



H M The Queen
Buckingham Palace
London SW1

August 2nd 2004

I write to enclose the Proceedings of the Trinity Session of our Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & of Dolphinstoun in Scotland. This is the last such Sitting in Scotland prior to November 28th 2004, that being the Appointed Day for the cessation of our ancient Rights to hold such Criminal and Civil Courts in Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun. Such Rights as you will know stretch back at least to the 8th century. My fellow Baron, Dolphinstoun and I, are certain that your Librarian will wish to place these historic Proceedings in the Royal archives. They include details of sentences to the stocks and amerciaments of up to 40/- Scots [see pp.228 & 229].

As you will see under EII. 53. 2004 P&D. 08/01 we have every intention as authorised by the Abolition of Feudal Tenure [Scotland] Act 2000, to continue to exercise the 'dignity of Baron' after the Appointed Day and shall be doing this via the Scottish Charity already established and our Crown Baronial Charter.

Our medium for our present and future work is telling out the history of the ancient Baronies through literature, the arts and music to further encourage economic re-generation. And we have made good beginnings since 1998 across a wide spectrum with some 28 individuals now employed. Your Lord Lieutenant in East Lothian, Garth Morrison CBE, visited us recently to see and share in some of these activities.

There are three specific matters where we would ask Your Majesty for advice and support as we move further forward.

BARON COURTS OF PRESTOUNGRANGE AND DOLPHINSTOUN

Limited by Guarantee (1998) SC190955 & Charity SC033139
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1. Prestonpans, the town where the Crown Baronies mainly lie, was named after the priests' panning for salt from the 12th century. As a key element of our strategy for economic re-generation through social enterprise we plan to recommence salt making from the waters of the Firth of Forth. Whilst we hold the lands from high to low water from you under Crown Charter from the 16th century, the waters we wish to use remain with the Crown, and we humbly request that You grant us your consent to make use of them once again as our forebears did for some eight centuries.

2. Our Courts at their Sittings on July 13th and 27th 2004 received a class Petition on behalf of some 80 or more witches and their cats put to death in Prestonpans before the passage of the Witchcraft Act, 1735. As Suitor in our Courts we heard the evidence of Roy Pugh, famous authority on these matters and author of *The Deil's Ain*. After considering all his evidence we resolved to grant an Absolute Pardon to such witches and their cats as we had jurisdiction [EII. 53. 2004 P&D. 02]. However the majority of them were accused of witchcraft and of treason since their witchcraft was deemed to have been directed against the King's person. We accordingly humbly beseech that You too may review the evidence provided by Roy Pugh and grant Your own Absolute Pardon. In all events, our Courts have determined that each Hallowe'en shall be a day of proper Remembrance of the 80 or more witches who lost their lives in Prestonpans.

3. Finally Your Majesty, under EII. 53. 2004 P&D. 11, our Courts granted to all our vassals a Compleat Discharge from their feudal dues and duties under our dominum directum. We would humbly request that, as our feudal Sovereign, you may graciously agree to write to us both personally granting us in our turn such discharge as you have already ordained with the advice and consent of your Parliament in Edinburgh.

Your Majesty, we trust you will see our petitions set down above as truly worthy of your attention and support at this time as we continue our charitable work to assist and encourage economic regeneration on our ancient Baronial Lands at Prestonpans.

I have the honour to be
Your humble feudal servant
Dr Gordon Prestoungrange, Baron of Prestoungrange