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## The Blue Strand ~ October, AS XXXVI

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| August Calendar   |     |      |   |                            |  |  |
|---|-----|------|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| Sun   | Mon | Tues | Wed   | Th                         | Fri  | Sat  |
|   |     |      | 1<br>A&S<br>Elspeth's and Cormac's<br>Silk Painting   | 2                          | 3<br>Fighter Training<br>– Monash Uni<br>Contact<br>Gwynfor  | 4  |
| 5<br>Monthly<br>Bash –<br>John<br>Gardiner<br>Reserve,<br>Hawthorn<br>1pm       | 6   | 7    | 8<br>A&S<br>Yvonne Yvette de Plumetot's<br>Yvonne's Costuming Clinic<br>(Period Surcoats)                                       | 9<br>Stormhold<br>meeting  | 10<br>Fighter Training<br>– Monash Uni<br>Contact<br>Gwynfor | 11<br>Borders Cross<br>Birthday!   |
| 12<br>Dance<br>Practise<br>All Saints<br>KG<br>Gonfalon<br>Painting<br>Workshop | 13  | 14   | 15<br>A&S<br>Nicolette and Rudolf's<br>Gonfalon Painting  | 16<br>Stormhold<br>meeting | 17<br>Fighter Training<br>– Monash Uni<br>Contact<br>Gwynfor | 18<br>Dubh Thrain<br>Spring<br>Equinox<br>Tourney<br>Tree Planting<br>At Rowany site |
| 19<br>Tree<br>Planting<br>At Rowany<br>site                                     | 20  | 21   | 22<br>A&S<br>Gwynfor's and Gwir's<br>Council Meeting 8pm &<br>12 <sup>th</sup> night Meeting<br>8:30 Sharp<br>Gonfalon Painting | 23<br>Stormhold<br>meeting | 24<br>Fighter Training<br>– Monash Uni<br>Contact<br>Gwynfor | 25<br>WCOB   |
| 26<br>Dance<br>Practise<br>All Saints   | 27  | 28   | 29<br>A&S<br>Emma DeLastone<br>Navigational Equipment   | 30<br>Stormhold<br>meeting | 31   |  |

## Events

- 5<sup>th</sup> The Senschal Sausage Sizzle. A buck per bang(er) and a buck per soft drink!  
 11<sup>th</sup> Bordercros 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
 18<sup>th</sup> Dubh Thrain Spring Equinoxial Tourney  
 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Tree Planting at Xroads, contact Mistress Nicolette for details

## Addresses

A&S Addresses

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Week 1 Elspeth and Cormac's 9 Cypress Crt, Cranbourne                    | 5996 0304 |
| Week 2 Yvonne Yvette de Plumetot's - 27 Avendon Blvd, Glen Waverley 3150 | 9887 7368 |
| Week 3 Nicolette and Rudolf's 4 Emville Crt, Cheltenham 3192             | 9584 4692 |
| Week 4 Gwynfor and Gwir's 6 Merton St, Springvale 3171                   | 9512 4387 |
| Week 5 Emma DeLastone 74 Larch Cres, Mt Waverley 3149                    | 8802 8377 |

## A&S Competitions

- A&S Comp for October Monthly Bash – Scribing - Letters of Mark, trade agreements/treaties  
 Dubh-Thrain Spring Equinoxial Tourney (October 18th)  
 -Brewing - A fruit mead or wine.  
 -Costuming - An embroidered shirt or Chemise.  
 -Calligraphy/Illumination - A scroll blank for entry into the "Order of the Golden Drakar's".  
 A&S Comp for November Monthly Bash - Artifice - A piece of navigational equipment.

## From The Baron and Baroness

Unto the populace of Stormhold,  
Do Gwynfor and Gwir send greetings

What a tumultuous month! Under the aegis of the Kingdom Seneschal, Master Del, the postcodes have been surveyed, and mostly sorted out. There are still one or two minor adjustments that are being looked at, but we expect that to be completed in quick time. Our thanks to Master Del and our Seneschals for the work they have done, and the amicable fashion in which the process has been approached. Our thanks, too, to all who participated in the survey. Getting a high rate of response was necessary to ensure that the best result for the greatest number of people could be achieved.

The important thing to remember is that the SCA is not about geographic boundaries or where people live. It is our belief that there are a number of places, a number of levels and a number of ways in which the SCA can be played in the region. We would far rather see people play where they are most happy to play. If that means living in one group, and being an officer in another, it's all good. The bigger picture is that an SCA member is an SCA member no matter where they play, and no matter at what level of intensity they choose to play at. In terms of the barony, there is scope in the current awards structure to recognize those who contribute to the Barony's glory no matter where they live and play. Service to the Barony is service to the Barony, and ignores lines on maps.

In the aftermath of the postcodes poll there are follow up polls to be conducted. One of these is for the establishment of a new Canton that will encompass the inner suburban area that, for the sake of a better name, has long been referred to as "central Stormhold". Once again, we crave your indulgence, and request that if you are in the affected area that you make your views known by responding to the poll. The second poll concerns the petition for Krae Glas to become a Shire. This, again, is a very important matter. I know there has been a lot of warmish discussion on the lists regarding this matter. What we ask is that any discussion be kept civil, and on the issues and not the personalities. Write your piece, then leave it for a bit, revisit it, or get another person to review it before sending. Bear in mind that the principal deciding factor in these matters is the numbers supporting the move in the area concerned, not opinions. The third poll to be held is to establish the support Stormhold has for the move of Krae Glas to Shire. This is designed to be part of the package that will be sent to the Society Seneschal when she makes her decision, and is supporting documentation.

Another announcement we have is that the proposed group along the Bass Coast (Bryn a Mor) has a new proposed Seneschal (until official, a proposed group only has proposed officers, though in actual fact there is no practical difference in the job requirements... bureaucracy rules, again. lol). Llewelyn de Granville (Cadno) (Chris Adams) is the new proposed Seneschal, with Thorgrim of Bryn-a-Mor (Justin Dempsey) being the Marshal and Elen Meinnerach (Georgie Phillips) the Reeve. We wish them all the best in their new positions, and look forward to the resurgence of Bryn a Mor.

On the A&S front, the fabulous news is that all of the carpet pieces for the Baronial Carpet have been collected and returned, and we've laid them out to have a look. It looks magnificent! We would especially like to thank Mistress Miriam Galbraith and Mistress Nicolette Dufay for their work on the stunning design. Everyone who worked on a piece is also worthy of great thanks. For many it was their first piece of counted thread work, but you wouldn't know it seeing the quality of the squares they did. The pieces will be joined together into the final carpet at the Broiderers' Guild meeting at Lady Yvonne Yvette du Plumetot's house on this Saturday, the 27<sup>th</sup> September. The carpet represents many months in the making, and many hours spent by members of the Barony working on their piece. It will serve as a reminder of the excellent works the Barony can achieve, and hopefully serve for a long time as a useful item of Baronial Regalia as does its inspiration, the Lochac Royal Carpet. It will be presented to Sir Hugh the Little and Lady Theresa Cumins by the Broiderers' Guild as a gift on the occasion of their elevation as 6<sup>th</sup> Baron and Baroness Stormhold at the William Marshal Tourney and Feast.

We are delighted to hear of interest in the Western suburbs in starting up Archery Training in that area. We commend this concept to you all, and see a bright future in the development of the SCA (and Stormhold) in those parts. Hopefully we'll be hearing more about this in the very near future!

Finally, upcoming events feature the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dubh Thrain Spring Tourney and Feast on October 18th. Last year's event was a lot of fun, and the food was magnificent. I fully expect to be impressed again by the efforts of the Canton, and to enjoy the day's fighting before the evening's repast. Naturally the usual smorgasbord of Monthly Bash, various Guild meetings, Heraldry, Dance Practices, Canton and College and central Barony meetings, archery, rapier and fighter trainings will be available throughout the month. Once into November we have more events on the schedule, but you'll hear about them throughout October as bookings are called for. On that note, please remember to book as early as possible for events. It really helps stewards and feast stewards immensely to know numbers as far ahead as possible.

We trust that October will have enough to slake your thirst for all things SCA. We realize that these are quite interesting times, but we implore you all to keep in mind that it's all fun, and fun is the best thing to take seriously.

YiS

Gwynfor and Gwir, Baron and Baroness Stormhold

## From the Seneschal:

"Spring is sprung, the poll is here, I wonder where all the signatures are?"

Yes, that is correct, it is time to stand up and say either

- I want Krae Glas to go Shire!
- I do not want Krae Glas to go Shire!
- I really do not care either way!

Personally, I would like you to all vote "Yes", but more than that I want you all to vote! Now! It is the easiest poll in the world to answer, a copy of the polling sheet is in this blue strand, you can download it, heck, you can even ring me and give me your vote over the phone. It is no secret that I am pro-Shire, but that does not mean I will not thank you for voting if you vote "No". I really really really want to know what each and every member (and non-member) of Krae Glas things. SO VOTE!! NOW!!

Second point, with all this talk of Shiredom, the average body temperature has risen within the Victorian SCA by about 3 degrees. Keep Calm! Breathe! Think twice before responding to any e-mail or comment that you find inflammatory. What people think and say about the poll is not the crux of the matter, it really is how we respond to it.

In the end the deciding factor as to our request to go Shire, will lie with the vote of the financial members of the SCA will live in the affected area. Stormhold is doing a poll is well? Great! More hard cold information for the Society Seneschal to rely upon. Notice that? The Society Seneschal not the Kingdom Seneschal. So do not think for a moment that Del, the Kingdom Seneschal is part of some great conspiracy to stop the vote. His job is to collect the information, ensure we obey the rules of corpora and then, because this is a Canton to Shire move, he must pass all of the relevant information onto his superior. He has an opinion, he has the right to one, but whatever that is, he will do his job. Rumors to any other effect are just FUD (fear, uncertainty and doubt) and I am getting really tired of FUD tactics!

The more facts that are presented the less impact the Machiavellian whispers may have. Who knows, the rest of Stormhold might turn around and say "for <bleep> sake, if they want go, let them!"

The Krae Glas poll as it stands has FOURTEEN financial members saying "Yes", THREE non-members saying "yes", and ONE non-member saying "Don't Care". For the first THREE days of the poll that is a mighty fine response.

On a footnote, I have taken on the job of assistant to the Kingdom Chronicler - more work for all you people who are just dying to help me ... right?

Yours in service to the SCA,  
Karel of the three Isles

## How To Vote In the Krae Glas To Become Shire Poll

If you \*live\* in any of the following postcodes then you have the right to have your opinion heard on the "does Krae Glas go to shire" poll. Even if you play with a different group other than Krae Glas, as a resident of Krae Glas, your opinion is important.

The postcodes that make up Krae Glas are:

3148, 3149, 3150, 3156, 3158, 3159, 3160, 3163, 3165, 3166, 3167, 3168, 3169, 3170, 3171, 3172, 3173, 3174, 3175, 3177, 3178, 3179, 3180, 3188, 3189, 3190, 3191, 3192, 3193, 3194, 3195, 3196, 3197, 3198, 3199, 3200, 3201, 3202, 3204, 3781, 3782, 3785, 3786, 3789, 3791, 3800, 3802, 3803, 3804, 3805, 3806, 3807, 3808, 3809, 3810, 3911, 3912, 3913, 3915, 3916, 3918, 3919, 3920, 3926, 3931, 3933, 3934, 3936, 3937, 3938, 3939, 3940, 3941, 3942, 3943, 3944, 3975, 3976, 3977, 3980, 3993

The wording of the poll is:

*"Do you support Krae Glas becoming a shire (and ceasing to be a Canton of Stormhold)?"*

Your vote can be recorded in various ways:

(1) By downloading the poll (pdf format) from [www.sca.org.au/krae\\_glas](http://www.sca.org.au/krae_glas) , printing it, collecting signatures, and posting it to:

Karl Madsen  
9 Carlisle Crescent  
Hughesdale 3166

(2) Emailing me at [karl.madsen@dsionline.com](mailto:karl.madsen@dsionline.com) (or snail mail at the address in option 1) with the following details:

- Legal Name
- Membership Number (or "non member")
- Postcode
- "Approve", "Disapprove" or "Don't Care"

*(All four fields are required and cannot be left blank)*

(3) Use the online poll:

<http://www.sca.org.au/seneschal/index.php?module=standard&section=77&page=167>

Elsewhere in this issue of Blue Strand will be the "for" and "against" arguments about this move. Read them both consider what is best for you and how you play the SCA game then make sure you vote. Better to state your opinion than to disappear into the "don't care" bucket or worse, if you are against the move, to be considered as "Silence = consent"!

If you are a financial member, at any level, then you vote really counts (as per Corpora). Non-members who live in the above listed postcodes are also encouraged to vote as your opinions are still of interest.

**The poll will close on December 6<sup>th</sup> (William Marshall).**

Beth as Seneschal of Stormhold is organising an identical poll so that the rest of Stormhold can have their say on the same issue. This is not required by corpora however it will allow the Seneschal of the Society to be presented with the maximum amount of information on which to base her decision.

Yours in service to the SCA,  
Karel of the Three Isles - Seneschal Krae Glas

# For and Against Arguments for Krae Glas going Shire

## *Why Krae Glas Should Not Become a Shire*

1. It is convention that officers come from the boundaries in which their group lies. If Krae Glas were to go shire, only four officers would reside within Stormhold, and these would not include the Baron, Baroness, or Seneschal.
2. The proposed canton of Dubh Thrain has been unable to fill the position of Canton Reeve for more than six months. If Canton officers cannot be filled from within half of the proposed Barony, how will Baronial offices be filled? If Krae Glas were to go shire, then the ratio of officers to populace in the SCA in Melbourne increases. That means to play the same game, there has to be more meetings, more reports, and less time to enjoy medieval activities.
3. The centre of activity is currently focussed in the east, which is geographically the centre of Melbourne. Taking the demographic heart of the Barony and turning it into a shire is a backward step for both the Barony, the members of Krae Glas and the future of the SCA.
4. The only active college and major recruiting center is St Monicas, which is in the middle of Krae Glas. All Stormholders have supported St Monicas, and St Barts deserves the same level of support before Krae Glas goes Shire.
5. A barony requires numbers of 25, although a healthier number is closer to 30-35. If Krae Glas breaks off, will we have the numbers, and energy to keep it surviving?
6. People who live in Krae Glas will be denied a regular royal presence at their events. The Baron and Baroness of Stormhold will be visitors at Krae Glas events just as the Baron and Baroness from any other Barony would be. Krae Glas events, aside from occasional Kingdom events and visits by the King and Queen, will therefore be without royal presence, court and awards, since one of the distinctions between a shire and a Barony is the ability of the B&B to present awards. Krae Glas, as a shire, will not be able to create local awards.
7. Iseldir (the proposed group on the Bass Coast and western Gippsland, formerly Bryn-A-Mor) will no longer hold contiguous postcodes with the Barony of Stormhold as is required by Corpora for an area to be included in any group. Therefore Iseldir will be required to form as a proposed Shire, or must merge with a group with adjacent postcodes.
8. There is an increased possibility of clashes in the scheduling of events in neighboring groups. Although seneschals from around Lochac do attempt to communicate to avoid scheduling clashes, without Krae Glas being part of Stormhold there is no over-riding requirement for event clashes not to happen. Event clashes generally result in lower attendance at events.
10. Historically, where cities in Australia that have split into separate groups, this has reduced overall membership numbers in the short term. Although there is no way of telling whether or not this would happen in Melbourne, there is the possibility that it will. In the unlikely event that Dubh Thrain or Newbridge were ever to petition to become a shire, Stormhold would cease to exist unless massive membership growth happened in the interim.

### ***Why Krae Glas Should Become a Shire***

The rules for forming a local group at Shire level are clearly laid out in Corpora. The primary criteria are:

- At least 5 subscribing members.
- At least 3 officers, including a Seneschal, an Exchequer, and one of the following: a Herald, a Marshal, or a Minister of Arts and Sciences. Local branches are encouraged to fill all the latter positions.
- A name registered with the College of Arms.
- Consensus among members in the area favouring establishment of the proposed branch.

Why? It's very simple. People like to play together with their friends. Not just friends in the sense that "we're all friends in the SCA", but friends in the sense of a group of people who are close enough to see each other easily and often, without having to make special plans or take exceptional care in order to meet. People in groups who communicate easily and often tend to develop their own organisational shorthand, their "culture", for getting things done with the minimum of overhead. The fewer the levels of approval people have to go through, the faster and easier it is to set up and support events.

It's clear to the people within the borders of Krae Glas that many, enjoy playing together, and that many are indeed the people who want to play together. The Canton is growing up. It holds events both large and small, and is represented in Peerage councils, has experienced officers, and many members contribute to a mature, well run organisation in our own right.

Though it holds Stormhold close to its heart, many believe very strongly that it's time for an independent Krae Glas to leave the nest and take a place as a Shire in the Kingdom of Lochac. Krae Glas intends to support all groups in its neighbouring regions, as it has done. Becoming a shire does not stop it contributing to greater SCA, nor does it cut off people from playing within Shire borders. Stormhold will still be able to draw Baronial Officers, Guards people and give awards to people who reside in Krae Glas. In many ways not much has to change to allow the people who want a shire to have one. Please do not forget, if you are a resident of a particular group, it does not restrict you to playing with that group only!

### **From the Chronicler**

I really don't have much to say other than... there is only 12 weeks till 12<sup>th</sup> Night and still a lot to do! There will be an open house at Nicolette's this weekend, so if you have a device or one that has been submitted, come along and paint your gonfalon! We will have the use of a projector to help get the designs on, so all you really need is a picture of it, we will scan it and voila!

So everyone is really busy with the 12<sup>th</sup> Night preparations, and the more hands to help all the better!