



STORMSCROLL

Monthly Newsletter of the Barony of Stormhold
December AS LIX (CE 2024)



¹ Detail from "January" fresco at the Castello del Buonconsiglio, Trento, c.1400



CALENDAR

JANUARY

5th * Illumination and Calligraphy Day (contact Miriam bat Shimeon for details)

13th * First Crafhall of the year

25th * Summer Twilight Tourney - Battle on the High C's (Krae Glas)

FEBRUARY

15th * Summer Twilight Tourney - Love: Fate VS. Chance (Krae Glas)

21st - 23rd * High Tide: Tides of War

MARCH

15th * Summer Twilight Tourney - The Ides of March (Krae Glas)

21st-23rd * Autumn Crown Tournament (Radburne)

APRIL

16th-21st * Rowany Festival



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER CROWN

We have been successful in our bid for the Crown tournament in September 2025! The theme of the event is 'On the Coffee Trail'. It will be held in the second week of September, at Clifford Park Scout Camp in Wonga Park. Your humble deputy Chronicler hopes to see you all there!

HIGH TIDE: TIDES OF WAR

Bookings for High Tide are [open!](#) Please see the following advertisement for details:

And lo, the Tides have turned!

The waters of Stormhold are thick with Vikings and Pirates in the summers, so we challenge them to come ashore and test their arms against the might of the Barony. His Majesty, King Kitan will also be in attendance!

Join us for our second High Tide event, this time featuring WAR!

Fence, shoot, battle, feast, build sandcastles... Whatever you'd feel like doing.

The site is a two minute walk from beaches and camping onsite is permitted. Close to Altona station and shops.

Bunk spaces are HIGHLY limited and priority will be given to those travelling or with special needs.

For more information and booking link please see the Barony website or Facebook event [here](#), or [here](#).



AST EVENTS

Dirty A&S Weekend ✦ Nov 2-3rd

The month of November started not with our Monthly Bash, but with new skills to learn at the Dirty A&S weekend. An abundance of classes over both days meant everyone came away with something new or a skill expanded on.

Totally Legitimate Fishing Expedition Into Stormhold Waters ✦ Dec 1st

Following a busy November, December started with a very legitimate and respectable fishing trip by the Very Clearly Fishermen of the Black Dolphin. Our close combat champions were awarded during the trip, with Sir Brennan Halfhand taking the armoured championship and Hjortetakk Gorgonites taking the fencing championship.

Yule Gathering ✦ Dec 9th

Rounding out another Society year, Stormhold's Yule gathering was held at the beginning of December. There was much merriment, a gift exchange, and beautiful carols to be heard. May your new year bring new blessings!



Sir Brennan Halfhand and Hjortetakk Gorgonites receiving their respective champion awards

Photos by Miriam Staples



PERSONA BIOGRAPHY

We encourage all of you to think about where your Society persona comes from, and what their interests are. Allow your Chronicler to introduce your Deputy Chronicler:



Bastian Dendelyoun is a 15th century Lancastrian from a family of weavers. Their mother Alisoun is thought to have manufactured the infamous Blackpool Shroud, purported to be the burial robe of St Cuthbert of Bootle. The Shroud enjoyed a short-lived notoriety as a votive object; and when draped over a statue of the Virgin, the latter was observed to weep tears of pure glycerine. Bastian's father was a notorious drunk, but also a formidable exponent of the ancient Lancastrian martial art of Eee-Rheum, which he taught to Bastian, who became the Pennines champion three years running. Eee-Rheum depends on deft wrist movement: combining

speed in defence and slowness in attack, lest the rhubarb stalk should snap off. If this happens the luckless contestant is made to stand on one leg and be pelted with cabbage leaves. Nowadays Eee-Rheum has been largely superseded by aggressive cookery and clog dancing; but the art of striking one's opponent with combat rhubarb is surely worthy of revival.

[Editors Note: The Latin name for rhubarb is: *rheum rhabarbarum*]²

² 'De reubarbaro' Grant Herbar, printed in Paris by Pierre Le Caron, ca. 1498-1500



NACHRONISM CORNER

Robert de Brus, Sherriff of Nottingham³

The Sheriffs of Nottingham have experienced a dreadful reputation, thanks largely to the many tales of Robin Hood. The impressive castle of Nottingham occupied a strategic position north of the River Trent, keeping an eye on mutinous Yorkshire folk to the North; and the great forest of Nottingham, home of many a merry outlaw who shot not only the King's deer therein, but also the King's geese, the King's swans, The King's voles, the King's rabbits and the King's celery. In fact they'd shoot just about anything if there was a meal in it. Nottingham used to be known as Snotyningham, or Place Of Nasal Congestion, although some scholars claim that it was once the home of the Snotingas: a particularly fierce band of marauders who also shot anything that moved and much that didn't.



Robert de Brus held the post of Sheriff in the early 15th century. He was a kindly man by the standards of the day, despite being a Southron whose Kentish brogue was much derided. He was sometimes confused with King Robert Bruce – famous for his enormous battle spider with which he smote the English in many a battle – and grew weary of comments to the effect that his was the weirdest Scots accent anyone had ever heard. At first he would explain that his branch of the family had renounced their Scots estates and decided to

³ Detail of men feasting, from the Tiberius Psalter, England, 11th century, Cotton MS Tiberius C VI, f. 5v

be English instead; and after a year or two he would say No Relation! and leave it at that.

Robert was charged with raising a company of local archers to take part in the quarter-finals of the Hundred Years' War, and held an archery competition on the river-meads to find the best bowmen for selection to Henry V's military adventurism. The first likely lad gave his name as Robyn Hode, and while he managed to hit some of the hay bales, he also shot two mule wagons, the church steeple and an unfortunate pigeon. The second lad was also Robyn Hode, and the third. All told he collected seventeen Robyn Hodes, five Little Johns (ranging in height from five to seven feet), three Will Scathloks and two Friar Tucks, who promptly excommunicated each other.

Feeling unsurprisingly that he was being gently mocked, a subsequent tourney was held the next day, and eventually a band of fifty stout bowmen was formed, with a company of men-at-arms in bright mail from the castle. They performed adequately at the siege of Harfleur and managed not to shoot arrows into each other at Azincourt. All but two made it home safely, with a modest store of booty. These two fell in with obliging French widows and wouldn't hear of any notion of returning home to the northern fogs of Nottingham. Robert was hoping to be awarded the Order of the Garter, but had to be content with the Order of the Golden Spoon, given to the company with the best cooks and caterers. My men may not be the best shots in the army, he reflected, but these forest men can make a good meal out of just about anything.

©Dafydd of the Glens

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Equity and Diversity

The SCA is an international organisation devoted to the research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century life, encouraging its participants to employ a knowledge of history to enrich their lives and the lives of others through events, demonstrations, workshops and other educational activities. The SCA in Australia remains committed to ensuring that we reflect the best and most welcoming aspects of the modern world, committing to celebrating equity, diversity, and inclusiveness in the game we play. Researching and re-creating cultures of bygone eras does not require abandoning the values of the present. We welcome people of all ages, sexes, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, and ableness, and reject anyone who will discriminate on any of these bases. The promotion of social equity and diversity in our activities remains fundamental to our game as a requirement for participation.

Contribute

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