



# The Ildhafn Saga

*The Continuing Tales of the Barony of Ildhafn,  
including the Canton of Cluain, in the Kingdom of  
Lochac*



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## The Mabon Harvest



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### Scribes

Mistress Christine Bess Duvant  
Baron Domenego Ferrante di Aldobrando  
THL Elizabeth Braythwayte  
Baroness Elyna Delynor

**Chronicler:** Giacoma Tovani

### Photographers

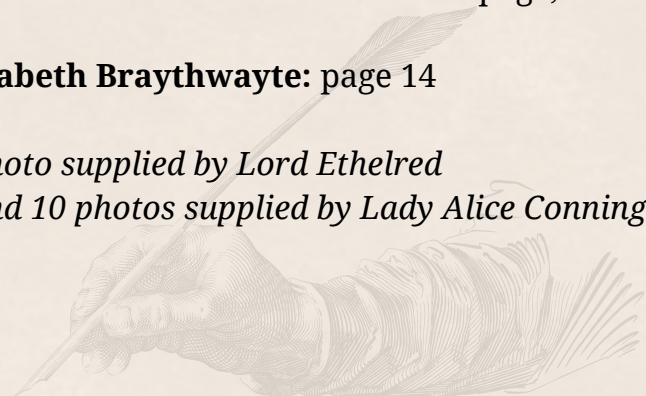
**The Honourable Isabell Winter:** Title page,  
pages 5-7

**THL Elizabeth Braythwayte:** page 14

*Page 3 photo supplied by Lord Ethelred*

*Page 8 and 10 photos supplied by Lady Alice Conning*

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# Missive from the B&B

Greetings Good Gentles of the Barony

Having presently returned from our lake side retreat nestled in Cluain, at Braythwayte Manor, We find ourselves reflecting on the range of events that have happened these past few months and also to the future activities within the Barony.

Throughout Our recent travels, reality has had a part to play as We settle into the coronets and it seems We continue to dance with the weather and its wild ways. In Our opening address at Our investiture, the clouds broke ever briefly. At Summer event We were accompanied by lighter weather but still, it made itself known. When We were representing Our populace at Canterbury Faire, We feared for those effected by its force. We thought, perhaps We were being called home. Little did We know, this was but a taste.

To all those effected directly by the recent weather events, We are glad that you and yours are safe. Our thoughts and hearts are with any that are still in recovery mode, trying to deal with necessities and repairs. This also applies to recent rumblings centered on Our friends in Darton, while in the midst of sizeable weather events. Again We count Our blessings, none from there appear to have been injured or suffered damage to property during this time.

While Our immediate SCAdian community have had some near misses, our communities are still reeling and recovering, and each event of note brings an element of uncertainty for those already in the thick of it. Our cousins in Southron Gaard and Terra Rosa, seeing what has befallen our lands, have reached out to Us with offers of assistance. So to this, Their Majesties have put out a call and We too would mirror this.

If you are ever in need of assistance, make the call and We will gather volunteers or essential supplies. If you can help or assist in the wider recovery, remember those who are in the thick of it may need a rest and a chance to tap out. If We are not able to support directly We can look to other means and, most importantly, ensure you do not need to face it alone.



There is a sense of recovery, in many ways, for the Barony and its surrounds. To help lighten some of the serious moments, we can look forward to resting with our friends at future events.

Yours In Service

Domenego Farrante & Mærwynn æt Mædwe  
Baron & Baroness of Ildhafn

## Since Spring Coronation

We've attended Canterbury Faire and received a warm welcome from Their Excellencies Southron Gaard. While there We were delighted to meet again Their Majesties, King Thibault and King Jayne, and to make the acquaintance of Our Baronial Cousins, Rowany and Mordenvale. Conversations were had and We look forward to seeing what may arise in future. We also spoke of protecting our coasts with the Lord High Admiral Martuccio. As recently publicised, a largess challenge, utilising ships, was set involving Our Cousins Mordenvale, Ynys Fawr and Krae Glas.





Furthermore We sent greetings to Our Baronial Cousins in Eplaheimr, in the kingdom of Drachenwald, via safe passage with Our Seneschal.

To Our Populace in the far North, Their Majesties regret They were not able to deliver first hand news of your petition. As Their voice, We were humbled to welcome you as the Hamlet of Hareby. We're excited by the journey you've taken thus far and value your contribution to the Barony.

Starting as a Shire within the Kingdom of Caid on 1 September 1996, Ildhafn looked to form as a Barony. On 21 June 2003 Lochac took the Shire under its wing and cloak of protection, and recognised it as a Barony. We greatly anticipate Ildhafn's 20th Anniversary celebrations, to recalling fond memories, and all the festivities our good stewards have on the boil. So to this we would ask, that you pencil in the date of 21-23 July 2023 to recognise this auspicious occasion.

During Ildhafn's Summer Event, and more recently at St Sebastian's, We were pleased to extend Our thanks to the officers of the Barony and that they, in turn, have sworn to continue in their warrant. We saw the changeover of our Baronial and Canton reeves, which is vital to the good health of both groups.

Your Baronial and Canton Seneschal's provide the leadership, direction and drive, to enact and manage the desires of the Barony. They and their officers do the good work so we may all play. There are several officer roles within the Barony and if you're interested, yet unsure where to add your drive and enthusiasm. Think to what you'd most like to see happen and reach out to the existing officer with your ideas. If you'd like to try, before you buy, you are welcome to deputy to them, to learn the ropes, and see if it's something you'd like to take the driver seat on...



Further to this it has been most pleasing to see the enthusiasm and joy within the Populace as we gather together again for events and monthly meet-ups. We look forward to continuing this momentum with you and seeing what adventures we might have along the way.

In Service to the Dream

Domenego Farrante & Mærwynn æt Mædwe

Baron & Baroness of Ildhafn

## from the Helm



At Ildhafn's Summer Event the Baronial Champion Tournament was fought. Alas the defending Champion, Master James of Southron Gaard, was unable to take the field though ensured honour was maintained on the list as the Marshal. The field consisted of Lady Alice Conning, Lord Þorvin Þorvaldrsson, His Excellency Þorvaldr inn Suðreyski, and your Baron.

The victor of the best of three, round robin tournament was Baron Þorvaldr. Who at this time also holds the honour of being the Shire of Darton's Champion. Is our new Baronial Champion eyeing up the all elusive hat trick of being Champion of the Crescent Isles? Only time will tell...



The Barony had good representation at Canterbury Faire fielding combatants in the Unbelted Tourney, Canterbury Roll Melee Tourney, Goddesses and Monsters Tourney, Fighter Auction Tourney and on the War Field.

The Unbelted Tourney saw your Baron and Baron Rudiger Adler face each other in the first round, of which Rudiger was the victor. Baron Þorvaldr and Lord Þorvin also faced each other in the first round, of which Þorvaldr was the victor. All fought with honour past the 3rd bout.

The Fighter Auction Tourney was fought as a single kill, double elimination tournament. Baron Rudiger attained a good result for his sponsor. Your Baron was knocked out of the semi-finals by Lord Christopher, who went on to face Sir Eva and King Thibault in a three way final. Sir Eva was the victor that day for her sponsor.

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In the opening War Field scenarios, Your Baron was mostly in opposition of King Thibault. Teamed with mustered archers and armoured combatants, we held our line well for being newly formed but it was His Majesty's unit that took the victory.

During the timed bridge scenario, King Thibault held his ground with the valiant support of his unit. Your Baron had the honour of being ordered to hold the narrows, successfully repelling the opposing forces while His Majesty did likewise on an adjacent passageway. On the third sortie, not to be outdone, His Majesty, like Rolland on the Bridge, also took hold of this narrow pass and furthermore advanced to the enemy's rear flank to lay waste to them. It was most glorious to watch.



In a later scenario with three sorties Her Excellency Mordenvale captured the enemy's flag twice, and I once, while His Majesty, supported by our archers and the rest of our unit, kept the opposing forces pinned near their base.

Following Canterbury Faire, We attended Southron Gaard's Monthly Tournament. Where your Baron took to the field, in a best of three round robin, in which eight heavy fighters entered the list. Her Excellency was most pleased to make some new acquaintance's at this event and watch the prowess of the fencers during the rapier tourney.

At the Taskmaster's Heavy Tourney, at St Sebastian's, Master Edward gave each combatant a moniker. After an initial warm up round, involving an up and coming combatant, the field consisted of a dragon (Rudiger), a rabbit (Inigo), an eagle (Alice) and a goat (Your Baron). The great dragon drew the last breath, while the wily wabbit avoided falling to the stubborn goat and the resplendent eagle





# Introducing... Lady Alice Conning of Ildhafn

*Baroness Elyna Delynor*



Barely into her third decade, her slight stature and fresh grin could lure one into underestimating the great strength within, both of form and of character. The most recently authorized combatant in the Barony, and the appointed guard to the new Baron and Baroness of Ildhafn, Lady Alice has already proven herself a force to be reckoned with.

In previous years she was no stranger to period garb, for her seamstress mother had long worked alongside Mistress Christine doing theatre costume and Lady Alice had long been intrigued by that fascinating lady's tales of the Society for Creative Anachronism. In time the stars aligned, and she finally attended the Baronial Anniversary Revel in July A.S.55. Despite only knowing one person, she launched herself into dancing and singing with enthusiasm, and before long she knew she wanted to do this again – and more!

Alice's next event was the Summer Weekend some months later, due to the wretched plague harrying the land in the interim. I was delighted to see her again in our midst and invited her to aid me in running the round-robin list for the annual Rapier Championship Tournament, which task she cheerful managed entirely on her own. We later watched the Armoured Championship Tournament together, and despite not having had any combat experience, she found herself very keen to swing a sword herself.



Attending both fighter practices was unfortunately impossible, as Rapier training clashed with Alice's other passion, Sports Aerobics. Since the age of 4 she has been challenging herself physically, first at ballet and then gymnastics, until taking up aerobics at 10 years old. She is now a qualified Sports Aerobics judge as well as competing at National levels, and has enjoyed rock climbing, hockey, and sailing in her leisure time.

Having taught Alice to dance within the SCA, I had already been impressed at how quickly she learned. Her active past also prepared her well for the art of wielding a weapon, obviously by building physical strength, but more importantly by learning body awareness.

"I know how to move my body." she observed. "It certainly has helped... I know how to move quickly and move efficiently. Balance is a major thing. Knowing how science ties into it... having studied physics and physical education, there were whole sections on biomechanics, centre of gravity, and centre of mass. Because I know it in theory, and then I have done sports for so long, I can mesh the two together."

Under the guidance of Sir Willehelm von Tannenberg, Alice progressed steadily and was authorised for Armoured ("Heavy") Combat in time for Spring Coronation last October. There she fought in her first tournament, before an illustrious audience including Their Majesties of Lochac, Their Royal Highnesses of Lochac, Their Excellencies of Ildhafn and Their Excellencies of Southron Gaard. A painted wheel was spun to ascertain each weapon combination, resulting in Alice's first experience with a longsword, which she was commanded to use in one hand instead of the usual two. The weapon was approaching her own height! Nevertheless, she managed it valiantly and even managed to land a killing blow on her opponent in the bout; none other than Sir Ratbot, who, as our gentle readers will know, went on to become the Crown Prince of Lochac in months to come.

To anyone wanting to try combat for the first time, Alice advises trying out a few training sessions in loaner gear before investing substantially in your own kit.

"See if you like the feeling... see if you like being in armour. Get people to throw blows at you and see if that's ok. Because... people will be hitting you in the head, and that's not for everyone."





Alice's own steel plate armour comes from ArmStreet LLC in Wisconsin, U.S.A., who have a range that includes options specifically designed for the female form, and according to their website provide for SCA, HEMA and HMB fighters. She is making herself a sword and a shield, which she will adorn with her personal arms (registration pending).

Being a smaller fighter obviously presents its challenges. "It's definitely a disadvantage being short," Alice tells me. "Because my range is shorter, I have to be within their (my opponent's) range to attack. Therefore, I must move a lot more and a lot faster to be able to do anything... if I stand still, I'm dead!"

Also having Sir Inigo Missaglia to learn from recently has been wonderful for Alice, as his stature is comparable, and he is a fast and effective fighter. She explains that Sir Inigo is adept at using a polearm weapon to counter range discrepancies, and she is interested in learning the same methods.

"For me to make a clean headshot, I'm quite often throwing blows upwards which makes generating force a lot harder, because of the biomechanics of the shoulder... it means using the smaller muscles. If you're throwing downward (or even horizontally) you can engage and contract the bigger muscles in your back and shoulder, whereas upwards you've got to use a lot more of your upper shoulder to create the same speed, which makes it a lot harder. Which is why leg shots are a thing! Because then it makes the angles work." It seems inevitable that Alice would take up one of the more energetic pastimes in the SCA, and she says combat has given her a purpose in the game, and something to build her persona around – "based on a British version of Jean d'Arc".

Whether it be joining Baron Domenego in yet another galliard (dance) in full armour – or learning to slice her opponents off at the knee – I'm quite confident that I am not alone in being eager to see what the future holds for Lady Alice Conning.



# Our Awardees

## *Kingdom Awards*

### **Canterbury Faire**

Lord Aethelred - Armiger of Lochac (AoA)  
Lady Trudie Beata Ollyfe Griffen - Golden Tear which  
confers with it, an Armiger of Lochac (AoA)  
Jessica de Cameron - Gosling Guard (Royal Cypher)

*A full list of Kingdom Awards presented at Canterbury Faire  
can be found on the Canon Lore Website*

## *Baronial Awards*

### **Summer Event**

Lady Trudy of Essex - Guildsperson  
Lord Ahmed - Militia  
Lady Alice Conning - Militia  
Mistress Christine Duvaunt - Flower of Ildhafn (Singing)

### **St Sebastians**

Master Edward Braythwayte - Alderman (Service)  
Lord Don of Hareby - Burgess (Grace)  
The Honourable Lady Melissa Wijffels (Grace)  
The Honourable Lord Nathanael d'Avranches (Grace)





# Liar's Dice

*Baroness Elyna Delynor*

Given that Liar's Dice appears to be the flagship sport of Ildhafn and Cluain, we thought it useful to publish a set of rules for those new to our midst, as you will certainly encounter the game before long! It is enjoyable to watch, as well as to play, and even more so if you can follow what is going on. A minimum of three players is recommended... the upper limit of players has not yet been ascertained, but the quest continues and you are invited to be a part of it!

- Each player begins with five dice; at the opening of each round, all players roll their dice on the table, but each conceals their own results from all other players.
- An opening bid is made by the first player, having only viewed their own dice, yet being aware of how many other dice are in play.
  - This consists of guessing aloud the minimum quantity of a particular dice value shown by the dice currently on the table.
  - The values from 2 through 6 can be guessed, in any quantity.
  - Any dice showing 1 is considered 'wild', and will remain changeable until the end of the round, at which point they assume the value of the last bid made.
- Moving clockwise, each next player takes their turn by either raising the bid (\*see below), or by challenging the previous player's bid, using the bold accusation of "Liar!"
- There are variations on the rules for raising the bid, so before beginning the first round players must establish which method will be used.
- Often used in Ildhafn: either the quantity, the value, or both must be increased - neither can be reduced.
- E.g. After a bid of "four 3s", the next player could bid "five 3s", or "four 4s", but "three 5s" or "five 2s" would be disallowed.



- Often used in Darton: allows decreasing the value, but only if the quantity is raised.

E.g. After a bid of “four 3s”, a next bid of “three 5s” would not be allowed, but “five 2s” is acceptable.

- Once a player has been called a Liar, the round is over and the dice are revealed. The relevant faces according to the bid are counted (including any 1s), proving whether the player was speaking true or not. (It is customary for each player to hold up a number of fingers representing the quantity shown by their own dice, to make the process easier.)
- Of the accuser and the defender, whichever was caught in a falsehood must then lose one of their dice.
- Play thus resumes with all players rolling a new round, knowing that there are now one fewer dice in play, and the winner of the previous challenge makes the next opening bid.
- Should there arise the scenario where the remaining players have only once single die apiece left, the method of bidding changes to a single number estimating the total number of pips shown by all dice still in play.
- The last player with dice in hand is the winner!



*Queen Mary Psalter f.167v*



# Construction of The Den

*Photos by THL Elizabeth Braythwayte*





# Ask the Seneschaut



*Good day Seneschaut,*

*I've been invited to my first pot luck for the SCA. The problem is, I've been known to burn boiling water when cooking mundanely.*

*What are your favourite recipes for beginners?*

*En Service  
The Pie-d Piper*

*By day, she ably leads the Barony of Ildhafn, but did you know that she also moonlights as an advice columnist? If you have a question that you'd like to ask of the Seneschaut, you can discreetly email [chatelaine@ildhafn.sca.org.nz](mailto:chatelaine@ildhafn.sca.org.nz)*

dear pied- piper

Well, it all depends on your financial and cooking ability. If your coin purse is low, then a nice big cob of bread and some butter could do well, maybe a bag of nuts or something along the lines of a fruit platter. When I was a younger medievalist, I once over estimated how many oranges I would need once cut up in segments....my mum and I ate a lot of oranges over the next few weeks.

Cheese, bread, salad, and maybe even thinking about making a medieval cordial to share?

A good 'blanc mange' which is rice, almond milk and poached chicken is cheap, cheerful and yummy and is good entry level cooking, or if you want to go a little further into thing this is a good website to explore and get some ideas for yummy period food (a gateway website if you will)  
<http://www.godecookery.com/goderec/grec11.htm>

Good luck and my taste buds are already tingling!



# Upcoming Events

## Upcoming Garbed Events

### 20th Birthday Celebrations (Ildhafn):

21st to 23rd July, Hunua Falls. Ildhafn welcomes you to join us in celebrating our 20th anniversary of becoming a Barony in the Crescent Isles. Come join us for a weekend of celebration, tournaments, feasting and revelry as we remember the last 20 years of the Barony of Ildhafn.

Contact [steward@cluain.lochac.sca.org](mailto:steward@cluain.lochac.sca.org) for more information.

**Labour Weekend (Cluain):** 20th to 23rd October, Braythwayte Manor. Come and join us at Braythwayte Manor on the northern shores of Lake Rotorua for 3 days from your favourite century. This is a relaxed 'Living History' encampment with no set timetable. Bring your A&S projects, swords, armour, bows, instruments and games and enjoy the company of other like-minded folk.

## Regular Plain Clothes Gatherings = Ildhafn

**Archery:** Practice every other Sunday at 11am (weather permitting). Private venue in Glendene, West Auckland, Contact: [archery@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org](mailto:archery@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org)

**Armoured (Heavy):** Every Sunday at 9am, Cornwall Park (weather permitting). Contact: [marshal@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org](mailto:marshal@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org)

**Rapier:** Practice every Tuesday at Highland Park, and Wednesday at Waikino. Contact: [rapier@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org](mailto:rapier@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org)

## Regular Plain Clothes Gatherings = Cluain

**Hasiltude:** Hastilude typically includes a pot luck dinner, fighters training (numbers allowing), and other various activities, as per attendees. ie dancing, fencing, kids boffer and a variety of medieval crafts. Bring a craft along and join us for some making, chatting and eating! 3rd Saturday of every month (Garbed event permitting). Contact: [chatelaine@cluain.sca.org.nz](mailto:chatelaine@cluain.sca.org.nz)

**Fighters Practice (Heavy):** every Wednesday night arriving from 5:30 pm. on Lake Domain drive near the hockey grounds - Innes Common. Contact: [marshal@cluain.sca.org](mailto:marshal@cluain.sca.org)

**Archery:** 3rd Sunday of the Month at 1pm. Garb preferred but optional. The Wulfing's Butts, Kihiki. Contact: [archers@cluain.sca.org.nz](mailto:archers@cluain.sca.org.nz)

## Regular Plain Clothes Gatherings = Hareby

**Archery:** Practice most Saturdays 3pm to 5pm (weather permitting). Private address in Springs Flat, Whangarei. Contact Lady Glenn.



# Group Contacts

## Ildhafn

Check the Ildhafn website calendar to confirm specific dates & details:

<https://ildhafn.lochac.sca.org/calendar>

Stay in touch on Facebook: [https:// www.facebook.com/groups/ildhafn/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ildhafn/)

Follow us on Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/ildhafn\\_barony\\_of\\_lochac](https://www.instagram.com/ildhafn_barony_of_lochac)

All other Ildhafn contacts: <https://ildhafn.lochac.sca.org/contacts>

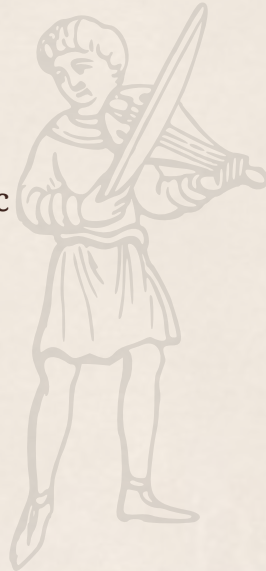
## Cluain

Check the Cluain website calendar to confirm specific dates & details:

<https://cluain.lochac.sca.org/calendar>

Stay in touch on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cluainvillagegreen>

All other Cluain contacts: <https://cluain.lochac.sca.org/node/5>



# Current Committee

## Baron and Baroness:

Baron Domenego Ferrante di Aldobrando and Baroness Mærwynn æt Mædwe

## Ildhafn

**Seneschal:** Mistress Christine Bess Duvant

**Reeve:** THL Elizabeth Braythwayte

**Herald:** Lady Etain ingen Choilein

**Arts and Sciences:** THL Isabel Winter

**Marshal:** Master Emrys Tudr

**Rapier Marshal:** Master Emrys Tudr

**Captain of Archers:** Lord Ahmed

**Webwright:** Mistress Aveline Goupil

**Chronicler:** -

**Chatelaine:** Lady Giacomina Tovani

**Quartermaster:** Baroness Elyna Delynor

## Cluain

**Seneschal:** Master Rudiger Adler

**Reeve:** Lord Ethelred

**Arts and Sciences:** Lord Nathanael d'Avranches

**Marshal:** Baron Domenego Ferrante

**Captain of Archers:** Lord Geoffrey de Wulf