The Thunder’s Quill

A Newsletter from the Barony of Donnershafen

The Noise from their Excellencies!!

Baron Kjell and Baroness Isabel

Greetings to our beloved Barony!

It is our greatest joy to have been invested as the Baron and Baroness of Donnershafen at Fall RUM. We shall strive to continue the noble works and traditions of our predecessors and carry on their legacy.

Winter has spread across the land and the pandemic lingers, yet we have witnessed the populace thriving Our hearts swell with pride as we see and share projects on P.U.B. nights and are so grateful to Baroness Meabh for encouraging these gatherings . We are well represented in the bardic community as Taliesen attends and shares virtual bardic circles including being “in the room where it happened” for the bardic war. For those who are encouraging activity and togetherness in the ethereal realm: Skol!

Your in service,

Kjell and Isabel

Baron and Baroness Donnershafen

**Submitting Award Letters**

Awards are an important part of the SCA. We are a volunteer organization, and the way we are “paid” is by the positive feeling we get by contributing to the SCA, whether at the local level, in the kitchen, as a kingdom Officer, etc. Awards are a public “thank you” or acknowledgement of accomplishments. Awards are also an encouragement to a person to continue in the same vein or direction.

Awards are given at the pleasure of the Crown, but the Crown can’t be everywhere or see the contribution of every member of the populace. The only way They know if a gentle is worthy is if They receive recommendations for that person, recommendations from people such as you.

Nearly every kingdom has an online award recommendation form, which has the benefit of reminding you what information is required. Check your kingdom website for more information. You can also usually send an email to Their Majesties.

Please take the time to submit awards. It’s a great way to show your appreciation for someone who deserves it.

Resource: Known World Handbook

Baronial Officers:

*Baron:*

Kjell Smidr

*Baroness:*

Isabel Taylor

*Seneschal:*

Lord Wulfric of Donnershafen

​*Exchequer:*

Beibhinn inion Suibhne

*Chatelaine:*

Baroness Meabh

*Herald:*

Lady Madeline

*Deputy:*

Lady Godeleive

*Webminister:*

Baroness Marina

*Deputy:*

Beibhinn inion Suibhne

*Minster of Arts & Sciences:*

Lady Systa of the Marsh

*Deputy:*

Lady Oswin Elderkin

​*Knights Marshal:*

*Chronicler:*

Baroness Marina

*Social Media Officer:*

Lady Godeleive

*Minster of Arts & Sciences:*

Lady Systa of the Marsh

*Deputy:*

Lady Oswin Elderkin

​*Knights Marshal:*

*Chronicler:*

Baroness Marina

*Social Media Officer:*

Lady Godeleive

**Vikings Come Home**

By all accounts, Vikings Come Home was a rousing success this year! Well attended, with one of the largest gatherings we can recall! The weather was cooperative and all events were successful, with the only exception being that Their Majesties, a mere two miles from the site, were informed that they had been exposed to Covid and made the difficult decision to not attend in person, even after driving all that way. Leading by example, they put the populace’s safety ahead of themselves, and we commend them for it, even in our disappointment.

As this was my last VCH as your Baroness, I’d like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved for making the event happen and run so smoothly. There’s a lot that goes on behind the scene and our people are pro’s at pulling everything together to ensure a great event and a fun time for all the participants. Excellent work and you make our barony proud!! I look forward to next year’s event and leave the barony in the very capable hands of your new Baron and Baroness, Kjell and Isabel!

Thank you all!

Your’s in Service,

Marina



UPDATE!:

The Kingdom has initiated a new award recommendation system. The new recommendation form will be directly accessible from the Midrealm’s webpage. Additionally, you will not need to have an account to use it. Simply go to the page, fill out the form, and hit submit.

[www.midrealm.org](http://www.midrealm.org)

From Kingdom Seneschal – January Advice regarding Covid-19.

[Uncategorized](https://midrealm.org/blog/category/uncategorized/) / By [jahanara\_alhafeeza](https://midrealm.org/blog/author/jahanara_alhafeeza/)

Greatings Midrealm,

As we look forward to the New Year, the initial outlook does not look good but, oddly, this may make the long term forecast better.

Here is what we know as of today. Currently, all states that are part of the Midrealm are in the middle of a COVID-19 infection surge with new infections at a rate at least as high as last winter when the SCA was shut down. We are looking at 300-700 new cases per 100K people (CDC, 2021), and this is expected to increase. The new Omicron variant has started circulating.  Based on data from the UK, this strain is predicted to become the dominant variant within a week or two and the number of cases will likely double every 2-3 days (UK Health Security Agency, 2021). With the new variant showing an R0 as high as 10 compared to 7 for Delta and 4 for the original variant this is a problem (Burki, 2021). An R0 is an average of how many new people a single infectious person can expect to infect. The higher the number the faster the spread is expected to occur. No data is yet available to indicate that the Omicron variant is more infectious outdoors than the Delta or other variants. However, close contact when unmasked carries the risk of contagion, even outdoors. This risk increases when there is some indoor gathering (restrooms) and less stringent social distancing and masking (Bulfone et al. ,2021). In short, we are in the middle of a surge in infection.

What does this mean for the Midrealm in the short term, and for fight practices and events in January? Many counties are reporting a rate of 500 cases per 100,000. This means that a 200 person event, statistically, has one infected person attending. Given what we have seen with infectivity, that one person will make between 8-18 other people sick. It means that we are concerned. It means that event stewards, seneschals and marshals should seriously consider if the advantage of holding an event is worth the risk of holding said event. As Their Majesties already indicated, the choice to attend an event is a personal one, and no individual is required to attend, neither is an event required to occur. If the local officers and populace do not feel comfortable hosting the event, they are not expected to hold it anyway. If you don’t feel comfortable traveling and staying in hotels and eating in restaurants then we do not expect you to do so. Be sensible, follow the science, make adult decisions.

In the long term, after a rapid rise in cases we expect an equally rapid decline and possibly safer events for early spring. Meanwhile, stay safe, mask up and go get that booster shot.

Yours in service

Helewyse de Birkestad,
Middle Kingdom Seneschal

References

Bulfone TC, Malekinejad M, Rutherford GW, Razani N. Outdoor Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Other Respiratory Viruses: A Systematic Review. J Infect Dis. 2021 Feb 24;223(4):550-561. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiaa742. PMID: 33249484; PMCID: PMC7798940.

Burki TK. Omicron variant and booster COVID-19 vaccines. Lancet Respir Med. 2021 Dec 17:S2213-2600(21)00559-2. doi: 10.1016/S2213-2600(21)00559-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34929158; PMCID: PMC8683118.

CDC. (2020, March 28). COVID Data Tracker. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#cases_community>

UK Health Security Agency. (2021, December 28). COVID-19: Omicron daily overview. GOV.UK. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-omicron-daily-overview>

References

Bulfone TC, Malekinejad M, Rutherford GW, Razani N. Outdoor Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Other Respiratory Viruses: A Systematic Review. J Infect Dis. 2021 Feb 24;223(4):550-561. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiaa742. PMID: 33249484; PMCID: PMC7798940.

Burki TK. Omicron variant and booster COVID-19 vaccines. Lancet Respir Med. 2021 Dec 17:S2213-2600(21)00559-2. doi: 10.1016/S2213-2600(21)00559-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34929158; PMCID: PMC8683118.

CDC. (2020, March 28). COVID Data Tracker. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#cases_community>

UK Health Security Agency. (2021, December 28). COVID-19: Omicron daily overview. GOV.UK. Retrieved December 28, 2021, from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-omicron-daily-overview>

**Chronicler**

Baroness Marina of Donnershafen

chronicler@donnershafen.com

This is the Winter 2021 issue of the Thunder’s Quill, a publication of the Barony of Donnershafen of The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA, Inc.). The Thunder’s Quill is available from Cathy Magee, 3372 N M-75, Boyne City, MI 49712