

Enriching Events

Making SCA events richer, more interesting, even possibly educational.

What kind of themes do we typically use?

- ❖ **Historical** (events/dates): eg Combat of the Thirty, Black Plague, Wars of the Roses
- ❖ **Seasonal/Calendrical**: (defined times): eg Winter, Michelmas, Feast Day of St Thomas
- ❖ **Geographical** (particular locales): eg Viking village, Middle-eastern souk, Hansa port
- ❖ **Cultural**: eg Mongol, Scottish Borders, Landsknecht, merchant ship, Carnival
- ❖ **Specific Framing Activities**: eg dances/balls, markets, games, hunts, trials, masques, quests
- ❖ **Familial**: not so common, but includes things like baronages' birthdays, marriages, wakes
- ❖ **SCA**: (meta-themes): eg Crown tourneys, Coronations, group anniversaries, peerages, studentships

What sort of things can be used to bolster the themes?

- ❖ **Communications**: eg announcements/PR, posters, booklets, heraldry, letters
- ❖ **Decorations**: eg hall, High Table, pavilions, banners, hangings, centrepieces, colours/livery, plants
- ❖ **Food**: eg set time/place, subtleties and presentations, plating, menus, seasonality
- ❖ **Tokens or gifts**: eg site tokens, livery-based items (ribbons, beads, badges), plague rats, napkins
- ❖ **Activities**: eg dances/balls, markets, parades, OP march, games, hunts, trials
- ❖ **Entertainments**: eg theme-related performances, music, dance, spoken word, murder mystery
- ❖ **Competitions**: eg games, puzzles, quizzes, quests, A&S, ice-breakers
- ❖ **Information**: eg backgrounders, cheat sheets, contemporary readings, relevant laws/mores
- ❖ **Resources**: eg group/personal books, loaner armour/archery kit

What sort of specific groups could benefit from considering them and how?

- ❖ **Artisans**: eg making stuff (fleece-to-final-product, mystery box), displays, Five Minute Fabulousness
- ❖ **Combatants**: eg formats and storylines (Gods & Monsters, hunts, pas d'armes etc), heraldic displays, archery targets, prizes
- ❖ **Families, Children, Teens**: eg timing, facilities, specific activities, inclusiveness
- ❖ **Newcomers**: eg prior communication, buddying or break-the-ice activities, focused activities (garb making, op shop hunts, fabric education)
- ❖ **Diverse Needs**: eg accessibility, dietary requirements, quiet spaces, public transport

Useful Resources

❖ **Stuff:** ie for inexpensive, bulk purchase materials

\$2 Shops or equivalent (especially for specific holidays/seasons, for crafts, toys, stationery); recycle/dump depots (for tableware, glasses, fabric, tent poles); education support outlets (eg Creative Junk, Every Educaid for paper, paints, boxes); emporiums (for notions, ribbons, craft, toys)

❖ **Books:** There are lots of calendars, dictionaries and lists for holidays and traditions eg *Medieval Holidays and Festivals* by Madeleine Perner Cosman; *Pleasures & Pastimes in Medieval England* by Compton Reeves; *A Dictionary of British Folk Customs* by Christina Hole

❖ **Paintings:** check out paintings or prints relating to the theme/period as they can provide inspiration for decorations, colours and activities (eg Bruegel's Children's Games, da Vinci's notebooks, Rene de Anjou's Tournament Book)

❖ **Online:** These online resources vary in quality of research and referencing, but can provide a good starting point if you want to go deeper. The bulk of them focus on Western Europe/UK.

Chambers' Book of Days: <http://www.thebookofdays.com/calender.htm>

Indexed by day and topic, covering UK traditions associated with seasons, folklore, church holidays, events and curiosities

Calendar of Catholic Saints on a day-by-day basis: <https://catholicsaints.info/calendar-of-saints/>

Medieval Seasons: <https://wyrting.com/EarlyGardens/British/LaborsOfTheMonths/seasons.htm>

Roman, British, Anglo-Saxon, Carolingian, including traditional seasonal labours and gardening lore

Project Britain's Folklore Calendar: <http://projectbritain.com/year/index.htm>

A Multicultural Calendrical List of Festivals and Holidays:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_multinational_festivals_and_holidays

Covering primarily secular, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism and Paganism

Livery Companies of the City of London: <http://www.liverycompanies.info/a-z-list-of-companies/>

Handy for providing ideas relating to ceremonies, guild celebrations and the like

Medieval and Renaissance Games: <https://www.querki.net/u/jducoeur/period-games/#!period-games>

The sports and pastimes of the people of England. From the earliest period, including the rural and domestic recreations, May games, mummeries, pageants, processions and pompous spectacles, Joseph Strutt

<https://archive.org/details/sportspastimesof00struuoft/page/n8>

Written in the 1700s, published in 1903, so take things with a grain of salt, but it is rather delightful.

Stefan's Florilegium: <http://www.florilegium.org/>

- a collection of all manner of topics, worth taking a look at sections such as Entertainment, Feast Reviews, Celebrations & Events, and lots more.

Atlantia's A&S Links: <http://moas.atlantia.sca.org/wsnlinks/>

- check out the Court Entertainments and Interludes; Theatre, Drama and Mumming

Hall Decorating in the SCA: <https://threegoldbees.com/projects/hall-decorating/>

- a case study walking through decision points for dressing an SCA event.