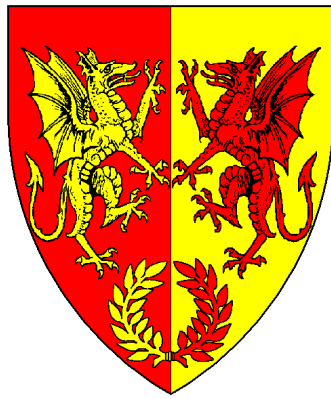


Shire of Adora



Winter Wrap-Up A.S. LI (2016)



*From Adora's Historian
Gwenhwijfar ferch Elena*



Greetings good gentles! As the season of coldness spread its icy fingers across our fair Kingdom, there were many diverse entertainments to keep the hearts of the populous warmed and spirits merry. Below is a summary of the events of these wintry months in which our fellow Adorans took part...



Blacktown Fayre

Saturday 21 May

Several Adorans attended the SCA demonstration at the Fayre, organised by Skarp-Heðin Sverðvarpnir, and helped to display our great society for the many thousands of visitors.

A fighting demonstration was held under the noontide sun, which included a “last man standing” battle with around a dozen fighters. Maelgwn ap Merlin won the second of these battles, to his great surprise and the glory of the Shire! The fighting was hard and fast, and many a shield was smashed!



Winterfest, Parramatta

Saturday 2 July

It was a pleasant sunny day at Winterfest. Bethany and Gwenhwýfar helped out in the SCA tent, which was organised by Sir Jon Dai of the Lane, along with Osríc gædeling and Rachel. Maelgwn participated in the fighting demonstrations with five other fighters from Stowe-on-the-Wowld and the Barony of Rowany, to the thrill and delight of onlookers.

Royal Supper, Pendle Hill

Friday 8 July

A Royal Supper was hosted by Stowe-on-the-Wowld, in which our previous monarchs, Gilbert I and Bethony I, held court prior to the Midwinter Coronation in Rowany. On this night, Bethany of Gisborough was awarded a Court Barony! All have been keen to congratulate Her Excellency on her well-deserved accolade and celebrate her noble recognition. Another friend of Adora, Mathias von Massenbach, was awarded a Golden Tear during the same court.



Flametre Ball

Saturday 30 July

Seven fighters practiced their arts of war throughout the afternoon while the hall was being prepared. A dozen dancers rehearsed their steps, whilst Allison and Bethany spent the afternoon in the kitchen preparing diverse culinary enjoyments for the impending revelries. Others were found hanging banners or putting out tables and chairs whilst the minstrels warmed their instruments.



Beneath the setting sun, a tournament was held in the nearby parklands. Anton de Stoc was both listkeeper and herald for the three contestants: Caleb Adolphus, Falkon and Maelgwn ap Merlin.



❖ Round 1 saw three bouts between Caleb and Maelgwn. Victory went to Caleb for winning the first two bouts, although Maelgwn did win the third.

❖ In Round 2, Maelgwn fought Falkon. After Maelgwn won the first round, the second two went to Falkon, who secured his place in the final.

❖ Round 3 was the final fight between Caleb and Falkon. Caleb won the first, but the second bout was a double kill and hence refought. Caleb emerged victorious, though Falkon wore his bruises with great pride.



The crowd cheered thrice to the honourable fallen, and victorious winner!

The ball began at the hour of six, with 52 people present in their finery. We enjoyed three removes of delicious fare, including traditional dishes as well as some new delicacies, such as little egg-mice, with their radish ears and carefully placed chive-stalk tails!



The revellers danced the night away, with particularly good renditions of the Black Allemande and Rufty Tufty, and great tangle was made in the Simple Bransle knot dance. During an unprecedented enthusiastic display of camaraderie, Maelgwn was unceremoniously dumped on the ground by Mathias to the great amusement of onlookers!

Late in the evening, seven performers took the stage for a bardic competition. We enjoyed a variety of humorous songs, period tunes, sing-alongs and poetry. Maelgwn and Gwenhwŷfar judged the competition and were pleased to award Caia with 1st prize for her delightful singing of the medieval lullaby "Turn Ye To Me".



Other Winter Happenings

- ❖ Toward the end of June, Falkon was authorised as our newest heavy fighter. Glory to the Adoran War-band!
- ❖ On Wednesday 27th July, an SCA stall was present at the Campbelltown UWS open day in the northern lands of our Shire, which attracted much interest. Sixteen members were recruited to the brand new College-in-the-making. Huzzah!

- ❖ An armouring workshop was held at Maelgwn and Gwenhwÿfar's house on the 13th of August, with over a dozen people making great progress on their projects, especially making leg-armour out of black plastic barrels!



- ❖ Six Saturday-morning fighter training sessions were held throughout the season: three at Stuart Park, Wollongong, and three at Koshigaya Park, Campbelltown.



The first at Koshigaya on 28 May was a very quiet and rain-drenched session, but the second and third on 25 June and 20 August were both sunny (albeit cold and windy) days and it was great to see some southern Adorans travel all the way up from Bateman's Bay to attend!

The training held in Stuart Park attracted many interested observers, who enjoyed the spectacle of several fighters learning their art with many other Adorans present to watch, converse and work on their various projects.

