

# The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE TRADITIONAL SUMMER EVENT CALENDAR IN SKRAEL

By Chronicle Staff

There are some important changes on the way for several events that have become staples of the Skraeling Althing summer events calendar.

Two long-standing events are being combined this year at a new location, and a recent addition is changing venues to be able to add even more activities.

In June, Summer Siege will once again be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, but will be moving to a bigger location.

The first two years, Summer Siege was held at Grant Mor Farm near Cornwall. This year, based on comments received, the event is moving to the Chesterville Fair Grounds.

The event will still have its traditional hay bale castle and equestrian demo, along with a full slate of activities (both martial and non). The new venue will add to this tradition by providing better parking, an indoor facility for bad weather (with indoor bathrooms), and a feast hall.

This year's Autocrat is Lady Morag Tayler.

In July, even bigger changes are in the works, with Autocrat's Day Off coming off the calendar, and being combined with Baronial Muster at a new location to become an even bigger camping event.

This event will be held at Raven's Knoll campground in Eganville.

The venue in Eganville has lots of

space for camping and martial activities, swimming in the Bonnechere river, running water and showers on site.

Planning is still in the early stages, but more information will be available as we get closer to the summer.

This year's autocrat will be selected at Break the Back of Winter.



Sutton Who? His Majesty greets Sutton, THL Catherine and Lord Shahid's latest addition at Valentine's Day Massacre in Swan's Keep.

Photo courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan

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## BARONIAL OFFICERS

### Baron and Baroness

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### A&S 50 Coordinator

Lady Emelote of Calais

### Youth Representative

Lady Asha

## UPCOMING GATHERINGS IN THE BARONY

### Practices and Meetings

Please contact the local group to confirm details about specific scheduled gatherings.

### Harrowgate Heath

Armoured Combat Practice  
Thursdays at 7 pm

### Archery

Schedule varies month to month

### Canton Meetings

First Sunday of the month

### A&S Days

Schedule varies month to month

### Greyfells

Canton Meetings  
Meetings (which often include A&S and other activities) are held from 7:00 to 9:30 pm on Tuesdays each week.

### Rapier Practice

Tuesdays at 7 pm

### Caldriithig

Dance Practice  
Wednesdays at 7 pm

Armoured Combat Practice  
Wednesdays at 8 pm

Rapier Practice  
Thursdays at 8 pm

Choir Practice  
Sundays at 1:30 pm

Canton Meetings  
Second and fourth Sunday's of the month at 4 pm

Instrumental Practices  
Sundays at 12:00 pm

### Tor Brant

Gatherings vary from month to month.

If you are interested in attending Tor Brant scheduled activities, please contact the group to confirm their next scheduled activity.

## LOCAL SENESCHALS

### Seneschal of Caldriithig

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### Seneschal of Greyfells

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### Seneschal of Tor Brant

Lord Duncan Gabh MacLeiod  
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### Seneschal of Harrowgate Heath

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# FROM THE QUILL OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES OF SKRAELING ALTHING

Greetings unto the Bustling Barony of Skraeling Althing, from those who witness, Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia;

As We travel throughout the Knowne World, We see those good gentles who selflessly manage and assist the festivals and events that We enjoy. We are especially pleased when we see our Skraels doing these good works. Taking up these important tasks, both inside and outside of the borders of Skraeling Althing, glorifies Our Barony, showing all we are a diligent people with a strong tradition of volunteering.

The help from our many generous

hands make light work of even the most difficult tasks and prevents the weight of burdens from landing on too few. A seemingly small contribution, such as washing a load of dishes, helps not just at that moment but also makes a long term impact on the group as a whole by boosting the morale and enthusiasm of everyone involved.

In addition to helping with the little things, there are always more specific ways to offer your services:

- Talk to The Royal Chamberlain, Their Majesties are always in need of entourage, or may have special projects they would like

to get started.

- Talk to the autocrat of your favourite event, in advance or on the day, the offer will be welcome.
- Talk to your Seneschal, he or she will know where the greatest local need is.
- Talk to someone already doing a job that interests you, maybe they could use a deputy.
- Write a short article for the Chronicle, your passion or interest might help someone else with something they are working on.

Asking for help is the other side of volunteering. It is common for "real life" obligations to ebb and flow. If you require help, or a deputy of some measure, please speak up, there are many people who will gladly do a job when a need is known, all you have to do is ask.

Finally, and most importantly We urge you to also offer a thank you to those among us by whose efforts our activities are made possible. It is through their service that We have a pass-time to enjoy.

Thank you.

Humbly,

**Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### In Skraeling Althing

April 9 – Break the Back of Winter  
Hosted by the Canton of Greyfells (Kingston, ON)

May 14 – Dandelion Festival  
Hosted by the Stronghold of Tor Brant (Petawawa, ON)

May 28 – Crown Tournament  
Hosted by the Canton of Caldrihig (Greely, ON)

June 10-12 – Upper Canada Village Demo  
Hosted by the Barony of Skraeling Althing (Morrisburg, ON)

June 25 – Summer Siege  
Hosted by the Canton of Harrowgate Heath (Chesterville, ON)

### Out of Barony

April 30 – Spring Coronation  
Hosted by the Canton of Eoforwic (Paris, ON)

June 4 – Pikeman's Pleasure  
Hosted by the Canton of Petrea Thule (Millbrook, ON)

June 29-July 3 – Trillium War  
Hosted by the Canton of Ardcreag (Whitby, ON)

# Skraeling Atching Chronicle

## PHOTOS FROM FEAST OF THE HARE



**Top:** The populace swears fealty to the Crown  
**Middle-Right:** The finals of the newcomers tournament.  
**Above:** Their Majesties enjoy the activities on the list.  
**Right:** Greyfells business during Baronial Court.

Photos courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan



## SOCIETY NEWS ABOUT KINGDOM NEWSLETTERS

By Lord Dafydd ap Alan  
Baronial Chronicler

Changes are on the way to how Ealdormere's Tidings is produced and distributed.

As a result of significant budget challenges at the Society level, the Board of Directors announced several changes earlier this year.

One of the major changes is that the funds transferred to the various Kingdoms to produce and mail-out hard copies of their newsletters will be reduced by 60 per cent as of April 2011.

In order to adjust to this new level of funding, the Board is also planning to make changes to the rules around Newsletters.

These changes will affect the requirements for both what needs to be included in Kingdom newsletters, as well as how they should be distributed.

This includes a plan to transition to electronic newsletters by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

A question and answer session was held at Valentine's Day Massacre in February with Viscountess Kaellyn mac Dermott, one of the Directors on the Board.

She explained that the stipends provided to the Kingdoms for newsletters represent well over

50% of the total membership income generated by the Society.

According to Viscountess Kaellyn, once the current financial situation is addressed, further adjustments will be made to the membership fees.

The plan is to reduce the cost of membership down the road for those receiving electronic newsletters to reflect the reduced cost of production and distribution.

She also indicated that printed newsletters would likely still be available at a membership cost appropriate to the higher production costs.

What this means is that over the next year you will likely see some changes to the Tidings.

According to Lord Gunther Wahl-

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Questions or concerns may be

directed to the Baronial Chronicler, the changes could actually lead to more articles and content in the Tidings.

He reasons that an electronic version would not be limited in length based on printing and shipping costs.

The Kingdom Privy Council is still determining what the impact will be, and how best to adjust the production of the Tidings to continue to serve the membership in Ealdormere.

More information will be shared in the near future.

For more information, please contact either myself (Lord Dafydd ap Alan – [chronicler@skraelingalthing.com](mailto:chronicler@skraelingalthing.com)) or Lord Gunther, our Kingdom Chronicler ([marginalia@rogers.com](http://marginalia@rogers.com)).

directed to the Baronial Chronicler, [Lord Dafydd ap Alan](http://LordDafyddapAlan.com).

Issues of the Chronicle are posted to the Skraeling Althing web site. You can subscribe to the Chronicle by e-mailing the Chronicler.

The Chronicle also has a Facebook page. You can follow news about the Chronicle, and be notified when new issues are available, by following the Skraeling Althing Chronicle on Facebook.



## BARONIAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Here are some notes on the most recent Baronial Council meetings:

### Feast of the Hare

Lord Dragul Maksimov Vodnikov stepped down as Baronial Seneschal and Lady Constance of Caldrithig was named the new Seneschal.

Aurik Burnsson was also voted in as the new Baronial Web Minister, replacing Eirik the Bastard.

The Barony has found a craftsman to make new Baronial thrones for significantly less than originally budgeted. (Note: The thrones are now completed and are in use by Their Excellencies)

### Practicum

Skraeling Althing is on the bid rotation to host Kingdom A&S this November. As well, the next Baronial 12<sup>th</sup> Night is on rotation for Harrowgate Heath.

Autocrat's Day off and Baronial Muster are merging into a single Baronial camping event at Raven's Knoll. Bids will be voted on at Break the Back of Winter.

Both the Baronial Exchequer and Chatelaine position are coming available. Applications for the Exchequer were due March 31st, and for the Chatelaine by July 8th.

Lord Duncan is proposing the Bar-

ony construct some loaner war doors for Skrael fighters. More to come as the proposal is developed.

Following the meeting, the Seneschals met to go over the member

lists from each Canton to reduce duplication. They are also asking that anyone changing Cantons within the Barony notify the Seneschals from both groups so that they can update the lists regularly.

## COURT REPORT

The following awards have been given out to members of Skraeling Althing at recent events both in the Barony and at outside events. Wassail to all of the recipients!

### Feast of the Hare

#### *Baronial Court:*

Bunny Tails:  
Micheal Kluchurt  
Nicolai Leeman  
Christof Leeman  
Lord Shahid al-Hasan

Tantony:  
Mataeo of Caldrithig

Hare Valiant:  
Lord Dafydd ap Alan

Hare Salient:  
Lord Sandarr the Beardless

Chalice Holder:  
Honourable Lady Catherine Townson

#### *Kingdom Court:*

Award of Arms:  
Lord Ulrich Jagger

Scarlet Banner:  
Lord Edward of Flaming Sky

Orion:  
Lady Marguerite Gingraix

Maiden's Heart:  
Baroness Lucia d'Enzinas

### Baronial 12th Night

Bunny Tail:  
Orianne of Greyfells

### Valentine's Day Massacre

#### *Kingdom Court:*

Thorbjorn's Hammer:  
Honourable Lord Lars Eriksson  
Honourable Lord Shamus Tableburner

### Practicum

Bunny Tails:  
Master Aeron Harper  
Lady Isolde de Lengadoc  
Gorge Torse  
Margaret de Lion

Black Hare:  
Lady Marie d'Anglois

# The Skraeling Atching Chronicle

## AVELYN'S BOOK NOOK

By Lady Avelyn Wexcombe of Great Bedwyn

**“Britain in the Middle Ages: An Archaeological History”**

Written by Francis Pryor

For those of us who love exploring the dirty details of archaeological evidence from the comfort of our easy chairs, this will be a book for you.

Early into this book it is quite apparent that the author is an accomplished archaeologist and very much in-tune with the small but significant details that can be unravelled from a good dig.

Overall, I think I learned as much about the mechanics and aims of a modern dig as I did about the era and the island.

Pryor is clearly trying to paint a different picture of household British life in the “dark ages” than that which modern media generally portrays, and he succeeds.

This book studies 900 years of English history, covering some major sub-topics including: the difference between “wet” and “dry” digs, construction and carpentry techniques, the evolution of population dispersal in both rural and urban settings, the effects of the plague on social and industrial levels, farming techniques, and many others.

I found it to be a slow, weedy read in the first half or so of the book—yet intrigued enough to continue.

I was easily distracted by the author’s direct narrations to the reader; often including tirades and criticisms of different archaeological approaches.

However, I can say the book did pick up momentum quite nicely throughout the middle and near the end of the book as I became accustomed to Pryor’s authorial idiosyncrasies.

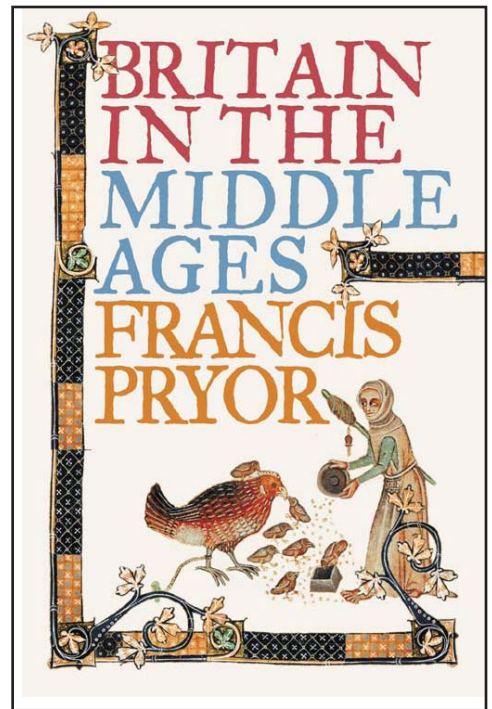
Despite these few shortcomings, I was delighted by the numerous “aha!!!” moments I had throughout, where Pryor’s conclusions were very enlightening.

This is one of those reference books where I found myself with pencil in hand on many occasions underlining (gasp!) some really neat tidbits of info that would surface as the cream of the discussion. It’s now fully dog-eared as well.

All in all, it was a thoroughly straight-forward non-fiction, with good insight despite the sometimes serpentine analysis provided by the author.

It’s not what I would consider a light read, or an “overview” oriented reference.

But, if you’re in the mood for a



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good saturation of details on some very specific topic areas, I do recommend giving this one a look over. ([HarperCollins](#), 2007)

More details, including a preview of this book, can be found on Google Books: <http://books.google.ca/books?id=dD8IAQAAMAAJ>

Avelyn’s Book Nook is a regular feature in the Chronicle. If you have or know of an SCA related book you’d like to suggest for Avelyn to review, please let her know by e-mailing her at [Avelyn.Wexcombe@gmail.com](mailto:Avelyn.Wexcombe@gmail.com)

# The Skraeling Atching Chronicle

## PHOTOS FROM VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE



**Top Left:** The Honourable Lord Shamus Tableburner is called into court to receive his Thorbjorn's Hammer.

**Top Right:** The Honourable Lord Shamus Tableburner receives a giant-sized hammer from the King to celebrate his award.

**Bottom Left:** The Honourable Lord Lars Eriksson is presented with his Thorbjorn's Hammer at Valentine's Day Massacre.

Photos courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan