

Caer Mear QD

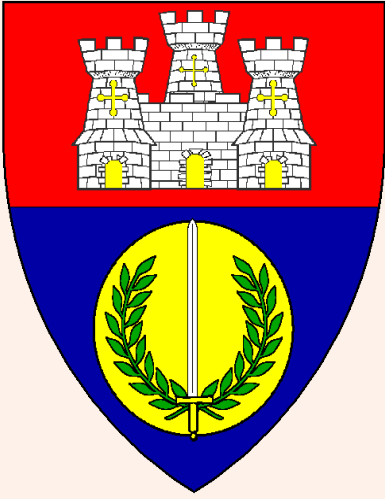
Special Edition Polling 2020



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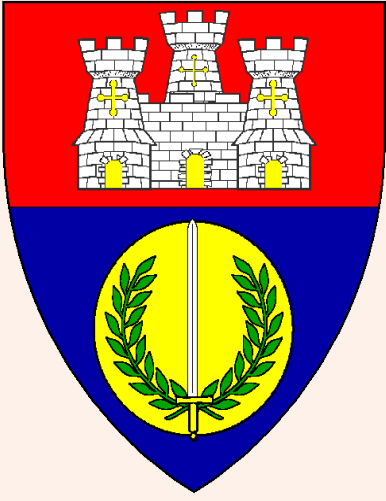
A Publication of the Barony of Caer Mear, Society for
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Polling Candidates

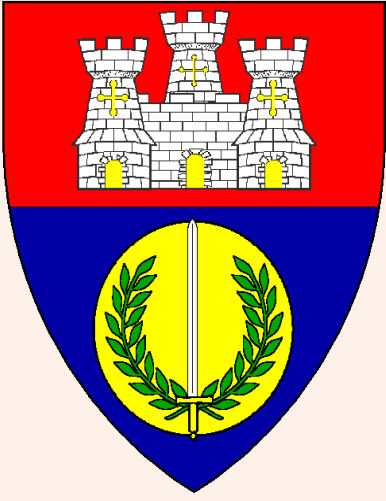
Lady Mardoll and
Lady Ulfildr:





Polling Candidates

Master William Cameron and
Mistress Helen Whitmore



Polling Candidates

Master Aedon and Baroness Aine

Populous Letters

Lady Mardoll and Lady Úlfhildr

Unto their Royal Majesties Cuan and Signy, King and Queen of Atlantia, their Royal Highnesses Anton and Luned, Crown Prince and Princess of Atlantia, their Excellencies Tojenareum and Magda, Baron and Baroness of Caer Mear, and unto the populace of Caer Mear, do we Úlfhildr Járnsaxa Svöndóttir and Mardoll of Catness send our heartfelt greetings.

We wish to make it known, that should it be favorable to their Royal Majesties, their Royal Highnesses, and to the populace, that we would be honored to serve as Baronesses of Caer Mear.

From the first SCA meetings Úlfhildr attended at the age of 17, to these more recent times when Mardoll has joined, though more than 20 years have passed, one thing has remained unchanged: this Barony has warmly welcomed both of us into their hospitality and their hearts. We shall endeavor to bring new ideas, yet ensure the continuity of these traditions, and to bring a fresh outlook, while valuing the culture of courtesy, service, and excellence established by this Baronies' esteemed history. Indeed, the greatest assets we would bring as Baronesses would be our great love of this Barony and its people, our desire for it to flourish, and our vow to carry forth that sense of hospitality, home, and family, both locally and to events across this Kingdom and beyond. *May our best journeys together be yet to come!*

As Baronesses some of our overarching goals would include finding new ways to enrich the experiences of our current populace, and to facilitate whenever possible a return of fond friends from absences sorely felt. Additionally, we would explore every avenue to recruit and warmly foster diverse new members; new growth being crucial to the vitality and longevity of the Dream. *For our posterity, let us each now requite kindnesses unto the next generation, just as kindnesses were once bestowed unto us!*

Beyond these broader goals, we wish to address some specifics as to the state of the Barony, and our hopes for the future.

Of martial activities within the Barony, our armored combatants, rapier fighters, youth combatants, archers, and thrown weapons community all display great prowess and honor. As Baronesses, we would strive to support and inspire all of these fine warriors, whether seasoned or new, towards great deeds and wordfame in their glorious battles to come. We would also seek every opportunity to promote new growth amongst their ranks. In just over one year, Pennsic 50 will be upon us. Let us once again, as it was in years past, send forth great and ferocious hosts upon all fields of battle. *We will look to our returning warriors, awaiting tales of victory, with drinking horns charged at the ready for celebration!*

Populous Letters

Lady Mardoll and Lady Ulfhildr

We believe this Arts and Sciences community is already tremendously strong, and greatly respected within the Kingdom at large, but we would seek to facilitate further recognition of its many diverse talents.

One particular area of our personal experience and interest is in historical food and cooking. We would seek to make hospitality, both for our beloved populace and valued guests, a hallmark of our tenure. We believe one specific possibility for more spirited encampments (and more dynamic demonstrations) could be by selectively integrating open-hearth cooking. *Together in fellowship, let us feast hearty by fireside!*

In conclusion, we earnestly thank you for your time and consideration. We speak from our hearts and say, to the Crown and Kingdom, to the Baronage and Populace of Caer Mear, and to the Dream: we humbly remain ever yours in service, looking forward to the days to come,

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Úlfhildr and Mardoll

Populous Letters

Master Willaim Cameron and Mistress Helen Whitmore

Greetings unto the Barony of Caer Mear,

We, Mistress Helen Whitmore and Master William Cameron do humbly submit our names to be considered for the next Baron and Baroness of the Barony of Caer Mear.

Our goals are to continue working to revitalize our barony by both promoting and growing the populace, and reaching out to less active members to reinvest them in Caer Mear's future as well. We are both leading and assisting our officers and barony members with: creating opportunities for leadership, diversifying opportunities for experiences in martial, arts, and service activities, and fostering inclusiveness and community through social engagement. Currently, we are creating, participating in and encouraging, demos, recruitment, events, training, classes, martial activities, and kingdom-wide travel.

I, Mistress Helen, have been active in the SCA since 1986. I began in the Shire of Arindale, helped found the Barony of Lochmere, and have been a member of Caer Mear for 30 years. I have served as MoAS, Chronicler, and am currently Deputy MoAS. I have Head Cooked extensively, and both held and assisted numerous staff event positions locally and at kingdom level. Out in the world, I have served on the board for Ballet Richmond Adult Volunteer Organization (BRAVO) as both the co-chair of photography and sales and as vice-president. I have also served for 7 years on the board of the Commonwealth Girl Scout Council, as a member at large, a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, and co-chair of the Older Girl Programming Committee, to increase membership and retention. The membership retention model we established is still in use 9 years later, and has become a model for other councils in the nation. Helen is a member of the Order of the Laurel, and a Companion of the Pearl.

Master William has been in the SCA and an active member of Caer Mear for 24 years, during which time he served a 3 ½ year tenure as Baron. He has held many offices in the Barony, including Seneschal, Knight Marshal, Rapier Marshal, Archery Marshal and Quartermaster and currently, Deputy Seneschal. In the College of Yarnvid, he has served as Interim and Deputy Seneschal, Knight marshal, and Archery Marshal. Master William has been the autocrat for several events, including Gem Joust and has held numerous staff positions at both local and kingdom events as well. William is a member of the Order of Pelican, a Companion of the Golden Dolphin, and is a Free Scholar in the Académie de Espee.

Should we be chosen, Master William and I swear to be just representatives of the Crown. We shall be available to our Barony to hear their concerns without prejudice; to listen, advise, guide, offer encouragement and praise, and to bring recognition to the achievements and efforts of the populace. We shall be a true conduit for the Crown's wishes to be known, and we shall share the thoughts and concerns of the populace of Caer Mear to the Crowns. We offer our aid and strength to the Barony of Caer Mear.

Populous Letters

Master Áedán Aylwyn and Baroness Áine ruadh inghean Néill

Fondest Greetings unto the Populous of Caer Mear,

For any with whom we have not yet had the pleasure of a formal introduction, we are Master Áedán Aylwyn, Order of Defense and Order of the Pelican, and Baroness Áine ruadh inghean Néill. May this missive stand as our humble offer of service and request for consideration for the role of Baron and Baroness Caer Mear.

Please do not believe that we offer our service lightly. We share many years of experience within the Society and understand that with this honor comes true responsibility. The responsibility to serve our Kingdom. The responsibility to serve the Society. But most importantly, the responsibility to serve the populous of Caer Mear to the best of our ability. We have been proud members of this barony for many years. We have both worn Caer Mear's colors on the field of combat, (armored, rapier, and archery). We have also worked to share what talents we possess to honor the Barony we call home.

We try to offer service where it is needed; whether it is on the list field as a combatant or a marshal, working as an artist or teacher, acting as organizer or just a helping hand. Having had the chance to participate in so many aspects of the Society over the years, we cannot help but feel we have gained much from this diversity. Given the opportunity, we would like to help foster that spirit of encouragement and support for each member of the Barony. We want to welcome people into our midst knowing that they will have the support to realize their goals. We are also excited at the prospect of working with such an amazing group of people and meeting the ones who have yet to discover Caer Mear.

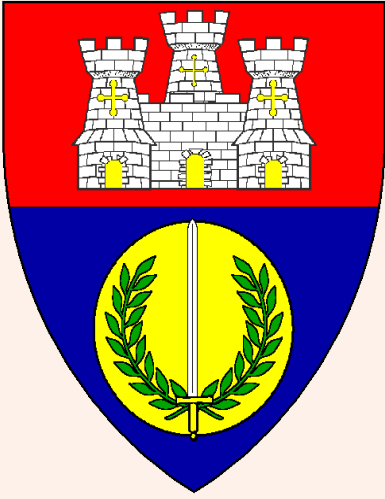
We all know how much effort goes into making things happen, but it is also our firm belief that enjoying what we do is part of what makes the experience worth that effort. Our goal, should we be so honored, is to continue the work of our predecessors in strengthening our Barony by strengthening its members, opening our ranks to those who would join us, and by encouraging those who seek to improve upon the foundations that have been laid.

Many thanks to each of you for all your outstanding efforts and we look forward to working with you in the future in whatever capacity.

Vivit Caer Mear!

Yours in Service,

Master Áedán Aylwyn and Baroness Áine ruadh inghean Néill



Candidate Interviews

Lady Mardoll and Lady Ulfhildr:

QD: What is your vision for Caer Mear?

A: Should we be selected as Baronage for Caer Mear, we would consider ourselves fortunate to be assuming that role in a Barony which is already a strong, tight knit, and thriving chosen family.

As Baronesses our vision for the future would include finding new ways to enrich the experiences of our current populace and spreading word of their excellence throughout the Kingdom and beyond.

We would like to simultaneously seek out, and when possible pursue, the populace's ideas for recruitment and retention of diverse new members. We see continued growth and increasing diversity as being extremely crucial to the future vitality and longevity of the Dream.

QD: What is an opportunity that you see to improve Caer Mear, and what steps would you take to take advantage of this opportunity?

A: As we stated in speaking on our vision for Caer Mear, we believe recruitment and retention are crucial for the longevity of the Barony and Society as a whole.

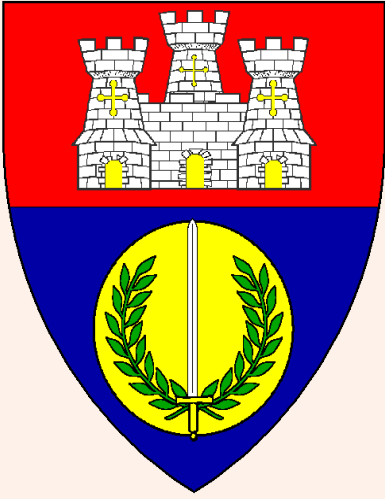
We believe one component of that includes ensuring our current youth as second - and some cases third or more generations - feel valued and recognized within the group.

However, for our future we also believe it is especially important to reach out to younger adults, who presently may have no familiarity with the SCA. We believe the most efficient and effective means towards that end is to increase awareness of our presence within various online and local communities, which we may not currently be developing dialogue with. Social media in particular is one avenue for outreach to younger adults that we consider to be crucial.

Ultimately, whatever specific ideas that we may have as two individuals are only a small part of what will ensure the future prosperity of this Barony.

Regardless of whether we are selected as Baronage, it will be the "We" consisting of the whole of the populace of Caer Mear that will carry us forward, just as those who set us on a firm foundation brought us to the point we are today.

It is your ideas for the improvement and future development of this Barony that we would value most highly, and would strive to implement whenever possible, should we be chosen to facilitate that journey as Baronage in the good times to come.



Candidate Interviews

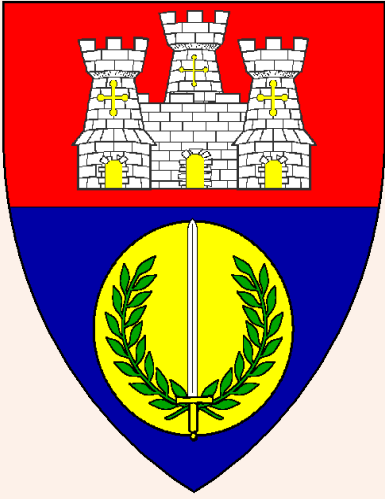
Master Willaim Cameron and
Mistress Helen Whitmore

QD: What is your vision for Caer Mear?

A: We would like to continue building a fun, cohesive, supportive and inclusive group where people can follow their passion for all things medieval. There is room for everyone, the costume party-goer, the researcher, the fighter, the artist, the administrator, and those who love to serve. We are all of us, these people in different measures. Yes, we realize as we write these words, that they sound a bit like the ending monologue of *The Breakfast Club*. The slick wording is in the populace letter, paragraph two.

QD: What is an opportunity that you see to improve Caer Mear, and what steps would you take to take advantage of this opportunity?

A: Our goals are to continue working to revitalize our barony by both promoting and growing the populace, and reaching out to less active members to reinvest them in Caer Mear's future as well. We are both leading, and also assisting our officers and barony members with: creating opportunities for leadership, diversifying opportunities for experiences in martial, arts, and service activities, and fostering inclusiveness and community through social engagement. Currently, we are creating, participating in and encouraging, demos, recruitment, events, training, classes, martial activities, and kingdom-wide travel.



Candidate Interviews

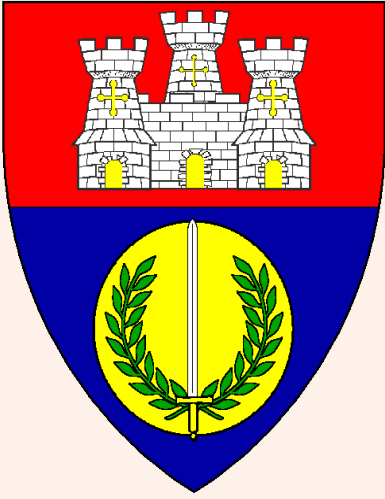
Master Áedán Aylwyn and Baroness Áine ruadh inghean Néill

QD: What is your vision for Caer Mear?

A: We believe that the key to a successful barony is its ability to support each other as well as help introduce new members to the Society. We would like to continue to build upon the amazing efforts put forth with the recent series of informational and public demonstrations to attract new members and generate the excitement in the group that comes with fresh faces. We have a solid core of dedicated and extremely hard-working individuals and want to encourage them to share their arts, talents and wisdom with new and potential members to help these new members find their own path within the group. Working together, we can help to lay the groundwork for all our future successes.

QD: What is an opportunity that you see to improve Caer Mear, and what steps would you take to take advantage of this opportunity?

A: It should come as no surprise that stability is foundation of any successful organization. Like many groups in the SCA, Caer Mear has been looking for that stability to provide a platform for growth. We have recently had struggles with finding a reliable site for our weekly gathers and fight practices. The new locations of the Moose Lodge and the Christ Lutheran Church are the perfect opportunity to allow members to reconnect with each other and provide steady venues for recruiting new members. We hope to utilize this opportunity by focusing on a sharing of time, talent and expertise and to be as welcoming and inclusive as possible to members old and new alike. We feel that creating a supportive environment that allows folks to explore all facets of the society, with the help and encouragement of their barony, can only strengthen the group as a whole. We are lucky to have an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience here in Caer Mear, a remarkable resource that we feel can be tapped to spur further growth in the Barony.



Acknowledgements

Cover Page:

Border:

Vine Border Green clip art. (2012, February 10). Retrieved November 25, 2019, from <http://www.clker.com/clipart-vine-border-green.html>.

Knight:

Boyaval, O. (2013, June 10). Medieval Knight by Etory on DeviantArt. Retrieved November 25, 2019, from <https://www.deviantart.com/etory/art/Medieval-Knight-377118704>. (Image editing by Kenric the Hale)

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