

BORDER GRAPEVINE

Autumn 2018 ASLII



Seasonal unofficial newsletter of the Shire of Bordescros within the Kingdom of Lochac in the Society for Creative Anachronism (Australia) Inc.



From your Seneschal



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Grapevine, especially to all our new members across the Shire. It has been a very busy start to the year, and that will continue. If you have friends who have been interested to know what we do, this is a great time to bring them along.

Thank you to THL Lowry verch Gwynwynwyn and Lord Gunther Boese for all the work that they did to make Border War XX a great success. It was the largest that we have ever held in the Shire, with 139 attending. Mistress Thomasina Coke worked her usual magic in the kitchen, providing everyone with wonderful meals all weekend, and the best feast ever!

This year there was a great crew that really helped by doing their roles with dedication including Lord Robert Campbell as Marshal, Kohlgrima Hrafnisdottir taking care of all things Arts & Sciences, Lord Undewyn Maccuswell and Lord Ronan Heron on Constabulary, Lady Isolde Dey as Chirurgeon, Lady Aedwen Eriksdottir who did a wonderful job with the Fauntlings and their Competition.

A highlight of the weekend was THL Lady Thomasina Coke being elevated to the Order of the Pelican. This recognition of her many years of hard work, leadership and inspiration to all of Bordescros was very well deserved. Although Thomasina was only officially my protegee for a short period of time, we have worked together in Bordescros for many years. More about Border War elsewhere in this newsletter.



There will be more themed events this year in Albury, and maybe in Wagga as well. The big event for us is **November Crown**, which will be held at Wodonga Racecourse. This is a very different event to Border War, particularly as there is no onsite accommodation, with the highlight being the Tournament to find the King and Queen of Lochac who will reign from January to July 2019.

Those residing in the North of the Shire have made the decision that they wish to become a Shire in their own right, and are taking the necessary steps to achieve these ends. It is likely they will become incipient in the near future, and then recognised as a shire in the next year or so. We wish them well.

Don't forget to check our website bordescros.lochac.sca.org and our Facebook pages Bordescros Seneschal SCA for everyone, and Bordescros SCA for local members and participants.

This is likely to be my last missive in Grapevine as your Seneschal as I am due to step down in August. There have been some disappointments in the last 2 years, but I have enjoyed great support in the role, and many things have been achieved. I look forward to watching, and being part of a bright future ahead for the Shire.

I take this opportunity to thank all of those who have worked so hard over so many years to make this Shire what it is today. I am sure that whoever my successor is they will also be supported in the role.

Yours in Service

CAIRISTIONA INGHEAN RAGHDAILL OP OLM GL AoA

Gules, a unicorn rampant argent armed and on a bordure Or an orle sable.
Seneschal, Shire of Bordescros



MEET YOUR OFFICERS

In the SCA no-one is supposed to hold the same office for more than 2 years at a time, so that the skills of the whole group can grow, and to avoid burnout. There are a number of officer positions that will be coming available later in the year (including Seneschal, Reeve, Herald and Marshal) with further details on the Facebook page and further Grapevines.

If you think you might be interested in taking on any role, please speak to the Seneschal or to the current officer. Deputies are always appreciated, and it is a good way to see what is involved. Most officers need to be a financial member, and can be from anywhere in the Shire. There is a process to follow.

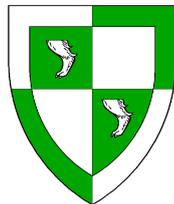
Reeve—Lord Gunther Boese

The Reeve is the equivalent of the mundane Treasurer of the group.

Gunther has been a member of Bordescros for some 7 years. He has been Pursuivant (Local Herald), Canon Herald (Kingdom officer in charge of the awards database), is currently Rocket Herald (Kingdom officer in charge of heraldic submissions), and am currently Reeve of Bordescros. As a senior herald in Lochac Gunther is always happy to help with all things heraldry.



Gunther has a late 15th-early 16th Century German persona.



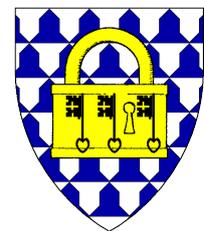
Gunther is protégé (student) to Mistress Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill.

Marshal— Lord Robert Campbell

The Group Marshal is responsible for all fighting across the Shire, including heavy, rapier and archery whether it is training or tournaments.

It is the role of the Marshal (and any deputies) to ensure that all of the rules are followed for armour, blows and more.

Lord Robert (otherwise known as Yokel) has been in and out the Society for some 16 years in total, returning 3 years ago after a break. Yokel is a fine Scotsman in persona, and is currently jointly squiered, protegged and laurelled to Sir John Dai of the Lane and Mistress Margie of Glen More.



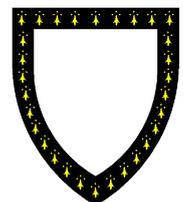
Herald—The Honourable Lady Lowry ferch Gwenwynwyn ap Gwewelwyn

The Group Herald is the person who looks after both 'book' heraldry (being names and arms/devices) and 'voice' heraldry (calling tournaments and making announcements). Luckily she is getting better at delegating!



Lady Lowry (pronounced Leura) has been a member of Bordescros since 2000, and has held a wide variety of officer positions including Seneschal (x2), Constable, Reeve, Chronicler, Arts & Sciences with this being her second term as Herald. Lowry has stewarded a number of events, and taken care of the catering occasionally over the years.

Lowry, who has a 14th Century Welsh persona, has served as Kingdom Chirurgeon and is protégé to Mistress Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill.





Seneschal—Mistress Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

The Seneschal is a role that combines the mundane role of President/Chair with many aspects of a secretary. Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill was one of the original founders of Bordescros back in 1998, along with Duke Eirikr Thorinssen, and others who are no longer playing.



Cairistiona has been Seneschal, Arts & Sciences, as well as serving as Kingdom Seneschal and Kingdom Hospitaller, and on the Australian Board of Directors.

Cairistiona's persona changes time between the 8th, 11/12th and 16th centuries but she always remains based in Scotland.

Her interests are Scots/Viking and Tudor history, making garb, doing embroidery and painting wall hangings, as well as running events that bring the Kingdom to Bordescros.



Arts & Sciences Officer—Lady Kohlgrima Grafnsdottir

The Arts & Sciences Officer has the responsibility for encouraging and reporting on all the Arts and crafting activities in the Shire, including Armouring.



Lady Kohlgrima has only been a member for less than 2 years, but she has quickly become one of the key members who works very hard and inspires others.

Kohlgrima's persona is pre-Christian Norse (migration era) with a strong Icelandic influence.

Kohlgrima is an authorised heavy fighter who is rapidly taking up spinning and weaving. Kohlgrima is squire, protégé and apprentice to Mistress Margie of Glen More and Sir John Dai of the Lane.



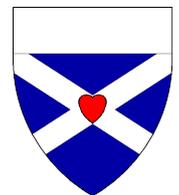
Former Deputy Seneschal in the North—Master James Douglas

As the Deputy Seneschal in the North James Douglas, prior to Lady Helga Gunnarsdottire assuming the role, James Douglas has had responsibility for the running and growth of the group in an area based around Wagga, where he has been a member since 2006.



James Douglas is a younger son of a lowland Scottish noble, who turned to mercenary pursuits to seek fame, ending up in the service of a Burgundian Knight in the 100 years war.

James is interested in all things metal-work, as well as dabbling in brewing, cooking and costume. He has a working forge and armoury in his back yard, and loves war fighting.



James is a member of the House of Hurts, and squired to Sir Ysambart Courtain.

Other Bordescros Officers:

Hospitaller:	Mistress Thomasina Coke
Chatelaine:	Lady Eleanor Gardener
Constable:	Lord Undewyn Maccuswell
Lists:	Lady Bianca de Luca
Chirurgion:	Lady Isolde Dey
Webright:	Vacant
Chronicler:	Vacant
Historian:	Mistress Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

Deputy Officers in the North:

Seneschal:	Lady Helga Gunnarsdottir
Herald:	Master James Douglas
Marshal:	Lord Alfgear
Arts & Sciences:	Lady Mathilde de Lilburne
Constable:	Lord Ronan Heron
With the addition of the following, these are the intended officers for the proposed incipient Shire:	
Reeve:	Lady Mathilde de Lilburne
Webright:	Lord Thomas Douglasson



This year was our biggest ever Border War, and the largest event that we have ever held in Bordescros. This was very fitting for the 20th delivery of this event.

This year my main role was as Lists Officer, which was rather a challenge as this is a new area for me but I had wonderful help and tuition from Lady Eleanora de Birche and Cheryl. It was good to see Lady Isolde and Lady Bianca eager to learn as well, with them sitting in and assisting. With 10 War Bands (including 2 from Bordescros), and tournaments with 5 combat archers, 19 Rapier and 32 Heavy combatants it was a huge learning curve.

I was particularly proud of all the Bordescros children who set such a great example all weekend. They are all members of the Mouse Guard for the Queen, and both Keziah and Grainne served the Queen as Ladies in Waiting.

There was recognition of the following members with an **Award of Arms**

Lord Ronan Heron

Lady Aedwen Eiriksdottir

Lady Bianca de Luca

Lord Francesco Archarius

The **Order of the Golden Tear** was presented to:

Lord Robert Campbell

Lady Kohlgrima Hrafnisdottir

Wulfric of Bordescros was also made a member of the **Mouse Guard**.

Thomasina Coke was elevated to the **Order of the Pelican**, making her the third Pelican in our Shire. Although Thomasina was only officially my protegee for a short period of time, we have worked together in Bordescros for many years.

The entries in the Arts & Sciences competitions were varied, and well done. The War Chest was very impressive, and I am sure that the Royal Household was very pleased with their winnings.

This year a lot of our members, from both the South and the North of the Shire, attended, which was really good to see. I hope you all enjoyed the event, meeting new friends, and learning new things.

There are many changes afoot for Border War XXI which will be jointly stewarded by Lord Gunther Boese and Lord Robert Campbell. Lots of exciting changes ahead.

Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill OP

Gunther's View of Border War

This year was my first time helping to steward Border War. For me it was a real learning experience. As it turns out it may have been the single biggest event ever held in Bordescros.

We were very fortunate in also having the Crown present, as this meant that deserving members of Bordescros were recognised with various awards. The most special of these being Mistress Thomasina Coke being made a Pelican.

The weekend had activities for everyone including War (over 40 fighters on the war field), rapier salon (this has become a regular feature), A&S classes, and our first Fauntlings Challenge. Our Tournaments on Sunday were quite large too. Master Owain was very impressed to see 21 fighters for rapier. The Mouth of the South Bardic competition has also become a signature item of any Border War, and this year we had a record 9 entries. My personal favourite was the one person Shakespeare.

A great event like this doesn't happen without a lot of hard work, so I would like to finish by thanking everyone who helped out in any way.

Lord Gunther Boese



The Shire of Bordescros invites one and all in the Kingdom of Lochac to attend

November Crown AS53

Nell Wilson Pavilion, Wodonga Racecourse,
Richardson Street, Wodonga, Victoria

**Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November
2018**



Set in a Renaissance Spring, the Crown Tournament is on Saturday afternoon. This will be followed by the wonderful Victory Feast

There will also be a rapier tournament, games, entertainment and a market.

Bookings are now open and can be made by going to the website at <http://bordescros.lochac.sca.org/november-crown-as53/> for full details

Steward: Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill
novembercrown2018@gmail.com

Bookings: Lord Gunther Boese
bookings4novcrown53@gmail.com

There is a lot of accommodation in Wodonga and Albury, and some limited billets will be available.

ARTS and Sciences

Competitions

June— Viking Theme

Fibre Arts

Headwear

Food and Drink

Open

July— Winter Warmers

Clothing

Food, especially dairy and cheese

Beverages

Open

September— Springtime

Grapes (in any form – food, embroidery etc)

Item inspired locally

Forged

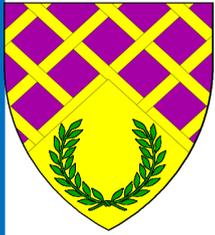
Open



RAPIER WORKSHOPS ON 16 JUNE IN ALBURY

For those are interested in finding out about Rapier (fencing) from beginners through to experienced, Master Owain Cantor ap Hughe and Lord Gaspar Falk de Cantoria

From The Red Griffin are travelling down to help encourage more rapier in the Shire.



OFFICER VACANCIES

As announced on Facebook, my role as **Seneschal** is about to finish. In the SCA officer positions should only be held for 2 years, as this ensures things are kept vibrant and it helps avoid officer burnout. You can go straight into another role, if you wish to, but you must step down from what you have held for that long.

If anyone would like to know more about what the position entails, they can go to the Lochac website <http://seneschal.lochac.sca.org/> as there is a lot of information on there. The role is mostly administrative including chairing meetings, ensuring officers report and in turn reporting to Kingdom every 3 months. It requires commitment, enthusiasm and diplomacy. It is also an opportunity to lead Bordescros through its next stage of growth, with fresh ideas and plans.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me either by email at scabordescros@gmail.com or by phone 0427 432 870. Email applications should be submitted to me and the Kingdom Seneschal (seneschal@lochac.sca.org) by 30 June 2018.

There are also vacancies coming up for **Reeve, Herald** and **Marshal**. If you are interested please speak to the current officers. Holding an office is a great way to learn more about the SCA and help keep Bordescros thriving long into the future.



BORDERWAR

BORDER WAR XXI

The evolution of Bordescros' premier annual event Border War continues. After taking on the role of Deputy Steward to THL Lowry this year, Lord Gunther Boese will be co-stewarding the event with Lord Robert Campbell. The fabulous food will once again be overseen by Mistress Thomasina Coke.

This year's event was our largest ever, but it was a very hot weekend. This spurred our only applicants as steward for 2019 to look for a new and

potentially cooler venue. After many years of using Camp Kurrajong, we are returning to the southern end of the Shire near Lake Hume. The event will be held at Snowy River Camp, outside of Tallangatta. It is a private venue with dorm accommodation and camping, an adequate kitchen, good eating areas, shady trees, great war and tournament areas, a swimming pool and a large lake than can also be used for swimming. As it turns 21, Border War looks like it will be better than ever.

All of the details for this event will soon be up on line, with the first cut off for bookings at lowest price being 31 November 2018.

Keep an eye out for all the information on Facebook and the website. For a sneak peak have a look at their website <http://www.snowyrivercamp.com/> although it really doesn't do it justice.





NOVEMBER CROWN in BORDESCROS

This year we have been chosen to host November Crown. For our newer members, this is when the tournament takes place to find the next King and Queen of Lochac. The major focus of the weekend (10/11 November) will be the tournament on the Saturday afternoon, followed by the Victory Feast in the evening. The theme for this event is the Spring of the Renaissance. There will also be the usual Peerage meetings, plus games, entertainment and markets.

A totally different event to Border War, it enables our local members to see a different aspect of the SCA and brings some of the best in the Kingdom into our Shire.

It is a large undertaking, and I would love to hear from anyone who is interested in assisting, whether it is with preparation of decorations, kitchen, set up, running games/markets or any other aspect of the weekend. This is a great way to see what happens behind the scenes to make an event happen. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm and commitment.

Our Key Stewarding team so far members:

Steward—Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

Deputy Stewards— Robert Campbell (Logistics) and Gunther Boese (Bookings)

Catering— Thomasina Coke and Lowry verch Gwenwenwen ap Lewellyn

There will also be a Kingdom Arts & Sciences Competition across the following categories:

1. Cheese & Dairy
2. Forged
3. From the 16th Century

Information about the criteria for these competitions can be found at <http://artsandsciences.lochac.sca.org/competitions/> It would be great to see a lot of local entries into these competitions.

For embroiderers, The Worshipful Company Broiderers has the following competition:

Hunting (picture of a hunt, embroidered hunting pouch ...)

For any enquiries please email novembercrown2018@gmail.com or check out the details on our Shire website <http://bordescros.lochac.sca.org>



Coifs and Hoods by Lady Helga Gunnarsdottir

This month in the North of the Shire, Mathilde de Lilleburne has been leading the group in some work on headgear.

While discussing garb over a wine or three, we came to the conclusion that a covered head really made all the difference to an outfit, and contributed a great deal to the period 'look' around the table. They can be quite cheap and simple to make – a small piece of linen or cotton for a coif, or a wool blend for a warm hood, so it's a good first piece of garb.

Matilde has been working on a St Brigita's cap, Shell has been making Jorvik hoods, and Anna has been making a lined three-piece coif. The three-part design has been noted as after 1500, but I haven't been able to find any sources for it as yet.

If you're looking for a particular period or style, take a look at Jennifer Baker's excellent list of historical finds:

<https://sites.google.com/site/archoevidence/home/hats>

<https://sites.google.com/site/archoevidence/home/extant-hoods>

An interesting thing about this is just how few extant pieces we have – we base our ideas on the garb of entire cultures on just a few known examples, and in some cases, just as few images. The information in the list (for example, 'Hedeby hood') can help you locate images and information.



Early Period

Anglo-Saxons appeared to most often wear simple leather skullcaps. I'm not having much luck finding good resources on Expansion Age (Viking) headgear – evidence for this era is notoriously thin on the ground.

One of the best-known Expansion Age garments, arriving just at the end of the period, is the Skjoldehamn hood, from a bog in Sweden, c. 1050-1090 – see Kolgrimr Hrafnisdottir's lovely version. Kolgrimr suggests Ásfríðr Ulfvíðardóttir's page as a good (quite scholarly) source:

<http://www.medieval-baltic.us/skjold.html>

Eleanor Deyeson's page for handfinishing - <https://eleanordeyson.wordpress.com/2014/09/13/hand-finishing-the-skjoldehamn-hood/>

From the Norse settlement at Dublin, the Dublin Hood is a simple woollen woman's cap from the 10th-11th centuries, more rectangular than a coif, with the point left on at the back, while the similar find from the Coppergate digs, the 10th Century Jorvik hood, is made of silk and has a curve at the back and linen ties.

<http://genvieve.net/sca/vikingcap.html>

<https://dawnsdressdiary.wordpress.com/2015/01/14/viking-age-hoods-jorvik-dublin/>



Shell's Jorvik hoods. The one at left has a woollen strip for added warmth.

Medieval and Later Period

For later period hoods, look at finds like the Herjolfsnes 66, which is dated to late 1400s in Greenland. The Herjolfsnes is a hood with a capelet well down over the shoulders, a front gore, and liripipe. It's somewhat similar to the late medieval (c. 1290-1430) Bocksten hood.

<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/cloth/herjol66.html>

COIFS are basically the ubiquitous SCA medieval headwear, appropriate everywhere from formal garb and under the crowns on their Majesty's heads to under helms on the battlefield and on the heads of cooks and carpenters. As these can be found in images throughout the SCA period, coifs or arming caps are a great place for new Scadians to start making garb.

The coif consists of a simple cloth cap cut in two quarter-circles (or variations thereof), most often made of silk or linen. Ties (variously fabric or cord) are attached at the front usually tied under the chin, but you'll sometimes see them tied at the back of the head. The St Birgitta's Cap is a women's more elaborate variation on the coif with a decorated centre seam and ties that wrap around the head, keeping longer hair contained. For designs for padded versions, look for arming caps.



Above: a St Birgitta's Cap, a Coif from Maciejowski, and an arming cap from Maciejowski.

One of the key sources for early Medieval garb is the Maciejowski Bible (Pierpoint Morgan Library, New York: MS M.638). (Also known as the Morgan Bible), commissioned by King Louis IX of France circa 1250.

The *Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*, is an early 15th Century French resource

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tr%C3%A8s_Riches_Heures_du_Duc_de_Berry

Left: simple coif from les Tres Riches Heures. Right: a coif from Maciejowski.



For patterns, we've been using the Medieval Tailor's Assistant, and patterning from hoods that we own and are known to fit. You might also like to check out Esperanza de Navarra's Maniacal Medievalist for one that has calculations for a fit: <https://maniacalmedievalist.wordpress.com/2012/11/02/pattern-your-own-simple-coif-unpadded-arming-cap/>

Calendar

June

- 2 - Wagga Gathering
- 11- Shire Meeting (one off change due to long weekend)
- 10 - Arts & Sciences in Albury
- 16 - Albury Gathering from 2.00 p.m. - Vikings
- 24 - Scriptorium in Wodonga from 1.30 p.m.

July

- 7 - Wagga Gathering
- 8 - Shire meeting
- 8 - Southern Arts & Sciences
- 21 - SHIRE ANNIVERSARY GATHERING (Coronation in St. Florian de la Riviere) - Winter Warmers
- 29 - Scriptorium

August

- 4 - Wagga Gathering
- 12 - Shire Meeting
- 12 - Southern Arts & Sciences
- 18 - Southern Gathering
- 26 - Scriptorium

NORTHERN FIGHTER TRAINING

**Takes place at the Beckwith Street Tennis
Courts every Tuesday night**

September

- 1 - Wagga Gathering
- 9 - Shire Meeting
- 9 - Southern Arts & Sciences
- 15 - Southern Gathering - SPRING REVEL
- 29 - Jindera 150th Celebrations—Demo to be confirmed
- 30 - Scriptorium

October

- 6 - Wagga Gathering
- 6 - BORDER DIMENSIONS IN WODONGA
- 14 - Shire Meeting
- 14 - Southern Arts & Sciences
- 20 - Southern Gathering
- 28 - Scriptorium

November

- 3 - Wagga Gathering
- 4 - Shire Meeting (Moved to 1st Sunday)
- 10/11 - NOVEMBER CROWN IN WODONGA
- 17 - Southern Gathering

December

- 1 - Wagga Gathering
- 9 - Shire Meeting
- 9 - Southern Arts & Sciences
- 15 - **YULETIDE GATHERING IN ALBURY**

