

Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun

Trinity Session: Elizabeth II. 53. 2004. July – November

DECLARATOR

[E II. 53. 2004 P&D.11] *Proclamation of Compleat Discharge* for all who until the Appointed Date owe feu duty to Ourselves and to Her Majesty within our baronial lands; together with Our *Motion of Final Closure* of These Criminal and Civil Divisions of These Our Courts Upon the Eve of The Appointed Day as has been required of Us by Section 63.1 of the *Abolition of Feudal Tenure [Scotland] Act 2000* provided only that the Records of these our Proceedings shall be held safe for the future under our Crown Baronial Charter through that Scottish Charity already established as the ‘Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun’.

PETITION of The Clerk of these Our Courts that the arrival of the Appointed Day of November 28th 2004 for the application of the provisions of the *Abolition of Feudal Tenure [Scotland] Act 2000* means that: (i) The Much Honoured The Barons of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun are no longer required by their Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Second to answer Her call howsoever for feudal duties and that in their place the Barons shall no longer look to those residing at 248 High Street Prestonpans where their *dominum directum* still prevails to attend to feu duties on their command. Further, (ii) the said Act of Her Majesty’s Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh with Her Royal Assent duly given provides that on the Appointed Day the criminal and civil jurisdiction exercised from time immemorial through Baronial Courts in Scotland and most particularly that codified and accorded under the Heritable Jurisdictions [Scotland] Act 1746, shall also cease.

1. THAT the requirement that feu duties should be rendered and that these Barons Courts should exercise their criminal and civil jurisdiction throughout the Crown Baronies of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun have been a constant element of life upon these Lands for nigh on one thousand years under the personal feudal leadership of fourteen barons who to this time have held office since the Abbey of Newbattle was dissolved, who have included amongst their number three Lords of Session sitting as Lord Prestoungrange and a Lord Advocate as well as Members of Parliament both in Edinburgh and at Westminster after the Union of 1707.
2. THAT there can be no room for any doubt that the values and virtues of feudalism have played a significant part during that millennium in the creation and development of the community that dwells today on the ancient baronial lands and that the specific cessation of jurisdiction could if no appropriate organizational structure is established serve to reduce the potential and the actual contribution that those values and virtues can afford.
3. THAT the baronial pedigree of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun has been one of the most distinguished in the Kingdom in Scotland.
4. THAT accordingly the Appointed Day cannot be allowed to pass without ensuring that all is done both to honour the history of these Our Baronies and to make proper and self-sustaining provision for the future conduct of affairs so that feudal values and virtues continue to serve the community that dwells on these our ancient Lands in the coming millennium.
5. THAT actions have already been taken by The Much Honoured The Barons of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun by their establishment in 2002 of the Scottish Charity known as ‘The Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun’ now working from this Trinity Session with

the benefit of Our Crown Baronial Charter [E.II. 53. 2004 P&D. 08] which has already developed The Prestoungrange Arts Festival and encouraged the restoration of The Prestoungrange Gothenburg under its original 1908 Principles for the greater benefit of the community dwelling on these our ancient Lands.

6. THAT the Prestoungrange Arts Festival has seen fit to undertake the most comprehensive historical research in respect of these our ancient Lands and to publish them as a Series already reaching 18 volumes and some 150,000 words and covering myriad aspects of life from agriculture at Dolphinstoun to Prestongrange House and its treasured 1581 Ceiling; and is to continue such research and publication.
7. THAT the Prestoungrange Arts Festival has seen fit to re-create the traditions of brewing real ales on these ancient Lands by the establishment of a microbrewery at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg that honours the history of John Fowler and Company from 1745 to 1962.
8. THAT the Prestoungrange Arts Festival has seen fit already to cause more than a score of murals and other fine works of art to be created telling the history of these ancient Lands and Crown Baronies, following in the traditions of Chemainus in British Columbia and now intends to create a totem pole in partnership with the community of Chemainus to commemorate the inspiration Chemainus provided which will be dedicated at the time when the Global Murals Arts Association has resolved to hold its 6th Conference at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg in August 2006; and is to continue such commissioning of works of art in all its forms.
9. THAT the Prestoungrange Arts Festival has seen fit to establish a remarkable website that captures and disseminates to its tens of thousands of visitors from across the world the substance of its work @ www.prestoungrange.org; and is continuing to develop that dimension as a global leader of cyberfeudalism.
10. THAT these Courts have in this Trinity Session Ordered on the Petition of The Prestoungrange Arts Festival that November 28th shall each year from 2005 be properly and grandly celebrated as Barons' Day and to share such celebrations with all other Scottish Barons who may be able also to attend.
11. THAT the Scottish Tartans Society has seen fit to design and certify a unique tartan for those who dwell on these ancient Lands and Crown Baronies of Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun; [and also for the Wills Family and Clan from which the present barons came and where Bryan Clifford Wills of Edmonton Alberta is *Chef de Famille*.]
12. THAT members of the Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun Clan constituted around that tartan have expressed the wish that they be authorized to enter into Bond of Manrent with The Much Honoured The Baron of Prestoungrange as *Chef de Famille* and of Name to advance the future work of these Our Barons Courts.
13. THAT these Courts have in this Trinity Session Ordered that a biennial Scholarship shall be endowed by the Prestoungrange Arts Festival to evaluate the continuing application and development of feudal values and virtues on these Our Ancient Lands and Crown Baronies and elsewhere in Scotland so that Our Baronial Titles and Dignities may continue to merit and thereby be accorded their proper respect; and to make proposals as to how such benefits as may surely arise can be improved upon.
14. THAT these Courts have in this our Trinity Session 2004 taken all proper care and advice in respect to the officers traditions responsibilities and regalia of these jurisdictions so that they shall not be overlooked as they must now cease by Act of Parliament notwithstanding that they may have fallen totally into disuse since the 19th Century; and that these Proceedings of these Sittings from July 13th to 27th 2004 will be recorded and shall be published to ensure the widest possible appreciation thereof.

LET IT NOW BE KNOWN:

That the Petition of Our Clerk is timeous and proper and We have neither the Authority or the Wish to question what our Sovereign Lady with the Advice and Consent of Her Parliament assembled in Edinburgh has determined under the provisions of the *Abolition of Feudal Tenure [Scotland] Act 2000* shall henceforth prevail in respect of (i) our *dominum directum* and (ii) the cessation of our jurisdiction in these our ancient Lands and Crown Baronies.

Notwithstanding such complete respect most properly accorded it must Now Be Known to All These Presents May or Do Concern that, in every other respect as the law allows and encourages Us so to act, it is our absolute determination to continue through these Barons Courts as conducted under our Crown Baronial Charter to act hereafter in the best traditions of the values and virtues of feudalism throughout our ancient Lands and Crown Baronies, and in collaboration equally as may be requisite with democratic and/ or other feudal parties and including the encouragement of Our Clan and the entering into Bonds of Manrent by those who so wish; and that:

1. We hereby **PROCLAIM** that on the Eve of the Appointed Day being at midnight of November 27th 2004 We the Barons of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun, together with our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Second, shall issue and confirm the **Compleat Discharge** from all Feu Duties for those over whom We till that time and date hold *dominum directum* at 248 High Street Prestonpans.
2. Further, that it is Our Wish that those who until that time and date owe us and Our Sovereign Lady such Feu Duties shall attend at the Caput of Our Baronies being The Prestoungrange Gothenburg to celebrate both that discharge and ending but also to share with Us in making Our new beginning for the future work of these Our Baronial Courts; and that our ByrLawmen hospitalis shall cause all concerned to be invited to such celebration.
3. Further that Our Baron Bailies and Baron Sergeands shall together take all such steps as may be appropriate for the further recognition and acceptance of The Much Honoured The Baron of Prestoungrange as *Chef de Famille* and Name for the Clan Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun; and to assist all those entering into **Bonds of Manrent** to support the work of the Barons Courts and secure their registration in both the Registers of the Lyon Court and of these Our Barons Courts of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun.
4. We also hereby **PROCLAIM** Our **Motion of Final Closure** of the Trinity Session of these Criminal and Civil Jurisdictions of Our Baronial Courts at midnight on the 27th day of November 2004, ordering hereby that any matters arising for our consideration and determination after the conclusion of this Our Sitting this twenty seventh day of July before Our Final Closure shall be addressed at the Caput by Our Common Baron Bailie and The Much Honoured The Baron of Dolphinstoun with the aid of appropriate Suitors as may be required to advise them.
5. Further we Command our Clerk to this Our Trinity Session to make proper provision for the immediate publication of all the records and minutes of these Our Proceedings as an historical record for Our Baronies, for any benefit that may be for members of the Convention of the Baronage of Scotland or those likewise empowered under provisions of the *Heritable Jurisdictions [Scotland] Act 1746*, and for the assistance of any who may find need to appeal our determinations howsoever in this Trinity Session to Court of Session or other proper authorities; and that any further Proceedings between July 27th and November 27th shall also be recorded in alike manner.



Bond of Manrent

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT PUBLIC LETTERS that

I,

residing at

being a loyal member of the Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun authorised by Crown Baronial Charter on July 27th 2004 and incorporated as a Scottish Charity under the provisions of the Articles of Association thereof and Wishing More Properly to Show My Allegiance to the Chief of Name and Arms of Prestoungrange, Do Hereby and Herewith BIND and OBLIGE myself by the tenor of this Writ and by the faith of my body in true MANRENT and loyal service as I have already bound and obliged myself, by the faith of my body in true MANRENT and loyal service to The Much Honoured Baron of Prestoungrange, Chief of the Name and Arms of Prestoungrange, for all the days of my life, my allegiance to Her Majesty The Queen of the Kingdom in Scotland excepted.

LIKEAS I BIND and OBLIGE my-self by the tenor hereof and my heirs and successors to be true and loyal men of the said Baron of Prestoungrange and his heirs and successors as Chief of the Name and Arms of Prestoungrange, to make him loyal and true service in peace and war in all actions, causes and quarrels at all times and feign to give him the best counsel I can give him when asked and to keep his counsel secret, when I am charged thereto and to defend him with my person, men, kin and friends, armed, horsed, and accentered as befitting their status, in all matters he has ado as any men should do for their Chief within the realm of SCOTLAND; And I consent to the registration hereof in the Books of the Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms and any other Registers necessary therein to remain for preservation; IN WITNESS WHEREOF these presents are subscribed this day of 20

by me the said

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at

Before these two witnesses

[Names and addresses of each]