



# Fallen Leaves

The Glen Rathlin Newsletter  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007,  
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<http://www.glenrathlin.org>

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## Words From The Editor

Greetings. I've kept this issue of our newsletter short and sweet. .  
SpitRoast has provided us with some very useful advice on how to avoid being beheaded by offending the king in a court. We also have more news of plenty of practises and workshops to keep us busy well into the new year, including a shoe workshop at the end of November. After a failed first attempt at a pair of period shoes myself I'm hoping I come out of the workshop with a pair I can actually wear.  
We'll also be holding our annual winter event Yuletide University at the beginning of December. This year we even have an extra room set aside for sewing for all those projects that if you're anything like me you just never get around to finishing.

Happy Yule

*Lady Helene the Artisan*

## Brother Gaudaful

Brother Gaudaful whereabouts are currently unknown, he was last seen trying to break up a bar brawl between two disgruntled heavy fighters. near the shire of Alcazar.

## Forthcoming Events

### Shoe Making Workshop

24th to 26th of November 2006  
Ardnally Scout Centre,  
109 Old Milltown Road,  
Belfast. BT8 4SP

Further details about this event can be found at

<http://www.glenrathlin.org/html/annioince/events/shoeworkshop.htm>

For directions to the site see  
Forthcoming Practices

Details of all forthcoming events can be found in Dragon's Tale or by going to the Kingdom of Drachenwald – Calendar at

<http://www.drachenwald.sca.org/calendar/>

## Forthcoming Practices

All the forthcoming practices will be held at Ardnally Scout Centre

**4th November 2006**

### Directions:

Turn off M1 at Junction 2 (Stockman's Lane)

Follow Stockman's Lane to traffic lights and onto Balmoral Avenue (1.3 miles)  
At traffic lights turn right onto Malone Road (0.4 miles)  
Take first left at roundabout onto Milltown Road for one mile  
Turn left slip road at lights (signposted Ardnally Scout Centre)  
Turn left at T junction onto Old Milltown Road (signposted) Follow road till end (0.1 miles) You have now arrived at the site.

## Announcements

### Eplaheimr Potluck Practice

General practice followed by potluck feast, bring a dish ☺

**When:** 3rd Saturday of every month (10:00-22:00)

**Where:** Kilmurry House  
Shinrone, Co. Offaly

**Cost:** Free  
(Potluck works by everyone bring food).

### Contact:

(always contact before attending)  
Baron Etienne Fevre de Dion  
(John Prendergast)

### E- mail:

Eplaheimr "at" loughdevnaree.org

# Yuletide University VI (a Winter College)

8th to the 10th of December 2006  
Arnavally Scout Camp,  
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Come to our feast of classes on all subjects artistic and scientific that we can muster. Although we hope to provide a wide range of classes we also have a 'costume' theme this year for our main stream of classes. Teachers are greatly welcomed to share their knowledge with the populace here.

Anyone wishing to run a class please contact the class co-ordinator below.

If you are daunted by entering the Kingdom A&S Competition never fear the Glen Rathlin A&S Competition uses the same marking system but with a little less pressure on entries, you can only enter one item in one category if you wish to. Rules are available on the Glen Rathlin webpage.

**Site:** The site is VERY discreetly wet and will open at 7pm on Friday night. Site will close at 3pm on Sunday. Sleeping accommodation is crash space in the halls.

Site is now no smoking in buildings only in the area arranged for same by autocrat team.

## Prices:

ADULT WEEKEND £20 sterling / 30 €  
(Sterling cheques made payable to 'SCA Club NI')

Day, child and family rates available

from the autocrat This price includes Travellers fare on Friday night, breakfast and lunch Sat and Sunday and Saturday night feast.

Please notify the autocrat with any dietary issues in advance so we can try to accommodate your needs.

## Event & Reservation Steward

Lord Robin Bowman

(Al Darragh)

30 Bendigo Street, Belfast

BT6 8GD

Tel : 028 90285795

(after 6pm UK time)

E-mail: Al.darragh 'AT'ntlworld.com

## Officer List and Contacts

<b>Seneschale</b>	
	Sofia da Negroponte
<b>Exchequer</b>	
	Elaine of Glen Rathlin
<b>Chronicler</b>	
	Lady Helene the Artisan
<b>Minister of Arts &amp; Sciences</b>	
	Lady Perinelle of Rockall
<b>Knight Marshal</b>	
	Lord Seán O'Mordha the Archer

All Officers can be contacted via the Ministers links on the Shire Web page:  
**<http://www.glenrathlin.org>**

Shire mailing list:

[scanorthernireland@yahoogroups.com](mailto:scanorthernireland@yahoogroups.com)

## Spitroast the Kitchen Boy



First Time at Court is it, my lady don't worry I'll keep you right.

### **An Introduction to SCA Courts and how to behave at them.**

These are a few of the traditions / rules that I've picked up so far in the courts of Drachenwald, as far as I know they're correct, although if errors are noticed please feel free to tell me, good info is good, wrong info is very bad.

#### **Introduction**

As our Crown Principality grows, more and more opportunities present themselves for a court to be held at events. As only a region of Drachenwald we could solely rely on a Royal Presence and thus a court being held at a Coronation or Crown Tourney held here or possibly Warbands. With the formation of the Crown Principality of Insulae Draconis, we now have our own local Viceroy and Vicereine, the direct representatives of the Crown, able to hold court on the Crown's behalf at events across the Crown Principality.

This has increased the number of courts held considerably and thus the need for a quick recap of the basics I feel is useful for everyone, old hand and newbie alike.

#### **Why Have Court at All?**

A good question to which the answer I feel is this,

1 / To conduct business of the kingdom or Principality or Barony before the populace (the court).

2 / To enhance the suspension of disbelief that creates the atmosphere of the 'Current Middle Ages'.

Both I feel are equally important, the business stuff is necessary and good for morale, we all like to see our friends receiving awards for their good work in public rather than behind closed doors; whereas the pomp and ceremonies entailed in court allows us to drift away from the real world into our 'Middle Ages' just that bit more.

To people who say 'I don't do court, it's boring' I refer them to the second option and suggest they help us make it less boring and more impressive by their participation, you never know they may find they like it.

#### **Behaviour Rules for Courts Basics**

Remember the golden rule of the SCA, courtesy, courtesy and courtesy.

Don't carry on long conversations with your pals during court, other people are trying to hear what's being said, your friend might miss being called up for an award and look foolish, and it is

discourteous to the King and Queen whose position, if nothing else, we are all expected to respect.

Flash photography is not allowed in court by Drachenwald law, digital only if the shutter sound is switched off, and as usual smoking is not permitted except in site designated areas, which will not be near court.

### **Court Opening and Closing**

A court will begin in one of two ways; either with the 'Royalty' already seated on the thrones before the crowd known as 'In place' or 'teleporting' (sic), or, by a 'Processional' entrance where the 'Royalty' enter the hall and walk towards the thrones and take their seats. Either way the first thing to do is GET UP!! Standing as the court begins is good, although physical issues may preclude you from doing so, if so don't sweat it. You'll know when to get up because the herald of the court will either announce the entrance or the commencement for a 'In place' court.

The herald will announce that you are given 'leave to make yourselves comfortable' or some such phrase, only then can you sit down again.

Again at the end of the court, either the court will merely be declared finished, 'there being no further business before this court, this ends the court of King XXX and Queen YYY of Drachenwald'; more commonly this will be followed by the Crown or their representatives leaving the thrones and the room to a set of cheers raised by the herald. Again the crowd should be standing for this departure and cheers.

The only other time you need to stand in court en masse would be if another royalty joined the Crown such as the Royal Heirs during the court.

### **Sanctuary**

Both at the commencement of court and at the end the populace should bow its head in courtesy to the crown especially when you are within 10-15 feet of them; this is the sphere of 'sanctuary' for the Royal personages. It is meant to represent a safety zone for the Crown and a privacy area where their conversation cannot be overheard, thus an award recipient can have a chat with the Crown while the herald reads the scroll text.

Only the guards of the Crown and the Order of Chivalry are allowed weapons of war upon their person within this area. Thus if you are called up, leave your sword at your seat with a friend rather than causing a scene.

### **Bow or Curtsey?**

The answer to this question is simple, if you're male you bow, female you curtsey. Although there are a few rare exceptions this is the prevailing rule. The obvious reason for this one is that it stops the Crown being forced to look down the front of your dress if you curtsey. So hereafter if it says 'you bow' then read it as 'males bow, females curtsey'.

### **When Called into Court**

Firstly rise out of your seat, this means the herald and Crown can see you are in attendance and coming up, thus they do not have to arrange for someone to go get you.

If you are called up alongside others you may wish to wait a few seconds so you all approach together rather than one at a time.

As a rule, if an unaccompanied lady is called a gentleman will offer her his arm and escort her to the edge of the sanctuary zone, where they will also bow to the Crown leaving her to approach fully within the sanctuary zone (a safe area). However this is not required and the lady can decline an escort if she so wishes, she should decline it quietly and courteously to the gentle offering before moving to the Crown herself.

Remember stride towards the Crown, preferably from the centre of the hall, i.e. directly facing the Crown where possible, DON'T dawdle or run, both are signs of indifference to the gravity of the proceedings and spoils the courtly atmosphere for others.

You should stop at the end of the 'sanctuary' zone, and bow/curtsey to the Crown before approaching further and kneeling on the cushions provided. Yes, that's what they are there for. Listen to the King and Queen as they speak and reply to them when they speak directly to you not the crowd. You the recipient do not need to be heard by anyone other than the Crown. Once the Crown have completed their business with you, you should rise and make your way backwards (thus not showing your back to the Crown) to the edge of the 'sanctuary' zone, bow once more and then return to your seat. The herald at this time will be leading the populace in

three cheers of VIVAT (vee-vat) or a single person or VIVANT (vee-vont) for more than one.

### **On Cheering**

Cheers in court are usually led by the court herald and always, in Drachenwald, take the form of Vivat / Vivant, no other forms should be used not applause (non period), or bootstamping (period but bad for floors). Other kingdoms use phrases such as Huzzah so if you hear this it may be a visitor from another kingdom or a new arrival from one who has yet to learn the Drachenwald ways.

At the end of court the herald will lead the populace in a set of cheers whilst the Crown departs, these are in order;

King XXX and Queen YYY

Crown Prince AAA and Crown Princess BBB (if they exist at the time of the court)

The group area, i.e. Insulae Draconis or Nordmark or Knight's Crossing  
And finally Drachenwald.

Obviously we would hope all the cheers to be loud and lusty particularly the last as it unites all attending from across the kingdom not just the locals.

### **Conclusion**

Court can be fun to attend if you allow yourself to immerse yourself in the atmosphere and imagine yourself in days of yore not the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Permission to use this article was kindly provided by Lord Robin Bowman of Dalriada



[Minutes of AGM of Glen Rathlin held on 14 September 2006](#)

**Present**

**Sofia da Negroponte** (*Joanne Lafferty*)

**Lord Robin Bowman of Dalriada**

(*Alistair Darragh*)

**Lady Helene the Artisan**

(*Helen McLarnon*)

**Malcolm of Glen Rathlin**

(*Malcolm Semple*)

**Elaine of Glen Rathlin** (*Elaine Watson*)

**Lord Seán O'Mordha the Archer**

(*Sean Moore*)

Sarah Nicol

David Forsythe

The following members of Glen Rathlin gave their votes by proxy

**Baroness Caitriona of the Ravens**

(*Caitriona Byrne*)

**Perinelle of Rockall** (*Lesley McLarnon*)

**Barún Pól Ó Briain** (*Paul O'Brien*)

**Lady Freydis Thorfinnsdottir**

(*Nik Whitehead*)

**Njall the Mercenary** (*Neil Simpson*)

**Motion One**

The right of non-members to vote.

Votes :- 9 Yes

0 No

0 Abstain

**Motion Two**

The populace was asked to vote for the following posts

Lady Sofia was standing for Seneschal

Lady Helene was standing for

Chronicler

Elaine of Glen Rathlin was standing for

Exchequer

Lord Seán was standing for Knight Marshal

Perinelle of Rockall was standing for Minister of Arts and Science

12 members voted in total and the results were as follows

Seneschal, Lady Sofia

10 Yes

0 None of the above

2 Abstain

Chronicler, Lady Helene

10 Yes

0 None of the above

2 Abstain

Exchequer, Elaine of Glen Rathlin

10 Yes

0 None of the above

2 Abstain

Knight Marshal, Lord Seán: -

10 Yes

2 None of the above

0 Abstain

Minister of Arts and Science,

Perinelle of Rockall: -

10 Yes

0 None of the above

2 Abstain

**Motion Three**

Lady Sofia asked for everyone's opinion on the shire website and whether it needed a re-vamp. Lord Robin explained that we wanted our website to do is serve two purposes.

1. provide information for existing members
2. attract new members to the group/society

The majority of members were happy with the general look of the site but felt it was over complicated as they found it hard to navigate and find things on.

Newer members of the shire especially felt they would prefer something simpler where you first go into the site to explain who we are, what we do, where we do it and when.

Lady Sofia suggested that we discuss this issue at a later date and asked all the shire members present to have a good look at the website and think about what we want to do to it. David Forsythe who is new to the group offered to have a look at it and gave a fresh perspective on it.

#### **Comments by proxy-**

Perinelle of Rockall- seems ok to her but there are still a few glitches  
Baroness Caitriona of the Ravens- asked how we are going to re-vamp the website, are we talking about a whole new look

#### **Motion Four**

Lord Robin passed around a petition for our shire heraldry which was signed by everyone at the meeting.

#### **Motion Five**

Lord Sean put forward the suggestion that once a year we have a “down and dirty weekend” where we could volunteer as a group to carry out some work at Ardnalvalley. Everyone present at the meeting was happy to volunteer and it was suggested that we do the first one sometime around June/July of next year.

#### **Comments by proxy-**

Perinelle of Rockall- more the merrier, as long as Ardnalvalley is happy with it.

#### **Motion Six**

We discussed the event schedule for 2007

#### **2007 Event Schedule (draft)**

#### **Protectors 30th March -3<sup>RD</sup> April**

Discussed whether or not we should put a bid in for Protector instead for Viceroy next year. Lady Helene said that as we had already done Viceroy before it might be a good for us to have a go at an event we haven't done before.

#### **Yuletide 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **Champions of Lough Devnaree III-**

Lady Sofia would like to start preparing for it now but hopes that another shire within Lough Deverne will step forward and offer to run it next year.

**Practises-** January –no practise  
2<sup>nd</sup> February

(extended one for sewing)

3<sup>rd</sup> March

5<sup>th</sup> May

(depends on Viceroy)

2<sup>nd</sup> June

30<sup>th</sup> June

3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>TH</sup> August

(event/practise)

1<sup>st</sup> September

5<sup>th</sup> October

3<sup>rd</sup> November

#### **Any other Business**

There was no other business discussed

The will be available on the Glen Rathlin website as soon as possible

**Lady Helene the Artisan** (*Helen McLarnon*)



## Contributions

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors for all their help in putting together this newsletter.

Lord Robin Bowman of Dalriada

## Contributions Wanted

Any and all contributions are welcomed and needed for this publication, as it's your newsletter! I'm happy to take anything from simple Arts and Sciences projects to details of events you have travelled to so we can share your experience with the shire at large . Send by e-mail as a MS Word doc or TXT file to [Chronicler@glenrathlin.org](mailto:Chronicler@glenrathlin.org) or by mail to Helen McLarnon, 7 Millicent Park,  
Bangor, BT19 6BU

## Disclaimer

This is **Fallen Leaves from Glen Rathlin**, the Newsletter of the Shire of Glen Rathlin,  
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