

*81 Witches of Prestonpans –  
Pardoned They Are*

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PARDONED  
They Are



Supported by the  
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*by Annemarie Allan*

PARDONED

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Barons for nearly 1000 years exercised their traditional feudal rights and judicial authority through their Baron Courts held at their caput, fenced by the Baron Sergeand and normally presided over by the Baron Bailie. Criminal and civil jurisdiction came to an end by statute on November 28th 2004 but the Act passed by the Scottish Parliament specifically protects and preserves all other aspects of the dignity of Baron including the ceremonial and socio-economic purposes of the Court, the Baron's right to appoint Officers and to heraldic additaments. The Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun were the last Scottish Baronial Courts to meet in session in July and November 2004 and to impose penalties of up to three daylight hours in the stocks and amerciamentis of up to 40/- Scots. The full proceedings of this historic occasion are available from Prestoungrange University Press. The procedures used were in accordance with the publications of the Convention of the Baronage of Scotland: 'The Baron's Court' [1994] and 'The Insignia of the Baronage of Scotland and Their Courts' [1989].

The Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun were established as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 1998 evolving to become a Scottish Charity [SC 033139] in 2002 whose objects are to advance the industrial and agricultural heritage of the Baronies in the new millennium working as may be appropriate with other community organizations. At their Judicial Session in July 2004 the Courts promulgated a Crown Baronial Charter for the future pursuit of these goals. Myriad educational activities are in hand with the Prestoungrange Arts Festival involving mural painting, sculpture, wood carving, pottery, music, literature and theatre. The 1908 arts and crafts Prestoungrange Gothenburg has been restored as caput and centre for the 21st Century role of the Baron Courts trading under traditional Gothenburg Principles to generate charitable funding and John Fowler's Ales brewed from 1745–1962 are commemorated in a microbrewery. The Baronial insignia and regalia have been invoked including Robes and Coronets, Horns of Office, Sergeand's Ellwand, Bailie's Badge and Chain. Lord Lyon has granted Arms to the Barons. The Prestoungrange/Dolphinstoun/Wills tartan has been registered for the Clan and as the District tartan for those living on the former baronial lands.

