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Cleftlands Internebbles

Baronial News Online During Quarantine Times - 5/10/2020

Baronial News -

The first ever virtual Cleftlands Baronial Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 6 via Zoom to Facebook live. After the business meeting the Zoom was opened to the populace for questions and general interaction. Another virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, and will follow the same format. Please watch the Facebook page and this newsletter for details.



Our new seneschal is Lady Claricia de la Mere. The office will change hands during the weekend when NOWM would have been held.

To confirm: all official in-person guild activities are suspended until July 1. Some guilds are hosting virtual online activities; please contact the person in charge for details or see the Cleftlands Facebook page.

Demos are canceled until the SCA resumes activities. We will play by ear the demos scheduled for later in the year. The Wildwood demo may be rescheduled for later in the year or in 2021.

Our Chronicler, Jolicia, is looking for a deputy. This person needs to be familiar with computers, Word-Press and a member of the Cleftlands email distribution list.

Numerous online classes are taking place on social media. Lady Shazada can help members set up Facebook Live and/or Zoom. If you invite friends to join the baronial Facebook page, remind them that they need to answer a few questions. This step is meant to keep out the bots.

Iron Key - Karl would like to step down from this position and is looking for a replacement.

Ragna is stepping down as Kingdom submission herald and is looking for a replacement.

SCA News & Events

Fun Videos - (Six Kingdoms have yet to submit a dance-off challenge video, if you're counting.)

- Outlands needs more than 1 song to contain their spirits - <https://youtu.be/e9CZ6A8Gssg>
- Calontir coordinated a Cha-Cha Slide into the competition - <https://youtu.be/gj08XQpTBXl>
- The West shows off back-to-back all-star power - <https://youtu.be/mH3Zp2TO7g8>
- House Blood Guard from the East continues training...in the danger zone - <https://youtu.be/23oa7DSQzzU>
- Drachenwald puts the spotlight on their members as they #GlowUp - <https://youtu.be/GbCkvSrQSps>
- Middle Kingdom enters their #GlowUp (with a few familiar faces) - <https://youtu.be/-lvaffSeUAU>

SCA News

- The SCA will be conducting a census! It will be held from June 7-21, so questions are not up yet. To learn more, see the FAQ: <https://www.sca.org/sca-census-2020-faq/>
- Ray DuBose (Rey Ribeauumont) has been selected as Society Marshal-Elect for the Society for Creative Anachronism. <https://www.sca.org/news/people-on-the-move-society-marshal-elect/>
- Middle Kingdom Academy of Defense on September 5 has been canceled.
- As Crown Tourney has been postponed, instead of Kingdom A&S, there will be a Virtual Artisans' Meet-Up. See information at: <https://a-and-s-portal.herokuapp.com/>
Register by May 23 to receive project feedback from at least 3 people and/or provide feedback on a max of 2 projects. Collaboration emails will be sent out by June 1, 2020. Sign-up as you would for a normal A&S Faire, but select 2020 Virtual Artisans' Meet-Up from the correct drop down box.

From the Minister of Arts & Sciences -

Guild Meetings: Links are on the Cleftlands calendar on the Cleftlands website, and on the Baronial Facebook page as Events.

- Needleworkers meets virtually this upcoming Tue (12-May) at 7 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89701368708>
- Armorers meets virtually this upcoming Thu (14-May) at 8 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86906942022>



Cleftlands Scribal Challenge: Here are some period examples online:

- British Library: <https://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/welcome.htm>
- Getty Museum: <https://www.getty.edu/art/manuscripts/>
- e-Codices: <https://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en>

Online tutorials:

- <https://itinerant-scribe.com/2019/02/27/easy-does-it-sca-scroll-creation-from-2018/>
- <https://calligraphypen.wordpress.com/2009/05/07/calligraphy-design-simple-drawn-and-painted-borders/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn6hdi0tlogdvXHfx9VSvmvjUH-uGQ2gC>

Virtual Classes for the Week of April 26 Through May 3 - Please note that by participating you are agreeing to be recorded and granting permission to have the video posted to social media channels.

- **May 10 2pm EST - Conflict Resolution for People, Not Heraldry** - <https://zoom.us/j/99405177556?pwd=ZXZWXVCL2Z3ZTEvUIRWTvJiMmtaUT09>
- **May 11 7pm EST - Digital Research for SCAdians Trapped Indoors** - <https://zoom.us/j/93274529298?pwd=WETkS1I3ZEd1eFERVnErVUtxckRjdz09>
- **May 12 7pm EST - Costume Construction in Art** - <https://zoom.us/j/93990345242?pwd=b-jRvYnVRdHRpeXVGy21vOUtKZkljZz09>
- **May 13 7pm EST - History of Period Sewing Tools** - Livestream on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eRUMcommunity/>
- **May 14 7pm EST - Introduction to the Bodhrán** - <https://zoom.us/j/97098884634?pwd=Wmpw-VDdnM2pmWDFNRFFSU3BOQ3dGUT09>
- **May 15 8pm EST - Creating a Japanese Kumihimo Braid** - <https://zoom.us/j/91052216530?pwd=cDcrU0pmdU56eVBqSFFYUk9NOW00QT09>

From the Minister of Youth -

For families: if there is a regular day of the week &/or time of day that they would like to do supervised video chats as a social outlet for kids, please contact youthminister@cleftlands.org



The Role of Daffodils in Ancient Myth and Medieval Cultures

By *THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe*

Daffodils -- those sunny-yellow harbingers of spring -- have a history that includes the Roman legions, the prophet Mohammed, and the myth of Narcissus.

The word daffodil dates back to only the 1500s. Previously, these flowers were called “affodyle,” based on the Old English words “Affo Dyle,” meaning “that which cometh early.” Since ancient times, this flower has grown wild in the Mediterranean region.

Daffodils are part of the genus *Narcissus*, a word that comes from “narke,” the ancient Greek word for deep sleep, stupor, or numbness. Today, the terms “daffodil” and “narcissus” both refer to similar-looking flowers. In general, “daffodil” refers to the large-flowered varieties, while “narcissus” is used for small-flowered and early-blooming types bearing clusters of blossoms.

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Tips for the Combat & Ranged Arts

Because of the new law stating that combatants no longer need to be SCA members, all armored and rapier fighters and archers need to file new waiver forms with the marshallate. You can check the Midrealm authorization database to check on your status.

Rapier: For safety's sake, please check the condition of your blades.

Archery: Forester Robert Thorne, Lord Captain of the Royal Archers and Centenar of the Midrealm is working on monthly challengers for the archers of the Midrealm:

<https://www.facebook.com/Midrealm-On-line-Archery-Dart-Challenge-103331661374255/>

Random: Watch a trebuchet vs. a wooden pallisade:

<https://youtu.be/cs8gamn-MIS0>

Call for Content

We want to make sure there's a central place to get information and see posts that might get buried, or resources that might not be shared.

If you have info to share - an upcoming virtual gathering, activity ideas, or a great website, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com.

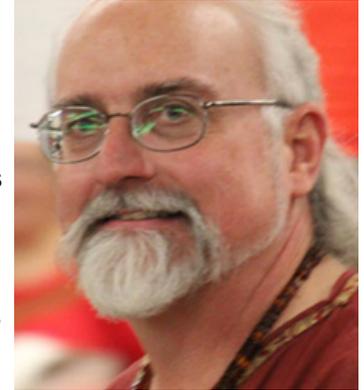
Thank you and stay well!

5 Questions for Cleftlanders -

Master Brendan O Corraidhe (mka Corrie Bergeron)

Who introduced you to the SCA?

My freshman semester at college, I joined the science fiction club. Of course, there was a lot of overlap with the college SCA group. There was a lot of talk about renn faire. So the last weekend of the Fair, some of my new friends smuggled me through the participant's gate in the back seat of their car. I literally lay down in the footwell with a blanket over me. The local SCA had a big presence at TRF. That summer, I loaded my Chevy Vega hatchback to the gills and drove 24 hours straight through to Pennsic.



What are your two main SCA activities?

I'm most active in Bardic, obviously. I fought heavy long ago; I was even a knight's marshal and a squire. I dabble in a number of other things, mostly cooking and (sturdy and functional if not beautiful) leather work. I've also grown and processed flax, and often show that when we do demos. I still want to weave a bit of cloth using linen that I've grown. My problem is that I'm TERRIBLE at spinning. I just can't seem to manage a drop spindle, so I have to roll the fiber on my thigh. Great for neolithic re-enactments, but kind of time-consuming.

What are you most proud of having done in the SCA (apart from Peerage)?

Around ASXX I had recorded a cassette tape on my kitchen table with a cheap four-track recorder. Many years later at Pennsic, I visited the Ansteorra camp. An old friend spotted me and grabbed me by the arm. He dragged me through the camp to a tent and called inside. "Lady Katrina? You have a visitor."

I was, to say the least, puzzled as a young woman emerged and looked around uncertainly. She looked at me and her face took on that, "You look vaguely familiar..." expression. My friend flourished, "Lady Katrina, may I present Lord Brendan O Corraidhe. Lord Brendan, Lady Katrina of Coventry." I offered my hand and said something polite (as one does).

Her eyebrows shot up. "THE Lord Brendan? The one who recorded 'Favorite Songs of Ansteorra?'" I stammered, "Um, yeah... that was me." She gushed, "That tape is the REASON I got into the bardic arts! Thank you SO much!" I stammered my thanks.

Then my friend dropped the mic: "Lord Brendan, Lady Katrina is the Premier Bard of Ansteorra!"

What makes Cleftlands special?

It's wonderful for newcomers. Big, diverse, and friendly. There are so many people, with so many different interests, that no matter what you might be interested in there's almost certain to be someone of like interest. And despite being "top-heavy" - you can't swing a mop without hitting a peer (and you'd probably have to wrestle it away from them in the first place) - it doesn't feel clique-ish at all. People are incredibly welcoming to new folks.

What are your favorite foods?

Chicken fried steak with loaded baked potato. Beef pasties (my family really likes the ones I make). Indian food.

Daffodils - continued

Daffodils figure prominently in the legend of Narcissus, a beautiful youth who was fascinated by his own reflection in a mountain lake. The gods feared that Narcissus would eventually die of hunger, so they turned him into a scented flower called Narcissus, which came to symbolize vanity and excessive self-love. The center of the daffodil cup is said to contain the tears of Narcissus, and the “drooping” of the daffodil symbolizes his head bent to admire himself in the lake.

Roman legions are sometimes credited with bringing daffodils or narcissus to western and northern Europe. The wild daffodil — distinguished by its pale petals and narrow trumpet — was once widespread through England and Wales, but it declined during the mid-1800s.

These spring beauties also have significance in other cultures around the world. Daffodils are the national flower of Wales, and it’s traditional to wear a daffodil or leek on March 1, which is St. David’s Day.

Daffodils or narcissus were probably brought to China by Arab traders travelling the Silk Road prior to the 10th century. As a spring-flowering plant, they became associated with Chinese New Year, signifying good fortune, prosperity, and good luck. A daffodil that blooms on Chinese New Year brings extra good fortune for the year.

The 6th-century Persian ruler Khosrau I disliked daffodils because they reminded him of eyes, an association that persists to this day. The 13th-century poet Rumi wrote about the flower, and the prophet Mohammed is said to have praised the narcissus this way: “Whoever has two loaves of bread, sell one and buy narcissi, for while bread nourishes the body, the narcissus feeds the soul.”

In modern gardens, daffodil bulbs must be planted in fall so they are ready to bloom the following spring. Plant them 4-5 inches in the ground in a sunny location, and follow the instructions that come with the bulbs.

Home Depot and garden centers carry a wide selection of modern varieties of daffodils in various colors and sizes. If you’d like to grow a medieval variety, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* ‘Lobularis’ comes closest to a true wild daffodil, according to the website Plant Life. The Tenby daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *obvallaris*), which has short yellow petals and trumpet, is a variety that dates to the Middle Ages, the website says.

After daffodil blooms are spent, clip off the dead flowers but don’t get rid of the leaves. Take small sections of the leaves and fold them over, securing the clump with a rubber band to neaten the flower bed. The leaves will keep sending energy to the bulb, yielding more blooms the following spring.

Members of the new Cleftlands Gardening Guild will be happy to offer advice to novice gardeners.

SOURCES

https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/wildflower_garden/grow_in_the_garden/wild_daffodil

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus_in_culture

<http://www.oocities.org/thedaffodilgarden/lore.htm>

This Week in History

May 11 1573 - Henry of Anjou becomes the first elected king of Poland.

May 12 907 – Zhu Wen forces Emperor Ai to abdicate, ending the Tang dynasty after nearly three hundred years.

May 13 1515 – Mary Tudor, Queen of France, and Charles Brandon are officially married at Greenwich.

May 14 1533 - Margaret of Valois, queen consort of Navarre, is born.

May 15 392 – Emperor Valentinian II’s body is found - assassinated while advancing against Frankish Arbogast.

May 16 946 – Emperor Suzaku abdicates as emperor of Japan in favor of his brother Murakami.

May 17 1536 – Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn’s marriage is annulled. On the same day her brother George and 4 other men are executed for treason.

Virtual Resources -

By Dame Alys Katharine

To help you and yours pass the time while you are confined to home, here are four internet sites to explore. While some are specifically for children, adults may also enjoy the activities.

British Library blogs: <https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/>

Have fun searching the myriad blogs on this site. On the right-hand side there is a list of topics to help you narrow down your search.

Tower of London: <https://tinyurl.com/r6d3s7a>

This site includes about 15 videos for children dealing with the Tower of London from the Middle Ages to WW II. Adults can also learn from these!

British Library: Harry Potter exhibit: <https://tinyurl.com/yxx8zf2z>

There currently is no end date. From the site: "The collection is divided—like the original exhibition—into various subjects, most of which are taught at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry." Hyperlinks on the site take you to Potions, Herbology, Charms, Astronomy, Divination, Defence Against the Dark Arts, Care of Magical Creatures, and Alchemy.

"Image collection of miniatures depicting armoured figures from the medieval period." <http://manuscriptminiatures.com/>

Primarily a source for those looking for documentable armor from before 1450 in multiple countries.

Crafting in Quarantine - A Recipe

By Lady Claricia de la Mere, redaction Master Brendan O Corraidhe and Baroness Angharad ferch Tangwystl

"The Opera of Bartolomeo Scappi" is a 16th century book of recipes, menus, and other cooking and serving information from the tables of two Popes. This is one of the few period sources that provide exact measurements (although some require change for modern amounts). Try this recipe for gnocchi, baked with cheese, cinnamon, and sugar. It sounds weird, but the resulting dish tastes a lot like monkey bread (be generous with the sugar).

To prepare a thick soup with macaroni called gnocchi

- 24 oz flour
 - 12 oz bread crumbs
 - Water (or vegetable broth in the original recipe - but this will add a savory flavor)
 - 4 egg yolks
 - 3 cups mozzarella (shredded)
 - 1.5 cups Romano cheese (we used Parmesan)
 - Sugar
 - Cinnamon
 - ¼ cups butter in small pats
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- Measure out flour and breadcrumbs into a bowl.
 - Boil about 2 cups of water and mix with dry ingredients to form a dough. May need to add more or less water.
 - When flour is incorporated add egg yolks. Continue to knead until smooth - this can be done in a stand mixer. Consistency should be somewhere between a dumpling and bread dough. Dough will become slightly lumpy as the panko absorbs the water. Let cool enough to handle.
 - Make gnocchi by rolling out chunks of dough into a round tube about the width of a finger. Cut the tube into segments, about 1 inch or so long. You can now lay the gnocchi out to freeze, or continue cooking.
 - Boil gnocchi four minutes or so (until they float at least), remove.
 - Put gnocchi in a baking dish with mozzarella, Romano, butter in pats. Adjust cheese as desired for amount of gnocchi you are making and cheese preference. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar as desired - more will make the "monkey bread" taste.
 - Warm the cheese-covered gnocchi in a medium oven until cheese and butter are melted.