

The (low tech) Bowstring

Welcome to the Shire of Arrowsreach the land of the elusive Aardvarrk!!

Volume 3, Issue 4
November 2007

From the desk of the temporary editor:

Greetings one and all my fairest shire of Arrowsreach,

Untill the end of the year I, lady nadia, have hijacked the otherwise respectful and well put together arrowsreach newsletter The Bowstring! huzzah! Forget the days of everything spelt correctly and beautiful grammer...because you shall not find any of that silly nonsense here.

I do hope you are at least slightly amused by the next few issues...I'm sure the regular chronicalor is already shaking her head and crying "oh god, what did I allow to be unleashed upon the world!"

We do hope to have her back with us very soon as I make a much better sewer than writer :) I'll have you know that I did once upon a time major in literature at Uni...but that was an American school and I'm sure you'll all have an opinion about that. Something something something, blah blah blah...now on to some vague medieval stuff:

Cheers,
Lady Nadia

Here's a cute random picture



Arrowsreach Regular Events	What's on in November
Heavy Training - Every Monday Night 7.30-10pm Central Ringwood Community Hall, Bedford park, Ringwood	4th - Stormhold Monthly Bash
Cost: \$5 for Fighters \$3 for Spectators (\$1 discount for Members)	5th - Arrowsreach Heavy Training 8th - Arrowsreach Rapier Training
First Monday each Month - Garb Encouraged Event Bowstring Released (well, mostly)	10th - November Crown 11th - November Crown
Second Monday each Month - Garbed Event A'reach Monthly Bash Training Tourney	12th - Arrowsreach Heavy Training 15th - Arrowsreach Rapier Training 16th - Arrowsreach Rapier Workshop 17th - Arrowsreach Rapier Workshop Herb and Garden Guild (see flyer) 19th - Arrowsreach Heavy Training 22th - Arrowsreach Rapier Training 26th - Arrowsreach Heavy Training 29th - Arrowsreach Rapier Training

What's on in December	Shire Gossip
1 st William Marshall Tournament and Feast (see flyer) 3 rd Arrowsreach Heavy Training 6 th Arrowsreach Rapier Training 10 th Arrowsreach Heavy and Rapier Tournament (see flyer) 13 th Arrowsreach Rapier Training 17 th Arrowsreach Christmas Party (see flyer) (and Heavy Training) 20 th Arrowsreach Rapier Training See you all in January!	Gossip? what gossip? how dare you, I don't gossip! I wouldn't in a million years spread useless information about our members private lives. Eghads, what do you take me for? Some silly blabber mouth that goes around talking about people and making things up when the real story is probably too boring to repeat! Ha! I wouldn't ever. Well... only possibly, maybe, if it's really really good. But unfortunately you people haven't done anything in months that I would even begin to consider as gossip worthy. I don't know why I'm even bothering filling in this space.

Herb and Garden Guild

Good morning good gentles all

I would like to extend a cordial invitation to all and sundry to a Spring Afternoon Tea and Potluck Picnic on the 17th of November at my humble cottage at 88 Creek Road, Mitcham from 2pm onwards

Bring your plants and seeds for swapping, your books and knowledge for sharing and a good sense of fun!

Discussion topics will include the translation of medieval plant names to modern ones and medieval myths and misconceptions about plants

All are welcome to contact me offlist if there are any question
Hope to see you there

Regards
Belissario

Rue : Ruta Graveolens

Rue is strongly scented plant (some would say disagreeably so) and an insect repellent par excellence. Its matte blue green leaves and its bright yellow flowers attract bees and butterflies while keeping slugs away.

There aren't very many types of Rue and it is also known as Herb of Grace and herbygrass. It is another native of southern Europe that was distributed by the Romans.

It should be noted that care should be taken in handling rue, especially the sap. It can cause photodermatitis (blistering of the skin). I have handled it with no ill effect but it is a good idea to wear gloves.

Expectant mothers would do well to avoid it as it is an abortifacient and ingestion is out of the question.

Rue is a small shrub about a couple of feet tall. Its lower stem is woody which turns into a ferny spray of soft leaves. They grow alternately and are slightly oval splitting into a few leaflets. When it flowers in summer, clusters of the four petalled cup shaped flowers appear at the top small branches.

It is a hardy grower but prefers a sunnier aspect, at its best if given a bit of shelter and not waterlogged. It is susceptible to frost which will damage it's feathery leaves.

An evergreen it is best used fresh though it can be dried.

Planted next to basil, sage and cabbages it will kill them while it will come off worse for wear near mint. I have had it growing alongside Rosemary quite well clipped into a loose hedge.

Though the foliage is quite bitter it can be used in cooking though in small amounts (remember it is slightly toxic). Nevertheless it can be used to season salads and vegetable stews.

I have found reference to its use in North African and Scandinavian cooking. It can be used with chicken, eggs, fish, mushrooms, potatoes and sparingly in marinades.

Certainly it can be used to favour vinegars and I know the seeds have been used to favour grappa and other distillates.

More of a medicinal plant, Rue has a long history as a domestic remedy.

Its can be used in a tincture (an alcoholic extract) in the treatment of pain in the joints, the

bruised leaves for sciatica and also for gout.

A compress is said to relieve headaches, very mild tea to soothe stomach ailments and to rid oneself of worms.

It can be used as a stimulant and antispasmodic, acts as a contraceptive and emmenagogue.

It has been used as a poison antidote as it is strongly emetic.

Its roots yield a red dye.

During the Middle Ages Rue was hung in doorways and windows to keep evil spirits at bay and as a ward against witches. Used as a strewing herb, it was thought to protect against the plague and since it is a pesticide as well as having antiseptic qualities that was probably true.

It is said to sharpen eyesight and bestow second sight.

It received its name Herb of Grace because it was used to sprinkle holy water before mass and as a tool during exorcisms.

Of course Rue has long been associated with regret but you won't forgive yourself if you don't find a place for this handy herb in your garden!

Unto all Gentles of the Noble Shire of Arrowsreach does I, Lord Gregory Tortoise de Sloleye, Kingdom Rapier Marshal of Lochac, send good wishes and good account of one of your own.

On the Sunday of Festival, the Great Baronesses of Lochac gathered to host a rapier tournament and choose a champion from those contested. It is one of the most prestigious tournaments of the year, and was entered by many of all levels of skill and experience. I was having a Good day. It came to be that my pool included four whole Companions of the Order of the White Scarfe, the premier order of rapierists of Lochac. In my first two rounds I faced the inaugural member of the order, Don ibn Jelal, whose attacks I managed to survive long enough to press enough of mine home to take the round. It was a very good start. Next, I faced the newly elevated Dona Silfren the Singer, one who knew my fencing from its beginning. After defeating Her Excellency, I felt rather pleased, I then faced some young person I'd not heard of, and I did not know where he'd come from. In his manner, he was obviously a beginner. In our first bout, we brought swords together and I fell, a little surprised but that will teach me. In our second, I was a little more

cautious, but yet again, I fell. This fencer was obviously new to the game seeming to have yet learned only a few techniques. Unfortunately for me, he'd learned them well, extremely well, and they were very good techniques. Tobias was unnervingly good at bringing his sword point online, even after I had pushed it off line. Rushing in and brawling was likely to get me killed before I'd come within four feet. The remaining 3 bouts of the best of five round were won by very careful work mixing a small amount of aggression with care and patience waiting for Tobias to make a mistake. Somehow, I was victorious in the end, scraping through against a beginner with only six months training. Tobias was the first fencer to have pushed me to fight all five bouts of a round in that tournament - something two companions of the White Scarfe could not do.

Needless to say I was very impressed with Lord Tobias' fencing. His strengths appear to lie in applying a few fundamental principles to every action he makes with a rapier. Such a fencer should never be considered lightly. That night of Festival, I presented Tobias a beaded tassel that was presented to me by Don Dameon Greybeard, the victor, for fighting well at a tournament I did not quite win myself. It is a treasured token, and one I felt very glad to pass on in such similar circumstances. Manciolino, one of the period fencing masters said: "...the glory of the victor depends on the valor of the vanquished..." After that round, I felt I had achieved a glorious victory against an equally valorous opponent.

For me, the best was yet to come. Off the field, I congratulated Lord Tobias on his sound fencing and thanked him for the remarkably hard fight. He then told me some of the best news I'd heard that festival (and I'd heard a lot). Lord Tobias hails from Arrowsreach. You will all say, yeah, so do we all. During my time as the Kingdom Rapier Marshal, I was always frustrated by the apparent outright objection the group of Arrowsreach held towards rapier. When Lord Everard contacted me asking about starting it up, I did not believe it would work out, that there would be any interest. I was not alone, either.

To my absolute joy, Arrowsreach seems to have not only accepted rapier, but embraced it. I receive reports from around the kingdom of the state of rapier. The reports I receive from Arrowsreach are completely filled with enthusiasm, activity, study and growth. I hear of the enthusiastic and diligent efforts of the students from the teachers Piers and Wolfram. I hear of the great efforts of the teachers from the students. Even more to the point, I have been on the receiving end of that combination, and been left thoroughly impressed. Only a year

ago, I would not have believed Arrowsreach would have a single authorised fencer. Today I know that not only do you have many authorised and active fencers, they are of a calibre that Arrowsreach should be extremely proud of.

Tobias confessed that he only played rapier for "fun". It is a very good reason to do so. I encourage you all to take up rapier, just for fun.

Yours' In Service
Lord Gregory Tortouse de Sloleye
Grateful Kingdom Rapier Marshal

Meet The Shire Lord Muloc de Pachter

1. How long have you been in the SCA?

I first attended a Sunday training in about April 2003 meaning I've been in the SCA for about four and a half years now.

2. What do you like best about the SCA?

What I like most about the SCA is the friendly community of like-minded people. It's easy to make good friends and meet lovely people. I also love that I can go to an SCA event and completely forget about the outside world, either for a few hours at a feast or ten days at festival.

3. What's your favourite medieval dish?

Roasted meat!

4. How many times do you think you would survive if you were flung by a trebuchet?

Just the once. Mule's weren't made for flying.

5. If you were an animal what would it be?

I would be a mule. That way people wouldn't wonder what to call me.

6. Do you think the SCA should change it's name to the Society for Fun and Games?

I think the SCA should keep it's name because SMFG just isn't as catchy. Also Society for Creative Anachronism suitably defines the somewhat 'geeky' nature of our club.

7. Do you have any aspirations within the SCA (like becoming a knight, for example).

My only aspiration in the SCA is to help others have fun. If along the way that brings recognition for chivalry, service or accurately portraying history then so be it.

8. To what length do you think Master Dafydd's beard will grow to?

At least 30cm's longer than mine will ever be.

9. If Master Gwynfor asked you to play tiddly winks, what would you say?

I would say "Grab the winks and prepare to squidge-off!".

10. Do you hold an officer's position, what is it and what are the pros and cons of being an officer?

I currently hold the office of reeve which involves being in charge of the groups money.

Pros:

- having people keep you up to date with what is happening in the group
- ultra-secret officer gossip
- being healthy enough financially to say "Yes" to fun things for the group

Cons:

- counting money becomes labourious and I'm swimming in coin bags
- having to say "No" to fun things that we can't afford
- when I confuse Arrowsreach's bank balance with my own and think I have cash to splash

Being an officer in Arrowsreach is fun and rewarding but can also be challenging and it definitely involves hard work. A lot happens behind the scenes to make the group run successfully and when the officers are doing a good job it's hard to know that the work is even being done, just like at a well run event. Holding an officers position is also a great learning experience and it definitely changes the way you play the game. I think everyone should experience, at some point, holding an officers position.

11. If you saw Jesus buying cornflakes in the grocery store, what would you do?

I would probably comment that I didn't realise Rohan liked cornflakes for breakfast.

12. Who is your favourite medieval King from England and what would you like to say to him?

My favourite medieval king from England would be William I and I would have to ask him to tell me a "No shit ... there I was ..." story about the Battle of Hastings.

Mule

<http://thetable.info/>

ARROWSREACH NEEDS YOU!!

All paid members can be officers, come learn to be an officer: it can be rewarding, challenging and best of all... helpful to your shire!

New Arts and Science Officer Needed

Greetings to the Shire of Arrowsreach,

My warrant as A&S officer is due to end on the 19th July, 2007. I am willing to undertake a short extension to that term while I organise my replacement.

I ask that all parties interested in taking up the position present an application as soon as possible.

The A&S Officer role supports the Arts and Sciences within Arrowsreach, and the position may involve encouraging A&S activities, putting people in touch with those who have skills they wish to learn, organising collegium/workshops etc.

Please send expressions of interest or queries to
suzanneandjason@solarflarecreations.com.au

Yours in service,
Lady Arganhell merch Briauc

New Seneschal Needed

Hiya Folks

I'm scheduled and will be stepping down in May 2008. I thought it prudent to ask for expressions of interest so we can do the training thing over the next 6 months.

Please note as it's an officer position only members can hold the position.

If you are interested please contact me.

Cheers

Jase

PS. I will not be extending my warrant so the Group will need someone to step up.

Ask The Empress!

Ello ello my little shire darlings! I've come out of hiding (briefly) to share with you all my honest point of view. Please write in more SCA questions and I'll do my best to speak my mind.

kiss kiss,
the empress
empress@arrowsreach.com

**Dear Empress,
Can I wear my Ugg boots with my garb?**

Dear Uggie,
You know what, I did start writing a long winded response about the style, material and the woulda, coulda, shoulda about being medieval... but I decided to keep the answer short and sweet: eh, I really don't care! Are you an active, fun and chivalric member of the SCA? Do you help at events and assist newcomers? If you answered yes than you're ok by me, it is only stated that we have to make an 'attempt' at pre 16th century clothing. Whether or not I think you look like a git is another article altogether.

**Dear Empress,
Is there a role for children of various ages in the SCA?**

Hmm...Let me ask you this: Is there a role for socially inept computer dweebs in SCA? There is because someone made it happen. It is not MY responsibility to make sure you, your children, your next door neighbor or even your blind husband have fun and fit in at the SCA. It's nice and it's fantastic when the other volunteers make the effort, but the SCA is not here to entertain you. Never just expect the SCA to cater for you...stand up and make it happen or ask for help!! We all have different agendas and interests in the SCA and they don't necessarily match up with yours: that goes for not just children and parents but anyone. Basically, if you're the one who notices a gap then I suggest you get off your butt and do something about it. So next time the kids are bored: organize a game, activity or find a way for them to be a part of the action.

**Dear Empress,
Will learning how to do Medieval Dancing really
help me pick up chicks at SCA events?
Signed, Concerned about looking too girly**

Dear Girly,
Master Hrolf is a sexy man, Master Brian...sexiest
dancer I ever saw (he can go 8 hours without a
break) and then there's Master Will: sex on a stick
(lickable baby yeah!). What is my point? First of all,
all of these men dance (yes, surprise surprise
Master Will cuts a mean brawl). Second, all these
men are married to HOT chicks. Master Will and
Lady Nadia even use to pash at dance practice!! And
third?
They all have Peerage awards. Hmmm... need I say
anything more?

Arrowsreach Christmas Party

Monday December 17

7:30pm to 10pm

Silly party games, Finger food and
regular heavy fighter training!

Garbed Event

Keep posted for more details

Lady N

Saturday December 1st, William Marshal Memorial Tourney and Feast, Stormhold

Royal visit

A chivalric weapons tourney will be held on
Saturday, December 1st. At Darling
Gardens, Hoddle Street, Clifton Hill
(Melways 2C-H3) from 11 AM, followed by a
catered feast at St. Brigits Hall. Nicholson
Street, North Fitzroy, (Melways 2C-A4) from
5PM.

Entry by tickets at
\$30 for members,
\$35 for non-Members
minors 0-6 \$ 0 | 7-12 \$10 | 13-18 \$20

Please make cheques payable to S.C.A.,
Inc., Stormhold. Tickets will be on sale from
the autocrat from the 1st of October to the
29th of November. (wayfarers by
arrangement with the autocrat).

Chivalric weapons are two-handed sword or
shield with either sword, mace or axe. This
will be followed by the usual Challenge
Resurrection Ransom meleé (ransoms will
be supplied by the event, commensurate
with the status of the fighter) in the style of
the twelfth century. Lists open 11 AM,
tourney from Noon sharp (NO SCA TIME).
Tourney \$5 tickets, on the day only

The feast will be served to tables of 8 with
the first courses at 6:30pm.

At the feast will also be a Best Angevin
Garb competition and the the Baronial Arts
and Sciences Championship. Anyone with
special dietary requirements please advise
the autocrat.

Autocrat: Thorfinn Hrolfsson (Steve
Roylance, 1592 Malvern Road, Glen Iris,
Victoria, 3146,
(03) 9 885 6348
0431 473 256
roylance@corplink.com.au

What are you doing the 24th and 25th of November?

I would like to hear from Singer, Dancers, Musicians, Story tellers, A&S, Fighters and the general populace who can come and be apart of this event! in Berwick at the Old Cheese Factory.

In previous years Gwynfor and Auntie Nic have run this event and I would like to do them justice by attempting to run the event as well as them.

I am looking for people willing to come and work their A&S in the pavilion so public can see what we do. If someone is willing to bring supplies and equipment so the public can help them make chain mail or something, whatever really then let me know!

This is a great time for us to get new members to the SCA. We all know how much we enjoy being apart of it and this is a chance to introduce others to the SCA and also have some fun and show off your skills.

We also need to display banners, A&S, war craft etc. for the public to look at. This year there are some sites that are allowed fires depending on fire restrictions. I need to know asap if anyone would like me to arrange a site with a fire.

It's not long now and the event is a garbed event. Please let me know.

I am intending to make up cards for people to take with them about how to get involved. If anyone is interested in inputting ideas I am all ears. I would like to get them done asap so it's ready.

Thank you in advance to all those willing to be involved. I appreciate all of your time and effort and I hope you enjoy yourselves.

YiS,
Anastasia aka Leanne
find.miss.lea@gmail.com