

# Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun

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

## DECLARATOR

[E II. 53. 2004 P&D. 09] Proclamation of November 28th each year from 2005 to be *Barons Day* across these ancient baronial lands to be properly celebrated at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg by all who are members of the Barons Courts together with: (a) invited Barons from across the Kingdom in Scotland; and (b) a grand display of fireworks on the baronial foreshore – so that notwithstanding the cessation of the judicial powers of the Crown Baronies of Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun after the Appointed Day of 28th November 2004 when the *Abolition of Feudal Tenure (Scotland) Act 2000* enters into full force and legal effect, the continuation of all others aspects of the work of the Barons Courts shall receive due saliency and respect:

*UPON THE PETITION* of The Trustees of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival that November 28th being the Appointed Day for the cessation of all form and manner of feudal land tenure throughout Scotland and the cessation of Barons' jurisdictions through their Baronial Courts accorded under the Heritable Jurisdictions [Scotland] Act 1746, should from the year 2005 and henceforth be celebrated as a day when the strengths and received benefits of the Baronial feudal values for nigh on 1000 years are remembered throughout the Crown Baronies of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun in formal celebrations and with a display of fireworks on the baronial foreshore, the day to be known as *Barons Day*:

1. THAT the *Abolition of Feudal Tenure (Scotland) Act 2000* provides that “Any jurisdiction of, and any conveyancing privilege incidental to, barony shall on the appointed day cease to exist; but nothing in this Act *affects* the dignity of baron or any other dignity or office (whether or not of feudal origin)”.
2. THAT for the dignity of baron to be properly respected throughout the Crown Baronies of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun and the myriad contributions made by the fourteen barons who to this time have held office since the Abbey of Newbattle was dissolved which has included three Lords of Session and a Lord Advocate as well as many sitting Members of Parliament both in Edinburgh and at Westminster after the Union of 1707, it is both appropriate and requisite that a particular day should be designated to honour the dignity thus preserved.
3. THAT there can be no more fitting date to honour such dignity than November 28th being the Appointed Day when the recognition of and respect for the ‘dignity of baron’ as henceforth enshrined in the law came into effect.
4. THAT the honouring should take the form of a celebration at the Caput of the Crown Baronies being The Prestoungrange Gothenburg and that it should be an occasion when all members of the Barons Courts as continuing after the Appointed Day should be invited to attend.
5. THAT the celebrations at the Caput should also be an occasion for inviting all other members of the Baronage of Scotland to participate and to share the realities of their contributions to the well being and social esteem of their former baronial lands without which before these Courts there can be no proper social justification for the continuation of the dignity per se.

6. That the Barons to be invited should be all who are recognised by Lord Lyon or as may be accepted and properly so entitled by *Burke's Peerage & Baronetage* or otherwise properly recorded in the *Registers of Scotland*.
7. That the celebrations should be concluded each year with a display of fireworks from the baronial foreshore above the Firth of Forth for the enjoyment of all who live on the ancient baronial lands and their environs.

## LET IT NOW BE KNOWN:

That the Petition of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival is warmly greeted This Thirteenth day of July 2004, and most welcome, and that The Prestoungrange Arts Festival shall of its own volition henceforth accept full responsibility for ensuring that each and every November 28th commencing November 28th 2005 shall be duly celebrated as *Barons Day* throughout these ancient baronial lands, and that:

1. It is hereby **PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that November 28th each year shall henceforth be *Barons Day*.
2. All members of the Barons Courts and of the Clans and Familles of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun shall be invited to share in the celebrations at the Caput of the Crown Baronies of Prestoungrange and of Dolphinstoun each year on this day;
3. That all recognised Barons throughout Scotland shall also be invited to join in the celebrations to be held at The Caput being The Prestoungrange Gothenburg throughout the day and concluding with a 'medieval' feast befitting the dignity of those holding Crown Baronies seated in their full regalia;
4. That all invited Barons who can attend shall be exhorted to share their experiences one with the other on their contributions to the well being and social esteem of those living on their former baronial lands believing that such conduct can be the only enduring social justification for these our titles and dignities;
5. That in those alternate years when the Scholarship to be awarded by Order of these Barons Courts [E II. 53. 2004 P&D. 08/04] has matters of substance to report on the evaluation of feudal values and their continuing contribution in Scottish society, the day should also be that on which such report is publicly made;
6. That the conclusion of the Barons Day celebrations each year should without exception be a generous and exhilarating display of fireworks from the baronial foreshore above the Firth of Forth.