Ice Packs: Kerry will buy, council to reimburse.

Insurance: Sharon was paid \$138 by her insurance towards replacing the stolen shire items from the break-in and she will give those funds to the shire.

College: Hannah is keen to start a college. Robyn as Recruitment and Melissa as Chatelaine will meet with Hannah to discuss details. Shire is keen to help out in any way possible!

Meeting Adjourned: 7:57pm

Darton Council Positions

MASTER Stefano is looking for a replacement Constable to begin as soon as practicable. The Constable's position involves looking after health and safety issues, lost property, security, the good behaviour of participants at events, and periodicity issues at events. *All applications should be emailed directly to Master Stefano, Fru Marienna and the Kingdom Constable.*

LADY Robyn of the May is looking for a replacement for Shire A&S Officer. *All applications should be emailed directly to Lady Robyn, Fru Marienna and the Kingdom A&S Officer.*

Regnum



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(Australia and New Zealand)
www.sca.org.au

King and Queen

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Crown Prince and Princess

Berengar and Bethan

Kingdom Seneschal

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SCANZ (SCA New Zealand)

Submissions to the committee should be emailed to the committee.
committee@sca.org.nz

SCANZ Committee

Chair

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Secretary

Scott Campbell (Christchurch)

Committee

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Clarion Subscriptions

THE Clarion is free. If you would like the Clarion posted to you, supply stamped self addressed envelopes to The Chronicler, c/- Alistair Ramsden, PO Box 184, Waterloo Quay, Wellington.

Excerpts from 'Gerefa'

The early English text known as Gerefa is a unique record dating to the 11th Century which provides advice to the reeve on the efficient running of the lord's farm. It survives in a single manuscript, Corpus Christi College Cambridge MS 383, probably written c. 1100.

Gerefa has three themes, the efficient management and direction of farm workers, the undertaking of agricultural work at the correct times of the year (and that one can always find work to do, including ditching and making repairs!), and *a lists of tools and equipment necessary for a farm of the period, namely:*

axe, adze, bill, awl, plane, saw, spokeshave, tie-hook, auger, mattock, crow-bar

plough-share, coulter and goad-iron

scythe, sickle, hoe, spade, shovel, woad trowel

barrow, broom, mallet, rake, fork, ladder, curry-comb, shears

fire-tongs, steelyard [scales]

small cauldron, leaden vessel, large cauldron, ladle, pans earthenware pot, grid-iron, dishes, scoop

tubs, casks, churn cheese-vat, milk pails? or bags?

wicker baskets, baskets, bushels, sieves, seed-basket, riddle, hair-sieve, sieve-stand, winnowing fans

troughs, ash-wood pails, hives, honey-bins, barrel for strong drink, dishes, flasks, bowls, serving-bowls, cups, strainers, bath-tub? or vessel for treading grapes?

candlesticks, salt cellar

spoon-case, pepper-horn, chest, coffers, yeast-boxes, seats, stools, chairs, bowls, lamp, lantern, resin-box, comb, leather bottle?

cattle-bin, manger

oven-rake, curfew?, fire-guard?
meal-hopper, mash-shovel?

From "Implements and Utensils in Gerefa and the Organization of Seigneurial Farmsteads in the High Middle Ages"

by Mark Gardiner

in **Medieval Archaeology volume 50 (2006)**
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/ARCHway/volumeSelector.cfm?rcn=1089>

Disclaimer

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www.godecookery.com/clipart/clart.htm

SCA Shire of Darton

Medieval Armoured Combat

It's a fun, energetic martial art,
and hardly anyone ever actually gets killed!



Heavy Fighter Practice and Rapier Practice

Sunday 10am-2pm, all welcome.

Contact Sir Asbjorn on (04) 9760 220 for details.