

# The Nottinghill Quill SPECIAL EDITION: LETTERS OF INTENT

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# COVER PHOTO BY VROUWE MACHTELD CLEINE



# BARONIAL REGNUM

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## From the Seneschal's Pen...

Greetings to the populace of Nottinghill Coill. In accordance with Kingdom law and practices, it is my honor and pleasure to present Letters of Intent (LOIs) from the two sets of individuals who have been approved by Their Majesties to be contenders for the position of our next Baron and Baroness. The two pairs are Maistir Cian mac Cellacháin hUí Dublaich (Craig Dooley) & Lady Abigael MacDonald (Norma Dooley), and Master Elphin ap Dafyd (David Slice) & Baroness Delia Flammen (Pam Slice.)

The letters are presented as submitted to me. Note that they were written when our current King and Queen were still Their Royal Highnesses, so there is at least one reference to Their predecessors. Polling letters will be mailed shortly before the end of October; use the time to consider these letters carefully and make a reasoned decision.

NOTE: these LOIs will be for your review ONLY, to get you ready for when the actual polling letters reach you in the mail. Any comments that are posted on social media will have absolutely no bearing on the polling. The only comments that are acceptable for consideration by Their Majesties are the ones that you write on your polling letters.

Yours in service,

Dame Morwenna Trevethan, Baroníal Seneschal

# Letter of Intent: Maistir Cian mac Cellacháin hUi Dublaich and Lady Abigael MacDonald



Photo credit: Lady Virginia of Wolfholt

Unto Your Highnesses Prince Ragnarr and Princess Lynette, Your Excellencies of Nottinghill Coill Baron Lucien and Baroness Brig, and the Populace of The Barony of Nottinghill Coill, greetings from Maistir Cian mac Cellacháin hUí Dublaich and Lady Abigael MacDonald.

Let it be known that this Letter signifies our interest in serving as Baron and Baroness of the Barony of Nottinghill Coill.

Since our first event, "Feast of the Unicorn - The Karkadann", in November 2008, we knew that we had found a place where we belonged. The relationships that began that day have grown even stronger over the years. The Barony has given us so much love, support, and friendship, and has pushed us both to bigger and better things that we never thought possible. Therefore, it is our desire to give back to the Barony and the people that have been our home and our family for the 10 years that we have been in the Society.

One of our primary goals, should we be honored with the title of Baron and Baroness of Nottinghill Coill, would be to assist the Barony in working hard to not only bring in new members, but to also welcome them and retain them, while looking for new ways to engage those who have "been there and done that".

It is important to us that all people, whether old hands who have been doing this for 20+ years, or newcomers that have just arrived to their first event, feel the kindness, the friendliness, and the welcoming compassion of the Barony and its people. The Society is an amazing group of people, from all walks of life, and there is a place and a home for everyone.

It is vital that we work together as a Barony to recruit newcomers, to invite them to our events, to spend time with them at events helping them navigate the sensory overload. We need to ensure that everyone interested in the SCA is contacted and invited, given the information that they need to attend events, and are supported during and after the event, to make sure they are enjoying themselves and seeing the worth of being a member of the SCA. We plan to sit down with the chatelains of the Cantons and the Barony and brainstorm on ideas to help reach out to the people who are SCAdians at heart, but don't know it yet.

We plan to take a hard look at the people of the Barony and the work they are doing and ensure that they are getting the proper recognition that they deserve. It has long been a concern of ours, having both served as heralds, of the many times that we hear someone say "They just got that award? I thought they already had it". It is too easy to make the assumption that someone has been recognized, and therefore it is just as easy to overlook making recommendations for them. While most people don't do their art, their service, or their fighting for recognition, it's important that they do feel appreciated for their effort and work. We want to do our part to make sure they get their deserved recognition not only at the Baronial level, but also to bring them to the attention of the Crown, so that the Kingdom will know of the good deeds done by the people who make up the Barony of Nottinghill Coill.

The artisans in the Barony of Nottinghill Coill are amazing people, and we wish to encourage them to challenge themselves by taking their art to the next level, and to participate more in Kingdom level A&S events. There is a lot of A&S talent in the Barony of Nottinghill Coill, and we need to make sure that the Kingdom knows it as well. We also want to encourage those who do not consider themselves fluent in A&S to step out of their comfort zone and try something in the Arts and Sciences.

We intend to try and attempt to visit each of the Cantons during a Populace/business meeting several times during the year, to gauge how things are going, and to see if they need us to do anything for them. The Baron and Baroness are there to serve the populace, not be served by them, and if we can visit each group and spend some time with them away from the hectic schedule of an event, we may find new ways to assist each part of the Barony and help them grow stronger.

#### About us

Maistir Cian has served as Canton Herald for the Canton of Cydllan Downs, Baronial Herald for the Barony of Nottinghill Coill, Target Archery Marshal, Teaching Archery Marshal, and is currently the Triton Principal Herald for the Kingdom of Atlantia. He has helped organize Canton participation in the Knight of Honor Demo for the past 2 years as well as this year and has autocratted 2 previous Nottinghill Coill Baronial Birthday and Investitures and will be the autocrat for the upcoming Yule Toy Tourney in December. He has taught many classes at Universities and Collegiums on heraldry and precedence.

Lady Abigael has served both as Seneschal and Chirurgeon of the Canton of Cydllan Downs, has been a Chirurgeon and a Chirurgeon-in-charge at events, a water bearer, assisted with many Baronial hospitality tables at events, and is currently the Baronial Herald for the Barony of Nottinghill Coill. She has branched out into doing scrolls and illumination, knitting, has recently taken up inkle weaving, lucet, and Kumihimo, and is thoroughly enjoying learning and expanding her knowledge of the fiber arts. She has taught often at Universities and Collegiums on knitting and making personal knitting needles.

We believe strongly in the good people of the Barony of Nottinghill Coill, and wish the opportunity to serve the Barony by being the custodians of the lands for the Crown of Atlantia, to have the privilege to represent and champion the people to the Monarchs, and to represent the Monarchs to the people. It has been said that being the landed Baron and Baroness of a Barony is the highest form of service that can be done for the people of that Barony. We love the Barony and what it stands for, and we love the people and who they are, and if we can pay back the love and support we have received over the years, it is our desire to do so. If it should be the wish of the Crown and the

people that we have this opportunity, we would be most grateful, and would do our best to serve with dignity, humor, fun, and passion.

In service to Kingdom and Barony,

Maistir Cian mac Cellacháin hUí Dublaich Lady Abigael MacDonald

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# Letter of Intent: Master Elphín ap Dafyd and Baroness Delía Flammen



Photo credit: Mistress Etain of Sutherland

Unto Their Royal Majesties, Royal Highnesses, Their Excellencies of the Barony of Nottinghill Coill and to the Barony's populace do we, Master Elphin ap Dafyd and Baroness Delia Flammen, send our warmest greetings. Please consider this missive as our letter of intent to put ourselves forward as candidates for the honor of serving as the next Baron and Baroness of our beloved Barony of Nottinghill Coill.

We have had the good fortune to be members of this Barony since we started playing well over a quarter century ago. In that time, we have served and supported our canton and barony to the best of our ability. We have been members of the Order of the Gordian Knot, the Barony's service order, for over a decade and both were made companions of the Coill's Shining Beacon in 2013. Formerly a collegiate fencer, Master Elphin has been active in the rapier community as a teacher and marshal almost as long as it has been legal in this kingdom. He has served in his Canton of Cyddlan Downs in the past as Seneschal and has been the Canton Exchequer for many years now. Largely because of his years of service to the rapier community he has recently been inducted into the Order of the Pelican.

In addition to the Baronial honors noted above, Delia was made a court Baroness almost a decade ago under the reign of Jason and Gerhild and was inducted into the Order of the Golden Dolphin last year. She was the land agent for the Baronial camp at War of the Wings for several years, revealing a talent for cat herding. In the past she, too, was a rapier fighter and later an archer, but medical issues have sidelined her more physical pursuits. As an artist she has always had a strong interest in the Arts and Sciences and she has served as Cyddlan Downs A&S officer for over a decade now. These days she has become a dedicated shenanigator and instigator of fun as well as a weaver of some skill.

In the many years we have played in this Barony we have found the Barony of Nottinghill Coill to be strong, with a talented and hardworking populace and an enduring legacy of strong leadership. If chosen, we wish to build upon the foundation created by our predecessors, who placed great emphasis on recruiting and nurturing newcomers. Demos are an important recruitment tool, and we intend to look more actively at local conventions for people who share our interests. In addition, we would like to concentrate on helping members, new and old, find the things within the SCA that ignite their

passion and bring them joy. Delia has already started sponsoring newcomer challenges in A&S, and would continue those efforts on a broader scale. All activities from Armored to Arts and Sciences would receive our encouragement.

In light of recent events we also want to emphasize tolerance and inclusivity.

We love this Barony. We believe that we have the abilities and traits to fulfill the obligations that would be expected of us should we have the honor of representing their Majesties and the Barony of Nottinghill Coill. We would do our utmost to support and promote the populace in their individual interests and in their pursuit of The Dream to the best of our abilities. What we don't know, we will endeavor to seek wise council and use our research skills to learn. We hope you will allow us the opportunity to serve.

Master Elphin ap Dafyd mka David P. Slice elphin@sc.rr.com (803) 932-8355

Baroness Delia Flammen mka Pamela M. Slice delia1@sc.rr.com (803) 414-6500