



THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM AUSTRALIA

The Shire of  
**Bordescros**  
*MELIUS QUAEVIVERE, QUAM QUAEVIVISSE*

GRAPEVINE OCTOBER



CHRONICLER'S WELCOME



Unto the worthy populace of Bordescros and to all of the friends of the Shire, Greetings.

It is good to be home but it has taken a while to get over the jet lag, those red eye flights take their toll on your sleep, I really don't know how people can sleep on planes. Anyway our trip was great and we are glad to be home where it is a bit cooler, the biggest problem when we were there was the build up to the wet season came early and even though the temperature didn't rise the humidity did.

We have a few new articles this month, Beoan's German Helm pattern for all those wanting to build their own helm. An article from Cairi on Christianity and it's influence in the middle ages, also of course another delicious recipe from Thomasina. We hope you all enjoy the Grapevine and keep sending in those articles.

I would like to thank Lady Rosamund for the Asatru calendar we have been running for the past year. Last month was the last in the series and we hope you all enjoyed it, if anyone has anything similar on that or other subjects please send it and I will do my best to include it in our Grapevine.

Yours in Service,  
**Arnora BloodAxe**

<b>CALENDAR</b>	
3 <sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER	LOCH ALBA TOURNEY & FEAST
11 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER	BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&S
17 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER	BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST
7 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	LOCH ALBA TOURNEY & FEAST
8 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	BORDESCROS FIGHTER TRAINING AND A&S
14 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	BORDESCROS TOURNEY AND FEAST

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## *AT THE MARSHALL'S COMMAND*

### **Fighter practice**

The Albury and Loch Alba Practice will be for heavy combat training and rapier training if sufficient authorised marshals are available for each discipline

ALBA LOCH	The last Sunday of each month between 2pm and 5pm. Glenfield Community Centre. Confirm with James Douglas
ALBURY	The 2nd Sunday of each month from 2pm until 6pm (i.e. sunset if that keen!) at The Albury Wodonga Sport fishing Club Riverina Hwy.
ARCHERY	Archery Training is at this present time at Thors Hof (Will's home) on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, until such time as we can set up the new location and then it will be held at the same time as Heavy fighter Practice. Please confirm with Lord William if you wish to train.

Remember there is always the opportunity to train at Bordescros monthly bash if time permits.

*Don't forget to send in any articles  
from Loch Alba for your page in the  
Grapevine.*

*-- Editor*

## Group News

### Archery

Lady Thomasina and Lord Beoan were going to be doing a fletching workshop at this months A&S on Sunday but due to family they will have to postpone it until next month, keep an eye out on the web site or in the Grapevine for more news about when it will be.

### Birthday Bash

As some of you know October is our Birthday month and at this months; Birthday Bash we are expecting a visit from some old friends and hopefully we will have some new friends coming too

### Border War

Now that we are back we will be getting into full swing with our Border War preparations, we need all hands on board to help paint up our targets and any volunteers for Beoan's wonderful play we will take name on Sunday and at next bash.

For all those who have indicated that they will be attending Border War I will have the booking forms available for filling out this month at all events. Border War can be paid for at any time either see Will or myself and remember booking is not secure until paid for, if you are having trouble finding the money come and talk to me.

The Web Site is up and running and I have had a lot of time up here to do a lot of work on it I really hope you like it, please check it out and any constructive comments would be gratefully received. <http://borderwarxii.webs.com/>

### Notices

If any one has any notices they would like to put in the Grapevine you can use this section to do that. Anything from announcements to items for sale, remembering it must of a medieval nature, so anyone with armour or rattan etc for sale, garb or braid, can put an ad here, just send me the details and I will include it in the next Grapevine.

Or anyone with a special announcement can also use this section.

## . Christianity and its influence in the Middle Ages and Renaissance

Sometimes comments are heard at SCA gatherings that endeavour to disregard, or at very least downplay, the influence of Christianity in period.

To the majority of folk at all levels of society during the period covered by the SCA at least an outward observance of Christianity was 'required'. At various times attendance at church was 'compulsory' on Sunday as a minimum, preferably daily. Many Christians in period conducted daily observances of one form or another, even without going to church, in much the same way that Moslems do today (and did then) - it was an integral and inescapable part of life. Most castles and palaces all had their own chapel and priest/confessor, and he may have also cared for the local parish depending on the standing of the noble family.

Like all religions, the Christian Church during the Middle Ages and Renaissance had a strict calendar of observances. These marked the year's progression. Some had origins in the Jewish faith (of which Jesus of Nazareth was a practising follower), and some in the various pagan faiths that predated the introduction of Christianity to northern Europe. Others have roots that can be found in many previous traditions, or a combination of all of them.

The most significant dates were arguably Christmas and Easter, as traditionally they celebrate the birth and death of Jesus of Nazareth respectively. However there were many other dates that were also celebrated such as Michelmas, Candlemas, All Saints Day. In coming months I will provide articles on these particular festivals, their meanings and their origins.

We are fortunate that many of these details including the annual calendar are contained within the various Books of Days and Books of Hours, which provide such beautifully preserved illuminated windows into life in period.

There is no time or place within the SCA time period that is not impacted in some way or another by Christianity and as a result its festivals and celebrations. This does not mean that all pagan (non-Christian) influence, practice and activity evaporated. At some times the Christian reaction to these was violent, such as with the Spanish Inquisition and the 'Witch Trials'. At other times there was a slow progression from one set of beliefs to another in a relatively peaceful manner.

A 'heretic' was anyone who did not at least outwardly comply with the particular brand of Christianity that was being practiced in their location. For example, the beliefs and observances of an Irish Catholic would be very different to those of a Spaniard or Italian Catholic. From its very beginning there have been differences of opinion within the Christian faith, and these differences have taken many forms. There was often much rivalry between the various factions even in Roman Britain, and later between various religious orders such as the Augustinians, Benedictines and Franciscans, and between various 'martial orders' such as the Hospitallers and the Templars.

The most tumultuous time for Christianity was the 'Reformation' which took place in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century with its most visible expression being the 'Lutherans' and the 'Protestants'. The debate as to the impact of Henry VIII's desire for divorce from Katherine of Aragon on the growth and establishment of the Protestant church in Britain has the potential for at least one article on its own.

No matter how much people may have wanted to ignore what was going on, such changes had a major impact on life especially at the level of the Church clergy and the nobility. However, no level of society was exempt from its influence.

In coming months these various aspects of Christian life in period will be explored in greater depth.

Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

**How to make a Germanic style pot helm****By Lord Beoan Freborn.**

This is an easy, S.C.A. legal, fighting helm. It doesn't have a pattern; it is built using your head measurements so it will fit really well. I can knock one up in an afternoon and it looks pretty good.

**EQUIPMENT**

A ruler and/or a sewing tape measure.

A ball-peen hammer. Not too big or small.

An anvil or some other piece of steel to seal off rivets on (even an old sledgehammer head or some railway iron will do).

An angle grinder or nibble cutters to cut the steel.

A Texta or pencil or chalk or a crayon or, well you get the idea.

A drill with a drill bit the same size as the rivets you are using+ a 7mm bit

A pair of vice grips or small G-clamps

**Materials**

A quarter sheet of 1.6mm –2mm cold rolled black steel (2mm will give you a sturdier helmet to keep marshals happy and it will last forever).

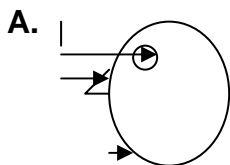
Lots of 3/16<sup>th</sup> mushroom head rivets (**NOT** pop rivets).

A roll of 10mm, P.E. (closed cell) foam. (A camp mat works well).

Duct tape.

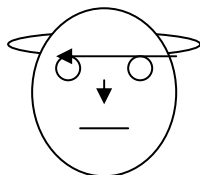
**Method**

**First you need to take the ruler and measure from between your eyes to a point level to the top of your head (illustration A) tip- write this number down.**



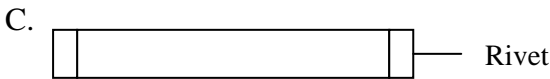
Then measure the circumference of your head (illustration B) tip-write this down as well.

B.

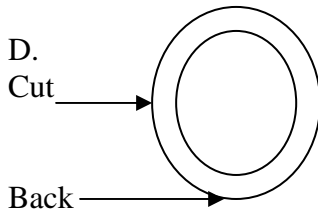


Using these measurements cut a piece of P.E. foam and wrap it around your head and secure it with a piece of tape. This is the start of the crown of your helm.

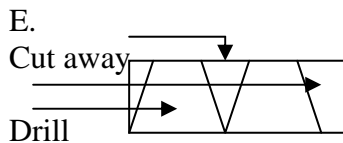
Using the measurements you (hopefully) wrote down cut a long rectangle from the steel adding 2cm to each end (illus. C.)



Curve this piece of steel around into a ring and secure the overlap 1cm in with a rivet in the centre. This rivet is the **BACK** of the helm. Squash the sides of this ring in a bit so you have an oval shape (heads aren't usually round). Put the foam back on your head (if you removed it earlier. if not just leave it on your head). Slide the ring on over the top and adjust so that you have a little room all the way around. Place this ring onto your remaining steel and trace around the **outside** of it with your Texta etc. 2cm out from that line draw another line all the way around it (Illus. D)

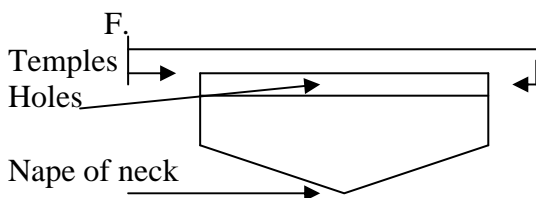


Mark where the back of the helm was with your crayon, then with your grinder, cut around the outside of the outside circle. This will be the cap of your helm. Starting at the rivet point, mark 5cm intervals all along the out side of this ring, and cut V shapes that meet at the inside line (be careful not to cut over this line). This will create a series of trapezoidal shaped tabs. Drill a hole through the centre of each tab. See Illus. E



Bend these tabs over to a 90-degree angle. This cap should now fit snugly over the top of your ring (don't be crass). If it doesn't just tap it with a hammer a bit till it does. Drill a hole through the tab and helm at the back above the first rivet. Insert a rivet and seal it off on the **inside of the helm**. Next drill a hole at the tab at the front of the helm and seal it off, again on the inside. Next, on the left, then the right then fill in any remaining tabs. Do not be tempted to drill all the holes at once, as they tend to move due to the hammering of the rivets. The crown of your helmet is now complete.

To make the back skirt of your helm, put the crown + padding on your head, making sure it is level and, with your ruler, measure from the bottom rivet to the base of neck. Then measure, on the crown, from one temple all the way round the back of the crown to the other temple (remember-write these numbers down). On the remaining steel, draw these measurements as shown in illustration F.

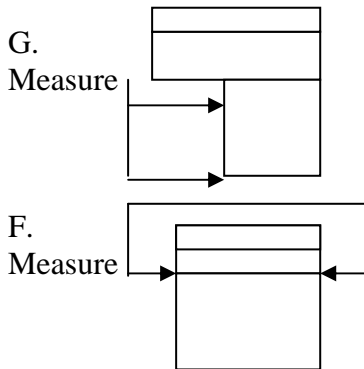


Drill holes 1cm from the top in the centre and both ends then in between at intervals not exceeding 2.5cm. Bend this piece around until it is a snug fit on the crown and drill through the centre hole, through the crown and secure with yet another rivet. Clamp the ends of the skirt in place. Drill and rivet the next hole to the left, then the right, then the left, alternating until all the holes are

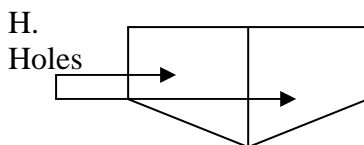


riveted into place. Place the helm on the anvil and bend the point on the bottom of the skirt out a little. This stops it stabbing you in the back of the neck every time you look up.

For the faceplate. Measure 2.5cm down from the top of the eye-slot (see illustration G) and from that point down to the bottom edge of the skirt and write down this number. Add 10cm to this number and write this number down as well. Now measure across the front of the crown from temple to temple and add 3cm to each end (Illus. F).



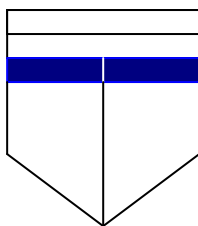
Using these measurements cut the faceplate from the steel as shown in Illus.H. then with a 7mm drill bit, drill air holes in it. This can be done in a decorative fashion, just remember to drill lots of them as these will be your primary source of air when fighting.



Fold the faceplate along the centre line to about 90 degrees (give or take) and then round the ends over the anvil a little. Place the plate over the **outside** of the helmet making sure the eye slot doesn't exceed 2.5cm, and rivet into place. A small strip of 2-3mm flat bar steel can be riveted inside the helm between the crown and the centre of the faceplate to give it extra strength. Voila! A Germanic style pot-helm.

All that remains is to pad it so it sits comfortably and snugly (not tightly) on your head and add a chinstrap. Decorate with paint in your colours or polish to a sheen. Happy Hittites.

Your completed helm (Ta Dah!)



**To Fight Skaldborg or Not to Fight Svinfylka.**

By Einarr Death Bringer.

Lord Boean's speech got me to wondering,  
How could we as a Shire come up with some fighting tactics that reflect to all in Lochac our "Coming of Age" as a fighting shire?  
I thought some research was in order.

Being of Viking persona and with the inclusion of the Flying Boars as a war unit, I started to research different formations. Specifically Viking, as this years Border War is Viking Themed.

Where to Start?

From my High School Days I remembered "The Phalanx" was used most successfully by the Greeks to defeat the Persians at **Marathon** and **Plataea**.

The Romans used and refined the *Phalanx* to become the "Tortoise" (a variation of the Phalanx adding shields interlocked over head) as well as the **Porcinum Capet** and used these formations most successfully in Building the Roman Empire.

In researching my Viking persona I came across 2 formations that may interest the shires fighters.  
Predominantly the Vikings relied on the ferocity of their attacks to win battles.  
Berserkers or in our shires case Asmund Brass Balls.

This is reflected in the 2 types of fighting formation they became renown for.

1. *Skaldborg* (translate as) *Shield War*
2. *Svinfylka* (translate as ) *Swine Array*

Shield Wall :

Picture 1. Shows how the shield wall was made up



*Overlapping of shields provides protection.*

*The Length and Depth varied according to your numbers.*

*Each fighter defended against the man in front but attacked the man to his diagonal right or left.*

*With Little room to swing a sword most Vikings/ Saxons had to slash or stab with their Seax or half sword.*

*The Shield wall proved to be a Strong Defensive Formation. When one went down his place was taken by another in the ranks behind. According to information I have read (sorry I forget which book I got it from), the best fighters were in the front line and the weak peasant farmers "Hird" were behind.*

**An interesting Note on the effectiveness of the Shield Wall**

*The Saxons Shield Wall at the Battle of Hastings held off Norman Forces many time the size of their forces, and for more than 8 hours. The Battle was lost due to an ill-disciplined Saxon Right wing.*

*The Norman Forces on the Left of Harold's wall feigned retreat and ran down hill and the Right wing of House Carls and some of the "Fyrd" followed.*

*The Saxons Right wing was routed when the Normans turned back around and attacked with re-enforcements.*

*The Main Saxon forces were routed with-in 3 minutes approx of the shield wall fragmented.*

**Svinfylka / SWINEARRAY:**

The Swine Array or **SVINFYLKA** was in probability adapted from the Roman Formation; **Porcinum Capet** or Swine Head. The Swine Array was formed by 2 men at the front 3 behind in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Row And 5 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row and so on if you have more men.

The Vikings have not been given much credit for tactical Knowledge or Method.

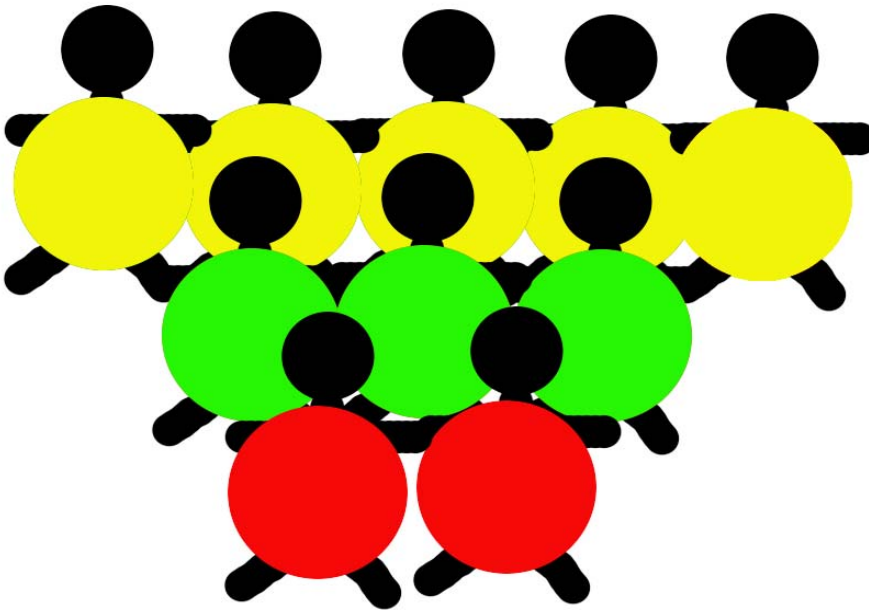
Much of the Success for the Swine Array come in no small degree to the ferocity of the Vikings them selves. For once in the opposing shield wall, the Vikings Weapon of Choice came into it own gouging a path through their enemies with ferocity not seen before.

The Swine Array was most effective when used with Archers in the rear of the formation.

*The Swine Arrays only real weakness was, when plunging deep into the Enemies Ranks, if the attackers were surrounded/ out flanked, there was every chance the attackers would cease to exist.*

*How ever, with additional forces backing them up, Archers, Spears reserves of more Swords, then the hole torn in the enemy could not easily reverse the Swine Array's Charge.*

Picture 2



## SVINFYLKA / SWINE ARRAY

Can you imagine if we adopt this formation how awesome it will be with :

Bear and Oxx at the front

Followed by Ulf Septimus and John Dai.

Add a few Glaives in the ranks behind i.e.

Beoan, Aylen, and Sperling with Will and Crimthann either side as the Long line

And then JD, Brad, Andrejz, Vig and other New Fighters from Deni in this Line

(J.D. and Vig being the experienced fighters in this line with sword or Two Hander)

Thorstein as Banner Bearer

Add any Light Archers Behind for support and this becomes a very effective and Fun Formation.

The Line can be configured any way the group so desires.

John Dai may have a better proposition for the group. These are just thoughts.

In my opinion, for us to be truly a War Unit Equal of any in Lochac, I think we need to start some war training.

As the Old Saying goes "united we Stand divide we fall".

This is very Brief I know but I hope it has given you all some thoughts on Tactics.

Einarr

## Eclectica



## Coke's Guild &amp; Receipts

By Lady Thomasina Freborn

Greetings all,

With my experience of playing for over 10 years here is what I recommend you bring for the feasting table:

- Hide all modern beverages in jugs, drinking vessels or make a calico sleeve for large bottles with a tie around the neck (this can be embroidered). A bottle opener/cork screw is handy.
- Make sure you have a table cloth to hide modern table tops.
- A bowl for liquid items, a plate for everything else, a spoon either wooden or metal and a **small** feasting knife is recommended (too big and it's just not practical).
- If your persona allows, a two tined fork and a large napkin (usually four times the modern size). The napkin can be embroidered if desired with a style of period embroidery.
- Your candles, holders and some matches.
- A small container of salt and pepper (for the rich...he, he).
- Your own tea towel to dry your items after washing them.
- Also a calico bag or a cane basket to transport it all to the event in.
- Depending on the event, serving platters/bowls and serving utensils for your foods.
- Label all your items either with your name or paint/carve your device onto them, less hassle for the Constable to return them to their rightful owners.
- Lastly remember Opp shops are a great place to shop for your feasting gear.....just don't get more than you'll actually use!

Yours in Service,

Lady Thomasina Freborn, Journeyman Laurel, AOA, OGT.

This month we have a couple of Elizabethan recipes:

### Original recipe-

#### To stue Beefe

*Take Beefe and smyte it in peeces, and wash it in faire water, and draine that water and put it in the potte with the Beefe, and boyle them together. Then take Pepper, Cloves, Mace, Onions, Parsley and Sage, cast it thereto and let it boyle together: Then make licquor with bread and thicke it: and so let it seethe a good while after that the thicking is in. Then put in Saffron, Salt and vinegar, and so serve it forth.*

### Redacted recipe-

1 tablespoon each butter and oil  
 1 kg stewing beef cut into cubes  
 Beef stock  
 1 medium onion chopped  
 1 tablespoon parsley chopped  
 ¼ teaspoon each ground sage and mace  
 ½ teaspoon ground cloves  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 ½ teaspoon ground pepper  
 2 slices stale bread cubed  
 1 tablespoon wine vinegar  
 Pinch saffron

In a Dutch oven heat the butter and oil. Brown the meat well, then add beef stock to cover. Add the onion, parsley, sage, mace, cloves, salt and pepper and simmer, covered, for 1 hour. Just before serving stir in the bread, vinegar and saffron. Serve in bowls.

Please note that sometimes I like to bulk up the stew a bit more and add diced celery and carrots to it. Also very nice done in an electric slow cooker.

### Original recipe-

#### To make a Tarte of Spennedge

*Boyle your Egges and your Creame together, and then put them into a bowle, and then boyle your Spinnedge, and when they are boyled, take them out of the water and straine them into your stuffe before you straine your Creame, boyle your stuffe and then strain them all againe, and season them with sugar and salt.*

### Redacted recipe-

500g fresh spinach or sliver beet (chopped)  
 2 eggs lightly beaten  
 1 tablespoon sugar  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 ¾ cup sour cream

Cook the spinach till just tender. Drain very well. Stir in the eggs, sugar and salt and cook for 2-3 minutes. Add the sour cream and heat the mixture just long enough to warm it through. Do not allow the spinach to come to the boil or the sour cream will curdle. Serve as a vegetable.

**Source-**

Page 43-To make a Tarte of Spennedge and page 8 To stue Beefe.

Ruth Anne Beebe. Sallets, Humbles & Shrewsbury Cakes: A Collection of Elizabethan Recipes Adapted for the Modern Kitchen. 1976: David R Godine, Publisher.

**A&S Calendar:** Our acting A&S Officer is Banmaighster Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

<b>Shire A&amp;S Competitions – June to November AS 44</b>		
October	Music performance in SCA Timeline Design an item of Regalia for Bordescros	Any item with a 'SPRING' theme
November	Monochrome embroidery (including blackwork)	
December	Brewing a Cordial	Yule

## MUSIC IN THE SCA

Let me first confess that I am not a musically talented person, and that 'challenged' would be a more correct description.

That being said, I love listening to the music of others and trying to make some myself when I have people who are willing to let me participate and try. One of the great things about the SCA is the patience of many of its members who are talented with the endeavours in all areas by those who are not.

Music adds so much to what we do, because it adds not only atmosphere but a sense of occasion and often fun. Anyone who was at Festival last year and attended the Boars Head Tavern will understand what I mean, or who have listened to Master Daffyd's wonderfully inspired choral singing wherever he can get together 3 or more people who can sing.

Some groups have a large amount of musical talent, and this is used to enrich everything that they do. On some occasions it may be a rather rowdy group of Celtic musicians who provide a lively jig for others to dance to, or it may be fine choral singing in the style of a full Mass, or the more ribald efforts of tavern singers. Music enriches everything, even if it is only passable no matter whether it is the skirl of the bagpipes, the lilt of the tin whistle, the gentle pluck of the harp or the wonderful sound of the drums, from middle eastern to bodrahan and everything in between.

We are fortunate to have amongst our populace a wonderful performer, Lord Boean Freeborn, for whom the award of a Prix Jongleur has never been more deserved. His ballads can bring a tear to the eye, or a stitch to the ribs through laughter.

There are a lot of resources available on line through various SCA and medieval music sites, and if you can play an instrument or wish to learn a tune, it is worth taking an exploratory journey.

William, Einarr, Tzutzana and others have provided us with music in times past, and signing from the Lochac Songbooks can add an element of fun to a feast. Filks to well known tunes help at least overcome the excuse of 'I don't know the tune' and you can learn much about the SCA and its history through many of the filks.

When attending feasts and other activities in Politarchopolis, Rowany or Stormhold it is not unusual to have a fine musical accompaniment. Recorded music can often be jarring, although it can provide a background to an event that can inspire those present to discover their own talents.

Perhaps one day Bordescros will be able to have a 'Music Master or Mistress' who can take this area of endeavour to a much higher level in our fair Shire.

Yours in Service  
Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill

## Bordescros A&S Competition Entry Form

(to be completed by the Entrant and retained by the Bordescros A&S Officer)

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Competition: \_\_\_\_\_

SCA Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry No: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_

(Address or Email) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Time Frame / Location in Period: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you included Documentation with your entry?

Yes  No

I agree to have a photo of this entry added to the Bordescros A&S Web Site:

Yes  No

I agree to have a photo of this entry and documentation published in Bordescros Grapevine:

Yes  No

### INFORMATION FOR JUDGES:

Is this your first attempt at this type of item / skill ?

Yes  No

I would consider my experience level in this skill to be:

Beginner  Intermediate  Advanced  Professional

*(A&S Officer, please check the Entrant's skill level is noted on the A&S Competition Judging Form).*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)