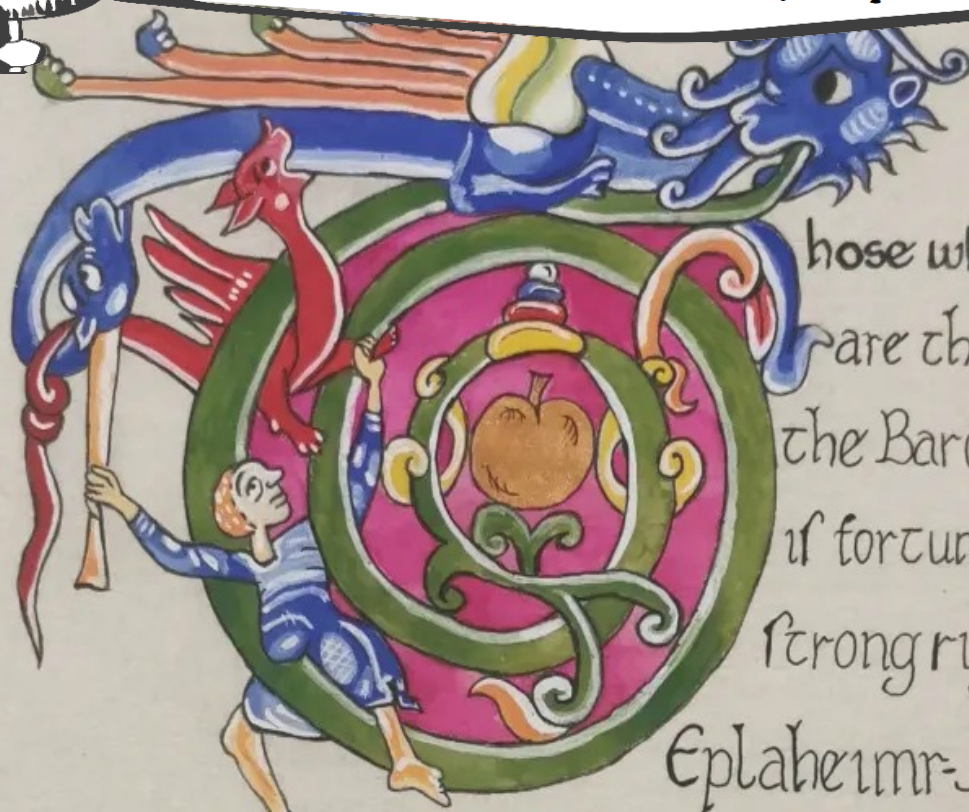


Annals of Eplaheimr

Official newsletter of the Barony of Eplaheimr



Those who serve Eplaheimr
are the right hand of
the Barony. Eplaheimr
is fortunate to have a
strong right hand in
Eplaheimr-Jin Ünegen

He has faithfully served the Barony,
protecting its interests as seneſchal. For his
continued service and dedication, We proclaim him
deserving of the award of the Tuatha de Carbadh Óir
Done on this day 6th July Anno societatis LIX in the
Barony of Eplaheimr at Baronial Games

ASLVIX, Issue 14, August 2024

NEWSLETTER

The Annals of Eplaheimr

Credits: Cover photograph of a Scroll by Lady Kytte of the Lake.

Masthead in JSL blackletter and JSL Ancient. Internal Text in Tahoma. The Annals is created in Open Office. All stock images are royalty free.

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To subscribe, change email address and submit articles or information, please contact:
chronicler.eplaheimr@gmail.com

We welcome articles on all subjects of interest to readers. Please submit articles in plain text with images separated out. Please submit images you have taken yourself and own the copyright for (or please forward permission from copyright holder/evidence for image being copyright or royalty free).

Please note that submission for publication constitutes your agreement for your work to be published in the Annals and on the Eplaheimr website.

Eplaheimr is hosting 12th Night Coronation in January 2025!!



Situations Vacant!!



The steward is still looking for volunteers for the following positions:

Marshal-in-Charge

Organisational role to do with planning and scheduling bouts, shoots, melees and tournaments, and finding marshals to help run these activities. Does not have to be an actual Marshal, or even a fighter.

Breakfast Cooks

Person or people to organise and cook breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday morning. Will work with the Head Cook to co-ordinate and budget.

Hall Steward

Person in charge of setup and take-down of the Hall/s and re-arrangement between meals, Courts and other activities. Will also be in charge of volunteers to opt to help with this.

If you are interested, contact the Steward today – melisende1380@yahoo.co.uk

The Colours of Medieval Ireland II

By THL
Órlaith
Chaomhanách

Tree-based Colours

There are no end of ways to make colour happen on cloth and wool, the trick is rather to make them stay there. The earliest forms of fixing colours come from what Bríd Mahon (Traditional Dyestuffs in Ireland from Gold Under the Furze) calls "crude native alum [...]" from wood ash, human urine, sheep manure, oak galls, the sediment of certain pools containing alumina or iron and filtered smoke." This is one occasion where I would really appreciate an oxford comma is that iron, and filtered smoke or iron and filtered smoke? (I must be in a funny mood today because my brain is now currently madly entertaining ways to capture filtered smoke, with and without iron now) I have some questions about the addition of oak galls (source of tannin) in with crude alums, but that's a different story.

What I do love is that there seems to be quite a bit of evidence about the Irish making good use of tannins and naturally occurring tree related agents, since this pretty much fits slap bang into my particular interests. I have not previously been a big fan of the beige and brown ranges of colour that tree tannins bring immediately to my mind, but I am excited at the idea of experimenting with Spring wood and bark, since the sap is rising rapidly at the moment. According to Mahon the traditional use of alder or oak chips as a tannin is called "Barking the yarn" and I have come to learn that tannins are an excellent mordant when preparing to dye linen in particular. And of course if you add copperas (iron) to oak or alder you get black.



In other work I have done I know it is possible to make ink from hawthorn and blackthorn, and where you can make ink you can absolutely make dye. I've also made a pinkish beige dye from birch bark that I reckon would make a great foundation for overdyeing and I read that cherry bark gives a good brown. I am unlikely to be able to test the cherry bark one for a while, I'm not prepared to damage any tree to get some, and I don't know of any felling happening with cherries right now (if anyone does let me know!) What I do have is an abundance of blackthorn or slow bushes, known in Irish as Draigneán donn. Donn is the Irish for brown and yes, you guessed it, makes brown dye.

One of the other things I adore about my general areas of research is how it all also feeds into my love of names that have been colloquially given to flora and fauna (mushroom names are amazing) Today I met Daneweed aka danesblood, danewort, walewort, blood hilder or the dwarf elder (sambucus ebulus) which I was familiar with as just dwarf elder. In Irish it has two names Lus na nDanar (dane's plant, roughly) and Péith bhog (modernly péith is translated as pineapple so this would be soft pineapple, but either that's a new Irish name or péith meant something else in the 13th century) It was said to grow where ever Danes were slaughtered (sorry Danes) it's just one of those plants that captures the mood of a culture of plant focused people of the time. It is a powerhouse of the medieval medicine world but for dying purposes it is supposed to yield a green from the tree and purple from the berries, with alum, as does the more common elder.

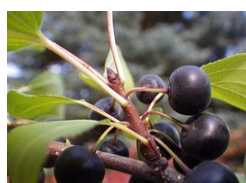


Sambucus ebulus in the CalPhotos photo database, University of California, Berkeley (Creative Commons)



Privet, (*ligustrum vulgare*, or in Irish *Tor luathfás*) which I also inherited an abundance of, is said to produce green from the bark and yellow from the leaves.







Birch (*Betulas* or in Irish *Beith*) leaves give a lovely greeny-yellow and the bark the aforementioned pinkish brown in spring. Also smells lovely to work with.



Buckthorn (*rhamnus* or in Irish *Maide bréan*) broke my heart trying to find it for pigment/ink. It's not very common here any more but I have bought some saplings for my damp hedge and hope to change this. The berries are the source for the pigment known as sap green. So far I've only made pigment with the ripe berries but I need to work again with the green berries. The bark produces a yellow as does the inner bark of the crab apple (*malus sylvestris* or *Úll fiain*)

Walnut of course gives gloriously good browns, but it's not at all common in Ireland, so I am not inclined to include it in a list of native dye colours.

So, to distill this down to an action list, here follows my foraging list for these experiments with trees:

-  Alder cones (already some provided to Katie of Dun in Mara as well)
-  Birch twigs for my spring to autumn comparison experiment
-  Blackthorn twigs
-  Dwarf elder and elder for comparison and for experiments on their own
-  Hawthorn for experiments and for ink making
-  Privet for twigs first, leaves a little later

I reckon that should keep me busy for a while! As I collect and test each sample I'll write it up in the Blog as well.

Originally published March 2024 in Cuallacht Ruaimeoirí Lídiach Blog – lidiandyers.org
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Baronial

News



Next Baronial Zoom Meeting:

Tuesday 3rd September at
8pm. Link will go out on
Email and Discord
beforehand.



The Tuatha of Cluain Oir has applied for incipient Canton Status. It currently has 15 paid members and has voted in 3 officers with others interested in taking on additional roles.

Jarlshof Shetland Islands

A photo essay
By Baroness Christine Bess Duvant OL

Wheelhouses that you could go into....houses with quern-stones...the sea and medieval and Viking ruins. It's so worth seeing in person!



WELCOME TO JARLSHOF

A JOURNEY THROUGH 4,000 YEARS OF HISTORY

Over a century ago, all you would have seen from here were a grassy mound and a single ruin. But that changed in the 1890s when fierce storms exposed a cluster of early structures. These turned out to be one of Europe's most important archaeological sites.

LAYERS OF TIME
For 4,000 years people lived, worked and built at Jarlshof. As you move around the site you will see how their buildings altered over time. Few places show these changes as well as Jarlshof, but it does mean that the site can be difficult to understand for visitors and even archaeologists! Remember, people have been building, abandoning and rebuilding settlements here, one on top of another, for thousands of years.



THE EARLIEST HOUSES

It is no surprise that generations of Shetlanders chose to live here: Jarlshof lies beside a shallow bay, an ideal place for fishing and gathering shellfish. It is also close to freshwater springs, fertile land for agriculture and good grazing pastures.

HEARTH AND HOME
In front of you are the earliest remains at Jarlshof. You can make out the outline of an oval house with a central hearth which provided the focal point of warmth and light. The surrounding rubble indicates you can learn how these people lived - growing grain, collecting shellfish and keeping cattle and sheep.

We cannot be sure how the buildings were roofed. We think the roofs may have been made of wood and turf. Even then, wood in Shetland was scarce so the settlers may have collected driftwood or perhaps shipped it from elsewhere.

TRINKET OR TALSMAN?
This small object, possibly a trinket or talisman, was found in the ruins of the earliest house.

ABOVE: Based on the British tradition of huts, this drawing gives an impression of the settlement in about 2000 BC.



Wikipedia:
Jarlshof, Shetland, has been described as one of the most remarkable archaeological sites ever excavated in the British Isles. It contains remains dating from 2500 BC up to the 17th century AD.



WHEEL HOUSE

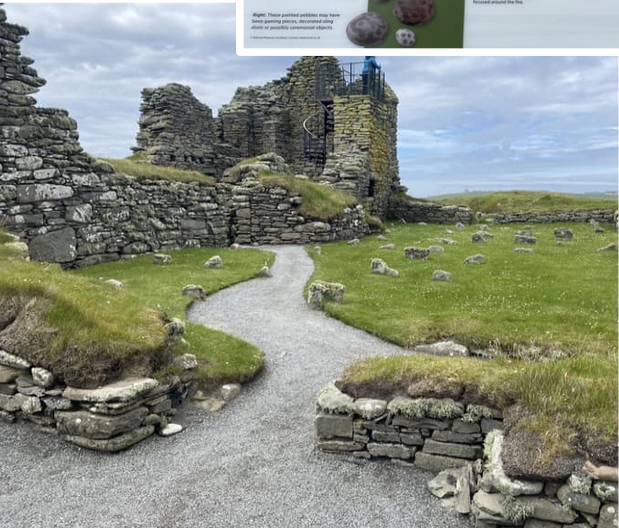
You are outside the entrance to one of the best-preserved wheelhouses in Scotland. The walls are close to their original height and give a real sense of what these houses looked like, imagine how protected you would have felt on a stormy day.

INSIDE THE WHEEL
Wheelhouses are unique to the Northern and Western Isles of Scotland. It's easy to see how the buildings got their name. The structure is circular, with the different compartments surrounding the bases of a wheel.

We are not sure how the space in wheelhouses was used. The central area was probably communal, while the compartments may have been private or used for particular tasks. It would have been dark inside, as the roof was covered with turf. A central hearth and a couple of lamps would have provided a low level of light.

ABOVE: Family life in a wheelhouse around 1000 AD.

RIGHT: These painted wallheads may have been grinding stones, decorated with motifs of animals, conventional designs.





What's On

St. Nicholas Fair Demo

Saturday 17th August
St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, Galway City

Join Cluain Oir's annual Demo at the St. Nicholas Medieval Fair. There will be A&S displays, weapons and Armour displays, Fencing, music and dancing. Come along and help us spread the word.

[Info & Booking](#)

The Baronesses' Tropical Bash

Saturday 7th September
Clara Scout Den

It is time for some frivolity! Come to a Tropical themed knees up, with friendly competitions and much silliness to see who will be crowned the king and queen of whimsy. Food is Potluck.

[Info & Booking](#)

Champions of Lough Deavnaree

27th - 29th September
Clara Scout Den

The Shire of Dun in Mara welcomes you to a weekend full of competition and fellowship. We will host tournaments for Armoured Combat, Fencing, Archery, and Arts and Sciences.

[Info & Booking](#)

Medieval Dead

25th - 27th October, Clara Scout
Den, Co. Offaly

Come along to Eplaheimr's Signature Halloween event. Explore foods of the New world and the Old. Play games, dress up, make masks, carve turnips, sing songs and enjoy entertainment around the fire.

[Info & Booking](#)

12th Night Coronation - Corónú Nollaig na mBan

10th - 12th January 2025
Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre, Co. Galway.
More information coming down the line!

Blogs and



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

This Issue's Theme: Fibre Arts Blogs Vlogs & Articles

Cuallacht Ruaimoírí Lídiach

Lídian Dyers Association – Natural Dyers of Lough Devnaree
<https://lddyers.wordpress.com/>

Lazy Reenactor Girl

Plant Dyeing with Indigo
<https://lazyreenactorgirl.wordpress.com/2024/07/21/plant-dyeing-with-indigo/>

Jillian Eve

Youtuber exploring historic textiles through spinning, weaving and yarn crafting.
<https://www.youtube.com/@JillianEve>

Sally Pointer

Iron Age Dyes: Woad, Weld and Madder
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESsnU-ECYnw>

Mervi Pasanen (Mistress Sahra)

Laurel and Published author of woven narrow wares and natural dyeing. Finnish Language Blog.
<http://hibernaatio.blogspot.com/>

Dates for Your Diary

14th August - deadline to book for the Galway Demo

4th September - deadline to book for the Baronesses Tropical Bash

20th September - deadline to book for Champions of Lough Devnaree

Baronial



Directory

Barony

Baroness Rogned Stengrimova – baron.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Baroness Adele de Chaddwyke – baroness.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Seneschal (Chairperson) – THL Eplaheimr-Jin Ünegen – seneschal.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Exchequer (Treasurer) – Lord Robaird of Eplaheimr – exchequer.eplaheimr@gmail.com

MoAS (Arts & Sciences) – Lady Kytte of the Lake – eplaheimr.moas@gmail.com

Chronicler (Newsletter) – Baroness Melisende Fitzwalter – chronicler.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Marshal (Combar activities) – Lady Marina de Grado – knightmarshal.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Uisneach Herald (Voice Heraldry) – Lady Fianna Rua nic Mhathúna fiannarusca@gmail.com

Cruachán Herald (Book Heraldry) – Lord Nemet Arpad graylion@sm-wg.net

Tuatha

Báile Ceann an-tSiannan (Limerick)

Sheriff: THL Ünegen – coussotyann@gmail.com

Cluain Óir (Galway City & County)

Sheriff: Baron Etienne Fevre – etiennesca@gmail.com

Capall Uisce (Dromineer & North Tipperary)

Sheriff: Lady Marina de Grado – marinapostir@gmail.com

Tir Chroi (Athlone and surrounds)

Sheriff: Lord Robaird of Eplaheimr – roborourke@gmail.com

Eiscir Airgead (Clara and surrounds)

Sheriff: Lady Alice de la Wode – sheriffeiscirairgead@gmail.com

Name TBC (Longford Town and surrounds)

Sheriff: Lord Aodhán de Pairc – aodhanhudson@gmail.com

