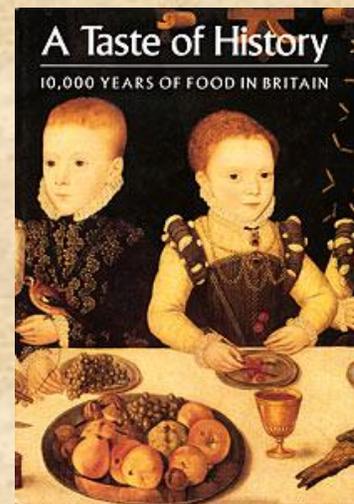
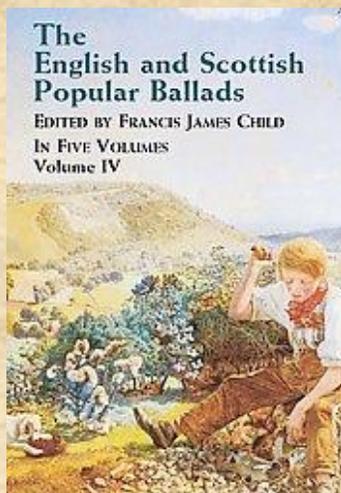
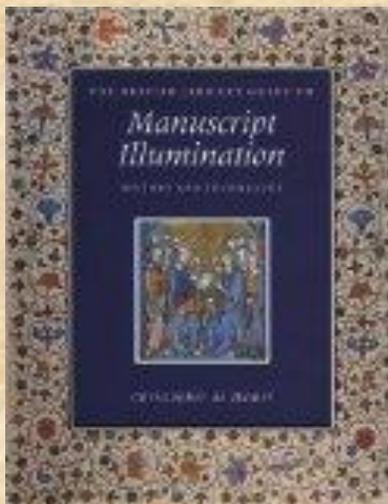
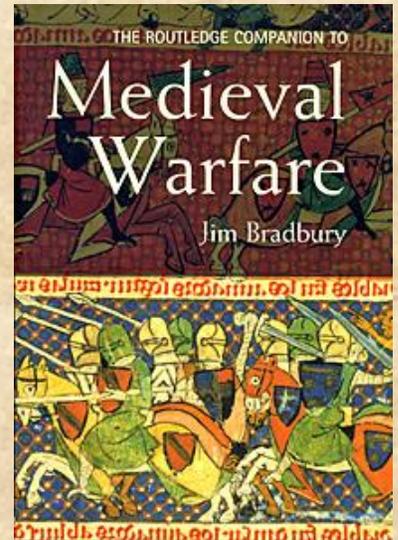
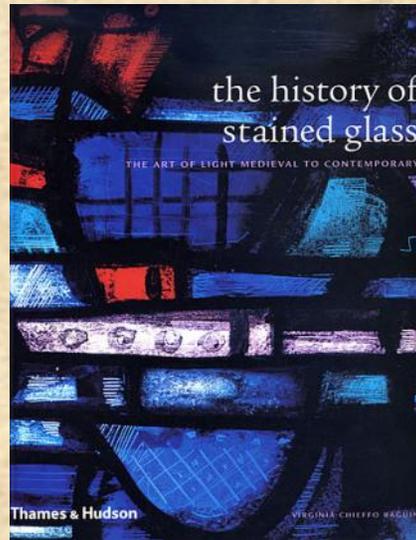
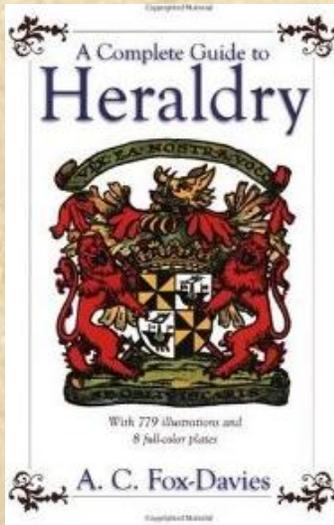
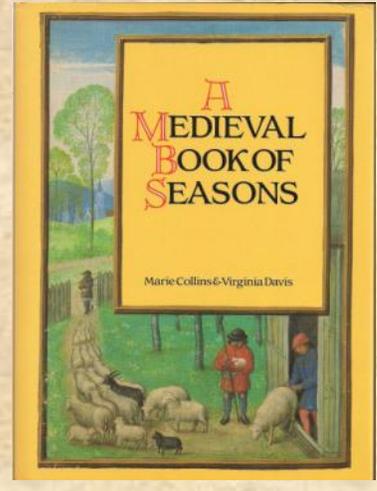
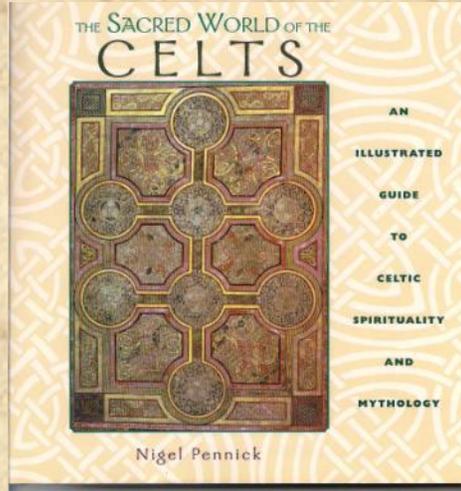
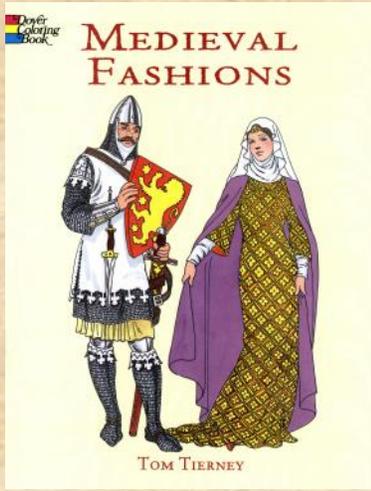


The Bard's Banner

Spring
AS XLV



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY...?

The Bard's Banner; Volume 1, Issue 6

Winter AS XLV (2010)

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You can also see more about us at our website!
<http://tirbannog.tirrigh.org>

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The *Bard's Banner* is published (hopefully) 4 times per year, on a seasonal schedule. It is a publication of the Shire of Tir Bannog, in the Principality of Tir Righ, Kingdom of An Tir, of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the SCA, nor does it delineate SCA policy.

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This publication shall recognize those that submit articles, photos, etc. You won't be paid for your submission, but you will have the thanks of myself and our readers.

If you find you need to contact me over something herein, please send an email to: kj4mill@telus.net

Lastly, this publication is meant for the enjoyment of all; share it amongst yourselves and your friends. At the end of the day, if I've made someone smile, I've done my job.

-Piers Lakewood (Kevin Miller)

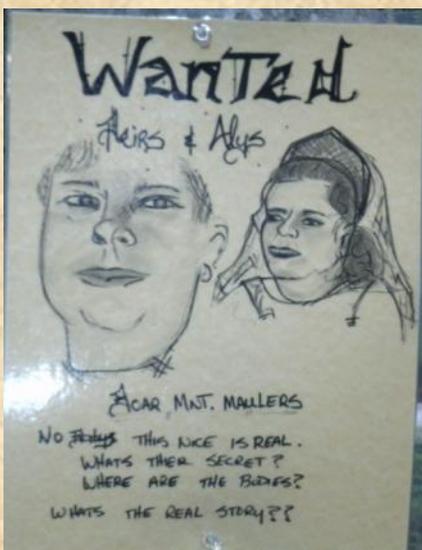
WELCOME!

Hail and well met, fellow travelers! Welcome to this, our seventh issue of the Banner. It has been a long, snowy winter in the North; so much so, in fact, that we hardly left the comfort of our home! However, whilst we were cooped up in our homes, keeping warm by the fire, we kept our minds occupied with reading. Thus, you'll see that this issue's focus is on books: books for enjoyment, books for research, books for history and books on the arts & sciences.

Lady Alys and HL Tewel regale us with their reviews of certain books for pleasure and information, while HL Wlfryd gives us a short report on World Literacy Day in Cae Mor. I report in on a demonstration given to the Girl Guides of Smithers, and following that is a piece on finding information for persona building that isn't aimed at the Internet! Lastly, a selection of books is given for those looking at the Arts & Sciences, covering a variety of subjects.

And as the season begins to change and the light from the sun blesses us with longer days, we'll return to the fields and roads to travel and report once again. In the meantime, though, I hope you enjoy our issue on books, and perhaps a seed will be planted in your mind that will come to fruition when next the winter winds blow...

-Piers Lakewood, Editor



Artists rendition of the Editor and his better half... (wanted sign? What wanted sign?)

CAE MOR SUPPORTS WORLD LITERACY DAY

By Wlfryd of Leedes

The Shire of Cae Mor once again supported World Literacy Day. On January 27 two members of the Shire of Cae Mor participated in World Literacy Day at Mount Elizabeth Secondary in Kitimat. As we have in the past the members donned garb, set up a table with a display of medieval games and some armour and weapons, and interacted with members of the community.

During the Literacy Day activities about 40 to 50 interested people stopped by the table to either play some of the games or ask questions about the armour or weapons. This annual event has been growing in the last few years and has expanded to a point where a new venue had to be found.

Although we were not asked to read at this years event, as we have in the past, the Literacy Day activities were a success, not only to encourage reading and literacy but to increase visibility of the Shire of Cae Mor in the community.

GIRL GUIDES DEMO DAY

On the 22nd of January a small cadre of Tir Ban-nogians made their way to Smithers to help educate and entertain the local girl guides troupe. They were having a medieval themed day, and as we were in the (geographical) neighborhood, we were contacted and asked if we would be willing to come and "do our thing." Always happy to oblige another organization, the call went out amongst the Shire, and five of us arrived in Smithers just before noon.



(Betha, Tawl, Piers, Alys & Josephine: the Dramatis Personae)

After a brief introduction by those in charge, each Tir Bannog member presented him or herself to the audience (young girls ranging from ages 6 to 16) and gave a brief history of their persona. Once this was done, the girls gathered back into their prearranged groups, and we ran them through a series of stations.

gave a brief history of Illumination, then had the girls paint a simple Celtic knot, and HL Betha kept things running smoothly between stations. Overall, this portion of our demonstration went over very well.



(Lady Alys and her Heraldry Design Kit)

As the tables were cleared away, Tawl, Alys and I donned our rapier equipment, were inspected by Betha and Josephine, and were ready to start phase 2 of our demonstration. While Betha marshaled and explained what we were doing, Tawl and I took center stage to model rapier combat.



(HL Josephine: storyteller and oracle)

HL Tawl taught them about medieval games of skill and chance; HL Josephine ran a questions and answers station for the girls; Lady Alys explained about Heraldry with her "hands on" Heraldry design kit, I



(Ready for combat!)

Tournament etiquette, the "Hold!" command and the concepts of honour and chivalry were talked about while we fought, as well as the types of attacks and killing blows. Once these rapier basics were covered, it was time to fight for real, and Alys, Tawl and I took part in a mini-bear pit to show them the speed of true rapier combat.

When the final bear pit fight was over, we invited the audience to ask any questions they might have about our combat presentation. We were queried about our fighting outfits, our masks, and the differences between our weapons and off hand choices. A large number of the girls were curious about what the blades looked like under the tape, so Alys removed the blunt from her dagger to show that no, it really wasn't sharp at the end. I think our favorite question came from a younger member of the audience. Referring back to the combat, wherein I had taken both of Alys' arms, the girl asked, "Why didn't you kick him?"



(Lady Alys explains that no, you can't kick your opponent, which is why she received the knife to the throat...)

Finally we had to wrap up "question period" and say our goodbyes. One ovation later and we were packing up our things while the girl guides organized the gym for lunch. We were thanked once again by the ladies in charge (who were especially pleased by how we managed to entertain and keep the interest of such a diverse age range of girls), and we gave our thanks for inviting us to share in their day. Our only regret was that none of the Heavy fighters were able to make it.



(HL Tawl teaching an attentive group)

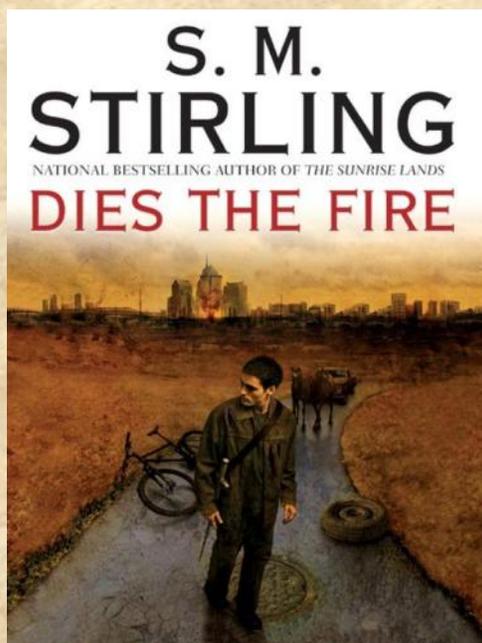
So it was that, flush with the good feeling of a job well done, the five of us left the gathering, said our own goodbyes and made our separate ways home.



(Getting more gouache ready for the eager painters...)

FROM LADY ALYS' LIBRARY

Dies the Fire, by S.M. Stirling



We were in a used book store last summer, chatting with the owner about book interests. After some conversation about books, and hobbies, he asked if we were involved with the SCA. Why yes, we were! The owner replied that he knew of a book that SCA types consistently seemed to enjoy...

The premise of the story is that an electro-magnetic like impulse knocks out all the technologies that feed our current way of life: combustion and steam engines, electricity and electronics. Cars stop, airplanes fall from the sky, everything high tech is gone and the world is thrown back into medieval times... with a twist.

The story follows three charismatic personalities who recognize the shift in "the ways things are" and take charge of groups of people to create three very

different communities. As the communities develop, they begin to interact, and develop alliances and rivalries. All three communities struggle with the very medieval problems of farming, plague, limited communication and warfare. So how does this relate to the SCA?

In all three communities, members of the SCA figure prominently. They bring their knowledge of combat arts, armouring basics, spinning, weaving, cooking and medieval life to their communities to help ease the new struggles of survival. The debris of modern life is salvaged to create medieval items.

Car springs become sword blades. Barbed wire fencing becomes chainmail, and other items also receive new life under the new reality.

While there are a number of "stretching credibility" situations in the book (the SCA knight who just happens to have a day job as a parks and recreation employee, where there just happens to be a "pioneer living history" exhibit on when the change happens), this is the story of the successful survivors. I enjoyed the story of modern knowledge applied to a medieval situation, enough to re-read the book several times.

On a cautionary note, this book is the first of a series, and while I would recommend this book and the next two in the series (A Meeting at Corvallis, The Protector's War), I found that subsequent books became very fantastic with God-like heroes and unbelievable foes.

-Alys Lakewood

FINDING YOUR ART

So, here you are: you finally decided to show up at one of your Shire's "A&S Days," just to see what all the fuss is about in the non-combat arts. As you chat with your colleagues and watch them building, painting and working, you start to ask questions about their projects, and before you know it, you're hooked.

Hmmm, you think, some of this stuff looks like it would be pretty cool to do. Still, you don't have a lot of free time these days, and everyone here seems to be making something different. Where would you even start? *Maybe*, you think to yourself, *I'd better do some research on what I really want to learn first...*

And from that first step, a whole new world of Arts & Sciences will open before your eyes. Perhaps you'll want to craft yourself some armour, leather or maybe even plate. And that beautiful award you received; wouldn't it be cool to paint those to be handed out to others? You've always had a nice voice... maybe now's the time to look up some old songs to sing at events and Bardic circles? Or you might just want to read and write about historical battles, to try and share your love of medieval warfare with your group.

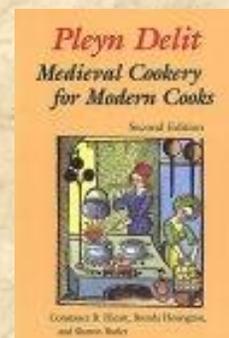
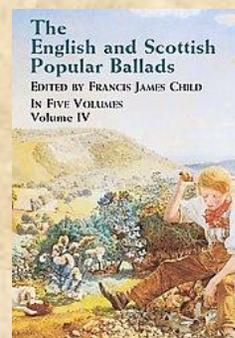
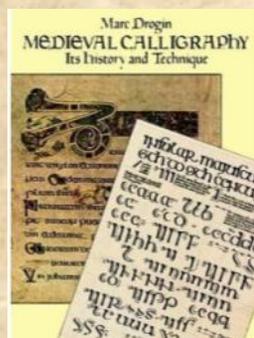
Wherever that first step takes you, what follows is a small list of starter books that may help you on your journey. This is by no means exhaustive, and merely represents the ones Lady Alys and myself have used (or heard about).

A SELECTION OF BEGINNING BOOKS

(on a variety of topics)

Calligraphy:

- The Art of Calligraphy: a practical guide to the skills and techniques, by David Harris
- Calligraphy of the Middle Ages and How to do it, by Marc Drogin



Cooking:

- Pleyn Delit: Medieval Cookery for Modern Cooks, by Constance B. Hieatt, Brenda Hosington, Sharon Butler
- Seven Centuries of English Cooking: a collection of recipes, by Maxime de la Falaise

Bardic:

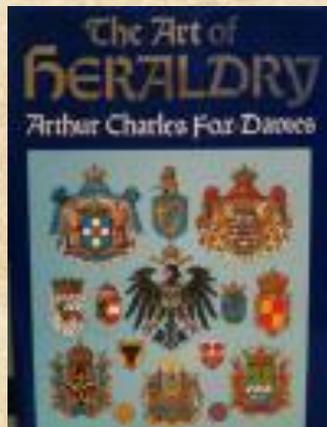
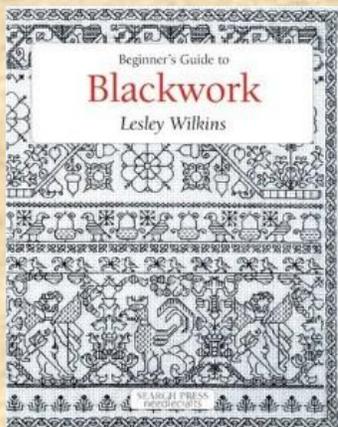
- The English and Scottish Popular Ballads, edited by Francis James Child, in Five Volumes (Vol. 1—5)
- The Prose Edda, by Snorri Sturluson

Spinning/Weaving:

- The Whole Craft of Spinning: from the Raw Material to the Finished Yarn, by Carol Kroll
- Spinning in the Old Way, by Priscilla A. Gibson-Roberts
- Inkle Weaving, by Helene Bress

Miscellaneous:

- The British Library Guide to Manuscript Illumination: History and Techniques, by Christopher de Hamel
- Beginner's Guide to Blackwork, by Lesley Wilkins
- The Art of Blacksmithing, by Alex W. Bealer
- Stained Glass: the art of Stained & Painted Glass, by Alfred Werck
- Historic English Costumes and How to Make Them, by Talbot Hughes
- A Complete Guide to Heraldry, by Arthur Charles Fox-Davies



Also of note, the curious can check out back issues of *The Compleat Anachronist*, which is published quarterly by the SCA, Inc. The *Anachronist* often contains detailed information regarding various A&S projects, and their collection of back issues is worth looking at; you can find them in the marketplace at www.sca.org.

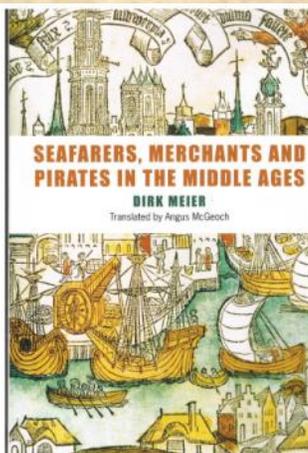
Another excellent resource for the medieval warfare enthusiast is Osprey Publishing, which you can find at <http://www.ospreypublishing.com>. They publish a number of series ranging from specific battles to

the recruitment, training and battle usage of individual warriors. I highly recommend them. And with that, Alys and I hope that somewhere in this collection your interest has been piqued, and you'll give something new a try. At its worst, you'll decide the Arts & Sciences are not for you; at its best, you'll find a satisfying hobby to occupy your spare time for life...

THE BOOK NOOK

By Tewel Gover

Seafarers, Merchants and Pirates in the Middle Ages
by Dirk Meier

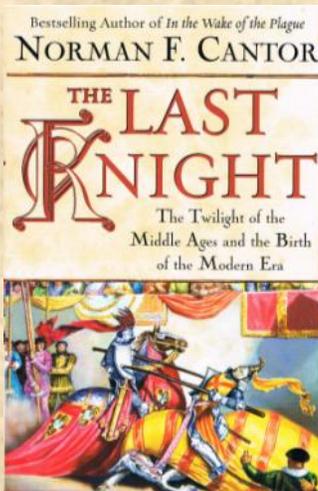


An interesting book that details the advances of ships, exploration, trade and naval conflict in Northern Europe. Well researched, there are innumerable quotes and pictures to support the extensive material presented.

Among other things it shows how advances in ship building allowed trade from Russia to North America and gave rise to trade guilds and piracy.

There is a lot of information on trade routes, pirate organizations, merchant leagues, and how these changed not only the societies but even the building of cities. There are five pages listing additional reading. This book will be beneficial to anyone who's persona has naval connections, especially for Norse seafarers.

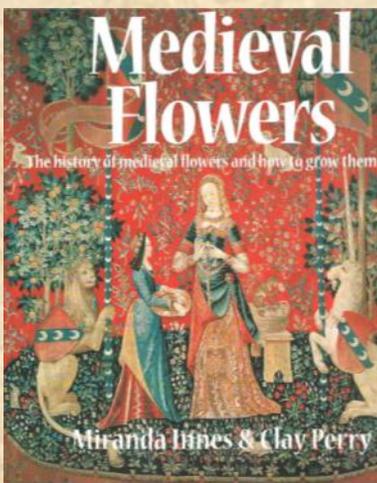
The Last Knight by Norman F. Cantor



The story of John of Gaunt and the transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. John of Gaunt lived from 1340 to 1399 and this book shows in fine detail how he lived, was educated and influenced not just England but all of Europe.

The author includes a rich helping of popular beliefs and sources to bring the time to life. Using examples as far ranging as the second world war to help explain the military action that helped create the vast fortune that John of Gaunt controlled is just one aspect of the light touch the author uses to convey the wealth of detail. An enjoyable read that will surprise you with how much you are learning.

Medieval Flowers by Miranda Innes & Clay Perry



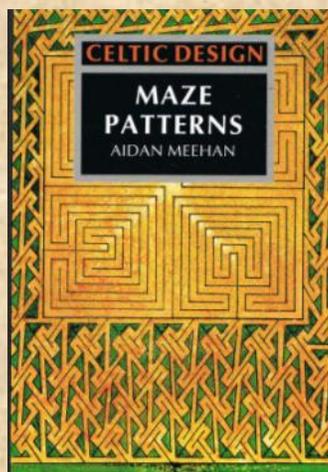
This is almost a coffee table book as the photos and artwork could tie up hours on their own. But this is so much more. The flowers are first divided into seasons with historical uses and preparation. With excerpts from period literature and

manuals adding to the modern information, you are almost overwhelmed.

Then there are sections on some medieval gardens to visit in England and France and how to make

your own. Again the pictures are beautiful and there is lots of information. This is followed by a listing of the flowers to grow in your garden and how to grow them. I would have liked to see more on the uses of the flowers but this is still a beautiful and informative book that will help you get started with your own medieval garden.

Celtic Design Maze Patterns by Aidan Meehan



One of the Vancouver author's series on Celtic knotwork patterns, this book goes into the meanings behind some of the mazes and artwork of the early Celts. Although richly illustrated this is less a how-to book than the other books. The designs showed up in everything

from artwork to burial mounds and the meanings behind them are explained in fascinating detail.

On the practical side are indications of the effects of shading and offset in creating interesting and beautiful Celtic designs of your own. In various places you are urged to try making your own freehand patterns, but I feel the real strength of this book is the explanation of the symbolism behind the patterns.

UPCOMING EVENTS.

May Champions (Cold Keep):

May 13th to 15th, 2011, Miworth Community Hall

Go to <http://www.avacal-sca.org/coldkeep/> to keep up to date on event scheduling.

Avacal June Coronet (Cold Keep):

Friday, June 3 at 4:00pm - June 5 at 12:00pm

11075 Hedlund Rd, Prince George, BC

My Lords and Ladies, Their Highnesses Prince Aiden ap Grendal and Princess Issabella Kendal invite you to join them in the Shire of Cold Keep, (Prince George, BC), on the grand occasion of choosing the heirs to the thrones of Avacal!! The Coronet Tournament style will be at His Highness' discretion and will be announced at a later date.

We are fortunate to be at the Log House Guest Ranch this year, on the shores of Tabor Lake, just east of Prince George. Site opens at 3pm on June 3 and closes at 12pm on June 5th. Showers will be available for a small fee. There is potable water on site.

Site Fee -

Adults: \$20

Children between 12-18: \$10

Children 11 and under: Free

An NMS of \$5.00/person will apply for adults who are unable to produce written proof of valid SCA membership. Please make cheques payable to Shire of Cold Keep.

Tir Righ / Avacal War (Ramsgaard):

June 24, 2011 to June 27, 2011

Site Info:

Name: Trophy Mountain Buffalo Ranch
4373 Clearwater Valley Road
Clearwater, BC V0E 1N0

Fields of Gold (Tir Bannog):

Fields of Gold

July 8th, 9th and 10th

... check out our Upcoming Events page online at

<http://tirbannog.tirrigh.org>

for updated information and event schedule.

