

Clyffe Notes



Photos from Dun Carraig's Baronial Birthday

The Newsletter of the Barony of Dun Carraig
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December 2007

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Unevent 
2	3	4 Baronial Business Meeting	5 1st Day of Hanukkah Armored and Rapier Practice	6 Archery Practice	7	8 Yule Toy Tourney II (P, K), Tear-Sea's Shore
9	10	11	12 Armored and Rapier Practice	13 Archery Practice	14	15 Revel Without a Cause— Ponte Alto
16	17	18	19 Armored and Rapier Practice	20 Archery Practice	21	22 Winter Solstice
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Armored and Rapier Practice	27 Archery Practice	28	29
30	31	Baronial Progress  Black—Meetings Blue—A&S Green—Events Red—Marshaled Practices Purple—Everything Else				

January 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 New Year's Day	2 Armored and Rapier Practice	3 Archery Practice	4	5 Storvik Yule Revel
6	7	8 Baronial Business Meeting	9 Armored and Rapier Practice	10 Archery Practice	11	12 Kingdom 12th Night (R,H)– Salesberie Glen
13	14	15	16 Armored and Rapier Practice	17 Archery Practice	18	19
20	21	22	23 Armored and Rapier Practice	24 Archery Practice	25	26 Midwinter's Revel– Lochmere Ice Castles (K,H) - Black Diamond
27	28	29	30 Armored and Rapier Practice	31 Archery Practice	Baronial Progress Black—Meetings  Red—Marshaled Practices Blue—A&S Purple—Everything Else Green—Events	

Upcoming Events for December

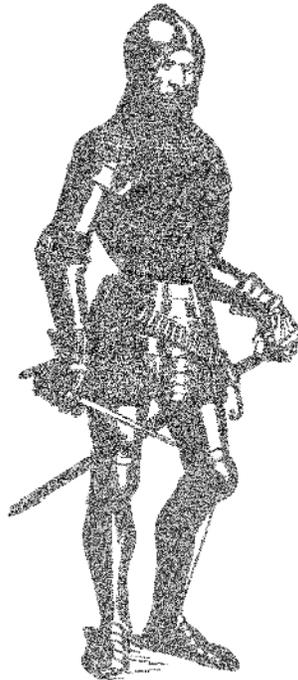
- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| ◆ December 1 | UnEvent (R) | Hindscroft | Ramseur, NC |
| ◆ December 15 | Revel Without a Cause | Ponte Alto | Fairfax, VA |

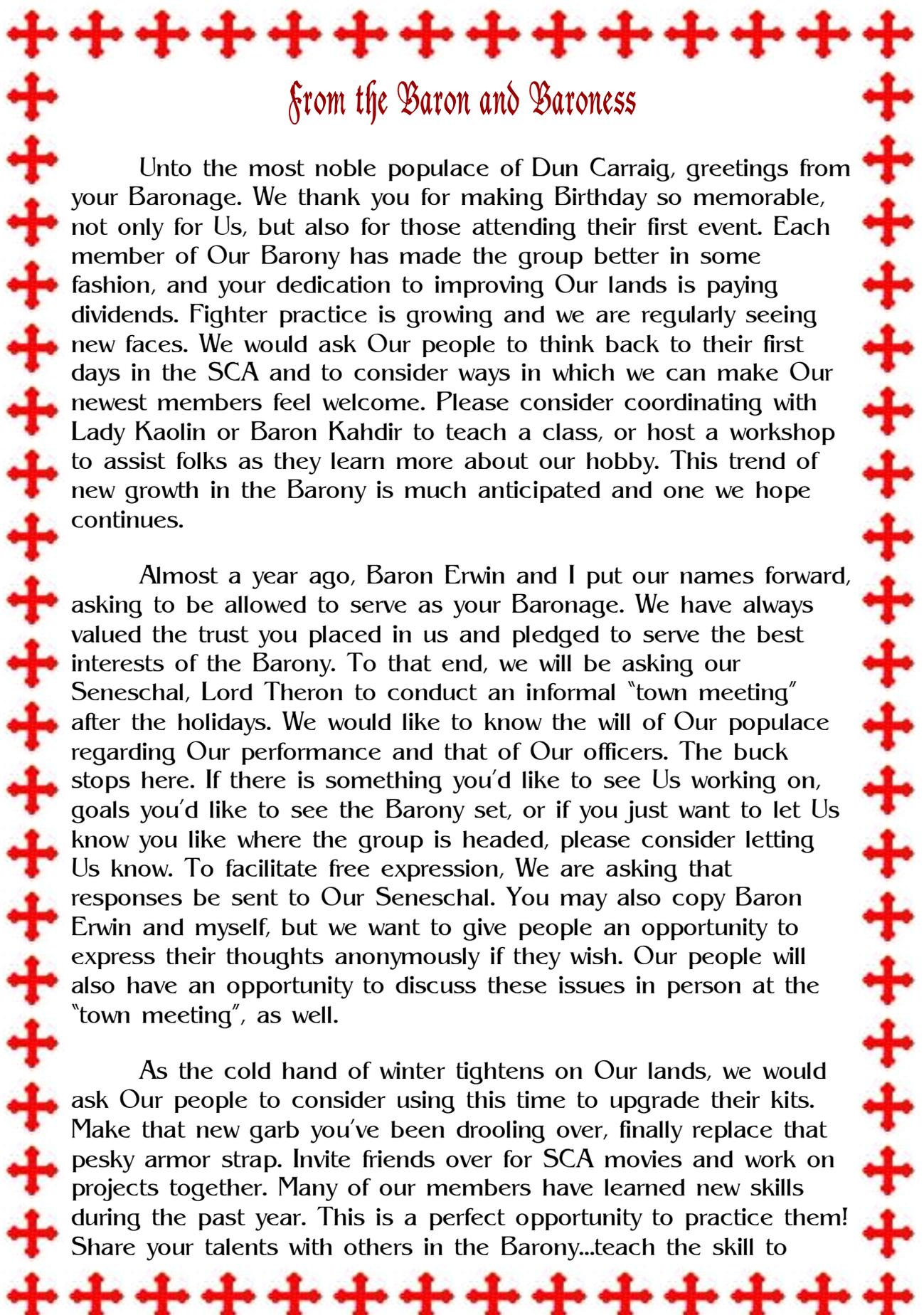
Upcoming Events for January

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| ◆ January 19 | Fool's Twelfth Night | Crois Brigte | Winston Salem, NC |
| ◆ January 26 | Ice Castles | Black Diamond | Bland, VA |
| ◆ January 26 | Inter-Baronial Twelfth Night | Tir-y-Don | Williamsburg, VA |
| ◆ January 26 | Midwinter's Revel | Lochmere | Lothian, MD |

Upcoming Events for February

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| ◆ January 2 | Winter University | Berley Cort | Franklin, VA |
| ◆ January 8-10 | Ymir (H,K) | Windmasters Hill | Reidsville, NC |
| ◆ January 9 | Bright Hills Birthday:
A Feast of Fools | Bright Hills | Manchester, MD |
| ◆ January 9 | Storvik's Performer's Revel | Storvik | Bowie, MD |
| ◆ January 12-18 | Estrella War XXIV (R) | Atenveldt | |
| ◆ January 23 | Winter Tidings | River's Point | Petersburg, VA |
| ◆ January 23 | Ponte Alto Baronial Investiture | Ponte Alto | Leesburg, VA |





From the Baron and Baroness

Unto the most noble populace of Dun Carraig, greetings from your Baronage. We thank you for making Birthday so memorable, not only for Us, but also for those attending their first event. Each member of Our Barony has made the group better in some fashion, and your dedication to improving Our lands is paying dividends. Fighter practice is growing and we are regularly seeing new faces. We would ask Our people to think back to their first days in the SCA and to consider ways in which we can make Our newest members feel welcome. Please consider coordinating with Lady Kaolin or Baron Kahdir to teach a class, or host a workshop to assist folks as they learn more about our hobby. This trend of new growth in the Barony is much anticipated and one we hope continues.

Almost a year ago, Baron Erwin and I put our names forward, asking to be allowed to serve as your Baronage. We have always valued the trust you placed in us and pledged to serve the best interests of the Barony. To that end, we will be asking our Seneschal, Lord Theron to conduct an informal "town meeting" after the holidays. We would like to know the will of Our populace regarding Our performance and that of Our officers. The buck stops here. If there is something you'd like to see Us working on, goals you'd like to see the Barony set, or if you just want to let Us know you like where the group is headed, please consider letting Us know. To facilitate free expression, We are asking that responses be sent to Our Seneschal. You may also copy Baron Erwin and myself, but we want to give people an opportunity to express their thoughts anonymously if they wish. Our people will also have an opportunity to discuss these issues in person at the "town meeting", as well.

As the cold hand of winter tightens on Our lands, we would ask Our people to consider using this time to upgrade their kits. Make that new garb you've been drooling over, finally replace that pesky armor strap. Invite friends over for SCA movies and work on projects together. Many of our members have learned new skills during the past year. This is a perfect opportunity to practice them! Share your talents with others in the Barony...teach the skill to

someone else, or even share your talent. There is nothing so special as having someone MAKE something "just for you". It builds a feeling of warmth that extends far beyond the winter months.

So...these workshops I mentioned above are great opportunities for making...Baronial largesse! As We prepare for the arrival of Her Majesty at Our upcoming "A Day in the Middle East", We would love nothing better than to be able to present her with items created by the hands of Our people. Largesse comes in all shapes and sizes, from elaborate embroidered cloths to simple beads in Dun Carraig colors. Largesse is also used to acknowledge the efforts of any member of the populace, in Dun Carraig or abroad. It allows Us an opportunity to tell someone: "Nice Shot!", "Great Job!" or even "I see how much hard work you're doing". The generosity of Our Barony allows us to feed the souls of many people within the SCA and renews their spirit for the game. If you have any ideas for largesse, or aren't sure where to get started, please see our Chief Lady in Waiting, Lady Lore Bubeck.

From the bottom of our hearts We wish you and yours a safe and joyous holiday. We hope your time is spent surrounded by warmth and good company. (We also wish for lots of Christmas "taxes"!

Your Baronage, Erwin & Mary Isabel



BARONIAL BUSINESS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

The December business meeting will be held Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30 PM, at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center.

Directions:

From Patuxent River Naval Air Base:

North on Route 235 - 6 miles. Turn Left on Airport Road (at Outback Steak House). Proceed ½ mile on Airport Road. SMHEC is located on the left across from the SMC Airport Runway. SMHEC 44219 Airport Road California, MD 20619

From Solomons:

Follow Route 4 across the Bridge into St. Mary's County. Proceed approximately 4 miles to the intersection of Rt. 4 and Rt. 235. Turn Right (North) on Route 235 At the 2nd light, turn left onto Airport Road (at the Outback Steak House) and proceed ½ mile. Center is on the left.

From Waldorf:

Take Route 5 to Route 235 (approximately 22 miles). Follow Route 235 approximately 13 miles to Wildewood Shopping Center (Airport Road). Turn right on Airport Road; Center is ½ mile up the hill on the left.

November Business Meeting

Minutes

November 3, 2007

Shed

The assembly of the baronial shed has been completed! (And there was much rejoicing.)

(Chronicler's Note: Because the shed was assembled at the November meeting, no formal business was conducted. Officers reports, which were submitted, appear below.)

MOL

(from Lore Bubeck)

I attended University and received training on the new and improved youth fighting rules and regs. I served as MOL at Birthday and submitted my report tomorrow (at least that's the plan). Our MOL in training took MOL IOI and the youth training at University and has done training at two events and submitted her warrant request.

Chronicler

(from Adriana Michaels)

As you can gather from Lore's report above, I've completed all the steps required to become an MOL. I now just have to wait to see if the kingdom MOL grants me a warrant. If the barony allows me to, I would like to take over as baronial MOL from Lore when my term as Chronicler ends in February (assuming I get a warrant as an MOL, of course). Isolda is willing to step up as Chronicler at that time.

Movie Review: Beowulf

By Adriana Michaels

After being warned that this movie was a rental at best, because it didn't really match the story, I was pleasantly surprised. Yes, it twists the story, but not in the usual Hollywood way of cutting things out that are crucial to the plot or making changes for no apparent reason. Instead, it makes the story we know into the "official" version--what the scopas sang about and what got written down, but not the whole story. (Note, I've tried to avoid spoilers for the movie, but there are spoilers for the original poem.) The true story is known only to Beowulf, and for parts of it, Hrothgar and Wealhthow. I really liked the way it played with and reinterpreted the original. Some reviewers have commented that giving it a coherent plot really doesn't fit the time period, which makes sense. Anglo-Saxon poetry didn't have coherent plots. Stuff happened, sometimes related to other stuff, sometimes for no apparent reason. And then more stuff happened, usually tragic. The movie makes all these events relate to each other.

The major theme of the movie seems to be that lust and pride are fatal flaws--it's almost as if Shakespeare had snagged the Beowulf story and redid it to turn Beowulf from an Anglo-Saxon hero to a tragic hero. (I'm trying to avoid spoilers here, but if you've read the poem, you know how he dies. That doesn't change.) In the original, Beowulf dies to the dragon because, well, life is like that--the world is violent and cruel, and the best one can hope for is to do brave deeds and be well remembered. That's a very Anglo-Saxon attitude. This movie twists that by making the fight with the dragon relate to previous events. The movie did have a bit of the "everything fades to nothing, life is hard and hopeless" mentality of a lot of Anglo-Saxon poetry, especially the part where Beowulf is explaining to the young girl how nothing really holds any joy for him.

The computer graphics were awesome, although the minor characters looked a little funny. Apparently not enough post-production work was done on them. In an odd way, it reminded me of Shrek in graphic style. Much more photo-realistic, but vaguely similar, especially with the female characters. One of the best bits of animation was Grendel. I could hardly look at him, he was so hideous.

This was not a garb or armor movie, though it was funny how many little details were right, and how many were

terribly off. I got the impression that they had a couple of experts on staff providing detailed descriptions of how things should look, but that frequently they ignored those experts completely. The ship looked correct, and the fighters had round shields, and nasal helms, but with plate mail. Plate mail. And siege weapons?? Okay, the ancient Romans had ballistae, but the Vikings? I could be wrong, but I really don't think so. The drinking horn that plays a major role in the plot looked right to my (admittedly non-expert) eye. I could've sworn I'd seen a picture of an extant one that was similar, but haven't been able to find it. A lot of the interlaced designs looked right to my eye as well. And there were cultural details that seemed right--the queen serving mead, the king giving out rings and other treasure.

The clothing looked really wrong to me. So very wrong. Seeing it right after our Viking event, I wanted to see apron dresses and tunics and treasure necklaces. (Not that I truly expected that, but, hey, a girl can dream, right?) But, if the clothing were *accurate*, especially for the queen, people watching the movie would have thought it was too lower class. When people think of "royalty," they think of velvet and silk and satin, not of wool clothing. The plate mail seems to be there for the same reason. (As my friends reminded me when I was griping, "Plate mail? What were they thinking?" this movie wasn't made for people with knowledge of the time period.) I still think it could have been done correctly, especially if a lot of jewelry was used to show wealth. If the queen had been shown in Viking attire, with bracelets and brooches and beads, I think she would still look very regal. Our baroness pulls off "regal" in Viking attire on a regular basis, without the help of computer graphics. And even if making things look "right" to a modern eye is what they were going for, they spoiled that by putting a girl who appeared to be a servant in something that looked very much like crushed velvet. Of course, for that particular character, the main purpose of the costume was to show off her...um...assets. Speaking of assets, the less we say about Angelina Jolie wearing gold body paint and spike heels, the better. (I know, I know...I've now convinced the male population to rush out and see this movie in droves.)

For any guys still reading (and not ordering tickets right *NOW*) after that bit about Angelina, the movie is very *very* gory. Lots of fight scenes, lots of blood and guts. There's one especially disturbing scene where Grendel rips someone's head off and eats it. Slowly.

The references to Christianity was "off" as well, since I don't think Denmark was Christianized until 980 or something like that, not the 500s this movie takes place in. Also, after this change, Beowulf makes comments about how the departure of all the heroes is the fault of "the Christ-God." Never mind the fact that he's king at this point. If the king was pagan, the country was pagan, and if the king converted, the populace was assumed to follow—if Beowulf hadn't converted, Beowulf's people wouldn't have been converted anyway. I suppose the mix of pagan and Christian is intended to be true to the poem, which was an oral tradition as a pagan story, then written down by monks who added Christian elements.

Overall, I recommend watching this one. Not accurate, and not really supposed to be, it's still a fun movie. And the 3D effects were stunning. It's worth seeing in 3D if you see it at all. Pay the extra buck to jump back as spears and such come flying at your head. But you know what else I recommend? Read the poem first. The movie is more fun if you're familiar with the original story. (Both because you'll see where the movie is playing with elements of that story and because you get to pick apart the details that are just wrong.)

Pictures from Baronial Birthday

November 11, 2007

Taken by Lady Cassair Warwick



Laydes Fayre warms up.



Theron and Gormr go at it while Baron Erwin marshals.



Mistress Rose takes Lady Minna as a protégé.



Eleanor creates her masterpiece—Scrollhenge.



Lord Mathias proposes (again) to Lady Serena. Everybody say it with me. One...two...three...AAAAWWWW



Theron keeps their Excellencies amused.



Lady Isolda shows off the scroll she's working on.



His Excellency with drink in hand—as usual.

The Barony of Dun Carraig would like to thank the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (www.smhec.org) for their generous donation of meeting space. For all special event needs (business meetings, weddings or corporate parties), please consider SMHEC. For more information, please contact Jill Goodrich (Event Coordinator-Manager) at (301) 737-2500 x205 or by email at: jgoddrich@smhec.org



OVERHEARD IN DUN CARRAIG

Apparently, you can't bang cabbage.

I was stripping and waxing all night.

If I were to turn you on, this is the button I would push.

He's upset because I'm taking his body.

I can mount everything out there.

I made mine bigger than yours.



BARONIAL REGNUM



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A&S Champion:
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