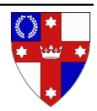
The Ildhafn Saga



The continuing tales of the Barony of Ildhafn, including the Canton of Cluain, in the Kingdom of Lochac





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Wescome to The Ishafn Saga!

Recently it was decided that our Barony would reinstate the position of Chronicler, and as such it has been my honour to produce this humble vessel for information, our very own Baronial journal. My intention is that issues be published on a quarterly basis, and I am very grateful to those gentles who have responded to my specific requests for submissions. I am Elyna, your editor, and I will be seeking material for subsequent editions, so please feel free to approach me with your ideas.

While I have your collective ears, I would like to mention a word on event stewarding. Running an event can seem a daunting prospect if you never have before, but there are systems to follow which make it reasonably formulaic – if you know how. At present we have a fair number of people running on very low energy; some of these

people have loads of experience running events, and all the knowledge it takes to make the process trouble-free, but what they currently lack is sufficient drive to be the sole person in charge of an event. Now, it seems, is the perfect time to encourage the practice of co-stewarding.

Therefore, if you have been pondering over an idea for an event, whether it be an afternoon or an entire weekend, but are not sure how to bring your plan to fruition, you are warmly invited to approach the Ildhafn committee, either by emailing me or the Seneschal. We can put you in touch with a suitable experienced co-steward, and between you it will not be such a laborious task. We look forward to hearing your concepts!

~ Baroness Elyna Delynor, Chronicler (Any photos in this publication not specifically credited to anyone else are owned by me.)

from the Baron and Baroness:

Unto the populace of Ildhafn and Cluain, We extend our warmest greetings, as the season turns to its chilliest!

Looking through some of the items that belong to the Barony and some of our relics, we discovered many old newsletters dating back to the times of the Shire and of the newly formed Barony. We have often felt, over the years, that it would be nice to resurrect this tradition, and have a regular journal produced to help keep everyone informed of what's been going on, so We are delighted that this is happening.

When We stepped up as Baron and Baroness, one of the things We wanted to achieve was to get armoured combat happening again within the city. It's Our pleasure to say that since February, a small group has been regularly meeting at Cornwall Park (edit: now at Tahaki Reserve) to practice armoured combat. If anyone else would like to come and join us, either to try their hand for the first time or to return to the discipline, it would be great to see you.

As we all know, the plague that has harried most of the Knowne World is still making traveling a more perilous undertaking than usual. Our Undoubted Rulers Their Majesties King Oze and Queen Miriam have not yet been able to visit Our shores (although there is the hope that they will be able to soon), nor were King Rowland and Queen Tailltiu before them in a position to grace Us with Their Royal Presence. However, as a result of this unfortunate circumstance, We as Their representatives found Ourselves honoured with the task of bestowing a number of Royal Awards directly on behalf of Their Majesties, which was very new and exciting to Us!



Ildhafn's Baronial Coronets

We must take this opportunity to remind you all that award presentations come from recommendations, and those recommendations can come from anybody! We very much look forward to receiving your nominations for both Royal awards and Baronial awards, as giving them out is certainly the best part of Our role. Do keep them coming!

We thank everyone who came together to celebrate our Barony's Anniversary in late June, from far and near, it was a lovely evening and We look forward to the next time we all gather. We will no doubt see many of you at Labour Weekend in Cluain, and We invite you to mark the third weekend in November on your calendars as Ildhafn's Summer Event begins to loom in the distance, and We hope to see you all there!

Keep warm and stay well,

Sympkyn 👁 Elyna

from the Seneschal

The Editor has asked me to put together a few words for this, the first Ildhafn newsletter of the modern* era. As of deadline we continue to be in the position of being able to go out and do stuff, and fortunately there is plenty of stuff to do. Looking at our regular calendar of events, there is armoured combat, archery, dancing, and scribal arts. Rapier should be returning to the schedule once an appropriate venue has been secured (edit: it has!).

We decide what to do when at our monthly Council meetings. Meetings are open to all, and all citizens of the Barony have full voting rights. We're always looking for new ideas and keen to hear from people who want to run stuff. An email to me will get the ball rolling.

We have had two officer changes recently: Master Domenego has taken over from the Honourable Lady Eleanor as Reeve (i.e., Treasurer) and Baroness Elyna has taken the newly re-constituted role of Chronicler (by whose efforts you are receiving these words). My thanks to all three.

Yours, in Service to doing medieval stuff for fun,

~ Don Ludwig von Regensburg <u>seneschal@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org</u> (* Hopefully that's creatively anachronistic.)

Our Baronial Anniversary

Recently, in the chilly month of June, our lovely little Barony celebrated its 18th birthday! Does that mean we are grown-ups now, do you think? No, I don't believe that either, but personally I relish that childlike cheer that tends to mark revels like this. It was a fantastic anniversary celebration, with friends from near and far; even some visitors from Darton, who were very welcome indeed.

The group itself has been around longer than 18 years; it was first formed about 26 years ago. After a couple of years, it became a Shire, attached to the Kingdom of Caid (One of the American Kingdoms). The Kingdom of Lochac came into being in the year AS37 and about a year later, the groups of The Crescent Isles (Aotearoa) all joined with that Kingdom (which previously comprised Australia only). At the same time, the group of Ildhafn became a Barony, officially on 21 June AS38, and the rest, as



Baroness Elyna helps herself to sambocabe (photo credit: Lady Eleanor)

they say, is history.

Our celebratory evening revel was fuelled on this occasion by a shared dinner, and I must confess these are becoming some of my favourite meals. Those like myself, who are less talented at the culinary arts can produce a (continues) simpler offering, while those who enjoy gourmet creativity are allowed full scope. We were very well provided for indeed! I exacted Baronial Privilege in first sampling of the sambocade (a delicious kind of early cheesecake), and I'm extremely glad I did, as it was enthusiastically snapped up by all, and hesitation could well have resulted in disappointment on my part.



Master William & Mistress Katherina play for the guests (photo credit: Lady Cleanor)

It is as well that I was prudent in portion measures however, as we had determined that there would be dancing, so remaining light on one's feet was necessary. We were fortunate enough to have Mistress Katherina Weyssin and Master William de Cameron playing some beautiful live music, and they were later joined by Lady Griete and then Emily, to form a live dance band for our cavorting pleasure. Much frolicking fun was had by those on the dance floor!

Whilst tripping the light fantastic, I had occasionally heard familiar roars of laughter coming from the dice table, and so when the dancing was done, I went in search of a game to join. As always there were a good number of willing players, and we sat down to a game of Liar's Dice. After a while we began to be serenaded by a beautiful blend of vocal harmony, as Lady Griete had rallied a small group to sing together.

All in all it was a truly delightful evening of amusements, and my grateful thanks to all who added to the fun!

~ Baroness Elyna Delynor

from the Warshall

Greetings from the Marshall's Office.

Rather than bury everyone in the minutia of our combat rules, I have decided to use this column to explain some of our rules and their implications. To start with there have been a number of changes to the rapier rules that I would like to highlight.

In May of this year there were two updates to the Rapier Rules in rapid succession. Version 5.0 and 5.1. While I am only going to highlight a few of the implications of these updates I do encourage you to

go back and take a look at the complete rule set.

For the moment though I thought I would just go over a few key points and what they mean.

To find the latest rules go here:

https://sca.org.nz/wiki/index.php?title=Fencing:Handbook

If you specifically want to see just the 5.0 and 5.1 updates go here:

https://sca.org.nz/wiki/index.php? title=Fencing:Change_Log_and_Notes

1: Masks when training.

It is now mandatory when running fencing drills with partners that both parties must wear eye protection. In practice this means that when doing partner drills, masks must always be worn. We have a number of spare masks to loan but we recommend that you buy your own as soon as you decide that fencing is something that you want to pursue within the SCA. There are several options that we can help you to buy from modern fencing masks, HEMA specific masks (they have additional reinforcements and padding) through to period helmets that pass the fencing protection requirements.

2: Spears.

The latest rules allow a new version of spears. These use the rubber spear heads that you may have seen recently at the Ildhafn fencing practice.

Up until the most recent revision of the rules we have only allowed spears to be used in two hands. This is a form that allows us to replicate a lot of pole arm sections in surviving period manuals.

With the latest 5.1 revision however, we can now use spears single-handed. This gives you the ability to use one of the most common weapon combinations of spear and shield. This combination has been used throughout history from early Greek Hoplites through to Saxon, and Viking shield walls. This combination also goes through to the high medieval period as many city militias equipped their troops with spear and tower shield. This allows you to take the rapier field with period weapons appropriate for your persona even if you are an early persona rather that the renaissance fencers that you usually see upon the rapier or cut and thrust field.

3: Cut and Thrust and Spear Authorisations

There is now no requirement for a delay between authorising for rapier and authorising for cut and thrust or spear. So again, if you have an early persona, get authorised and then take the field with an appropriate early weapon combination. If you need help, talk to one of the experienced fencers and we will be happy to help.

4: Cut and Thrust Melees

Cut and thrust is the name for the extended rule set that allows for percussive cutting blows in addition to the push, draw and tip cuts used in rapier. This make it easier to reproduce the techniques of the earlier medieval masters rather than the later renaissance rapier manuals. Previously the cut and thrust combat standard was limited to individual duels. With the latest revisions we now have the option for cut and thrust melees.

Note that the additional armour requirements for cut and thrust are still required in melees including knee and elbow protection and rigid back of the head protection. I will be making an effort this year to upgrade everyone's armour to cut and thrust standards to make it possible for everyone to participate in cut and thrust. If you need help with this upgrade, please talk to me at fencing training and I will give you some options.

I hope this short discussion gives you some ideas that you would like to pursue. Thanks to the Baron and Baroness we now have a new fencing venue for Tuesday evenings. I would love to see you there.

Yours in Service,

~ Master Emrys Tudor

Beraldic corner

Devices - "All about that Blue Lymphad"; Talking about Heraldry with the Baronial Herald.

Heraldry covers two distinct parts in the SCA, court heraldry (where you are the voice of the Crown and help give out awards or play up the theatre of the SCA) and book heraldry.

Book heraldry has two big parts, Names and Devices. For now, I'm focusing on Devices, specifically today the Barony's arms, from which my title, Blue Lymphad Herald, comes. You can see the Ildhafn arms in the below image (Emblazon), and the official description (or Blazon) reads:

Per pale azure and argent, chapé ployé, two lymphads and a laurel wreath counterchanged.



The Ildhafn Arms

So that's a lot to take in, but the image isn't too complicated, so let's break down the Blazon into its components.

Every Blazon is made up of:

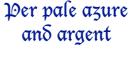
- -The Ordinary or Field Division (the background)
- -The Tincture or Colours (What colour it's painted)
- -The Charges (Stuff you painted on top)
- -The postures (The way the things are pointing)

There is one other term we need for the Ildhafn device:

-The Subordinary (Or the second field division, in our case the *chapé ployé*)

Broken down like this, we can see that the device is: **Per pale** (A central division straight down the middle) made up of the two colours: **azure** (blue) **and argent** (white or silver).

This takes us to the next two words which give us the "Subordinary" or minor field division: **chapé ployé** This is a fancy way of saying "with two curved lines taken out of the sides". Ours are pretty steep, like we're taking out the top two corners. Note that we don't have to specify the colours in this bit, because they're assumed from the Ordinary.







Finally, we get to Charges. There are two kinds of Charges on the Ildhafn device, which together make up a set of three for display:

Two Lymphads (or ships)





And a Laurel Wreath (the device which in the SCA denotes an official group).

Counterchanged - This word gives us the swapping colours, every time we cross a boundary of the Field Division.

You may be asking...

Why ships? ...because Ildhafn was initially formed as the Auckland city group, the arms depict the "City of Sails", and tie into the names of our group awards, as a barony of merchants.

Why a wreath? ...because we're an official SCA group, a wreath must be included, according to the SCA rules of Heraldry.

Why are the ships & wreath in a triangle down the bottom? because they're coprimary, the three charges form a triangle. They're kept away from the *ployé* for visibility reasons, though really, the official blazon doesn't say where they need to be. Nor does it specify a triangle, but this is a common way for three items to be displayed on a medieval device and is part of how medieval Europeans thought of heraldry.

Why are the colours white & blue? ... I have no real idea; I haven't found any notes on it. It might be because The Blues are Auckland's rugby team, and it's a civic pride thing, but this is personal speculation.

Are there secret meanings to heraldic symbols in the SCA? ...with a few exceptions to do with orders, no. A ship is just a ship; the exception are the few charges we reserve for award purposes, to prevent people confusing things with royalty, or because of mundane implications.

If you're interested in doing some further reading, the SCA's official primer is where I got started years ago: http://heraldry.sca.org/armory/newprimer/. But really my favourite part of Heraldry is just looking at old Wappenbuchs (big books of heraldry from Germany) or other cultures' Armourials. My personal favourite is Siebmachers Wappenbuch that you can find here: http://www.wappenbuch.de/.

I hope this has given you the start of an interest in SCA Heraldry. I'll be back next time to talk about the arms of Cluain. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me on social, or the next time you see me at an event.

~ Herr Maximilian von Monsterberg

Ildhafn Performing Arts Chassenge

We're running a challenge this year to encourage members of the populace to create new pieces of entertainment. It can be a song, a dance, a play, something comic, a poem, a tale, a puppet show, instrumental music, choral music... pretty much anything that can be performed at an event.

To help with this we would like to organise some classes on topics that people might like to try their hand at. Would you like to learn how to write a 4-part song? How to create a dance? Or some other topic – let us know!

Or do you have a specific idea you would like some help with? We'll see if we can find someone to help you.

As part of the challenge, you will need to organise for it to be performed at an event in Ildhafn in early 2022 (details to be confirmed). So, think about who you might be able to get to perform it. If you need help with this, let us know and we will try and help put you in touch with the right people. Conversely, if you would like to offer your services to sing/dance/play etc, we'd love to hear from you.

Entry is open to anyone who attends the event, whether they reside in Ildhafn or further afield.

Multiple entries welcome!

For more details see this page on our website: https://ildhafn.lochac.sca.org/node/1790 or contact me at arts@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org.

~ Lady Griete van Groningen

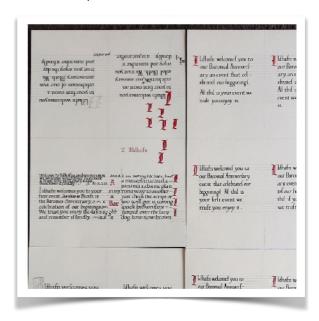
Views from the Susty ink pot

Here within you'll find an exemplar from the newly formed Baronial Scriptorium, set with the mission to enrich the Barony with arts of Calligraphy and Illumination.



It is with the heart palpitations of a giddy schoolboy that this missive comes to you from the Northern Crescent Isles Scribal Warden, who found himself elated at the monthly Baronial Stuff Day held in May. Whereby at this time, if we narrate you further into his excitement, you too would have seen the Arts and Sciences prosper in a way that the Barony has not seen for nigh on 20 years! Yes, this Herald with scribal aspirations witnessed a culmination of a meeting of great minds and like-minded enthusiasm, poised to advance Calligraphy and Illumination (C&I) within the Barony!

Planning and ruminating on such things had been occurring most recently under the everwatchful gaze of our A&S officer and resident artiste Lady Griete van Groningen. With my own recent move to the north of the Barony, the stars were beginning to align, in manner consistent with the finding of hen's teeth. However, the crown in the jewel of the Barony came back to the ever-magnanimous members of the populace. Whereby we saw the welcome invitation of a suitable venue for painting and scrivening, with thanks, to the Honourable Lady Eleanor Hall. Huzzah! Our cunning plan to hold the first regular Ildhafn Scriptorium was on the off.



In our inaugural meeting we saw four in attendance. The aforementioned trio and our very own illustrious, and loaded with cunning plans, most Excellent Baron of Ildhafn, His Excellency Sympkyn of the Moor. It should be mentioned, with additional instruction from our equally illustrious Baroness Elyna, on matters equally close to her heart where the Barony is concerned. This meeting saw more of a planning session where we outlined some C&I goals for the Barony, ourselves, and ultimately with time, Lochac.

Therefore, it is with these four souls that we begin the Barony's reintroduction into local C&I. Said plans and machinations will be covered off in subsequent missives but one



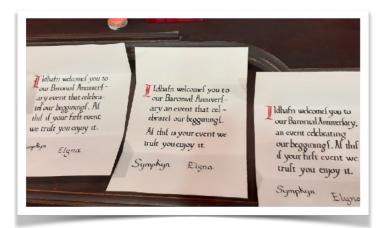
of the initial projects we decided to work on was Baronial event welcome writs. The first out the gate included a bit of calligraphy in the form of a greeting to newcomers attending the Baronial Anniversary. A very nice way for the Barony to recognise prospective members of the populace. From May through June, we set to working on some exemplars and we plan to include more elaborate illuminated works as we develop further.

Photos included are of the project wall, writs at various stages of development, and the finished piece complete with their Excellencies' signatures, all ready to be sealed for delivery. The script is Humanist miniscule, with a rubricated (red) Rotunda Capital.

Feel free to join us on our journey with quill and/or brush in hand on Thursday nights from 7pm to 9pm. Drop us a note to get the address.

In Service.

~ Master Domenego Ferrante, NCIS Warden (photos in this article credited to the author.)



Baronial Awards of Ildhafn

In recognition of the vast and various merits and achievements of the good people of Ildhafn and Cluain (and occasionally other lands), the Barony of Ildhafn has a number of local awards that can be bestowed by the Baron and Baroness. Many of these are represented by a token of a *lymphad* (a ship, as mentioned in the *Herald's Corner*) displaying the colour appropriate to the specific order to which the wearer belongs.

To see who currently holds which awards, visit: https://ildhafn.lochac.sca.org/awards.



Baronial Award token (photo from the Ildhafn website)

Order of the Guildsman (lymphad with green embellishment): Arts and Sciences; For those whose artistry and contribution to their craft provides inspiration to the Barony.

Militia of the Barony (lymphad with red embellishment): Combat; For those who defend the honour of the Barony by their skill in the arts martial.

Order of the Alderman (lymphad with yellow embellishment): Service; For those who give of their time and effort to enhance the experiences of all and in doing so inspire others to do the same.

Order of the Burgess (lymphad with white/silver embellishment): Courtesy; For those who provide the examples of courtesy to which we all aspire.

<u>Freedom of the City</u> (lymphad with blue embellishment): For those who have contributed greatly to the Barony of Ildhafn, who reside outside of our lands.

Order of the Lodeman (lymphad with purple embellishment): For those who used to reside in Ildhafn but now reside outside of our lands.

The Flower of Ildhafn (a large flower-like emblem adorned with a blue stone): A unique award presented specifically for a moving, inspiring performance. Held by the bearer for up to a twelvemonth, they are charged with presenting the Flower to the next recipient.

The flower of Ildhafn

Mistress Katherina Weyssin first presented the Flower Jewel to the Baron and Baroness at the Ildhafn Summer Event in December AS54, with these words:

"To glance around this hall is to know that our Barony is graced by many artisans, for on all sides are things we have made, that are wondrous.

Yet there are arts one cannot touch, which shine for but a moment, like the flower which unfolds its petals to the morning sun, and by evening lives only in memory.

In these arts our Barony is a Jewel in the kingdom, a Jewel of unrivalled splendour.

So I give Your Excellencies this Jewel, to adorn those among your people who excel in music, plays, stories, songs, dance whose performance brings us joy, moves us, inspires us.

The one who receives this should wear it

proudly. It is the tangible, touchable memory of a shining moment. This Flower does not fade with the evening.

But do not wear it over long. The next time we folk gather, or the time after that, it shall be your duty to advise their Excellencies who should wear it next.

None may bear this gem a year, for it is beyond belief that in this Barony a year could pass without an inspiring performance.

I give you this Flower, and I thank you for being the finest patrons any artists could hope to serve."

The bearers thereof thus far have been:

- ~ Katherina Weyssin gave it first to **Their Excellencies Elyna and Sympkyn**, to be awarded according to their wisdom, at Summer Event, December AS54;
- ~ Elyna and Sympkyn awarded it, to great acclaim, to **Don Ludwig von Regensburg**, Minnesinger, for his song, at the same event;
- ~ Don Ludwig passed it to **Baroness Elyna**, harpist of renown, at Baronial Anniversary, June AS55;
- ~ Baroness Elyna was moved by the singing of **Lord Gareth Robertson**, at the Newcomers Event in Cluain, May AS56.

Performing arts are a source of strength, joy and renown in our fair barony. This jewel is a lasting - but not eternal - recognition of some moment of excellence in performance of any sort. The purpose is not for our performers to compete *against* each other to win it - rather to give it freely as a symbol of admiration and appreciation. Splendid, moving moments linger in our hearts for a long time; this allows a performer who gives us such a gift to enjoy their glory a little longer too.

I am not ashamed to admit how much I was inspired by the Jewel of Southron Gaard in creating this award. It is a treasure, and I covet such for our own barony. But I'm even more inspired by the many wonderful moments I've enjoyed from amateur performers in our society. I truly and deeply love being part of a group where we make our own theatre, dance, music, tales shows and amusements of all sorts. Being part of it, and receiving it direct from one's friends, is a much greater pleasure than just watching distant, lifeless recordings (however professional).

~ Mistress Katherina Weyssin



The flower of Ildhafn (photo credit: Lord Gareth)

Reflections on bearing the flower...

I cannot think of this award without thinking of the people who have invited and encouraged me to perform; without their prompting I might never have done so, as I grew up believing that although my singing might be passable, nobody wanted to hear it. How surprising, then, to have it actively requested and praised by my fellow reenactors! One of the many wonderful things about the S.C.A. is that people have opportunities to try things they might not otherwise do, and demonstrate skills and talents they might not often get to show off, and then we can all enjoy their efforts.

We often assume that people know they are good at something, but I promise you that most people do not hear nearly as much praise as we might think they do, and it typically takes many, many compliments before anyone starts to believe that they are competent at something, especially after discouragement. Let us be genuine, but unstinting, in our encouragement of others.

~ Lord Gareth Robertson

Upcoming Garbed Events:

A Dumpling Feast: 14 August 2021 – Cluain (https://cluain.lochac.sca.org/node/267)

Spring Dance: October 2021 – Ildhafn

(still plotting...)

Labour Weekend Living History Camp: 22 – 25 October 2021 – Cluain (https://cluain.lochac.sca.org/node/260)

Ildhafn Summer Celebration: 19 – 21 November 2021 – Ildhafn (currently seeking Stewards!)

Regular Plain-Clothes Gatherings

~ In Ildhafn:

Archery Practice: Every other Sunday at 11am, weather allowing, private venue in Glendene, Auckland;

Contact: archery@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org

Rapier Training: Tuesdays at 7pm, Minerva Scout Hall, 563 Pakuranga Rd, Auckland 2010; Contact: marshal@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org

Armoured (Heavy) Training: Sundays at 9am, Tahaki Reserve, Mt Eden, Auckland; Contact marshal@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org

Dancing for Beginners: Fridays at 7.30pm, private venue in West Auckland; Contact chatelaine@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org

Scribal Arts: Thursdays at 7pm, private venue on Auckland's North Shore; Contact arts@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org

Committee Meeting: First Saturday of the month at 1pm, all welcome, private venue in West Auckland;

Contact seneschal@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org

Stuff Day (arts and sciences gathering): First Saturday of the month at 2pm, private venue in West Auckland;

Contact arts@ildhafn.lochac.sca.org

- ~ 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/
- ~ Follow us on **Instagram**: https://www.instagram.com/ildhafn_barony_of_lochac
- ~ All other Ildhafn **contacts**: <u>https://</u>ildhafn.lochac.sca.org/contacts

~ In Cluain:

Armoured (Heavy) Training: Wednesdays at 5.30pm, Hamilton venue; Contact marshal@cluain.lochac.sca.org

Archery Practice: Third Sunday of the month at 1pm, private Te Awamutu address; Contact <u>archers@cluain.lochac.sca.org</u>

Council Meeting: Third Saturday of the month at 2pm, variable private venues; Contact seneschal@cluain.lochac.sca.org

Hastilude (arts & sciences gathering): Third Saturday of the month at 3pm, variable private venues; Contact chatelaine@cluain.lochac.sca.org

- ~ Check the **Cluain website calendar** to confirm specific dates & details: https://cluain.lochac.sca.org/calendar
- ~ Stay in touch on **Facebook**: <u>https://</u> www.facebook.com/groups/cluainvillagegreen
- ~ All other Cluain **contacts**: <u>https://cluain.lochac.sca.org/node/5</u>



Armoured training in Ishafn (photo credit: Lady Waerwynn)