

LET IT BE KNOWN



Newsletter of the Shire of Owlsherst
Fall 2014

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November 2014

A message from the Chronicler

Greetings good gentles,

First I want to apologize to all the members of the shire for not getting a newsletter out prior to now. It is my intent to publish one every quarter for the rest of my time in this office. This newsletter will be a recap of this past year's events and activities in the shire along with some of our future events. For those that are on the yahoo groups' page I have posted the minutes from each of our monthly meetings for the past year. If you are interested in seeing what happened at each of the meetings this would be the place to go. If you aren't a member of the group, please join and you will have access to the minutes or if you contact me I will email a pdf copy to you.

Yours in service,
Marcus



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It has been a very busy year for our shire with many events and activities what I hope to do with this series of articles to report on them in the order that they happened.

Owlsherst Country 12th Night -1/18/14 – Once again our 12th night was a success due to the efforts of all of our shire members. The autocrat, Lady Thorfina reported that the event went well except for one accident and expressed her thanks to all involved with the event. The owners of the site were well pleased with our cleanup efforts and the deposit has been returned to the shire. Lost and found items were discussed and arrangements have been made for the return of the items. Two additional expenses were approved, one a tournament prize supplied by Wulfgar and the other for the towers constructed by Lady Thorfina to hide the bingo boards in the hall. These may be used to screen other items in various sites and will become part of the shire chattels. Constancia reported the event was profitable with 104 gentles on site and 87 for feast. The feast was fantastic with our cooks' guild doing a most remarkable job. Master Victor expressed his pleasure with the way the kitchen functioned and offers his many thanks to all those who helped in the kitchen. This year Lady Orlaithe was in charge of dayboard and did a most outstanding job with it. During the day the populace had a chance to observe a well-run tournament for the adult fighters along with one for the youth which was won by Kai and Marcus was presented a baldric for his chivalrous acts on the field and hall thus making him the youth fighter representative for the shire. For those with more of an A&S interest there were performances by Nutmegs and Ginger as well as Skyn, Wynd and Wyre and dancing later in the evening. During the business meeting that followed the event the event was discussed and there are a few items to note. One suggestion for improvement at 12th Night was to ensure that time schedules were more closely followed which will be worked on for the 2015 event. One of the people in a new positions this time was Brandulfr at troll who indicated he found the position interesting and was quite pleased. One thing to note, the cooks guild will be on the lookout for some new china bowls in a 9 inch size due to the untimely demise of several in our possession. To replace the set they would need 22 bowls so if anyone would have a source at a reasonable cost please let a member of our cooks guild know, also the cooks guild is in the need of several large mixing bowls so if anyone knows a source or would have some to donate to the shire please let the cooks guild know as well.

Election of officers -4/22/14

The ballot of officers was set at the April meeting as listed below:

Seneschal – Carol Bair (Fabrisse)

Arts & Sciences Minister – Diane Hollinger (Orlaithe)

Chatelaine – Robert Sandusky (Robert the Tall)

Chronicler – Mark Bair (Marcus)

Webminister – Joe Sites (Edmund)

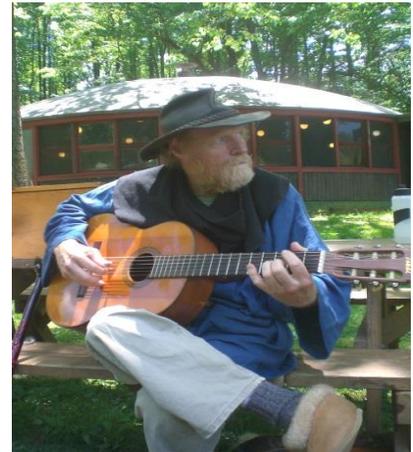
Herald – Rose (Kalista)

At our May meeting the election was held and prior to closing the slate of candidates for the offices a discussion ensued and Robert the Tall agreed to be on the ballot as Chatelaine. There was a motion made by Lord Conall and seconded by Lord Brandulfr to close the ballot. A motion was then made to accept the ballot as noted by Mistress Linette and seconded by Master Victor. The motion passed with no nay vote and the new officers are listed by position above



The Spring Viking Thing - 6/7/14- Despite a major setback when the set up crew arrived at 6:30 AM (Oh my god early) the event was a success and a good time was had by all attending. For those not aware of what happened, when we arrived for set up, we found that the kitchen in the dining hall was totally disassembled for renovations. We were not informed of this due to a miscommunication that was internal to the YWCA and also with us. As a result we set up the feast as an outdoor event in the true Viking tradition. Thankfully we had beautiful weather and our Cooks Guild did a truly magnificent job of pulling off not only a great dayboard but feast as well by working together and cooking most of the feast offsite at Victors and transporting it to

the site for serving. The YWCA was very apologetic for the incident and wants to maintain our relationship so they gave us a complete refund of all of the site fees. They have also expressed to us that they will be making changes to their internal communications to insure this does not happen again and next year we will have a brand new kitchen to use. The cooks were not the only ones who did a magnificent job at the event, all of those who helped set up the site, run the events and clean up when the day was complete deserve a job-well-done as well. This was the first time we had used the ACCEPS method of accepting reservations. As with anything new there were some issues which Constancia had resolved. It was agreed that this payment method does work and is something we may wish to use again with the right event. With the site fee refund the event did show a profit and we are currently working on next year's event.



New website - One of the newest bits of news is we now have a completely redesigned website. Our old site though functional was in need of a remake and one of our newest members, Edmund as taken on the task. During this process Armand elected to turn over the position to Edmund due to his work schedule and the simple fact that Edmund does website development as his full time job. Edmund has reviewed the website requirements from kingdom and sees no problem with them as related to the web site; in addition he has been briefed on the current site specifications and upcoming events. He has assured us that once the site is developed future maintenance will be easy. At later meetings Edmund presented to the group a model of the redesigned site for our review and all were in agreement that it looked good. He then continued with additions to the site to include photos, articles from the shire members, a list of shire officers which includes their photos and contact information so that newcomers to the events can place a name with a face. He continues to work on improving the site and requests additional photos, and articles. We are also, at the suggestion from Robert the Tall, working on a section that chronicles the talents and interests of our

shire members and will provide a way for newer members to contact shire members whose interests match theirs. Our page can be found at <http://owlshest.eastkingdom.org/> and here is what it looks like



Codorus Blast -June 20-21 /2014 - Overall the event/demo went well despite some rainy weather on Saturday and the fact that we had some less than nice neighbors. Wulfrum and Etaine did a great job of organizing the demo and those who stopped by seemed truly interested in what we do. Robert reported getting 18 email inquiries and several new folks attended the business meeting after talking with us at the event. As is the usual case the martial arts were of great interest to those folks outside the SCA but a fair number did inquire about our A & S activities. The music seemed to draw folks who did seem to connect with it and as always the children's activities were a big hit. Many thanks need to be given not only to the members of our shire who help with the event but also to the folks from our neighboring shire's who helped make this event a success. On a somewhat sad note, it was rumored that this may be the last time this event will be held. It was reported that the group that runs the event had a very tough time finding a sponsor this year's event and the prospects for next year's sponsor are even more limited.

Royal Rabbit demo - 7-12-14-This was a very well attended event by both scadian and non scadian alike. There were 22 folks representing Owlsherst including 7 fighters along with musicians and folks performing various A & S activities. Also attending the event were folks from both Bright Hills and the kingdom of Acre and it was nice to interact with residents of other shires and Kingdoms. The general public who attended seemed to be interested in what we do and there were some contacts made most of who reside in Atlantia. Something new this year was a bardic competition and the members showcased their performing talents to one another as well as the public. The one suggestion for improvement would be to schedule it earlier for next year.



Shire Wars -10/10-12/14 - This year shire wars was hosted by the good folks in Montvale at camp “Sinoquipe” a Boy Scout camp which is located near Fort Littleton in Franklin county. It was a truly wonderful site and the weather could not have been better. There were many combat related activities for the populace to partake of not just armored combat but also thrown weapons, youth combat archery, and even throwing the atl-atl which is a weapon that looks like a really big arrow and you use a wooden device to throw it. In speaking from experience it’s much more difficult than it looks. The day included A&S displays and competition along with bardic and a brewing competition which was judge by Wulfgar along with a number of other individuals, myself being included.

During the day it was possible for individuals to be charged for a fee with various offenses and they were subsequently brought before the inquisitor and made to stand trial for their various offenses. They were then ordered to make restitution for their crimes by performing various “tasks” as dictated by the inquisitor. The money raised from this (\$153.76) went into the kingdoms children’s toy fund. It should be noted that during the inquisition both Master Wulfgar and Lord Marcus were called to stand in before the inquisitor in judgment not long after the brewing competition. As a result they were required to perform a rendition of “I’m a little tea pot” which was captured on video and proves that every man has the right to make a complete fool of themselves from time to time.

The feast and dayboard were very well done with the head cook being Mistress Tirza bithe Reaboughes. There was plenty of food so no one should have left hungry and all of the dishes were tasty.

When all of the accounting was finished each of the participating shires (Montevale, Blak Rose, Owlsherst, Hartshorn-dale and the incipient Shire of Archers Forde) received back \$449.81 which was \$30.19 less than each had initially contributed. Mary of Montevale stated that had just a few more folks attended the event it would have made money and she was sorry that it did not. All in all, it was a great day, at a great site with great people so the slight monetary loss isn't that significant.

Fall Schola - 9/27/14

This year's schola was a resounding success with more people in attendance than last year and all who were there had a great time. The classes included a cooking track coordinated by Mori (gluten free cooking, relationship of medieval cookbooks, introduction to brewing/mead making). A fiber arts track (2 embroidery classes, a dying class, neckline sewing class, silk banner class). An armor track (weapons construction, 2 hand fighting techniques, beginning archery). The effort that Conall and Orlaithe put forth in organizing this event was exemplary. The church was happy to have us and we left the site in excellent shape, the weather cooperated so we could have activities both inside and out. Edmund was the head cook for the event and the dayboard was a success. All who attended indicated that they acquired some additional knowledge on a variety of subjects so as a schola the event achieved its goals. It should be noted that this was Edmund's first attempt at being a head cook and he did a very good job. He did indicate however that it was very much a learning experience for him and now has a much greater appreciation for the duties of a head cook. I feel it would be safe to say that this event is becoming a signature event for our shire much in the same way our spring event is. In spring we feature a martial event and in the fall and A&S one. This is yet another indication as to the diversity of our shire and those that reside within its borders.

Other Items of interest or importance

Shire Trailer –Master Wulfgar has asked for help when it comes to pulling the shire trailer to our events. Currently only I (Marcus), have a vehicle that can tow the weight of the trailer. This presents several problems in that, 1) it often requires multiple trips to and from an event site to drop off and or pick up the trailer and return it to Master Victor's where it is stored. 2) This results in a lot of extra wear and tear on my vehicle as well as fuel expenses, 3) if something were to happen so that I could attend the event or, I had mechanical problems the trailer might not make it to the site. The membership at the meeting voted to allow fuel reimbursement for the cost of towing the trailer to and from the event site but, it does not address the other potential problems. It has been suggested that there be a pool or list of shire members who have the willingness and ability to pull the trailer, developed that we can draw from when the need to pull the trailer arises. Please discuss with Marcus or Wulfgar the vehicle requirements to pull the trailer if you are interested in helping. I have updated this article since it was first published in the minutes earlier this year. To date no member of the shire has offered to help pull the trailer and my van is starting to show its age and I need to fix the wiring harness. While I will try to get this done prior to 12th night I make no certainties that the trailer will make it to the event. On a related note, the trailer was inventoried in about two and half hours on Memorial Day by 8 members of the shire. Items were counted and items needing replacement were noted. The bins were cleaned and repacked.

Pennsic 2014 - Lionilla Kalista Kievianina, Rose Harless along with Guy De Craven, Micha Harless will be the land agents for this year's encampment and here is a photo of the 2014 encampment.



What's on the line up for next year you ask? Well we will have 12th night on January the 24th. We have placed a bid to host Crown Tournament in the spring on May 2nd. If we do not get the bid we have plans for our Viking Thing which will be held in May or June. We will also have fighter and archery practice, book discussions, demonstrations at various locations in the area, Pennsic, a fall schola along with a host of other fun activities. Please come out and be a part of all of these activities.