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Ramshaven Herald

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Our Favourite Things

Baronial site	www.ramshaven.com
Online group	Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven
Bryniau Tywynnog	Http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau
Der Welfengau	www.derwelfengau.com
Kingdom of Ealdormere	www.ealdormere.ca
Upcoming Events	www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php

From Our Baron and Baroness...

Summer is upon us!

Excitedly we make lists, re-arrange our packing theories, and design the next “thing” we absolutely need for camping this year. Planning, creating...or at least re-furbishing, is all part of this game we lovingly call our hobby. Camping events are favoured as there is more time to do everything. Heavy combat, fencing, archery, bardic arts, and thrown weapons are difficult to squeeze into one day events, although, some do manage. But the camping events with their numerous classes relaxed schedules are certainly worth the fuss.



This year we have been planning more than previous years and enjoying every moment. The moot held at “Fruits of our Labours” gave us the opportunity to discuss ideas and problem solve. The moot opened with “ we don’t have enough red.” An ice-breaker comment and well received as it opened up the floor for us to let everyone know what we have been up to this last little while. With plenty of help from the populace, We have been diligently slaving away, at this problem which we hope to remedy in time for Murder Melee. Red is not just for the fighters any more! Come and see for yourselves.

Speaking of Murder Melee, the time has come to step up to the challenge we were issued from clan Okami, the Japanese household out of Septentria, while away at Pensic last summer. The challenge involves two parts. Parade onto

the battlefield and fight best two out of three melee combats. Winner takes home the bacon! Needless to say, we intend to win with honour and dignity intact. The more Ramshaven populace we have for the Saturday morning parade, the better. So please join us in the fun as we open the battle field for the days fighting.

Summer is shaping up to be a great season. We are looking forward to seeing everyone out enjoying themselves and participating in, what we believe to be, the best game and hobby entertainment known to man.

Your Baroness, Sibylla of Ramshaven

What in the Known World is a Peck?

or

Dry Measures in 14th century Scotland

In the last issue, we learned about weights in medieval Scotland. The stone was entrusted to Lanark. For measuring volume, there are two different types: wet and dry. The firlot (about 36 to 52 Litres, depending on what is being measured) is a dry measurement based on the boll, and was monitored by Linlithgow.

There are five units used to measure dry volume:

Forpet/lippie = $\frac{1}{4}$ peck

Peck = $\frac{1}{4}$ firlot

Firlot = $\frac{1}{4}$ boll

Boll (Bowl)

Chalder = 16 bolls

“Forpet” is derived from the words “fourth peck”. “Lippie” is from the Anglo-Saxon word for basket. The word “peck” may be from the Latin *picotus*. Now, when you hear about Peter Piper picking a peck of pickled peppercorns, you’ll know it’s about two gallons, or nine Litres!

“Firlot” means a fourth lot (one fourth of a boll). A chalder or cauldron could be from 2,322 to 3,386 Litres! You know those 55 gallon plastic

barrels some use for making armour? It takes 11 to 16 of those barrels to make one chalder!

Why the range of volumes? The Scots would measure things like peas, beans and wheat with a 145 Litre boll, and they would measure oats and barley with a 211 Litre boll. Some think the difference is the space in between the units being measured (ground meal vs. apples). Others have remarked that beer was measured in larger quantities, and beer is made from oats, barley and malt (all measured with the larger boll).

Sounds good to me!

In the next issue: What in the Known World is a Mutchkin?

Lord Beathán MacFinnon,
mka Ryan Thorpe.



FOOL!

Once again, a wonderful FOOL has taken place. As always, I am completely taken away by the huge variety of skills that our teachers offer and the amazing variety of classes. Without the support of many people, this event would not be possible. Thank you for coming out, visiting, teaching, learning, and being the wonderful, warm and friendly people that you are. It is you who make this event worth the effort.

As always, Duchess Rylyn's organizational skills are amazing - and honestly, if something needs to be done, she finds a way to make it so. It is her help that keeps me grounded. A.J. designed and hosted our website. Her skill in making it easy for me to manage the site made scheduling and updates painless. Saints Percival and Christiana are always there for us at this event, helping with set up, take down and clean up. In between they have done everything from fixing toilets to storing extra supplies. Their help is most appreciated. Daniel and Catriona not only provide us with the most amazing thrown weapons program (Yay night tourney) but also pitch in when necessary. This weekend, when I inadvertently scheduled each and everyone of my staff to the same teaching time slots, Catriona jumped in to do a shift at Gate. Eyrny was the Rapier marshal, and all the heavy fighters took it upon themselves to have a loud and fun sounding afternoon on Sunday. I am thankful for Dietrich's skills at clean up and totally enjoy his taste in music to work by. He is always so helpful and his smiles are infectious. Adnar never complains, is always cheerful, has the patience of a dozen saints, can move anything, arrange everything and I swear, he doesn't know the word no. Without his help, I know that both Rylyn and myself would be lost, or at least extremely tired and very, very cranky. Margaret and Cenred run the tavern with grace and skill. And no, she didn't tell me she was still getting over Pneumonia until 11 pm on Friday night, and then yelled at me when I told her she shouldn't have come. The teacher's gifts were made by members of the Canton of Bryniau. When I panicked, they jumped in and filled the void with a huge array of wonderful tokens.

Finally, I'd like to say a special thank you to Tamsin. Tamsin works quietly away in the background. She is always there. From picking up things we've forgotten, to impromptu teaching when she's sitting around at gate, she just jumps in to do things. Her memory and eye for detail is amazing. She put together the binder for gate, with absolutely everything we'd needed and a few things that we didn't know we

needed. She sees something which needs doing and just goes and does it. Tamsin, you made a huge impact on the weekend and our, and especially my, enjoyment of the event. Thank you!

I know there are others that have made a huge difference to this event. My thanks goes out to each and every one of you who picked up a broom, lugged a garbage bag, picked up trash, organized an activity (stoolball comes to mind and makes me wish that I could run!), or even just said a kind word of encouragement. Without all of each and every one of you, this event just wouldn't happen.

Thank you all again,
Odette

From Our Baronial Heavy Armor
Champion, Vanion!



Vanion (Ken Knudsen), here pictured with His Excellency Ramshaven.

In life we are small
moments find us and in these
we become larger, significant
a defining purpose
The horn of My Barony sounds
Her beauty shines, his strength awakens
the Rams, they come calling
it is my time
Awoken by this
does my armour dawn
my body ready to defend
the two whose lives
I will give with mine until the end
This does my spirit speak
that title of Champion
the cloak of honor and duty it bestows
something that words can never preach

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