

## *A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 6/28/2020*

### **New Guidelines on SCA Gatherings**

A new missive has come from the Crown that upcoming gatherings resuming after July 1 must be limited to 10 people or fewer. Because of this limit, we have decided that it does not make sense to go forward with regular business meetings at this time.

However, after July 1, guilds and other SCA activities can once again occur and be discussed on the Baronial page. Any gatherings need to follow the guidelines put forth by the Kingdom, including the 10 person limit, and cannot include any martial or ranged activities.

It is up to the person hosting how they want to limit the gathering, and to provide the needed environment (hand washing or hand sanitizer, etc.). Each household contains a different amount of people who live in it, so the additional numbers will vary depending on who is sharing the space. Masks **MUST** be worn, and social distancing must be practiced. There should not be any shared food or drink. Any SCA gatherings must also use the required sign-in sheets and send them to [seneschal@cleftlands.org](mailto:seneschal@cleftlands.org) within 48 hours of the event for contact tracing if needed.

Here are the required forms to have an official gathering for guilds or other allowed SCA activities:

Required precautions (please post at any gatherings): <https://library.midrealm.org/mdocs-posts/guide-meetings-required-precautions/>

Required attendance form: <https://library.midrealm.org/mdocs-posts/form-meeting-attendance-form/>

When we receive additional guidance from the Crown, we will take that into account for future gatherings and be sure to let everyone know.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Their Excellencies or the Seneschal, Lady Claricia de la Mere, ([seneschal@cleftlands.org](mailto:seneschal@cleftlands.org)).



## **News & Events**

### **Baronial News**

- If you haven't watched the meeting from June 24, please do: <https://youtu.be/4x96dG9Jd3w>
- Their Excellencies are looking for people to create or share virtual classes in areas such as: women in history; women in European history; diversity of cultures that traveled to Europe; people of color in history; people of color in European history; South American/African/Asian/Native American cultures pre-17th century; LGBTQIA people in history; LGBTQIA people in European history; people with disabilities in history; people with disabilities in European history; or additional topics on diversity. Please contact them with your ideas.
- Please welcome the Lord Rojhon the Wanderer as our new Minister of Youth. He will be stepping up on July 15. We thank Lady Zofia for her years of service!

### **SCA News** -

- Try the SCA Magnificently Awesome Scavenger Hunt: <https://www.facebook.com/events/590610531587536/>
- SCA At Home Highlights #11 - <https://www.sca.org/news/scaathome-highlights-11>
- See ALL the events at the Known World Entertainment Guide - <https://tinyurl.com/ybkqmygw>

### **Fun Links** -

- Super detailed map of medieval trade routes (to help show how cultures interacted) - zoom in and check them out! - <https://easyzoom.com/imageaccess/ec482e04c2b240d4969c14156bb6836f>

## From the Minister of Arts & Sciences -



- **Two challenges for June - you have until the end of the month now!**  
June Cooks Challenge: Cooking Over Fire: Try cooking something NEW over a wood or charcoal fire.  
June A&S Challenge: Heraldry in Any Medium: A heraldic display.
- **The challenge for July will be starting your Pennsic 49 project.** This is the month we always start a project for Pennsic at the last minute, and in honor of that tradition, we ask you to share your projects with us. You don't have to finish them, after all, you've got another year to **procrastinate!**
- Calum is hosting Virtual Armorer's Guild meetings every Thursday via Zoom - **please use the updated link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487>; or contact [Calum@wowway.com](mailto:Calum@wowway.com)
- Info for virtual guild meetings can be found as events on the Baronial FB page or on the Baronial website's calendar.
- Don't forget, the RUM classes are ongoing, and there are many, many other classes and events being made available virtually, from all over our kingdom, and the Knowne World. Connect with friends and strangers over a shared interest!

[Virtual Classes for the Week of June 28 through July 5](https://www.facebook.com/royaluniversityofthemidrealm/) - <https://www.facebook.com/royaluniversityofthemidrealm/>

- **There are no classes scheduled for the coming week. July will feature classes on OSaM (pronounced awesome); Officers, Stewards and Ministers. Classes will run Sunday-Wednesday. Please see the current planned offerings here (especially if you are, or want to be an officer, or run an event!):**  
<https://www.facebook.com/royaluniversityofthemidrealm/photos/rpp.147891028019/10157584262653020/?type=3&theater>
- **There will also be Pennsic classes! See the YouTube channel during Pennsic times: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcPqyAoBz-iFNF3T-kQt0eQ?fbclid=IwAR04jXgPb4hc2f-boeA1--9wJDu0YF5Jx6iGvFaj4Ik0qdjJUZ4IYFKw2XKQ>**

## How is a Bard?

*By Ollamh Brendan O Corraidhe, OL*

We've looked at the "what" and "why" of being a bard. Now let's look at "how." Specifically, how do you tell a story WELL? (We can talk about music and poetry another time. EVERYBODY tells stories.) In the "Harry Potter" books, one of the professors is a ghost who died in the middle of a droning lecture - no one noticed, not even him. But we've all heard REALLY GOOD storytellers who kept us on the edge of our seat. What's the secret?

### 1. Don't memorize your story.

Memorizing prose is HARD. If you forget ONE WORD, you're toast. Why do you think we have rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, and melody? A written story is written for the eye, not the ear. When it is read aloud, it sounds stilted. True, in certain times and places, reading stories aloud was A Thing. But for most SCA bardic stuff, you want to TELL the story.

Some say, "Oh, just learn the basics and tell it off-the-cuff." Not a great idea. You're a modern person, used to using modern language, and if you go this route, you WILL drop in modern turns of phrase.

"So Arthur goes, 'Check it out, man!' And Lancelot's all like, 'No way, dude!'"

*Continued on page 4.*

**Armored:** Duke Eik's Zen  
and the SCA Warrior #2

<https://www.facebook.com/eikbrandr.solgyafi/videos/3302475983105535/>

### Call for Content

We want to make sure there's a central place to get information and see posts that might get buried, or resources that might not be shared.

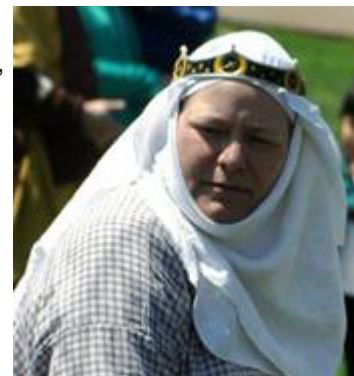
If you have info to share - an upcoming virtual gathering, activity ideas, or a great website, please contact me: [clariciadlm@gmail.com](mailto:clariciadlm@gmail.com).

Thank you and stay well!

## 5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Meet the Officers: Baroness Angharad ferch Tangwystl, Minister of Arts & Sciences (mka Elizabeth Estep) (she/her)

### 1.) What is the first SCA event you remember?

My junior year, a high school friend invited me to meet up with a friend of hers attending this "medieval thing." I pulled together a very primitive outfit the night before. Her dad dropped us off at Church of the Holy Oil Can in the morning. We had just enough money for site and feast, so we didn't even have lunch, but we did have a great time wandering around and watching everything. Her friend never made it. We wound up feasting on rabbits (and other things, but the rabbits were memorable) with a couple of tiny pen knives she happened to have off Styrofoam plates. Then I went away to college. Several years after I returned to Cleftlands I discovered that a) that event was probably the coronation of Alen and Genevieve in October 1983, b) there is no Order of the Penguin, and c) don't roast your rabbits lying on their backs unless you actually want them to look like that. Memory may have failed in the details, but clearly that day left a mark.



### 2.) Apart from your office, what are your 2 main SCA activities?

Period cookery, reading about period cookery, planning feasts, and trying to find something interesting for the Cook's Guild to work on. This, I suspect, is not a surprise. Also, for years, dancing. There's been much less in the last (mumblety) years, but I'd love to change that.

### 3.) What are you most proud of having done in the SCA?

Starting the Cook's Challenges. I've been really impressed to see the things people have come up with, and I'm proud to have started that up.

### 4.) What SCA activity would you like to try?

I'm learning calligraphy. I've done three scrolls in 2020 that were actually awarded (one Baronial and two Kingdom) but I'd really like to be better. I'd also like to get involved in organizing the A&S Faire and other Kingdom A&S Activities. The Faire has improved immensely since I first joined. Between that and the ToA, the Craftpersons Display, and the like, the Kingdom now really has good ways for people to share their work and connect to others in their areas of interest. I'm really impressed by what the RUM team is doing during this shutdown.

### 5.) What's your favorite period food (or top 3)?

- Douce Ame as made by Master Aiden, preferably over rice.
- Nearly any dariole, crustarde, or milk pie. (I adore all custards.)
- Whatever I'm currently reading about but haven't made yet.

## From the Knights' Marshal

Reminder that with the Midrealm's change to not requiring membership, all fighters have to submit an individual waiver in order for their authorizations and martial status to be valid. Look yourself up in the Midrealm Authorization Database (<https://marshaldb.midrealm.org/authorization.html>) to see your waiver status in the upper right hand corner. Complete the waiver form at <https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/adltwaiv.pdf>. It gets sent to the clerk of the roster ([rosterclerk@midrealm.org](mailto:rosterclerk@midrealm.org)).



## How is a Bard? - continued

You might not even notice. But your audience WILL. And it will yank them right back into the modern world. (Doing Beowulf entirely in bro-speak is a different - and thoroughly hilarious – thing at the right time and place. More on times and places in the next installment.)

So LEARN the story by TELLING IT over and over and over and over, and PAYING ATTENTION to yourself as you tell it. The goal is to focus your ATTENTION with INTENTION. And that brings us to....

### 2. Word-smith it!

As you tell the story, you'll find certain turns of phrase that really work for you. So repeat them over and over to lock them into your mouth muscles (more on that in a moment). Make it easy to say. Tongue-twisters are a challenge because they are hard to say. Great for warm-ups. Lousy for actual storytelling. So use things like alliteration and vowel-rhyme – it makes stuff easier to say! Try saying this out loud: "Who knows what assaults you might have suffered as you slumbered?" Those S sounds just slip and slither off the tongue, don't they? (Plus, they sound scary and sinister, as they should.)

Use words that have the emotional impact – and the RIGHT emotional impact. A very strong character in one of my tales happens to be a princess. But I can't call her a princess, can I? Why not? \*teacher pause\*... What INSTANTLY comes to mind when I say the word, "Princess"? \*teacher pause\*... Disney, yes? Pink, purple, sparkles, amiright? NOT the image I want to instantly pop into my listener's heads. So how about, "A king's daughter?" Say that out loud. One more time. It goes BLOP on the floor, right? "DAUghterr...". But. Turn. The. Words. Around. "Daughter of a king." Say it out loud. "DAUghter of a KING." Shout it while stomping your feet in rhythm. "DAUgh-ter! of a KING!" Drums: BAH-bum! Bah-bah-BUM! "DAUghter! of a KING!" That's a war chant.

Use foreshadowing and repetition. They don't just work for little kids. "Then the [Little / Middle / Big] Billy Goat Gruff crossed the bridge, klompity klompity klompity."

Show, don't tell. Act it out. Move around. (MANY thanks to THL Julianne Beachamp for her class on movement! It took my performances up a notch.) Use facial expressions. If you can do character voices, do character voices, even if it's just pitching !!squeaky up!! for a wee little mouse and \*\*GROWLY DOWN\*\* for a Big Black Bear. Look THIS way for THIS character, and THAT way for THAT character. Finally...

### 3. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

There is no substitute. Your voice is produced by muscles and bones moving in a certain pattern. The more times you move them in that pattern, the more used to it they become. It's the same for tennis, golf, martial arts, playing a musical instrument. Practice makes better.

So tell the story over and over and over. And over again. Tell it to your cats, tell it to the laundry and the dishes. Do it in bits and pieces, a line or section at a time, and word-smith the turns of phrase that you think work, so that your mouth is used to making those sounds in sequence. I'll easily spend an hour on one sentence to get it right. "Winter melted into spring, spring blossomed into summer, summer ripened into fall." "The al-Moribitun, who defeated King Alfonso at the Battle of al-Fallakah, where the field was slick with blood." (Note: The field wasn't "slippery." "Slippery" is a funny word. "Traacherous" would work, but it's a mouthful to say. "Slick" is dangerous. It's a slip on the ice that hurts. It's a knife slash. Choose words that have impact.)

When I'm thoroughly sick of hearing myself tell the story, I figure it's about ready to bring out in public.

### This Week in History

June 29 1613 - London's Globe Theater, known now for Shakespearean performances, burns to the ground.

June 30 1559 - King Henry II of France is mortally wounded in a jousting match.

July 1 1520 - Hernán Cortés and a group of Spanish conquistadors fight their way out of Tenochtitlan.

July 2 626 - The future Emperor Taizong of Tang, Li Shimin, ambushes and kills his rival brothers.

July 3 987 - Hugh Capet becomes King of France, the first of the Capetian dynasty that rules France until 1792.

July 4 1187 - At the Battle of Hattin during the Crusades Saladin defeats Guy of Lusignan, King of Jerusalem.

July 5 1057 - Al-Ghazali is born, a Persian who was one of the most influential philosophers of Sunni Islam.



## Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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## Upcoming Events

- Please note that all official Middle Kingdom events, practices, meetings, and gatherings are canceled through June 30, 2020.
- Thursday, July 2 - Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487>

*This is a publication of the Barony of the Cleftlands, part of the Middle Kingdom of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.. This is the June 28, 2020 issue of Internebbles, a publication of the Barony of the Cleftlands of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). Internebbles is edited by and available from Karin Strippel (clariciadm@gmail.com). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2020 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.*