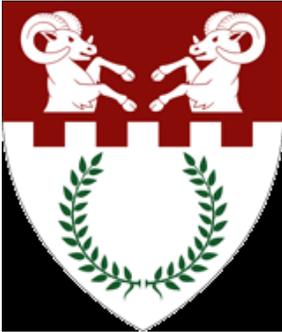


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Ramshaven Herald

A.S. XLXVI May 2011

~~April~~ May Showers bring....
um...yeah

Baronial site
Online group
Bryniau Tywynnog
Der Welfengau
Kingdom of Ealdormere
Upcoming Events

[Http://ealdormere.ca/ramshaven](http://ealdormere.ca/ramshaven)
[Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Ramshaven)
[Http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau](http://www.treheim.ca/bryniau)
[Http://dw.sca.gamv.ca](http://dw.sca.gamv.ca)
[Www.ealdormere.ca](http://www.ealdormere.ca)
[Www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php](http://www.ealdormere.ca/listcalendar.php)

On the threshold of Summer...

Suddenly, Pennsic is nigh upon us. FITP was a blast, bringing to us several new friends. FOOL, another fantastic foray into the practical arts and a great way to hone skills or learn new ones, heralds our summer season. We're already seeing more fighters out on Thursdays, and at each of our homes our thoughts increasingly turn to sunshine – as in where, oh where is it? This year on July 9th, we'll have a new event to add to our calendars: MAG, 'Middle Ages on the Green'. It is a demo/event in Waterloo Park we hope will encourage more local friends to join us in our endeavour to portray our favourite past-time!

My Dear Gentles, I, for one, am looking forward to this busy season!



Speaking of Practical Art...

The recent spectacle at the Coronation of Aaron and Rustique and the lip-smacking delights presented at the feast are fine proofs for our love of craft and creativity, all the while in great company!

Stewed Pork with Prunes and Pears

A recipe provided to us by Mistress Rylyn...just for such an occasion!

Serves 8

1 Tbsp butter
1 tbsp oil
2 lbs pork (cubed)

1 large onion
3 cloves of garlic
1/2 cup flour (use breadcrumbs for an even more period recipe)
1/3 c apple cider vinegar
1 bottle of beer
1-1/2 Tbsp Dijon mustard
1 tsp coriander
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp salt
1-1/4 cups total diced prunes and pears

In a dutch oven, heat the oil and butter. Brown the pork, in batches if needed. Remove with a slotted spoon.

Add onions and garlic and cook until tender, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes. Add the flour and stir for 1 minute. Mix in the broth, vinegar, beer, mustard, and spices and bring to a boil. Return the pork and any juices to the dutch oven. Stir in the dried fruit. Decrease the heat to medium low, cover and cook for 1 to 2 hours. If the mixture has not thickened in one hour, remove the lid to help thicken it.

Natural Dye: growing and harvesting plants

Now is the time to be thinking about natural dyeing possibilities. Many plants which give wonderful colours are grown easily in gardens, large planters or even harvested from the side of roads or fallow fields and lots. Some of these plants need to be started from seed in the early spring or are often available from garden centres. If you have a garden and space is not an issue, then there are many plants you can plant. Woad, Weld, Madder, Dyer's Greenweed, Yellow Bedstraw, Golden Marguerite and Hollyhocks are only a few of the dye plants available for planting in larger spaces.

When only smaller spaces are available, there are still many plants you can use. Dyer's Coreopsis is an annual plant well suited to planters and small spaces, as are Marigolds and Pansies. Purple Basil, Cosmos, Zinnias and Dahlias (especially deep red ones) can also be grown in pots and used for dyeing. Woad has a fairly deep root system but with the right pot and regular watering, it might be grown in containers too.

Available in most areas are plants like Dandelions. Collect the flowers in the early spring. They freeze well until you have time to use them. The flowers from Queen Anne's Lace, Goldenrod, Tansy or Yarrow are also good dye plants. Curly or Flat Dock can be used in its entirety. The seeds will give one colour, the leaves a second colour and the roots a third. Ask a farmer if you can take the dock on the edge of the field and he'll hand you a shovel! There are a few things to remember about harvesting plants from the wild. The most important is to not take all the plants or flowers from an area. For sustainability, take only 1 in every 7 or 8 flowers. Secondly, those flowers will have an amazing variety of bugs on them. Shake well and leave outside before using or do your dyeing outside.

Colours of plants using Alum as a mordant

Plant	Colour
Dandelion	Yellow
Goldenrod	Golden yellow
Tansy	Bright yellow
Coreopsis	Yellow
Madder	Reds, Rusts, Orange
Ferns	Soft greens
Walnut husks	Brown

Queen Anne's Lace	Yellows / chartreuse
Marigold	Yellowy brown
Dyer's Coreopsis	Oranges and rusts
Woad	Blue
Pansies	Sage green / tan
Yarrow	Yellow
Hollyhock	Tans, pinks

Books with great natural dyeing instruction:

A Dyer's Garden: From Plant to Pot - Rita Buchanan
 Wild Colour – Jenny Dean
 Indigo, Madder and Marigold – Trudy van Stralen

--Lady Odette de Saint Remy

Presenting...

Our Baronial Herald, Keegan Pyette, better known to us as Dietrich von Sachsen!

Keegan is a recent graduate from the University of Waterloo, with an honours baccalaureate in History. Congratulations, Keegan! While his family home is in Flamborough, his first SCA involvement was in Rising Waters, before settling in with us in Bryniau. His older sister is currently in her third year in the Medieval Studies program at Brock University.

Dietrich von Sachsen, is, well, from Saxony. His story begins in Dresden, the third son of a minor lord. As such, he left for Prussia to join the Teutonic Order, between the 1270's and 1280's. During the first Prussian uprising, Dietrich survived a massacre on the Oda River, floating along until finally picked up by some Ealdormerean fishermen in the Baltic Sea. Fancy that, waking up half-way to Ealdormere! Having already earned the Guidon de Sanguie, he most recently earned his Award of Arms.



Smile!!

This is the May 2011 issue of the 'Ramshaven Herald', a publication of the Barony of Ramshaven of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Herald is available from Erhard Kruger. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2011 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. If an article appears that shouldn't, please accept apologies!