



THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM AUSTRALIA

# The Shire of Bordescros

*Nolite perturbari, pro omnibus vinum!*

## GRAPEVINE DECEMBER



### CHRONICLER'S WELCOME



Unto the worthy populace of Bordescros and to all of the friends of the Shire, Greetings.

It has been decided that due to the high cost of everything these days that we would not add to the cost of Christmas for everyone by having our usual Kris Kringle but we would instead bring along an item of food to be donated to a charity. The theme for Yule this year will be Good King Wenceslas as he did a lot for the poor in his time and we are going to be doing our small bit for them too. We thought maybe we would give the donations to the Salvos, if anyone has any other ideas on a charity that might be worthy please bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Please check out the different pages as there is information about things that are going on.

It looks like we will have Visitor coming to Yule, we hope to see you all there.

Yours in Service,  
**Arnora BloodAxe**

<b><u>CALENDAR</u></b>	
<i>4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</i>	<i>LOCH ALBA TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</i>	<i>BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&amp;S</i>
<i>18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</i>	<i>BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</i>	<i>BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&amp;S</i>
<i>15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</i>	<i>BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>

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## *AT THE MARSHALL'S COMMAND*

### **Fighter practice**

The Albury and Loch Alba Practice will be for heavy combat training and rapier training if sufficient authorised marshals are available for each discipline

ALBA LOCH	The last Sunday of each month between 2pm and 5pm. Confirm with James Douglas as to where.
ALBURY	The 2nd Sunday of each month from 2pm until 6pm (i.e. sunset if that keen!) at The Albury Wodonga Sport fishing Club Riverina Hwy.
ARCHERY	Archery Training is at this present time at Thors Hof (Will's home) on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, until such time as we can set up the new location and then it will be held at the same time as Heavy fighter Practice. Please confirm with Lord William if you wish to train.

Remember there is always the opportunity to train at Bordescros monthly bash if time permits.

*Don't forget to send in any articles  
from Loch Alba for your page in the  
Grapevine.*

*-- Editor*

## Group News

### *Loch Alba*

Greetings all,

Please note, that the monthly Bash in Wagga will go ahead this Saturday, 4 December 2010. House open from 3pm at 14 Harrier Street, Wagga. Feast will be from 6:30 pm and potluck, preferably in a medieval theme. If you need recipes, please contact me. Tournament and fighter training from 3:30pm, including Rapier if any are interested.

Yours in Service,

James Douglas

Bordescros.

In the meantime, if there is anyone who is intending on coming to the event and who would be willing to do a class on an item of Arts or Sciences please

contact me at [clanscotia@hotmail.com](mailto:clanscotia@hotmail.com) with the subject line of Border War A&S.

A&S is not a major feature of the event, but we would appreciate the opportunity to learn from our visitors. It also provides an alternative to watching fighting (for those who are looking for such) and to enjoy the efficient cooling machines.

Yours in service

Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

### *Border War XIII*

Greetings,

May I announce bookings are open for BW 13, in February 2011. Please see attached the website: <http://borderwar13.wordpress.com/>.

Yours in Service,

James Douglas.  
Steward

### *Border War XIII* *A&S*

Greetings unto Lochac,

Border War will again be held the last weekend in February (25-27) at Wagga Wagga.

Our steward, Lord James Douglas, has asked me to look after the Arts and Sciences, and there will again be competitions, the details of which will be following in the near future. However as advance notice, there will be brewing competitions - mead, fruit wine, and non-alcoholic cordial.

**CALENDAR**

<i>4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</i>	<i>LOCH ALBA TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</i>	<i>BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&amp;S</i>
<i>18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</i>	<i>BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>

*2011*

<i>9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</i>	<i>BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&amp;S</i>
<i>15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</i>	<i>BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</i>	<i>LOCH ALBA TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</i>	<i>BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&amp;S</i>
<i>19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</i>	<i>BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>25<sup>TH</sup>, 26<sup>TH</sup> &amp; 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</i>	<i>BORDER WAR XIII</i>
<i>5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</i>	<i>LOCH ALBA TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</i>	<i>BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&amp;S</i>
<i>19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</i>	<i>BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL</i>	<i>LOCH ALBA TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</i>	<i>BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&amp;S</i>
<i>16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</i>	<i>BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST</i>
<i>22<sup>ND</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup>, 24<sup>TH</sup> &amp; 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</i>	<i>EASTER ROWANY FESTIVAL &amp; SUTH MOOT</i>

This Calendar is correct at this time but it is subject to changes.

## The origins of the Celebration of Christmas

For those who follow the Christian faith, the festival of Christmas is regarded by many as the greatest celebration throughout the ecclesiastical year. To Christians the birth of Jesus Christ, who is seen by them as the deliverer of the human race, and the mysterious link connecting the transcendent and incomprehensible attributes of Deity with human sympathies and affections, should be considered as the most glorious event that ever happened, and the most worthy of being reverently and joyously commemorated. At one period denounced by the Puritans as superstitious, and to the present day disregarded by Calvinistic Protestants, as unwarranted by Scripture, there are few who will seriously dispute the propriety of observing the anniversary of Christ's birth by a religious service.

The question arises as to whether 25<sup>th</sup> December really the day on which Jesus of Nazareth was born in the manger at Bethlehem? The evidence regarding the date is not only traditional, but conflicting and confused. In the earliest periods at which we have any record of the observance of Christmas, we find that some communities of Christians celebrated the festival on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> January; others on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, the time of the Jewish Passover; while others, it is said, observed it on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, or Feast of Tabernacles. There is some evidence to suggest that the birth was actually during October 4 BCE, if it was at the time of the Roman census.

Long before the reign of Constantine, in the fourth century, the season of the New Year had been adopted as the period for celebrating the Nativity, though a difference in this respect existed in the practice of the Eastern and Western Churches, the former observing 6<sup>th</sup> January, and the latter 25<sup>th</sup> December. The custom of the Western Church at last prevailed, and both of the ecclesiastical bodies agreed to hold the anniversary on the same day. The fixing of the date appears to have been the act of Julius I, who presided as pope or bishop of Rome, from 337 to 352 A.D. The circumstance is doubted by Mosheim, but is confirmed by St. Chrysostom, who died in the beginning of the fifth century.



St Chrysostom wrote that Julius, on the solicitation of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, caused strict inquiries to be made on the subject, and following what seemed to be the best authenticated tradition, settled authoritatively 25<sup>th</sup> December as the anniversary of Christ's birth, the '*Festorum omnium metropolis*,' as it is styled by Chrysostom. By the end of the second century, there is evidence of 'Christmas' in the reign of the Emperor Commodus. From the fourth century at least, 25<sup>th</sup> December has been celebrated as the anniversary of the Nativity by most of Christendom.

Like many events in the annual ecclesiastical calendar it is impossible to know when the originating events actually occurred, and many were placed near pre-existing pagan festivals. In earlier pagan times, there seems to have been a universal tendency to worship the sun as the giver of life and light, and the visible manifestation of the Deity.

The time chosen to celebrate all of these seems to have been the season of the winter-solstice. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates the gradual shortening of the day which reaches its point on 21<sup>st</sup> December, and the sun, recommencing his upward course, announces that mid-winter is past, and spring and summer are approaching. On similar grounds, pagans observe mid-summer, or the summer-solstice, when the sun arrives at the culminating point of his ascent on 21<sup>st</sup> June, or longest day. For us in the Southern Hemisphere of course these dates are reversed

The Romans worshipped *Saturn* To the Scandinavians he was known as *Odin* or *Woden*, the father of *Thor*, as the divinity of which the 'sun was the visible manifestation. To the Persians, the name of

the god of lights was *Mithras*, apparently the same as the Irish *Mithr*, and with the Phoenicians or Carthaginians it was *Baal* or *Bel*.



*Saturnalia*, or the *festival of Saturn*, the father of the gods, was celebrated by the Romans with much merry-making. The slaves freedom in speech and behavior, and it is even said that their masters waited on them as servants. Everyone feasted and rejoiced, work and business were suspended, the houses were decked with laurels and evergreens, presents were made by parents and friends, and all sorts of games and amusements played. This was a haunt of the Lord of Misrule.

In the much chillier north similar celebrations took place fires extensively kindled, both in and out of doors in honour of Odin and Thor. Sacred mistletoe was gathered by the Druids, and sacrifices, both of men and cattle, were made to the divinities.

By building on *Romani Saturnalia*, the Christmas festivities in Britain underwent further changes and modifications having first added the Druidical rites and superstitions, and then, after the arrival of the Saxons, the various ceremonies practiced by the ancient Germans and Scandinavians. In the early ages of Christianity the converts wanted to continue indulging in the activities and rituals which were enjoyed by their pagan countrymen. Eventually the church endeavored to amalgamate the old with the new by transferring the heathen ceremonies to the solemnities of the Christian festivals.

This has seen the strange amalgamation of Christian and pagan rites which make up modern Christmas.



There is considerable debate even about the origins of the term 'yule' which is still widespread. During the middle ages the festival of Christmas, grafted on the pagan rites of Yule, continued throughout Christendom to be universally celebrated. On the adoption of a new system of faith by most of the northern nations of Europe in the sixteenth century, the Lutheran and Anglican churches retained the celebration of Christmas and other festivals.

This does seem to be a rather significant time of the year, regardless of what faith one follows be it pagan of one form or another, Christian or Jewish. What is important is to respect our own traditions, and extend that respect to those of others faiths. Any reason to offer 'Peace and Goodwill to all people' is a good one. It is an excellent opportunity to come together and celebrate the season with our friends, family and loved ones.

## Seasons Greetings to all,

Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

## BORDER WAR

The major event held by the Shire of Bordescros, Border War, is coming up on 25-27 February 2011 in Wagga Wagga. For those of you who are new, this is a great opportunity to experience a larger local event, meet others who participate in the SCA in other areas including Politachopolis, Rowany, Stormhold and Krae Glas, and to give you a taste of what it can be like when you can 'stay medieval' for a whole weekend. It is also a great 'warm up' for Rowany Festival being held over Easter.

Lord James Douglas has chosen a theme of 'companionship and chivalry'. In order to incorporate some elements of this into the Arts and Sciences for the event, there will be the following competitions, open to locals and visitors alike:

The group's major event for the year, Border War, is coming up in Wagga Wagga on 25-27 February 2011 and there will be the following A&S competitions:

- A. Brewing - mead, fruit wine and non-alcoholic cordials
- B. Pageantry - banners, tabbards, shields etc.
- C. Heraldic Clothing
- D. Performance piece - music, dance, singing or poetry

The idea is that each one reflects the theme in some way, and they will also contribute towards enhancing the appearance and enjoyment of the event. I am pleased to be able to say that there will definitely be judges in attendance, so you will be able to get some feedback and comment.

YIS  
Cairistiona



A&S Calendar: Our A&S Officer is Banmaighster Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

<b>Shire A&amp;S Competitions</b>	
<b>December 2010</b>	Christmas/Yule item of decoration
<b>December 2010</b>	Christmas/Yule performance item
<b>December 2010</b>	Christmas/Yule food item

## **BORDESCROS ARTS & SCIENCES COMPETITIONS FOR ASXLI**

- Unless indicated otherwise, all competitions are to cover all regions of the world 600 CE to 1600 CE.
- Items do not have to be new, but must be made by the person/s submitting them to the competition.
- They should not be entered into a competition at the Shire level more than once, unless it was incomplete at the first occasion.
- Documentation is not essential, but will result in extra points.
- Points are awarded up to 10 for each of documentation, authenticity, creativity/presentation, complexity and workmanship

### **December 2010**

Christmas/Yule item of decoration  
 Christmas/Yule performance item  
 Christmas/Yule food item

### **January 2011**

Cake or Biscuits pre 1609  
 Mens clothing after 1400  
 Pouch

### **February 2011**

Footwear  
 Archery item – quiver, arrows, bows, wrist guard  
 Sublety

### **March 2011**

Wall hanging  
 Women's clothing after 1400  
 Cordials – alcoholic and otherwise

### **April 2011**

Fighting tabbard  
 Food using cinnamon, nutmeg or cloves  
 Accessories – after 1400

### **May 2011**

Household Item - any item used in a home  
 Shield – war, parade or tournament  
 Fruit wine

**June 2011**

Food using game – venison, rabbit, pheasant etc.

Leather item

Child's clothing

### Bordescros A&S Competition Entry Form

(to be completed by the Entrant and retained by the Bordescros A&S Officer)

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Competition: \_\_\_\_\_

SCA Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry No: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_

(Address or Email) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Time Frame / Location in Period: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you included Documentation with your entry?

Yes  No

I agree to have a photo of this entry added to the Bordescros A&S Web Site:

Yes  No

I agree to have a photo of this entry and documentation published in Bordescros Grapevine:

Yes  No

#### INFORMATION FOR JUDGES:

Is this your first attempt at this type of item / skill ?

Yes  No

I would consider my experience level in this skill to be:

Beginner  Intermediate  Advanced  Professional

**(A&S Officer, please check the Entrant's skill level is noted on the A&S Competition Judging Form).**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

## BORDESCROS REGNUM



**King & Queen**

King Edmund and Queen Leonore



**Prince & Princess**

Crown Prince Gabriel and Crown Princess Constanzia



**Seneschal**

Lord Jon Dai of the Lane



**Hospitaller**

Position Vacant



**Herald Pursuivant**

Position Vacant



**Reeve**

Lord Crimthann MacFiachac



**Knight Marshal**

Lord Aylen de Hammeldone



**Arts & Science**

Bannaighster Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill



**Constable**

Position Vacant



**Chronicler**

Lady Arnora BloodAxe



**Web**

Position Vacant