



Annals of Eplaheimr

Official newsletter of the Barony of Eplaheimr



ASLXI, Issue 21, May 2026

NEWSLETTER

The Annals of Eplaheimr

Credits: Cover Photo of Their Majesties of Drachenwald with Crown Prince Padraig Gliadrach O'Ceallaigh and Crown Princess Elsa Snakenborg, photo property of Melisende Fitzwalter.

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Special Cluain Dir Day!

Galway Demo - Vox Orbis

23rd May 2026

As part of the St. Nicholas Coffee Concerts and part of the Galway Early Music Festival, the concert of Vox Orbis will include participation/demo from the SCA. The concert starts at 11am and the demo will start when the concert ends at 12:00pm, although people might like to attend the concert itself in garb (€10 ticket at the door).

More information to come



From Their Excellencies



Beannachtaí, ár gcairde dílse

The days brighten and so too does the mood of our lands and populace, as it heralds Spring and Summer events!

In February We attended Court of Love, which was rather more bawdy in theme than before but still saw the best of Our populace and visitors. Our sincerest gratitude and love to Baroness Melisende Fitzwalter and her team for all their efforts, both on the day and in preparation.

The Baroness visited the most ancient Barony of Knight's Crossing to witness Crown Tourney in April, which was valiantly won by Count Padraig for Countess Elsa. Her Excellency also shared some treasures and culinary knowledge of our island, as well as an open invitation to visit this wonderful island in return for the gracious hospitality she received.

There are many more events coming up in the next couple of months, and one of great interest to us will be a demo at the Galway Early Music Festival on Saturday 23rd May, in which Cluain Óir will be providing an extra level of medieval flair at St Nicholas' church. We do encourage as many of you as possible to attend, bringing whatever easily transportable A&S projects that you can, to share with the public and entice them to join our Game.

Strawberry Raid also approaches, hosted by our wonderful neighbours in the Shire of Dun in Mara and attended by many visitors from here and overseas. And of course, we will have Laochra na Bharúntacht (Baronial Games) in July to mark the halfway point in our own reign. We invite you all to try your hands at becoming our new Champions in the Arts of Peace and War (or all of the above!), and we look forward to the return of Our beloved Poc Fada competition!

Concerning events in general, we have two very important requests:

1. We always welcome new volunteers to join the teams behind the magic of our shared Dream. If you would like to help out please do make it known so that we can set you up with a knowledgeable mentor and see a new cohort of event magicians grow!
2. We really like to give awards, and we're pretty sure Our populace like to receive them. This works by you (yes, you!) being our eyes and ears – then sending recommendations via <https://op.drachenwald.sca.org/recommend> detailing who, what, and why so that we can make it known to all that they are a shining example of all that is good about Eplaheimr.

Until next time - stay safe, and be excellent to each other!

Le meas agus céad míle buíochais,
Robert agus Fianna



people of plahheimr

An interview-style feature

SCA Name and Title

Lady Gertrude Hoode

How long have you played?

I've been playing in the SCA for 3 1/2 years. My first event was a day revel hosted by Dun in Mara at Drimnagh Castle in October of 2022. I was so nervous and nearly talked myself out of attending when I realised we would have to be in costume in our taxi! But I had made my dress from fabric I found at a charity shop and I was so excited to wear it. The dress wasn't completely finished at the event, but people were incredibly kind and welcoming and interested in getting to know me and wanted to talk about my outfit. As soon as someone asked about my sewing construction techniques, I knew I had found my people.



Photo credit: Katie McMahon

Do you have a preferred Time Period?

It depends on the day really! All of my SCA experiences are seen through the lens of 'what clothes do I get to wear today?', so I'll answer this question based on my garb options. My late 14th century garb is comfortable and practical. I've been making this period of garb the longest, so I have several layers that I can mix and match to suit the activities I'll be doing that day, and the changeable Irish weather. These outfits are what get me through Strawberry Raid and other camping events without freezing, so I'll always appreciate those layers of wool. But, I feel really beautiful and like I've achieved a historical silhouette when I wear my Tudor kirtle. I only have one outfit for the late 16th century, but I took a long time working on the fit of the bodice and choosing accessories that I love to complete the outfit. I think of my Tudor ensemble as my 'fancy' garb, so it carries all the lovely memories of royal courts and teaching A&S classes.

Do you have any Persona bacckground story?

I'm not especially interested in developing a persona, mainly because I don't want to restrict myself in what time period I focus my A&S activities. But I have chosen an SCA name recently, and I'm surprised by how much I enjoy using a different name within the society.

I chose the name Gertrude after finding a reference to Saint Gertrude of Nivelles in a gardening book. After looking into her more, I was delighted to find that she is the patron saint of travellers and gardeners and is invoked against mental illness, rats, and mice. There's also a more modern interpretation of Saint Gertrude as the patron saint of cats, due to her link with warding off rats and mice; it may not be a truly historical connection, but I love the association.

And then I chose the surname Hoode because hoods are my favourite item of garb to sew for other people. There is so much variety available to personalise a hood for each person. If I look around at an event, I can usually spot several of my hoods and I love thinking that something I made is keeping them warm.

What is your preferred SCA Activity or A&S, or both?

I found the SCA because I love to sew historical costumes and I was looking for a group with similar interests. My preferred activity is definitely researching and sewing garb. I never seem to get tired of it. But, through the SCA I have also found new hobbies. I enjoy archery and have bought my own bow. I am also obsessed with natural dyeing over the last couple of years, have learned to spin wool, and have become fascinated by metal casting recently.

*At my first event at Drimnagh
Photo credit: Katie McMahon*

What keeps you coming back to the SCA?

The community I have found here.

I showed up to talk about historical costumes, and I still do plenty of that, but I've found an amazing and supportive group of friends through the SCA. I genuinely feel like my households are my found family and I can't believe how close we've gotten in just a few short years. I've moved a lot over the years, and with that, you find yourself trying to make new friends and establish stable routines over and over again. Here, for the first time in my life, and with the help of people in the SCA, I feel like we have roots and a reliable community who will always show up for me when I need them.



What has been your best SCA experience so far?

Strawberry Raid 2. This was my first multi-day SCA event, and the first time I camped in Ireland. It was a little overwhelming figuring out how we would feed ourselves and get all of our gear to the castle on public transit, but we felt really accomplished once we got there and cooked our first meal over the Trangia. I loved the routine of waking up and going to sleep in our tent, it gave me time to relax into the environment and just enjoy the event without feeling rushed. There was a moment during one of the bardic circles in the tower where I remember thinking 'oh, this really feels like I'm living in the past and not just pretending' and I think I'll forever be chasing that feeling at events now!

What is the SCA Achievement so far that means the most to you?

I'm so proud to have been invited to join the Order of the Silver Martlet. Being recognised for my A&S skills and for sharing them with others means the world to me. It was such a wonderful moment to be given the award by Princess Agnes and for the scroll to have been made for me by Órlaith (with a little illustrated version of me, in my garb, on the scroll!). This scroll is one of my prized possessions.



Dispatches from the Court of the *Ull Órga!*

**Court of Their Excellencies Fianna and Robert
At Court of Love**

New Awards

Tuatha de Charbahd Oir (Service) – Lady Gytha Ui Bhanain

Backlog Scrolls

Tuatha de Lámh Airgid (Excellence and Example) – Baron Etienne Fevre. Scroll by Her Excellency Fianna, Baroness of Eplaheimr.

Court Business

The Baron and Baroness of Eplaheimr opened their Court by requesting they be attended by any newcomers to their Court. They then acclaimed these gentles and gave them tokens of thanks and appreciation.

Their Excellencies then called forth the Charioteers - all those who took it upon themselves to provide transport so that others may attend the event. These gentles were given cores - coinage of the Barony, in thanks for their generosity.

Their Excellencies, by way of the Brute Squad, called forth Baron Etienne Fevre so that he may be given the scroll for the Tuatha de Lámh Airgid previously awarded him at Medieval Dead. The Scroll was made by the hand of Baroness Fianna Rua Nic Mhathuna herself.

Their Excellencies then called forward the Event Team and all those who had done work during the event, especially in the Kitchen. These too were thanked and awarded coin of the Realm in appreciation.

Their Excellencies then called forward the two Teachers at the event - Lady Gertrude Hoode and Ildanach Orlaith Chaomhanach and thanked them for the great knowledge they displayed and shared with the populace. Tokens of appreciation were given.

Their Excellencies, and especially Baron Robert then remarked with some enthusiasm and explicit delight on the efforts of all those who had attempted to fashion Sheela na Gig out of clay. They selected one that stood out by way of the voluptuousness of it's hair. This was the work of Lady Juliette of Dun in Mara and she was gifted a token of appreciation by Their Excellencies.

Her Excellency then spoke of the meaning of the Eplaheimr Award: Tuatha de Charbahd Óir given for service to the Barony. The Lady Gytha Ui Bhanain was then called forth and named amongst the Tuatha. There was much rejoicing.

Their Excellencies' final item of business was to publicly thank Their Celestial Highnesses of Insulae Draconis for their great and wise reign and gave thanks on behalf of the Barony for the times they had attended Baronial events and wished them well for the future.

Court Report for Her Excellency Fianna from Drachenwald Crown Tournament

Her Excellency was graciously hosted by Their Majesties and Their Excellencies of Knight's Crossing at the recent Crown Tournament.

Her Excellency was moved to bring the greetings of the people of Eplaheimr to the Royal Court, which was greeted with great enthusiasm and much celebration, especially when the member of the Brute Squad present, at Her Excellency's bidding, brought forth the Chalice with the golden treasure of Eplaheimr to share amongst the assembled Rulers – Tayto Crisps.

Her Excellency also had word for Their Excellencies of Knight's Crossing in whose lands the Tournament was taking place. For that it had come to Her attention that the host Barony lacked some necessary equipment in order to facilitate the fencers of the region to engage in practice of their skills to protect the Kingdom. Her Excellency then proclaimed that as a sign of friendship from Eplaheimr, she proposed to gift Knighth's Crossing with two punch testers to ensure that their fencers may be adequately protected in their endeavours. This generosity was much lauded and there was great rejoicing amongst the assembled nobles and populace.

This month in History

- 930** – June 24th, World's oldest Parliament, the Alþing, is established in Iceland
- 1191** – June 9th King Richard I of England arrives in Acre to join the siege during the Third Crusade
- 1260** – May 6th Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, becomes the ruler of the Mongol Empire.
- 1373** – June 14th Anglo-Portugese Treaty of Perpetual Alliance (still valid) is signed between Edward III of England and Ferdinand I of Portugal.
- 1471** – May 5th, Battle of Tewkesbury sees Edward V permanently returned to the English throne.
- 1497** – July 9th Portugese navigator Vasco da Gama sets on his first voyage to become the first European to reach india by sea.
- 1533** – July 12th Pope Clement VII excommunicates King Henry VIII of England
- 1595** – July 20th, Astronomer Johannes Kepler has the epiphany that leads to his theory of the geometrical basis of the universe while teachingin Graz, Austria

Source: onthisday.com





Cluain Oir Demo

Saturday May 23rd
St. Nicholas Parochial Church, Galway City

Cluain Oir is taking part in and Early Music Galway Festival concert called Vox Orbis. We will be doing a demo immediately after the concert. The concert starts at 11am and goes on for an hour. Come down and go full Medieval in a Medieval church to the sound of Medieval music!

[Info & Booking](#)

Strawberry Raid V

27th May to 1st June
Sigginstown Castle - Wexford

5 days of Medieval fun in a Castle await at Strawberry Raid V. There will be fluttering banners and pavilions, Sir Helga combat Trainer, 33 A&S Classes, a Market, Madrigal-singing and Bardic sessions, a Laurel-Sponsored Display, Archery, Fencing, thrown-weapons, and loads of fun.

[Info & Booking](#)

Baronial Games

10th - 12st July
Jim Kirwan Scout Hall, Clara

Join us to celebrate the Barony and decide who will be Baronial winners in a series of Tournaments of skill, judgement and strength of purpose! Their Excellencies will be presiding over the display of prowess of their subjects.

[Info](#)

Blogs and Vlogs



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

This Issue's Theme: Medieval Cloaks and Hoods

Handcrafted History

Guide to Cloak-making

<https://handcraftedhistory.blog/>

Battlemerchant

Instructions for a Medieval Cloak with hood

<https://www.battlemerchant.com/en/blog>

Maniacal Medievalist

How to pattern and construct a Medieval Hood

<https://maniacalmedievalist.files.wordpress.com>

Maille is Riveting

How to make a Medieval Hood

<https://maillaisriveting.weebly.com/>

Vedardottir

How to make a Viking Cloak

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

The Modern Maker

A 16th century Felt Cloak

<https://www.themodernmaker.co/historical-wardrobe-feed>

Dates for Your Diary

Every Wednesday Baronial Zoom A&S Meeting - 7pm

Friday Limerick Fencing Practice - 7:30pm

16th May - Baronial AGM & Meeting - 2:00pm - N37WR53

15th May - Monthly Armouring Day

Baronial



Directory

Barony

Baroness Fianna Rua Nic Mhathúna – baroness.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Baron Robert of Eplaheimr – baron.eplaheimr@gmail.com

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

Exchequer (Treasurer) – THL Meadhbh Rois Inghean Uí Chaoimh – exchequer.eplaheimr@gmail.com

MoAS (Arts & Sciences)– Lady Mór ní Bheag – eplaheimr.moas@gmail.com

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

Marshal (Combat activities) – Vacant – knightmarshal.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Uisneach Herald (Voice Heraldry) – Vacant

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



Tuatha

Canton of Cluain Óir (Galway City & County)

Sheriff: Lord David the Armourer – davidheneghan2@gmail.com

Báile Ceann an-tSionnan (Limerick)

Sheriff: THL Ünegen – coussotyann@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 – robourourke@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