

The Blue Strand

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



The Royal Court at the Royal Brunch event, where many Krae Glas people were recognised!
Photo by Julia of the Ravens.

Awards Given

Recent Awards in the Barony of Krae Glas

———— JOANNA OF BREADWOOD

From the Baronial Court held at the Royal Brunch, these good gentles received the following awards:

Lord Robert de Mar – Baronial Cypher

Baron Airdin MacDara – Baronial Cypher

Lady Róisín Cinnsealach – Baronial Cypher

Lady Julia of the Ravens – Baronial Cypher

Lady Emelye Ryder – Apollo Delphinus for Arts and Sciences

Lady Eliza de Horsley – Apollo Delphinus for Arts and Sciences

Gabriel the Tall – Shining Elver

The Shining Elver is a new award which was announced in Baronial Court, 10th May AS 61, which will recognize the contributions of the younger members of our populace.

From the Royal Court held at the Royal Brunch, these good gentles received the following awards:

Lord Richard Cockburne – Award of Arms

Lady Julia of the Ravens – Golden Tear

Lady Ayla Rosendorn – Star and Lily

Mistress Elizabet Hunter – Royal Cypher

From William Marshal:

Lady Maude atte Weylete – Golden Tear

Lord Seumas Mac Thorsteyn – Silver Pegasus

A massive congratulations to everyone!

If you know of other good gentles who should be recognised in court, please reach out to Their Excellencies, Baron Jon and Baroness Margie!

WHAT'S ON?

June Activities

- ☞ Thursday 11th June – **Fighter Training and A&S**
- ☞ Saturday 13th June – **Crafthall & Potluck – Fletching & Cloakmaking**
- ☞ Tuesday 16th June – **Council Meeting**
- ☞ Thursday 18th June – **Fighter Training and A&S**
- ☞ Sunday 21st June – **Midwinter Hunt**
- ☞ Thursday 25th June – **Fighter Training and A&S**

Coming Soon!

- ☞ Friday 17th – Monday 20th July – **Inter College War**

More information:

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

Overheard Quotes:

“Never draw a horse. It is always a mistake.” – *Ailbhe éccnaid*

“And he touched the gilded butthole... and he laughed!” – *Julia of the Ravens*

“I wrote “back by popular demand”, but for the record, nobody asked for this.” – *Joanna of Breadwood, about the in contents of April’s Blue Strand*

“I’m not dying of smallpox like a chump.” – *Tassilon Fetherstonhaughe*

“You can trade a horse for like... three acanthus leaves.” – *Ailbhe éccnaid*

“It is up to the eggs to decide when they flip.” – *Aife ingen Cathail, a collegian, describing the Combined Colleges breakfast cooking method*

“So I’ve got this one person... and I want to murder them!” – *Blythe Venell*



Left: Scroll belonging to Julia of the Ravens from the hand of Dame Edith. Right: Slightly silly picture from Royal Brunch, with the Crown, both local Baronages and some members of Krae Glas. Photos by Julia of the Ravens.

B&B Missive

For April AS LX and May AS LXI

We wish you all a joyful, healthy and prosperous new year from Margie and Jon.

April started with a bit of fun which the Baroness thoroughly approved of. Thank you Chronicler, a most excellent, and heavily themed, issue of *The Blue Strand*. Sadly our Chronicler was unable to produce the May issue so our current missive has much to tell.

The focus of April was Rowany Festival. The Baron was our camp warden and capable supplier of infrastructure. Our thanks to all who assisted in the day to day running of our campsite, especially Mistress Sara, who is looking for a deputy for next year, and to all who assisted Jon with set up and pack down of infrastructure and equipment. Thank you to Airdin for representing us on the tourney field in the Fire Tourney and Heraldic Melee, and to those courageous combatants who joined the venons in the Roses Tourney. The Baron and Baroness both took to the war field as archers, with the Baroness participating on all three war days, and Baron Jon also representing us on the rapier field. We were very proud to see so many of our populace displaying their talents in the Laurel Prize Tourney, and volunteering their time to assist in the smooth running of Festival. Thank you to those who attended us in court. You have to stand while we sit but you do get a great vantage point when awards are given.

The Baronial Throne Cushion project, instigated by Lady Emelye is now under way. If you are interested in participating please contact Emelye.

The Baroness was entrusted with four precious scrolls from the hand of Dame Edith Penrose to deliver to Krae Glas participants past and present. A Chivalry Scroll for Sir Lankin, delivered to him at his home in East Gippsland on the way home from festival, and AA scrolls delivered personally to Julia of the Ravens - she has provided a picture for this edition of *The Blue Strand* - and Kaspar Swartz who received his AA at Rowany Festival in April 24 years ago, when we were a Principality of West Kingdom.

We attended the William Marshal event in Stormhold, on a wintry Autumn day, witnessing matters of great importance and the recognition of members of our Barony. The following day we proudly hosted and stewarded The Royal Brunch on the second weekend in May and a fine day it was indeed. Food was plentiful, the sun shone and our good folk were recognised for their deeds and skills.

The first Melbourne Renfair was a spectacular event made all the better by the hard work and diligence of those of our Barony who provided infrastructure, set up and pack down of our displays. Sincere appreciation to those who spent many long hours demonstrating and interacting with the general public. We were very proud to stand with you. On a side note, congratulations to Konga, who started his foray into this adventure as a teenager gaming at Margie's table and joining the Shire of Arrowsreach. Lord Wulfric Halvedevil. Now, look at what he has achieved two decades later!

As the days get ever shorter, and we approach the Winter Solstice, Sorcha is stewarding The Hunt, an event of archery and food, both things dear to our hearts. We look forward to seeing you on our field and in our keep.

We greatly appreciate those who give their time to ensure archery trainings, fighter practice, fibre guild meetings and activities at St Monica flourish in our Barony. It warms our hearts to see our populace at our regular activities and at our events.

We remind you that our eyes and ears cannot witness all the good deeds and skills of our populace and hence request recommendations for any that you feel may be worthy of recognition be sent to us.

In Service,
Margie & Jon
Baroness & Baron

Artisans and Laurels in Their Own Words

Reflections from Laurel Prize AS LX

— AS TOLD TO RÚNFRÍÐR KEILISELGR

The Laurel Prize is an Arts and Sciences exhibition that runs every year at Rowany Festival. Participants display their work and discuss it with members of the Order of the Laurel, the Society's Peerage order for excellence in arts and sciences, for the first hour. Afterwards, it is open to the general public.

The Laurel Prize is not a competition, and it is not judged. Laurels and members of the populace chat to all the participants about their projects and can suggest tips and resources or connect artisans together. Some Laurels also like to give small tokens to participants whose work they enjoy.

Below you can hear from most of the Victorian entrants into this year's Laurel Prize as they describe in their own words what they entered and their experiences. This is followed by some perspectives from our local Laurels on what they are looking for in participants and what they enjoy about the experience.

We hope to see you there next year, whether you're participating yourself, discussing the work with participants or just enjoying having a look.

Noble Julyan Graye of London



Photo by Lore Lei Martins

My display was a selection of handsewn mid Tudor clothing as well as some patterns I have drafted. I really enjoyed the experience and got a lot of helpful advice and fun chats.

Lady Malleta Beanston



Photo by Lore Lei Martins. See also - Ailbhe's outfit.

I entered my bog body outfit and Ailbhe's ninth to eleventh century West Slavic outfit, which I made. It was a nervous experience but it was also great to

meet and talk to a bunch of Laurels. They were very nice and helpful and gave me resources and places to look. It was also interesting to hear about what some of the Laurels do and all the niche topics they researched.

Lady Ayla Rosendorn, current A&S Champion of the College of St Monica:



Photo by Lore Lei Martins

I was showing my tablet weaving. I had an array of bands that I had woven, which were ordered by when I made them. I included my first attempt at weaving, which was a really good comparison to my later ones to show how much I had learned. I also had my first attempt in silk. I also had the very start of a crazy project I've been working on: two bands woven at the same time on top of each other and into each other. In theory, this means it can have a different colour palette on both sides of the band and that I'll be able to interchange corresponding tablets to be able to change sections of the colour palette between them. I did a bit more of that when Festival ended.

Initially, I was nervous as I didn't think I knew enough about historical tablet weaving to enter. I have been more focused on my practical skills so far and not on research or historical practices. In hindsight, I realised I didn't need to worry so much. I got to talk to a bunch of Laurels and they all seemed fairly interested and I really enjoyed myself. I learned that one of the downsides is not being able to see everyone else's Laurel Prize entries, though!

Lady Emelye Ryder



Left: Photo by Miriam bat Shimeon, Right: Photo by Lore Lei Martins

This is the third year I've had it there, and will be the

final time for that piece because I finished it shortly after Festival last year. I've enjoyed the chance to show people my work, talk about it and get ideas. In previous years I was also getting a lot of advice too, although less so with a completed piece.

The only problem with entering is that you don't get much chance to see the other things that are there unless they are next to where you set up. Given that I was wearing the waistcoat, since that was the easiest way to actually display it, it also meant I was also on my feet and talking for the full two hours (and that would have gone longer except court was about to start and we were louder than the Crown).

Noble Raw Pengwyne



Photo by Lore Lei Martins



I entered my Song dynasty Chinese summer outfit - split drawer pants, open-sided underpants, a cross collar shirt, and a straight front jacket. I also entered my embroidery test piece for a long term project.

It was really fun to talk to people about my stuff and info dump my research. It was really loud though as we were in the tavern and it compounds like crazy, so I was losing my voice pretty early on.

It's also a really great place to put yourself out there for Laurels to see what you're doing - it's how I became an apprentice last year. It's also really good if you're having issues with anything because there's a good chance that a Laurel has the answer or knows someone who does is going to turn up and you can ask them questions as well. My area is so niche though that the only people who would be able to help me with specific knowledge about Chinese clothing are my Laurel Mistress Natal'ia Vladimirova doch' and my sister apprentice.

Thoughts from Local Laurels:

Continued reflections from Laurel Prize LX

———— AS TOLD TO RÚNFRÍÐR KEILISELGR

Baroness Margie of Glen More, Laurel in fibre arts including knitting, spinning and weaving



Photo by Julia of the Ravens. Margie is on the left.

We, the Laurels are excited and enthused by the artisans and their endeavours. We love to see the things that are interesting the populace and the rabbit holes they are falling down. Sometimes we are tempted and follow these good gentles down the rabbit holes they have discovered. We're also looking to share our experiences and to offer discussion and resources, if that is appropriate for the individual and the work they are presenting.

I love seeing and chatting with those displaying fibre works, but I often spend just as much time finding out about areas that I know less/nothing about. I love learning new things. I enjoy seeing the joy that leaving a token brings to the artisan, though I leave tokens for varied reasons which may not always be clear. Artistry, encouragement, teaching me... I especially love being surprised.

Master Cormac Lenihan, Laurel in lute music



Photo by Julia of the Ravens.

For Laurels, it's a great chance to see what people have been doing from other groups. It's like market day, but instead of looking for trinkets you're looking for someone who you want to hear nerd-out about their research. Personally, I'm looking for someone who works in a field that I can talk somewhat intelligently about. When I ask questions I'm interested in decision making processes. How have they tried to make their object as period as possible? Sometimes people have made a decision to not do something in an exact period style, but there are often good reasons. If someone has put in thought to period practice that is a big positive, even if it isn't present in the finished product.

It's always fun to speak to people about something they've been diving deeply into. Unfortunately for me as a "noise laurel", there are usually only a small number of people I feel comfortable giving feedback to. It's been a long time since I even sewed a t-tunic so commenting on fabric is out for me. If a Laurel doesn't approach your display, it's probably because it's outside of their field.

Photos from Renfair

Thank you to everyone who participated!

JULIA OF THE RAVENS



From the editor

Technically it's all from me, but still

If you want to write it – I want to read it.

And I want to make everyone else read it too :P

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 (almost any length, I can make it work) completely without context to joannabraidwood@gmail.com. Make it happen.



About the editor

Joanna of Braidwood is probably a little mad.

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

That's all folks! Huzzah!

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