

# Annals of Eplaheimr

Official newsletter of the Barony of Eplaheimr



ASLVIII, Issue 11, November 2023

# NEWSLETTER

The Annals of Eplaheimr

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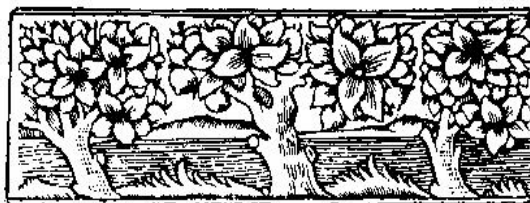
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## Ilchomórtas Coróneád Insulae Draconis Coronet Tourney

17th - 19th November  
Petersburg OETC, Clonbur, Co. Galway

Don't  
Miss  
Out!

Bookings are Open

[www.eplaheimr.org/id.coronet.tourney/](http://www.eplaheimr.org/id.coronet.tourney/)

[www.fienta.com/ilchomortas-coronead-insulae-draconis](http://www.fienta.com/ilchomortas-coronead-insulae-draconis)



# From Their Excellencies



Greetings Eplaheimr!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to some of our forthcoming events. At the time of writing, Medieval Dead is the next event. Many thanks to Viscountess Susannah for stepping in at short notice to run this. We are also looking forward to the coronet tourney in November, where we hope to see all of you. We look forward to the King and Queen and Prince and Princess attending! It isn't too late to volunteer to help out the event team! Please get in contact with Baroness Melisende. As with our investiture event, it is planned to continue the Baroness's cocktail hour, or "sos comhra" at all future events. We encourage all brewers and mixologists to bring libations to share, of any or no alcohol content.

We would like to thank our Seneschal and everyone that has been working very hard with to resolve the insurance issue that raised its ugly head earlier this year. Our skilled fighters have vanquished the insurance dragon and we can now meet and have events as normal, Lough Devnaree Abú!

Baroness Rogned is keen to have as many participants in the Seargant's tournament so please send in your interest to [baron.eplaheimr@gmail.com](mailto:baron.eplaheimr@gmail.com) as soon as ever possible for all the details.

EPLAHEIMR ABÚ!!!

Yours,  
Baroness Adele de Chadwykke      Baroness Rogned Stengrimova



# Pottery in Clonmacnoise

By Lady Orlaith Chaomhánach

I finally got around to trying a pottery workshop in Clonmacnoise Pottery, near Athlone, the second workshop the very excellent Lady Gytha organised (*ed: 8<sup>th</sup> July*). I had an absolute blast and loved it every bit as much as I thought I would. I have always enjoyed the idea of clay, the mesmerizing way it changes beneath your hands with warmth or water and pressure.



There were 5 of us plus our teacher on the day and I found it excellently paced with a great introduction to coil building a mug, slab making a lidded box and 6 attempts each to coax little lipped dishes on a wheel. The wheel takes a bit of getting used to and my own stomach has a nasty habit of getting in my own way trying to get low enough to apply the necessary pressure to make clay stick to downward centre before you can begin to persuade it upwards to glide into new shapes. I was pleased I only had one total wipe out and the crooked one, well that was \*meant\* to look like that. We were warned the little thrown pots (and indeed everything else, but with less risk) may or may not make it through the kiln, but I'm totally satisfied that I got to try it.

I'm looking forward to trying lots more adventures in pottery and of course now I'm back hankering after a wheel and a kiln. I don't have a house or a workshop yet, but yeah a kiln with nowhere to put it seems like a good idea... (I'm not \*actually\* that crazy)



## Photo Credits:

Orlaith Chaomhánach  
Gytha Ui Bhanain  
Damian O'Brien

## Teacher:

Damian O'Brien at  
[Clonmacnoise Pottery](#)



# The Olde Sites and Sights.

**A travel blog for the Medieval Wanderer**

By Baroness Christine Bess Duvant OL

Today's travel adventures are brought to you by the letter L, the number 6 and a few monks that decided that living on a tidal island was the way to do it.

Lindisfarne was always a place to go to for me. I am from the other end of the knowne world where visually, the 6th century in the Cresent Isles was a picture of flightless birds, trees and essentially little Dionsaurs moving through the land. Due to this, the idea of an Island whose first recorded history was the 6th Century, is only accessible at certain times of the day and with such rich and sad histories of the Church and Viking raids, was too good to pass up seeing when the time came.



The island is peaceful, calm, windswept and salty. The smell of the sun on the grass that was long and spotted with wildflowers was magical. The church was cosy, and on the wall there was a lovely plaque that stated:

'During the summer of 1993, when we were 'celebrating' the 1200th anniversary of the first Viking attack of 793CE, two visitors from the Church in Norway brought us these two gifts: A letter of reconciliation and a head of King Olaf, who was instrumental in bringing Christianity to Norway. We all shook hands during a Sunday morning Eucharist here, and we gave them a gift of a copy of an Illuminated letter from the Lindisfarne Gospels. So, although we had not previously realised that we were still at war with Norway. Peace was definitely declared.'

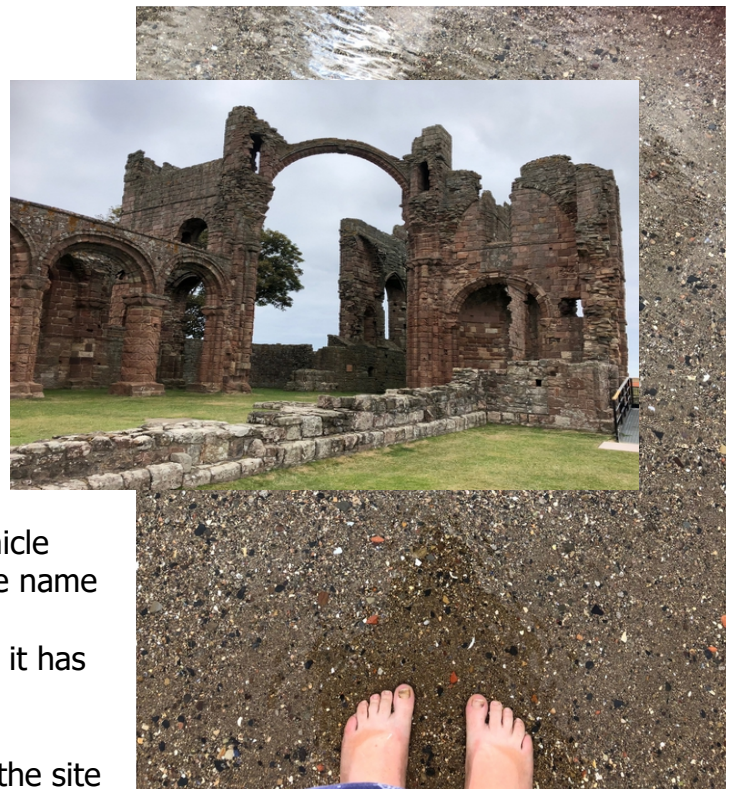
The forementioned Lindisfarne Gospels is one of the finest manuscripts in the Hiberno-Saxon style. An Illuminated manuscript from the late 7th or early 8th centuries, it has a 10th century annotation, inserted between the lines of the original, making it the oldest extant translation of the Gospels into the English language. It was produced at the monastery on the island, where Christianity had been reintroduced by Irish missionaries and spread from there.



The Lindisfarne Abbey was first established in 634CE, and the Gospels were created at the Lindisfarne Priory. It was founded by Irish monks from Iona, while the monk Aidan served as the first bishop there at that time. The Gospels included work from different influences like Germanic metalwork, Celtic decorative motifs and Mediterranean step patterns, meaning there are Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Western and Eastern Roman, and Coptic influences.

**Those Monks didn't hold back on their inclusion of styles and influence it seems!**

The castle, the ruins of the Abbey, the Church and the shoreline with its peaceful waters were stunning. I put my feet into the water where St Aiden, St Cuthbert, St Eadfrith and St Eadberht all made their mark in history and were part of the Holy Island's rich history. There was a tranquil feeling all over the island, and the ruins held a special magic that made it seem like you could feel the spirit of the Monks who had been there writing their books all those centuries ago.



The Anglo-Saxon chronicle from 793CE records the name of the Holy Island as *Lindisfarena*, and while it has had many other names (including a Welsh one 'Medcaut'), it also was the site for the Viking attack in 793.

That attack is said to have started the Viking age in Britain (even if it wasn't the first attack - this took place near Portland in Dorset between 786-802CE), but Lindisfarne made people look at the raids as destroying the very place where the Christian religion began in Britain.

We know that these sites were incredibly wealthy but poorly defended, and therefore prime for the taking by the Vikings that landed and attacked the Monks on the island at the time. It would have been horrific from what we, as the modern re-enactors, know from our books and programs, as history they say, is written by the winners. For me, it was hard not to imagine the scenes playing out in front of you, while you stood there on the island where it would have all taken place. Sadly, like many places however, it wasn't the Vikings that 'killed' the priory, it was Henry V in 1537 when he dissolved the monasteries and it fell into ruin.



Replica versions of the Osgyth and Beannah stones carved and painted in 2013. The colour scheme is based on research using X-ray fluorescence and magnification to recover evidence for original paint. Reds, greens and black have been painted over a white base coat. Red pigments have been identified on other Anglo-Saxon stones from Northumbria, remarkable given the organic compounds of the paints used and their exposure to harsh conditions.

There are so many things (as always) that you see at the actual site that you won't learn about on the internet. Learning about and seeing the coloured replica stones (see left), and the castle on the hill with its painted walls, beautiful stonework floors, built in the 1400's (but majorly altered in 1901). I had no idea that there was a 'castle' (not really a castle) there till I went, and so, along with the rest of the Island I was glad I went and honestly loved every minute there. So much so, had I not been with my family and friend from Germany, I might have stayed the night, and explored it all again later once the sun had gone down.

If you have a chance to go, do it. It is a beautiful place, calm, serene and filled with stunning natural beauty and gorgeous buildings and ruins.

Durham is right next door, as is Alnwick and the borders. I really do encourage the exploration of both sides of the border as the landscapes and buildings, villages and towns, are gorgeous and offer so much history for all those interested.

So! Tune in next time for a different letter and Number as we travel around taking in Ye Olde sites and sights.....

Yours in Service  
Christine



© Text and Photos Baroness Christine Bess Duvant





# What's On

## Dun in Mara A&S Day

Sat 4 Nov, Santry Community Resource Centre, Coolock Lane, Dublin 9

From 10am to 5pm, the Shire of Dun in Mara will be hosting their Monthly A&S Day in the Santry Community Resource Centre.

[To Book](#)

## Ilchomórtas Coróineád

17–19 Nov, Petersburg Centre, Clonbur, Co. Galway

The Barony of Eplaheimr is honoured to be hosting the Coronet Tournament to discover the heirs of the Principality of Insulae Draconis amongs the rugged grandeur of the wild Atlantic west of the Barony. Come and bear witness to this feat of arms.

There will also be Archery, Fencing and A&S Classes as well as a Bardic Session during Feast.

[More Info](#)

[To Book](#)

## Spring Crown Tourney

5 - 7 April, Crawfordsburn Scout Camp, Belfast

The Shire of Dun in Mara is delighted to host Drachenwald's Spring Crown at a site, close to a major city, easily reached from two airports in Belfast, and less than two hours' drive from Dublin.

We'll have more information on the event very soon, including pricing and booking information. Keep a close eye.

See you in April!

[Website](#)



# Blogs and



A selection of  
Blogs and Vlogs  
from Eplaheimr  
and around the  
Knowne World.

## This Issue's Theme: Textile and Costuming

### Lia's Continued Crafts

Mistress Lia de Thornegge writes about her weaving and costuming projects.

<https://thornegge.wordpress.com/>

### Marlein – a 16<sup>th</sup> century wardrobe

Mistress Marlein Eberlin writes about all thing 16<sup>th</sup> century garb.

<https://marleina16thwardrobe.blogspot.com/>

### HIBERNAATIOPEŠÄKE & Swan River Crafts

Mistress Sahra Joutsenjärven has published books on tablet weaving and is also a renowned costumier.

<https://hibernaatio.blogspot.com/>

<https://swanrivercrafts.com/>

### Elishevaskitchen

In a tie-in with last Annals, Mistress Petronilla of London writes both about her embroidery and also about cooking!

<http://elishevaskitchen.blogspot.com/>

### Renikas Anachronistic Adventures

Mistress Renike Tucher's blog about her costuming and embroidery projects amongst others.

<https://renikasanachronisticadventures.blogspot.com/>



## Cumann na Sáirsintí

The Sergeantry Program that tests your knowledge, widens your skills and pushes your boundaries!

[More Info](#)

# Baronial



# Directory

## Barony

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Eiscir Airgead (Clara and surrounds)

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