



THE ZEPHYR



May 2021/July 2021- Anno Societatis 56

Greetings from our Baron and Baroness



Greetings Ayreton,

We'd like to thank everyone for their assistance, attendance, and support of the baronial online event Visions of Futures Past. Personally, we thank you as well for your patience. We are now working on mailing all promised thank you gifts and are starting to pull the scrolls together in order to get those to recipients over the summer.

We are excited that the summer will allow us to start returning to in person meetings and events. We are again asking for us all to be patient with each other as information and what this will look like will continue to change. Remember we all have different experiences from the pandemic and are approaching returning to live and in-person activities from different perspectives. **Be patient - be kind - strive for**

understanding. If there are questions about what is appropriate, please check with the Kingdom Seneschal at seneschal@midrealm.org.

We look forward to seeing people in person at events, meetings, and practices. We are also looking forward to all of the socialization that happens at events and practices. At the same time, we are hoping to continue to use the internet to find new ways to make the Barony available to a greater number of people; new and innovative ways that allow everyone to participate, especially newcomers. For those going to events, please remember to pre-register in order to gain admittance, and remember rules may change in different regions. May this summer bring continuing joy, hope and a sense of renewal for all. Thank you Ayreton for being wonderful.

Hilary & Gareth



Greetings from the Seneschal

Greetings good cousins,

Well, I don't know about all of you, but my head has been spinning the last couple of weeks with all of the reopening updates coming from the SCA Board of Directors and the Midrealm. I am super excited to start planning to go to events again (Ragnarok Rampage, Baroness Wars, and our own Rokkehealdan's Day of Playe are on my list) while at the same time feeling a little trepidatious about being back in person. I encourage everyone to reengage at their own level of comfort. Feel free to reach out to me or your fellow Ayretonians for help. And also, please consult both the Midrealm's and the SCA.org's guidelines for attending events. Most event stewards are being very thorough about posting the requirements, including pre-registration to attend events and other guidelines (the Baroness Wars site does a good job of laying this out). Pre-registration may seem like a pain, but it's really for everyone's benefit. We will get used to planning ahead a little in order to enjoy our event time together.

In other news, at the August Baronial meeting, we will be electing some officers (consult the list elsewhere in this issue). We are still working out the details of whether the meeting will be in person or virtual or some combo, stay tuned to the Google group email and Facebook for updates. If we decide on an in-person meeting there will be pre-registration, we will post the mechanism for that as well if that's how we go.

Finally, the Barony will be lending our name (and possibly the Zoom) to the Known World Cooks and Bards event. Event steward is Master Cerian, the event will be happening virtually on the weekend of September 10-12 (the same weekend as Day of Playe). We are talking about maybe having some coordination between the events, but more details as info unfolds.

I am so excited to start seeing you all in person again. As usual, feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or comments.

YIS,
Evzenic
Seneschal, Ayreton

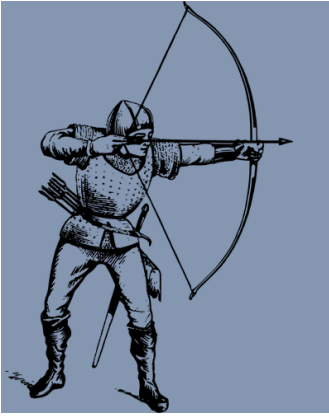
Greetings from the Chronicler

Greetings fair cousins of Ayreton,

It is so exciting that we can once again return to in person activities and events! I know we all miss our SCA family and are looking forward to seeing each other in person again. I would like to reiterate Their Excellencies wise counsel to be kind and patient with each other as we begin to gather together once again. Some of us will be very excited and want to exuberantly great and hug our "long-lost" friends and others will have more trepidation re-entering social situations in the post-pandemic world. The Kingdom and Society policy and rules for in-person activities is being monitored and can change often so please me sure to check out the Kingdom website at www.midrealm.org to keep up to date on any announcements or changes.

I would like to thank everyone who submitted an article or item for The Zephyr's regular features and some other interesting and useful articles. Again, The Zephyr depends on your participation. If you have anything you would like to submit for publication or any ideas you'd like to see featured, please let me know at ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

YIS,
THL Philippa of Otterbourne
Chronicler, Ayreton



News from the Companie of Ayreton Archers

We are under 2 weeks away from our first practice in over a year! And with that, we have some changes to help everyone feel safe if they choose to attend. First, our practice will begin on July 7th at 7 pm and every Wednesday just like before. However, the range times have changed due to the shutdowns and re-openings. The range at Custom Archery in Forest Park now closes at 7 pm, BUT the staff at Custom Archery is willing to accommodate us by staying open till 8 pm. Beginning Monday July 5th, and every Monday after that, I will be posting on Facebook for a roll call of attendees for that week's practice. If no one is going to attend that week, then I can let the range know ahead of time.

Now, does this mean if you don't confirm on Monday, you won't be able to attend? Absolutely not! Everyone is more than welcome to join us. This Monday post, again, is to let the staff know we will be there for the extra hour. But, if no one answers regarding the Monday post, the range's regular hours of operation will apply so please, pay attention to these Monday posts in the Companie of Ayreton Archers Facebook Group.

We will still be using the uber forms when attending practices, and with the new rules and guidelines, we are requiring either a phone number or email address when you sign in for contact tracing purposes. This information will not be used in any other way, and the uber form for that week will be kept with me and not at the range for privacy purposes.

To help everyone feel more comfortable with in person practices, I will be buying sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, disposable masks, and wooden golf tees which will be kept in our target box upstairs. Normally I am the first person at the range, so I will wipe down the tables and chairs. The wooden tees are for anyone who does not wish to touch the pins offered by the range.

For social distancing, we will have every other lane closed depending on the number of attendees. And if we have to, we will run multiple lines. Please be sure to pull YOUR arrows ONLY.

Please remember to inspect your gear before shooting. There are plenty of warranted marshals in our group who are more than willing to inspect your gear if you are unsure. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself or Dietrich (David Cook).

Any after practice activities, such as dinner, will be done at your own discretion and is not part of the weekly practice. Lastly, if you are unsure or are still concerned about returning to in person practices or events, please do not feel obligated to attend. When you are ready to join us, you will be more than welcome. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again at the range when you're ready. You are all missed.

Yours in service,

Forester Renzokuken of Ayreton.



Baronial Business Meeting

When: Sunday August 29th
Host Location: Tree-Girt-Sea
Address: TBA
Contact: ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org
Gathering Time: 3:00pm
Potluck & Meeting Time: TBA
Important Highlights: Officer Elections

Ayreton 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule

When	Where
8/29/21	Tree-Girt-Sea
11/29/21	Vanished Woods



A Medieval Miscellany

By Librarian Alexandria

Picts or It Didn't Happen – Part One

“The barbarians push us to the sea, the sea pushes us back to the barbarians; between these two kinds of death, we are either slaughtered or drowned.” – “The Groans of the Britons,” a letter sent to General Aetius in Gaul, quoted by Gildas.

Thus, the complaint of the Britons in the fifth century CE, after their abandonment by Rome. (At least, that's what Gildas* says.) But who were these barbarians? They seem to have been three separate entities who took advantage of the Roman legions' absence: the Irish, the Saxons, and the Picts.

Plenty is known about the Irish and Saxons, but even today the Picts remain a bit of a mystery. Popular culture tends to paint (more on this later) them as a race of fierce tribesmen roaring with bloodlust. And, well, yeah. Like their cousins to the south, the various tribes later lumped together under the term “Pict” had a reputation for ferocity. They were primarily small farmers and herdsman, probably of a Celtic culture based on contemporary Latin records, and, again probably, spoke a Brythonic Celtic language. (“Brythonic” means based on the island of Britain, like Welsh and Cornish. Breton is also a Brythonic language, as many Celts fled to what is now Brittany during the Anglo-Saxon era. The Celtic language of Ireland is a Goidelic language – or Gaelic. The two are not mutually intelligible.)

There are a lot of probabilities where the Picts are concerned.

The term “Pict” didn't appear in records until the late 3rd century; prior to that the people living north of Hadrian's Wall were called the Caledonii by the Romans. It's postulated that it was a Roman slur (the word meant “painted,” based on the concept that they were either tattooed or painted themselves). The Romans were pretty ticked off that the northern tribes had kept them from conquering the Caledonian territory. And it didn't help that they kept raiding and burning Roman forts throughout the next century.

The land in the north of the island is rough terrain and not the best for farming, so herding was a primary occupation. Herds take up a lot of space, more than farming does, so there was always a struggle for land, and cattle raids were common. The Irish have legends of cattle raiding, and it's not a stretch to imagine the same in this case. It certainly would explain the reputation for ferocity. And given that they were able to hold off the Romans, they must have been ferocious.

They were also able to hold off—mostly—the Irish Scoti who had settled in the southwest. This was the eastern offshoot of an Irish kingdom known as Dal Riata, that stretched

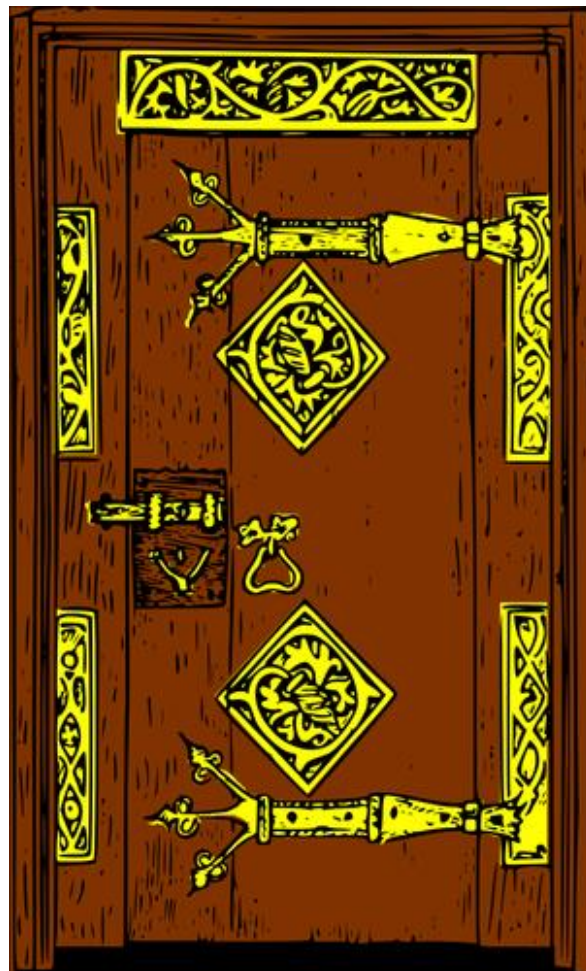
from what is now Belfast, across the sea to Britain. (If you look at a map, you'll see that the islands are very close here.) It may have been the Dal Riandans that gave the Picts the knowledge of sea-faring; they hadn't been before, but took to it like a duck to... er, water... Especially once they found out they could avoid the Wall and Roman forts just by sailing around them.

Have a question about some aspect of medieval history or culture? Let your Librarian help!

*Contact us at:
ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org*

To be continued...

*Gildas was a 6th century British monk whose main claim to fame is a scathing sermon about the failure of the Britons to prevent the Anglo-Saxon incursions. He's worth investigating, though.





Ayreton Gathering

Get to know your Ayreton Populace



Introducing **Rædesmann Andreas Blacwode** (pictured above).

Thank you, Andreas for your participation!

Would you like to introduce yourself in the next edition of The Zephyr? Send your answers to the questions below and a picture if so desired to ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

Name:	Drew Nicholson
How long have you been in the SCA?	31 Years
What drew you to the SCA?	It's a place I could do all sorts of things in, and it gave me a sense of community
What activities do you participate in?	Mostly I'm an administrator these days. I'm Vice-Chancellor of the RUM, and a deputy to the Corporate DEI Office. I do rattan and rapier combat, I write poetry, and I teach about communications and leadership.
A bit about your life outside of the SCA? Job? Hobbies?	I'm a Facilitator and a Project Portfolio Lead for a Fortune 500 Real Estate company. That and the SCA doesn't really leave room for much else.



The Barony of Ayreton has a YouTube Channel!

Follow the link to see the content and don't forget to subscribe!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_jvGF2AdaW7NIBk8mW03DA

Neurodiversity in the SCA:

A society superpower

THL Dunstan Bramlette with editing by Lady Mag O'Sullivan

For those who have spent any period of time in our society, the idea that our inclusiveness spans continents, ideologies, age differences, gender and sexual orientations, racial and ethnic identities, the way our brains are wired, and so on, does not require any demonstration. It is self-evident.

What hasn't been evident, to me at least, is why this is the case. We have all seen flurries of messages and policies written reactively to specific cultural flashpoints. I would however argue that in such cases, our built-in values of inclusivity allow us to readily reaffirm existing identities and even incorporate emerging identities and accommodations with grace and celebration.

Since early in my time with the society, I knew it was an environment that benefits people who experience intense, even uncontrollable anxiety in social situations. The level of competence in the maintenance of said environment bordered on expert professional. But how do we thank our organizers and leaders, when the SCA doesn't name inclusivity and accommodation as an explicit goal? This has been my 20-year conundrum. As an entity that was clearly present, awesome, and fairly unique for a participant-organized non-profit, I do not think this was accidental or a side effect, but there is no evidence of a mind at work here either, not to the clearly holistic effort to include everyone. It just came into being

In this time of virtual events, I am now studying to be an ADHD coach. One of the key therapies to benefit those with ADHD and other neuro-diverse conditions is to build an environment that supports and accommodates the challenges that come with our wirings.

Looking at the SCA in this way: as an environment, we have created a distinctive culture that encourages nurturing and therapeutic safe spaces in the following ways:

Choosing a persona / Identity Reset

Every participant is invited to create a persona. The persona allows a participant to explore a time in period, a place in the known world, cultures, values, professions, and crafts. Allowing participants to create an alter ego can be liberating for people who have experienced trauma and/or anxiety, or who are in a process of transitioning to a more authentic version of themselves.

Guilds, households, and camps / Family Reset

There are many such groups in the society: guilds that encourage craftsmanship and practice, martial arts clubs that motivate members to achieve physical fitness, and local groups that offer companionship and support. Many participants create a found family in the SCA.

Pelican, Laurel, Knight / Parental Reset

There are many examples of excellence in the society. We acknowledge superb research, compassion, and physical excellence in many ways, but peerage comes with an ability and responsibility to teach. This creates a multitude of opportunities in the society to apprentice, squire, or become a protege.

Pennsic University, R.U.M., event classes / School Reset

This is interest-based education. Learn what interests you, leave if it doesn't

Dance & Combat / Nonverbal social engagement and interaction

This is huge for people who are not able to communicate verbally with any sort of ease. Putting your body into the communication process can add stability.

Arts and Sciences / artistic expression

Another way to speak without words. The way we celebrate creativity and artistry, even for beginners, is supportive and empowering. Everyone gets to be a little great.

An Award system that rewards personal excellence over perfection and competition.

In many SCA contests, judges measure against a universal rubric, instead of pitting participants against each other. This allows participants to focus on personal excellence over strategy or vanity. Research is treated like a marathon, and digging deep is a virtue, not a source of amusement. Awards and advancements put value on excellence as its own reward.

When members embrace a value of personal excellence, they find greater rewards within themselves, and a confidence that's better than any scroll, title or recognition. They advance and are begged to pay their lessons forward.

The SCA is by-no-means perfect. There are sometimes controversies over who gets to advance, and the Society has some ways to go to include Black and indigenous people of color. But with our unique ability to celebrate deep research, accommodate different abilities, and reward excellence outside a metric of competitiveness, I believe we're perfectly poised to achieve greater levels of inclusivity. There is a semi-conscious vector our society has developed to mend the chaotic environment we are raised in, that works with our adult selves to create a new more authentic self. In this artificial expression of time, we can proof-of-concept our true identity, eventually mending the one created in our youth.

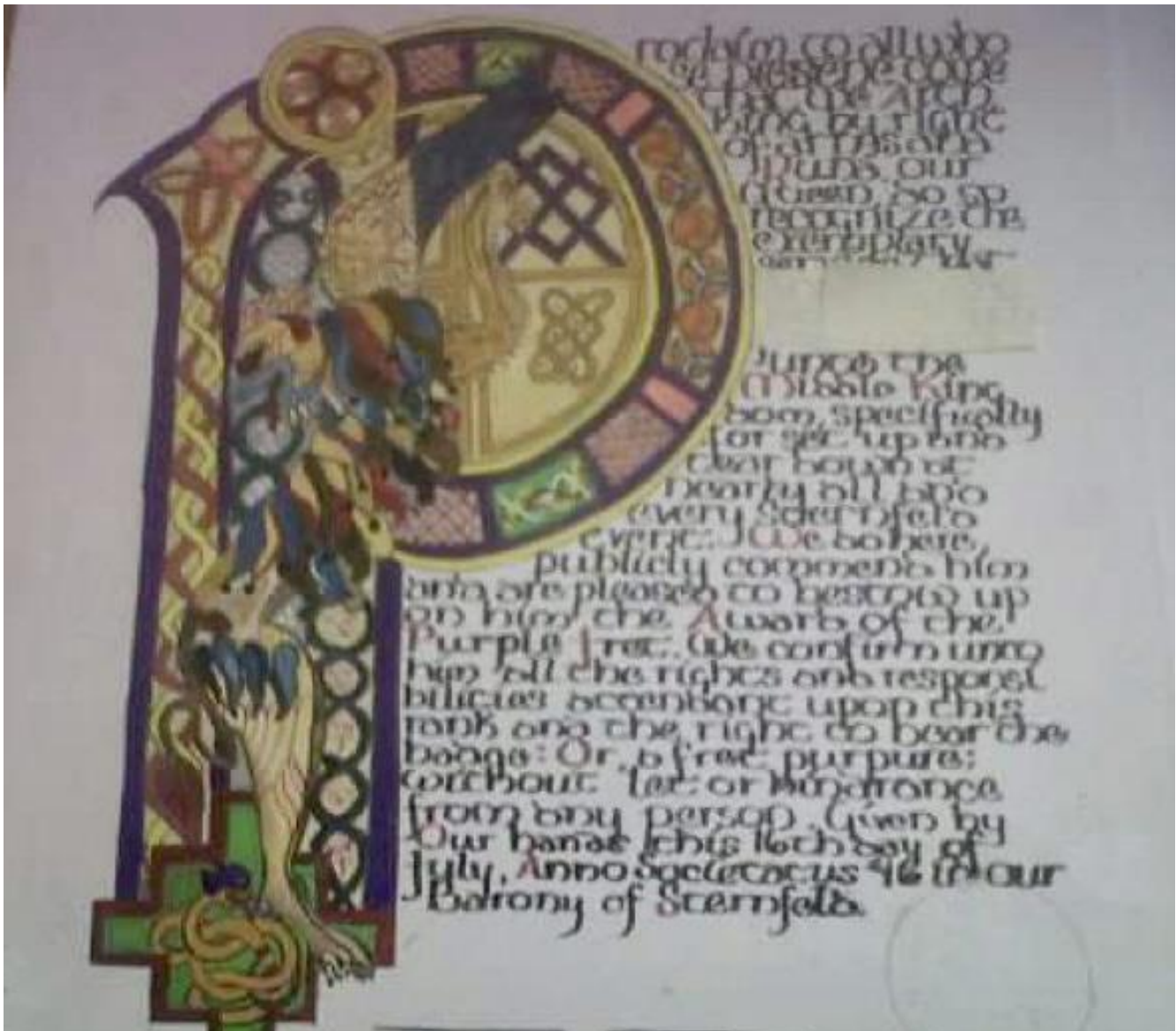
Dunstan would like to hear your comments on this. Please contact him with your thoughts at darclan28@yahoo.com and add the "superpower" to the subject line.



The Quill and Brush

The Quill and Brush

Featuring the original work of our talented and industrious scribes. If you would like a scroll of your creation featured here, please send a copy of an unawarded scroll (no calligraphy) or a completed scroll that has already been presented in court. Send submissions to ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org



Scroll created by Her Excellency Baroness Hillary of Longforde (Aggie Powell-Berger) and based on a page in The Book of Kells, 9th Century Ireland, Scotland, and England)

Ayreton Activities



Always check with the organizer of an activity before attending. **DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!** The best way to find updated info about Baronial Activities is to check out the Barony website (<https://ayreton.midrealm.org/>) or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/baronyofayreton>

Sunday

Silver Thimble Guild for Conspicuous Consumption

Contact Mistress Juliana – (773) 750.2180

Ayreton Authentic Cooking Guild (4th Sundays unless noted)

Contact: ayretoncooks@yahoo.com

Grey Gargoyles Fighter Practice

Contact: Lady Susanna – mickel14@att.net

Monday

Consort Music

Contact: Master Robyyan - (773) 764.1920

Tuesday

Rapier Fighter Practice in Glen Ellyn

Contact: Lord Tedesco - tedesco@ayreton.org

Wednesday

Court and Country Music Group

Contact: CourtAndCountry@gmail.com

Archery Practice

Contact: Forester Renzokuken of Ayreton ayreton.archery@midrealm.org

Vanished Wood Sewing Circle

Contact: Mistress Katherine – knwkfw@yahoo.com

Rapier Fighter Practice in Chicago

Contact: Kevin Purtell kpurtell@yahoo.com

Renaissance Dance

Contact: Rob Hicks darclan28@yahoo.com

Thursday

The Pippins – Madrigal and Early Music Singing Group

Contact: Mistress Gianetta – (312) 259.6688

Group Information for the Barony of Ayreton

The Barony of Ayreton (Chicagoland area)

Website: <https://ayreton.midrealm.org/>

Ayreton Seneschal: THL Evzenie Apolena Vitkovic (ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Foxvale (Aurora IL area)

Website: <https://foxvale.midrealm.org/>

Seneschal: THL Yamamura Kitsune (foxvale.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Grey Gargoyles (South Side of Chicago and Southeast Chicago Suburbs)

Website: <http://greygargoyles.midrealm.org/>

(greygargoyles.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Rokkehealden (Southwest Chicago Suburbs)

Website: <http://rokkehealden.midrealm.org/>

Seneschal: Lady AElfreda aet AEthelwealda (aelfreda6@gmail.com)

The Canton of Tree-Girt-Sea (North Side of Chicago)

Website: <http://treegirtsea.midrealm.org/>

Seneschal: Lady Lette de Cherselawe (treegirtsea.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Vanished Wood (Northwest Chicago Suburbs)

Website: <https://vanishedwood.midrealm.org/>

Seneschal: Mistress Acelina of Derelei (vanishedwood.seneschal@midrealm.org)

Ayreton Groups Online

Please note: this info is undergoing review. If you see any errors, please let the Chronicler know. *If your group has an online presence, let us know and we'll list it here!*

Barony of Ayreton: <https://www.facebook.com/baronyofayreton/>

The Barony of Ayreton is the name for the Chicago area within the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a non-profit historic research and educational organization devoted to the study and reenactment of past people and cultures, concentrating on pre- seventeenth century Europe during the Medieval, Middle-Ages, and Renaissance periods, and to reproduce the skills and arts of this era. This is in the Midlands region (Illinois) of the Middle Kingdom (Midrealm, the Great Lakes area of the Midwest of the United States). Go to <http://www.ayreton.org> and <http://www.sca.org> for more information.

Ayreton Archers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/118977078211315/>

This is a group to help spread information to the Ayreton Area Archers. Practice times are listed under the Calendar link. Shooting hints and tips are under the Files link.

Ayreton Brewers Guild: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/334422661748/>

This group is for all those gentles who wish to get together and pursue their interest in brewing and vintning. We are located in the Barony of Ayreton, in the Kingdom of the Midrealm. You do not need to be a member of the Barony to be a member of the group. Here we discuss all matters pertaining the brewing of ales, mead, wines or cordials. We share recipes and tips, support and encouragement. This list is also the primary method for the guild to plan and disseminate information about upcoming meetings and workshops. So, whether you are an expert brewer or complete beginner, come join us, ask questions, learn, teach and share your experiences with those around you.

Baronial Office Election Cycle

Office Title	Election Cycle	Next Election	Notes
Archery Marshall	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
Chatelaine	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Chronicler	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
Exchequer	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
Herald	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Knight Marshall	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
MoAS	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
Rapier Marshall	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Seneschal	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Thrown Weapons Marshall	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Webminister	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Youth Minister	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022

Upcoming Officer Reporting Schedule

Archery Marshal	March 1
Chatelaine	May 1
Chronicler	April 1
Exchequer	April 30
Herald	March 30
Knight's Marshal	March 1
MoAS	April 1
Baronial MoAS	April 15
Minister of Youth	April 15
Rapier Marshal	Feb 1
Equestrian Marshal	Feb 14
Seneschal	Feb 1
Baronial Seneschal	Feb 15

Calendar of Selected Events

Go to the Midrealm calendar at <https://midrealm.org/> for a complete list.



Baronial Officers

Baron: Master Gareth Ostwestly

(Jeff Berger)

ayreton.excellencies@midrealm.org

630-699-4987

Baroness: Banamhaighstir Hillary of Langeforde

(Aggie Powell-Berger)

ayreton.excellencies@midrealm.org

630-750-0965

Seneschal: The Honorable Lady Evzenie Apolena Vitkovic

(Peg Cook)

ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org

847-417-4978

Exchequer: Lady Matilda Ann Stevyn Slyfield

(Grace Strauss)

ayreton.exchequer@midrealm.org

630-803-4501

Minister of Arts & Sciences: Lord Balthazar the Painter

(Mark Stevens)

ayreton.moas@midrealm.org

Knights Marshal: Lord Zygarr

(Lucas Becker)

ayreton.marshal@midrealm.org

Archery Marshal: Forester Renzokuken of Ayreton

(Miguel Villa)

ayreton.rapier@midrealm.org

Rapier Marshal: Lady Anna Jokinen

(Jana Howson)

ayreton.rapier@midrealm.org

Thrown Weapons Marshal: Master Gailen Alric Ros

(Perry Dyer)

ayreton.thrownweapons@midrealm.org

Chatelaine: THL Yamamura Kitsune

(Keena Gray)

ayreton.chatelaine@midrealm.org

Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Philippa of Otterbourne

(Patrice Ribando)

ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

630-241-1908

Webminister: The Honorable Lord Dunstan Bramlette

(Rob Hicks)

ayreton.webminister@midrealm.org

773-512-1498

Herald: Mistress Nadezda ze Zastrisl

(Merril Miller)

ayreton.herald@midrealm.org

Signet: Mistress Heather Hall

(Heather Rocci)

ayreton.signet@midrealm.org

Minister of Youth: Lady Alys of Foxrose

(Amanda Stark)

ayreton.youth@midrealm.org

All clip art is free clip art from publicdomainvectors.org

Image of "Librarian Alexandria" from Creative Commons at
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fresco_showing_a_woman_so-called_Sappho_holding_writing_implements,_from_Pompeii,_Naples_National_Archaeological_Museum_\(14842101892\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fresco_showing_a_woman_so-called_Sappho_holding_writing_implements,_from_Pompeii,_Naples_National_Archaeological_Museum_(14842101892).jpg)

This is the July 2021 issue of the Zephyr, the official newsletter of the Barony of Ayreton, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

The Zephyr is published as a service to the membership of the SCA's Barony of Ayreton.

Subscriptions are free.

For a hard copy of this newsletter, please contact Patrice Ribando at ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

Copyright © 2021 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact Patrice Ribando at

ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece.

Please respect the legal rights

of our contributors.

