

LET IT BE KNOWN



Newsletter of the Shire of Owlsherst
Fall 2015

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December 2015

A message from the Chronicler

Greetings good gentles,

I would like to present to you the annual newsletter for the shire. This is a recap of those events we have had over the past year. I would like to thank our deputy Chronicler for her help with the articles contained in this newsletter. 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 is to report on them in the order that they happened.

Owlsherst Country 12th Night – Jan 24 2015

The event was a success and we had a modest profit despite the bad weather. Fighters enjoyed the opportunity for indoor fighting. Many members socialized with old friends and made new ones while working on their favorite projects. Siobhan the Harper played several musical pieces on the harp; Skyne, Wynde and Wyre entertained with seasonal selections during the afternoon and attendees were invited to a sing along. Due to the weather, dancing did not happen but there was an excellent feast. A guest attending her first event found the bean in the King Cake and became our “Queen of Misrule”. All those in attendance seemed to have a good time. Many shire members and some guests worked together to clean up the site and we were off site in good time.



Above some attendees relaxing at lunch time
Below, Skyne, Wynde and Wyre



Election of officers – May 26 2015

Nominations were accepted for several offices during the April business meeting per the shires bylaws. The ballot of officers set at the April meeting is listed below:

Chronicler – Mark Bair (Marcus)

Exchequer – Patrick Shockey (Brandulfr)

Knights Marshal - Wulfgar

Herald – Rose (Kalista)

The floor was opened for additional nominations at the May business meeting; none were forthcoming. There was a motion made by Robert and seconded by Orlaithe to accept the ballot as presented. All members voted aye and the officers were duly elected for two year terms.

Shire Customals – Early in the year a committee was formed to update the Shire Customals (Bylaws). The committee did their work during March and April. The shire meetings in both April and May featured a lot of discussion on several topics and a final revision of the Customals was voted on and adopted at the May meeting.

If any member of the shire would like a copy of the newly revised customals, it can be obtained by contacting the seneschal.

The Spring Viking Thing – June 12 to 14, 2015- Thankfully this year’s event went off with nowhere near the problems of the previous year. The dining hall and kitchen have been renovated since the 2014 season and the YWCA personnel responded promptly to any problems we encountered. The Cooks Guild made full use of the new facilities, presenting tasty food throughout the weekend.

The only serious site problem this year was due to a large industrial fire miles upstream of the camp just prior to our event. There were some concerns for the water quality at the camp, as well as surrounding areas due to runoff from the fire. For part of the weekend, we imported and used bottled water until the local authorities advised us that the water was safe to use.

The various marshalled activities were a big hit as usual with archery being a big draw due to the presence of a Viking long ship which presented a most excellent target for the archers. A&S events were varied and included both cooking and brewing competitions. The entries were all very good and judging was a difficult (and enjoyable) task. As usual the Cooks Guild did a great job with the food for the entire weekend. An interesting item to note is as part of the entertainment during feast, a skit was presented based on a story from Norse mythology. Cast members from the shire included Wulfgar (in drag) Marcus, Conall and Linette. Judging from the reaction of the audience it was quite well enjoyed by all. And one couple became engaged during the feast!



New website - Our page can be found at <http://owlsherst.eastkingdom.org/> and here is what it looks like:



Our site which has been designed by Edmund has been up and running for over a year now and Edmund continues to refine and update the site. He still encourages all shire members to contribute articles and items for posting. On a related note our kingdom website is being redesigned and the kingdom Webminister has asked Edmund to be an integral part of this process. Vivats for Edmund.

Another interesting item to note is that now our shire officers have email accounts on the kingdom server and each has their own email address that can be accessed from the Owlsherst website.

Annual Shire Picnic – July 2015

In July, Owlsherst held a shire picnic at Master Victor's which was well attended. In addition to some great food, the archery range was active and Skyn Wynd and Wyre held a practice. And we even managed to work in a short shire meeting.

Pennsic Encampment – July /August 2015

Owlsherst had an encampment at Pennsic this year with 9 members on site. As in the previous year, Kalista was the land agent. There has also been a committee formed to discuss and recommend improvements for the encampment at Pennsic. Members on the committee are Edmund, Kalista, Brandulfr and Wulfgar.



Non-Pennsic Activity – August 2015

While shire members were at Pennsic this year those who could not go were invited to the annual Non-Pennsic party at the home of Marcus and Fabrisse. As in years past those attending brought a dish to share and Marcus prepared ample amounts of hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill.

Summer's End Schola III – September 2015

The Shire held their third annual Summer's End Schola at the First Church of the Brethren in York. Classes were featured all day in diverse areas for the 64 gentles who attended. There were several tracks, from Fiber to Music to combat, and even Scribal. Classes included instruction, along with hands-on practice in areas such as Silk banner painting, A&S documentation and judging, cookbook history and classes on the fiber arts. and even a special speaker/demonstrator, Duke Sir Malcolm for the fighters! Knowledgeable instructors shared their expertise with all and sundry. A hearty and filling dayboard was provided for all by the Cook's Guild.

Shire Wars V – October 2015

The Shires of the South Western parts of the East Kingdom gathered at Bashore Scout Reservation for Shire Wars V on a day that mother nature decided to give us a bit of everything – sun, rain, sleet and even snow. The weather was decidedly unusual. This year was especially regal, as King Brennan mac Fearghus and Queen Caoilfhionn inghean Fhaolain graced our competitions with their presence.

In addition to heavy combat, archery, and fencing, accomplishments in the the Arts and Sciences were also acknowledged by their Majesties. There were several well-attended workshops. Several merchant displayed all sorts of desirable wares. Skyn, Wind, and Wyre provided enjoyable musical entertainment. Owlsherst’s own Epicurious Explorers interest group prepared and served the sumptuous dayboard! Owlsherst was well-represented in all activities. Our own Edmund Forester (Joe Sites) received his Award of Arms for his contributions to the Shire! Many friendships were begun or renewed, and much merriment was had by all. Vivats!

Harvest Border Raids – October 2015

Several members of Owlsherst Shire made our way to the Barony of Bright Hills in neighboring Kingdom of Atlantia to participate in their (some of us made our way quicker, some took the “scenic route”). We met old friends, raided for large stuffed fish and produce, tossed sheep (we had to keep an eye on Donnchadh for that part---you know how Scots are), participated in a bardic circle, perused the merchants’ wares, and had a delightful time. The Baron and Baroness held court before feast, which featured everyone’s favorite, Savory Toasted Cheese and homemade bread, but we restrained ourselves, and no one came to blows.



Epicurious Explorers

During the past year those interested in cooking had two chances to experience a unique form of cooking, open hearth cooking. These two events were hosted by Orlaithe and were a big success.

For those who have never experienced the “challenges” of cooking in front of an open hearth with a “very hot” fire, these were excellent occasions to gain this experience. It is definitely something that anyone with an interest in medieval or colonial cooking should attempt at least once. Because of our mutual interest, we formed an additional cooking group named the Epicurious Explorers. This group does not replace our traditional cook’s guild but is in addition to it. The focus of this group is not limited to the traditional time frame of the SCA, but will include early American cooking and other time periods, recipes and techniques. It is planned the group will come together once a month not only to cook but to visit markets, restaurants and other cooking related venues.

New events on the Horizon for 2016

12th night, Once again we will hold our 12th night at the Dover Community Center on January 16 2016. Lady Mori is the event steward and the day promises an excellent day board and feast by our own cook’s guild. This year the feast will feature favorite dishes from years past and will be a delight for the senses. There are plans for a number of classes, indoor fighting, music by our own Sky Wynd and Wyre and dancing after the 4 PM feast. Get your reservation sent early.

Bardic Competition – Owlsherst has been awarded the bid to host King and Queen’s Bardic Tourney on March 5, 2016. This is a kingdom-wide bardic competition and we will be hosting the top bards in the kingdom. The event will be held at the York First Church of the Brethren and promises to be a very interesting event. We ask all shire members to be involved in the planning and running of the event as there will be many jobs for all to do. There will be an extensive dayboard for all to enjoy along with the chance to see some truly outstanding bardic performances. Watch for announcements on the shire yahoo group page, facebook and the website.

New location for fighter practice – After many years at York Tent and Awning Company, it looks like we will be moving our Wednesday night fighter practice starting in January 2016.

The new location is the First Church of the Brethren on Kingston Road in York. This is the same location where we have held our annual scholas over the last three years. This location has several advantages. It allows us not only to have the weekly fighter practice indoors during the winter weather, but we can also have A&S activities at the same time since there are classrooms available for our use.

The Shire of Owlsherst would like to extend a huge thank you and many Vivats to Snori and the York Tent and Awning Company for their support of the shire and our activities for many years.