

# The Blue Strand

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



A marauding band of Innilgardians, led by The Honourable Lord Kit Hackforth march upon the untrained and hapless Collegians and ‘menace’ them. Photo by Lore Lei Martins.

## Breaking News!!

### Polite Monicans ‘Menaced’ in Terrifying and Unjustified Attack by Innilgard Ruffians at Combined Colleges Campsite

———— RÚNFRÍÐR KEILISELGR

All know well the might and honour of the Barony of Innilgard. Yet, us Monicans were left utterly bewildered upon hearing of the plight of Lady Mariota Blackwood of St Christina, who is the Deputy Seneschal of Innilgard but above all a well-beloved Collegian. In a tragedy of the highest order, it was reported that Mariota was both cheese-less and “underappreciated” by her fellow Innilgardians while at Rowany Festival.

Determined to right this wrong, a band of Monicans and allied Collegians, including the ever-valiant Passaquans, tried to pay her a visit. After a harrowing journey through a maze of fortifications left by the ever-unwelcoming Innilgardians, we were permitted entry. After requesting Mariota’s return, organising a diverting show for the camp inhabitants and gifting Master Pádraig Lowther some chocolate to share with the Innilgardians, we rescued our poor cheese-deprived comrade back to the College campsite with songs and joy in our hearts.

Unfortunately, unbeknownst to us, the usually wise and honourable Baronesses Curie Estelle and Odette de la Rive had sanctioned a most grievous plot to kidnap Mariota back. This nefarious scheme was hatched and led by The Honourable Lord Kit

Hackforth, the Rapier Champion of Innilgard. Unfortunately for him, she was out of range, meaning he had to do the unthinkable – walk.

An eyewitness to the ensuing carnage, which had occurred in the middle of feeding Mariota bacon, cheese and tea, reported that the Innilgardians formed ‘a battle line... driven by a fervent desire to ensure that Mariota was... theirs alone to neglect and mistreat’. The untrained Collegians fought bravely but Mariota was stolen away. The Innilgardians took intimidation to new heights, especially the wicked broom-wielding Kit Hackforth yelling out ‘MENACE’ in the faces of young Collegians. Shockingly, both Baronesses Innilgard were allegedly present, as were The Honourable(?) Lords Ulrich of Innilgard and Finnbjörn Skeggason, a traitorous Lord Apollothemis of St Ursula, Metressa Zofia Varsoviensis, Noble Æsa draumspakr, Lord Cadell Fletcher, Noble Oisin a Run and countless other individuals who, frankly, do not deserve mention.

We regret to report that Lady Mariota Blackwood remains within the clutches of Innilgard to this day. The Collegians mourn her loss, and the fight for justice continues.

## WHAT’S ON?

### May Activities

- ☞ Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Fighter Training + A&S
- ☞ Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Fighter Training + A&S
- ☞ Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Crafthall Tales & Potluck
- ☞ Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May – Council Meeting
- ☞ Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Fighter Training + A&S
- ☞ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Combat Archery Training
- ☞ Thursday 22<sup>th</sup> May – Fighter Training + A&S
- ☞ Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Fighter Training + A&S

### Coming Soon!

- ☞ Date TBA – Ironbeard Challenge

## Awards Given:

### Latest Kingdom awards

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of Apr A.S. LIX during Rowany Festival Elizabet Hunter was admitted to the Order of the Pelican!

Court that day was utterly resplendent, decked out in many of the banners Elizabet has made for the Populace over the years.

Best wishes to you Elizabet!



Mistress Elizabet Hunter. Photo by Julia of the Ravens.





The StormyGlas fighters before the Heraldic Melee! Photo by Julia of the Ravens.

# April Report

From Jon and Margie, Baron and Baroness

April has been a time for planning, preparing, packing, wayfaring and enjoying the festivities and camaraderie of Rowany Festival. Jon and I have attended about five and twenty Rowany Festivals over more than three decades. Rowany Festival was a time of reinvigoration for both of us, spending time with our Cousins from other baronies, and following our passions within the SCA. Of course we had more formal engagements, too. The Baronial Evening was an excellent opportunity to join with the other barons and baronesses present and share our reflections and our ideas moving forward into the new year in May. The Fire Tourney was a splendid spectacle and we thank Don Everard for representing us at this time.

It was wonderful to see the combined forces of Krae Glas, Stormhold and Ynys Fawr present a team for the Heraldic Melee, together with a team comprised entirely of Krae Glas combatants. However, it was the splendid heraldic presentation of the team from Mordernvale who took the honours on the day. They were truly resplendent in their green, red and gold trappings.

We would like to give our sincere thanks to those with whom we shared a camp site for over a week. We had so many other commitments and were often away from the camp but whenever we returned everything was organised and welcoming. Thank you to water bearers, dishwashers, fire lighters and tenders, cooks and purchasers. I am sure there were many more asks that were done and never noticed for just that reason – they were done. I would like to give a special mention to Mistress Sara, and Baroness Eleanora. Food was plentiful and our bellies kept full.

We were fortunate to witness a number of Peerage elevation

ceremonies this year. The first was the elevation of Mistress Thomasina Coke from the Bordering Shire of Bordescros to the Order of the Laurel. Mistress Thomasina and I have been firm friends since the very early days of The Shire. Jon was Bordescros Seneschal during the time he lived there some 15 years ago. The Shire has an important place in our hearts, and our history, and it warmed us greatly to see Thomsina recognised for her skills and leadership in historical cookery. The second Peerage was less expected but glorious in its spectacle. Elizabet Hunter processed into Court through a sea of her own fluttering banners to receive the accolade Mistress Elizabet, Member of the Order of the Pelican!

We enjoyed the company of visitors from across the sea who came to teach but also to bear witness to this wonderful Kingdom of Lochac in which we are lucky enough to reside. It was particularly special for us to be visited by the King and Queen of the West, Fabian and Eliska. Fabian was a regular visitor to our shores when Lochac was a Principality of the West. We are both children of the West and my fealty was to the West as a West Kingdom Peer long before I owed my fealty to the Kingdom of Lochac, so I was very special indeed to have them present this year.

It will soon be May Day, the first day of the SCA New Year, followed swiftly thereafter by the Saint Day of our treasured College of Saint Monica on the 4th of May. We look forward to the New Year and what it holds for our Barony. We ask that you contact us with recommendations for who is doing great things but also with your ideas and wishes for activities you would like to experience in our Barony.

## Poetry Corner:

### Hej Sokoły

Filk to the tune of Hej Sokoły. Written in honour of the elevation of Zofia Varsoviensis to Master of Defence.

— FINNBJÖRN SKEGGASON

Somewhere from the dusty plain  
A hussar rides to find her fame  
O'er winding roads to lead her far  
She's left her heart in Innilgard

*Hey hey hey sokoły  
Fly away o'er mountain and the valleys  
Swear your, swear your fealty  
To guard the crown, to serve the dream  
Hey hey hey sokoły  
Fly away o'er mountain and the valleys  
Swear your, swear your fealty  
And ride when Lochac calls for thee.*

From Lochac's plain to far  
Trimaris  
Herman's champion dons her harness  
Mermaid clad in steel and leather  
Warszawa semper Invicta

### Chorus

So now ye fly far from our borders  
Steel your heart, steel your sword  
We cast our eyes to your return to  
Lochac, Innilgard and Blessed Herman

### Chorus

Wine, wine, give me wine  
A toast to you, it's come your time  
Now join the ranks of our defenders  
Rise Metressa Varsoviensis

*Hey hey hey sokoły  
Fly away o'er mountain and the valleys  
Swear your, swear your fealty  
To guard the crown, to serve the dream*

Hej, hej, hej sokoły  
Omijajcie góry, lasy, doły.  
Dzwoń, dzwoń, dzwoń  
dzwoneczku,  
Mój stepowy skowroneczku.

*Hey hey hey sokoły  
Fly away o'er mountain and the valleys  
Swear your, swear your fealty  
And ride when Lochac calls for thee.*





Pictured: Joanna n lbinding at an event where everyone can see her. Not Pictured: The cool Arts and Sciences stuff you have been making recently. Photo by Julia of the Ravens.

# WANTED: A&S Spotlight

Have you recently completed or are completing an A&S project currently?

— JOANNA OF BRAIDWOOD

Hello fair members of the populace. You may know me as the editor of this newsletter, (surely the highlight of your month), but fun fact, I am also your Arts and Sciences Officer!

I’ve been sitting at home recently, twiddling my thumbs, and thinking about how very sad I am that I don’t know more about the projects that members of our Barony are currently completing. And so to that end I am calling on anyone who is interested to reach out to me and get a photo and short summary of their work published in The Blue Strand!

I’d be excited to see any project of

any type, and at any skill level – so long as you’re proud of the work you’ve done, I want to see it – and I want our populace to celebrate it! Hopefully I can get updates from lots of people and start a column for it.

Obviously I’m also still interested in receiving articles written about anything else, if you have a love for something you want to share, but this A&S Spotlight will be mostly for things that people have made.

Anyway, that’s all from me! My email is [joannabraidwood@gmail.com](mailto:joannabraidwood@gmail.com), or you can message me any other place I’m known to respond on. See you in a future edition of The Blue Strand!

## 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](mailto:joannabraidwood@gmail.com). Make it happen.



## About the editor

Joanna of Braidwood is probably a bit mad.

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

That’s all folks!

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