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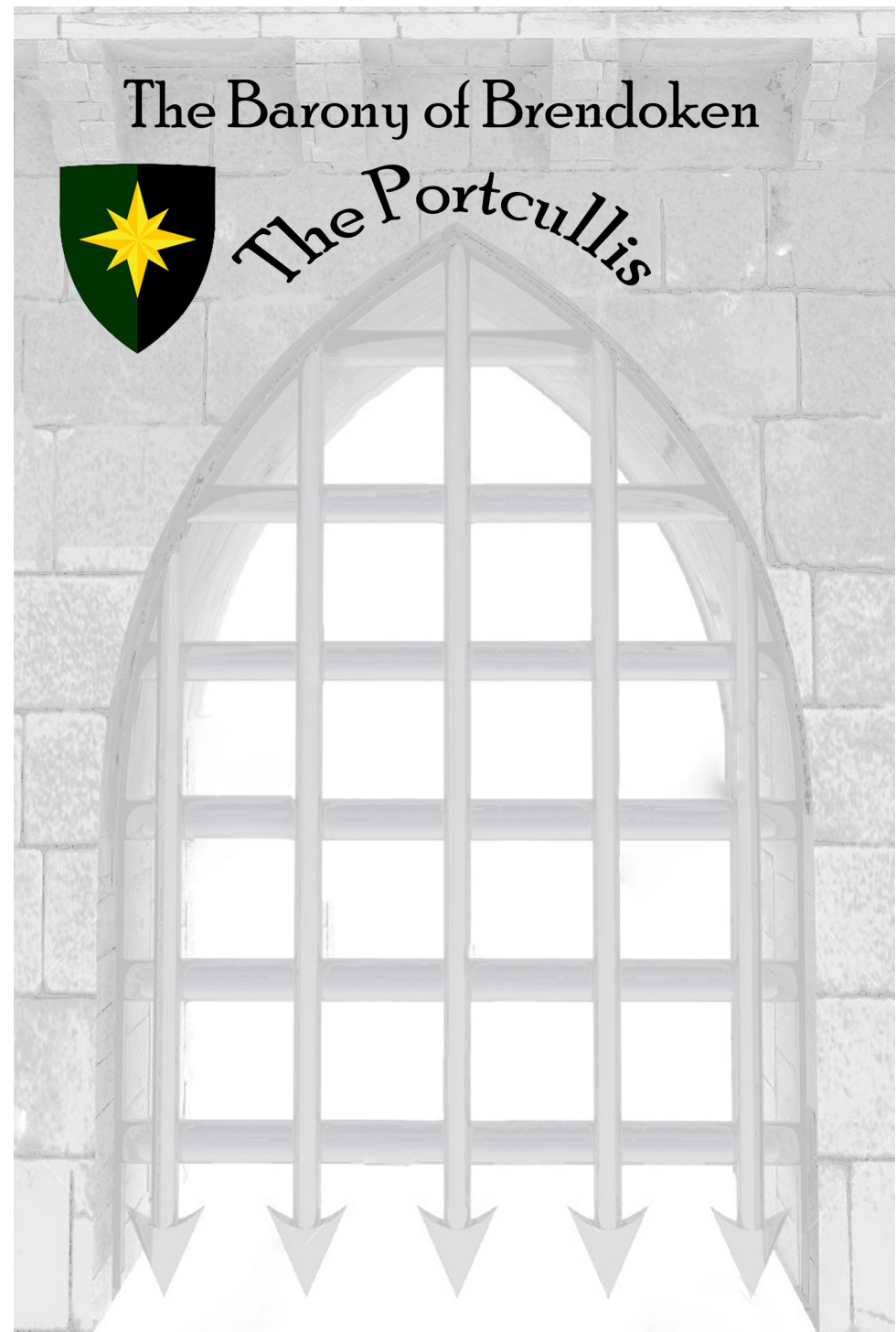


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July 2023

Greetings Unto the Populace

Pennsic 50 is nearly upon us!! I hope everyone is busy getting prepared. It is shaping up to be an incredible event with a large attendance. And I'm excited to see all of the wonderful things our populace will be participating in. I know each and every one of you will do the Barony proud.

Viscount Judith has been kind enough to volunteer to lead the Brendoken Water Bearing crew this year at Pennsic. If you have the opportunity and time, please come and help water bear at Pennsic for the Barony.

Pennsic Opening Ceremonies will be on Saturday, August 5th at 5:00 pm. I would like all members of the populace to join me at Midrealm Royal Encampment to process to the battlefield for the opening ceremonies. This is always a fun way to support the Barony and the Kingdom.

And on Monday evening, August 7th, I will have the Brendoken Baronial Court in Gwyntarian Camp on Block E13, on Howard's Fenway. Court will begin at 7 pm, and immediately after court, we will have a potluck. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

This will be my last Portcullis article I will be doing as the Baron of Brendoken. While I have, at times, struggled to come up with interesting things to write about, I have found that my inspiration, and my drive, has always been you, the populace of Brendoken.

Thank you for putting your trust in me all these years. Thank you for your never-ending support. Thank you for everything you have done, and will continue to do, for this Barony. And Thank You, from the bottom of my heart, for always being my inspiration.

HUNTER AND SABLE!!!!

Yours In Service, and With Love,
Cadwgan
Baron of Brendoken



Gwyntarian

-Thursday meetings

-this week no access to gym due to resurfacing-all outside weather depending, will ask for bath-room access

Three Towers

-demo went very well at Teen Fest yesterday

-would like loaner gear

-Michael Chatel stepping down as exchequer

-new exchequer-Johnna Franks

-kudos to Mark and Vicky for early set up; also Magnus and Hawk Thorn

Thistle

-still trying to get going, meetings hit and miss

-had a presence, still dealing with sites and times

-if you have suggestions, let them know

Viscountess Judith

-next Cooks Guild meeting July 9 after meeting

-subject: Tourneys and Journeys

Avangar

-NOWM-unbelts practice in mornings

Donalbane

-June 11 preregistration deadline 11:59pm

-Brendoken Camp has many new people

-camp meetings in next couple of weeks

-thank you to all who showed up at baronial Q&As

Vicky

-Gwyntarian Fred Fuller at building next door to normal place (Old Jailhouse)-Pennsic prep, final Friday

Saradwen

-Gwyntarian Winter Shoot-returning Nov 1-April 15

-Pennsic-need archery marshals, can start as MIT and leave as full marshal

Chatelaine

-bid for business cards-VistaPrint cheaper-have samples

-will vote on them next meeting

-need deputy!!!-if barony has no chatelaine, barony in abeyance

Be aware of wind at baronial meeting site

Excellency

-get award recommendations in; Pennsic will be last court as Baron

Meeting adjourned

Pennsic is in 21 days. Are you ready?!?

Baronial Meeting Minutes, continued

- deputy-Patrick Dougherty
- NOWM-army practice
- practices R Gwyntarian, T Thistle and Alderford

Rapier

- mustered at NOWM
- Rapier marshals refresher course being held at NOWM
- practices T and R throughout barony
- need deputy

A&S

- write down what you are doing, give to seneschal to make sure MOAS gets it

Seneschal

- finished with 84 participants in baronial polling
- within next 2 months will get notification

Herald

- still waiting on two submission updates

Chamberlain

- NOWM
- Simple Day

Chronicler

- need articles
- June Portcullis

Webminister

- no update

Social Media

- not too exciting, will shortly have deputy

Alderford

- new meeting site working well
- archery before meetings
- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of month
- last social meeting was jewelry, next potluck

Baronial Meeting Minutes, 6/4/2023

Special guests today:

Highnesses

- Thank you all, glorious day at Crown tournament
- Lord Algar and Lord Avangar did excellent as well
- awards at tournament
 - John the Ox-Dragon's Heart
 - Wolverine-now Captain
- looking forward to the next year

Excellency

- been a great month for everyone around here
- congrats to Their Highnesses
- Thrown Weapons Championship today after meeting, small court to name after
- travel tokens
- another Champion being added: Cut and Thrust
- NOWM next weekend-huge for this barony
 - baronial day shade and secondary shade-need help to set up early
- Pennsic
 - baronial day shade on battlefield peace week
 - baronial court Tuesday evening of war week in Gwyntarian camp, time TBA
 - need someone to take over water bearing this year-Judith will
 - will also need more help with water bearing
 - will have coolers, everyone supply own bottle and label
 - food-pretzels, pickles, etc, but everyone bring
 - registration ends very soon, put down your camp so we can get land

Seneschal

- NOWM-is MIC for rapier; regional war practice
 - Grimborgh-limited engagement battles, bridge battles, spear work
 - try to integrate more heavy tactics
- unbelted champion armored in morning

Exchequer

-8119.77

Signet

- congrats Highnesses
- baronial court at Pennsic will be lengthy, so need help; will be getting list in a couple weeks to give out assignments; please help!

Archery Marshal

- NOWM-Kingdom archery tournament
- June 25-pre pennsic party at Mili and Dungan's house; will have fighting, rapier, archery, A&S; 2pm

Knights Marshal

- report in on time

(continued page 6)

Congratulations to Xavier, Kingdom Thrown Weapons Champion!!!!



Photo: Erin Mackenzie Raper



Photo: Richard S. Mandel

Lord Dungan receiving his Purple Fret at evening court



Lady Annalena performing at the NOBLE Bardic Cup competition, which she would go on to win. She was the final performer, and the three Royals arrived...right before she sang. (*sweat*)

Photo: Corrie Bergeron

Let's Play Games Arwenna of Kelsley

In modern society, we entertain ourselves and learn things by reading, watching TV, and surfing the internet. We also use these tools to keep our minds sharp and improve our thinking skills. Those living in the Middle Ages had few or no such sources, so instead, they played games.

Many games were played to teach positional strategy in several formats, such as chess in its various forms, Morris games (5, 9, or 12 piece variations), Fox and Geese, Hare and Hounds, and Alquerque (a forerunner of modern checkers). Scandinavia had Tablut, which is similar to The Viking Game seen today and an even more complicated game called Hnefatafl with many more pieces. Both games involve unequal sides, more often the reality in warfare. Although all these games were generally designed to teach strategies needed for battles, they are also fun and only require one opponent or friend to play.

Other strategy games involved counting practice to help teach numbers, one of which is Tables, better known today as Backgammon. The Mancala family of games was played under many names in many countries and involves both counting ability and strategy in play. A version from ancient North Africa known as Wari doesn't even need a game board - 48 pebbles or seeds are played on 12 circles drawn on or pits dug in the dirt.

Games that capture pieces by enclosing them in various ways with other pieces were common in Asia. The best known is Go from Japan which is still played today. A lesser known and easier version from Tibet is called Ming Mang and can be played on a modern Othello board.

Younger folks enjoy race type games, and Pachisi for 2 to 4 players from 6th century India is still around with little change from its more ancient form. The Game of Goose for 2 to 6 players traveled from Italy to Spain to England (being noted in a London registry in 1597). As you move around the board, there are both reward and penalty spaces or spaces with advances and backward movement (think Chutes and Ladders). Although it is a fun kid's game, it also became an adult game by involving drinking and/or gambling where some of the penalty squares exacted more of a toll than just loss of a turn.

Only some of the period games used dice, notably Tables, Pachisi, and The Game of Goose. Dice were often used alone for gambling games, much like crap games of today. A period dice and gambling game called Gluckhaus involved leaving or taking coins from a game board depending on the roll of a pair of dice. Of course, the money need not be real - substitute paper clips, candies, or poker chips if you wish.

So the next time you think you or your younger folks might be bored at an event, put away the tech tablet or smartphone and instead bring some period amusements so you can have fun while you sharpen your wits. If you need directions for any of the period games mentioned or tips on how to play them, feel free to ask me about them.