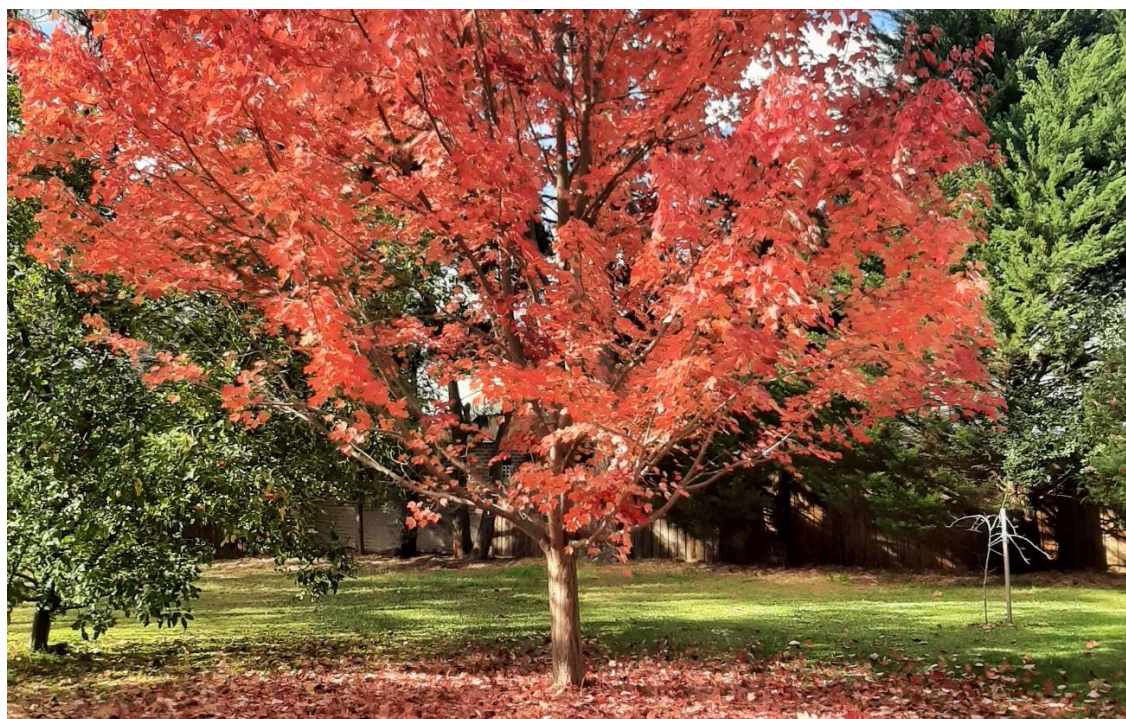


The Blue Strand

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



As the seasons turn for the colder half of the year, the deciduous trees, such as this one in Rúna's yard, display in glorious autumn colours.

Acting Seneschal's Missive

A reflection on the changing seasons

— RÚNFRÍÐR KEILISELGR

In medieval England, April often marked the beginning of the spring planting season. Peasants would plant their seeds and hope for a bountiful harvest come August. They would have no way of knowing what would come of their labours as the weather, so often beyond their control, would determine the results of the harvest. In mundane modern Australia, it is now autumn. The days are beginning to cool and the leaves on the maple tree in my yard are beginning to turn a vibrant red. By August, those same leaves will have fallen completely and been blown away by winter winds as if they had never been there.

In our lives – both within this game we play and the world outside it – we face many seasons. Often, these seasons are different from those experienced by others around us. I know that some within our Barony and College and those we love are experiencing such pressures right now from finances, family, the start of a university semester, global politics and even the pain from being unable to help others we love as much as we wish we could. Recently, Madam

Ysabel Norrice made the difficult decision to step down as our Barony Seneschal to focus on her health and her family. I thank her for her service and salute her courageous decision to focus on her wellbeing and supporting her loved ones.

This means that we are now seeking a new Baronial Seneschal. Full details are on the next page. If you are able and willing to take on this role, I encourage you to step forward and help guide us in the seasons ahead. It's an important way to support our group and ensure that we continue to thrive together.

Whatever the season, the one thing we can always do is join together. Whether it's over a fire in winter or in the orchards in summer, we find strength and comfort in each other. I hope you will join me in celebrating and commiserating and showing love to each other together, no matter where we are in our individual seasons of life. In that same spirit, I hope to see some of you at Rowany Festival soon.

WHAT'S ON?

April Activities

- ☞ Thursday 3rd April – Fighter Training and A&S
- ☞ Tuesday 8th April – Council Meeting
- ☞ Thursday 10th April – Fighter Training and A&S
- ☞ Thursday 24th April – Fighter Training and A&S
- ☞ Sunday 27th April – Target Archery Training

As most of the Krae Glas officers will be wayfaring this month, April will have a few changes to the usual routine – chiefly among them, Crafhall will **not** be happening this month!

The council meeting will be a bit earlier than usual. Keep an eye out for Zoom meeting details soon. More information:

<https://kraeglas.lochac.sca.org/>

Awards Given:

Latest Barony awards

On the 15th of Mar A.S. LIX, the Baroness' Cypher was given to:

- ☞ Lady Malleta Beanston
- ☞ Lady Rúnfríðr Keiliselgr



"Death of an Enemy of the State for Too Many Rock Facts" – photo taken by Lord Ailbhe éccnaid at the Ides of March event. Pictured: multiple collegians including event steward Rúna Keiliselgr.



Left: Former Seneschal of Krae Glas, THL Airdin Mac Dara, displays the ring of Seneschal keys of Krae Glas – the symbol of the office of Seneschal. Right: Madam Ysabel Norrice making off with the Seneschal keys after being appointed. Photo credit: 無名

Seeking New Seneschal for Krae Glas

Are you interesting in stepping up?

———— RÚNFRÍÐR KEILISELGR

Greetings!

This an opportunity to make a difference, and to guide the direction of the Barony of Krae Glas. Following the stepping down of our Group Seneschal, we need to appoint a new one and the Kingdom Seneschal is actively seeking applications. This two-year office is a broad and varied role, more diverse than the official description suggests. The Seneschal is a group's chief administrative officer and, among other things:

- Serves as the principal mundane legal representative of the SCA within the group
- Receives reports from all other group officers on the status of their office
- Makes such reports as are required to the B&B and Kingdom Seneschal
- Has the final say on which events the group sponsors, and is the final authority for each event steward if problems or concerns arise
- Promotes the smooth running and continued growth of the group, its offices, and its events

You may not think that you are the right person for this job, but if your friends forward you a copy of this notice, pay attention to them! And if you know someone who you think would be good in the job, do them (and all of us) a favour - ask them to apply.

For more general information about the role, see:

- <https://seneschal.lochac.sca.org/seneschal-introduction>
- <https://seneschal.lochac.sca.org/resources>

You'll find more detailed information about this role in the Officer Job Descriptions Document at <https://seneschal.lochac.sca.org/resources#officer>.

Please send your applications by 25 April 2025 to seneschal@lochac.sca.org.

As a note on the process, the Kingdom Seneschal will be receiving all commentary and applications. I would ask that you do NOT send any commentary or applications to the Krae Glas Seneschal email. I will merely be advertising the key steps of the process.

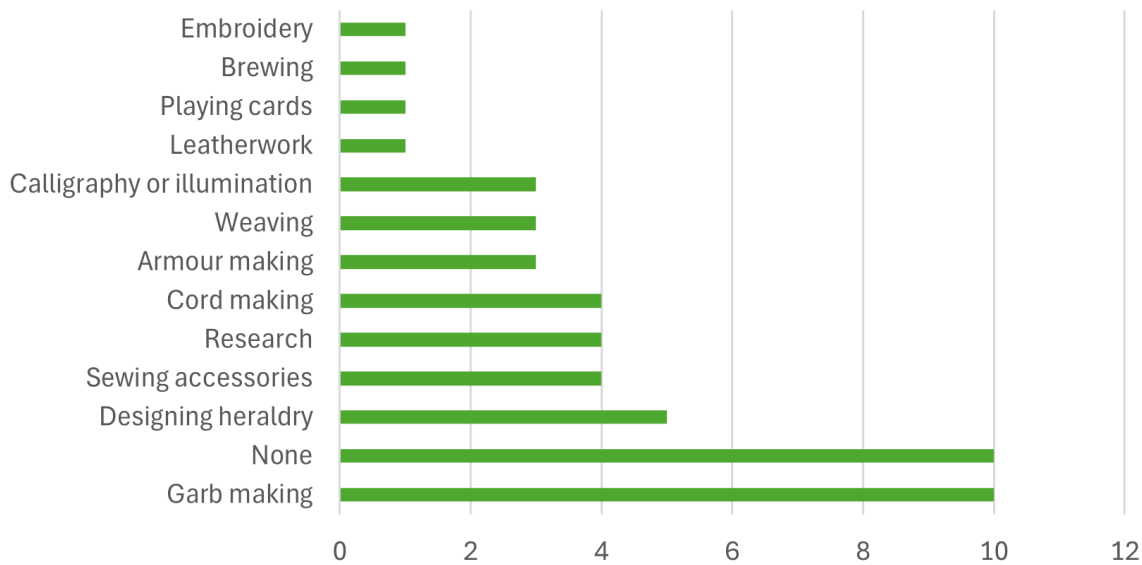
If you would like to know more about the job, or to discuss how you see yourself taking it forward, I - or indeed the Kingdom Seneschal - would love to hear from you! THL Airdin Mac Dara, another recent Krae Glas Seneschal, has also offered to give advice to anyone who wants to discuss the role with him. The B&Bs are also very happy to discuss the issue with anyone who asks.

Yours in Service,
Lady Rúnfríðr Keiliselgr
Acting Seneschal of Krae Glas

New Officer Progress:

- Applications Opened <<< we are here (closes 25 April 2025)
- Consideration Period
- Shortlist for Commentary
- Consultation Period
- Notice to Candidates & Scheduling
- Confirmation & Handover schedule

Types of Current Ongoing Projects



Graph of the number of people with a certain type of ongoing project. Participants were allowed to choose more than one ongoing project.

Poetry Corner:

No Thoughts, Head Empty

— JOANNA OF BREADWOOD

No thoughts, head empty; the wellspring's run dry
 When late is the hour and dark is the sky
 With grumbling and mumbling I pick up my feet
 And drag my poor body to follow the beat
 Of each step on the pavement; through haziest blur
 While words float about me, their meanings obscure
 So stumbling and bumping I pick my way home
 No thoughts, head empty, and brain turned to foam.

An Arts & Sciences Survey

And yet more info

— JOANNA OF BRAIDWOOD

For fun this month I sent around an A&S survey to the St Monican Discord server. 25 different people, probably mostly Monicans, responded.

The results revealed that the most common type of project was making garb. It was also very probable for people to have no project ongoing at all. To those people, respectfully, *how?! I'm more like the people who commented "I have at least 5 different SCA projects on the go, all different types", and "Trying to use things from my 'stash' and unfinished items." - yeah, that unfinished stack is a fearsome thing to behold. If you never hear from me again I probably*

got crushed by it. In any case, as A&S Officer for Krae Glas, I am always happy to help you start a new project. Hit me up if you want some help!

Other good remarks from the survey:

- "I made a pouch that fell apart after 15 minutes"
- "My motivation goes in peaks and troughs and I have no discipline in as far as research is concerned."
- "If anyone has managed to figure out how to balance SCA & mundane projects (especially when there are several of each), please share your wisdom!"

Now that's 100% relatable. You're in the right hobby, guys :P

The Tide of Conversation

— JOANNA OF BREADWOOD

All along the sand
 We walked hand in hand
 My dearest heart, and me
 The indent of each stride
 Washed away by the tide
 And our voices lost to the sea.

Aimlessly we walked
 And endlessly we talked
 Our voices lost to the sea
 I'll not speak of what we spoke of
 It's a secret sort of joke of
 My dearest heart, and me.

Tassilon's Grammar Shenanigans – Part 2

A Treatise on Current Middle English



— TASSILON FETHERSTONHAUGHE

Since we live in the Current Middle Ages, and allow our clothes, crafts, and combat to take the forms of those from the Late and Later Middle Ages (Renaissance) and before, so too should our language. Following is part two of my treaty for Current Middle English, although I recommend

that you take the features that you like and spread them far and wide.

In standard Modern English, 'my' is the sole acceptable variant of the first person singular possessive adjective (my apple; my cart; my unicorn; my herb; my water). In Early Modern English, however, there existed two possessive adjectives, 'my' and 'mine' (Shakespeare's Sonnet 113 "mine eye is in my mind").

The distinction between the two was similar to that of 'a' and 'an' in standard Modern English, with 'my' being used in front of consonant and semi-vowel sounds (my cart; my

unicorn; my herb [in some dialects]; my water) and 'mine' being used in front of vowel sounds (mine apple; mine herb [in other dialects]).

In Middle English, 'mine' was used as the sole possessive adjective, prior to the development of 'my', however mine opinion is that retaining the distinction feels better. I believe that speakers of Current Middle English should readopt 'mine' as an adjective in either of these ways [in conjunction with 'my', or replacing 'my'] according to preference.

That's all for now, see you in Part 3!

Baroness Margie replied to Social Media Officer Julia

I have been informed that she plans to use the newsletter primarily for A&S purposes



Can we have at least one article per newsletter about the uses of **urine** pre 17th c? 😊



The Blue Strand aims to please! In the Baroness' own words: "Can we have at least one article per newsletter about the uses of urine pre 17th c?" If you would also like to please Her Excellency, please send articles on this topic to the editor at joannabraidwood@gmail.com.

Tales of 'The Pisse Prophet'

The Decline of Uroscopy in Renaissance Europe

— BY THE 'PEE-PLATER', WITH GRATITUDE TO HER EXCELLENCY

Since the time of the Sumerians, urine has been used as a diagnostic tool for disease. This practice was especially prevalent during the Middle Ages, when nearly every ailment was identified by evaluating a patient's urine, particularly its colour.

In 1491, the publication of *Fasciculus Medicinæ* by Johannes de Ketham made it possible for any literate individual to self-diagnose by using a urine colour wheel. Many physicians began relying exclusively on urine to diagnose conditions, a trend that was further fueled by the growing interest in experimentation, progress, and scientific theory during the Renaissance. Amateur practitioners, known as 'leches' were especially common and popular among the lower classes as they were a cheaper alternative to physicians. Uroscopy became even more accessible with the translation of Latin manuscripts into the vernacular. In fact, some physicians even began predicting the future through urine in a practice known as uromancy.

The backlash against this practice emerged in the 1600s, as the movement reached excessive extremes. One physician mockingly remarked that if patients brought in a shoe instead of their urine, either specimen would have an equal chance of providing an accurate diagnosis. This sentiment was echoed in the highly popular satirical polemic *The Pisse Prophet*, or *Certain Pisse-Pot Lectures* by Thomas Brian. In his work, Brian criticised physicians who used urine as their sole diagnostic tool or deceived their patients by pretending they could do so. He portrayed London medical practice as assistants ferrying jugs of urine between doctors and patients without the two ever meeting.

Following the publication of *The Pisse Prophet*, uroscopy's popularity in Europe sharply declined. Those who continued to practice it were derisively referred to as 'pisse prophets' after the name of Brian's work.

“...ferrying jugs of urine between doctors and patients without the two ever meeting...”

References:

- J. A. Armstrong's 'Urinalysis in Western Culture: A Brief History' from March 2007, published in volume 71 of *Kidney International*: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0085253815523806#bb0015>
- Thomas Brian's *The Pisse-Prophet or, Certain Pisse-Pot Lectures* from 1637 and its summary from the Bodleian Libraries: https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/bodwhats_on/documents/media/mim-pisse-prophet-resource.pdf



The “College of St Veronica” and the “College of Blessed Simon”, fictitious colleges from the fictitious “Kingdom of Low Czech” fight on stage in “Double Double Toil and Trouble” a play by Tassilon, Joanna, Rúna, and the Bard, Shakespeare, himself. Photo credit: Lord Paul de la Ville.

A Play, all Betrayal, Tassil-Tale

“Is this a dagger which I see before me?”

— JOANNA OF BREADWOOD

“Two Colleges of equal dignity” took to the stage at the recent Ides of March event.

After several months of waiting, Tassilon Fetherstonhaughe, who was charged with delivering a stage play as penance “for being such an upstart” by Baroness Margie at a Royal Event last year, has finally delivered. The play, titled “Double Double Toil and Trouble”, was performed at the Ides of March event, mostly by actors who had only seen their lines a few hours before, and yet even so absolutely crushed their performances. 10/10 work, team! Thank you to everyone who put so much work into performing. I think we ended up more numerous than the audience :D

Reviews for the play are in:

- “100% factual and true is all I can say” – Editor would like to note that this is the exact opposite of what the play was.
- “The Bard would be proud.” – High praise, but also most of the lines are his work so that does make sense.

And now the Baroness’ own words: “I was greatly entertained by the thespians of St Monica, or was it St Veronica, and the talented playwrights who so cleverly crafted a play to enable Noble Tassilon to acquit the debt they acquired when our fair Barony was visited by King Bain last year.”

If you want a repeat performance, nag Joanna, Tassilon, and Rúna.

From the editor

Technically it’s all from me, but still

Hello.

Are you like me and interested in going on a newsletter related power trip?

You could have an article about whatever niche topic you want added to this very newsletter!

You could be as unhinged as me. It could happen.

Send any write ups (between 100-400 words) completely without context to joannabraidwood@gmail.com. Make it happen.



About the editor

Joanna of Braidwood is probably slightly mad.

If you made it this far, thanks for joining us.

That’s all folks!

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