

# 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. Fighter's practice is currently being held at the skateboard park in Northland, Ian Galloway park, on the corner of Curtis St and Old Karori Rd. All welcome. Contact Sir Asbjorn on (04) 9760 220 for details.

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# THE CLARION



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

*"Where you are is of no moment, but only what you are doing there. It is not the place that ennobles you, but you the place; and this only by doing that which is great and noble." - Francesco Petrarck (1304 - 1374)*

## From the Seneschal

**Y**OUR Shire needs you! There is still a massive amount of stuff that needs doing before Crown. Consequently there will be working bees/workshops at Casa Forest every Saturday, starting at 10 A.M. and going until we fall over (or get sick of it all). Bring your own food, I'll spring coffees and teas.

Things that will need to happen before Crown include but are not limited to:

- bunting decoration,
- bunting stringing,
- banner hemming,
- tabard sewing ,
- shield blank cutting,
- priming, gluing and varnishing,
- shield painting (on fabric),
- chocolate making,
- goodie bag packing,
- bread baking,
- apple cooking,
- wreath making.

In addition, Crown meetings will be done on the following dates: 12th, 19th, 26th and 30th April, plus no doubt there'll be a last minute panic meeting on the 3rd May.

Please, if you can, come along and help out. An hour is fine, a day is great, every week – well, I'll be here every week, but then I am a squawky bird. And I live here.

Seriously though, we really do need your help.

-oOo-

**W**EDNESDAY Is council meeting!  
Casa Forest, 7 P.M. Please try to be on time, there's a lot to cover.

Officers, please let me know if you are unable to attend. Feel free to send a written report by email in either case. Everyone else is very welcome.

Agenda:

- previous minutes,
- officers reports,
- upcoming events:

- Harvest Feast,  
(Crown deferred to the end of the meeting.)
- Rapier workshop planning,
- Queen's birthday collegium,
- DA – decision on bids to be made,

open business:

- flyer update,
- reminder of the basic rules of the society,
- candle stick review,
- hospitality statement,

Crown:

- financial review,
- planning update, and
- anything else the Steward needs to tell us.

*Cheers, Maggie*



## From the May Crown Steward

**W**E'RE Still looking for accommodation for people after Crown. If you haven't let me know whether or not you have space available, and if so what, could you please do so by Sunday 6th April. Council would be a really great time to do so too.

Also, we're still looking for bedding for people to borrow. Please let Mel know what you have available by the weekend.

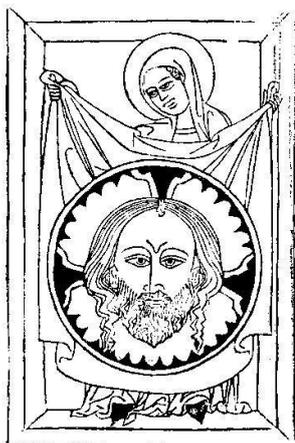
We also need to do a stock-take of candlestick holders so we know what sort of candles we need to buy. Please bring along any candlestick holders you have that you are willing to lend out for the event to either Council or on Saturday.

And I need photos of the key people involved in Crown for the event booklet. I'll have my camera on Wednesday and Saturday. Alternatively, if you have a good headshot of yourself that you would prefer me to use, please e-mail it to me.

With Crown only 6 weeks away, please make every effort to come along to Maggie and Martin's on Saturdays so that we can finish off the things we need to get done for Crown. It does need to be a whole Shire effort.

And finally, if you have enough rosemary at home for wreaths, please let me know. We may need enough for eight, and I only have enough for about 4.

*Sharon*



## From the Chronicler

**W**ELL Hello again! It's good to be back in Darton after Robyn & mine whirlwind holiday, of bucks' and hens' nights, weddings, receptions, Sunday brunches, overseas travel, honeymoons, sun, sand, surf, sunburn, swimming, sewing, medieval camping, combat, and carousing, horses, leeches, etc, and a generally jolly good time!

Rowany Festival was a blast as usual, although with the change in site turnout was down to about 700. Still, that's 700 people! And we drank the bar dry!!!

The new site was excellent. Indeed, it was not flooded out as some nay-sayers thought it might have been. Frankly it reminded me a bit of the Tara site, a bit of the Wilton site, but not at all of the Yass site – no dust, perfectly good swimming in a meandering salt-water creek off the Hawkesbury, and fires as tall as a two-storey house – all OK! The compost toilets were also a very interesting concept, although I daresay a few more would have been better.

Since we're also rapidly coming up to May Crown, I can only repeat, if there's anything you can do to help, I daresay the crown organisers would be thoroughly grateful.

*Bibite Bene, Master Stefano*

## Regular Meetings

**H**EAVY Fighter Practice and Rapier Practice. Sunday 10am-2pm. Fighter's practice is currently being held at the skateboard park in Northland, Ian Galloway park, on the corner of Curtis St and Old Karori Rd. All welcome. Contact Sir Asbjorn on (04) 9760 220 for details.

ARTS and Sciences Meetings. Wednesday 7pm-9.30pm. All welcome. Contact Lord William de Wyk (Alisdair) at [silver@where.else.net.nz](mailto:silver@where.else.net.nz) for details.

**D**ARTON Council Meetings. Held at the arts and sciences meeting from 7pm, normally every first Wednesday of the month. All Welcome. Contact Fru Marienna on (04) 9760 220 for details.

## Upcoming Events

**P**RE-Incipient Victoria University College Harvest Feast. Turnbull House, corner of Lambton Quay and Bowen Street, evening of Saturday 12th April 2008. Contact Lady Yseult (Hannah) by email at [hzcm2001@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:hzcm2001@yahoo.co.nz) for more information.



**M**AY Crown AS XLIII, 9-11 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

### Minutes for council meeting, Wednesday 5 March, 2008

Present: Alasdair M, Melissa, Matt, Hannah, Maggie, Kerri, Robyn G, Alistair R, Robyn M, Selwyn, Susan, Sharon.

Apologies: Richard.

Minutes accepted: Yes.

### Officer Reports

Seneschal (Maggie/acting-Melissa): M & M both helped with college recruitment. Melissa is new deputy kingdom seneschal for NZ. Nothing else to report.

Recruitment (Robyn G): Went to College A&S meeting. Nothing else to report.

Quartermaster (Robyn G): Nothing to report.

Chatelaine (Melissa): Helped recruit for new college and attended first college meeting. Nothing else to report.

Reeve (Richard) [proxy?]: Main account opening [balance] 2245.73, in 80.00 (shields), closing [balance] 2325.73. Crown [account] opening 538.00, in 140.00, closing 678.00. Note - balance has not arrived, so was unable to report on direct deposits into the crown A/C.

Herald (Matt): Nothing to report, waiting to hear from Kingdom.

Marshal (Al M): Nothing to report.

A&S (Robyn M/Al M): In changeover process. Nothing to report.

Marshal A&S (Kerri): Nothing to report.

Chronicler (Al R): Clarion published. As usual, all submissions, changes to noted meetings, changes to contact details, articles, and event advertisements will be gratefully received. Since I have received almost no submissions or change requests in the last six months, I assume everything that is being printed is currently correct, and everyone is loving the steady diet of the works of Master Stefano.

Constable (Al R/Robyn M): Changeover is currently in process. Nothing else to report.

Chirurgion (Maura): Nothing to report, waiting for warrant.

Lists (Sharon): Ran a class on how to run a double elimination round at A&S. Will be having a number of paper-scissors-rock tournaments so that people who took the class can consolidate their learning in a practical manner. Looking into what to do if there is a 3-way tie for Crown. Will consult with Kingdom Lists and Crown on this, as there is no specific Kingdom policy. Thanks to Jennifer for making me aware of this possible situation.

Archery (Selwyn): Two new bows, will need new strings.

Rapier (Selwyn): Going great. Demo at college went well. Need help with rapier and heavies at fighter practice as there are many newbies!

## Event Reports

### Past Events

Uni demo 27th and 28th Feb: Well received, 56 people signed-up, 3 showed to first meeting, but only had 24 hours notice so not expecting large turnout. 6 other new people at first A&S meeting.

### Future Events

Uni First [College Harvest] Feast 12th April: Roughly \$20 a head, 30 people for break-even. Bid accepted. Melissa will get contract and \$300 bond to Thistle Hall. [Site has been changed to Turnbull House.]

May Crown: (Tamara) I've got all the banners penciled, 'all' currently consists of two large kingdom, two large Darton, and two small kingdom). The OHP is a god-send, promotion for Sharon, eh. I'm trying not to think too hard about *exactly* how much work that's saved, because then I would have to admit I was completely out of my tree when I did the last set. The first of the kingdom banners is stretched and half-resisted. The rest of the resist will go on tonight & I *might* start on the dye, depending on how fast the resist sets. I'll need to beg Al's dremel skills again to do the other two frame bits before I can do the small kingdom ones. I won't get to those for at least a couple [of] weeks, though. I want skinny little solid-colored silk pennons to flutter from the poles above the big banners, because I think that will look way cool. I won't do anything with those until I get the other ones done, though, unless somebody else is looking for an easy project.

(Sharon) 59 people have booked to date and we are now above break-even. Crown meeting in February went well, all is on track, due dates assigned and all projects are assigned. Will have work parties in future. **Please** come if you can. Next Crown meeting is Sunday 30 March, 1pm at Maggie & Martin's house.

(Maggie): Martin is doing another beer fundraiser evening on the 15th.

Queen's Birthday Collegia: Please let Maggie know if you want any particular classes. Also please volunteer if you are willing to teach.

Darton Anniversary: Robyn G/Al R put in a bid for a Viking-themed 3 day/2 night event.

Richard [by proxy?] decided not to bid, still favours a [4 day/3 night] event, will submit a bid next council on that basis, if council prefers a [4 day/3 night] event.

Discussion: some travelers indicate they would be more likely to attend a 2 day event.

[Richard] thinks it's better for us locally to run a [4 day/3 night] event, the costs for the Thursday night are all per person basis.

Bid will be decided on at next meeting, to allow Richard time to bid, if he wants a [4 day/3 night] event.

November AGM: Nothing to report as yet.

November Camp: Nothing to report as yet.

## General Business

Fighter practice locations: Thursdays 7pm at Vic's Karori Dance Campus. Sundays at the skate park, though looking for alternate indoor venue. Alternate Tuesdays [every second Tuesday?] for Rapier at Selwyn and Robyn M's place.

Next meeting will be back at the Forest's house on Pembroke Road. A&S for March 12th will be at Stephen & Tam's place, back to the Forest's on the 19th of March.

Discussion ensued about whether or not to rotate A&S to different people's houses, or perhaps to keep a weekly social night at the Forest's house, and have A&S rotate or move to a different location. Feedback requested by Alasdair M, the new A&S officer.

Meeting closed: 7:38

## The Tragedy of Elaine of Astolat

*A play in two scenes, by Lord Stefano da Urbino. Based upon Sir Thomas Mallory's "Le Morte Darthur" Book Eighteen, Chapters VIII-XX, originally published by William Caxton 1485. Copyright Alistair Ramsden 2001. Freely copiable for SCA purposes.*

### *Dramatis Personae*

ARTHUR, King of Camelot

GUENEVER, Queen of Camelot

LANCELOT, knight of the Lake

ELAINE, fair maiden of Astolat

BERNARD, father to Elaine

LADY, in waiting to Queen Guenever\*

(\*Replaces Sir Bors from the original text.)

GAWAINE, a knight, the narrator

KNIGHTS, brothers of Sir Lancelot

(Scene I was published last month.)

## Scene II

*Book Eighteen, Chapter XV*

Enter Elaine and Gawaine stage centre.

Gawaine

And so fair Elaine sought to Camelot, and there all about for her love, and at length by fortune came upon him in a wood, sick and pale of his wound.

Exit Gawaine stage centre, enter Lancelot stage left.

Elaine

Ah! My lord, Sir Lancelot, alas why be ye in this plight?

Lancelot

Fair maiden, why fare ye thus? Ye put me to pain. Wherefore, make ye no more such cheer, for if ye be come to comfort me, ye be right welcome. An of this little hurt that I have, I shall be right hastily whole, by the grace of God. But I marvel, who hast told you my name?

Elaine

Sir Gawaine did come and lodge with my father, and there, by your shield, he discovered your name.

Lancelot

Alas, that me repenteth that my name is known, for I am sure it will turn unto great anger.

Elaine

My love, you are wounded, put such from your mind. We will to Astolat, an I will watch you day and night, and do such attendance to you that there was never woman more kindlier for man.

Lancelot

An yet, I pray ye, also make a-spies to Camelot for courtiers of London if they come there. For well I am sure that I will be sought.

Elaine

An I, my love, will do ye asks.

Exit Lancelot & Elaine stage left.

Enter Arthur, Guenever & Lady stage right, Gawaine stage centre.

Gawaine

King Arthur! I have found Sir Lancelot's shield in the keeping of the Fair Maiden of Astolat; and it was he that jousted best afore he took himself to depart the field.

Arthur

All the latter I knew aforehand, and it was that caused me I would not suffer you to have ado at the great jousts, for he has bested you many times grievously, an I espied him when he came in till our lodgings in Astolat. But marvel have I, that he would bear sign of any damosel, for I never heard nor saw nor knew that ever he bare any token of none earthly woman.

Gawaine

By my head, the Fair Maiden of Astolat loveth him marvellously well. What it meaneth, I cannot say.

Arthur

Let us to London then, and openly disclose this to all the court.

Gawaine and Arthur travel to London, greeted by Guenever & Lady.

Gawaine

So the King and all came to London, and there we disclosed to all the court that it was Sir Lancelot that jousted best, Sir Lancelot that wore the white shield, and Sir Lancelot that bare the red sleeve of the Fair Maiden of Astolat upon his helm. And when Queen Guenever wist, she went nigh out of her mind for wrath.

Exit Arthur and Gawaine Stage right.

Guenever

Ah lady handmaiden, have ye heard say how falsely Sir Lancelot hath betrayed me?

Lady

Alas madam, I am afeard he hath betrayed himself and us all.

Guenever

No force, though he be destroyed, for he is a false traitor-knight.

Lady

Madam I pray you say ye not so, for whit you well we should not say such language of him.

Guenever

Why should I not call him traitor when he bare the red sleeve upon his head at Camelot, at the great jousts?

Lady

Madam, I dare say he did it to none evil intent, but for the cause he bare the red sleeve that none of his blood should know him on the field.

Guenever

Fie on him! For all his pride and bobounce! Fie on him! For I heard Sir Gawaine say before my lord Arthur that it were marvel to tell the great love that is between the Fair Maiden of Astolat and him.

Lady

Madam, I may not warn Sir Gawaine to say what it please him; but I dare say, as for Sir Lancelot, he loveth no lady, gentlewoman nor maid, but all he loveth in like much.

Guenever

Ye may say what ye will; but wit ye well and haste ye to seek him, and find him wheresomever he may be, and God, send me good tidings of him.

*Book Eighteen, Chapters XVI through XVIII*

Exit Guenever stage right, enter Lancelot & Elaine stage left, Lady, Lancelot & Elaine to Astolat.

Elaine

Are ye of the court?

Lady

I am sent in search of Sir Lancelot.

Elaine

Lady, within this hour ye shall see him.

Lady

O Sir Lancelot, God bless you and send you hasty recover; but let you know how the Queen is passing wroth with ye, because, by Sir Gawaine's discovery, ye wore the sleeve of this fair maiden at the jousts.

Lancelot

Then is the Queen wroth and I am right heavy for I deserve no wrath, for all I did was because I would not be known.

Lady

Right so I excused you, but all was in vain, for the Queen said more largelier to me than I to you now. But is this she, that is so busy about you, that men call the Fair Maiden of Astolat?

Lancelot

She it is, that by no means I cannot put her from me.

Lady

Why should ye put her from you? I see well, by her diligence about you that she loveth you entirely, and that she is of fair grace, and birth, and learning.

Lancelot  
That me repenteth, and God make we well to  
depart the quicker.

*Book Eighteen, Chapter XIX*

Elaine  
My lord, Sir Lancelot, now I see ye will depart with  
this lady of the court, and for that ye sent me hither  
to seek her; now fair knight and courteous knight,  
have mercy on me, and suffer me not to die for thy  
love.

Lancelot  
What would ye I did?

Elaine  
I would have you to my husband.

Lancelot  
Fair damosel, I thank you, but truly, I cast me never  
to be a wedded man.

Elaine  
Then fair knight, will ye be my paramour?

Lancelot  
Jesu defend me! For then I reward your kin full evil  
for their great goodness!

Elaine  
Alas. Then I must die for your love.

Lancelot  
Ye shall not so, for wit ye well, fair maiden, I might  
have been married an I had would, but I never  
applied me to be married yet; but because, fair  
damosel, that ye love me as ye say ye do, I will for  
your good will and kindness show you some  
goodness, that wheresomever ye will beset your  
heart upon some good knight that will wed you, I  
shall give you a thousand pound, yearly, to you and  
your heirs; thus much will I give you, fair madam,  
for your kindness, and always while I live to be your  
own knight.

Elaine  
Of all this, I will none, for but if ye will wed me, or  
else be my paramour at the least, wit you well, Sir  
Lancelot, my good days are done.

Lancelot  
Of these two things ye must pardon me.

Exit Lancelot & Lady, stage right.

Elaine  
Why? Why should I pardon ye? Am I not an earthly  
woman? And all the while the breath is in my body,  
I may complain me, for my belief is I do none  
offence though I love an earthly man; and I take  
God to my record I loved none but you, Sir  
Lancelot du Lake; nor never shall, and a clean  
maiden I am for him and for all other; and sithen it  
is the sufferance of God that I shall die for the love  
of so noble a knight, I beseech the High Father of  
Heaven to have mercy upon my soul. Lord Jesu, I  
swear on Thee I was never great offencer against  
thy laws, but that I loved this noble knight out of  
measure, and of myself, good Lord, I might not  
withstand this fervent love, wherefore I have my  
death. Father!

Enter Bernard, stage centre.

Bernard  
Elaine, my child, what is wrong? And where is the  
noble knight gone hence?

Elaine  
He has gone, he has gone, he loves me not, and I  
pray you, father, take this letter as I devise it, and  
pray you watch over me until I am dead, for I die of  
love. And while my body is hot let this letter be put  
in my right hand, and my hand bound fast with the  
letter until I be cold. And let me be put in a fair bed  
with my richest clothes, and let the bed be put in a  
barget that saileth down river to London, and let me  
be covered with black samite over and over. Thus,  
father, I beseech you my will.

Bernard  
I grant it you faithfully, all like you devise, but with  
great dole, fair Elaine -

Elaine dies.

Bernard  
- fair departed daughter, with great dole.

Elaine's body is done to as she willed. Exit Bernard  
stage centre.

*Book Eighteen, Chapter XX*

Enter Arthur, Guenever, Gawaine & Lady, stage  
right.

Gawaine  
When Sir Lancelot took his leave of Elaine, he came  
withal to London, where when Arthur wist he was  
whole and sound, the King made great joy of him,  
and so did all the knights of the round table except  
the few who did not love him, and also, -

Queen Guenever, who was wood wroth of him, and would by no means speak with him. And yet, by fortune the court were passing by a window on the Thames, and they espied a black barget, and had marvel what it meant.

Arthur  
Look! In the barget, a fair corpse as ever there was.

Guenever  
And I espy, a letter in her right hand.

Arthur reads the letter.

Arthur  
'Most noble knight Sir Lancelot, now hath death made us two at debate for your love. I was your lover, that men called the Fair Maiden of Astolat; therefore unto all ladies I make my moan, yet pray for my soul and bury me at least, and offer ye my mass-penny; this is my last request. And a clean maiden I die, an I take God to witness. Pray for my soul, Sir Lancelot. Thou art peerless.'

Lancelot  
My lord Arthur, wit ye well I am right heavy of the death of this fair damosel. God knoweth I was never causer of her death by my willing. She was both fair and good, and much was I beholden unto her, but she loved me out of measure.

Guenever  
Ye might have showed her some bounty and gentleness that might have preserved her life.

Lancelot  
Madam, she would none other ways be answered but that she would be my wife, outhere else my paramour, and of these two I would not grant her; for madam, I love not to be constrained by love, for love must arise in the heart, and not by no constraint.

Arthur  
That is truth, and many a knight's love is free in himself, and never will be bounden, for where he is bounden, he looseth himself. Lancelot, it will be your worship that ye oversee that she be interred worshipfully.

Lancelot  
Sir, that shall be done as I can best devise.

Lancelot offers the mass penny. A bell is rung.  
Exit Arthur, Gawaine & Lady stage right.

Guenever  
Lancelot, I pray you for mercy, for I have been wroth with you causeless.

Lancelot  
This is not the first time that ye had been displeased with me causeless; but madam, ever I must suffer you, and what sorrow I endure, I take no force.

Exit Guenever stage right.

Lancelot  
For I behold Queen Guenever wonderfully. Ah! Cast in me such a love, as I can never withdraw!\*\*

Exit Lancelot right.

### Finis

*For Elaine, Mea Amica*

*(\*\*Not in the original text, however the repetition of Elaine's first line serves to illuminate in denouement, the similarities between Elaine's love for Lancelot and Lancelot's love for Guenever.)*

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*Sonnet XVIII – William Shakespeare*  
Shall I compare thee  
to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely  
and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake  
the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease  
hath all too short a date:

Sometime too hot  
the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his  
gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair  
sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's  
changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer  
shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that  
fair thou owest;  
Nor shall Death brag  
thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines  
to time thou growest:

So long as men can breathe  
or eyes can see,  
So long lives this  
and this gives life to thee.



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### **Arts and Sciences Meetings**

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Contact Lord William de Wyk (Alisdair) at [silver@where.else.net.nz](mailto:silver@where.else.net.nz)  
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