

# 21 Years of The Chronicle

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Many interludes are from background and scenario notes. Many may now be incorrect or superseded by other events. Remember that the Chroniclers are not unbiased (but do attempt to write as such).

“A Map of Athion” and “A Map of Salvoyne” from Zygmunt Lozinski’s notes. Shimaguchi based on notes from Zygmunt Lozinski.

Total word count of 219,308 words according to LibreOffice (up by 234 words from the first edition – mainly due to correcting the mistaken duplication of text of the Menderal 149 for the entry for Menderal 148, i.e., this edition has the correct text for Menderal 148).

**Note:** Some occasional and hopefully minor edits have been made to normalise spelling and to get page breaks to fall where I wanted them to.

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First Edition: May 2017, this revision April 2022

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# The Calendar

The year consists of 365 ¼ days; 12 months, each consisting of 3 weeks which contain 10 days, plus five feast days that fall between months. There is also an extra day every fourth year, the Dragonfeast, which is part of no month and follows the Midsummer Festival. The names of the twelve months are given along with their more common name, the feast days are in italics.

<i>Midwinter</i>	
Skelern	( Sleet )
Galemir	( Wind )
Pipetal	( Seed )
<i>Springtide</i>	
Jasmarill	( Blossom )
Heliara	( Bright )
Menderal	( Meadow )
<i>Midsummer</i>	
Setheran	( Heat )
Arvinoth	( Harvest )
<i>Harvestide</i>	
Lorinfall	( Mist )
Kryll	( Frost )
<i>Ghostmoons</i>	
Ternost	( Snow )
Kruthos	( Dark )

**The Dragonfeast** is the extra day that comes every four years. It is a day of open council between nobles and people; a day for making and dramatic ending of agreements. The entertainments are often in the nature of tests and trials for those wishing to improve their reputation or status. Traditionally, the constraints of class and of breeding are removed for this one day. A minor cult called 'the Dragonshield' are associated with the Dragonfeast.

**Midwinter** is also known unofficially as Yuletide, the turning of the Year. For the nobility and other leaders, this is a time to plan the coming year, to renew old alliances, make new vows and send gifts

of goodwill. To more common folk this is the nadir of the year, when their lords have an obligation to provide food and warmth to see them through the worst of the cold. They celebrate this heartily with feasting and bonfires.

**Springtide** is the official end of winter, a day of celebration. Flowers that have been carefully cultivated indoors are set outside to decorate the home and to bring luck and fertility in the coming year. Early wildflowers are also gathered and used to 'crown' a maiden in each community, who then blesses the fields. By tradition young children are Named at this festival; probably due to a seasonal baby boom.

**Midsummer**, also called the Short Night, is a time of feasting and music and love. Betrothals are traditionally made on this night. Sharing and informality are the essence of this feast and, for this one night, the constraints even of marriage are forgotten in an unconditional of love and passion. Bad weather during the night is considered a very bad omen.

**Harvestide** signals the start of autumn and, hopefully, of the safe fathering in of the harvest. It is a feast both to thank the hard working harvesters, and to celebrate the brief period of plentiful food. Many journeys are undertaken at the end of the feast, as travellers hurry to reach their overwinter destination before the worst of the mud arrives are the rain freezes into snow.

**The Ghostmoons** is the most sombre festival day in the year. It is a day for remembering the dead; graves and shrines are decorated, and many tales told of ancient heroes and lost treasure. Both moons shine full during this night, and it is believed that on this night the ghosts of lost souls can return to the world. This day marks the start of winter snows, and the end of fighting until the spring re-melting.

## Major Events

### Kruthos 136

Banning of Football

### Galemir 137

Temple of Hahn begins construction of new law school

### Heliora 138

Granting of a Guild Charter to the Thatchers

### Menderal 139

Princess Eleanor's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball

### Kryll 140

Sweet water project proposed

### Heliora 141

Levestone Riots

### Kruthos 141

Battle of Berewic

### Pipetal 142

Announcement of the birth of Princess Alexis

### Pipetal 144

Great Fire of Tinrodeth

### Jasmarill 146

Battle of Nyskilde

### Setheran 147

Death of King Edmund Carlingas

### Kryll 147

Civil War, Tinrodeth declares for King Kieran

### Springtide 148

Invasion of Tinrodeth by Princess Selina

### Heliora 151

Birth of Prince Sikander

### Setheran 151

Battle of the three roads

### Ternost 152

Victory over the Noord

### Kruthos 153

Death of Prince Edwin

### Jasmarill 153

Invasion of the Nordic Isles

### Menderal 153

Repeal of the Football ban

### Galemir 153

Discovery of the IFF

### Galemir 155

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### Heliora 155

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### Heliora 156

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Before Kruthos 136

Before Kruthos 136

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136 Raphael Fitz-Simmons  
137 Raphael Fitz-Simmons  
138 Raphael Fitz-Simmons  
139 Raphael Fitz-Simmons  
140 Paston Courtney  
141 Paston Courtney  
142 Samantha Cox  
143 Samantha Cox  
144 Samantha Cox  
145 Beatrice Perignon  
146 Matthew Dixon

147 Matthew Dixon  
148 Ann Tasker  
149 Ann Tasker  
150 Ann Tasker  
151 Miranda Andrews  
152 Miranda Andrews  
153 Miranda Andrews  
154 Jenny Davy  
155 Jenny Davy  
156 Jenny Davy  
157 Olivia Warin

## Linrodeth Sheriffs

139 Kennet Maxil, Paston Courtney  
140 Kennet Maxil, Samantha Cox  
141 Alan Griffiths, Samantha Cox  
142 Alan Griffiths, Beatrice Perignon  
143 Beatrice Perignon, Matthew Dixon  
144 Beatrice Perignon, Matthew Dixon  
145 Matthew Dixon, Alan Griffiths  
146 Alison Shefford, Ann Tasker  
147 Aralan Derwent, Ann Tasker,  
Alison Shefford (appointed third Sheriff as  
from Arvinoth)

148 Alison Shefford, Jenny Davy  
149 Alison Shefford, Jenny Davy  
150 Jenny Davy, Miranda Andrews  
151 Nicholas Bowden, Jenny Davy  
152 Jenny Davy, Nicholas Bowden  
153 Jenny Davy, Nicholas Bowden  
154 Mary Hastings, Olivia Warin  
155 Nicholas Bowden, Olivia Warin  
156 Nicholas Bowden, Olivia Warin  
157 Mary Hastings, Nicholas Bowden

No Lordship or Sheriff elections held in 144 due to the Great Fire, Incumbents remained in post.

Ann Tasker became Lady of the City in 148 following the invasion by Princess Selina.

No election for Lord of the City was held during 149 and Ann Tasker remained in post.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 136

*Be it known that by Royal Decree, from this day, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Kruthos in the year of the Kingdom One Hundred and Thirty Six, that the most ungodly and riotous game of football is BANNED, on pain of imprisonment.*



Observers note with interest that this edict reflects the recent absence of many of the younger people from the compulsory Tenthday archery practice. Alderman Rimon, whose ward suffered badly during the final matches of a football contest was unsympathetic:

“Young whipper-snappers ought to be used as the Tenthday targets....”

Damage to the Milk Lane Market last autumn was estimated at over three guineas.

The city youth were again the subject of debate in Council Chambers after a dispute between apprentices of the Vintners and the Fishmongers Guilds got out of hand. Fighting had spilled over into Rood Hill, injuring several innocent passers-by. A complaint was made to the Council (loudly) by Mrs Blessop, who had received a broken ankle. A complaint by three apprentices against Mrs Blessop was over-ruled.

Rumours abound of a triple headed demon born at the full moon last month in a house on Burgon Street.

Caveth the Vintner has declared bankruptcy after his third caravan this year has failed to make it through the southern mountains. Creditors are advised to contact the Guild.

Pendentites today attempted to prevent the daily preaching of Gax the Heretic from their temple steps. After a brief, polite discussion the ex-Mandatien was persuaded to leave. A spokesman from the temple has refused to comment on this development.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 137

The Knight Marshall's plans for a second fortification, on the east side of the city, were shelved late last month after an objection was lodged by the Royal College of Bards. Speculation exists as to where Sir Salverian will next give his attention and money (a canal project has been mentioned as a possible candidate). Several masons who had anticipated an early commission now find themselves with an expensive stone surplus.

A small football game was staged last month in Playhouse Yard in defiance of the ban. A request by the local watch to stop was ignored, and word was sent to the Citadel. However the players wisely decided to disperse before the detachment of the 5th Infantry arrived.

Gax the Heretic has resumed his preaching using a variety of locations around the city.

A major fire in Burgon Street recently was contained after many nearby houses were pulled down. The fire was apparently started by an angry mob consisting mainly of local residents. Since many of these are now homeless, Alderman Maxil has decided to defer further investigation.

The Priests of Torus have complained to the Court of Common Council that their sacred bee colony has been tampered with several times recently. Citizens are reminded that continued disturbance will impair the production of the Elixir Vitae.

With the Midwinter Festival now over, the King has taken advantage of a lull in the snow to visit some northern coastal towns. Travelling with his household were Prince Kieran, the Lord Treasurer, the Lord High Chancellor, Lord Privy Seal and the First Seaford. The rest of the court are with Queen Emma, who remains at the Citadel with her two younger children.

During this years formal crown wearing the King has been dined by eight guilds, judged five appeals, received two ambassadors, inspected a shipyard, attended a college concert, and dedicated an oak grove to the All-mother.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 137

Heavy snow late last month encouraged the Knight Marshall to stage a mock siege as a military exercise. Balistae loaded with snow were enthusiastically manoeuvred under heavy fire from the walls and the city's more junior citizens. Over the course of three days there were only five casualties, mostly frostbite. The exercise was called to a halt after it was noticed that the 5th Infantry (motto: If you've got them by the balls, their hearts and minds will follow) were getting their 'ranging shots' uncomfortably near the port. The 5th Infantry are affectionately known to the locals as 'The Kings Own Foot 'n Mouth'. A small prize is offered to anyone with an equally appropriate nickname for the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, also stationed at The Citadel (motto: Death Before Dishonour! CHAAARGE!).

Hahn Priests have been inviting masons to tender offers for the construction of their new Law School. Once again Gax the Heretic has preached from the temple steps, demanding equal education for the poor. Some stoning was begun by nearby people and Gax was quickly rescued by the local watch. Reports remain unclear as to whether the stones were aimed at Gax or the Hahn priests attempting to make him leave.

The first of the seasonal rain has already fallen over the city, bringing an easing of the cold. With this slight thaw most of the snowdrifts have melted away to reveal this years dead. Citizens on watch duty this month are reminded to dispose of the bodies of frozen beggars into the marshes, and not to just dump them in the Ishtan.

The Skinners regret to announce the death this month of Wulfward of Canavelin. Wulfward, an honoured and respected citizen, died peacefully in his sleep. A popular member of the Skinners Guild, Wulfward was commonly expected to become Guildmaster when Master Leofwin retires later this year. The Guild succession has now been left "wide open", to quote one reliable source.

That well-known family of entrepreneurs, the Marcs brothers, have published a book containing the accumulated wisdom of their experiences. For example: "Societies evolve through a series of crises caused by internal contradiction." or as 'Dutch' explained; "if anything can go wrong, it will."



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 137

Citizens of Dowgate ward were interested recently to discover that their neighbouring slum has shrunk somewhat. Ice along the edge of the Ishtan had apparently melted, revealing larger than normal damage to the Floating Market. A goodly portion of it promptly settled to riverbed, thus finally achieving its proper social level. Many inhabitants were disturbed by this occurrence, but an alert local watch prevented any of these river vermin from reaching the shore.

An interesting parchment has overnight been posted in several market squares. Its contents were as follows:

"The banning of football is an unnecessary inroad into the basic human rights of the citizens by a king who has clearly overstepped the mark. A march is to be held next week, culminating in a football match open to anyone. The winning team will be awarded two barrels of best Ale."

No time or place was mentioned. The Kings Officers maintain that they are hot on the trail of the perpetrators.

The Chronicle is pleased to announce its newest roving reporter: Chinon Starsinger. Chinon hopes to be reporting from beneath the tables of all the best pubs and clubs around town. The Chroniclers would like to take this opportunity to wish him a long and coherent career.

The Chroniclers have recently been made aware of the existence of a particularly esoteric cult called 'Euthanasia'. Its members are believed to be obsessed with finding the source of rumours concerning the existence of 'The Merry Whore'. A spokesman for the cult said "Aargh".

The Chronicle has noted an attempt to deride the King by association with the parentage of a demon. The Chronicle would like it to be known that it will not be party to such scurrilous treason.

The priests of Torus announce with regret that they were forced to shoot two intruders in their gardens last month. The two men, believed to be responsible for the previous disturbances of the hives, are being carefully tended in the Infirmary.

The first ship to arrive in port after the thaw has travelled up from the city of Salvoy in the south. First word is that the Prince Edward has had a quiet winter, but anticipates renewed barbarian raiding once The Melting penetrates the mountain valleys.

It is hoped that the Queen will be well enough to attend the City's celebration of the Festival of Springtide at the end of this month. Due to the relatively mild winter the Council is hoping to line Lost Way & Wheat Hill, which lead from the Citadel to the Witanmoot, with the spring flowers.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 137

Last weekend The Citadel officially announced that the Queen was "gravely ill". The Queen, who looked pale and drawn at the Springtide festival, has apparently been ill for some time. The Temple of Torus has refused to give details of the illness, but confirmed that messengers had been sent to the King.

A particularly battered looking merchant cog limped into its home port last month, having caught the spring storms on its way home. Apart from its valuable cargo of Mentesh ore, The Foamflyer carries news that the Theocracy of the High Plateau is preparing for war. The identity of their enemy is, as yet, unclear.

The Chronicle would like to send condolences to the Morgan family, whose son Peven died violently while returning from evening watch duty on Tuesday night. A spokesman for the family said "We don't know which faction has done this, but if they think that we are going to take this kind of thing lying down, they have a surprise coming".

Last week the Court of Common Council sat to consider an appeal for sponsorship for the forming of a Thatchers Guild. The hearing ran into early difficulties after the Thatchers' spokesman, one Marc, failed to turn up. The local watch report no incidents that day, and Alderman Courtney maintains that Marc "probably got lost on the way there". However Marc has still not been seen and rumours of foul play continue to grow;

There was a young Thatcher named Marc  
Who used to think life was a lark  
Although he was skilled  
He hadn't a guild  
And now he gets left in the dark

(Graffiti in the Spinning Sow)

*Dear Sir, I am appalled at the complacent, uncaring attitude of people to the deaths, during the recent cold, of some of their fellow residents of Livrodeth. Surely in these civilised times a little more thought could be given to those less fortunate than ourselves. Is it not the towns duty to see that all its residents are housed and fed? I look to the King and Marshall for leadership.*

*Yours, Oltr Bever Edge*

## LATE NEWS

Sir William Valois is in severe disgrace. The Chronicle knows why but, in the interest of the freedom of the press, isn't telling. Meanwhile Valois Senior, the Earl Gareth, is disowning and disinheriting that branch of the family.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 137

Sir William Valois has been executed on the charge of HIGH TREASON. Sir William's slow poisoning of the Queen was discovered in the nick of time by Sir Raif Fitz-Payne, Sir William's subordinate officer in the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Consequently the King made an unscheduled return to Tinrodeth with a light retinue, and rode immediately to the castle, leaving a bemused and belated welcoming committee still forming at Bridgegate.

At the Citadel King Edmund summoned a court of his closest advisors, including the now recovering Queen Emma. Several hours later a closed trial of Sir William was heard, eyewitnesses report that the traitor offered no defence. At the end of the trial Sir William was executed by the King's own hand. The King pronounced the family dishonoured with all lands and revenue forfeit. Fast footwork by the Earl Gareth last month effectively ensures that this applies only to Sir William's wife and two young sons. The traitor's corpse now hangs above the Citadel gates.

Kenna Pencric, second son of the well-known silk merchant, died last Tuesday. The killing took an identical form to that of Peven Morgan, Kenna being shot with a viciously barbed arrow whilst returning from watch duty. A spokesman for the Morgan family disclaimed responsibility, "We're sure that this is the work of another merchant trying to set our two great houses against each other". The Pencric family refused to comment.

The afternoon watch of Levestone ward have interrupted a ball game being played between the apprentices of the Skinners Guild in Cobbs Court. Although threatened with arrest, a spokesman for the group pointed out that since the ball was being moved by carrying it, the game could not possibly be described as football. When asked what this newfangled game was called, the apprentice replied 'bugger'. The young man was detained for further questioning.

The priests of the Temple of Torus wish to give public notice that they accuse the Apothecary Thorold of Line Street of malpractice and misconduct. They request the citizens of Tinrodeth to cease all patronage of Master Thorold's establishment.

The port is now in full swing with the good weather, despite the usual complaints of those downwind of Billegate (fish) Market. The ships bring regular news from Salvoyn and the south, and the Chronicle has been following with interest Crown Prince Edward's assault on Cair Janed, the barbarians' stronghold. The affair seems to have developed into a long, drawn out siege after the failure of the initial dawn attack which resulted in many dead. One permanently disabled casualty was the popular hero Hugh Grovesnor; more commonly known as 'The Wolf', both for his skill at hunting barbarians and for his voracious appetite.

Friends of Marc the Thatcher are relieved to have found him alive and well, and recently escaped from a mysterious 'luxury apartment' where he was being held prisoner by a group of masked hoodlums who referred to themselves as 'The Company'. Alderman Courtney, speaking on behalf of the local watch, would only comment that they could not effectively protect someone from this kind of terrorism.

Gentlemen are reminded that knights wishing to participate in the Midsummer Tournament are requested to present themselves to the Knight Marshall as soon as possible. All stalls for the Fair are already fully booked, and Guildmembers are politely reminded that the fine for opening shop during the festival is 50s. The archery contest is still in the process of being disorganised, and the Masons apprentices have challenged the Skinners apprentices to an exhibition match of the new game of 'bugger'.

Gax the Heretic has moved his regular preaching sessions to the Mootstone, in Witanmoot Yard, where by ancient right he is entitled to be heard. Against all the predictions, Gax has proved a surprisingly popular lunch time entertainment with the councillors and Guildmen; and has stimulated some lively discussions amongst these pillars of society. Gax has announced plans to run a refreshment stall during the Midsummer Fair, all proceeds will go towards providing a school for the city orphans. The refreshment stand will be distinguishable by its emblazoned "Lemon-Aid".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 137

Welcome to summer. The Chroniclers wish to apologise for a small delay in publication. This was due to a move to the new, larger premises. Despite the hot weather, the incidence of 'summer sickness' has been light this year. The chronicle notes however that the royal household is taking no chances, and a move to the royal hunting lodge upriver is planned.

Final lists for the Midsummer Tournament have been posted in the market places. The archery contest has proved uncommonly popular, and several eliminating rounds will be held before the final contest. Entries for the joust have been a little thin this year, since many knights are away in the southern campaign; however the lance contest has been well supported by the 2nd Cavalry, who incidentally are also providing a display of mounted manoeuvres. Sword and quarter staff prizes are also contended, although no-one has yet taken up the Kinjuru envoy's challenge to try the Faraket. Away from the royal stands, Fat Sal is the hot favourite for the wrestling purse. The Masons Guild have kindly provided sponsorship for the new game of bugger, the prize is the 'Stone Cup'.

Master Thorold the Apothecary left town last month, noisily claiming that he had been put out of business by "foul rumours and vicious lies". A spokeswoman for the Torian priests merely commented that he was welcome to sue for defamation of character if he wished. As well as lack of customers, Thorold has of late been disturbed by noisy gatherings of neighbours, usually late at night.

Another man was murdered this month while returning from watch duty. Thomas and Richard Wainwright were both shot as they returned home on Secondday. Thomas died instantly. Richard however is presently being tended by the Torian priests. His condition is described as critical and the arrow which is lodged near his heart has not been removed. Both are sons of Councillor Wainwright, who refused to speak to the Chronicle.

This attack brings the trade war theory into doubt as Councillor Wainwright is a Master Baker. Alderman Rimon in an interview with the Chronicle commented. "This is an obvious attempt by the criminal elements in our society to intimidate the watch. We are not going to be turned from our duty by a few deaths, no matter how dear the people are to us. The Watch will continue to keep our streets safe at night. It is only a matter of time before the people behind these murders are brought to justice and I for one will show no mercy. If any citizen, no matter how lowly, knows who is responsible they should inform the council immediately. To encourage anyone who may fear reprisals I am offering a reward of two pounds."

When asked whether the council would take up the Knight Marshall's offer of putting the troops on the streets he replied "This would set a dangerous precedent, the City of Tinrodeth is quite capable of policing itself without the assistance of the Knight Marshall".

Gax the Heretic is believed to have found a sponsor in the form of Councillor Marc. A series of public debates is to be announced, and Gax is already laying plans for a summer tour of the nearby market towns. Meanwhile Gax wishes to thank all citizens who have already contributed to the Lemon-aid fund, in particular the Vintners Guild for donation of a small plot of land outside Bardsgate.

The new Hahn Law School has been particularly noticeable for its absence. Rumour in the Guilds is that the temple is short of cash, however a source close to the temple commented "we're not worried. Pendentite Edward has staked his reputation on the success of the project". Pendentite Edward was unavailable for comment.

*Sirs, Having been recently prevented from fulfilling my duty as a spokesman at the Council Chambers, I find it necessary to accuse our Council of misconduct. It is well known that I was forcibly held during the last two months. Despite this the Council refuses to reconvene the hearing on the petition for a Thatchers Guild. This is a blatant attempt by the Carpenters, and their lackeys the Masons to prevent justice being done. I am shocked that our esteemed councillors have allowed themselves to be manipulated in this fashion.*

*Marc, Thatcher*

The proprietors of the Bull and Bucket announce that they are closing for repairs until further notice.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 137

We open this months Chronicle with the sad news that another member of the watch has been killed by an unknown assailant. Kembel Faithside died last Tuesday while returning home from watch duty, along with his bodyguard.

Although his mother (a reputable silk merchant and member of the council) was unwilling to speak to the Chronicle, we have been able to ascertain that Kembel feared for his life and had arranged to be accompanied at all times. The bodyguard was also killed.

Councillor Tholin of Avigon has requested that a team be put together to solve this problem. Suitable citizens are requested to contact him via the Chronicle.

The Midsummer Fair was a washout as the heavens opened for the duration of the event. Councillors hoping to see their Ward Team excel in the archery contest crept quietly away as round after round was ruined by the rain and damp. Overall scores were, if anything, worse than last year. Prizes were presented by the Citadel Bowmaster, the King and Knight Marshall having left early.

Also disrupted by the heavy rain were the riding events, cancelled to prevent injury to the horses. The Second Cavalry were also disrupted by the noisy arrival of Sir Hugh Grosvenor leading a war-horse ridden by several small children. The King took obvious pleasure in announcing the appointment of Sir Hugh as the 2nd Cavalry's new Major. The churned mud fields provided an ideal setting for the wrestling and bugger contests. Fat Sal powered her way to the £5 wrestling purse; while the Brewers & Coopers were the winners of the Stone Cup presented by Master-mason James St George. In the first round the Coopers & Brewers had beaten the Squires by a comfortable margin, whilst the Masons scraped through against the Skinners. In the deciding match the Coopers beat the Masons by a close margin.

Surprise of the Tournament was the appearance of a masked (but distinctly female) opponent to challenge the Kinjuru envoy to a duel with the Fara'ket, also called the Bladed Rope. This potentially vicious fight lasted a comparatively short time, and often resembled a dance. The challenger eventually conceded when she was forced to block with her rope, thus shredding it. The envoy declared himself delighted with her skill and insisted on presenting her with his purse. The Chroniclers wonder whether this was in any way influenced by the fact that the King was watching.

The Midsummer meeting of the Witanmoot announced the election of the following two citizens as sheriffs: Paston Courtney (Master Carpenter) and Kennet Maxil (Master Mercer)

The Grocers announce the loss at sea of the merchant ship 'Hogwash'. Eyewitnesses on the shore describe the ship bursting into flame and sinking quickly. There were no survivors.

Gax has announced that the total of funds raised during 'Lemon-Aid' were £46 7s 2d. He declared the event to be a good success in view of the appalling weather. He also wishes to announce, via The Chronicle, a series of public debates under the title: "The Marc's Tour - a better future"

Date	Places
1st Arvinoth	Vintners Hall (Tinrodeth)
4th Arvinoth	Haybridge
11th Arvinoth	Dereham Cross
19th Arvinoth	Fethanleag
25th Arvinoth	Hawkhurst
29th Arvinoth	The 'Empty Barrel' (Tinrodeth)

Councillor Marc wishes it to be known that, to the best of his knowledge, he is not in any way related to Marc the Thatcher.

Marc the Thatcher wishes to announce a protest march in support of the Thatchers. The march will be on the first of next month and will start at Newgate and proceed towards the Witanmoot. All are welcome.

The Chroniclers note that the fortunes of the Hahn temple appear to go from bad to worse. Apparently unable to maintain even their old school, the students are being evacuated to the main Temple site. The possible sale of the valuable school lands on Shadow Street could well be the bargain of the year.

*Sirs, We wish to inform Marc the Thatcher that the masons guild has no representatives on the council – our interests are represented by the carpenters guild – so it is impossible for us to have acted as 'lackeys' in the rejection of an appeal for a rehearing. Perhaps the 'lack' that is involved is the lack in the Thatchers' leadership, when their spokesman allows himself to spend two months in a luxury apartment as a guest of 'The Company'.*

*The Guild of Masons*

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 137

Several independent eyewitnesses have reported seeing a large greenish bulk at the mouth of the River Ishtan. Attempts to dismiss this as floating debris were confounded when it started to move upriver, against the flow of the tide. It continued a short way into the Ishtan and then submerged. These reports are particularly disturbing in view of the recent and still unexplained loss of the merchant ship 'Hogwash'.

The rally called for by Marc the Thatcher was attended by over a hundred people, mainly Thatchers families. The assembling of the rally at Newgate was watched by an interested Citadel guard from the battlements. The good-humoured crowd made their noisy way through the City to the Witanmoot, where they drew the councillors attention to the plight of the Thatchers. Rumours that the part of the rally led by Marc ended up at the Levestone in error appear to be utterly unfounded.

Readers may remember an article last month wherein a possible sale of land by the Hahn Temple was considered. The Chroniclers are pleased to be able to publish (at last) an official comment by the Temple;

*Sirs, It has come to our notice that certain erroneous and misleading articles concerning the Temple of Hahn and purporting to originate from so-called informed sources have recently been appearing in your publication. During the summer recess the Temple has decided that the existing Law School? is to be demolished and new expanded premises with the same function will be constructed on the same site. There is no question of the lands being sold, nor is there any truth in the rumours concerning the temple's financial situation. Certain of the Guilds of the City have seen fit to bestow generous gifts towards the rebuilding of the Law School, which commonly serves to improve the services provided by the Temple. These gifts will not have escaped the notice of the Holy Trinity? whose blessings will ever fall upon the deserving just. -- The Temple of Hahn*

As the be-dusted buildings of their neighbours eloquently testify, the demolition is now half completed. An observer at the start of the work reports that the work has been cursed and ill-omened, but could not identify the hag that foretold this.

Gax is on tour this month, but readers are reminded that he returns to Tinrodeth on the 29th to speak at the 'Empty Barrel'. As a prelude to this event our roving reporter has been to this respectable "councillors' local" to sample the fare. Chinon particularly recommends imbibing the 'Marcstons Old Peculiar', the house special of this establishment.

Councillor Tholin's team of investigators appear to have shelved the murder investigation "pending further information". Their enquiries were apparently not helped by the non-cooperation of the bereaved families. Councillor Tholin is, however, pleased to report the following facts discovered by the team: The murderer is female, about 5'6" in height. The murders occur at the end of a Tuesday watch. The murderer is believed to have 4 barbed arrows remaining (of a make which has now been withdrawn from sale in Tinrodeth).

Councillor Tholin commented; "We are unable to go any further with the investigation due to obstruction by the Morgan and Wainwright families. The team should not be considered to have failed. Considering the difficulties they had to overcome they did a magnificent job".



## An open letter to the Masons Guild.

*Sirs, I find your rejection of my accusations bland and uninspired. As every councillor is aware, the Carpenters? act for the Masons in council. The financial interests of these two guilds overlap enough for it to be unnecessary for the Masons to stand for election for them to exercise effective means of achieving their aims. My imprisonment was a blatant and despicable attempt to prevent me and my fellow workers from forming a guild, which would of course mean that the builders (guess who) would have to start paying us a decent return for our labours.*

*Marc, Thatcher*

*Dear Sirs, I wish to commend the Master masons and their guild for not sinking into sloth when faced with a shortage of work. Instead they promote the new sport of bugger to occupy their apprentices?, saving the latter from idleness and boredom which might have given rise to who knows what mindless violence. Even when a game is over bugger still provides occupation for the apprentice masons as the survivors build and decorate the tombs.*

*E. Neir Esq.*

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 137

We open this month's Chronicle with news of a great victory. Prince Edward has (at great cost) taken the barbarian stronghold of Cair Janed. This victory is a major relief to the merchants of this city. A senior member of the Vintners Guild commented:- "The removal of this threat to our trade routes is particularly good news. It means that next year we will be able to bring goods through the mountains in relative safety. Prince Edward is to be congratulated."

The Chroniclers note that the merchants of the city of Salvoyn are already within striking distance of the Janed pass, and will be the only ones able to get through before the pass is again closed by the onset of winter. These merchants are likely to make "a killing".

Bad luck continues to dog the construction of the new Hahn Iay School. Last week work slowed even further when a labourer was killed in what is thought to have been a subsidence of the foundations.

The Temple of Daleth has given thanks for this years bountiful harvest. The success is in part due to the new strain of barley which was introduced by the Temple a few years ago, and which is more resilient to damp summers. Grain prices have already fallen, despite an attempt by members of the Cornmongers Guild to maintain them at last years levels.

Rumours reaching the Chronicle this month suggest that trouble is brewing amongst the factions in the floating market. Citizens are warned to take greater than usual care if in the vicinity of this market.

The sea monster was again sighted early last month. The beast is believed to have attempted to reach the port under cover of the early morning fog. However a diligent watchman at the Citadel spotted the creature and the Citadel's weaponry was brought to bear. One of the catapults claims a direct hit, after which the beast was seen to drift out with the tide. It has not troubled the city since and may even be dead.

The Chronicle is pleased to note that no new 'barbed arrow' murders have taken place. Perhaps Councillor Tholin was not as unsuccessful as we thought.....

Amongst a cargo full of rare and valuable furs, Master Skinner Cuthbert de Cranford has found a black and silver pelt of unknown origin. De Cranford has graciously presented the fur to the Bards College, who are in turn eager to talk with anyone who can help them identify the pelt.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 137

The last days of Lorinfall have seen a massive increase of violence in the floating market. A bitter internal war, aided by fire, has destroyed a large portion of the floating slums. A detachment of the Kings Archers is keeping watch from the section of city wall above the river, and the area is said to be "quiet". Fishermen report that most of the dead are Cursos, and indeed a small flotilla of these people are now moored around Masons Stairs, refusing to return across the river to the floating market.

Earlier in the month D'Alenson, the notorious cat-burglar, escaped from Marshgate prison which had held him for over two years. Several days later an archer was found stabbed to death on the northern wall overlooking the marshes. The events may not be connected, but certain nervous Goldsmiths have seen fit to set a rooftop guard.

Merchants from the southern border bring the interesting news that the Crown Prince has graciously knighted Roger Colleton, his household chamberlain. The unexpected ennoblement of a Scrivener's son from Salvoyne has caused some surprise, and the Knight Marshall is openly furious after so many of his own recommendations were refused "for lack of funds". Sources at the Citadel have confirmed that Sir Roger Colleton is currently writing a history of the Prince's Gelt Campaign.

*Citizens of Livradeth,*

*May I, on behalf of the College, thank all those keen zoologists who have called on us throughout the past month. I trust that it will not be taken amiss if I point out that the College welcomes all knowledge freely given, but will not exchange coin on this matter. I trust that all misunderstandings have now been fully clarified.*

*Archivist Major*

Chinon Starsinger is extolling 'The Sea-Serpent' as this month's place to eat out. The lampreys in galantine sauce come highly recommended, although the owner is prepared to flambee almost anything at your table. (River opposite for those of a nervous disposition.)

The Court of Common Council and the Aldermanic Court have elected Master Raphael Fitz-Simmons of the Grossers Guild as the next Lord Chief Magistrate of the City.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternoost in the year 137

Our loyal readers will no doubt have been missing the regular reports of Marc the Thatcher. Never fear, the chroniclers can reveal exclusively that Marc is away on honeymoon in Aclea and will return with the spring thaw. The identity of the bride is something of a mystery but it is thought that she will add an interesting new dimension to the struggle for a new guild. The chroniclers also note that Aclea is an expensively distant place to go.

A demented soothsayer appeared in Billegate Market last month to forecast floods, storms and vile death; a not inaccurate prediction for the coming season you might think. The crazed crone disappeared under a hail of herring (storms not being a popular subject with fisher folk) but events took an unexpected turn when a respectable Mandatien of the Temple of Hahn appeared the following day to "make enquiries". Has a new prophet been revealed unto them?

The Guild of Skinners and Leathersellers has elected Master Cuthbert de Cranford as its head following the retirement of Master Leofwin. Master Cuthbert who is believed to be recovering from a massive post-election celebration, was unavailable for comment.

Master Vintner Malcolm Mowbray wishes to announce the discovery of several forged documents, which purport to come from him. All merchants are requested to send a messenger to check any financial matters directly. On a more pleasant note, he would also like to announce his engagement to Sandra Key, daughter of Master-brewer Martin Key.

The King's troops have been withdrawn from the watch of the Floating Market, despite protests by nearby residents. The market appears to have quietened with the first winter snows, but remnants of the Cursos quarter continue to be scattered around the river.

An irate Mrs Blessop is out hunting for blood this month, in search of the originator of the rumour linking her name with the appearance of the Sea Monster. The joker is advised to make peace with his/her God as Mrs Blessop is offering a 5s reward for information!

Notice from the Temple of Hahn:

*There is no cause for concern regarding the unfortunate accident last month. It was an isolated incident caused by the unforeseen presence of earlier workings beneath the law school site. These workings have been investigated and should cause no further problems to the building project.*

*Dear Councillor Marc,  
Re: Thatching of New Law School.  
No  
Yours Faithfully  
Torrel (Temple of Hahn)*

*Dear Torrel,  
Interested in your choice of roofing for the new Law School. May I enquire whether this is because you consider thatch to be an unsuitable roofing material for your purposes - or because you do not wish to become involved in the current controversy. Incidentally, I could not fully understand the last sentence in your last letter to the chronicle. Was the punctuation, spelling of words deliberate?*

*Yours Sincerely Reg Marc (councillor)*

John William Giffard is pleased to announce the opening of 'The Bullion', a magnificent new inn on Generals Way, Welland. Book your Midwinter celebrations here now.

The Chronicle will be sending Chinon along to discover just how "magnificent" the Bull and Bucket has become.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 137

Once again election time draws near, and as usual the Chronicle has been inundated with letters. As usual the Chronicle intends to show its complete independence and non-bias by publishing none of them.

Gax the Heretic has appeared in court this month, not as a defendant one should add, but in the Court of Hustings on behalf of a peasant entangled with the Honourable Lord Alexander Scrope over a boundary dispute. Gax's unexpected appearance as the defence council apparently took Lord Scrope's Hahn Mandatien by surprise, since Gax requested, and got, an adjournment to research the relevant documents.

The Chronicle regrets to announce the death of Master Matthias Tate, lately of the Drapers and Tailors Guild. Master Tate was found dead in Birchin Lane late last month. The Torian priest who examined the body on behalf of the widow said that he had died from exposure during the night, presumably after having been mugged.

The Priests of Torus are seeking information about a missing pupil. Novice Fraser went missing last Sixthday afternoon whilst on an errand to the Court of Common Council. He did not reach the council chambers and foul play is suspected. Anyone with information should contact the temple directly.

Up at the Citadel, the cellars are being stocked up in anticipation of the Royal Court's Midwinter residency. News has leaked that the Princess Eleanor's Yuletide gift is to be a series of rapier lessons. Brawls are now common in the Great Hall as the young squires sort out who is to be her sparring partner. The incredibly wealthy Lady Charlotte has a new beau in the form of an elegant and courteous stranger to the court with no apparent past. Count Garioch is reported to have consoled himself elsewhere. 'Sir' Roger Colleton is visiting the Knight-Marshall bearing messages from the Crown Prince, although several cavalry officers appear to be having trouble remembering his title. Colonel Karine Agrevaine has refused her own son permission to join the regiment and is also rumoured to have cut his allowance. The 5th Infantry have petitioned their commander for permission to form a bugger team. All this appears to be too much for the Kinjuru Envoy, who has gone to a Temple upriver for meditation during the winter.

This month Chinon, our redoubtable reporter, was pleased to accept an invitation to the newly restored 'Bullion' inn in Welland Ward. This well-decorated, cosy place would be an ideal drinking haven for tired election campaigners wishing to enjoy an affluent atmosphere. Others however may prefer to sample the significantly better beer available at the other pub down the road.

The Court of Common Council is pleased to announce that the contract for maintenance of the Bridge has been awarded to Master-mason Robert Beaureli. Work will be starting in the spring.

Lastly, citizens of the affluent wards of Arpent and Faringdon are warned that some prankster is lifting random items of laundry from back yards. "Is this relevant?" I hear you ask. No, but we needed a brief item to finish with.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 138

Lord Alexander Scrope's case has been dismissed by the Court of Hustings after a brilliant and concisely argued defence by Gax the Heretic. Gax, working from the King's Records at the Citadel (which are of course definitive) questioned the entire validity of Lord Scrope's property deeds, which were registered only at the Witanmoot. Lord Scrope has so far escaped with a minor fine on behalf of the King, but Yeoman Hanley, of Hanley Farm (the Old Hall), is believed to be considering recompense and may even have claim to the entire Scrope property.

The snow has finally settled over this year's Council elections. This year sees the city with three new Aldermen: Martin Key of Levestone, a popular Master-brewer whose campaign may have been enhanced by the marriage of his daughter to Master vintner Malcolm Mowbray (who also retained his seat on the council). Leonard Tholin replaces Paston Courtney who became a sheriff in the Midsummer election, as Alderman of Avigon. And Douglas du Bolay, who's campaign had the full support of the Lord Chief Magistrate, Raphael Fitz-Simmons, became the new Alderman of Arpent.

Overall the Chroniclers note a shift in the Council of more Grossers and less Mercers, whilst the Cornmongers have had a particularly noticeable slump after their price-fixing attempt of last autumn. The Chroniclers would also like to welcome the first Mason to be elected since the start of the Gelt wars, Councillor Robert Beaureli; and the youngest Councillor to be elected this year - Master brewer Carl Marc.

The Chronicle would like to offer its seasonal good wishes to those Watch members who have worked so assiduously to clear the city's major roads of the drifting snow and other debris. Although travelling, even across the city, is difficult in these snowbound days, the Watches are requested not to dump the dead paupers into the Ishtan.

The Priests of Torus seem to be living fast and dangerously these days; one 'disappeared' last month, one was summoned hurriedly and quietly to the Temple of Hahn, and yet another seen entering (and more surprisingly leaving) the Floating Market. If any of our readers are aware of what's going on then would they please write and put the Editor's fevered imagination at ease.

The Bards' College celebrated the Midwinter festival with their usual lavish banquet. Two of their distinguished patrons, Sir Roger Colleton and Guildmaster Cuthbert de Cranford, were honoured guests. Members of the College provided entertainment with the 'Epic of Antithesis', the saga of the last known dragon hunt. Fierce debate then raged along the high table as to whether any of these fabulous beasts still exist.

Notice from the Temple of Hahn:

*One of the Temple Guards has been murdered by person or persons unknown, presumably in the mistaken belief that the underground workings contained valuables. The workings have now been mapped so that further cave-ins can be avoided, and will be sealed forthwith.*

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 138

There were dramatic scenes in the Court of Common Council during a debate on the city youth, when Cerern Pencric (silk merchant) launched a vicious attack on the Mercers Guild, the discipline of their apprentices, and the Morgan family in particular. The Morgan and Pencric families both lost sons during the so-called 'barbed arrow' murders last summer, and Councillor Pencric came dangerously close to accusing Grantham Morgan of responsibility for this. Amid general uproar, Councillor Morgan's comment on "hysterical females" could clearly be heard and earned him a black eye from Maud Blessop, who happened to be seated in front of him at the time. Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmons adjourned the meeting while order was restored.

When the Council reconvened the atmosphere was lightened by Carl Marc. In his maiden speech he apologised for the immaturity of his contemporaries and assured the council (amid general laughter) that they would no doubt learn from their elders and betters.

Highly reliable sources at the Citadel have confirmed the rumour that the 5th Infantry are due to leave for the Southern border "as soon as the weather permits - probably come Pipetal". It is not yet known which, if any, regiment replaces them. Along with the regiment will go Sir Gryphon Harcourt, Sir Gawain Carleon and Sir Maxemillian Talbot. They have recently been knighted by the King but cannot serve in the 2nd cavalry regiment until they have seen active service. Sir Roger Colleton is also returning.

Still at the Citadel - Sir William Ruthven required the attention of a Torian Priest after meeting Sir Alan Boece in a duel over the matter of Lady Charlotte's honour. An alleged comment by the lady about Sir Alan's attraction ("because he is the one man who has refused to marry me") may have been the cause of this incident. Lady Charlotte is the sole named heir of the Earl Brecean and remains unmarried at the age of 26, despite many attempts to persuade her otherwise.

Yeoman Hanley is reported to have settled out of court with Lord Scrope for an undisclosed but "substantial" sum. Yeoman Hanley has insisted on bestowing a large portion of the money on the City Orphanage Fund after Gax had refused to accept any money on his own behalf.

Guildmaster Cuthbert de Cranford has been exceptionally busy this month buying rare maps from scribes, expensive ingredients from apothecaries, and delving into ancient archives all over the city. The subject of this sudden frenzy - dragon relics?!?!?

The 'Empty Barrel' in Welland has announced its intention to hold what it describes as a "beer festival". This seems to involve drinking as much beer as you can and then attempting to decide which one is the best before you pass out. Chinon assures us there is more to it than that but even if there isn't it sounds worth going to. In answer to the rumour that the Knight-Marshall had been invited to attend, a source at the Citadel told us; "If the Knight-Marshall attends it will be with a full complement of armed troops, and he won't be there to judge beers".



*Sirs,*

*There has been some speculation and comment following your article last month in which you mentioned a visit by our Healer to the floating market. The Priests of Torus will administer to anyone in need, regardless of who they are or how low they may be. The belief held by many in this city that only the rich deserve care and justice saddens me deeply.*

*- Baylin (Temple of Torus)*

*Dear Sirs,*

*Since my favourite sport of football was banned by Royal edict, I have, as a loyal citizen, abstained from the sport. I am however angered at how the so-called sport of bugger has grown. This 'sport' requires little skill and achieves nothing but broken bones and maiming. Surely if football is against the good of the nation, this brawling with rules must be more so? I am disappointed that the King's advisers have not seen fit to bring this to his attention. Yours in anger*

*- A loyal citizen.*

*Honourable Sirs,*

*A copy of your esteemed news sheet has been brought to my attention. It is wrong. The term 'Kijivuri' refers to the exiles and outcasts from our glorious Empire. The term may correctly be applied to your river slum. The correct address for your Imperial Envoy is: His Excellency Zalaki Takura, the Lord Keeper of the Staff, Count of Siir Marshes, Holder of the Estuary of Karachyi, Sidimaat of the Deep and Defender of the Eastern Shore - Envoy to the Court of Albion. Please ensure that a suitable apology is printed in your revered paper before the Envoy returns. He will otherwise be forced to settle this as a matter of honour.*

**上**

*Second under-clerk of State*

Ah. Apologies honourable Sir! We trust that the term 'Imperial Envoy' is a suitable alternative to the above list.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 138

The first weeks of Pipetal have seen the winter snows washed away in deluge of rain. The river Ishta is still rising and the marshlands have flooded all roads out of the city except the Causeway leading north east, and the South East Road out of Oldgate. The City is becoming increasingly isolated and the River Dow is now threatening to separate Easthill and Wheathill, although the priests of Brynette have constructed several "interesting" new footbridges over the waters for the citizens use. The Wellhouse has become particularly crowded as local villagers seek refuge.

No help has been forthcoming from the Citadel whose gates have remained firmly closed "for security reasons" since the departure of the 5th Infantry last week. The turnout of citizens for the 5th Infantry's farewell was noticeable for its absence - just a few merchants were waiting outside the gate to travel south with them. The regiment departed in the relentless drizzle through a shuttered and largely oblivious city.

The death of Councillor Cerern Pencric of Marshgate ward has been announced. Her body was found in the early hours of the morning by her house servants. Reports say that she committed suicide using a dagger belonging to her late son. Neighbours confirm that Cerern, a widow, never entirely recovered from the murder of her eldest son last Heliora. The silk business will be inherited by Arianne, her daughter.

Violence flared in the long-suffering ward of Dowgate this month as vagabonds from the floating market mounted yet another raid on the local citizenry. The usually fleet and elusive aliens were this time caught out by the rising flood waters. Trapped on the narrow riverbank between a lone member of the Kings Rangers and the pursuing watch the scum were forced to jump into the river Ishta, where under the bow fire of the watch they hopefully perished.

The attackers appeared to be a mixture of Babel and Solistel, and this has rekindled local fears of a combined attack by the river scum on the City. Renewed calls for protection from the Citadel, this time backed by the Aldermen and Lord Magistrate, were met with a polite refusal. Perhaps the Knight Marshal is not as brave as his men?

Captain 'Kurt' is expected to fully recover from the wound he received during the action.

A small fire which broke out in Ishta ward overnight was quickly contained by local residents and the appalling weather. Only one building was destroyed (a tavern) and a neighbouring warehouse slightly damaged. The owner of the tavern, Alex Windrake, is missing presumed dead although no body has been found. The regulars of the tavern were unavailable when the Chroniclers' reporter visited the area. However a local resident commented. "It's the first fire I've come across which caused sword wounds".

One of the few rumours to make its way outside the Citadels' defences is of the Princess' fencing practice. Apparently her Royal Highness has been surprising everybody with her "natural grace and skill with a rapier". Would the Chronicle dare to suggest that this might be due to the previous surreptitious training which we also keep hearing of?

The widely circulating rumour concerning a peasant revolt in Aclea appears to have no credited source and no available verification. The Chroniclers are somewhat puzzled by the apparent credibility being given to this news. After all who do you know who's made the journey from Aclea in the last month?

## The Chronicle of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 138

We open this month's Chronicle with the surprise news that Mark the thatcher has had a "most productive" audience with the King. To fully understand the significance of this event, it is necessary to look back to his recent return from honeymoon with his new bride Catherine Bergeren. She is the daughter of Alderman Bergeren, treasurer of the Goldsmiths Guild. The Carpenters Guild is said to be in a state of panic - watch this space for further developments.

The past few weeks have seen much turmoil and confusion in that bastion of tradition, the Scriveners Guild. Master Thomas Harrison (their elderly treasurer) was seemingly inspired by the springtime festivities to elope with his assistant, Miss Magnolia Williams, leaving behind his wife and daughter. A spokesman for the Guild revealed that he was well-known for "working late at the office", subsequently falling asleep "from the strain of the job". Young Miss Magnolia frequently devoted her time to "easing Master Harrison's burden".

The two eased themselves out of the guild a scant two weeks before the elections caused by the death, over winter, of the guildmaster and his deputy. Guild affairs are currently in confusion despite attempts by junior members, notably David Northropp, Richard Nixon and Victor Eggleston, to fill suddenly vacant posts. Master Northropp is tipped to do well in the coming election.

The ward of Marshgate was rocked by an explosion late last week. The home of one Talus Snapdragon (Master Apothecary) was almost totally destroyed when "one of his preparations got a little out of hand". Mr Snapdragon is recovering in the Torian Temple.

Bern Morgan, the eldest son of Grantham, is also recovering in the Temple of Torus from unspecified injuries. A widespread rumour that he was seriously wounded in a duel with Arianne Pencric is being denied by the Morgans.

The first arrivals in port this year were the naval vessels "Spirit of Fire" and "Wandals Retribution". These ships had successfully completed the arduous journey from the South carrying men of the Kings 7th Infantry, who will replace the 5th Infantry at the Citadel. Some of the battle-hardened troops described the trip as the worst part of their three year war.

Sir William Ruthven was one of the first people to leave the City once the floods subsided. An unattributed source at the Citadel commented "Well 'es off back to wherever 'e come from. I hears 'is Lady Charlotte ain't too pleased with 'im trying to skewer Sir Boece".

## The Chronicle of the month of Heliora in the year 138

We open this month with the news that for the first time in over 30 years a new Guild Charter has been granted. Last week Marc Bergeren was formally summoned to the citadel where the King granted him the right to form a Guild of Thatchers. The news has thrown the Council into turmoil. How many members will the guild have?, will they be eligible to join the council?, who will they side with?, will the carpenters drinks evenings become less extravagant.....

The Carpenters refused to comment on rumours that they will challenge the legality of the charter, however Sheriff Courtney seems to be spending a lot of time at the Temple of Hahn. The question on everyone's mind at the moment is - will Gax defend the thatchers, and if he does, who will the Hahnites put up against him?

The Scriveners have sorted out their problems, and have elected David Northropp as their Guildmaster. Master Northropp is thought to be 'none too pleased' with the Mercers backing of his opponent Richard Nixon, and frantic behind the scenes attempts are being made to stop the Scriveners joining the grocers and cornmongers faction. Meanwhile the Vintners and Brewers & Hostellers have settled their longstanding differences and left their relative factions to 'build a closer relationship between the two guilds'. Not as close as Sandra Key and Malcolm Mowbray one hopes.

The Leviathon (flagship of the growing Warin fleet) finally made it into port this month. The Leviathon's attempt to be the first merchantman into Linrodeth for the third year running ended miserably when she sustained 'serious' damage in a storm and was forced to put into port further south for repairs. A sailor commented "without captain Eagleview we would never have lived. But then if it wasn't for him we'd never have been there anyway."

## The Chronicle of the month of Menderal in the year 138

According to sources within the higher echelons of the council, Lord Chief Magistrate Raphael Fitz-Simmons is sounding people out over a new concept. Apparently he plans a "Reform of the electoral system, which will stabilise the government of the city, ensure good, efficient government and save money."

Most of the Royal family has retired to its summer lodge at Easthaga, taking a detachment of the second cavalry regiment as household guard. Rumour has it that the Queen is not impressed with the discipline of the seventh infantry regiment and has placed her famous rose garden out of bounds. The Queens opinion appears to be shared by many city watchmen, perhaps others areas may be placed off limits?

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 138

This years Midsummer Fair was blessed with bright sunshine and a light breeze. Fat Sal once again took the wrestling purse, although she was very nearly beaten by the much younger Fendus Graf of Portsoken. The Coopers and Brewers easily retained the Stone Cup. Their Captain Councillor Carl Marc strongly denied rumours that the team would be splitting up next year.

This year the King has not permitted his forces to compete in the competitions, which have therefore been much more open. However his Majesty did attend the festival this year and presented many of the prizes himself. The Archery contest was the only major disappointment of the fair, with performances well below the expected standards. The mysterious failure of Miranda Andrews and many other senior members of the Bowyers Guild to attend cannot have helped.

The day after the festival His Majesty issued the following proclamation.

"Be it known that His Majesty King Edmund is seriously displeased by the failure of the citizens of Tinrodeth to fulfil their duty to train for war. Any citizen who by the last day of Menderal has not demonstrated the ability to hit a standard target at a range of 30 yards with six arrows in less than 5 minutes will be fined the sum of five shillings."

The battle between the Thatchers and the Carpenters seems to be hotting up. The Carpenters have formally challenged the Thatchers' right to immediately operate a guild monopoly. They have suggested that instead an interim system should be established whereby the Thatchers guild would be administered by a committee of interested parties until the Thatchers have had the time to develop the sophistication and skill to operate an effective and fair guild. Mark the Thatcher commented to the Chronicle: "We have not fought for our own guild just so that it can be run by the people who've been oppressing us for the last century. I have taken legal advice and although there is a precedent for their plan, it bears little relation to the present situation. I will fight them all the way on this, and although they may get the Law on their side, Justice will be on mine."

The Lord Chief Magistrate Raphael Fitz-Simmons has now released details of his plan for electoral reform. It appears to consist chiefly of shifting the annual election of Lord Chief Magistrate to the Spring instead of the Autumn, thus making the choices for the Sheriffs election more obvious and, incidentally, avoiding the need for his own re-election for another six months.

The ward of Marshgate is this month afflicted with a sweating fever which has already claimed lives. The Torian priests are warning people to avoid the area unless their business is urgent, however they have not yet decided to apply to the Council for quarantine permission.

## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 138

A major row is brewing between the wards of Welland and Shambles. The residents of Shambles living South of the Kingsway have suggested that they ought to be included in the Welland ward. Their leader, Della Sarth, explained further, "We in the south Kingsway area do most of our business with residents of Welland and have far more in common with them than with the butchers of Shambles. The Kingsway is a natural boundary and its high time this anomaly was sorted out." Alderman Belcher of Shambles commented that he had "little time for the manoeuvrings of the Welland council" and saw no need for change.

The Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmon's plans for electoral reform have been accepted by the Council in an almost uncontested debate. It would seem that nobody wanted to speak against what is a sensible and worthwhile reform.

The Carpenters Guild have announced that Pendentite Antonius Cyan-Dorius of the Temple of Hahn will formally contest the right of the Thatchers to form a Guild. The case will come before the Courts next month. A rather smug Mark Bergeren announced that Gax the Heretic will be acting on the thatchers behalf. It would seem that the Hahnites top lawyer is in for a rough time.

*Dear Sirs,*

*It has come to my notice that your esteemed publication has been casting dispersions (sic) about the power of prophecy and astrology. May I point out the portent revealed by both last year's Midsummer Festival (where bad weather stepped play) and the "demented soothsayer" (reported last Tormost) has, of course, rung true. The bad weather on Midsummer day predicts, as is well known, usually precedes famine or plague, but last year this was affected by the multiple conjunction of Adamasto with both Letophore and Senemora and thus preceded the large number of violent deaths during the last year (see the Chronicles for the months of Setheran, Loringfall, Kryll, Kuthas, Skelorn, Pipetal and Jasmarrill). The "demented soothsayer" predicted "floods, storms and vile death". As is, I'm sure, well remembered by readers of this esteemed publication, last year's storms and floods were the worst in living memory and the plague now inflicting Marshgate fulfils the last part of the prophecy. Finally, had the Temple of Hahn contacted me before starting rebuilding of their new law school, I could have told them to delay work for six months rather than suffer the wrath of the conjunction of Letophore with Alderoth.*

*Goodgulf Astrologer Royal*

The ward of Marshgate has now been declared 'safe' by the priests of the Temple of Torus.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 138

The public galleries of the Court of Justice has been packed all week to witness the contention between Gax the Heretic and Pendentite Antonious Cyan-Dorius. The legal battle is being hard fought on both sides. The two lawyers are presenting their cases with great knowledge and eloquence in what has sometimes seemed like a personal contest of skill to which we are ignorant and unworthy observers. If you have not yet been to see what is possibly the greatest display of the legal art to take place this generation then I suggest you join the queues.

The social occasion of the civic year - the Higharvestide Ball - was noticeable mainly for its lack of incidents. As the music rose and the colourful, glittering crowd swirled around the Great Hall it seemed that the plagues, floods and wars that have troubled the city had not touched these people.

From the Royal Court, Lady Sapphire arrived daringly dressed (or almost dressed) on the arms of Councillor Castlemaine. Miranda Andrews, still working on the highly confidential defence project, was seen deep in discussion with the Armourer, Olnorth Dexter. Reg Marc, dressed elegantly in stark black, became the centre of attention of many of the ladies. Lord Raphael, of course, was the centre of the political discussions of the evening.

Reports of large numbers of demon worshippers in the area south of the Great Fens are being denied by the Lord of Burbage; "A small group of Azial worshippers was discovered in the area near Emlett, but they have been dealt with and are unlikely to trouble anyone again, at least in this life."

Alderman Isenbard of Welland has intervened in the boundary dispute between Welland and Shambles. In a letter to the Chronicle he stated "I have spoken with the (South Kingsway) group, and see it as entirely proper for me to do so. However Alderman Belcher's insinuation that I am somehow behind this group, manipulating it for my own ends, is completely without foundation and frankly seems somewhat paranoid. Alderman Belcher should be looking to the way his ward is governed; not blaming external factors. The differences in the natures of our two wards are quite apparent and I am in complete sympathy with the citizens of Shambles who want to come under a more effective council."

Alderman Belcher was unavailable for comment as he was busy attempting to have Alderman Sparman censored for allegedly libelling him. The action was unsuccessful but perhaps Alderman Belcher needed the practice.

Outside of the councils the situation has been worsening. The watches of the two wards have been seen exchanging insults over the contested boundary; and in a rather tasteless incident, blood and entrails were strewn over the doorway of the Dancing Bear, the one inn in the area.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 138

Pendentite Jasmine Beauvaire, Priestess of Hahn, has officially announced that the Princess Eleanor will be attending the Temple's new Law School upon its completion next year. We understand that the princess will have her own suite of rooms in the main temple for security reasons. Pendentite Jasmine went on to assure us that the Princess would otherwise be treated like any other novice.

The civic funeral for the late Alderman Geoffrey Morris was held last month and many hundreds of citizens attended despite the cold weather. Before lighting the pyre, Lord Fitz-Simmons delivered a moving eulogy, and the respectful hush was broken only by some rather tasteless laughter from Councillor Dexter. Later, the Wardmoot of Temple appointed the cornmonger John Emberson as their new Alderman, in a surprisingly uncontested debate.

The deteriorating weather has bought a last flurry of caravans off the trade routes. News from the southern mountains tell of the Gelt launching a sudden attack on many of the armies stores. Gaining surprise and attacking with their usual ferocity, the tribesmen inflicted heavy losses on many detachments. It was noted that in each case the tribesmen chose to encumber themselves with substantial amounts of grain during their retreat.

Our star reporter Chinon has been kept busy this month with two major parties to keep track of. The first, a noisy, beer-swilling affair lasting several days and involving half of Welland, appeared to be in honour of the birth of the youngest member of the Marcs family. The second was a wine-tasting party and an altogether more dignified affair hosted by the elderly Armundus Septer at the Scriveners Guildhall, and attended by many notable citizens including Alderman Elliot Sparman.

Now it appears that associations of this kind can have unfortunate effects as, not a fortnight later, Master Septer is accused of Treachery and is himself required to attend a Hearing. We understand that the Hearing will be before Sheriff Paston Courtney at the Witanmoot during Kryll. Certain nameless councillors have suggested that Armundus' Hearing has been going for years.

Keen political observers may note that many previously dormant councillors are beginning to stir themselves into action, having noticed the approaching Midwinter elections. Only 45 more backstabbing days until Yuletide!

Vanessa St Lawrence would be pleased to receive any information leading to the recovery of a small bronze casket stolen last Monday. No intrinsic but great sentimental value. A small reward is offered.

# The times of Cascorach

## for the festival of Ghostmoons in the Year 138

The announcement of the marriage between Eorliane Cynthia Fitzholme of Bethesda and Baron Edward Caerlon of Rannoch came as a sudden surprise during Lorinfall. The romance between the Eorliane and the Baron, the talk of the summer, had been assumed to be a simple crush on behalf of the Baron for the Eorliane, and that the Eorliane had been encouraging it for her own purposes. However it now seems that the Baron has played the Court of Cascorach to his own advantage. Perhaps Baron Tancred Mendoza will have to watch out!

The marriage itself was held on the first of Kryll. It was one of the most sumptuous affairs seen in Cascorach for some time. The bride wore a most gorgeous white gown, with a train that stretched almost to the other end of the Temple of Hahn. The groom, looking (and sounding) very nervous, was very dashing in his Baronial regalia. His best man was Duke Alexander Calverin. Priests from both the temple of Daleth and the Temple of Torus were in attendance and added their blessings to those of the Temple of Hahn.

The choice of the Temple of Hahn is very unusual. The most common choice is the Temple of Daleth, and speculation in the court of Duke Alexander is varied as to the exact meaning of their choice.

Concern is growing over the conduct of Prince Edward's battle against the Delt barbarians. Since his victory at Cair Taned not much progress has been reported. Indeed the Emissary from Salvoryn reports that the Delt harassing of the Salvoryn merchant trains to and from the City States is growing and could force up prices in the near future. Duke Alexander is growing concerned about the possibility of Delt attacks reaching into Cascorach itself, and possibly even the castle of Caradache.. The city watches have been told to increase their strengths by fifty percent and non-attendance at the weekly archery practises now attracts a fine of two shillings.

The thatchers of Cascorach have complained to Duke Alexander about the non-cooperation from the other guilds in the construction of a guildhall. The thatchers argue that, following the granting of a Guild charter to Marc Bergeren (a thatcher in the capital), they are entitled to both a guild charter from Duke Alexander and to build a Guildhall. However the carpenters are refusing to work on the building and have put pressure on the masons to insist that they have a three year backlog on repairs to the city wall already, and have no time to work on the thatcher's Guildhall.

### News from Linrodeth

The Carpenter's Guild have been presenting a court case to invalidate the thatcher's new guild charter. It has been announced that Princess Eleanor will be attending the Temple of Hahn's new law school in the spring..

A major dispute has broken out between two wards of the city. The dispute is over the disposition of a group of people on the border of the two wards.

### News from Salvoryn

The Delt have been attacking many army stores on the trade routes between Salvoryn and Cascorach. The major item of booty has been the grain stores kept by the army. Heavy losses have been reported by the defending garrisons and Duke Alexander has sent reinforcements to the area.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 138

The Armundus Septer Hearing was held before Sheriff Courtney early this month in a packed room at the Witanmoot. Master Septer, Recorder for the Court of Common Council, was accused of Treachery, but significantly the main witness refused to repeat the accusation under oath. A number of Tevestone householders, including fellow councillor Malcolm Mowbray, then testified to Master Septer's upstanding and law-abiding nature. Sheriff Courtney concluded that the rumours were without substance and dismissed the allegations. The Tevestone Alderman, Martin Key, later spoke to our reporter outside the court. He deeply abhorred this attempt to denigrate Armundus' character just before the coming elections, and hoped that the remaining days of the election campaign would be without further incident.

Shinannon, the Wellkeeper of the Temple of Daleth, has sent messages to the Citadel and to Alderman Tholin, Chairman for Lands and Agriculture, warning that excessive grain has been sold off to merchants by irresponsible landowners. Many complaints are reaching her from the surrounding countryside, describing granaries inadequately stocked against the coming winter.

Events in the Welland/Shambles border dispute have taken a bizarre turn with the behaviour of Erik 'The Finger' Dragonsbane, owner of the blood-daubed "Dancing Bear". Ignoring completely the political wranglings of his councillors, our proprietor set out, apparently to trace the donor of the entrails. Erik has since been seen collecting entrails and wrestling pigs across the city.

In a dramatic intervention, The Archimandrite of the Temple of Hahn has adjourned the Carpenters vs Thatchers court case. Presenting a writ from the King, the Archimandrite told the assembled citizens that those wishing to be considered as Craftmaster of the new Thatchers' Guild should present themselves to the King at the hunting lodge, come the Springtide Festival. Applicants are required to bring the tools of the trade, and will be required to demonstrate their skill.

Gax the Heretic is appealing for donations of food and firewood to help the city orphans survive the winter. With thick snow covering most of the Bardsgate site, the orphanage has removed to Hanley Barn, where all donations should be sent.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 138

Scandals continue to brew in the turbulent ward of Tevestone where Malcolm Mowbray has formally accused Matthew Dixon of attempted blackmail. The blackmailing apparently concerned some old debts which (unhappily for Cllr Dixon) are fully paid off. Cllr Beatrice Perignon then came forward to bear witness that she had overheard the incident (how we wonder). The Hearing takes place before Alderman Martin Key next Thursday and Cllr Mowbray has already contacted the Temple of Hahn concerning the prosecuting lawyer for the subsequent trial.

The Knight-Marshall has been forced to send troops through the snow to restore order in nearby villages after fighting broke out around the granaries. Some villages have already run out of food and The Wellkeeper reports severe shortages throughout the countryside. Despite several pleas the Cornmongers Guild continues to hold its stockpile and many citizens are laying in their own store for the winter.

Further east the harsh winter has forced bandits out of the hills in search of food and shelter. Several manors in the Gavelkinden area are rumoured to have been raided, although the true extent of the problem may not be discovered until spring.

The Chronicle would like to welcome two new Aldermen after the Midwinter elections: Susan Faithside for Avigon, and Olivia Warin of Temple ward. A surprise result is the announcement from Bassishaw that Marc Bergeren has been elected councillor as a member of the Thatchers guild. Naturally the Carpenters are contesting the legality of this. It is also noted that Cllr 'Mobile' Mowbray, previously a member of two other factions, is now setting up his own group.

The Princess Eleanor was recently seen to be dressed in deepest mourning, although nobody appears to be sure for whom. All members of the royal family are reported to be in full health.

Early rising citizens (or sleepless students) may have noticed a duel fought outside Bardsgate earlier this month. Marc Bergeren's erratic brilliance was slowly worn down by the consistency of Matthew Dixon. Marc eventually conceded after sustaining a messy wound. Perhaps Cllr Mowbray should try to do better?

The Chronicle would request citizens not to play Pooh Sticks with the frozen beggars from the newly repaired bridge. Several Watermen have had to avoid these navigation hazards at very short notice, and the local fishermen are also becoming upset.

# The times of Cascorach

## for the festival of Midwinter in the Year 139

Duke Alexander led the remembrance ceremony for the Duchess Angela de Crambourne of Cascorach, who died last year in Childbirth. The child was to have been the Duke and Duchess's first child. The Duke firmly denies that there was any sinister aspect to her death, as several courtiers have found out in duels with the Duke.

Duke Alexander renewed the invitations of attendance to the emissaries of the Salvoyrn, the City State of Adaqua and the City State of Laurea during the festival.

The Delt have continued to attack outlying villages and stores. The main cause of the attacks appear to be a lack of food. These include the generally bad harvest throughout Athion, their loss of Cair Tamed last year, and consequently its grain stores, and a supposed lack of support from their allies in the City States.

The worst affected area is the Barony of Radford, and Baroness Vivian de Huengenaunt has asked for (and received) the help of the Caradache garrison.

Eorliane Cynthia Fitzholme and Baron Eduard announced that they will be helping Baroness Vivian de Huengenaunt. Their honeymoon will be delayed until the spring.

Duke Alexander has warned that if grain stocks fall low and the Guild of Cornmongers indulges in profit-taking he will be forced to impose a special tax on the Cornmongers.

Both the Carpenter's Guild and the Mason's Guild have started work on the new Guildhall for the Thatchers. This followed an announcement by Duke Alexander that he was granting a temporary Guild Charter (renewable annually) for the formation of a Guild of Thatchers. It is suspected that the main reason for the commencement of work is the persistent rumours of an imminent investigation into the reasons why the backlog on the Cascorach City Walls was reported to be three years behind schedule. The Guild of Masons has issued the following statement: "The state of repair of the City Walls can be summed up in one word: 'Excellent'. Any attempt to say otherwise will be met appropriate action".

The Temple of Daleth has made representations to the Duke following the discovery that the fines for non-attendance of the weekly archery practice were being used to finance the extra city watches ordered by the Duke. The Temple is concerned that the fines are being imposed without regard to the situations caused by the recent heavy falls of snow in the city. Several cases have been reported of the fines being imposed after the archery practice was abandoned after three feet of snow fell overnight.

### News from Linrodeth

All overland routes to Linrodeth have now been cut off, following the bad weather during Kruthos. Salvoyrn reports that sea travel to the capital will be resumed in the spring.

### News from Salvoyrn

The river route to Salvoyrn is now blocked with ice, but some contact with the city of Salvoyrn is possible using skaters. The expectation is the current emissary from Salvoyrn to Cascorach will remain as Karen Anderson, and Emissary Anderson did not return to Salvoyrn.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 139

This month sees the 'Corn Crisis' worsening and the price of bread rising. The situation is not helped by the fact that a new Chairman of Lands & Agriculture has yet to be elected. Against a background of increasing complaints and reports of rioting at a bakery in Ishtan, the initiative was taken by Councillor Reg Marc, who attempted to persuade the Cornmongers to release their stockpile of grain. The attempt failed but Councillor Malcolm Mowbray later managed to force an emergency debate on the crisis. Called at short notice, there were many councillors absent, but the motion to purchase the grain store with the City funds was passed by 120 votes to 77. Speaking for the motion were Cllrs Marc, Mowbray, Septer and Devon. Protests were then heard from the Cornmongers (inevitably) and also surprisingly from Sheriff Paston Courtney, who led the Carpenters in a "no" vote.

The Hearing against Matthew Dixon in Levestone has been held before Sheriff Kennet Maxil. Cllr Malcolm Mowbray had accused Cllr Dixon of attempted blackmail, and Cllr Beatrice Perignon testified that she had witnessed the "disgraceful" attempt. A number of senior Master Carpenters then testified that Matthew Dixon had been present in their Guildhall at the time in question, and could not have been the blackmailer. Amid outcry from the public gallery, Sheriff Maxil dismissed the allegation on the assumption that an imposter had been at work. Cllr Mowbray, looking deeply shocked, later stated that he knew Cllr Dixon very well, and could not have been mistaken.

Rumours sweeping the city indicate that a draft will be imposed on the mercenaries currently overwintering here, presumably to boost the depleted 7th Infantry. Wealthy guildmembers have already been feeling the pinch as an emergency tax has been imposed specifically to fund the Gelt war. Precisely which regiment(s) will be sent south remains confused, as much of the citadel's complement has been sent out to the villages to maintain the King's law. Rumour from the countryside (probably unfounded) is that they are having only limited success.

A body was found in silt land last week. The body had been mutilated and the woman, who was known to have criminal connections, is believed to have been the victim of a feud between two of the criminal groups in the city. The Portsoken watch has been increased and neighbouring wards are asked to increase their vigilance.

The incidence of duelling in the city is on the increase, the latest was rumoured to have been fought between Rayburn Fields (apprentice Chandler of Bardsgate) and Graythorn Lance (a student bard). The duel was apparently over Julia Killcade, a lady of their acquaintance. At her insistence the duel was fought with snowballs. It is believed that Mr fields will recover from his injuries.

## The Chronicle of the month of Galemir in the year 139

With the solving of the corn crisis our councillors seem to have settled in for a quiet spring, well some of them at least. Councillor Matthew Dixon of Levestone, fresh from his duel with Marc the Thatcher and his court battle with Malcolm Mowbray, seems unable to stay out of trouble. Apparently our respected councillor got into an argument with Councillor Ellis Devon of Faringdon whilst they were 'having a few jars' in the Empty Barrel. The two men came to blows and were quickly dragged apart by other councillors, however the men could not be pacified and a duel will take place next month.

There were ugly scenes last week when some mercenaries attempted to resist His Majesty's summons to service. Several taverns, including the Falcon, the Dancing Bear and the Spinning Sow, witnessed mass brawls as patrons were required to prove citizenship. Large numbers of the Seventh Infantry, looking far from convalescent, reinforced this late night call-up. Of those 'rounded up', many were released the following morning. The remainder are understood to have been recruited into the Seventh Infantry.

More scandal within the Apothecaries Guild, where Tilly Falgar of Welland is being investigated by Guildmaster Samantha Cox following the death of Elsania Dawson of Cartage, one of Guildmember Falgar's customers. When interviewed by the Chronicle Camilla Dawson stated, "Mother was fine until she took her regular dose of Falgar's preparation, and ten minutes later she was dead. If the Guild doesn't take some action then we will." A young spokesman for the Apothecary could only say that since receiving the news Miss Falgar had gone "all pale and interesting".

Lord Raphael, in response to popular demand, is encouraging local watches to 'crackdown on crime'. Anyone noting suspicious activity in their vicinity is asked to report it at once to their local Alderman. Lord Raphael stated "There is only one way we will make our city safe, and that's through concerted action. It is the duty of every citizen to be wary and to support their local watch." The Chroniclers note without comment that the City's Inner Council is due to vote this month on the appointment of the next Lord of the City.

The first day of Galemir saw the accidental death of Anton Morris in a duel against Olnorth Dexter. Witnesses say that young Anton was an inept duellist and that he was killed by his own recklessness. The Chronicle deplores the current foolhardy fashion among the young of challenging for sport, and requests all citizens to discourage duelling as a way of settling minor disputes.

## The Chronicle of the month of Pipetal in the year 139

The spring thaw has arrived, and with it many refugees from the surrounding domains. The main through roads have become filled with homeless families and Lord Raphael has now ordered the city gates closed to all but those with business or relatives in the city. The city watches, already at double strength from last month, are said to be coping with the situation, although the 7th Infantry have taken over duty at the gates. Most food suppliers have now closed down, but Lord Raphael has assured the Chronicle that the city still retains enough corn to feed its citizens.

Beyond the city, many refugees speak of bandits raiding the villages and manors, especially along the Chineway and Gavelkinden areas. Both the Mercers and Grossers are organising large caravans to avoid trouble, and merchants are advised to contact these guilds if they are thinking of travelling East.

King Edmund has summoned Lord Raphael and Aldermen Rimon, Faithside and Horl to a short interview at the Citadel. All four refused to comment afterwards, but His Majesty has since left the city accompanied by most of the 2nd Cavalry and travelling upriver. Princess Eleanor is at the Hahn Temple, where she is now residing and studying at the newly re-opened Law School. The Queen has taken ship to Salvoyn, where preparations are starting for a royal reception on Dragonfeast. Prince Kieran is also said to have left the Citadel for the Wealden area, along with an undisclosed number of rangers. Sources describe the Citadel as "quiet - too damn quiet." Their Majesties have given notice that the thatching contest has been postponed until Harvest.

Apothecary Falgar, after an extensive and unconventional guild investigation, has been cleared of all blame in the murder of Elsanía Dawson. The investigation ended with the arrest of a dockland thug who has since been tried and executed. After suitable interrogation.

The duel between Cllrs Ellis Devon and Matthew Dixon ended with Cllr Devon being taken to the Torian infirmary, seriously ill. Cllr Dixon attacked with lethal skill and, had his luck matched his intent, would have killed his opponent. Fellow members of the Common Council refused to comment on these tactics, but a number of anonymous ditties featuring the "Crimson Councillor" have begun to be heard around Bardsgate.

The Springtide Festival approaches and many celebrations are being planned, although the traditional tossing of buns from the Witanmoot steps has been cancelled for fear of a riot. The street singing and colour dancing will continue, and no doubt the peal of Hahnite bells will deafen everyone as usual. During the celebrations the Aldermen will be gathering to cast their votes for the new city overlord. Lord Raphael has gained a strong start by becoming part of Armundus Septer's powerful group. Can either of the two challengers organise an effective campaign? Paston Courtney's party manager is the brilliant but erratic Thomas Castlemaine, whereas Kennet Maxil is relying on the ubiquitous Reg Marc. Will they split the uncommitted vote?



# The times of Cascorach

## for the festival of Springtide in the Year 139

Duke Alexander has announced that he has been invited by King Edmund to attend Princess Eleanor's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday ball in Linrodeth. The Duke has accepted the invitation and inside sources suggest that the Duke intends to ask the King's permission to court the princess.

The princess, only daughter of King Edmund, will be 18 in Menderal and, in order to arrive in plenty of time, he will have to leave Cascorach during Jasmarill. The Duke has not yet made up his mind concerning companions for the trip, or who will be left in charge at Caradache Castle.. The most likely people for both these jobs are Baron Tancred Mendoza and Baroness Shellary Silveria of Rosendale..

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of Pipetal, Baroness Vivian de Huengenaunt of Radford fell in combat fighting the Delt. Characteristically she was defending a small hamlet to the west of her estate at the time. The Delt had earlier raided the hamlet, but were beaten off by the town's defenders. However the inhabitants had captured a Chieftain of the Delt and Baroness de Huengenaunt had arrived on the scene with a small band of retainers. The Delt then counter-attacked in large numbers to recover their chieftain.

The new baron is Morgan de Huengenaunt. He said "Although I will, of course, be observing the honours and rituals of mourning for my mother, I will be pursuing all possible methods of dealing with these barbarians."

Baroness Shellary Silveria of Rosendale has offered her considerable knowledge and aid to the new baron. Baroness Shellary has involved in several major battles against the Delt before the turn of the century. Baron Morgan de Huengenaunt accepted Baroness Shellary's offer, and we understand that they are now actively seeking the band of Delt which murdered Baroness Vivian de Huengenaunt.

The beginnings of the spring thaw have meant that large numbers of refugees have been arriving from the Barony of Radford. Duke Alexander has requisitioned the grain stores of the Cornmongers' Guild. These are being distributed to the refugees on the strict understanding that they return home for the planting. The costs of the requisitions will be borne by the baronies of Radford and Rannoch.

### *News from Linrodeth*

The King has ordered the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment to be brought to full strength by imposing a draft on the mercenaries which are currently overwintering there.

The city of Linrodeth is suffering from the same food shortages as the rest of the country, but has solved it by requisitioning the grain stocks held by the Cornmongers.

### *News from Salvorn*

News that Prince Edward has not requested extra forces to aid the depleted 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment was greeted with great consternation in the City. Following the raids on the Army's grain stores over the winter, and the still lingering effects of last summer's engagements has meant that Prince Edward's forces are thought to be understrength.

The Ladies of the City (who control the great merchant families) are reported to be very concerned about the use of shipping which is supported by means other than that of trading. This apparently applies to both ships from the City States and traders from Linrodeth (who are subsidised by their guild)

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 139

The results for the election for Overlord of the City were:

Raphael Fitz-Simmons 13 votes,

Paston Courtney 5 votes,

Kennet Maxil 3 votes.

So once again Armundus and his band of merrie men have routed the opposition. Meanwhile for the Castle Bard Aldermanship:

Alison Shefford 148 votes,

Leonard Tholin 57 votes,

Ellis Devon 16 votes

Pre-election rumours concerning Cllr Devon's demise were much exaggerated and may adversely have affected his results on the day.

Susan Faithside and Gibian Horl appear to be co-operating in solving the corn crisis. Alderman Horl swiftly commandeered all ships in harbour and shipped large numbers of peasants south, beyond the crisis area. Alderman Faithside is organising those remaining into refugee camps, and anticipated having sufficient corn once the ships return.

During the long wait the peasants are certainly not going to get bored. Lord Raphael has already laid on a very entertaining hunting party (sans picnic) and Alderman Rimon is dispersing posses left, right and centre. Participants agreed that it keeps one very healthy, provided one stays out of the way of the King and the 2nd Cavalry who are also hunting bandits in the area.

The Crimson Councillor appears to have finally overstepped his mark this month. Cllr Perignon, after detailed investigation, has unearthed details of Cllr Dixon's treacherous dealings. Demands that this man resign and be made to answer for his crimes are even now sweeping the city. Our reporter was there when the Levestone watch arrived to arrest the man on a charge of Lawlessness. Although Matthew Dixon at first tried to pretend mistaken identity, watch member Malcolm Mowbray (who'd heard that one before) was having none of it. Matthew Dixon's trial next month will be judged by Lord Raphael. Cllr Beatrice Perignon is understood to be appearing as the main witness.

A civic ball was held last week to celebrate Lord Raphael's re-election as Lord of the city. This lavish event was preceded by a 'mega-hunt' whereby Lord Raphael attempted to organise all the peasants and mercenaries into a massive hunting party. Led by the Lord and many trumpeting horns the mob disappeared off into the countryside and succeeded in terrifying all the wildlife for miles around. However enough food was collected to enable the banquet to continue.

At the banquet Lord Raphael spent most of his time with young upcoming councillor Tiliniel Falgar, who seems to have charmed her way into his affections. Matthew Dixon at one point engaged the Lord in a discussion about Gibian Horl's corn crisis solution, but the Lord's attention quickly returned to Miss Falgar. Meanwhile Malcolm Mowbray was being less than tactful about the mega-hunt, his scathing description of this "product of senile dementia" resulted in him being pointedly ignored by Lord Raphael and even more pointedly challenged to a duel by Elliot Sparman. Olnorth Dexter's table joined in the barracking by decrying Suzan Faithside's chairmanship, but things seem to have got a little out of hand and Alderman Faithside has accused them of Scandalous Behaviour.

## The Chronicle of the month of Heliora in the year 139

Romance seems to have been the in occupation this month; Thomas Castlemaine's pursuit of the Lady Sapphire has been conspicuous by its failure and it would appear that the once dashing councillor, having lost the lady of his dreams, has turned to drink and despair.

Samantha Cox has also been pursued relentlessly by both Duncan Barnett and Gibian Horl. Alderman Cox appears to be thoroughly enjoying both the sparkling wit of Duncan Barnett, and the trappings of success provided by man of the month Gibian Horl. Which will be successful in winning her heart is up for debate, but as Samantha said herself "when two wonderful men chose to entertain you, only a fool would choose between them". The chaperoning actions of her 'sugar daddy' Armundus Septer seem to have met with little success, and indeed the old man has often found himself left behind in this whirlwind of romance.

It was a solemn and distinguished court that gathered before Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmons to judge Matthew Dixon, lately councillor of Levestone Ward, on the charge of Lawlessness and Treachery. Cllr Beatrice Perignon appeared as the main witness, having investigated and gathered evidence on Dixon's dealings during the month of Pipetal. Other witnesses also appeared, one backing Cllr Perignon's statements, and one backing Dixon's denials of the same. Lord Raphael's summing up was as follows: "Matthew Dixon is a well-liked and respected resident of Levestone ward, and a hardworking member of the Guild of Carpenters. In recent months he seems to have borne the brunt of a number of allegations, and I note that the evidence presented here is conflicting and by no means conclusive. I must repeat that all citizens are innocent until proven guilty." Despite this warning the court found ex-Cllr Dixon guilty as charged. Matthew Dixon was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The recent duel between Malcolm Mowbray and Elliot Sparman lacked the sparkle and flair that we have become used to in recent months. Indeed compared with the brilliant display produced by the Crimson Councillor, this months clash was positively embarrassing in its execution. They met at dawn and, after a number of minutes edging around, finally lunged at each other. Blood was drawn on both sides and a rather relieved pair of councillors agreed that honour had been satisfied and headed off to the nearest pub for a stiff drink.

Preparations for THE event of the year are already underway as the city begins to prepare for the 18th birthday celebrations of Her Royal Highness the Princess Eleanor. Initial rumours that the event will be held within the Archimandrite's Palace have been confirmed, and many notables of the city are attempting to gain invites (without any success). The most honoured guests of the ball will be; Prince Khalid al-Kabeshi of Orissa, Prince Pharos Karandreas of Kerun, Prince Konrad vagn Korsbaek of Garth and Duke Alexander Calverin of Cascorach, all of whom hope to win the Princess' hand (and her not inconsiderable dowry) in marriage. The ball promises to be the most spectacularly lavish bash yet seen, and the King has imposed a special tax in order to pay for it all.

## The Chronicle of the month of Menderal in the year 139

Trade in Tinrodeth is rapidly grinding to a halt as more and more merchants make their way south for the Royal Dragonfeast at Salvoyn. Even the docks are unusually quiet and look set to become entirely deserted by the time of the Midsummer fair. Many Guilds are worried by their sudden drop in income and are calling for action from the City Council. Within the last week the problem has been made worse by news of a heavy tariff imposed by the Ladies of Salvoyn on foreign merchants. Both these problems fall squarely in the lap of James Isenbard, the Chairman of Trade, who is even now arranging urgent talks with Samantha Cox and Alan Griffiths.

Elsewhere in the city Mrs Maud Blessop has been facing some severe criticism after her slanderous attack on Alderman Suzan Faithside. In an informal meeting with her own Alderman, Martin Key, Mrs Blessop was fined £3 and informed of Lord Raphael's decision to ban her from future civic balls. Earlier demands for a full trial seem to have been dropped.

Tinrodeth's spring romances appear to have wilted in the heat of summer. After last month's entanglements Alderman Samantha Cox has been deserted by both her lovers. Gibian Horl has even left the city entirely; boarding a southbound trade ship. Old man Septer is, of course, visibly relieved. Thomas Castlemaine, jilted lover of the courtier Lady Sapphire, is made of sterner stuff. Often this past month he has been seen beneath the royal apartments of the Hahnite Temple, serenading his beloved and persistently sending gifts of flowers, jewellery and rare perfumes. He caused considerable consternation among the Hahnite Priesthood when it was suddenly realised that he was courting, not the Lady Sapphire, but the young Princess herself. Shortly thereafter Cllr Castlemaine made his first foray over the Temple wall and was duly detained by the Guards. A spokesman for the Archimandrite stated that he would not be released until after the Princess' Ball.

This has been a bumper month for snoopers and gossipmongers with investigation after investigation whispering its way through the Witanmoot. Now far be it from the Chroniclers to spoil any councillor's fun, but shouldn't they really be spending our hard-earned taxes on solving the city's problems?

Meanwhile the hot weather has been adversely affecting Malcolm Mowbray's judgement. Once again our righteous young councillor has got into a quarrel and must now meet Elliott Anderson in a duel. He seems to be trying to don the mantle of the departed Crimson Councillor; it is suggested that perhaps he should start by improving his duelling technique?

Coming Soon - a special Chronicle supplement on the Princess' Ball.

## The Chronicle of the Princess' Ball

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the month of Menderal 139, the Princess Eleanor's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball was held in the Temple of Hahn. The Archimandrite's Hall of Munificent Hospitality, newly redecorated in white and gold, echoed to the sound of the Royal Court and the music of the Master Bards. At eight of the clock most of the suitors were introduced to Her Royal Highness; all but Duke Alexander managing an elegant and flamboyant bow. Her Highness carefully ignored the Duke's Handshake and turned to greet Prince Pharos, who had been delayed for an assortment of reasons.

Gifts and compliments were then exchanged with the Princess, but guests seem to be having some trouble with the Lady in Waiting. Lady Caroline managed several snubs at Duke Alexander's expense, laughed at Prince Pharos' gift and swore loudly before retiring to deal with her lapdog, which had unaccountably become sick. On her return several other guests excused themselves, starting a mysterious bout of interest in the dog's health, which lasted for much of the evening.

Another topic of mutual interest was trade, upon which all Princes except Konrad of Garth managed to exchange contracts during the evening. It is believed that the Hahnite priest, Pendentite Edward de Belleme, collected significant donations for his hard work in finalising these contracts. Not unnaturally these discussions tended to distract guests away from the Princess, who became progressively less pleased with events. After chatting with Lady Caroline for several minutes she acidly reminded guests that it was her birthday. Her potential suitors leapt into attendance and Lady Caroline excused herself to check on the dog.

Meanwhile Pendentite Edward was having a less successful time. Having exchanged icy words with a priest of another deity - Esprayenna - he left to speak with Lady Caroline, who was by then attempting to grab a scrap of parchment that Lord Izzat had removed from her pet's sickbed. Pendentite Edward firmly ushered guests out, intending to have a quiet word or three. Shortly thereafter guests heard a thud against the door and a rattling of the doorhandle. A Temple Guard kept onlookers away as a harassed-looking Edward extracted himself from the room and explained that the Lady Caroline was distraught by her dog's illness.

Back at the ball, the Princess was circulating amongst the guests, having noticed that Prince Khalid and Duke Alexander were monopolising her time. She discovered Prince Konrad in a quiet corner, and a few minutes later dismissed her bodyguard for a while. Much encouraged, Prince Konrad was persuading her to take a cosy stroll in the gardens, when Lady Caroline and Jan Ostern both appeared and provided a sufficient delay for the bodyguard to re-appear. We have since heard that the road running past the garden wall was crowded with Prince Konrad's men and Temple Guards at the time.

The Princess returned to the ball until, tired of interrupting trade deals, and depressed by the fact none of the Princes had proposed to her personally, she retired early. Her Highness thus missed the subsequent undiplomatic exchange between Prince Pharos of Kerun and Prince Khalid of Orissa; where Prince Khalid accused Kerun of stealing State Regalia, and Prince Pharos accused Orissa of lying through his teeth. Pendentite Edward intervened to prevent a major incident on Athion's soil, but we have learnt that the two countries have since declared war,

# The times of Cascorach

## for the festival of Midsummer in the Year 139

In characteristic style, Duke Alexander Calverin left the city of Cascorach on the first day of Heliora, The Duke is travelling by the ducal barge to Salvoyrn, where he will hire a ship to take him to Linrodeth to attend Princess Eleanor's eighteenth birthday celebrations. The Duke is accompanied by Baron Tancred Mendoza and a retinue of loyal retainers.

Baroness Shellyar Silveria of Rosendale has been appointed Steward of the Castle of Caradache until the Duke's return.

A special tax was imposed by the Duke on the wealthy guildmembers of Cascorach in order to fund his trip to Linrodeth. The Duke was unable to give any estimated date of return to Cascorach, but assured members of his last audience that he would return as soon as possible, and that he had full confidence in the abilities of Baroness Shellyar Silveria.

News from Bethesda is that Eorliane Cynthia Fitzholme has given birth to a healthy son. The child will be called Baron Edmund Alexander Fitzholme until his succession. The child was blessed by the Temple of Daleth at a special ceremony at Bethesda Castle.

The news throws fresh doubt over the reasons for the hurried marriage between Eorliane Cynthia Fitzholme and Baron Edward Caerlon last year. The marriage now appears to be a coup by someone other than the happy couple.

Baron Morgan de Huengenaunt of Radford's period of official mourning for his mother ends with the end of the festival of Midsummer. He vowed to repay the Delt for the murder and, with the help of Baroness Shellyar Silveria, the Delt have suffered several defeats in the Barony of Radford in recent months. After Baroness Silveria became Steward of Cascorach, she ordered the refugees in Rannoch to return home and begin planting.

### News from Linrodeth

Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmons has been re-elected Lord of the City of Linrodeth. He celebrated his re-election by staging a 'mega-hunt' and banquet.

Large numbers of refugees have been shipped south in emergency measures this month. They are being set to work to improve on last year's harvest.

Princess Eleanor's eighteenth birthday celebration ball is being described as 'THE event of the year'. The King has imposed a special tax to pay for the celebration, which is being held in the Archimandrite's Palace rather than the currently almost empty Citadel. The event is to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Menderal.

### News from Salvoyrn

Queen Emma has arrived in the City to prepare for the royal reception to be held on Dragonfeast. Rumours suggest that both King Edmund and Prince Edward will be holding receptions during the day.

The City remains on heavy alert, with the City Guard under orders to support Prince Edward and the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry if required.

The Ladies of the City of Salvoyrn have imposed heavy tariffs on all traders and merchants deemed to be supported by subsidies. Particularly affected are the Mercers and Drossers of Linrodeth. The ladies claim that they are attempting to undercut and force out of business the trading families of Salvoyrn.

## Linrodeth

Linrodeth is the second-largest port and the capital of the Kingdom of Athion.

Linrodeth's wealth is based upon its vigorous Trade Guilds, which over the years created an unusually literate and articulate citizenry of craftsmen and shopkeepers. These Guilds men and women are permitted a limited form of self-rule, in return for a suitable tax, under the watchful scrutiny of the nearby Citadel.

The port and docks below the bridge over the River Ishtan are the lifeblood of the city and increasingly, the city is coming to rely on its seafaring traders and merchant navy to increase its prosperity.

For administrative purposes, the city is divided into 21 wards. At Midwinter the householders of each ward elect 12 councillors and an Alderman to represent their ward on the city council. These representatives must be guildmembers as well as householders and, because politics is an expensive and time-consuming business, most are actively sponsored by their guilds. The city guilds are granted a monopoly on their trade, and many citizens are members of one. The city has many popular markets as well as the shops.

Once elected the ward representatives take their place on the Court of Common Council which sits in the Witanmoot at the heart of the city. Here they are drawn into the complex and chaotic political arena, riven as it is with factionalism, feuding, intrigue, bribery and occasional reforms. To everyone's surprise, most problems get sorted out eventually. Interested citizens can catch up on the latest news about their councillors in The latest issue of The Chronicle.

Linrodeth is blessed with several major temples, and many countless minor cults. The major religions include: Hahn (law and justice), Torus (healing), Daleth (earth and growth), Esprayenna (sea and self-reliance) and Brynette (fire and construction). Of these religions, the Wellhouses of Daleth and the Smithies of Brynette are most likely to be found in rural villages.

Also resident in the city are the students of the Bards' College. The college is a squat, rambling structure in the easternmost corner of the city, which is rumoured to pre-date the city itself. It produces very few bards, but many musicians, poets and scholars of all types. Their entertainments, and occasional serious work, are the source of much vexation for their neighbours.

On the north shore of the River Ishtan are the civilian shipbuilding yards and stinking tanneries. To the west, 3 miles further down the estuary, lies the military harbour of Kingsport where the Fleet is based.

Because of the strict guild monopoly in Linrodeth, many immigrants and paupers are reduced to begging and often end up in the river slum known as the Floating Market. It has some advantages. If they can find something floating to live on there is no rent. If they can find customers for their trade there are no guild laws and no poll tax. The edges of the market do receive a number of customers; the boats close to the bridge and the embankment sell more exotic items as well as strange and wonderful meals. The latter areas have even become a favourite stop for the pleasure boats of the rich young nobles from the Citadel.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 139

This year's Midsummer Fair on a cloudy and showery day, was subdued in nature, with many stallholders making ominous comments on the Salvoyn tariffs. The archery competition fortunately showed a marked improvement over previous years, drawing the comment "adequate" from Sir Salverian. The eventual winner of the gilt arrow was Captain Kurt, looking fully recovered from the wounds inflicted by the floating market scum. The Stone Cup was this year won by some surprise outsiders - the college students, who were still celebrating well into the following day. Fat Sal retained the pig-wrestling prize, and although aficionados spoke wistfully of Erik the Finger's stunning new technique, the big man himself was not competing. The day ended with a formal announcement that the two sheriffs had been re-elected unopposed.

The following day, Dragonfeast, dawned grey but dry. The Knight-Marshall and Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmons held open audiences by the Mootstone. The huge pile of petitions will probably take some time to clear, although some were granted immediately. These fortunate petitioners included Gax (official founder of the new orphanage) and Baron Scrope.

Early in the month the Court of Common Council convened to tackle the problems of civil unrest and the Salvoyn tariffs. On both subjects Alderman James Isenbard gave a lengthy and competent speech submitting, by way of conclusion, a number of motions for the council to debate in the coming month; one being a motion of censure and the others essentially escalating Tinrodeth's own tariffs. These motions were seconded by Samantha Cox.

Citizens appear to be reassured by this firm response and no further incidents of protest have been reported, although the guilds remain wary and secretive. A little over a week after the announcement a reply was received from Salvoyn via the Envoy, Alan Griffiths. Salvoyn has agreed to drop the tariffs rather than compete in an unprofitable tariff war.

The ships 'Ulysses' and 'Allapsus' continue to dominate the docklands while their owners, Duke Alexander and Prince Pharos, await the King's return. The two failed suitors have already sailed home. While in port the Allapsus has been suffering from mysterious outbreaks of fires. The guard has been doubled, but the local watch remain unable to discover the cause of these fires.

The political disaster of the season has descended on Olnorth Dexter while he was relaxing into a series of informal concerts. Ilith Lansdowne has resigned her post as one of his chief lieutenants, returning to her old crony, Beatrice Perignon's party. Her departure has caused so much dissent and confusion that Olnorth's party has shrunk to a tiny faction of its former state. Disinterested observers have described Alderman Lansdowne's timing as "impeccable". The other Alderman on the move this month is Bert Belcher, who has quietly teamed up with the young apothecary Tilly Falgar. Rumour has it that the worthy meatmonger remains unconvinced of Ellis Devon's recovery. Since his disastrous duel Cllr Devon has made only sporadic forays into public life.

Our love-lorn councillor, Thomas Castlemaine, has been released from his luxurious detainment in the Hahnite temple. Unfortunately, no-one thought to warn him of an excellent reputation of their cellars and kitchens, and he is now suffering from a painful relapse into gout. Elsewhere socialite Poppy Soboll has fallen heavily for the respectable widower Osgeard Dunn. An unlikely pairing one might have thought, still, the Chroniclers wish them the best of luck.

Best news of the month is that the floating market has been broken up by the Noord living there. The large, mysterious structure built in the centre of the market was revealed as a longship when the Noord stepped the mast and rigged a colourful patchwork sail. Breaking out of the market with much enthusiasm, little skill and total disregard for anything in their path, the Noord took a couple of turns around the Ashta before heading upriver with a following wind. The Citadel appears to have been taken totally by surprise and although riders have been sent upriver to warn the market towns, it is unlikely that they will outpace the longship until the wind drops.



The duel between Malcolm Mowbray and Elliot Anderson was quickly resolved. The two councillors managed a few exchanges before Elliot, being even more cautious than Malcolm, retreated too hastily and stumbled. He was forced to concede before Cllr Mowbray would allow him to regain his feet and his dignity.

**Late news from the Mootstone!** Gibian Horl has returned from the Dragonfeast at Salvoyne bearing a writ from the King. Hurrying straight to the Mootstone from the ship, Alderman Horl read the scroll aloud to the curious onlookers:

*Let it be known that we are much pleased by our subject Matthew Dixon and his fellows for their prompt and most effective actions during the time of famine which afflicted our beloved city of Lincodeth. Thereof we are pleased to bestow a Free Pardon on the said Matthew Dixon. By our hand, this Dragonfeast day.*

With only a brief delay for repetitions and verification of the seal, Matthew Dixon was duly released.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 139

Unconfirmed rumours from the Citadel suggest that the dashing young councillor, Thomas Castlemaine, has won the Princess' hand in marriage after a bloody duel with Duke Alexander Calverin. The best of the Torian chirurgeons have been summoned to the Citadel where the Duke is said to be "gravely ill". Thomas Castlemaine's flamboyant (and possibly successful) courtship of the Princess appears to be one in the eye for Lady Sapphire who rejected him as a suitor earlier in the year. An exasperated and irritable chancellor, Baron Tancred Mendoza, is refusing to comment further on the Duke's current status.

Residents from Welland and Shambles have been helping to clear up after a group of armed men attacked customers in the "Dancing Bear" inn. The customers, mostly 'resting' mercenaries, defended themselves without loss; but an unarmed 12 year old boy was killed in the backyard as the attackers withdrew. Any witnesses to this despicable murder are asked to contact Alderman Bert Belcher immediately. The proprietor, Erik Wyvernsfield, would like to re-assure neighbours that the use of swords in no way conforms to the in-house brawling rules.

There are mysterious manoeuvrings in the Armundus Septer camp. After a thorough re-organisation of his faction, Armundus appears to have 'given' Samantha Cox to the Mowbray faction. Discarding such an experienced follower as Alderman Cox is unprecedented, is an Alliance party about to be formed?

Cllr Ellis Devon has been accused of misconduct and is required to attend a hearing before his Alderman, George 'hang em high' Rimon, early next month. Cllr Devon is accused by Cllr Tilly Falgar, who claims to have uncovered evidence of Treachery, and is determined to bring him to justice. Cllr Falgar has of course, only recently recruited Alderman Belcher away from Ellis Devon's faction.

Party time! Those citizens who had any energy left under the blazing summer heat, had a choice of entertainment this month. Ex-gaolbird Matthew Dixon was throwing a discrete binge above his carpenters shop for all his old friends and lackeys. Over in Dracas ward Cllr Olnorth Dexter was throwing a not so discrete banquet and orgy in his ancestral hall. For some strange reason, Cllr Perignon was the only notable not to receive an invite to either of these freebies.

*Wanted - A small group of sensible citizens  
to participate in a series of arcane investigations over the night of the  
Ghostmoons. Pay negligible but opportunities for education unlimited.  
Apply to Astrologer Royal, Citadel.*

# The times of Cascorach

## for the festival of Harvestide in the Year 139

Activity by the Zelt Barbarians appears to have occurred at much lower levels than in previous years. No major raids on property or people have been reported during the past six months. Several factors are believed to be responsible for this change in the balance of power in the area. The first major reason is believed to be last year's harsh winter, which coupled with the bad harvest and low grain stocks throughout Athion is believed to have reduced the numbers of Zelt to new low levels. Secondly the loss of Cair Tamed two years ago, and the failure of the Zelt to recapture the stronghold in the last year is believed to have reduced the morale of the Zelt barbarians. Finally the actions of Baron Morgan de Huengenaunt (aided by Baroness Shellay Silveria) in the local area is believed to have had a major effect on the willingness of the local Zelt to continue their attacks.

Baroness Shellay Silveria, acting as the Steward of Cascorach, held the Dragonfeast at Caradache Castle. Several petitions were heard, including one from Baron Morgan de Huengenaunt for a reduced tithe this year to help his Barony recover from last autumn's and winter's attacks by the Zelt.

Eorliane Cynthia Fitzholme and Baron Eduard Caerlon have returned to Cascorach following their 'Honeymoon' in Bethesda. The couple are refusing to talk about events of about a year ago, but sources in the Castle report that if Eorliane Fitzholme finds out exactly what happened, someone is going to pay.

### News from Linrodeth

Princess Eleanor's eighteenth birthday celebrations were held in the Temple of Hahn, and started at eight o'clock in the evening. Duke Alexander and two of the other suitors were introduced to the Princess, but Prince Pharos of Kerun arrived late. Gifts and compliments were exchanged with the Princess, however polite insults were exchanged with Lady Caroline (originally from the Barony of Rothesay) until her lapdog became mysteriously ill.

The guests were, at times, more interested in discussing trade rather than talking to the Princess, much to the Princess' disgust. Lady Caroline, at times, seemed more interested in Pendentite Edward (the senior Hahmite present as the Archimandrite was attending his Majesty at Salvorn). Prince Konrad of Darth appears to have been planning to kidnap the fair Princess, and nearly succeeded but for the intervention of the other guests.

Following the Princess' retirement, Prince Pharos of Kerun and Prince Khalid of Orissa indulged in undiplomatic exchanges concerning the State Regalia of Orissa. These two City States have subsequently declared war.

Duke Alexander remains in Linrodeth following the Princess' Ball, as does Prince Pharos. Prince Pharos has been suffering unexplained outbreaks of fire on board his ship.

### News from Salvorn

The King held Dragonfeast here in Salvorn and heard several petitions. One of the petitions included one from the Baron Rothesay arguing that the Duchy of Cranbourne should be administered from Cascorach, but should revert to the Crown. In reply, his Majesty regretted that he did not feel able to act at this time, particularly as Duke Alexander was currently in Linrodeth and so could not be consulted for his side of the argument.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 139

This year's Higharvestide Ball opened with the traditional announcement by Shinannon the Wellkeeper of the harvest yield. This year's is poor but not alarming unless, as the Wellkeeper warned, certain people indulge in excessive hoarding. After polite applause the musicians struck up and the councillors swirled back to a world of their own. Lord Raphael circulated restlessly all evening, leaving Armundus largely to his lackeys, and paying most attention to Matthew Dixon, with Malcolm Mowbray, Olnorth Dexter and Tilly Falgar close behind. Reg Marc was largely ignored, as was Ellis Devon who was getting quietly drunk in one corner despite Alderman Faithside's best efforts. Towards the early hours civility decreased, and one of the noisier squabbles arose after Liliti Lansdowne unleashed some choice comments about Cllr Dexter's followers. Miranda Andrews (acting with rather more decorum than the banned Mrs Blessop) has asked Cllr Perignon to apologise for her follower's remarks, or face her in a duel within the month. Noticeably absent throughout the whole evening was Cllr Castlemaine, rumoured fiancée of the Princess, who has not been seen in public since the famous duel.

Cllr Ellis Devon's hearing took place last week under the critical gaze of Alderman George Rimon. Councillors Siliniel Falgar and Malcolm Mowbray both produced evidence of his association with the more unsavoury elements within our city, then the questions began. Things started to go badly when Cllr Devon tried to out-bluster of George himself, and deteriorated when he was discovered 'being economical with the truth'. A "disgusted" Alderman Rimon ordered Councillor Devon to be brought to trial next month.

The council chamber is rife with rumours this month concerning the scandalous conduct of Cllr Matthew Jardine. Cllr Jardine, recently defected to the Septer faction from that of his erstwhile friend and mentor Cllr Perignon, is attempting to seduce Alderman Samantha Cox back to Armundus' party. He seems to be following his brief rather more literally than is normally thought wise for a married man with six children. Rumours of his successful tete a tete at a local restaurant appear to have preceded him home. Mrs Jardine's comments are unpublishable.

A witness to the 'Dancing Bear' murder has come forward following our appeal in this paper last month. Subsequent investigations by Alderman Bert Belcher, with the assistance of a number of musicians, quickly tracked the killer down to a squalid tavern in Cadene. The killer, one John Pollenpox Bastard, severely wounded two members of the watch before being overpowered. Justice was speedily carried out and the felon hung at dawn the following day.

The Hahn Temple has been thrown into some confusion this month with the arrival of a messenger bearing news of the demise of Plenipotentiary Kirkmichael. Amid the manoeuvring and speculation the continued absence of the Princess Eleanor has almost gone unnoticed; the Princess was due to resume studies at the Temple after harvest.

Torian priests at the Citadel have announced that the Duke Alexander is now in a stable but highly uncomfortable condition, and will be unable to return to Cascorach before the spring thaw. Prince Pharos meanwhile has spent the month touring the nearby provinces in the company of Prince Kieran. It is not yet known whether he intends to overwinter in Tinrodeth or return to Kerun.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 139

Civil unrest has been reported in many parts of the city after rumours of severe price fixing by the Vintners Guild. With the Crown Prince holding the pass to the Southern States, the continued high price of imported wine has come under increasing attack. A spokesman for the guild told our reporter "The problem is one of supply; the trade routes may be open now but no one in their right palate wants to drink this years wine, the good stuff (particularly the 137) is still in short supply. The guild will be pressing charges of misconduct as soon as we find out who is behind this blatant attempt to drum up unfounded discontent".

The Archimandrite of the Temple of Hahn is pleased to announce the following appointments: Plenipotentiary Hevelys (formally of Cortaine) is to oversee Orosius; Jasmine Beauvaire is now Plenipotentiary of Coritane; Mandatiens Jeremiah Bradwell and Torrel Bryneberian become Pendentites in Tinrodeth. Plenipotentiary Jasmine and her entourage have already left the city in order to reach her homeland before the first snows. The departure of the Princess' principal tutor casts further doubt on whether Princess Eleanor will return to the temple. An alternative rumour, noting the continuing absence of Thomas Castlemaine, suggests that the young couple have already eloped.

Cllr Ellis Devon's trial opened this week before Sheriff Paston Courtney. Cllrs Falgar and Mowbray presented their evidence, but the Hahnite priest acting for Cllr Devon then appealed for more time to prepare the defence. Sheriff Courtney granted the request and the trial was adjourned until Ternoost 10th.

Back at the Witanmoot several interesting new alliances seem to be forming; surprise of the month is Matthew Dixon's wooing of Beatrice Perignon. Matthew appears to have decided to put their past disagreements behind him and make up, however his fawning efforts do not appear to be making much impression on Cllr Perignon, who appears to be barely tolerating his presence. More tasteful has been the careful manoeuvrings of councillors Marc and Falgar, who have had a number of evening meetings in Cllr Marc's private rooms at the Empty Barrel to 'discuss various matters'.

Cllr Howe of Shambles, has expressed distress at the agreement between Aldermen Belcher and Isenbard not to change the boundaries of Shambles and Welland. She stated that "We're used to Alderman Belcher doing our area down, but to have the Welland councillors capitulate like this has been a big disappointment. I'm particularly upset by Cllr Falgar's part in this, I really thought she would be on our side. We will continue to fight for what is an obviously sensible change, and I shall be appealing to the Overlord".

Prince Pharos and his retinue have boarded the 'Allapus' and departed for home, amid much well wishing and invitations to return. The Prince regretted that urgent matters of state forced him to return home, and expressed his hope that the King would consider visiting the City State of Kerun when the winter has passed.

Residents of Bardsgate are warned to be on their guard after a sudden increase in robberies around the college. The professionalism of the burglars has led Alderman Shefford to discount the original suspicion that this was the work of drunken students. The thieves appear to be specialists in gems, often leaving behind imitations and costume jewellery.

# The times of Cascorach

## for the festival of Ghostmoons in the Year 139

### News from Linrodeth

#### Duke Alexander 'gravely ill'

Duke Alexander is reported to be 'gravely ill' in Linrodeth, following a duel with a local city councillor, Thomas Castlemaine. The best chirurgeons of the Temple of Torus are reported to have been summoned to the Citadel to tend to the Duke, and Baron Tancred Mendoza is refusing to comment on events.

Thomas Castlemaine, an active councillor for the Dougate ward of the city, apparently challenged the Duke to a duel over the hand of the Princess. The Duke accepted the challenge, confident that his superior skill and Thomas Castlemaine's painful gout would see him through.

The duel was fought in one of the halls of the citadel (it is rumoured that Princess Eleanor was secretly watching the duel). Duke Alexander quickly gained first blood but then lowered his guard, assuming that the duel was over. However, Thomas Castlemaine then launched a vicious attack on Duke Alexander, which left the Duke unconscious on the floor and the Duke's second, Baron Mendoza, rushed him to the safety of his chambers.

Thomas Castlemaine was detained prior to the Princess' eighteenth birthday celebrations following the discovery of his serenading of the Princess at the Temple of Hahn. He was released following the Ball but was suffering from gout at the time of the duel as a result of his confinement.

Thomas Castlemaine has not been seen since the duel.

### Local News

Grave concern and best wishes for the Duke's early recovery were expressed by the Steward of Caradache on receiving the news of the Duke's injuries. Baroness Shellary Silveria of Rosendale said "I am sure that I speak for all of Cascorach when I say that I wish for the Duke's early recovery to good health. I appeal for calm in the city and request that all citizens of Cascorach return to their usual activities as soon as possible. News will be given to the public as we receive it here at the Castle."

When the news first arrived in Cascorach, it was strongly rumoured that the Duke was already dead, and speculation on who King Edmund would appoint as his successor was rife. Prices of all goods rocketed on receipt of the news and several riots had to be put down by the City Guard and, on two occasions, the Caradache Garrison.

Baroness Shellary Silveria of Rosendale has imposed a night curfew on the city until further notice.

### News from Salvoyrn

The heavy tariffs imposed earlier this year by the Ladies of Salvoyrn have been lifted following reassurances from both the City States and the City of Linrodeth. Both groups deny any attempt to undercut the merchant families of Salvoyrn and have undertaken to match prices offered by the families. For their part the Ladies have lifted the tariffs, but insist that if any undercutting takes place they will be reimposed immediately.

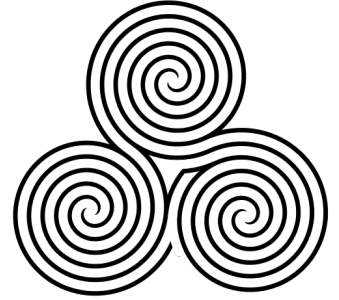
Delt activity has been very scarce this year according to Prince Edward, The fifth Infantry Regiment has not been involved in any major battles this year, thus vindicating his decision not to request that another regiment be sent to the area. The envoys from the City States report some activity by the Delt barbarians on their side of the mountains, but nothing out of the ordinary (for the Delt) and nothing that the City States can't handle.

## Ghostmoons



Ghostmoons is one of the five main feast days occurring in the Athion year. It marks the onset of the winter snows, and the end of travelling and of war until the spring re-melting. It is a day for remembering the dead; graves and shrines are decorated, and many tales are told of ancient heroes and lost treasure.

For the dead, burial and cremation are both common, possibly reflecting the lasting popularity of the Earth Goddess Daleth, and the Fire Goddess Brynette. In the City of Inrodeth it is rare for a family to have a nearby burial ground, so ancestors are usually honoured with a house shrine (with or without ancestral ashes). Burial rites vary greatly between religions; the Hahnites are noted for their enormously elaborate ceremonies, the Dalethians for their spartan practicality, and the Torians for their twilight dirges.



An odd device is found in ceremonies and on shrines of many denominations. This complex labyrinth is known as the Path of the Dead and is popularly supposed to represent the journey that the soul must undertake after death. What is found at the centre (Judgement, Healing, Rebirth or Eternal Rest) again depends on one's beliefs. Souls attempting to take a short-cut are doomed to be trapped in Limbo forever. It is believed that on Ghostmoons, it is these souls that return to the world. These ghosts are felt as an area of intense cold or seen as a pale flicker. Although often disturbing and sometimes frightening to meet, ghosts rarely have enough energy to disturb the material world, and there are no reliable accounts of them ever harming a living person.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 139

Unease has been growing in the city since the early hours of the Ghostmoons, when a tall pillar of white flame was seen far across the marshes in the direction of Botmoor. Local villagers claim that this was the result of necromantic experiments by the Astrologer Royal, an opinion confirmed by several citizens who had spoken with him the day before. A group of young citizens were seen arguing and leaving with him through Marshgate the previous evening, and have not been seen since. An area on the edge of Botmoor has now been cordoned off by a detachment of the King's Rangers, but rumour speaks of glowing protective circles, barrows ripped open, corpses of chickens, pigs and mules littering the ground, and blood everywhere. There is even, it is whispered, a burnt and incomplete human corpse. Concern is growing that the old rites and practices for the Death God have been rediscovered. Several temples have already sent representatives to the Citadel seeking reassurances from the King, and pressure is now growing for the Lord of the City to take action.

After last month's unrest over alleged price fixing by the Vintners Guild, Alderman James Isenbard (Chair of the Trade committee) has been investigating the incident and has released the following statement: "The Guild of Vintners has a responsibility both to its members and to its customers, and they have agreed to investigate all incidences of mis-pricing. If, as I suspect, trouble is needlessly being stirred up by agitators, then if civil unrest doesn't calm down this will become purely a Law & Order matter. This office, and I'm sure the entire Council, strongly disapproves of anyone trying to stir up trouble merely for political ends. I hope that this is not just an attempt to attack Vintners before the forthcoming elections. This office endorses the role of the Guild in sorting out its own market, and if citizens feel that the wine is too expensive or unpleasant, then don't buy it." There have been no further incidents of unrest over wine-pricing.

Councillor Armundus Septer has been denouncing Cllr Beatrice Perignon in the Witanmoot this month, accusing her of conspiring to steal grain from the Cornmongers Guild. Alderman Martin Key has ordered that she attends a Hearing next month. Fellow guildmember Malcolm Mowbray, in an informal comment to the chroniclers said; "I'm sure that this is just a manifestation of the ongoing rivalry between Cllrs Perignon and Septer, and I'm sure Martin will not permit his close association with Cllr Septer to influence his judgement in any way."

Meanwhile, outside Oldgate, the same Cllr Perignon was meeting the athletic Miranda Andrews in a duel to settle alleged insults at the Highharvestide Ball. Beatrice, looking rather stiff and uneasy, made the first attack. Miranda lightly avoided the cut and bounced forward to run her foil through Beatrice's shoulder. The Torian Priest stopped the fight immediately and ordered Cllr Perignon to be taken to the Temple. The Temple has since advised Alderman Key that Beatrice will not be able to attend a Hearing before Skelern next year. It appears that once again our intrepid Cllr Castlemaine is under arrest, this time he appears to have been detained upon entering the Citadel and asking for a private audience with the Princess. We understand that he is not actually being charged with an offense; a spokeswoman for the Knight-Marshall stated "It has been decided that, for his own safety, Cllr Castlemaine should be held in protective custody." We conclude that the two lovers have not yet managed to elope, but are still working on the idea.

At a packed trial, Ellis Devon, formerly a councillor in the ward of Faringdon, was convicted of numerous counts of Treachery. Lord Raphael in summing up stated that "We must make an example of this man. Those who stand for office take upon themselves a great duty, a trust which the people of their ward rely upon. Ellis Devon has abused this honour and must be made to pay for this betrayal. I have no hesitation in ordering his execution." Cllr Falgar, who once again was the prime witness at the trial, commented; "I wholeheartedly endorse the comments of Lord Raphael, there is no no alternative to clobbering people who commit, or even contemplate, foul treachery". Following a plea for clemency from the Skinners Guild, the sentence was reduced to indefinite imprisonment.



The Marcs' consortium are pleased to announce the opening of a new tavern in Faringdon's Coinchase Hill, by the name of the 'Hat and Firkin'. All the popular beers from their other pub, the 'Empty Barrel' in Welland, will be available here. Fellow Brewers are also reminded that entries are now invited for the annual Beer Festival in Portsoken.

The Weston family of Portsoken is offering a reward for information leading to the safe return of their children, Susan and Philip, who went missing on the last day of Kryll. The children were last seen near the docks at midday, and it is feared that they have been abducted by some foreign ship.

The Vintners' Guild is pleased to announce a Yuletide Ball in aid of Gax's Orphanage. Cllr Mowbray, who is organising the event, commented that Lord Raphael, the Knight-Marshall and many other notables had already agreed to attend what promises to be a marvellous social occasion. He also expressed the hope that all councillors would take time off from their Midwinter campaigning to support this worthy cause. Tickets cost 5 shillings and, since the Guild is covering the cost of the event, all proceeds will go directly to the Orphanage.

His Majesty the King is delighted to announce that, from Ternost, Her Highness the Princess Eleanor will be attending the Temple of Torus. Her Highness will be residing, for the duration of her instruction, in apartments above Oldgate. The Temple of Hahn has refused to comment on this apparent rebuff.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 139

His Majesty King Edmund is pleased to announce that, following a personal interview, the name of Thomas Castlemaine is to be added to the list of approved suitors permitted to court the Princess Eleanor. Councillor Castlemaine is to be released on the seventh, and the Chroniclers would like to take this opportunity to offer their congratulations to the happy couple. Crowds of well-wishers have already started to gather outside the Princess' apartments in Oldgate in anticipation of a celebration. The Torian Priests wish to point out that the Princess is currently working night shift, and outbreaks of spontaneous singing during daylight are unlikely to be appreciated.

Interviews with the King appear to be popular this month. Following our report last month on the disgraceful necromancy rituals on the edge of Botmoor, Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmons has requested an audience. Lord Raphael confirmed that the activities of the Astrologer Royal would be the main subject of discussion.

Olnorth Dexter, Iliniel Falgar and Malcolm Mowbray are pleased to announce the formation of Linrodeth's first political party: The Justice League. "Our aims are to ensure that justice is seen to be done, and that Law and Order are maintained. We feel that a united stance on these issues would be beneficial to the well-being of the citizenry."

The first action of the new party appears to have been taken by Malcolm Mowbray, who today released the following statement to the Chronicle: "Following the unrest of Kryll against the Vintners, I in my capacity of Guild Treasurer have been investigating the origins of the rumours. It soon became clear to me, as it did to James Isenbard, that someone was behind it - and that this man was Armundus Septer. I believe James' investigations showed the same, however I believe that like me he was unwilling to denounce such an important and well-connected councillor without firm evidence. Fortunately independent investigations by Councillor Perignon have provided this evidence, which I intend to present in a court of law."

While on the subject of Cllr Perignon, can anyone guess the origin of the following limerick, overheard in various taverns around town?

*There was a young councillor called Beatrice  
Who's faction got up to beer tricks.  
They insulted Miranda  
Upon the veranda,  
And so Beatrice now on a bier rests.*

Cllr Perignon, while still under the care in the Torian Temple, stated firmly that she was alive and kicking and looking forward to resuming her duties in the new year.

The Vintners Guildhall in Tevestone was packed out this month with the charity ball for Gax's orphanage. The charity made over £20 on entrance fees, and a further £8 in voluntary donations. Gax thanked the many councillors and aldermen for their generosity, saying that he was particularly delighted to see so many carpenters in the audience - and he hoped to be able to put some work their way in the spring. The city has this week been shocked and saddened by the despicable murder of Thomas Castlemaine. The facts, as far as the Chroniclers have been able to discover, are the following:

At midday on seventhday Thomas was released from the Citadel and went home. That evening he was admitted to the Torian Infirmary with severe food poisoning. The following afternoon Duke Alexander moved into a house 50 yards from, and in sight of, Oldgate. At sunset Thomas, now recovered, turned up at Oldgate to serenade the Princess. Before he could start he was accosted by a beautiful, although scantily-clad woman, who had to be forcibly removed by some friends. Unfortunately she took large handfuls of his clothes with her, and Thomas duly retired to repair the damage. In Thomas' absence, the Princess agreed to dine out with Duke Alexander at Mrs Blessop's Carvery. We are reliably informed that the Duke proposed to the Princess at the end of the meal.

On ninthday morning their guild, acting on a tip-off, raided the Castlemaine's house and 'recovered' the sum of £17.10s.6d. As The Guildmaster readily admitted, this sum was rather excessive for lost dues, and on advice from the Hahnite Temple, the charges were subsequently dropped. By the afternoon Thomas had arranged to take the Princess to dine at private rooms at the 'Greengrove' tavern, and had bought a large engagement ring. At sunset he went to Oldgate and started the evening by serenading the Princess. As the first ballad drew to a close Thomas was shot in the back by an unknown assailant. The watching crowd perused a figure, presumed to be the assassin, down into Temple Ward where they lost her. Thomas Castlemaine, meanwhile, died at sunset on the ninth day of Kruthos Firstweek, in the arms of the Princess. Rumour insists that in his last moments he asked her to marry him, and she accepted.

Castlemaine's body is now lying in state in the Temple of Torus just outside Oldgate. Duke Alexander was rescued by a detachment of the Kings Cavalry from an angry crowd surrounding his house, and escorted to the Citadel. His adviser, Baron Tancred Mendoza, was "celebrating" at the Greengrove at the time. Subsequent investigations by a Royal Commission have tracked down and arrested the assassin at a private gambling club known to be frequented by the Baron. Baron Tancred, who had earlier confessed to planting the £17.10s.6d and hiring the woman to embarrass Thomas, was then arrested. At a meeting of King Edmund's Star Chamber, during which the confession of the assassin is believed to have been pivotal, Tancred Mendoza was convicted of the murder of Thomas Castlemaine. Princess Eleanor has sentenced Mendoza to be hung, drawn and quartered within the month.

The Royal Household is currently arranging a State Funeral for Thomas Castlemaine, It will be held at the Temple of Torus on the first day next month. It is understood that all members of the Witanmoot and the Ironmongers Guild have been invited to attend.

## LATE NIGHT ELECTION SPECIAL

In a rather subdued day of elections, two new Aldermen have been elected. The cornmonger, Gemma Downe, replaces the controversial George Bergeren as Alderman of Bassishaw, while in Leyestone Malcolm Mowbray replaces his father-in-law as the Alderman. The latter result is believed to be due to a backlash by the locally powerful Vintners Guild against recent attacks; both against the guild itself, and against Cllr Perignon - one of its senior members.

# The times of Cascorach

## for the festival of Midwinter in the Year 140

With no further news from Linrodeth, speculation on the fate of Duke Alexander is widespread. The latest news from the capital, which arrived before the winter snows and storms cut off communication, is that the Duke has regained consciousness, but is still gravely ill.

It is believed that Councillor Thomas Castlemaine merely won the right to court Princess Eleanor, and not her hand as first suspected. Duke Alexander might have withdrawn his suit for the Princess' hand, but sources at the Castle say that this would be most unlike the Duke.

During his convalescence Duke Alexander will be relying on his right hand man, Baron Tancred Mendoza to run the vast majority of his affairs, including action to ensure that Duke Alexander knows what Thomas Castlemaine is up to.

The curfew imposed by Baroness Shelly Silveria, on behalf of Duke Alexander was lifted after it became clear that the Duke's injuries were not fatal.

The Steward of Caradache, Baroness Shelly Silveria, on behalf of Duke Alexander, made the traditional renewal of the invitations to the city of Salvorn, the City of Adagua and the City State of Laurea to send an emissary (and associated party) to Cascorach.

The recent bad weather has meant the recently built Thatcher's Guildhall being requested by the Steward of Caradache, and is being used to house the newly homeless of the City of Cascorach's Drapers and Tailors, whose own Guildhall was destroyed along with the rest of that quarter of the city.

Baron Morgan de Huengenaunt has complained of a lack of support for his anti-Delt operations. Baroness Shelly Silveria has said that his attempts to take the war into the Delt mountains was unnecessary, unneeded and too expensive for the Duchy.

### News from the City States

Latest news of the war between the City States of Kerun and Orissa, two city states on the coast, is that the two sides are stalemated by the fact that their nearest neighbours appear to be acting to ensure equality between the two states. When Kerun managed to destroy about half of Orissa's fleet in a naval battle, several mysterious and very suspicious fires broke out in the harbour area of Kerun. Both Kerun and Orissa are economic rivals of Cascorach, and in times of peace, ship large quantities of grain to Salvorn.

### News from Linrodeth

All communications with the capital have been cut off by the winter storms. The first travellers are expected during Jasmarill.

### News from Salvorn

The Ladies of Salvorn have replaced their current envoy to Cascorach by Alderman Joanne Kaslar. The Kaslar family are major shipwrights in Salvorn and the arrival of one of their number points to a power shift in Salvorn.

# Athion

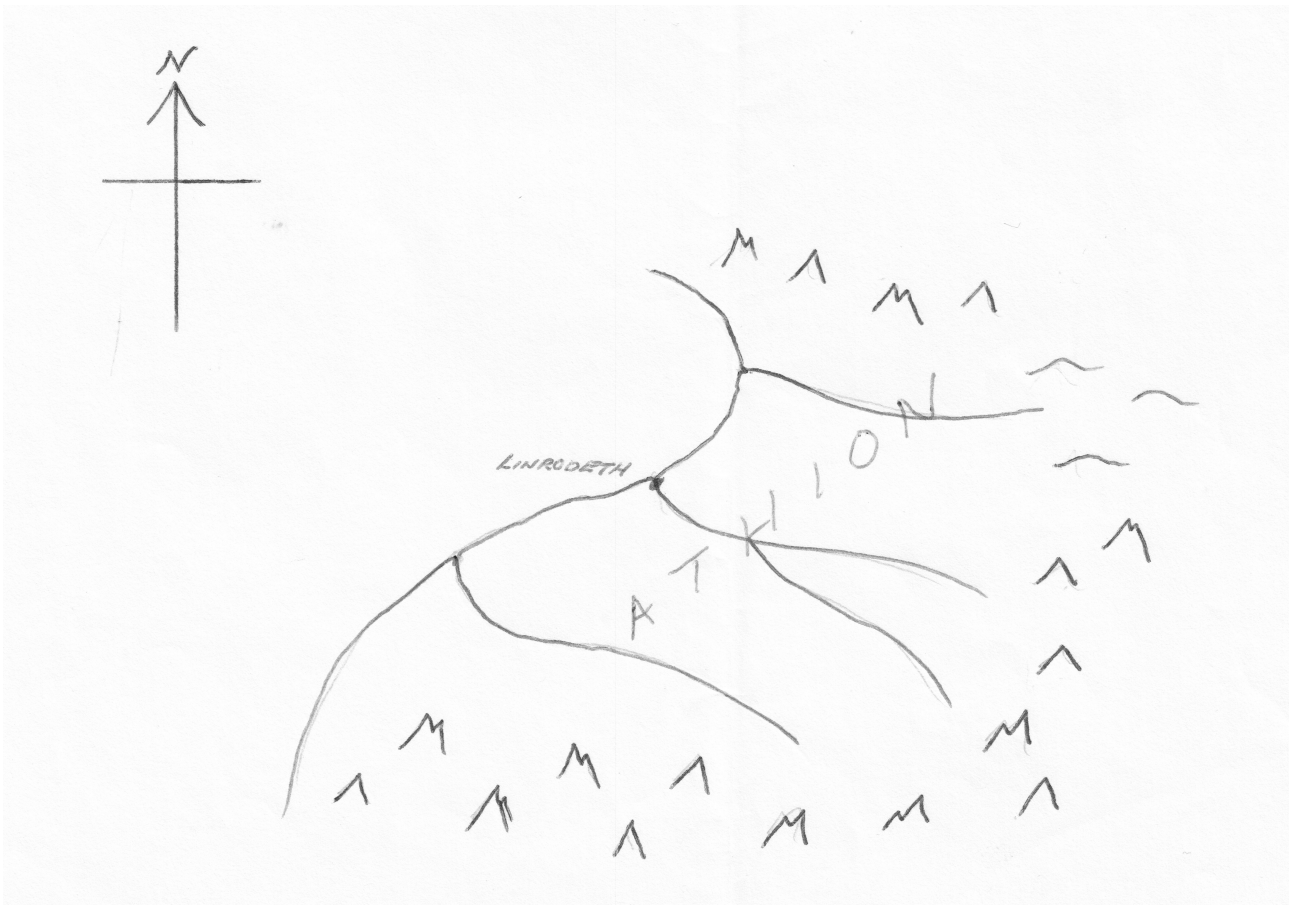
The country of Athion lies on the western edge of a great continent. The country nominally covers both halves of a great escarpment, roughly aligned north/south, that splits the country. In practise the lands above the escarpment have significant independence from the those below. The capital city is Linrodeth, but the city with the greatest population is Salvoyrn to the south of Linrodeth.

Athion is a fertile country whose prosperity owes much to its agriculture as to the trading along the sea routes. The country was formed five generations ago, by right of conquest, out of three smaller kingdoms which can existed there previously.

There are as many religions in Athion as there is diversity of opinion. No officially approved

religion exists, but some are large due to popular appeal (e.g., the earth goddess, the healer god), some powerful due to their strong organisation, others are rich by patronage and some are influential because they are so useful.

Despite the feudal government of the country, status within this society is very mobile. Neither the war nor the plague were particularly fussy about their victims, leaving in their wake many more posts than good people to fill them. This is particularly true in Linrodeth where a good craft and a comfortable profit have always been respected, and money speaks louder than an impoverished title. Although there are always the diehards....



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 140

The day of Councillor Castlemaine's cremation dawned bleak and bitterly cold, but this did not deter a large number of citizens from turning out to pay their last respects. The procession from the Torian Temple started in the early afternoon, and was led by the late councillors' father; Clem Castlemaine. Members of the Castlemaine household and the Royal Court followed, then the body borne by six journeymen, then members of the Ironmongers Guild, the Witanmoot and the recognised Religious Orders; all in full ceremonial livery or regalia. To the sound of drums the colourful procession crossed slowly to the field opposite, where a substantial pyre had been built during the previous days. Entering the area through the traditional west gate, they trod the circular path to the centre and placed Castlemaine on the pyre. As the participants fanned out to the to the edge of the circle, leaving the gates at east and west open, it became clear that four eulogies would be delivered that afternoon.

Interspersed by the chanting of the priests, the eulogies delivered by Guildmaster Whitcombe and Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmons both emphasised the late councillor's deeds as a worthy citizen of the city. As the second chant ended the King summoned a Bard from his retinue and, instead of delivering the expected speech, she sang a new ballad. Describing the story of Castlemaine's last courtship and eventual murder, the power of the song evoked a poignant silence amongst the crowd. The priests filled the silence with a third chant, and then old Clem Castlemaine stepped forward to make the final eulogy. Not unusually in these circumstances, he was unable to speak, and his other son took up the recital, delivering a dramatic (and hopefully exaggerated) account of his brothers private life. But it was left to Clem, once the final chant had died away, to step forward with the black torch to light the pyre. By this time it had begun to snow again, and for a long time it was not clear whether the fire would catch. Many watchers outside the circle returned to the city. Only a few remained to honour the final pillar of flame as the oil-soaked wood finally ignited.

The Princess, who was present amongst the mourners, returned to the Torian Temple to continue her studies. It is understood that her remaining suitor, Duke Alexander Calverin, will be returning to his Duchy as soon as the seasons permit.

Citizens attending the Sheriffs Court this month, in the hope of witnessing a major confrontation, were much disappointed. A confused and tired Armundus Septer made no move to refute the allegations of sedition, and indeed appeared to corroborate the Prosecutions' points at some stages. Speculation that the Old Man of the Witanmoot is totally senile has now become popular opinion. On the Prosecution side Alderman Malcolm Mowbray presented evidence from both his own investigations and those of Councillor Beatrice Perignon. However the chief prosecution witness, Cllr Matthew Jardine, inexplicably failed to turn up. Nonetheless, Sheriff Paston Courtney ruled that the case warranted a full Trial and has ordered Armundus Septer to appear before Lord Raphael next month.

Later in the month Alderman Mowbray presided over Beatrice Perignon's Hearing. No evidence at all was presented to back Cllr Septer's allegations, and the case was firmly dismissed. Tragically, the strain of attending proved too much for the convalescing Cllr Perignon, and she later had to be rushed to the Torian Temple. Despite the upsetting affairs of the past month, His Majesty the King found time to meet Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmons in a private audience to discuss the worrying recent incidents of necromancy. Lord Raphael later assured the Witanmoot that the King had the situation firmly in hand, that necromantic activities would continue to be outlawed, and would suffer the fullest penalty of the law. However, on the advice of his close friend Cllr Armundus Septer, Lord Raphael has imposed a "purely precautionary" curfew over the whole of the city. This has not been well received by the Brewers and Hostellers Guild, who stand to lose much income, nor by the bulk of the citizens, who are unwilling to spend the long winter nights confined to their houses. Unkind citizens have suggested that this is merely a belated attempt to prevent rooftop archery contests.

Cllr Sergio Aragones appears to be the man buying all the drinks this month (or not as the curfew dictates). A well-informed investment in a newly opened Chandlers store has reaped him a handsome profit. We wonder if he will be using any of it to Cllr Septers defence?

The Chronicle is pleased to announce that the following have been returned unopposed: George Rimon remains Chair of the Treasury Gibian Horl remains Chair for Shipping.

And the following nominations have been received for the other offices:

<i>Trade</i>	<i>James Isenbard (E, RM) Miranda Andrews (OD) Jemma Downe (TF) Samantha Cox (MM)</i>
<i>Law &amp; Order</i>	<i>Elliot Sparman (E, AS) Samantha Cox (TF, MM) Malcolm Mowbray (OD)</i>
<i>Welfare &amp; Ed.</i>	<i>Ann Tasker (AS) Jemma Downe (OD) Suzan Faithside (TF) Samantha Cox (E, MM) Alison Shefford (MM)</i>
<i>Lands &amp; Ag.</i>	<i>Samantha Cox (OD) Miranda Andrews (TF) Suzan Faithside (E, MM)</i>
<i>Salvoyn</i>	<i>Suzan Faithside (MM) Alan Griffiths (E)</i>
<i>Nyskilde</i>	<i>Malcolm Mowbray (TF) Baldwin Underwood (E)</i>
<i>Eresan</i>	<i>Olivia Warin (MD) Nicholas Bowden (E)</i>

The letters in brackets indicate the nominating faction (E = current incumbent). Rumours that the senile Armundus Septer accidentally nominated councillors for some of these posts have been officially confirmed.

And finally, regular readers may remember the unfortunate outcome of Cllr Matthew Jardine's intimate soiree with Alderman Cox last Lorinfall. The Chroniclers are pleased to report news of a reconciliation between the chastened Councillor and his good lady wife. Pity they can't go out to celebrate....

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 140

The city has been much perturbed this month by persistent rumours that the King is gravely ill. Both the Knight Marshall and the Torian Abbott insist that His Majesty is merely suffering from a slight fever, and a full recovery is expected. It is reassuring to note that the Princess remains at work at the temple, although this may be to avoid the company of Duke Alexander as much as anything else. Plans for the Duke's return to Cascorach are being finalised for Pipetal Firstweek, and both the Mercers and Grossers guilds have confirmed that their caravans will join the ducal retinue for the journey.

The Chronicle is pleased to announce that Lord Raphael has seen the light and has lifted the curfew. In a statement to the Chronicle he said "Necromantic activity will not be tolerated - the King has assured me that the Astrologer Royal played no part in necromancy and I therefore call upon the Astrologer Royal to set the public's mind at rest. Also, I propose that henceforth movement into and out of the city during the Ghostmoons will be restricted (although movement within the city will be unaffected). During this time patrols will make regular forays around the city to deter any further incidents such as the one that occurred recently. I assure the citizens of Tinrodeth that no further incidents of necromancy will be allowed to occur." This new initiative will surely be welcomed by at least one victim of the curfew, Cllr Falgar, who was detained late one night while attempting to complete some council business. She was released after a brief reprimand from her alderman, James Isenbard.

The committee elections have seen a reversal of fortunes for the followers of Councilor Septer, indeed most of the posts have gone to supporters of the erstwhile Justice League. Lord Raphael, probably mindful of his forthcoming election, was noted as voting with the Dexter/Mowbray faction. The result however does seem to imply that the Justice League has collapsed with Cllr Falgar voting along different lines than Dexter and Mowbray alliance.

The full voting was as follows.

<i>Trade</i>	<i>Andrews 14, Isenbard 8, Downe 2</i>
<i>Law &amp; Order</i>	<i>Cox 15, Sparman 9, Mowbray 0</i>
<i>Welfare &amp; Education</i>	<i>Shefford 19, Tasker 3, Downe 1, Cox 1</i>
<i>Lands &amp; Agriculture</i>	<i>Faithside 18, Andrews 3, Cox 2</i>
<i>Salvoyn</i>	<i>Griffiths 12, Faithside 10</i>
<i>Eresan</i>	<i>Warin 22, Bowden 2</i>
<i>Nyskilde</i>	<i>Underwood 12, Mowbray 11</i>

In the wake of the elections has come a period of guild secrecy as the various crafts assess the recent shift of power. Voting on the Lord's proposed 'necromancy' amendment to the city laws is expected to go largely along guild alignments. A number of guilds are rumoured to be none too pleased by the way some of their Aldermen voted. In particular the Drapers and Dyers and the Carpenters and Coopers groups have all seen a significant reduction in their influence. The Armourers guild is strangely rumoured to be fairly happy over the replacement of Alderman Sparman by an Apothecary, perhaps a new candidate of theirs is in the offing? At a packed trial before Lord Raphael Fitz-Simmons, Cllr Armundus Septer was found not guilty of the charge of sedition. Evidence was presented from Alderman Mowbray and Cllr Dexter, and Cllr Matthew Jardine proved a key witness since he was staying with Cllr Septer at the time of the alleged offence. The defence managed to cast considerable doubt on the reliability of the witness, who admitted to being inebriated during much of this time. Significantly, much of his statement contradicted Cllr Dixon, and Lord Raphael in summing up stated that the evidence against Cllr Septer was insufficient, and that Matthew Jardine, although now recovered, was probably in a drunken stupor at the time and could not be taken as a reliable witness.



Petronella Talbot, Treasurer of the Chandlers Guild, has been removed from her post and faces a guild hearing next week following accusations of malpractice and embezzlement. Apparently the extra business brought in by the curfew led to an audit of the guild books. Guildmaster Faldrake refused to comment other than to state that there would be no cover up.

The early thaw has led to problems with the city's roads, and once again the risk of plague is upon us. Cllr Parkinson reminded citizens that it is their duty to dump the frozen beggars in the marsh where they can do no further harm.

Rumours of a reconciliation between the Perignon and Dixon families seems to have been squashed by the defection of Chairman of Shipping Gibian Horl to the Perignon camp. A livid Crimson Councillor was heard to say, "somebody is going to suffer; this means war!" Cllr Perignon's comment was "Oh. But this was before the truce started. Wasn't it?"

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 140

The first caravan to arrive with the spring thaw brings news of bandits in the Celidon forest to the south-east. The Mercers Guild has warned all travellers to take great care, and if possible to travel in an escorted caravan. Sheriff Maxil has called upon the Knight Marshall to take action but, in an interesting turn of events, Lord Raphael has accused Sheriff Maxil of overreacting to a minor problem. One person who might disagree is young Roland, the nephew of Cllr Matthew Dixon, who arrived in the city having lost his last remaining possessions to these robbers.

Duke Alexander is expected to leave the city within the next few days to return to Cascorach. The delayed departure has meant that the many merchant wagons hoping to travel with him have been causing great congestion in the city streets. The reason for the delay is not known, but may entail a last ditch attempt to resume his failed courtship of the Princess.

Predictably, the longstanding feud between Perignon and Dixon has flared up again. Cllr Matthew Dixon has challenged Beatrice Perignon to a duel, claiming "malpractice in recruiting Alderman Horl". Cllr Perignon of course has only just left the Torian infirmary, following a prolonged illness brought about by a duel with Miranda Andrews. Will she survive the Crimson Councillor?

The Bowyers' guildmaster, Miranda Andrews, and her deputy, Helen Krefst, have both been seen pounding the butts nearly every day this month. The city's archery record has already been broken twice, and if the two ladies continue their relentless practice, it will probably be broken a few more times yet. The reason for this sudden burst of aggression is unclear, however dire mutterings about men which issue with every good hit perhaps implies that someone somewhere ought to be getting worried.

Citizens visiting the markets this month have been rather startled to hear several criers demanding the reform of the Hahnite religion, and the resignation of the Archimandrite. This initiative appears to be sponsored by Cllr Falgar, who later issued the following statement; "For too long Tinrodeth has suffered the ludicrous legal system created by the Hahnite Temple. It is quite clear that the Archimandrite is obsessed with complicated and eventually unjust systems of Law, rather than with a simple, just legal system; either he must start doing his job properly or he should resign. We hope that all citizens of Tinrodeth will join this, the first objective of the Justice League." When pressed further about the Justice League, Tiliniel denied the rumours of a split, claiming that this was merely a personal disagreement between herself and Cllr Mowbray.

Springtime romance is in the air for Olnorth Dexter, who has been seen wining and dining the beautiful and vivacious Lady Elspeth. A similar plan by his colleague, Leonard Tholin, to wreck the marriage of Alderman Ilith Tansdowne was prevented only by the timely intervention of Cllr Perignon. Shaking her head sadly, Beatrice commented that it was "sad to see that certain individuals are trying to drag our fair city down into the cesspools of immorality."

The following missive has been received from the Citadel;

*Dear Citizens,*

*The investigation which was carried out on the Ghostmoans was an officially sanctioned investigation. There were several witnesses to the fact that there was no "conjuring of things dead". I regret that I am unable to say more on this investigation publicly due to the report being subject to Royal Prerogative. However, I am willing to attend and to testify to any legal investigation into either necromancy or the events of Ghostmoans 139. -*

*Yours Goodgulf*

Concern is growing over the continued absence of Cllr Aragonés from the halls of the Witanmoot. Old Sergio, who is known to suffer from poor health, was a prominent figure in debates and several messages of goodwill have been sent via his daughter. An alternative explanation maintains that he has simply become too rich to be bothered to turn up, and some of the younger councillors are now calling for his resignation.

Petronella Talbot, ex-Treasurer of the Chandlers Guild, will face a full trial next week over the alleged embezzlement of guild funds. Protesting her innocence, Petronella claimed that other members of the guild were using her for a scapegoat to cover up their own crimes. Alderman Baldwin Underwood will be presiding at the trial.

The final news this month is of course the Hustings for Lordship of the City. The candidates are:

Raphael Fitz-Simmons (Grosser)

Kennet Maxil (Mercer)

Paston Courtney (Carpenter)

The Aldermen will be casting their vote over the Springtide festival, and the result will be announced shortly after sunset.

# The times of Cascorach

## for the festival of Springtide in the Year 140

### Duke Alexander returns from Linrodeth

#### Baron Tancred executed

Duke Alexander has returned from the capital of Athion bringing a strange tale of deceit, treachery and mayhem.

The events occurred during the month of Skelern, and follow on from the new reported last Ghostmoons that Duke Alexander fought, and lost, a duel with a councillor of the City of Linrodeth, Thomas Castlemaine.

It started when it was announced that King Edmund had added councillor Thomas Castlemaine to the list of approved suitors for the hand of Princess Eleanor. This was a great blow to the Duke, since following the departure of Prince Pharos in Kryll 139, Duke Alexander was the only remaining suitor.

At the time of the announcement, councillor Thomas Castlemaine was being detained in the Citadel. Shortly after the announcement, he was released and returned to his home. That following evening he was admitted to the Torian Temple with severe food poisoning. On the next day, the eighth of Kruthos, Duke Alexander purchased a house in a street leading to, and only fifty yards from, the Temple of Torus. On that evening Thomas Castlemaine, now recovered, turned up outside the Temple of Torus, where the Princess Eleanor was now working, to serenade the Princess. Before he could start, however, he was escorted by a beautiful, if scantily-clad, woman who, when forcibly removed by Thomas Castlemaine's cronies, left with large handfuls of the councillor's clothing. Thomas Castlemaine retired to his house, and Duke Alexander took advantage of the interlude to invite the Princess to dinner. It is believed that Duke Alexander proposed to the Princess during the course of that dinner.

On the morning of the next day, the ninth of Kruthos, Thomas Castlemaine's guild, acting on a tip-off, raided his house, where a very large sum of money was recovered. It took Thomas Castlemaine until the afternoon to explain the discovery. His guild accepted his explanation that the money must have been planted in his house as he could not have earned that amount of money in one year, let alone overnight.

Following his explanations to his guild, Thomas Castlemaine arranged to take the Princess to dinner at private rooms at a respectable tavern. That evening he went to the Torian Temple to serenade the Princess before leaving for the tavern. As he drew to the close of his ballad councillor Thomas Castlemaine was shot in the back by a very accurately aimed arrow. As a figure ran from the scene, pursued by the watching crowd, Thomas Castlemaine was rushed inside the Torian Temple where he died at sunset. Rumour insists that councillor Thomas Castlemaine last words were to ask the Princess for her hand in marriage and that the Princess accepted.

The crowd, having failed to catch the assassin, then turned their attentions to the likely motives for the attack. The house where Duke Alexander was staying was promptly attacked by the mob and Duke Alexander was only rescued by the intervention of the citadel guard. Baron Tancred Mendoza was "celebrating" in the tavern where Thomas Castlemaine and the Princess were to have later dined. When news reached the tavern a general fight ensued. Two of the Baron's companions, Mick Jones and John Hearn, died in the fight. Their murderers were never apprehended.

At the subsequent Royal Commission convened to investigate the affair Baron Tancred admitted to hiring the young lady to embarrass Thomas Castlemaine and to the planting of the money in his house. The Royal Commission arrested the assassin and King Edmund's Star Chamber, at which the assassin's evidence is believed to have been pivotal, found Baron Tancred Mendoza guilty of the murder.

Baron Tancred Mendoza was executed on the last day of Kruthos. His will states that his monies in the Duchy of Cascorach are to be used to help the poor in his home barony of Rumsey. The barony of Rumsey reverts to the Crown. Princess Eleanor has been awarded the title of Baroness of Rumsey.

Duke Alexander returned to Cascorach in order to explain the events in Linrodeth personally to his court. He also stated that as he had been away for almost a year and hence felt that he could make "no further comment" at this time". The Duke was accompanied on his return by a large caravan of merchants from the city of Linrodeth, mainly from the mercers and grossers, but with a few other guilds represented.

The news of Baron Tancred Mendoza's death has left a power vacuum in Cascorach. The Baron was one of Duke Alexander's most trusted advisors and a power struggle is expected to ensue in Caradache Castle.

During the return journey from Linrodeth, Duke Alexander defeated a group of bandits in the forest of Celidon near Linrodeth. The bandits attacked the caravan shortly before dawn, and the Duke personally dispatched two of the raiders, while the remainder of the caravan guards dealt with the rest of the bandits. Only minor casualties were sustained and the caravan was able to continue on the journey to Salvoyrn, the first leg of the trip to Cascorach.

The mercers and grossers from Salvoyrn are warning of severe price rises for the goods imported from Salvoyrn. The emissary from that city, Alderman Joanne Kaslar, is reported to be very concerned about both the trade caravan from Linrodeth and the increased trade from the City States following the decrease in activity by the Delt barbarians in recent months.

### *News from Linrodeth*

Thomas Castlemaine's funeral was a state affair, with large numbers of Linrodeth's citizens turning out, in bitter weather, to pay their last respects. Both King Edmund and Princess Eleanor attended the funeral and the Bard's College presented a new and very poignant ballad describing the life and death of Thomas Castlemaine.

A curfew was imposed on the city for a month, following civil disturbances caused by accusations of Necromancy levelled against the Royal Astrologer.

King Edmund is reported to be suffering from a slight fever.

### *News from Salvoyrn*

The ladies of Salvoyrn are reported to have been very disconcerted by the size of the trade caravan which accompanied the return of Duke Alexander. The Duke spent a few days in Salvoyrn, most of which was spent in talks with the great trading families of the city.

The continuing war between the City States of Kerun and Orissa are reported to be causing great concern in Salvoyrn as both cities have warned that neutral shipping in their waters may be stopped and searched. The extra delay, and the occasional loss of the vessel, means that the merely exorbitant prices normally placed on goods from the City States is now reaching unprecedented levels.

# The times of Cascorach

## *A special issue for Jasmarill Firstweek Tenthday*

*Following the extraordinary events of the past week, the Times has decided to produce this special issue!*

### *Duke Alexander to marry Princess Eleanor*

*Duke Alexander has announced that he will be marrying Princess Eleanor on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Menderal, the Princess' 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is unclear, at present, where the wedding will be held, but it promises to be a most joyous occasion.*

*The Duke made the announcement on his return from Linrodeth. The Duke had called a special meeting of his council. Attending were Duke Alexander Calverin, Eorliane Cynthia Fitzholme, Baroness Shellary Silveria, Baron Morgan de Huengenaunt, Emissary Oliver Vladimir, Emissary Stanley Boldheart and Emissary Joanne Kaslar.*

*The Duke also asked for, and received, reports on the events of the past year.*

### *Salvoyn Emissary is a Delt spy!*

*One of the most surprising discoveries made by the Duke on his return was that the emissary from Salvoyn, Joanne Kaslar, is, in fact, a spy from the Delt. This discovery was made after messengers sent by the Duke to the City States of Adagua and Laurea were intercepted as they attempted to cross the passes. The messengers were taking messages to inform the City States of a planned attack by the Duke on the local Delt encampments in revenge for attacks by the Delt on the grain stores. Emissary Joanne Kaslar is currently under house arrest.*

### *Tax evasion in Radford*

*On his way to the Shelang Pass (the pass linking Cascorach to Adagua), Duke Alexander paid a call to the barony of Radford. Once there, he laid on a surprise audit of the accounts of the local lords and ladies. He discovered major embezzlement by those lords and ladies, but not by Baron de Huengenaunt. The Duke fined the nobles a total of one thousand pounds and then proceeded to the Shelang Pass.*

### *Major Victory in the Shelang Pass*

*Aided by the support of Baroness Shellary Silveria of Rosendale, who stopped the Delt stronghold in the nearby mountains from sending aid to the area, Duke Alexander has scored a major victory over the Delt blocking the Shelang Pass. The Delt have for several months, if not years, been occupying the Pass and have made several raids on trade convoys travelling between Cascorach and Adagua. The Delt suffered severe losses as, despite the intercepted messages, they seemed ill-prepared for the attack.*

*The attack was also supported by the City State of Adagua and both Cascorach and Adagua are maintaining forces in the area to help keep the frontier open.*

*The Guild of Mercers and the Guild of Drossers are reported to be very pleased at the result and are sending several caravans to take advantage of the opening of the pass.*

*The Duke has pledged to open the Snake Pass to Laurea 'as soon as circumstances permit.'*

Remains of a Writ

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# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 140

Their Majesties King Edmund and Queen Emma are delighted to announce the betrothal of their daughter, the Princess Eleanor, to Duke Alexander Calverin of Cascorach. The marriage will take place this year at Midsummer in Tinrodeth, and the Chroniclers would like to take this opportunity to wish long life and every happiness to the Princess.

In a hard-fought election Paston Courtney has been elected as the Lord of the City. The final results were as follows:

<i>Raphael Fitz-Simmons</i>	7	<i>(Tasker, Preston, Fitz-Simmons, Griffiths, Underwood, Downe, Warin.)</i>
<i>Paston Courtney</i>	11	<i>(Andrews, Tittle, Courtney, Rimon, Cox, Faithside, Shefford, Mowbray, Worton, Sparman, Bowden.)</i>
<i>Kennet Maxil</i>	6	<i>(Jansdowne, Maxil, Isenbard, du Bolay, Horl, Belcher.)</i>

Following his convincing victory, Lord Courtney announced that he intends to uphold the long tradition of service built up by previous Lords, and to lead the city into a new era of development and prosperity. A Civic Ball will be held later this month to celebrate Lord Courtney's inauguration, meanwhile Raphael Fitz-Simmons has confirmed that he intends to retire to his country estate after Midsummer.

It appears that Cllr Dixon's challenge to duel with Cllr Perignon has been refused. This challenge appears to have caused most offence to Gibian Horl who, although only the nominal cause of the disagreement, has not taken kindly to the implications of the wording. Rumour has it that the old man of the fishmarket is considering issuing a challenge of his own.

Despite the denials in the Chronicle last month the Justice League appears to have collapsed. The following public letter has been received from Alderman Mowbray and Councillor Dexter: "When we formed the Justice League our objective was to pull together a group of councillors who would always put the interests of the City first., and who would fight the corruption and self interest which plagues our government. It is unfortunate that Cllr Falgar has turned out to be one of those self interested people. It is obvious to us that her interest in the League was purely as a means to gain publicity for herself. Following her blatant double-dealing during the committee elections we decided to offer her the chance of reforming and working with us for the good of the city. Cllr Falgar has repaid our generosity by making ludicrous and scandalous statements in the name of the League. We can only assume that her intention has always been to destroy the League from within. We would like to put on record that we completely disassociate ourselves from Cllr Falgar and that she is expelled from the League forthwith."

Alderman Cox appears to have survived her first crisis in office. A policy of verge clearing, plus an agreement with the Knight Marshall to increase the patrols, seems to have persuaded the bandits to leave the road well alone. Councillor Gillian How has announced that Lord Courtney has accepted her request for a full council debate over the Welland/Shambles boundary dispute. "I'm delighted," she said "when Aldermen Belcher and Isenbard swept the issue under the carpet, I thought we were going to be left with the status quo. Now we have a chance to show them the error of their decision". It would seem that Cllr How does have a better chance this time, her two main opponents being tied up with other matters. Cllr Falgar has a motion of censure to deal with, and Cllr Marc is suffering from a sudden illness.

The Temple of Hahn seems to be ignoring Cllr Falgar's call for reform. The only person willing to comment was Pendentite Antonius who took the time to tell us that Cllr Falgar's accusations were too ludicrous to be worth him spending any time on. Cllr Falgar is continuing her campaign and issued the following statement. "All this proves is that the Hahnites have no idea how to put their house in order and are therefore



hiding behind cheap jibes and platitudes to disguise the intellectual vacuum within the Temple." The Temple may not be bothered by Cllr Falgar, however it seems that the Committee for Law and Order is. Its Chairman, Alderman Cox, has proposed a formal motion of censure against Cllr Falgar. She stated that Cllr Falgar's actions, in making an unwarranted attack on the legal structure during a time when the city was just recovering from civil unrest, were grossly irresponsible.

Elsewhere in the city Councillor Reg Marc has been suffering from an attack of bilious humours, a bad pint from his mass-production brewery, critics suggest. Our expert imbiber, Chinon, seems to agree that there has been a noticeable drop in quality since the Marcs opened their new tavern in Faringdon. Guess they just can't get hold of enough rats to add the distinctive flavour any more!

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 140

Life in the wards of the west hill has been disrupted by an unexpected wave of violence. First Cllr Tiliniel Falgar was attacked by swordsmen and barely escaped with her life, then Alderman Bert Belcher was shot and seriously wounded by an archer, who then shot Alderman Mowbray the next night. The attackers were more vicious than skilful, and both Alderman Mowbray and Cllr Falgar are expected to make a full recovery. Alderman Bert Belcher is still in the Torian Infirmary. Investigations by the Drapers and Tailors Guild have revealed that the incidents were not, as first thought, connected with the boundary change or the motion of censure, but related in fact to Ellis Devon's imprisonment. Two youngsters have been detained after a midnight chase through the streets of Dowgate by Olnorth Dexter's men, who were acting on a tip off. Sheriff Maxil has since confirmed that ex-Cllr Devon has been seriously ill in prison for some weeks.

The events of the previous month led to interesting scenes at the end-of-month Witanmoot session, as first Alderman Mowbray and then Cllr Falgar staggered to the floor to verbally attack each other. Despite a thought provoking lecture by Sergio Aragonis on the values and principles of free speech, the 'establishment' factions lined up to ensure that the concept was thoroughly squashed. The motion of censure against Cllr Falgar was carried by 169 votes to 104. The proposed Welland/Shambles boundary change was far more hotly contested, however Gillian Howe's persuasive arguments took effect and a last minute switch by Cllr Perignon's faction ensured that the motion was carried by 140 votes to 133. Lord Courtney has ruled that most changes are to be completed by the start of Heliora, except for the Councillors who must remain in their present ward until the Midwinter elections. The meeting ended with a surprise speech by Alderman Mowbray, who managed to rise from his seat long enough to formally accuse Cllr Reg Marc of serious and treacherous misconduct. Alderman Isenbard has insisted that Cllr Marc attends a hearing within the month. This comes at a particularly bad time for Cllr Marc, who not only remains vilely ill, but who also has son Carl in prison. Alderman Isenbard is refusing to elaborate on Carl's exact misdemeanour.

Passengers attempting to travel the river this past month have become the victims of a sudden wave of crime, which has included theft, mugging and worse. Several people have been reported missing and the port authorities have confirmed that an entire goods barge has disappeared. The trouble appears to be centred around the floating market, and Cllr Buggs Moran of Dowgate has demanded that the Knight Marshal destroy the river slum.

Earlier in the month Lord Courtney's inaugural ball was held at the Witanmoot. After a sumptuous banquet guests were entertained by Cllr Dexter's stylish new musical composition, and then the dancing began. The belle of the ball was undoubtedly young Julia Perignon, who caught the attention of most of the bachelors attending, and not a few of the married gentlemen as well, notably Lord Courtney himself. Lord Courtney's other companions frequently included Cllr Falgar and the Lady Elspeth. The wine continued to flow and it wasn't long before the Tevestone councillors, Septer and Perignon, indulged in an open display of incivility. The squabble stopped somewhat short of a duel, but Lord Courtney has exercised his prerogative in banning both of them from future balls. Also banned is Cllr Aragonis, who partook rather too enthusiastically of the free wine, and later completely disgraced himself.

Cllr Perignon's problems have not ended with the Ball. Lord Courtney has been forced to issue a writ for her arrest, following widespread allegations that Cllr Perignon has been misusing guild funds for personal gain. The trial will be held next month, and Beatrice's Alderman and Guild treasurer, Alderman Mowbray, is expected to be a key witness. The current trial of Petronella Talbot, also accused of embezzling guild funds, has ended with her acquittal. Fellow Chandler Mary Clifford has chosen this month to leave Cllr Falgar's faction and join the obviously more notorious entourage of Beatrice Perignon.

Gax has once again taken to preaching from the Mootstone arguing, if our reporter understands this correctly, for greater civic influence and more discretionary powers for the Aldermen and Councillors who sit in judgement at the civic courts. The general contents appear to have gone down well at the Witanmoot, although phrases like "disenthralling the magistrative structure from the constraints of an overly inflexible

legislative system", sank without trace into a sea of glazed expressions. In recent months Gax has been particularly associated with Malcolm Mowbray's faction, however his recent preaching seems to have taken that worthy Alderman by surprise. "Wonder who's been pulling his strings?" was the Alderman's initial reaction.

Up at the Citadel everyone appears to be far too busy preparing for the Princess' Midsummer wedding to notice the problems of the city. The Drapers and Tailors Guild is refusing to accept any more commissions, and bolts of silk are now said to be unobtainable. Out on the tourney fields the construction of the platform and the marquees are well advanced, awaiting only final decoration with flowers. The Common Council has already been honoured by the king with a demand for extra funds, and much of this has already been collected. Guilds are hoping to recoup the loss by the extra influx of summer visitors attending the wedding. Many inns, and not a few private houses, are adding extensions in order to offer more accommodation over the summer. Many local Wardmoots are responding by tightening up on the procedures for planning permission.

News from the City States confirms that the war between Orissa and Kerun has ended as abruptly as it started. Unconfirmed reports say that the City State of Adaquia has invaded the Duchy of Cascorach via the Shelang Pass. Should this news prove to be correct, it may well explain the continued absence of the bridegroom from the Princess' wedding preparations. Young Roland Dixon appears to share his uncle's predilection for duelling, and has challenged the hapless Carl Marc to a duel. Carl however remains firmly imprisoned in the Welland lock-up; the meeting between these young hot-heads will have to wait. Councillors of Bridge ward have been receiving several complaints about the shoddy masonry on the bridge's southern supports. The bridge has been renovated in recent years, and residents say that such extensive erosion should not occur so quickly. Councillors are particularly worried that access may have to be restricted at a time when the river ferries are so badly disrupted by crime.

The Grossers Guild has been particularly worried by recent rumours that a new type of sheep parasite has been discovered. If true, this could result in the burning of all stocks of fleece in the city, and will push up the price of woollen garments for the winter. The Wellhouse of Daleth is not yet prepared to comment.

Finally, nominations are now open for the two posts of Sheriff within the city. Kennet Maxil has already been re-nominated for another term, and further nominations are sought from amongst the Aldermen.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 140

With less than two weeks to go until the Royal Wedding, the Chroniclers are pleased to report the timely arrival of the Bridegroom in the city of Linrodeth. The Duke's entourage consisted only of a light mounted escort; but no doubt the caravan of servants, wedding clothes, household treasury and fine gifts for his beloved bride will arrive later. Out on the Journey Fields, the wedding enclosure has been completed and the rest of the area is now covered with the camps of visitors too poor to stay inside the city. Despite the hot weather the marsh continues to be hazardous to the unwary, and Lord Courtney has ordered ropes laid around the edge of it after some tents sank without trace overnight.

The influx of visitors for the Princess' wedding has been causing problems in a number of wards. As the city fills up and accommodation becomes scarce a number of complaints have been made against the Hostlers Guild for "raising prices to ludicrous levels". A spokesman for the Guild stated that they were only reacting to the demands of the market and could not be blamed for the problem. A number of citizens who have been forced out of their accommodation by the price hike are considering further action.

The Temple of Torus has issued a warning that the crowded situation within the city is likely to lead to a serious risk of plague, and have asked Lord Courtney to close the city gates to further visitors. Physickian Maelenun said that "with the increased population, many of whom are living in unsuitable conditions, there is an obviously increased risk of disease. Everyone should be on their guard, and any incidence of fever should be reported to the temple immediately."

Amid growing concern over the recent crime wave, Alderman Cox has issued instructions for all watches to be strengthened. Most of the trouble seems to stem from the rowdiness around the taverns as the celebrations begin to get into full swing. It is believed that the Committee for Law and Order is considering closing some of the worst establishments and/or hiring mercenaries to keep order. They have denied rumours that they have appealed to the Citadel for help.

The trial of Beatrice Perignon was held last week, in a blisteringly hot courtroom presided over by Lord Paston Courtney. Armundus Septer's evidence was concisely delivered by Pendentite Jeremiah, and vouched for by Cllr Matthew Dixon. In defence Pendentite Antonius gave the courtroom an entertaining summary of the ongoing feud between Cllrs Perignon and Dixon, and cast doubt on the credibility of the evidence. Alderman Mowbray then gave evidence, on behalf of the Vintners' Guild, that Beatrice's accounts had been fully audited by the guild and were all in order. Further witnesses were called by both sides, and tempers began to fray in the heat of the afternoon. As the tide of opinion slowly turned against Beatrice Perignon, Lord Courtney brought the trial to a close. A verdict of guilty was eventually returned, and Lord Courtney sentenced Mrs Perignon to be banished from the city. It is believed that Beatrice has already left the city to spend the summer on her southern estates.

In a subdued hearing before Alderman James Isenbard, a tired and drawn Reg Marc refuted the allegations of treachery and sedition made by Alderman Mowbray. A written testimony was provided by Malcolm Mowbray, who was too ill to attend in person. Alderman Isenbard took only half an hour to decide that the allegations were "unsubstantiated rumours" and dismissed them.

Later in a surprise announcement at the 'Empty Barrel', Reg Marc resigned from his office as a councillor for the ward of Welland. This was apparently on the advice of the Torians priests, who have told him to stay away from stressful activities. The bulk of the Marces' business is now being handled by his son Carl, and it is expected that Alderman Isenbard will also invite Carl to replace Reg in the wardmoot.

Nominations for the shrievalties have now closed with only three nominations having been made, Kennet Maxil has once again been nominated, this time by Ilith Landsdowne and Gibian Horl. He is challenged by the Chairman for Law and Order Samantha Cox (nominated by Aldermen Shefford and Worton), and by Alan Griffiths the well respected Alderman of Dracas. Rumours that Elliot Sparman would run, thereby offering the possibility of both Sheriffs coming from the same ward, seem to have been unfounded.

Ex-councillor Ellis Devon died in prison last week. His widow had been campaigning vigorously for his release on humanitarian grounds, and has recently become quite vocal in denouncing the conditions in our prisons. A spokesman for the prison told us "Although Mr Devon's death is regrettable, it should be remembered that he was a convicted traitor, who was originally sentenced to death. I find the idea that we should imprison people in pleasant conditions difficult to understand, imprisonment is after all meant to be a punishment."

Alderman Shefford of Bardsgate has this week announced the arrest of the thieves responsible for the jewellery thefts which have plagued the ward. In a statement to the Chronicle she explained, "the thieves were tracked down by a group of students who have been working on the crimes since the beginning of the year. The thieves were based in Bassishaw, and were coming into this ward and the ones near it to commit their crimes". One of the items recovered is believed to be a bronze casket stolen from Vanessa St Lawrence nearly two years ago, which was serving as the thieves' storage chest.

## The Chronicle of the month of Setheran in the year 140

Midsummer day was, thank the Gods, bright and sunny, with not even a breeze to disturb the masses of flowers and the dripping marsh plants that someone had managed to weave into the canopy. These last were hurriedly cleared away before trumpets announced the first of the important guests in a long procession from the Citadel. The settling of the invited guests into the stands took most of the morning, although the Journey Fields themselves had been packed since before dawn. Finally the bridegroom appeared and, to a curious mixture of cheers and whistles from the crowd, took his place on the platform.

Shortly before Midday the approaching deafening cheer marked the progress of the Royal family through the crowd. The King and the Princess joined Duke Alexander on the platform where everyone could admire the Princess' elegant dress of silver silk, and its long, long train which took attendants at least five minutes to pack onto the platform. This at least gave the noise a chance to die down before the King started to speak. His formal announcement of the marriage was slightly marred by the sounds of a continuing party at the edge of the crowd. Surprisingly, full silence was achieved when the King asked for any objections to the marriage, although he was resting his hand lightly on his sword hilt at the time.

The lull continued as the bride and groom spoke their vows, and the King pronounced the ancient binding:

"This bond I draw between you; that though you are parted in mind or in body, there will be a call in the core of you, one to another, that nothing, no one else will answer to. By the secrets of earth and water, this bond is woven, unbreakable, irrevocable; by the law that created fire and wind this call is set in you, in life and beyond life."

"Now," said the King. "Give your names to each other."

"Alexander."

"Eleanor."

The crowd erupted into cheers once again while the young couple shared the ceremonial cup of wine, and the recognised High Priests stepped up to add their blessings. The end of the blessing was the general signal for most of the assembled throng to start a party and to unwrap numerous picnic bundles. The official guests had a far hungrier and more restless time as the bride and groom were now posed for the official portrait. An hour later the Duke finally extracted himself from his wife's train and led the Royal party back to the Citadel for the banquet. The by now ravenous official guests followed with more haste than dignity, and left the site to the souvenir hunters. Much later that afternoon well-wishers lined Wheat Hill, Moot Way and Temple Hill for the Princess and Duke's departure through the city. Her Highness wore an elaborate gown, beautifully embroidered with summer flowers. Her husband, by contrast, had opted for simple peasants garb. The wisdom of this became clear around Dowgate where, in addition to the showers of rose petals, two ripe tomatoes hit him squarely in the back. With this tasteless reminder, the couple rode out of the city and on to the King's hunting lodge some miles upriver, where they and their escort of 100 heavy cavalry spent the night.

The cost of cleaning up the city after the recent celebrations is causing some concern to George Rimon, the Chair of the Treasury. It seems that the city's coffers have not yet recovered from the King's earlier tax, and the loss of the summer fair has also been noticeable. The Chroniclers trust that any further taxes will be as light as possible, and that Lord Courtney will make significant personal donations to alleviate this problem.

The first contested sheriff elections for many years turned out to be hard-fought. The votes eventually split almost evenly, with only a few votes separating the candidates. The final results were;

Samantha Cox 8 votes Kennet Maxil 7 votes Alan Griffiths 6 votes

Sheriffs Cox and Maxil were then sworn in, and nominations are now open for the Aldermanship of Oldgate. Over in Welland, the co-option of Carl Marc onto the Wardmoot has been prevented by Cllr Gillian How of Shambles. Councillor How wishes to contest this post and a by-election has been called for the end of the month.

As many citizens will already be aware, Tinrodeth's bridge has been closed this month for emergency repairs. The Guild of Watermen are confident that they can cope with the increase in custom caused by this and by the influx of visitors for the wedding. As Guildmaster Spittle told the Chroniclers "Queues for our boats are waiting no more than five minutes longer than usual, so I urge citizens to have a modicum of patience and not to recklessly trust themselves to these unskilled, amateur boatmen who have neither guild training nor our many years of experience." Fortunately for the city, the recent wave of crime on the river seems to have died down. No more than the usual number of missing people have been reported this month.

An outbreak of nausea and sweating in the ward of Portsoken is being investigated by the Torian Temple, despite Alderman Worton's claim that it was only caused "by all the excitement of the occasion." Physickian Maelenun Cassida criticised Nicholas Worton's comment saying that it showed "a disturbing lack of understanding of the problem". Worryingly, old Armundus Septer has recently been looking far more frail than usual, and has cancelled several engagements due to 'ill-health'. Readers will remember that Reg Marc resigned last month for similar reasons. Fears that the illness may be spreading throughout the city have encouraged many citizens to depart to the countryside for the remainder of the summer.

Although Olnorth Dexter's faction suffered an unexpected defeat in the Midsummer elections, the man himself seems to be happy with the wealthy Lady Elspeth consoling him. The two have been painting the town red in recent weeks, and Alderman Andrews has become a rather less frequent visitor to the Dexter mansion.

## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 140

Lord Paston Courtney is pleased to announce a general amnesty in celebration of the marriage of Her Highness the Princess Eleanor to Duke Alexander Calverin of Cascorach. The chroniclers note that the most important beneficiary of this amnesty is one Beatrice Perignon (it came a little late for Ellis Devon), who was exiled last Menderal for misuse of funds. One of the first people to welcome the announcement was Cllr Mary Clifford, who praised Lord Courtney's generosity and announced her intention to support Ms Perignon's faction in the Witanmoot.

The old man of the moot, Armundus Septer, has been rushed to the Torian infirmary after suffering a dramatic seizure during a debate in the court of common council. Reports from the temple indicate that the venerable scrivener is very ill. Reports from Portsoken ward indicate that the sweating fever has been contained in that area. However, two new outbreaks have been reported in the Faringdon and Cripplegate wards. In an effort to speed up the exodus of visitors from the city, Gibian Horl, the Chair of Shipping, has arranged for extra passenger ships to ferry people down the coast, two of these have been loaned from the royal fleet.

The Welland by-election has been won by Carl Marcs, although by a much smaller margin than had been expected. It would appear that the residents of 'south Welland' turned out en masse to support Cllr Howe. Only feverish late afternoon campaigning by Carl's supporters seems to have saved him (and Alderman Asenbard) from an embarrassing defeat. Cllr Marcs' celebrations have been somewhat dampened by the intervention of young Roland Dixon, who took the opportunity of Cllr Marcs swearing-in to point out that he had been avoiding a duel for some time. The next morning the two met and, despite a valiant and skilled display from Cllr Marc, young Roland soundly defeated him. Many observers are now describing him as one of the most stylish duellists they have seen for some time, and it would seem that his uncle may have some serious competition.

More outbreaks of the sweating fever have been reported in Levestone, Cadene and Bassishaw. Lord Courtney has cancelled the debate on the economy and has been holding emergency meetings with the Knight-Marshall and the Torians.

It would appear that Olnorth Dexter's personal relationships have undergone yet another reversal. Lady Elspeth has become enamoured of a young courtier and has left the city to travel to Cascorach with the Princess' entourage, taking her lover with her. Cllr Dexter has returned his attentions to Alderman Andrews, who appears to be much happier nowadays.

### LATE NEWS!

The sweating plague has broken out across the city and the Knight Marshall has dissolved the Witanmoot and declared martial law. The Torians are no longer answering calls for help and have just closed the Temple precincts to the public. Troops out on the highways are preventing any further people from leaving the city. Citizens are instructed to stay indoors and to despoil any dead onto the road at dusk. Anyone breaking curfew will be shot.



## The Chronicle of the month of Lorinfall in the year 140

The plague has loosened its grip on the city, leaving many families mourning their dead. Among the dead are Aldermen Rosalinde Preston, Elliot Sparman and Philip Little, and Councillors Philip Portman and Richard Nixon. The Knight-Marshal is still keeping the roads closed, but has announced that the Moot will be permitted to re-convene next month.

Food supplies in Linrodeth are beginning to run low, due to the interdiction of traders and goods going to the city. Sir Salverian, the Knight Marshal, has assured us that the harvest outside the river valley is going well, and that an emergency shipment of grain is being organised. He is confident that the outbreak of plague has been effectively confined to the region surrounding the city,

The bridge has once more been re-opened, and Master Mason James St-George, has assured the Lord that it is once again safe for use. In a worrying development James St-George has ascribed the bridge's poor condition to deliberate sabotage. He told the Chronicle, "The construction of the bridge was sound, however I found numerous examples of deliberate damage, and removal of stone blocks. I would seriously advise that guards are set until a full investigation can be made."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 140

On Kryll Firstday the Knight Marshall, Sir Salverian, announced the following appointments to the vacant Alderman posts;

Ishtan	Elliot Anderson
Cadene	Helen Kregt
Cripplegate	Alan Carter
Oldgate	Duncan Barnett

Some factions within the Witanmoot have expressed concern over this pre-emption of democracy. However, commenting on the appointments, Lord Courtney pointed out, "During martial law Sir Salverian can do whatever he likes, and personally I do feel that he was right to restore direct civic control of the watch in these wards at the earliest opportunity. We should perhaps consider granting this power to the Court of Aldermen in future. When asked about objections to her appointment as Alderman of Cadene, Helen Kregt replied, "The Knight Marshall only appointed me to hold the Aldermanship until the midwinter elections. It is an honour I take very seriously, and to show my commitment to the ward I intend to buy property here and to contest the seat at the midwinter election. The householders of Cadene will have the final say."

The Knight Marshall formally handed back control of the city to the Witanmoot on Kryll Ninthday, and the Interdiction was lifted. Since then supplies have been streaming into the city, and it would appear that the threat of starvation has been averted. In an interesting development, Lord Courtney has requested a rebate on the city's taxes to the King for this year, in order to enable it to recover from the depletions of the plague and (although he isn't saving this in so many words), on the grounds that the city has been run by the Knight Marshal for well over a month.

The sadly depleted Witanmoot reconvened on Tenthday, to resume the business of government. The first session was opened by Cllr Matthew Dixon, who proposed a vote of thanks to the Torian Temple for their work. This received widespread approval and a number of other councillors spoke to record their thanks. Afterwards Malcolm Mowbray proposed thanks and an increased civic grant to the Brynettes, to assist their efforts to provide a supply of sweet water to all of the city. This was passed by a surprisingly small majority.

News from the Princess' new home in Cascorach is that the Princess is having a noticeable influence. The Duke's interest in auditing and accounts has increased dramatically, with the result that many long-standing household members have lost their posts. Of immediate interest to merchants is the fact that the guild charters of Cascorach city have been "recalled for review". Rumours of a subsequent trading free-for-all have reached Tinrodeth, but unfortunately news of further developments may well have to wait until the thaw.

Several people claim to have seen Armundus Septer tottering around the town these past few weeks. This has come as a surprise to most who had assumed that the old man had finally died even before the plague struck. Other rumours, that a mysterious wooden box had been sent from the Septer household down to Cascorach, where the Necromancer Royal is staying, are unconfirmed and unlikely to be true.

Beatrice Perignon and her family made a conspicuous return to the city of Tinrodeth, looking fit and well after, as Beatrice put it, "an invigorating sojourn in the countryside." Ms Perignon's forced exile ended after Lord Courtney's had issued an amnesty in celebration of the Princess' marriage. Her daughter Julia, much in demand on the social circuit, has immediately set about ordering a new wardrobe suggesting that the country sojourn was not to her taste at least. Son Guimar has disappeared back to his gambling clubs, which may be the reason why old Beatrice herself has started called on her friends to do a little debt collecting. Arch-rival Cllr Matthew Dixon has been taking her return to Tinrodeth fairly calmly, commenting "I like to give opponents the first move."

More gossip of romance in Olnorth Dexter's faction, this time Cllr Alan Griffiths, the duelling dyer of Dracas, is turning his attentions and not inconsiderable charm on fellow councillor Poppy Soboll. Never mind the Justice League, is someone starting a breakaway Seduction League?

## The Chronicle of the month of Ternost in the year 140

The main news this month comes from Cascorach, where it has been confirmed that the guild charters were not recalled for review, as previously believed, but have in fact been formally revoked by the Princess. Following the announcement of this shocking news in the Witanmoot, Lord Courtney was forced to close the council session as councillors rushed to discuss the implications with fellow guildmembers. Most guilds have expressed grave concern to the Citadel, however their requests for a statement from His Majesty have been ignored, and fear is now spreading that similar action may take place in Tinrodeth. George Rimon, the most outspoken of the Alderman, is reported to have said, "If this act of lunacy is repeated here, then all hell will break out, A free for all would do terrible damage to the standards we have all come to expect from the guilds, and would completely remove the essential training which our apprentice system provides."

The confusion and uncertainty caused by the Charter Crisis has added a new dimension to the political reshuffling which normally takes place in the run-up to an election. As guild officials jitter over the possible overnight removal of their power, many citizens are turning to the council as the only certain place where they will be able to exert influence on the city. And it would seem that this years elections could be some of the most hard fought for some time. The existing political groupings are already beginning to break up under the pressure and numerous faction changes are being rumoured. The most dramatic so far being the defection of Mary Clifford from Beatrice Perignon to her arch-rival Matthew Dixon. Meanwhile Armundus Septer's grouping continues to disintegrate as the old man's condition fails to improve, and Carl Marc seems to be struggling to hold together the powerful grouping built up by his father. In an attempt to maintain its political hold on the city, the Justice League seems to be spending most of its time in fruitless discussions with other factions; although their leading light Olnorth Dexter may have other things on his mind. There are persistent rumours that Cllr Dexter has proposed to Alderman Miranda Andrews. However it would appear that she is yet to be convinced that he has forsaken his playboy lifestyle, and no engagement announcement has been made.

The winter balls have got off to an early start, as people attempt to lift the air of mourning that has hung over the city since the plague. Amongst the many revellers two people have been outstandingly noticeable; Cllr Carl Marcs and the eminently eligible Julia Perignon have both been breaking hearts throughout the city. A number of young bloods have been vying to escort young Julia, but it is said that only Ferdinand Lansdowne has managed to win Ma Beatrice's approval.

Cllr Arianne Pencric of Marshgate has suffered a serious financial blow at the hands of bandits who continue to cause problems to travellers on the Great Road. Cllr Pencric lost four wagons to the bandits, in what she describes as an act of sheer vandalism. Apparently after murdering the guards the outlaws stole some small items and destroyed the rest of the goods. Cllr Pencric has denied rumours that the loss will force her to withdraw from her offices in order to concentrate of rebuilding her business.

Finally, a quote from Beatrice Perignon, who it seems is still having trouble shaking off her criminal image "I'm not saying anything; it will incriminate me and appear in the Chronicle".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 140

The Honourable Elrissa Sandelli, envoy from the city of Salvoyn, has called on the guilds of Ljurodeth to protect their democracy and hard-won guild charters by joining Salvoyn in a boycott of trade with Cascorach. This unexpected and dramatic call was made at a civic banquet during Kruthos Firstweek, and has increased fears that Cascorach's abolition of guild privileges is the start of a much wider attack on free citizens across the country. Sandelli's after-dinner speech seems to have caught a complacent establishment by surprise, and as yet no official reply has been made by Lord Courtney's offices. Further enquiries by the Chronicle have revealed that the city of Salvoyn has already implemented this scheme, and has been restricting trade to Cascorach from the port for the past half year. While appreciating that the democratic government of a city should be stoutly defended, the chroniclers are wondering why such measures were taken before the Princess' marriage and subsequent reforms?

The run up to the midwinter elections has seen the media machine of the Justice League roll smoothly into action, offering a list of 'approved candidates' for voters from one side of the city to another. Surprisingly perhaps neither Cllr Dixon nor Ms Perignon, those long-standing faction leaders, have offered any alternatives. Ms Perignon refused to comment to the Chronicle and Cllr Dixon has taken to hiring bodyguards. It is a sad reflection on the state of politics today. Perhaps the new year will bring a healthy opposition party to the city, but don't hold your breath.

Aside from the usual bright young things, eager to party their way into the new year, the most persistent socialite this month has been none other than Armundus Septer. Master Septer has been afflicted by illness since the spring, and this month he seems to be determined to emphasise that he is still alive and doing business.

Rumours still surround the erratic relationship between Cllr Olnorth Dexter and Alderman Miranda Andrews. The latest snippet to reach our ears suggests that Miranda is examining the Dexter accounts; but as no announcement has been forthcoming we can only assume that Ljurodeth's 'most eligible' bachelor isn't balanced enough for Guildmaster Andrews. (But maybe some asset stripping will come later?)

## Late News

The midwinter elections saw a large turnout of citizens still upset by the plague and the rumours of an impending guild charter crisis. Apart from Welland and Cadene, most places saw a large swing of opinion away from the current office holders. Fortunately for them, opinions on alternative candidates remained deeply divided and most aldermen retained their posts with sharply reduced majorities. The only upset was Helen Krest who, perhaps unsurprisingly, lost her recent appointment and is replaced by a local lass, Melanie Romanie. Elsewhere the ever-popular James Isenbard managed to increase his majority, which perhaps reflects the loss of his old rival Reg Marc from the political scene.

Other newcomers which the Chronicle welcomes to the gladiators arena of the Witanmoot are Cllrs Janice Travers, Neville Vincent, John Madigan, Sue Quinn, Tony Walker, Mary Hastings, Neil Cracknel and Jenny Davy.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 141

It is with deep regret that the Chronicle announces the death of Baldwin Underwood. The alderman's body was discovered this morning hanging from one of the supports of Tinrodeth Bridge, by members of the local watch. Councillors from Bridge Wardmoot say that they have not yet ruled out the possibility of suicide. Alderman Underwood was a well-liked resident of Dowgate, and a tireless campaigner against the depredations of the nearby river scum. He will be best remembered for his strong leadership during times of crisis, such as when the floating market caught fire. Alderman Gibian Horl would like to hear from anyone who was travelling along the river last night, or from anyone who may have seen Baldwin Underwood after Four of the clock yesterday.

News from the Witanmoot. The following Aldermen have been returned to offices unopposed: George Rimon remains Chair of the Treasury, Alison Shefford remains Chair of Welfare and Education, Suzan Faithside remains Chair of Lands and Agriculture, and Alan Griffiths remains Envoy to Salvoyrn

The following nominations have been received for the other offices:

Trade: Miranda Andrews (E, OD) Ann Tasker (AS)

Shipping: Gibian Horl (E) Olivia Warin (MM)

Law/Order: Malcolm Mowbray (OD) Ariane Pencric (AS)

Eresan: Bert Belcher (AD) Olivia Warin (E)

The office of envoy to Nyskilde has sadly become vacant, and will now be the direct appointment of Lord Courtney.

Armundus Septer continues his rebirth on the social scene with a major ball to celebrate his amazing recovery and, as he himself puts it, "to get back into the swing of things." The only problems seem to have come from the seating plan; which resulted in arch rivals Beatrice Perignon and Matthew Dixon sitting at the same table. Not perhaps the atmosphere young Ferdinand Lansdowne was hoping for when he escorted Julia to the ball. Perhaps it was Beatrice's cutting description of Matthew's musical presentation, or Matthew's insistence on discussing the declining ethics of councillors that really set things going, but by the middle of the evening both respected councillors were losing their dignity. Only the audacious action of Roland Dixon prevented an ugly scene; his persistent choice of Julia Perignon as a dancing partner kept diverting Ma Beatrice's attention.

Elsewhere at the ball, Alderman Miranda Andrews was getting impatience at the tardy arrival of her partner, Olnorth Dexter. His eventual arrival and opening words "Abject apologies, I only just noticed what the time was" did nothing to improve her temper, and the relationship looks rather icy at the moment. A rather happier escort appeared to be Sir Henry Longbridge, who was accompanying Cllr Aralan Derwent.

In response to the call for sanctions by the Envoy from Salvoyrn, the Justice League have made the following announcement:

"In the light of the current level of public concern about the status of the Guild Charters in Cascorach, we feel that a few comments would not go amiss. Last autumn the Guilds of Cascorach were found by Her Highness, the Princess Eleanor, to be corrupt. Consequently she took corrective action, namely their revocation. This situation has no direct bearing on the Guilds of Tinrodeth. While it is true that the trade situation with Cascorach at the beginning of winter was unclear, we do not share the Envoy of Salvoyrn's lack of confidence in Her Highness, and are confident that the thaw will bring with it news of a satisfactory resolution to the situation. We would therefore like to reassure the citizens that there is no cause for concern."

Alderman Miranda Andrews (outgoing Chair for Trade)

It has been brought to the Chroniclers attention that in our issue of Kryll 140 we published an article which could be read to imply that the Chronicle believes the rumours that the Astrologer Royal has indulged in necromantic practices. We would like to make it unequivocally clear that the Chronicle has never given any credence to these rumours.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 141

Bleak winds off the icy marshes made the civic funeral for Baldwin Underwood an uncomfortable occasion, but nonetheless a large crowd gathered to pay respects to the late alderman. After Lord Courtney's address several other colleagues were moved to speak, including Sheriff Cox, who had worked closely with Baldwin Underwood during the Castlemaine incident, and the new Alderman Mary Clifford, who was at pains to emphasize that Underwood was in good mental, physical and fiscal health at the time of his death. The pyre was lit by his widow Molly.

Immediately after the cremation the new chair for Law & Order, Malcolm Mowbray, announced an official wide-ranging investigation into the affairs of the aldermen and the Aldermanic Court, although he maintains that this is not a direct result of Underwood's mysterious death. Several other leading councillors have also begun investigations into each others affairs. The most interesting of these is Olnorth Dexter's investigation of the Perignon family, which is fuelling the dockside rumours that Cllr Beatrice was seen with Underwood shortly before his death.

The Chroniclers are pleased to announce the following election results:

Trade: Miranda Andrews, 19 votes Ann Tasker 4 votes

Shipping: Olivia Warin, 16 votes Gibian Horl 7 votes

Law/Order: Malcolm Mowbray 20 votes, Ariane Pencric 3 votes

Eresan: Bert Belcher 20 votes, Olivia Warin 3 votes

So again the Justice League achieves a clean sweep. Shortly after the elections, the Wardmoot of Dowgate announced that Mary Clifford had become the new alderman for the ward in an uncontested election.

In a short announcement, Lord Courtney made the unexpected appointment of Cllr Matthew Dixon as the envoy to Nyskilde, a post more usually filled by aldermen. Initial speculation that this was a ploy by the Justice League to remove opposition has been denied by Cllr Dixon himself, who insisted that he was pleased and honoured to be the envoy, and was looking forward to the posting. Punters have now decided that the appointment is in the nature of a subtle insult to the Gemot of Nyskilde, and are looking forward to a new trade war.

Aside from low-life rumours and Olnorth's persistent curiosity, Beatrice Perignon has had a busy month arranging candlelit dinners for young Julia and Ferdinand Lansdowne, while avoiding the stalking spectre of Cllr Dixon. Inevitably, Matthew Dixon eventually cornered her in the Witanmoot and issued a flamboyant challenge to duel, citing her criticism of his musical skills at Septer's banquet as his main grudge. Which only goes to show that in these times of sudden suicides and guild charter reviews, there are still people willing to die for their artistic opinions. Fortunately for music critics everywhere, the duel has been unexpectedly and indefinitely postponed by the appointment of Cllr Dixon to Nyskilde. Shortly thereafter he was escorted to the dock where he boarded the Leviathon, commanded by one Captain Eagleview, to convey an urgent communication to Nyskilde. The ship duly headed out of port into the biting winds, and hopefully we will be hearing of 'Mad Dog' Eagleview later in the year

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 141

With the thaw comes news from the Cascorach. Her Highness the Princess Eleanor has announced the formation of the Guilds of Merchant Adventurers, Provisioners and Craftsmen. These guilds replace those disbanded by the Princess last year. Chairman for Trade, Miranda Andrews, welcomed the news, saying that it vindicated her stance against the call for sanctions made by Salvoyn envoy Elrissa Sandelli. Other interesting news concerns the Duke's intention to keep the streets patrolled by the army, rather than permitting a return to a civic watch. He has announced the formation of the First Cascorach Infantry Regiment, which will be drawn from the City to carry out this task. A statement on this significant development has not been forthcoming from the Citadel, which has been at pains not to comment of the Princess' management of the Cascorach Dukedom. However a reporter for the Chronicle has managed to discover that the King is keen to see the militarisation of Cascorach, in order to fend off the anticipated Gelt aggression. It has also been suggested that His Majesty has not been too impressed with Prince Edwards management of the Gelt campaign, and that his permission for the Princess to raise her own regiment is being seen by some as potentially very significant.

Other interesting news from the Citadel concerns Prince Edwin who, it has been announced, is to attend the Bards College. The Chronicle is interested to note that following the announcement a number of young ladies have also been enrolled at the College by their forward-thinking families.

Alderman Mowbray has announced that his investigations into the Baldwin Underwood affair are unable to continue until he has an opportunity to interview Councillor Gus O'Leary, who has not been forthcoming. Any citizens knowing the whereabouts of Cllr O'Leary are requested to contact the Witanmoot guard. Malcolm Mowbray refused to comment on the guards recent raiding of Cllr O'Leary's house, and refused to rule out the rumoured Floating Market connection. He did, however, dismiss the persistent rumours of Cllr Perignon's involvement.

The Temples of Torus and Brynette have made a joint announcement of a project to bring freshwater to the city. Atharvan Gareck told the Chronicle, "Following the plague last year, the Temple of Torus approached us regarding a means of providing freshwater throughout the city. We would now like to identify all the potential sources of freshwater within and near the city, and would like to hear from anyone offering generous funding for a pilot scheme."

The feud between the Perignon and Dixon families has exploded into violence. In a fight outside the walls of the Perignon household Roland Dixon has killed Guimar Perignon and seriously wounded Ferdinand Lansdowne's brother Antoine. According to a number of witnesses, an apparently chance meeting between Roland Dixon and a group of young men including Guimar and Antoine led to a duel between Roland and Antoine. After a short fight, Roland disarmed Antoine, and attempted to leave, however Guimar prevented him and continued the duel. Things turned ugly when Antoine recovered his sword and joined in the attack. When two others in the group also drew their rapiers Roland switched from the defence and, in a manoeuvre which one witness described as "bloody amazing", felled both Antoine and Guimar. Lord Paston Courtney was quickly called to the scene and took a severe view of the escalating violence between the two factions. All families involved in the incident have been fined £5, and Roland Dixon has been exiled from the City of Tinrodeth and all its lands. Master Dixon has not been seen since and is believed to have already fled the city.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 141

This year's Springtide celebrations were dampened but not disrupted by the persistent downpour of rain which had the river Ishtar swelling dangerously close to the top of the banks. Although the religious ceremonies were well attended, the re-election of Lord Paston Courtney was a sparsely attended event. No doubt most of the Aldermen assumed that the result was a forgone conclusion, and avoided an unnecessary journey through the torrential rain. In his acceptance speech Lord Courtney warned that the city coffers were still in a poor state, and that despite the rebate from the Citadel this year's budget would be very tight. He warned that some of the more ambitious welfare projects may have to be suspended, and would not rule out the possibility of an increase in taxation.

Guimar Perignon's funeral was held late last month, and was a private ceremony attended by family and close friends. The burial was at a small family willow grove to the west of the city. Beatrice Perignon, always a rather remote figure, has since withdrawn even more from public life. She is now in seclusion in the Torian Temple where young Antoine Lansdowne is making a slow but steady recovery from his wound.

Olnoth Dexter's love life seems to have developed complications with the sudden appearance of one Nigel Wimsloe, an old flame of Miranda Andrews. Despite Dexter's reputation as a nifty duellist (almost as dangerous as the Dixons), Craftsman Wimsloe appeared totally undaunted. When the pair met the following day on Wellhouse Green, it was apparent that the two were very evenly matched. A stylish and rapid series of exchanges set the standard for the rest of the duel, and the crowd were kept entertained for all but a period towards the end, when both duellists appeared to be getting their second wind. Eventually an almost imperceptible error from Dexter gave Wimsloe the opening, and a slash along the arm ended Dexter's activities for the day.

Alderman Malcolm Mowbray seems to have suspended his corruption investigations whilst he invests all his time trying to stop his fellow councillors in Levestone from killing each other. Cllr John Madigan of Oldgate commented, "It's about time. The Chairman for Law and Order should put his own Ward in order before nosing into the affairs of others. Levestone is disgrace, the irresponsible councillors of that ward have been running the city for far too long."

Finally, a query for the Astrologer Royal. Since he has been in Cascorach since last year, perhaps one of the Temples would like to verify and/or reply to this missive?

Dear Sir, It has come to my attenshun thro divers divinations that the Astrologer Royale, one Goodgulf by name, has the intenshun of rashionalizing the Calender. How can he change the Way of Things as is Ritten in the stars without changing the Heabunly bodies? Do he intend to work some devillish Majick to re-arrange the Order of Things of Wot the Gods intended? I think we should be told!

Yours Respectfully, Mab Mugwort (Ms)

P.S. Ware the comming of the empty one for he brings tidings of terror to the Red Man. The short shall be long and the shallow suffishunt deep for his undoing!

Well, at least that last part seems to be a clear warning to the Hahnites.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 141

There were dramatic events in the Witanmoot this month. Cllr Neville Vincent, the Treasurer of the Watermen, had just tabled a motion calling for an emergency debate on the raiding of the Watermens Guild by the Witanmoot Guard, when Cllr Derwent rose and, amid a general uproar, charged Cllr Vincent and the Watermens Guild with Embezzlement, Conspiracy and Evasion of Taxes. Sheriff Cox ordered in the Guard to arrest Cllr Vincent and the Watermen faction rose to meet them. Lord Courtney was forced to suspend the session, and the Witanmoot guard, with swords drawn, cleared the hall and forced their way through to Cllr Vincent.

Our reporters have discovered that investigations by Cllr Derwent into the death of Baldwin Underwood and the disappearance of Cllr O'Leeny had led her to suspect the Watermen's Guildmaster Denys Spittle of corruption. In a midnight raid members of the Witanmoot Guard seized the Guild Offices and arrested Guildmaster Spittle. The next morning Guildmaster Spittle and 'a wagonload of books' were taken under a very heavy guard to the Witanmoot, where Cllr Spittle confessed that he, Gus O'Leeny and most of the Watermens Guild had been defrauding the city of a vast amount of tax for the last 5 years. Lord Courtney has ordered the assets of the Guild and all its senior members seized and it is believed that he is considering revoking their Guild Charter. A number of the more cynical members of the Council have commented that, given Lord Courtney's need to raise extra revenue this year, the chances of any of the Watermen's assets avoiding forfeiture to the city are pretty minimal.

The violence in Levestone has broken out into open warfare with supporters of the exiled Roland Dixon attempting to storm the Perignon household. Alderman Mowbray called in the Witanmoot Guard and a number of people were killed in the ensuing fight. Alderman Mowbray has now become a target, following his suspension of the ward council and watch. Only the presence of two squads of the Witanmoot Guard acting under his direct control is preventing further violence. Cllr Perignon appears to have collapsed during the attack on her house and was rushed to the Torian Temple, where her condition is described as serious.

The Witanmoot Guard seem to have been excelling themselves this month, earlier in the week two members of the guard captured an assassin after a dramatic chase through the streets of Portsoken and Bridge. The patrol leader, Sgt Muggie, has refused to comment on rumours that the target of the assassination was Cllr Olnorth Dexter.

Alderman Elliot Anderson of Ishtan must be Tinrodeth's least happy man this month. Not only has one of the major guilds in his ward had most of its assets seized, and half of its councillors arrested, but he himself has been called to appear at a hearing before Sheriff Samantha Cox charged with a seditious involvement in the Levestone riots.

In perhaps the only light event this month, Cllr Dexter was almost arrested when he was found in the rear garden of Maud Blessop's restaurant in Levestone at three in the morning. A sheepish Cllr Dexter explained that he had been up all night with Aralan Derwent and Sam Cox and he needed to obtain a rose before he went back to Miranda. The watch sent him on his way and wished him luck - he was going to need it.

Amid rumours that the King was considering sending in troops to seize the accounts of all the guilds, Lord Courtney and Sheriff Cox have been summoned to the Citidel. Lord Courtney dismissed the rumours as unfounded, and stated that His Majesty was merely concerned about the situation in the Wards of Ishtan and Levestone, and he was at pains to assure the city that at no stage had the King threatened to send in his regiments unless the city failed to sort out its affairs.

## STOP PRESS

The Witanmoot was rocked yesterday by the shock announcement of the deaths in prison of Denys Spittle, Neville Vincent and Tony Walker, all of whom were under investigation over the Waterman scandal. Unconfirmed reports suggest that they were deliberately poisoned.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 141

Their Majesties King Edmund and Queen Emma are delighted to announce that Her Royal Highness, the Princess Eleanor, is expecting the birth of her first child around Midwinter. Their Majesties will be providing scores of casks of ale to the wards of Tinrodeth on Midsummer Day, so that all loyal citizens can celebrate this announcement. The Chroniclers offer their congratulations, and have two questions: (a) is this the reason for Goodgulf re-arranging the astrological charts, and (b) has anyone told the father yet?

The Witanmoot have announced the following nominations for the two Sheriff posts. They are: Alan Griffiths (Andrews, Rimon) Samantha Cox (Warin, Mowbray) Kennet Maxil (Lansdowne, Horl) Voting will take place over the Midsummer festival at the Witanmoot.

### An open letter to Cllr Beatrice Perignon Councillor,

*So you had to take the first move. Not only do you condone a murderous attack on my nephew, Roland Dixon, but you cause trouble in Levestone, and cause Malcolm Mowbray, both yours and my Alderman, a great deal of trouble. But the last straw has to be your false accusation that Alderman Elliot Anderson started the riots! How could he? He was in Ishtan being visited by all and sundry (e.g., Alderman Malcolm Mowbray and Cllr Aralan Derwent). So please, don't do anything that would mean that I had to request Lord Paston Courtney to relieve me of my duties as emissary to Nyskille, and thus return to solve the pending matters between us.*

*Yours Sincerely, Cllr Matthew Dixon*

Lord Paston Courtney wishes to announce that Roland Dixon has been pardoned of the responsibility for the death of Guimar Perignon. The Committee for Law & Order is tracking down the person or persons responsible for stirring up the trouble between the families which led to this tragic incident. Commenting on the announcement, Malcolm Mowbray, Chair of the committee said, "I wish he'd make his mind up".

After the recent months of blisteringly hot weather, the harvest this year is likely to be early. Although Temple of Daleth is still expressing concern over the lack of rain, this year's harvest should also be very good. Following the problems experienced in the last few years this will come as a welcome change for the Cornmongers and their customers.

Matters in the ward of Levestone seem to have settled down and the watch has once again taken over responsibility for the ward. Commenting on the situation Alderman Mowbray told the Chronicle, "I can assure the citizens of this city that the troublemakers who started this will be tracked down and dealt with. One thing I would like to clear up is the report that I had summoned Elliot Anderson to a hearing over the matter. That hearing was in fact to discuss some rumours concerning Beatrice Perignon which I believed him to be the source of. Although his actions may well have contributed to situation, I have now been convinced that he himself was not behind the riots."

Lord Festus Perara, Ambassador from the Court of Kerun, is pleased to announce that the Princess Selina Karandreas will be visiting Salvoyne over the summer months. The state visit is at the personal invitation of the King and Queen.

# Nyskilde in 141

A report by Councillor Matthew Dixon,  
Emissary to Nyskilde

## Background

Nyskilde is a small city about 200 miles to the north of Tinrodeth. The trip normally takes about twenty days, allowing for time to shelter in little bays and inlets while the storms of the sea rage outside. Nyskilde is built on the shores of a circular bay and is surrounded by stone cliffs. The City's defences are impressive even by comparison with his majesty's castle in Tinrodeth.

## People

The society is very male dominated with age having considerable influence. The Jarl of Nyskilde (the equivalent of Lord Courtney) is Jarl Gudmund Thorkeleson. Other important citizens are Harond Garlok, Guildmaster of the Guild of Merchant Adventurers; Sten Bargeld, head of the Furriers' Guild; Kertald Grine, Marshall of the City Watch; and Stella Kimble, leader of the Weavers' Guild. Of these, only the latter, Stella Kimble is a woman. All of the civic leaders wish to maintain good relations with Tinrodeth (but see below!), but in general have only limited horizons. It seems that Nyskilde keeps to itself in almost all matters.

## Progress

Following Alderman Baldwin Underwood's excellent handling of relations with Nyskilde, I found that little needed to be done. Indeed the only progress that can be reported is that a new trading agreement between the Weavers of Tinrodeth and the Weavers of Nyskilde has been concluded.

## Problems

During my stay in Nyskilde, it came to my attention that the envoy's residence in Nyskilde is in need of urgent maintenance. I therefore humbly request that the budget for this Emissary be increased next year to prevent much larger expenditures in the future. In addition, the Merchants of Nyskilde are very parochial and may take offense at the slightest pretext. As an example, the Merchant Adventurers' guild of Nyskilde seems to be bent on a course of excluding all access to Nyskilde's trade markets except when conducted by their guild. It is my belief that the guild charters of the guilds in Tinrodeth grant us the right to trade (in the relevant goods of course!) wherever we wish and so we should resist this as much as possible. It is also worth pointing out that if the worst came to the worst (for example if the City States attacked Athion) that the City of Nyskilde would act in any interest (including that of his Majesty's) other than their own.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 141

The Archimandrite is pleased to announce that, at the special request of the Princess Eleanor, Edward de Belleme is to become the new Plenipotentiary of Cascorach. The appointment follows the retirement due to ill health of the current Plenipotentiary, Henry Algernon Persevanten, who will be leaving for a Hahnite retreat in the Celidon Forest. Edward de Belleme, currently a Pendentite in the Linrodeth Temple, said that he was "pleased and honoured" to have been chosen for the task, and that he hoped to be in Cascorach by Higharvestide.

The Chroniclers are pleased to announce the results of the elections held at Midsummer are:

Samantha Cox	10 Votes
Alan Griffiths	7 Votes
Kenet Maxil	6 Votes

So long-serving Kenet Maxil retires from the Witanmoot for the time being, refusing to comment on whether he will stand again at the Midwinter elections. Likewise Sheriff Cox, her position obviously strengthened by topping the poll, is refusing to say if she intends standing for Lord of the City next year.

The Chair of Law and Order, Alderman Malcolm Mowbray, has formally accused Cllr Armundus Septer of misconduct, creating turmoil in the previously torpid council chambers. The Hearing is scheduled to take place before the new sheriff, Alan Griffiths, early next month. Mowbray has so far refused to release details of his investigations into the Tevestone riots of recent months, but this latest announcement is believed to be connected to the investigation. Unfortunately for the watch serving notice of the summons, it appears that the Old Man of the Witanmoot has already done a bunk. Shutters on his Tevestone house are closed and the servants quarters are empty - although neighbours have pointed out that Armundus often visits his summer estate during the height of the summer.

The Chroniclers note the absence of both Alderman Andrews and Cllr Dexter from the council proceedings this month. Our impartial enquiries have confirmed that the pair have left the city to celebrate the passing of Midsummer in a deeply traditional manner; a nuptial hunting. The Chroniclers, along with all the other interested followers of their prolonged courtship, offer their heartiest congratulations.

In a poorly attended debate in the Witanmoot, Alderman Mowbray has proposed the mandatory removal of the Floating Market to a point further upstream from its present position, and on the far bank. Details of how this would be achieved were sparse, but Mowbray invited constructive suggestions. The move was supported by Cllr Aralan Derwent who said, "I hope that citizens will welcome this proposal, which will reduce the problems that the residents of Dowgate have been having, while maintaining the market." The proposal seemed to gather cautious support from the chamber, although several councillors could be heard suggesting that the whole caboodle was removed to about five mile beyond the Ishtan estuary and left there.

Lord Festus Perara, Ambassador from the Court of Kerun, is conspicuously avoiding the vicinity of Salvoyn this summer. This seems to be despite (or perhaps because of) the presence of his liege lady, the Princess Selina Karandreos, who is making a state visit this summer.

Gax the Heretic has returned to his old haunt; the steps of the Hahn Temple. Apparently a couple of the youngsters from his orphanage have been denied entrance to the Law School, and Gax is demanding to know why. The reason seems obvious to the Chroniclers - but according to Gax its because of, "the archaic establishment's repression of potential debate through the deliberate under-education of the people".

Due to the appointment of Alan Griffiths as Sheriff, there will be an election of the Alderman of Dracas ward next month, in the Court of Common Council.

## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 141

In his first act as Sheriff, Alan Griffiths has placed Cllr Armundus Septer under house arrest, pending a trial to take place next month. Sheriff Griffiths was at pains throughout the hearing to show impartiality, and after careful consideration he decided that sufficient evidence had been presented by Alderman Mowbray and Cllr Perignon for a full trial to be held. Many citizens will remember that Armundus is no stranger to such events, in Galemir of last year he faced a trial on charges of sedition which were brought by the same people. Indeed the similarity of the events has led Ariane Pencric to accuse Alderman Mowbray of "hounding a disabled old man to his death", and she has challenged him to a duel.

The election of the new Alderman of Dracas has produced a surprise result. Nearly everyone had assumed that Olnorth Dexter would easily win the contest, however Philip Portman was elected with 121 votes to Dexter's 99, and Sharon Berhon trailing at 50 votes. Philip ascribed his success to the support of Cllr Perignon whose large faction swamped the combined efforts of the Justice League. Two people noticeably absent from the vote were Sheriff Cox and Alderman Mowbray. Alderman Mowbray later denied rumours of a split; "We were simply far too busy working on the Septer case" he claimed.

His Majesty the King has announced that Prince Kieran is to lead a detachment of the Kings Rangers to the Gravelkinden, which has recently been suffering from serious banditry. The Chronicle notes that this appointment strengthens Prince Kieran's involvement with the Rangers, and give credence to the rumours that he will be given formal command on them come his Eighteenth birthday next Skelern.

A major dispute seems to be brewing between the Carpenters Guild and the Thatchers Guild. The Carpenters have accused the Thatchers of wildly inflating the prices they are charging when working for the Carpenters Guild. When the Chronicle asked Guildmaster Marc 'the Thatcher' Bergeren for a comment on the dispute, he told us, "The Carpenters have treated the thatchers as slave labour for years. Now that His Majesty has granted us a guild charter we are merely redressing the balance. In my opinion the bastards deserve everything they get." Lord Courtney has demanded that Marc withdraw these statements against his guild, however the Thatchers are remaining defiant.

Plans for the relocation of the Floating Market seem to be progressing slowly, Cllr Duncan Barnett has been expressing his support for the scheme, as a means of eliminating the competition the market presents to the Guilds of Linrodeth. However although everyone seems to support the idea, few constructive suggestions have come forward on how it should be achieved. Cllr Buggs Moran of Dowgate has proposed one novel solution, "We set fire to this end of it and see how fast it moves".

Amid much pomp, Plenipotentiary Belleme has left for the Dukedom of Cascorach. He will be accompanied by Sir Menzies, the Archimandrite's personal envoy, and a full company of the Knights Templar, led by Sir Magnus. The Temple has been unwilling to comment on the reason for all this military might, however they have denied rumours that it is there to protect Edward from the attentions of the Lady Caroline.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 141

On the first day after the Highharvestide feast, Lord Paston Courtney convened a special court for the trial of Councillor Armundus Septer. The defendant was noticeably more alert than on the previous occasion, but even from the public galleries it was apparent that the year's events had taken a toll on his health.

The prosecution opened with a lengthy account of the riot in Levestone during Heliora, and of Alderman Mowbray's subsequent investigation into its start. A number of ringleaders were identified, both by the Alderman and during the testimony of a pale Beatrice Perignon, whose house was the main target of the rioters. Oddly, Cllr Perignon also appeared to blame the rioters for the death of her son Guimar. Testimony from Charles Smith, a journeyman of the Dixon household, described how one of the ringleaders had approached him the afternoon before the riots, and had tried to bribe him to join in. The prosecution concluded with the results of the interrogation of the ringleaders, which revealed that their funding had come from a cloaked patron, who they identified as Armundus Septer due to his distinctively slurred voice.

The defending Mandatien began by establishing an alibi for Armundus on the night he was suspected of having met the rioters. She then called several of the Witanmoot Guard to confirm that the mob had been chanting in support of the exiled Roland Dixon throughout the night of rioting. The defence went on to show that a person matching Roland's description had been seen in the area on the night of the meeting, the implication being that Roland had been impersonating Armundus for his own ends. As the court adjourned for the night it appeared that this explanation was accepted, and Lord Courtney indicated that a verdict would be given first thing in the morning.

The following day Lord Courtney's summing up was rudely interrupted by the sudden and noisy appearance of Roland Dixon himself, dragging a less than serene Wellkeeper behind him. Despite the efforts of the Witanmoot Guard, Roland refused to be quieted until Lord Courtney allowed him to take the oath and give testimony. Roland then insisted that much of Armundus' defence was based on a lie because he, Roland, had been in a Wellhouse of Daleth at the time.

"So you spent all that month in prayer and meditation then, hmm?" enquired Courtney.

"Well not exactly, no," Roland admitted.

"Why not?"

"I was on honeymoon."

"? \_\_\_\_\_?"

"In fact," continued Roland, glancing apprehensively at Beatrice, "it was Julia Perignon I had just got married to. So you see I really didn't have any reason for starting the riots."

When the ensuing uproar finally died down, the Dalethian priest was able to confirm these extraordinary events, and a rather belated round of congratulations took place. At the conclusion of this Armundus Septer was found guilty and sentenced to 5 years in prison.

Reports from the countryside confirm that a bumper harvest has been reaped this year, and a moderately high tribute has been set in order to replenish the city granaries this year. Additionally, the city hopes to be able to fill the equally large order from the Citadel, whose stocks have also been reduced over the past few years. Unfortunately, it appears that the peasantry have taken exception to these precautions, and have attacked a number of city officers and cornmongers attempting to organise granary trains. A number of troops have been sent out to keep order and to protect the reeves, and it is thought that no further protests will occur.

The dispute between the Carpenters and the Thatchers Guilds escalated this month when Marc Bergeren refused to retract his comments in last month's Chronicle, claiming that he was only acting in his official capacity as Guildmaster of the Thatchers. After a closed session in their 'Guildhall', the Thatchers confirmed that he was speaking for the Guild. A livid Paston Courtney added the matter onto the agenda of the Court of Common Council for the following day. During the debate Marc spiritedly defended the right of Thatchers to call the Carpenters "bastards", before agreeing to abide by the decision of the Council. It quickly

became apparent that the other speakers objected to the remarks and the matter quickly went to a vote. The Council was unanimous in condemning the action of the Thatchers as "bringing the city into disrepute", and demanded an apology as well as fining the Guild £3. A delighted Marc Bergeren obliged with a payment and apology on the spot. A senior Hahnite has confirmed for the Chroniclers that this motion did, in fact, amount to official recognition by the Council of the existence of an independent Thatchers Guild. A spokesman for the Carpenters Guild would only comment, "Oh shit!" before disappearing at a run.

The Chroniclers found time this month to attend the duel between Arianne Pencric, commonly held to be one of the three best duellists in the city, and Alderman Malcolm Mowbray, whose distaste for the sport is legendary. Presumably at the cautious Alderman's insistence, the duel itself was held outside the Torian Temple, which was just as well since the duel quickly came to its predicted conclusion. The Chroniclers wish Alderman Mowbray a speedy recovery.

News just in from the Duchy of Cascorach reports a significant victory by the Princess' army against an unexpected invasion by the City State of Adaquia. The Adaquian forces were apparently repelled after a major battle on the Athion border. The Princess is thought to be particularly pleased by the heroic actions of the Hahnite Cavalry, under the leadership of Sir Menzies, who fought off a decisive ambush attempt without a single loss from their own forces. Along with a noticeable reduction in the number of Gelt raids, this has ensured a superb harvest this year. The omens are therefore looking extremely good for the birth of the Princess' first child in the new year.

A deliberate attempt was made last week to set fire to the Floating Market. A number of unknown assailants shot fire arrows into the market from the top of the overlooking city wall. The attack lasted for several minutes, and the Watch of Dowgate has been criticised for failing to respond to the attack. Councillor Edges of Castle Bard told the Chronicle, "I was in Dowgate at the time and, seeing the attack, summoned the watch. However, when they arrived they just stood there and did nothing." Cllr Moran, replying on behalf of the Watch explained, "There wasn't anything we could do. The wall is the King's property."

An unexpected arrival in the port last week was The Allapsus, which collected the ambassador Festus Perara and household before returning to Salvoyne for the winter. It appears the Princess Selina is insisting on his presence after all!

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 141

Lord Courtney has proposed another change in the electoral system of Linrodeth, which would prevent Aldermen from being elected as Emissaries. He stated that, "as the Alderman is the ward magistrate, it is quite iniquitous to have them away from the city for an extended period of time". The proposal has gained widespread support from amongst the Aldermen and the Councillors. Alderman Alan Carter has also proposed that the post of Emissary to Cascorach be created to reflect that city's growing importance since the Princess' marriage. Both motions will go to a full vote of the Witanmoot next month.

The surprise social event of the month has been the second wedding of Julia Perignon and Roland Dixon. It would appear that once the families recovered from the shock they decided that a 'proper' wedding was in order and a stupendously extravagant ceremony took place at the Temple of Hahn. Julia Perignon managed to outshine the Temple itself with an incredible dress in dazzling cloth of gold which cascaded from her waist to a full length train edged in pearls which flowed behind. The tight bodice was intricately embroidered with pearl motifs depicting symbols of love and fidelity. The long wide sleeves fell to the floor showing the close fitted of the red velvet underdress. Her hair was in a circlet of plaits which were adorned with pearls and a floor-length veil of pale gold gauze embroidered with golden thread. Roland by contrast wore a simple crimson doublet and cape, with gold knotwork and ceremonial rapier. A small private reception was held at the Vintners Hall that evening and the Watch of Levestone spent most of the night keeping uninvited well wishers and the merely curious out.

Armundus Septer has escaped from prison, and is believed to have left the city despite the snow. Ex-councillor Septer escaped on the night of the Ghostmoons. The guards at Cripplegate prison are convinced it was with demonic assistance, describing arcane blue light radiating out from under the door. Their subsequent courageous entrance proved that Septer no longer occupied the cell, and their search of the surrounding area was further hampered by the new law which closed the city gates for the duration of the night. The following morning revealed no footprints in the snow surrounding the city, further evidence of the use of unknown magicks, Alderman Mowbray, the Chairman for Law and Order, is predictably furious and has ordered a full investigation. However with the Astrologer Royal away from the city, this could take some time.

The unrest over the high grain tax has continued this month, with a number of barons joining the dispute on the side of the peasants. Baron Scrope is reported to have complained that the city is milking his lands dry, and has lodged a protest with the King. The Chairman for Lands and Agriculture, Susan Faithside, told the chronicle, "The problem is that people are taking a short term view. It's true that this years harvest has been a good one, however our stocks have been seriously depleted over the last few years and unless strong action is taken to replenish them now, a poor harvest next year could prove devastating." She refused to comment on rumours that the city has been considering dispatching the Witanmoot Guard to deal with the situation.

One person missing from the council chambers this month is Aralan Derwent, who has been suffering from a mysterious illness. The Chronicle has been unable to confirm rumours that the arch-seducer has finally fallen for Sir Henry, and is actually lovesick.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 141

In the run up to the midwinter elections, and perhaps disconcerted by the downfall of Armundus Septer who until recently was one of the city's most influential people, our remaining councillors have been at pains to demonstrate their good intentions, pureness and wisdom. Both motions, to reform the selection of emissaries and to appoint an emissary to Cascorach, were passed with near unanimous support. The only dissent came from Olivia Warin who succeeded in pushing through an amendment. This will mean that in special circumstances Aldermen can be elected as emissaries, but must now consent to their nomination.

Julia and Roland appear to have settled into the Dixon household, and it looks like the reconciliation between the two families might hold. Beatrice seems especially pleased that they have chosen the name Perignon, although rumour has it that she was somewhat less pleased when she eventually received the bill for that wedding dress.

The grain tax crisis produced the most heated debate of the month, with Alderman Rimon calling for the Tinrodeth's marching watch to be raised, in order to quell any potential rebellion of the Barons. However this was thought to be something of an over reaction by most of the council, especially since the city is now deep in snow and the dispute has become somewhat academic. However, resentment is still smouldering, and come the spring the city may once again find itself the centre of unrest.

Cllr Edge of Castle Bard has brought formal charges against the Watch of Dowgate over the incident in Iorinfall where the Watch failed to prevent an attack on the Floating Market. Cllr Edge confirmed to the Chronicle that Gax the Heretic would be willing to present evidence on behalf of the people of the Floating Market. Cllr Buggs Moran of Dowgate commented to the Chroniclers, "Edge is a typical example of the bleeding heart liberals who have let the city slide into its current state of decay. Like the boats of the scum he is seeking to protect, his case is full of holes."

Rumour has it that the Chairman for Law and Order, Malcolm Mowbray, spent a fair part of the month canvassing support for a motion to outlaw duelling. However, given Cllrs Dixon and Dexter's inclination towards the activity he didn't appear to get very far, and has instead turned to practising with his rapier. He was last seen mumbling bitterly about people fighting with toys, and seen still wielding it like a broadsword.

Overheard late one night in the approximate vicinity of Cllr Derwent, "I wonder what happens if I seduce a Chronicler?" We will be dispatching our intrepid reporters to find out!

The city was shocked and disgusted by a vile display of necromancy and demon worship which occurred last night (the 13th day of Ternost). Ritual murders were committed through the wards of Levestone, Berewic, Bridge, Dowgate, Arpent and Faringdon, with perhaps the most audacious being committed at the Mootstone itself. The murders all occurred at midnight, with the bodies being left bleeding into the snow. All the murderers escaped, except for one man who was killed by Hahn Temple guards, and a number of councillors have been highly critical of the local Watches. Lord Courtney has ordered an immediate investigation, and any citizen who may have any relevant information should contact the Witanmoot Guard.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 141

Following the ritual murders carried out last month, an investigation headed by Aralan Derwent resulted in the surveillance of properties in the Ward of Shambles. Despite or because of this (accounts differ) two citizens of the Ward were later found to have been murdered in their bed, and Alderman Bert Belcher has made numerous and loud complaints to the Court of Common Council over the intrusion of the Witanmoot Guard into his Ward. In reply Lord Courtney has been equally scathing of the Shambles Watch disturbance of the surveillance. Meanwhile the investigating patrol of the Witanmoot guard uncovered the existence of a stone circle within the city, centred on Cllr Derwent's own Ward of Berewic. A raid on the house at the centre of the circle resulted in the largest fight the city has seen since the Levestone riots. The "Battle of Berewic" ended with a total of 14 people dead, 9 arrested and 7 Witanmoot Guard plus Cllr Derwent seriously injured. The Committee for Law and Order has set up a Court of Enquiry at Alderman Lansdowne's mansion to look into the incident. Cllr Beatrice Perignon has been appointed Acting Alderman for Levestone during Mowbray's absence.

In the run up to the Midwinter elections all factions have put their campaigns into full swing, with more time and money being spent on canvassing and party-coloured bunting than ever before. Once again it appears that the Justice League is the only group to achieve a full campaign across the city, although the Perignon faction has a strong showing in most wards. The only major absence is that of the injured councillor Aralan Derwent, who had previously maintained that, "its never too early to start knocking up".

Citizens in the Ward of Levestone and nearby are urged to assist with an extensive search which is now underway for Lord Courtney's missing granddaughter, five year old Elizabeth Dixon. Little Elizabeth was last seen wearing a pink dress with white apron, and playing with her massive black and grey cat called 'Tiddles'. The cat is also missing.

The Knight Marshall has ordered an audit of the city's granary stores, after a meeting with representatives of the Cornmongers Guild. The two sides had failed to agree a price for the fulfilment of the Citadel's autumn grain order, which was substantially larger than expected. Guild Treasurer Leonard Tholin told the Chronicle, "If the Knight Marshall is going to insist on running the city's reserves down to nothing, I think it only right that he should pay for the privilege".

In an interesting court case Cllr Edge has been defeated in his attempt to have the watch of Dowgate censured for failing to prevent the attack on the Floating Market. Summing up Magistrate Arnold stated, "As Gax has most eloquently shown, the Watch did indeed deliberately fail to prevent the attack on the Floating Market. However, as neither the market nor the wall from which the attack was launched are within the jurisdiction of the Watch they cannot be brought to account over this failure." Charain Meduenin, a Solistel representative of the market called by Gax to give evidence, later told the Chronicle, "This case proves that we in the market cannot expect justice from the City, which made no attempt to stop or investigate this attack. It is clear that we must protect ourselves and I warn those who contemplate attacking us that in future we will administer our own justice".

## The Chronicle of the month of Skelern in the year 142

Councillor Matthew Dixon narrowly escaped death last month when an assassin attacked him in the ward of Dowgate. Cllr Dixon was rushed to the Torian Temple, where his condition is described as critical. It is believed that the assassin, who escaped into the Floating Market, was hired by the Nyskildian Embassy as part of a campaign against Cllr Dixon. Other incidents included the kidnap of his daughter Elizabeth, an attack upon his home during which Roland was nearly killed, and the assassination attempt itself. With Cllr Dixon in the infirmary it was acting Alderman Beatrice Perignon who solved the mystery, tracking down one of the assailants to a bar in Ishtan where he was captured by the watch. It was this prisoner who later identified Elran Calberne, a guard at the Nyskildian Embassy, as the man behind the attack. Suspicion had already fallen on Calberne, and Cllr Perignon ordered his arrest. Beatrice was later able to announce to the Witanmoot the safe recovery of Elizabeth. Harlan Jargelson, a representative at the Embassy told the Chronicle, "This entire incident is a disgraceful example of Tinrodeth's arrogance and stupidity. Elran has been framed for this crime in an attempt to cover up political intrigue within the Witanmoot. Why else would an attempt be made on his life, only half an hour after the attack on Cllr Dixon? It is my intention to bring this entire issue before the King upon his return."

This year's midwinter elections have seen the return to politics of the ever popular Kennet Maxil, who has been returned as the Alderman for Cadene. Another upset was Philip Portman, who lost his Aldermanship to Olnorth Dexter. Beatrice Perignon, riding high on popularity following the kidnap investigation, was returned as Alderman of Tevestone, ousting fellow vintner Malcolm Mowbray from that post. Leonard Tholin once again gave George Rimon a run for his money, but failed to gain the Aldermanship.

Newly elected councillors this year include Joanna Paynell, Godfrey Russell, Margery Haynes, Harry Truestaff and Adam Avery. The Chroniclers wish them all possible success in their endeavours.

In recognition of Beatrice Perignon's services to the city, Lord Courtney is pleased to confirm that all convictions previously relating to Beatrice Perignon have been repealed and quashed. Lord Courtney stated that the evidence presented at the trial was obviously trumped up as part of Armundus Septer's attempts to discredit respectable citizens and spread sedition, "I am very pleased to have this opportunity of endorsing Beatrice Perignon's election as Alderman". It is believed that Alderman Perignon has also received an undisclosed sum of money as compensation for the wrongful conviction.

With her new-found duties Beatrice has had to turn over further investigation of the Nyskilde incident to Cllr Dixon, who is convinced that further conspiracies remain to be uncovered. Despite these duties Alderman Perignon has found time to wine and dine Sir Henry Longbridge, who is obviously missing the company of Aralan Derwent. Cllr Derwent meanwhile, is slowly convalescing, with frequent visits to the Torian Infirmary to ply the recumbent Witanmoot guard with offers of drink.

Ann Tasker is continuing to lobby the Witanmoot for a full public investigation into Armundus Septer's 'disappearance' while in the custody of the city's prison. "Armundus has gone missing under what can only be described as 'mysterious' circumstances. I find the Law & Order Committee and the Witanmoot's failure to investigate most intriguing, and hope that it is not a sign that an official cover up is taking place." Pending further action by the authorities, Ann Tasker is believed to have hired a group from the 'Dancing Bear' to enquire into Cllr Septer's disappearance.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 142

The Chroniclers are pleased to announce that the following officers have been elected unopposed:

Chair for Shipping Olivia Warin

Chair for Welfare & Education Beatrice Perignon

Emissary to Eresan Marc Bergeren

Nominations have been received for the following posts:

Chair for the Treasury George Rimon (OD) Kennet Maxil (BP)

Chair for Trade Nicholas Bowden (MD) Miranda Andrews (OD)

Chair for Law & Order Alison Shefford (MM) Duncan Barnett (AD)

Chair for Lands & Agriculture Nicholas Bowden (subject to Trade) Jemma Downe (AD)

Emissary to Nyskilde John Madigan (HT) Arianne Pencric (AA)

Letters in brackets indicate the nominating faction. The posts of Emissaries to Salvoyrn, and to Cascorach did not receive any nominations (councillors obviously take no notice of their own resolutions), and so will be the direct appointment of the Lord of the City.

The surprise move of the new council session appears to be Beatrice Perignon's sudden progress, having managed to get many of her supporters returned unopposed while blocking some of Olnorth Dexter's moves. She appears to have gained the active support of Cllr Matthew Dixon, and this surprise alliance of two established factions is thought to have profound consequences for the balance of the Witanmoot. The nominations were followed up by the surprise recruitment of Nicholas Worton into Perignon's faction, away from Olnorth Dexter, in a move strongly reminiscent of Beatrice's earlier demolition of his faction by the timely removal of Lilith Tansdowne.

Followers of the Witanmoot's informal duelling league have been awaiting with interest the outcome of Aralan Derwent's latest duel after a prolonged period in the Torian infirmary. A fair amount of money changed hands over Mary Clifford's ability to pull a surprise victory in what would normally have been an easy challenge for Cllr Derwent. The morning of the duel dawned bright and clear, but with a bitterly cold wind which kept temperatures below freezing and deterred all but three onlookers. Cllr Derwent arrived early with an impressive entourage consisting of her second, a senior Torian Physickian and a number of Torian acolytes as assistants. This caused some surprise as it was not thought that Aralan had been that ill. Indeed Aralan proceeded to go through a number of warm up exercises and looked to be in nearly top form. The sun continued to climb higher into the sky (without any noticeable change in the temperature) and the aggrieved party had still not appeared. Eventually, when even the Physickian began to look impatient, a messenger from the Clifford household slipped through the city gates and delivered a note to Cllr Derwent. The exact contents are not known, but the gist appeared to be that after a prolonged and intense discussion with Matthew Dixon, Alderman Clifford had been persuaded that she had been a little precipitate. She now accepted that Aralan had acted entirely for the good of the city and so, after due consideration, she was prepared to accept Aralan's apologies. Cllr Derwent was then seen to retire, muttering, to the Empty Barrel in Welland, where she was joined by a number of Witanmoot Guards for what should have been a victory drink. Unhappily, the earlier exertion seems to have triggered a relapse in the councillor, and by lunchtime she once again had to be rushed to the Torian infirmary.

## The Chronicle of the month of Pipetal in the year 142

This year's voting results from the Aldermanic Council show a sharp decrease in support for the Justice League, with the traditional Mowbray/Dexter alliance losing out to the new and rather tentative Dixon/Perignon axis. Interestingly Cllr Derwent's faction, although still claiming loose affiliation to the League, has chosen to vote with the newer team. One of the more landslide returns was for George 'hang em high' Rimon, who recently changed to Perignon's faction after some years with Olnorth Dexter, a fact which has either escaped the notice of the League (they voted for him anyway) or which shows devious plans are afoot. The only Alderman to escape the general purge seems to be Alison Shefford, and we're sure the fact that she is Ma Perignon's guildmaster is entirely coincidental. The full results of the voting were as follows:

Chair for the Treasury George Rimon 21 Kennet Maxil 2  
Chair for Trade Nicholas Bowden 13 Miranda Andrews 10  
Chair for Law & Order Alison Shefford 15 Duncan Barnett 7  
Chair for Lands & Agriculture Jemma Downe  
Emissary to Nyskilde Arianne Pencric 13 John Madigan 10

Following the season's elections, most active factions have spent the past month in internal rearrangements and self-investigation. Meanwhile Alderman Rimon is hard at work drawing up the new budget, while Lord Courtney still has the appointments of the Emissaries to Cascorach and Salvoyrn to ponder. Should these be delayed they will become the appointments of the new Lord. Paston Courtney, Samantha Cox and Alan Griffiths have all been nominated for this post as expected.

The Nyskildian vice-emissary has lodged a formal complaint with the Witanmoot over the continuing detention, without trial, of one of his guards. The guard is suspected of having been behind the attacks on the Dixon household, which led to the near death of Cllr Dixon and the kidnapping of Lord Courtney's granddaughter. The vice-emissary accused the Witanmoot of attempting to frame the Nyskildians for the attacks, and has hinted at dire consequences should the matter not be resolved by the time the Nyskildian ambassador returns.

The first ships from the south have reached harbour after a particularly mild spring, and bring several pieces of news from the Royal court. Citizens will be delighted to hear that the Princess Alexis Emma was born to Princess Eleanor on Eighthday Thirdweek of Krythos. Both mother and daughter are now said to be doing well. The ship also carried the news that, on the occasion of Prince Kieran's 18th birthday back in Skelern, the King appointed the Prince as Commander of the King's Rangers. The Prince will be joining the Rangers who are currently based in the highlands of east Athion. Last but not least, the long overwintering in Salvoyrn has led to the happy announcement that Her Highness the Princess Selina Karandros of Kerun is to become betrothed to the young Prince Edwin. This somewhat unexpected conclusion has confounded court watchers who had expected Crown Prince Edward to be the subject of the Princess' attention.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 142

At the end of the voting during Springtide, it was revealed that the city now has a new overlord in the person of Lady Samantha Cox. The full voting was as follows:

Paston Courtney 7 (Courtney, Griffiths, Andrews, Dexter, Bowden, Anderson, Tasker)

Samantha Cox 15 (Cox, Warin, Shefford, Faithside, Isenbard, Barnett, Downe, Belcher, Maxil, Worton, Horl, Rimon, Perignon, Iansdowne, du Bolay)

Alan Griffiths 1 (Carter)

A disappointed Paston Courtney confirmed that he will now also be retiring from his post as Guildmaster of the Carpenters, and will no longer take part in civic affairs. He added that he intended to take advantage of his retirement and indulge a long standing ambition to travel to distant lands. After some prompting he allowed that it might also be pleasant to spend more time with his family.

At a recent surprise trial, the city has learned that Ferdinand Iansdowne, named heir to the vast Iansdowne fortunes, paid for the attacks upon the Dixon household which led to an assassination attempt on Cllr Matthew Dixon. The news dawned on the city at a trial before the then Sheriff Sam Cox, who revealed that Ferdinand, along with his brother Antoine and Sara Warfdon, had hired an assassin to kill Roland Dixon in retaliation for the death of Guimar Perignon. In her summing up Samantha Cox described how the three had been enticed by the assassin into paying £15 for the attack, and how the assassin had then gone on to kidnap Elizabeth Dixon, and perpetrate other crimes which led to the near death of Matthew Dixon. Samantha Cox told the court how the assassin had laid a careful and many layered plan to blame the Nyskildians for the crimes, and that she had been convinced that creating a conflict between the two cities had been the main objective of the scheme. She described Ferdinand and his accomplices as unfortunate dupes, paying for an attack which would have taken place anyway. She told the court how, to his credit, Ferdinand had co-operated fully with the investigation's attempts to track down the assassin and how he, along with Cllrs Dixon and Derwent, was injured in the fight which ensued. The assassin was eventually tracked down and killed following a late night chase along the Old Gavelkinden Road. In pronouncing the death sentence she made it clear that conspiracy to commit murder is as great an offence as the crime itself, and should receive the severest sentence. However, considering Ferdinand's assistance of the investigation she commuted the death sentence to exile and loss of citizenship. The assassin, one Carol Bardsdale, had been a resident of Castle Bard for the past two years. Any citizen with information regarding her is requested to contact the Witanmoot.

The Chair for the Treasury, George Rimon, caused uproar in the chamber with the announcement of the coming year's budget, which will be funded by an extra tax of 1s.2d off each householder, and an extra 2% tax off each guild. This, he assured the house, would be a special measure for one year only in order to cover the initial setting up costs of the Cascorach Emissary and an official city orphanage. Amid an increasingly noisy background of heckling he stated that he hoped the new emissary would stimulate trade and bring increased wealth to the city. The council was then adjourned until order was once again restored.

## The Chronicle of the month of Heliora in the year 142

The Court of Common Council reached a deadlock last month over the two budget amendments proposed following the controversial 1s.2d tax hike announced in this years budget. Both amendments were closer to last years figures, with the Perignon proposal suggesting a 6d average increase per household, and the Dixon one a 10d equivalent. It was left to newcomer Councillor Adam Avery to break the deadlock, with a speech pointing out that the Dixon amendment suffered from the same flaw as the original budget - that it contained items not yet approved by full Council session. The final council vote then went to 142 votes for the Perignon amendment, and 121 votes for the Dixon amendment. Councillor Avery then rose to his feet again to suggest that Councillor Dixon's suggestions should now be examined in more detail. He formally proposed "That the Council investigate the extension of the Witanmoot Guards' area of responsibility to include the Bridge, and the resultant transfer of funds from the Committee for Trade to the Sheriffs' Office." The vote on this will take place next month. Earlier this month the Treasury's budget outline was proposed for the year. It was identical to those of previous years and was passed without dissent.

Beatrice Perignon, Alan Griffiths, Elliott Anderson were nominated for Sheriff.

Somewhat belatedly, Gax the Heretic has spoken out against proposals for a new city orphanage. In a scathing attack delivered from the Mootstone, he told a large crowd, "The proposals of Ms Perignon that the city establish an orphanage, are indicative of the Establishment's failure to respond to the true needs of its citizens, and of the perversion of projects of the common good to the service of self interest. Citizens should be under no illusions as to the true purpose of Ms Perignon's proposals which is to establish a centre for the indoctrination of the youth of the city in the Hafnite faith". The good natured, although puzzled, cheering of the crowd subsided in time for them to hear about the new Highsun Fete, to be held in Avigon, the proceeds from which will go to Gax's orphanage out eastside.

Following the retirement of Sir Paston Courtney, the Carpenters Guild has been holding elections to determine the new look of the Guild. Punters had expected the high profile Matthew Dixon to emerge as the new leader, but it turned out that Nicholas Bowden was returned as the new Guildmaster. Cllr Dixon managed to land the office of Treasurer instead, and Mervyn James becomes the new Secretary.

Residents of the Ward of Dowgate have been losing sleep and temper to a fresh irritation from the Floating Market. On odd nights for the past two weeks a persistent noise, described variously as a low thrumming or deep drumming sound, has been emanating from the river slum. Angry residents have already started to shoot the occasional fire arrow into the area, but these have so far failed to make any difference. However, a petition has been sent to the Knight Marshal, Sir Salverian, asking him to clear this public nuisance from the King's Highway. Maybe we shall see sparks flying soon.

The Shipwrights are noted to be working on a particularly large and ornate ocean-going vessel, apparently a commission from the Temple of Esprayenna. Rumours continue that this is one of the rare, exploratory, Ships of the Dawn.

## The Chronicle of the month of Menderal in the year 142

The proposal that the Witanmoot Guard patrols Linrodeth Bridge has been passed overwhelmingly by Council, despite protests from the Ward of Bridge and the Chairman of the Trade Committee. The proposal was passed by 158 votes to 50, and included a requirement for the Trade budget to provide funds, hence presumably, the protests. The Land & Agriculture budget has also been unveiled, and remains unchanged from last year. In anticipation of the forthcoming Midsummer elections, Matthew Dixon has suggested some electoral reform, and in a full session of the council proposed, "That from the Midsummer 143 election, each elector for the sheriffs shall have two votes. The two votes must be cast for different candidates (but one or both votes may be abstentions). In the event of a tie, the votes of the Lord of the City shall count double." Cllr Nowbray, while claiming to support the principle of the motion, offered the following amendment, which he claimed would prevent a number of potential problems with the original motion. "That the Lord of the City shall not normally vote, but shall have a casting vote with which to resolve any tie."

Aralan Derwent has once again been seen dining at Mrs Blessop's carvery in the company of Sir Henry Longbridge, and once more it would appear that Sir Henry has added to her jewellery collection. Perhaps Sir Henry is unaware that the reason Aralan keeps needing new jewellery is that she has flogged off all his previous gifts in order to finance her speculative business ventures.

Adverts have started to appear about the new Avigon fête, scheduled for Setheran Lastday, which Gax the Heretic has been promoting in his latest speaking tour. Sir Paston Courtney has confirmed that he will be opening the fête and signing autographs in positively his last public engagement before retiring to his manor. Unkind eavesdroppers have noted that Alderman Perignon also offered to open the fête, and is now having to get her ego reinflated.

Elsewhere, the hectic social whirlwind of Osnorth Dexter has been halted by an unexpected challenge to duel. The challenge comes from none other than his own sidekick, Irving Grendle, who is reckoned to be a fairly flashy wielder of the rapier outside his hours in the council chamber. The challenge appears to stem from certain derogatory remarks made by Alderman Dexter at a glittering summer ball hosted by Augustus Merle of the Goldsmiths guild. The duel will be at sunrise on Setheran Firstday, and will undoubtedly be a more exciting affair than Alderman Dexter's previous, unfortunate encounter.

Cllr Buggs Moran of Dowgate has demanded that the City take action against the drumming from the floating market, which has if anything increased in both intensity and volume. She told the Chronicle, "This is just typical of our Government's 'somebody else's problem' attitude over the Floating Market. It's about time someone actually did something, rather than just hoping that if they ignore it long enough it will go away."

### LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The results of the hotly contested sheriffs posts are;

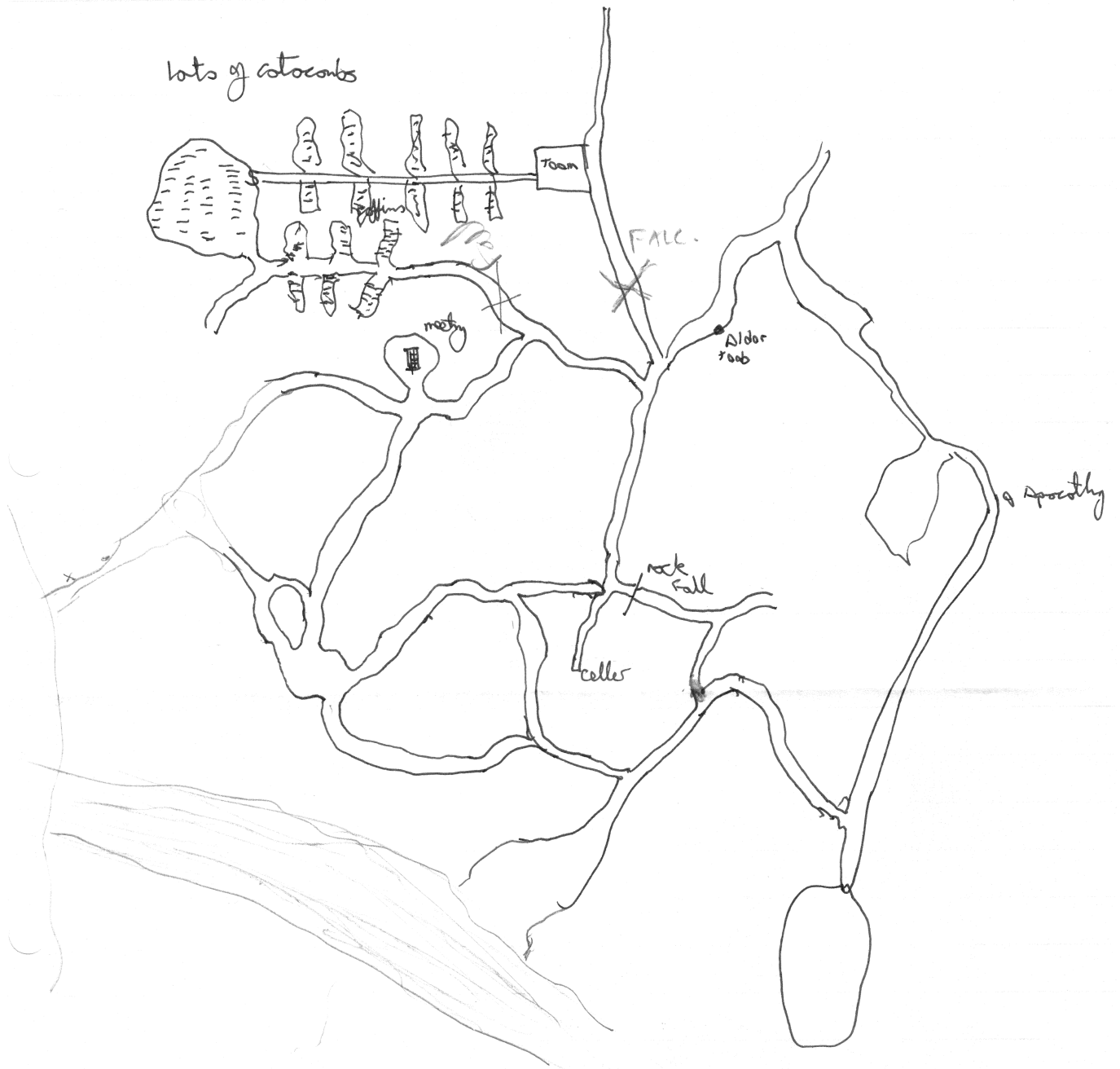
Beatrice Perignon 11

Alan Griffiths 6

Elliot Anderson 5



# A map of Linrodeth Catacombs



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 142

The Midsummer Fair has been a scorching occasion this year, with many revellers picnicking in the shade of the city wall for the afternoon. Despite the heat, there were no shortages of contenders for the main prizes, with Ned Bockran winning the freestyle wrestling, Di Taggart taking the horse racing trophy and 'Gutsy' Ginley retaining the pie eating prize. Most surprising win of the afternoon was the victory of young squint-eyed Sam Wallis in the 50 yard archery contest. His unflappable composure was largely due to the fact that he didn't recognise the King, whose unexpected arrival on the main stand caused panic amongst contestants and Aldermen alike. The King, his entire household and a detachment of cavalry rode in off the main road from Cascorach completely unannounced. An omission which seems to be being blamed on the lack (still) of an Envoy in that city. Our loyal councillors spent the next few hours rushing around trying to put things in order before Lady Samantha Cox was summoned to the Citadel. Why his Majesty should choose to return unannounced is unclear, some commentators have mentioned the grain taxation problems which will inevitably arise after the harvest.

Irving Grendle's rescheduled duel took place on Firstday at noon, amongst the half-cleared debris of the Midsummer fair. The audience were interested to note that Miranda Andrews, herself a mean duellist, turned out to replace Alderman Dexter for the occasion. The duel started badly for Grendle when his initial attack left him overextended and Andrews inflicted a light cut along his arm. Suspecting a trick, Andrews refused to attack and drew back, giving Grendle ample opportunity to recover himself. This move appeared to annoy both of them and the duel resumed with a furious exchange which drew applause from the onlookers. This was followed by a prolonged pause as both participants reconsidered their tactics, and restarted with a vicious exchange which left Andrews with a light cut and Grendle with a deep wound on the leg. This second wound bled profusely and quickly forced him to yield the fight. While the Torian Physickian attended to Grendle, onlookers were startled to observe Andrews, a veteran of many such encounters, make a sudden rush to the city ditch in order to throw up. The worried Torian eventually carted both duellists off to the infirmary for further attention.

A serious dispute has broken out between the Ward of Bridge and the Court of Common Council over the city's deployment of the Witanmoot Guard onto the bridge. The Wardmoot of Bridge has refused to collect the additional levy from its citizens, describing the extra taxation as an unnecessary and pointless burden. Alderman for the ward, Gibian Horl, deplored the Council's decision but maintained that the Wardmoot had a duty to uphold the decisions of the Council. However the rest of the Wardmoot apparently thought differently and Alderman Horl was outvoted. How the council will respond to this unprecedented action is unclear, but at least one angry councillor has suggested that the Witanmoot Guard extend its jurisdiction beyond the bridge.

Councillor Matthew Dixon is pleased to announce the birth of his second child, Paston Dixon. Mother and son are both said to be well. The Chroniclers would like to offer their congratulation and hope that the youngster will have a less interesting life than his elder sister.

With half the Council away on their estates and most of the Aldermen preoccupied with the King, much of this month's business has been postponed. This includes Cllr Dixon's proposals concerning the election of sheriffs, and Cllr Mowbray's amendment to it. Both of these will now be debated next month. In one of the few sessions to be held the Land & Agriculture budget, unchanged from last year, was passed without opposition. The proposed Law & Order budget is also unchanged from previous years, contrary to public expectation. Chairman for Law & Order, Alison Shefford, commented; "Although we wished to strengthen our support for the prisons, there simply isn't any money in the budget with which to do it. The existing budget is the fairest distribution of our inadequate funding, and I therefore see no reason to change it."

With the recent hot weather, the city was lucky to escape relatively unscathed from a fire which broke out in the Ward of Dowgate earlier this week. The fire was brought under control only after several houses had been destroyed. Most of the citizens from the surrounding area, and many of the Witanmoot Guard, were involved in the action to stop the fire's spread. The reason for the fire is unclear, however unconfirmed

reports claim that a resident of Dowgate, who was seen on the wall with a number of fire arrows shortly before the fire started, was shot and fell backwards onto the thatched roof of the building below. Our informant was unclear as to whether the shot was fired from the Floating Market or, as some people have been claiming, from the bridge by a member of the Witanmoot Guard.

## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 142

The City has averted the threatened constitutional crisis over Bridge Ward refusing to pay its taxes. A last minute switch of vote at the Wardmoot by Cllr Hugo Kelly meant that (on the Alderman's casting vote) the non-payment motion was defeated. Cllr Kelly told the Chronicle, "I still believe that we were right to register a protest in the way we did, but the whole situation was getting out of hand and I decided to defuse the issue before someone got hurt". Indeed, until this point the situation was looking increasingly dangerous with a number of confrontations taking place between the Local Watch and the Witanmoot Guard. At one stage two of the guards were arrested by the Watch for assaulting a citizen, and an armed confrontation seemed inevitable. A large proportion of the Wardmoot remains unrepentant; their leader Cllr Richard Saunders told the Chronicle that, "Kelly's defection was the result of blatant intimidation by Sheriff Perignon and her professional thugs. I think she threatened to 'disappear' him in the same way as she, and the rest of the Levestone Mafia, arranged the 'disappearance' of Armundus Septer."

Tension remains high in the Floating Market and the nearby Ward of Dowgate, after two Solistel were killed by Dowgate citizens. According to Jocelyn Barnes, a Mercer of Dowgate, "The people were only protecting the ward from these criminals". Accusing the Witanmoot Guard of co-operating with the scum, she called for the Knight Marshal to, "wipe out this infestation on the City's doorstep, before an attack is launched upon the ward". However Charain Meduenin, spokesman for the Solistel told the Chronicle, "We have no feud with the citizens of Dowgate. Cllr Edge has assured us that Alderman Clifford is honourable, and the attacks were not of her doing. Our dead have already been avenged." Unconfirmed reports suggest that perpetrators of the killing were captured by the Witanmoot Guard, however no official statement on the matter has yet been made.

Floating Market tensions have also been raised by an apparent coup within the Toddman's organisation. Rumour suggests that the city's crime lord has had a significant part of his organisation usurped by someone called Skillet. A number of killings and the large number of fights which have recently taken place around the docks, and the Floating Market would tend to confirm this rumour.

Witanmoot business remained subdued this month, possibly out of respect for the King's presence in the City. The Law & Order budget was passed without opposition, while the Dixon amendment to the Election of Sheriffs (itself amended by Mowbray's proposal) was passed overwhelmingly. Surprisingly, despite fierce battles earlier in the year, there appears to be no further debate over the spending of the Trade budget. The Chroniclers suspect that most councillors have already lost the draft of the proposed budget (cunningly circulated by Matthew Dixon before the summer festivities) and are to embarrassed to admit it.

The mysterious absence of Cllrs Dixon, Mowbray and Derwent, which was beginning to be a cause for concern, has been explained. The three Councillors returned from a tour of the surrounding Duchy where they have been negotiating with the Barons in an attempt to avert a repeat of last year's grain crisis. Although they have steadfastly refused to comment, their buoyant mood would suggest that the mission was a success. Upon their return both Levestone councillors set about creating a further stir. In a surprise move, Cllr Mowbray turned down a nomination for Alderman, and has instead accepted an appointment to the position of Envoy to Cascorach. This has enabled Cllr Dixon to be elected unopposed to the position of Alderman of Levestone, and the Chronicle would like to congratulate him on this long overdue reward for his tireless efforts. Those citizens who had been looking forward to a bruising fight between the two for the position of Alderman, and who at least thought that Mowbray would go down fighting, have been further disappointed by Cllr Mowbray's apparent delight at the way things have turned out. The new envoy, a largely theoretical post this late in the year, immediately opened his cellars and threw a truly memorable party. The cellars, famed for their select contents of City States' vintage wine, proved to be a very popular location, and just about every member of the Witanmoot turned up during the course of the evening. Even Sheriff Perignon, herself a renown

vintner, remarked favourably on the evening's libations. Sheriff Griffiths also attended, and spent much of the evening welcoming Lady Amelia Fortesque to the delights of the capital city. All in all, only Aldermen Dexter and Andrews, away on a second honeymoon, missed out on the festivities.

Chinon Starsinger reports that the new 'Uncle Marcus' winter brew, which has been produced by 'The Empty Barrel' in Welland, is the best he's tasted in years. If you'd like to try some go there soon, otherwise Chinon assures us that he intends to drink the place dry himself if at all possible.

The Highsun Fete appears to have been a reasonable success, with a large crowd attending this first event. Most Guilds had made an attempt to put on a good display, although many had obviously simply picked a senior member to set up shop in the market for the day. Perhaps if the event is repeated more competition and display will take place. Despite this the event was clearly a success and raised a large sum of money, although wrangling over what exactly each exhibitor was meant to contribute marred some of the goodwill generated. In a clear snub to Sheriff Perignon, who is known to have offered her services, the event was opened by Sir Paston Courtney. Ma Perignon obviously forgot that the event was in aid of Gax's orphanage where, following the announcement of her plans to establish a Hahnite orphanage, she is not the most popular of people. Possibly it was her that Mad Mab was warning when she told the baffled crowd, "Honour the dragon's heart, for he treads the wine of life, and few can taste of his truth". Then again, perhaps not.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 142

A major meeting of the City's crimelords was disrupted by the Witanmoot Guard, who it is thought came within a few minutes of capturing the Toddman. The guards, who were in the catacombs beneath Faringdon investigating the disappearance of some Masons, stumbled upon the gathering and with swift action captured a number of the criminal scum. Alderman Rimon of Faringdon told the Chronicle, "The audacity of these criminal elements in choosing to hold a meeting within the city, shows that we are failing in our fight against crime. I implore the sheriffs to impose the death sentence upon those captured, in order to set an example to others that crime does not pay." The Chronicle would like to offer its condolences to the relatives of Henry Beecham, Colin Watson, Sandra Coombes and Cory Kale of the Masons Guild, who the guard later determined had been killed in a rockfall.

There are rumours of scandal within both the Vintners and Carpenters guilds this month, with both guilds launching 'behind the scenes' investigations. Cllr Mowbray, treasurer of the Vintners, told the Chronicle, "We were acting on a tip off, which we have determined to be completely unfounded, and I will be having words with the originators." The Carpenter treasurer, Alderman Dixon, is also inspecting the books, and the occurrence of this just weeks after Sir Paston's final public engagement is the cause of much speculation.

Reg Marc's 'Uncle Marcus' brew seems to have had an odd effect on some members of the Witanmoot Guard, who were seen attempting to 'repair a shutter' on an upstairs window of the Empty Barrel. What the guard were actually doing breaking into this popular councillors' pub is unclear and James Isenbard, the Alderman of Welland, has made a formal complaint to the Witanmoot. He told the Chronicle, "I was not aware that the guard were in the ward, and the possibility that a crime may have been committed worries me greatly. It is clear that the guard is getting out of control."

Alderman Dixon has been having a busy time. Not content with the quiet passage of the Trade budget, the demands of the new job and the time-consuming Carpenter's investigation, Dixon has proposed a motion of censure. The motion, seconded by Nicholas Bowden, condemns Cllr Richard Saunders and demands that he retract his statements reported in the Chronicle last month. Sheriff Perignon may not have time to worry about Richard Saunders, following the disintegration of her faction. What caused this sudden rush to defect from the most powerful grouping in the Witanmoot is unclear, but as far as the Chronicle can gather nearly 50 councillors have abandoned her faction this month. One councillor reported that the faction was disintegrating so fast that people were being hit by the shrapnel. To further complicate matters, Ann Tasker has marked the anniversary of the disappearance of Armundus Septer with a renewal of her campaign to have the matter investigated. She told the Chronicle, "Armundus has now been missing for a year, and we are no further towards discovering what actually happened. Last month the 'Levestone Mafia' again showed its true face and I and the rest of my group will be continuing our campaign to expose their abuses of power."

Seasoned readers of the Chronicle may remember an incident a few years ago when a fire at a dockland pub managed to inflict a number of sword wounds. It would appear that this damage is contagious, since a number of the Witanmoot Guard have sustained serious slashes and burn injuries in a catacomb 'rockfall' a few days after their successful raid on the crimelords meeting. Rumour has it that the crimelords successfully ambushed the guards as they continued their search, and an embarrassed Witanmoot has concocted the rockfall story to cover it up.

## The Chronicle of the month of Kryll in the year 142

The harried Alderman of Levestone, Matthew Dixon, is offering a ten shilling reward for information leading to the arrest of the Levestone mugger. Last month this mugger assaulted a resident of Levestone who had attempted to prevent him removing the local copy of the Chronicle. Information gathered so far simply describes him as tall, well dressed with a foreign accent. He was seen to head off in the direction of the Witanmoot.

Lady Amelia and Sheriff Griffiths have been seen out and about town this month, with visits to the College production, music evenings and, most conspicuously, a fund-raising party at 'The Bullion'. This latter event culminated in a long conga of revellers, headed by our august duo, weaving back to the Citadel via the docks, Mrs Blessop's rose garden, the cellars of the Vintners Guild (thrice), Alderman Isembard's kitchen, the city ditch and the Royal Mews.

That well-known hypothetical envoy, Malcolm Mowbray, has been seen much in the vicinity of Sheriff Perignon this month, particularly during full council sessions. At one stage the two were seen in animated conversation, although the subject matter remains unknown since none of the many interested observers circled close enough to overhear. It was noted, however, the Mowbray had previously taken the precaution of acquiring a couple of bodyguards to cover his back.

In a surprise move Sheriff Perignon has appointed Alderman Ann Tasker chair of a special committee to investigate the disappearance of Armundus Septer from his prison cell last year. Alderman Tasker has already appointed Robert Beaufeli, Martin Key, Arianne Pencric, David Northropp and Mary Hastings to assist her in this task. With her usual sure nose for where trouble (and a good fight) are to be found, Councillor Aralan Derwent has also been observed hanging around the prisons recently.

In the Witanmoot session there was uproar when Alderman Gibian Horl confessed that no budget or accounts were available for the Shipping Committee this year. He attempted to blame this on repeated meddling by his former faction, but this was perceived as a poor excuse for failing in his duties towards the city. After a noisy afternoon session, Alderman Horl resigned from his post as Chairman. This was followed by an announcement that the proposed Welfare and Education budget would be the same as the previous year.

The following day the Council reconvened to vote on the motion to censure Richard Saunders, which was proposed by Alderman Dixon. After a spirited debate in which the evils of enforced courtesy versus complete freedom of speech were disputed, the motion was passed by the extremely narrow margin of 146 votes to 130.

After a petition by the Vintners Guild, the Treasury has postponed until next budget day the outstanding tax owed by the orphanage founded and run by Gax the Heretic. The orphanage has been built on an abandoned vineyard to the east of the city, and it now appears that this plot of land was an outright gift to the orphanage from the Vintners Guild rather than, as initially assumed, a long term nominal lease. As the trustee landowner, Gax appears to be taking the debt to society very seriously. He has even been observed reprimanding some of the orphans who protested rather bluntly to the Treasury Committee.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternoost in the year 142

Lady of the City Samantha Cox has caused uproar in the council by proposing a £50 increase in the Witanmoot budget. The lion's share of this increase is to fund an expansion of the Witanmoot Guard to a total strength of 75. Proposing the new budget she told the council, "The council has seen fit to bestow many further duties on the guard this year. This is the minimum increase necessary for the guard to fulfil these duties properly. I don't believe it is right to fiddle the books by partially funding this from the trade budget or any of the other fudges that have been proposed. It's about time some members of this council realised that when they vote for an increase in service, they have to be prepared to back it up with an increased budget." What prompted this uncharacteristic outburst is unclear, but some sources have suggested that Lady Cox is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the number of 'worthy' motions which are being passed and then forgotten.

The campaigning for the midwinter elections is beginning to get underway, with Tevestone, Welland and Dowgate emerging as the hottest wards. Cllr Buggs Moran has been canvassing to replace Alderman Mary Clifford. Buggs told the Chronicle, "Mary is a nice person, but the time when there were any nice solutions to Dowgate's problems has long passed." However, it looks as though the anti-Clifford vote will be split by Jocelyn Barnes who is campaigning vociferously on a policy of, "burn out the vermin in the floating market". Elsewhere in the city Matthew Dixon has been working hard to retain his Aldermanship, and Gillian Howe has launched a surprisingly strong campaign for the Welland Aldermanship.

Perhaps taking up the point made by Lady Samantha, Richard Firethorn has been continuing his work to bring fresh water to the city. An idea which the council voted for, but which it has been singularly ineffective in pursuing. In a surprise move Richard brought two Abbots, of the Brynettes and the Torians, together for a meal to discuss the project. The Chronicle believes that this is the first time the religions have met since the Brynette bombardment of the Abbey of Gerlantia during the civil war, and congratulates him on this major breakthrough.

Roland and Julia Perignon have been seen looking at houses in Tevestone, however the Chronicle expects that rather than buy an old house they will be acquiring some of the land freed up in certain riots last year, and building it themselves. The incentive behind this business expansion is rumoured to be a certain sheriff who has mentioned that "we wish to become a grandmother".

Ann Tasker has been continuing her investigation into the disappearance of Armundus Septer however, as she and Aralan Derwent have been discovering, the trail is somewhat cold. On the subject of Aralan Derwent, devoted Chronicle readers may be wondering as to the outcome of the article in last year's Chronicle of Ternoost. We are now happy to report that our intrepid reporter Chinon has investigated and has been walking around with a smile on his face ever since.

Big, hearty Harry Truestaff has pulled off the, to him, coup of the year with Maud Blessop joining his faction. A faction which has never been noted for its abstinence and which may now be changing its title to the Party Party! Detailed planning for the Midwinter celebrations are already said to be underway, regardless of the election results.



## Furrin' Countries

The Conglomerate of City States is a term for the populous lands on the other side of the Gelt mountains to the south. These states are characterised by the complex and lethal form of politics known as The Game, whereby alliances and war are declared and broken with equal ease in the continual bid for more power. The Game affects everyone from a city ruler to a street urchin who is paid to act as his 'listener'. Unwary travellers can easily be killed as pawns in a game which they never knew existed.

The isolated valleys of the Western Isles are inhabited by a pale and stocky race of mariners known as the Noord. These people have a high regard for independence, and have been known to cause trouble by their disregard for the King's Laws when they visit the mainland.

Between the City States and the Inner Sea is the Theocracy of the High Plateau. Their people are tall, with brown skin and a mane of hair which roots down the spine. They also have a nictitating membrane over their whiteless eyes. In this arid upland the Church maintains a strict control over the water supply and the agriculture. The church is an austere and extreme version of the cult of Daleth the Earthmother in Athion.

Between the City States and the Flooded Plains is the Land of the Children of Herne, ruled by the Abeys. This country is set between two mountain

ranges, and all trade between the coast and the heartlands goes through it.

East of the land of Herne are the Flooded Plains. This is a vast area of boggy fields worked by the Babel, a small yellowish people who also have a third eyelid and the whiteless eyes. They are a race enslaved to grow food for the Empire of the Inner Sea.

The Empire of the Inner Sea is ruled by the Kinjuru, a semi-aquatic race with dappled green skin and the strange eyes. Their capital is a huge and ornate collection of floating and semi-submerged palaces drifting in the Inner Sea. It is renown as a Court of extreme etiquette, artistry and courtesy, where the business of actually running the Empire is left to an immense and bizarre bureaucracy. The Empire influences or controls all lands surrounding the Inner Sea except one; the Mentesh.

The Mentesh is a hot, windy desert only traversed by the warrior tribes who search for and mine the bedrock, which is sometimes revealed beneath the shifting sands. The valuable metals and minerals which they bring to the coast to trade are much sought after.

To the East of Athion lie the immense and impenetrable Kalkas Mountains, sometimes called the Wall of the World. To the North lies nothing but snow and ice and the Frost-Wyrms.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 142

The motion to increase the Witanmoot Guard has been passed by an overwhelming majority, bringing the Guards' full complement up to 75. Lady Samantha Cox has expressed delight that her motion gained so much support and went on to tell the Chronicle, "This is an excellent result and proves once and for all the Council's ability to make difficult decisions decisively". The Chronicle, whilst not wishing to argue with Her Ladyship, suspects that the decision had more to do with the fact that none of the councillors dared risk upsetting the guard. We have noted many privately voiced reservations. Many citizens fear more interference with the ward watches and the use of the Witanmoot's troops to crush dissent. It will be interesting to see if our rulers can resist the temptation to use the personal army they are creating.

His Majesty King Edmund has announced his intention to hold the Dragonfeast Council at the Citadel. Any person wishing to seek audience with him should approach Lord D'Assarn, who will be administering the lottery. In celebration of the day the King has announced a major tournament and has declared that a special archery contest will take place in which a team from each of the four great cities, Tinrodeth, Salvoy, Eresan and Cascorach, will compete with a team from the Kings Rangers. Acting Guildmaster Helen Krefth has announced that all citizens interested in representing the city should apply initially to the Bowyers Guild.

Miranda Andrews and Olnorth Dexter are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Oliver George Alexander Wesley, on Sixthday Secondweek during the early hours of the morning. Both mother and son are described as 'vociferous and lively', although Olnorth is looking a little tired nowadays. Olnorth has recently shocked the ward of Dracas by selling the Dexter mansion and moving into the Andrews household, "in order to spend more time looking after my family". This, obviously, makes him ineligible for re-election in Dracas.

This year has seen some of the most intensive campaigning ever, with all the major factions fighting to maintain their position against an upsurge of dissatisfaction with the establishment. There has been a notable closing of the ranks with very little inter faction fighting, as everyone concentrates on keeping their seat against a large number of new hopefuls. Money has been flowing out of the Guilds to support their people and the city has been bedecked in coloured ribbons and each faction attempts to demonstrate their supremacy. The drab brown and green of Adam Avery has been much in evidence, although this may be because it's a lot cheaper to produce. The most expensive campaign appears to be that of Matthew Dixon with intricate wooden gifts being dispensed to all and sundry. Sheriff Perignon's blue banners have also been much in evidence as she throws her weight behind the campaigns of Ilith Lansdowne, Philip Portman and Matthew Dixon, much to the latter's surprise. Amused residents of Tevestone have commented that Dixon appears to be running to keep up with his own bandwagon. More surprisingly still, Beatrice has put money into the campaign of Richard Saunders, although Richard strenuously denies any involvement in her faction.

The winter is proving surprisingly mild and with no snow drifts to bury them, Cllr Randy Parkinson has been early to issue his usual warning against the dumping of dead beggars in the Ishtan. He told the Chronicle, "It's the duty of all our citizens to keep the city clean and safe for decent people to live in. Those who dump dead beggars in the Ishtan are simply lazy and inconsiderate of their fellow citizens. The Witanmoot Guard should be instructed to put an end to this practice." The celebrations at the Andrews household may have been dampened by the news that the purchaser of the Dexter mansion was none other than Sheriff Beatrice Perignon, who made the purchase through an intermediary. Beatrice told the Chronicle, "Of course it will probably need a lot of renovation, but I'm looking forward to putting things in order".

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

As predicted, the establishment has suffered a number of setbacks with four Aldermen losing their seats. Kennet Maxil was defeated by Melanie Romanie in Cadene whilst in Dowgate the battle turned into a four way fight with Alice Fytton emerging victorious from the bitter fight between Moran, Clifford and

Barnes (although all three gained a seat on the wardmoot). In Faringdon the longstanding Alderman George Rimon was defeated by Marcus Lambourne in a backlash against the raising of taxes this year. Over in Dracas Philip Portman, backed by a late but powerful Perignon bandwaggon, swept to victory. Other Aldermen given a close call this year were Ann Tasker in Kingsgate and Douglas du Bolay in Arpent, who just fought off David Ravensdale and Margery Haynes respectively. Liliti Lansdowne in Berewic managed to weather the storm produced by the treachery of the family, with Aralan Derwent offering the strongest challenge. In Leyestone Matthew Dixon fought off strong challenges from Martin Key and Malcolm Mowbray, whilst in Welland James Isenbard scraped home by three votes, and if Reg Marc had not made a last minute offer of free beer to anyone supporting James, Gillian Howe would probably have defeated him. Joanna Paynell lost her seat on the Wardmoot of Ishtan. Richard Firethorn and Larken Drumm, both of Avigon, succeeded in their campaigns to be elected and the Chroniclers welcome them to the strange and wonderful world of the Court of Common Council.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 143

The first day of the new year saw a major breakout of violence within the Floating Market. A large and bloody battle appears to have taken place between the forces of the Toddman and Skillet with both sides appearing to have hired mercenaries. The Witanmoot Guard were quickly on the scene and all accesses to the market were closed. By mid morning the King's Archers had deployed onto the wall and with their arrows raining down, the market was finally calmed around midday. The following day saw many requests from the councillors and citizens of Bridge and Dowgate that the market be put to the flame. Lady Samantha refused all of these requests, and made it quite clear that she saw the Witanmoot's responsibility being to stop the fight spreading. Some citizens attempted to take the matter into their own hands but, with the King's Rangers shooting anything that moved near the market, they were soon dissuaded. At one point a fire did break out, but this appears to have been contained. It is rumoured that during this confusion, Draco, crimelord of the Cursors was killed by a Solistel assassin, although the Chronicle has been unable to confirm this. On Fifthday, with no further incidents having occurred, the King's troops withdrew and this almost immediately precipitated a resurgence in violence, with fights breaking out in the Babel area and a general mobilisation taking place through the rest of the market. However, whilst the Council debated whether or not to request the return of the troops, further action within the market seems to have taken place. At noon on Seventhday the bloody head of Skillet was displayed at the edge of the River Dow. This seems to have had a near instant calming effect on the whole area, with the Toddman regaining control of the entire Athion area. No further incidents have been reported.

This year's committee elections look set to see one of the hardest fought contests for some time with major posts, such as Treasury and Law and Order, having three or four nominations. The only exceptions are Nicolas Bowden's uncontested election to Trade and the embarrassingly widespread support for sending Malcolm Mowbray to Cascorach. The full nominations were as follows:

Treasury	Dixon, Shefford, Barnett
Trade	Bowden
Law & Order	Anderson, Andrews, Faithside, Lambourne
Shipping	Belcher, Carter, Warin
Welfare & Ed	Horl, Isenbard, Lansdowne, Tasker
Lands & Ag	Downe, Romanic
Salvoyn	Horl, Pencric
Nyskilde	Madigan, Travers, Spring
Eresan	Bergeren, Morgan
Cascorach	Mowbray

In between campaigning to have their people elected and making pronouncements on the Floating Market, our councillors have spent much of their time swapping between the various factions in the aftermath of the elections. George Rimon has moved to the Mowbray faction, where we suspect his blunt speaking will be much at home. Meanwhile the increasingly mobile Gibian Horl has switched to the growing Truestaff group; and a major scare was caused when Suzan Faithside, rising star of the Mowbray camp, was seen in deep discussions with Miranda Andrews, who has been carrying out a powerful recruitment campaign on behalf of Larken Drumm.

# Floating Market Factions

## The Toddman

The Toddman is arguably the most feared crimelord in the city. Until recently he was the Boss of the entire Athion sector of the market. The Toddman is rumoured to have connections throughout the Tinrodeth, even into the Council. His greatest asset is that his true identity is unknown, and all instructions are passed on via his lieutenants. The Athionic sections of the market are the roughest since its inhabitants are the lowest scum of the whole city. Should they make an effort though, an Athion marketer is indistinguishable from an ordinary citizen.

## Skillet

Skillet, once a lieutenant of the Toddman, controls two Athionic sections of the market. These are believed to have just begun to yield profits after the unexpected coup during the autumn of 142. Skillet has a reputation as a particularly ruthless Boss, although this may be because of the relative newness of his power.

## The Cursors

The Cursors are humans from the Conglomerate of the City States. The word 'Cursos' roughly translates as 'survive by running away'. The Cursors were originally led by the Bordeci but during 138, the Babel and Solistel launched an attack on the Cursors causing a major fire within the market and splitting the Cursors between a faction under the control of the Solistel and an independent group of Cursors.

## The Noord

The isolated valleys of the Western Isles are inhabited by a pale and stocky race of mariners known as the Noord. These people have a high regard for independence, and have been known to

cause trouble by their disregard for the King's Laws when they visit the mainland. A large group of Noord used to live in the market, but a large majority of these sailed away upstream in a makeshift longboat during 139, leaving behind a small group of Noord civilians behind. A new boatload of warrior Noord arrived in the market during the summer of 142.

## The Solistel

This group of Solistel are very representative of their race, originally from the High Plateau. They work hard to preserve and increase the honour of their tribe, despite their surroundings. Since no-one quite knows what action or comment will be interpreted as an insult to their honour, dealing with the Solistel has always been regarded as a chancy business. The foremost family among the Solistel in the market is the Medunel. The Matriarch, Andenar Medunel, has never granted an audience to anyone outside the tribe. It is known that the Solistel and the Babel have had some form of alliance since the fire in 138.

## The Kinjuru

Those Kezriakor exiled by the Empire of the Inner Sea are known as Kinjuru, and they are occasionally found as far north as Tinrodeth. Lord Sato Shikoku is the ruler of this far flung group of exiles, and his people are highly valued as being scribes under a sacred oath not to reveal their customer's business.

## The Babel

Although there are many Babel within the floating market to be found under the protection of Lord Sato, there is also a sizeable independent Babel sector under the leadership of the Dingol family who own the 'Merry Whore'.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 143

This year's committee elections have seen some of the closest contests ever, with Marcus Lambourne, Alan Carter and John Madigan taking the Law and Order, Shipping and Nyskilde seats by very narrow margins. The contests for Treasury and Salvoyr produced resounding victories for Alison Shefford and Arianne Pencric. Whilst clear wins were also recorded by Ann Tasker for Welfare, Jemma Downe for Lands & Ag and Mark Bergeren for Eresan. The full voting is recorded later in this Chronicle.

The committee results evidence a major shift of power within the Witanmoot, with Harry Truestaff and Adam Avery both gaining significant influence at the expense of Beatrice Perignon and Malcolm Mowbray. Aralan Derwent and Matthew Dixon seemed content to consolidate last year's gains. Miranda Andrews, the only Alderman in the Drumm faction, missing the powerful Law & Order chairmanship by only one vote. In the other two close votes the defection of Melanie Romanie to the Truestaff grouping proved decisive, and confirms Truestaff's position as a major power. The result of this realignment is a much more balanced council, with each of the major factions controlling a committee. The Treasury budget will no doubt see a significant amount of horse trading, and in the power gap left by the demise of the Justice League and the collapse of the Perignon faction, it will be interesting to see what new alliances are formed.

Malcolm Mowbray spent much of the campaigning time chasing round after an alleged conspiracy against himself and Beatrice Perignon. With his usual tact he managed to upset nearly every other councillor and undoubtedly strengthened their resolve to pack him off to Cascorach as soon as possible. Rumour has it that at one stage Mowbray was seen being dragged back into his house after heading off to duel with the Crimson Councillor clad in chainmail and carrying a very large sword. Although the Mowbray camp is strongly denying the whole incident, we expect to see a flurry of guard hiring within the Witanmoot.

The Floating Market appears quiet following last month's violence, and the guard have been reduced to the normal levels. The political repercussions are still being sorted out and a strong lobby had been formed by some of the councillors in the wards of Bridge and Dowgate arguing for the destruction of the Market. Cllr Saunders of Bridge has been its most outspoken proponent arguing that, "Paying to increase the Witanmoot Guard has been about as useful as throwing the money in the Ishtan." He went on to describe the guard as, "a bunch of cowardly, overpaid fairies", and demanded that if they were unwilling to do the job themselves, they should get out of the way and let the people burn the market down. A spokesman for the guard would only comment, "We know where he lives".

Cllr Saunders additional remarks about Lady Samantha Cox appear to have landed him even deeper trouble with a number of people, including a couple of knights from the Citadel, queuing up for the privilege of defending her honour. Lady Samantha has however refused to be drawn into the mud slinging. She has instead written to the wards of Dowgate and Bridge asking if Cllr Saunders representations should be taken as a formal request to withdraw the protection of the Witanmoot Guard from those Wards. Cllr Aralan Derwent has shocked the city society by venturing into the Floating Market. A disbelieving Witanmoot Guard report that she and her bodyguard, Brytevine, entered the market by the bridge stairs and then headed for the area of last month's major battle. Several hours later, just as the Guard were beginning to organise a gratuitously violent rescue mission, they both re-emerged. By this stage Aralan was holding a large bundle of stinking rags, and her red-headed bodyguard was holding off a large pack of besotted Nordic warriors. Both went immediately to the house of Alderman Ann Tasker, who later explained that the rags were the remnants of clothes worn by Armundus Septer at the time of his 'disappearance' in prison. Ann told the Chronicle, "This is the first major clue to the circumstances of Armundus' death, and finally puts an end to the ludicrous story of his escape by magic. The fact they were recovered from the market, and the subsequent 'disappearance' of his two prison guards, clearly indicates the involvement of criminal elements. The same criminal elements who were responsible for the riots for which he was framed."

## The Chairmanship Voting

### Treasury

Shefford (SC, AG, BP, EA, MR, PP, AD, BB, NW, GH, JD, ML, AC, OW, DB, MD, AS, JI, AF, QL, DB, SF)  
Dixon (NB)

### Law & Order

Lambourne (SC, AG, BP, EA, PP, NW, ML, OW, AS, QL, DB, SF)  
Andrews (MR, MA, BB, GH, JD, AC, DB, NB, MD, JI, AF)  
Anderson (AD)

### Shipping

Carter (AG, EA, MR, MA, AD, BB, GH, JD, AC, DB, NB, MD, JI)  
Warin (SC, BP, PP, NW, ML, OW, AS, AF, QL, DB, SF)

### Welfare & Ed

Tasker (SC, AG, EA, MR, MA, AD, BB, GH, JD, AC, OW, AS, JI, AF, DB, SF)  
Lansdowne (BP, PP, NW, ML, QL, DB)  
Isenbard (NB, MD)

### Lands & Ag

Downe (AG, BP, MR, MA, PP, AD, BB, NW, GH, JD, ML, AC, DB, NB, MD, JI, AF, QL, DB)  
Romanie (SC, EA, OW, AS, SF)

### Salvoyn

Pencric AQL

### Nyskilde

Madigan (AG, BP, MR, MA, PP, AD, NW, GH, ML, AC, AF, QL, DB)  
Dixon (SC, EA, BB, JD, OW, DB, NB, MD, AS, JI, SF)

### Eresan

Bergeren (AG, BP, MR, MA, PP, AD, BB, NW, GH, JD, ML, AC, DB, JI, AF, QL, DB)  
Morgan (SC, EA, OW, NB, MD, AS, SF)

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 143

Alderman Shefford's first budget as Chairman of the Treasury is the most controversial for many years, although undoubtedly popular as a 3d tax cut is proposed for citizens. Because of this many long established committee funds have been slashed and traditional areas of spending are called into question. Particularly hard hit is the Shipping budget, which funds the elite Wharf Guards who are trained to fight both on land and water. Alderman Shefford commented, "The Wharf Guard has long been an excuse for members of the wards of Portsoken and Ishtan to have a well paid retirement. I was shocked to discover that they cost over twice as much as the Witanmoot Guard and am proposing that they be disbanded immediately and their duties subsumed into an appropriately expanded Witanmoot Guard. It is my belief that this will provide the docks with greater security as well as saving the city over £200 a year. The existing increases to the Witanmoot Guard remain in place, and Lady Cox continues to take a personal interest in its restructuring.

The Citadel has officially confirmed that the King will be holding court in Linrodeth for the Dragonfeast. Lady Samantha Cox and other senior members of the Witanmoot are busy meeting Guildmasters to thrash out arrangements for the holiday and, hopefully, to prevent a subsequent increase in plague victims. As part of the budget, an entirely new fund has been created for this year's Dragonfeast. Alderman Shefford explained, "I believe that the citizens of Linrodeth will be honoured to assist in repaying His Majesty's confidence by making this one of the best Dragonfeast festivals ever held".

The Skinners & Leathersellers Guild is still in uproar after learning that Oakley Goodwin's caravan was ambushed by bandits barely two dozen miles from Linrodeth's city walls. The caravan contained furs and skins from Nyskilde, and was one of the first due in after the winter. The goods were vandalised but not taken by the outlaws. The Chronicle understands that the Guildmaster has already demanded compensation of £67 from the city coffers for damages to the company's assets.

The Hahnite Temple is in an extreme state of tension due to the continued illness of the Archimandrite. Extra services and prayers for his recovery are being held in the main temple, although the priests refuse to comment upon the state of their esteemed and very elderly leader, the absolute head of the Hahnite order throughout Athion. The Archimandrite receiving regular weekly visits from the King, and extra guard have been positioned along Wheat Hill and Temple Hill for the duration. Perhaps the best indicator of the seriousness of the illness are rumours of the impending arrival of some of the nearer Plenipotentiaries.

The melting of the river has started the annual sinking of part of the Floating market. At one stage it was looking to be particularly effective as most of the upstream part of the market began to break up. This turned out to be unduly optimistic, however, as the swarming boats proceeded to re-form a completely new set of island and rafts over the next two days. Despite the fears of the onlooking citizens, the whole event settled down without more than the usual number of deaths and injuries over disputed territory. More worrying are the reports that the Witanmoot Guard have been seen supplying food to the Toddman section of the market.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The results of the Lordship elections are as follows:

Samantha Cox	12	(Anderson, Barnett, Carter, Cox, Downe, Faithside, Griffiths, Isenbard, Romanie, Shefford, Tasker, Warin)
Beatrice Perignon	9	(du Bolay, Bowden, Dixon, Horl, Lambourne, Lansdowne, Perignon, Portman, Worton)
Alan Griffiths	3	(Andrews, Belcher, Fytton)

The Chroniclers would like to congratulate Samantha Cox on her re-election to this august post.



## The Chronicle of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 143

The budget debate, which many had expected to be one of the most contentious and aggressive battles seen at the Witanmoot for some time, turned out to be mere farce. A last minute compromise thrashed out between Alderman Shefford and Cllr Avery threw the council into chaos as many late arriving councillors stood up to denounce Alderman Shefford's budget and support Cllr Avery's only to discover, through the barracking of the better informed, that they were now one and the same thing. Alderman Dixon added to the chaos by calling for a separate vote on passing the control of the Wharf Guard to the Witanmoot. After a lengthy and largely futile debate on the floor, both the vote on the Wharf Guard and the single budget were passed overwhelmingly. New councillor Larkin Drumm expressed his disgust at the procedure, describing the new budget as "ill considered and poorly conceived". Nonetheless most people in the city will be pleased to discover that their 3d tax cut is confirmed, although guildsmen may be less pleased with the 6d guild rate rise.

Aralan Derwent's and Ann Tasker's investigation into the Septer disappearance, has come up with the startling revelation that Armundus Septer escaped normally, without the influence of arcane magics or mysterious assassins. Aralan told the Chronicle, "I believe that Armundus Septer walked out of the Cripplegate prison in the company of his assistant. Any person knowing the whereabouts of Peter Fluke, former oddjob man to Armundus Septer, please come forward to myself or Alderman Tasker." Cllr Derwent refused to comment on rumours that members of his faction were involved in the escape, arguing that it would be wrong to bring charges that she could not prove. Chairman Tansdowne has announced an immediate investigation into security at the Cripplegate prison.

The Skinners & Leathersellers Guild has (not too politely) been told what to do with their request to the city for compensation. Chairman for Lands and Agriculture Gemma Downe told the Chronicle, "This is one of the most ludicrous proposals I've come across in some time. Of course the city has an obligation to prevent banditry in the surrounding area, and matters are already being taken to deal with the problem. If the Skinners are too stingy to hire enough wagon guards, then that's their problem not ours."

The Archimandrite remains seriously ill, and it would appear by the continuous stream of Plenipotentiaries arriving from the outlying Duchies, that hopes for his recovery remain low. Pendentite Antonious told the Chronicle, "We are all praying to Hahn for the Archimandrite's recovery, and it is only right for us to gather near to him in his moment of need".

Preparations for the Dragonfeast are continuing apace, with the council voting through an unprecedented £1000 funding for the project. This looks set to be one of the most lavish shows the country has ever seen. Indeed it would appear that having decided to spend such a large sum, our councillors are stuck for ideas on what to do with it. One person with some advice for them has been Gax the Heretic, although quite how "regenerating the rotting educational infrastructure, and liberating the downtrodden from the chains of ignorance" is meant to help us enjoy the Dragonfeast remains to be explained. Citizens with novel suggestions are encouraged to lobby their local councillors and Alderman for sponsorship.

Following the budget debacle, Cllrs Avery and Drumm are to meet in a duel next month. A combination of Cllr Avery's sudden budget capitulation and Cllr Drumm's scathing condemnation of this has led to the two seeking to have their honour satisfied.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 143

It is with deep regret that the Chronicle reports the death of the Archimandrite who died peacefully at the Hahnite Temple. Tributes have been arriving from throughout the country for the man who many see as the architect of our Kingdom. His Majesty is reported to be in deep mourning and has cancelled all his social engagements. Plenipotentiary Jasmine told the Chronicle, "He was a great man who will be missed by everyone who knew him, and who deserves the thanks of all those who have benefited from the Law which he established". When asked about rumours that she will be making a bid to become the next Archimandrite she told us, "I believe it would be inappropriate to discuss the matter at this time, but obviously I am willing to serve should Hahn call upon me".

The Princess Eleanor has arrived from Cascorach, accompanied by Plenipotentiary Edward de Belleme, the Astrologer Royal and a number of notable Cascorach citizens. The Princess was greeted by a large crowd of cheering citizens and was clearly pleased to be back in the city. One surprise member of her party was Sir Gawain Carleon who was captured by the Gelt during the Summer 138 campaign, and who has spent the last five years as their prisoner. The Gelt are famed for their policy of never taking prisoners, and Sir Gawain had been reported as killed in action. Clearly something odd has taken place, and Sir Gawain is being kept under close guard until the King grants an audience. Rumour says that Sir Gawain has been refused permission to rejoin his old regiment, or that of his old mentor, Sir Raif Fitz-Payne.

The duel between Councillor Avery and Councillor Drumm has ended with both councillors in the Torian Temple, although Cllr Avery's condition is considered to be far the most serious. The duel started furiously and both councillors drew blood early on during the first exchange. However, neither was willing to yield and the fight continued until Cllr Drumm slipped inside Avery's guard, causing a disabling shoulder wound. Many notable councillors turned out to witness the fight, although the heckling and 'helpful' comments from Cllr Derwent, Alderman Dixon and Sheriff Perignon were probably not appreciated. One councillor not in attendance was Richard Firethorn, who described the fight as a disgraceful way for councillors to settle their differences, and who has proposed a motion of censure. Cllr Avery is reported to have replied that Firethorn was a wimp, and that there was nothing wrong with a good duel.

Another caravan has been attacked by bandits. This time a Mercers' train was hit in the Shottenden hills. Reports suggest that the caravan was attacked by about twenty bandits, mostly on foot. The caravan, which had come from Nyskilde, was not aware of the bandit problem, and this raises concern for the caravan which left Tinrodeth last month and which the incoming train should have met.

Our councillors still appear to be having trouble figuring out how to spend all the money they voted through for the Dragonfeast; "Couldn't organise a piss-up in a brewery", commented our special reporter, Chinon Starsinger. However, a number of enterprising schemes have been proposed. A great deal of effort seems to be going into figuring out ways of returning the money to the Guilds from which it was levied. For example, Aralan Derwent has been lobbying for the production of a ludicrously expensive tapestry to commemorate the occasion. Perhaps our councillors should be concentrating making the event a success rather than lining the pockets of their friends.

Harry Truestaff is to face a hearing before Alderman Tasker charged with lewdness, disorderly conduct and bringing the council into disrepute. Apparently Councillor Truestaff's drunken debauchery (rumoured to have involved Poppy Soboll) has finally gone too far, and there have been a number of calls for his resignation. Alderman Alan Carter has obviously decided that enough is enough, and he has left the Truestaff camp for that of Tarken Drumm.

*Nominations for the Sheriff Elections at Midsummer are as follows:*

*Miranda Andrews*

*Matthew Dixon*

*Alan Griffiths*

*Beatrice Perignon*

*The Treasury budget was passed with roughly half the Council abstaining.*

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 143

The Witanmoot Guard, in a brave and heroic battle, have destroyed the bandit group which has been plaguing the merchants of this city and seriously damaging trade with Nyskilde. The Guard discovered a bandit ambush and, although terribly outnumbered, they attacked in order to save the caravan which was approaching. Over twenty bandits were killed and many others were captured. All of the guard received serious injuries and Corporal Mojo, who valiantly lead the Guard, unfortunately died of his wounds. In an emotional speech Lady Samantha Cox paid tribute to the Guard and in particular to Corporal Mojo who she described as, "a brave and enterprising man". She went on to say, "The people of Inrodeh can be justly proud of the Guard who provide an example to all of us in their fearless devotion to the service of the city".

The Guard were in the countryside providing an escort to the Astrologer Royal. Citizens are asked not to be concerned by the strange flying boats which he conjured to locate the local burial mounds and stone circles. The Witanmoot was aware of and fully sanctioned this investigation.

Investigations by the Guard into the bandits showed them to be backed by factions within the city. Initially suspicion fell upon councillor Aralan Derwent, whose bodyguard was seen talking to the bandits on a number of occasions, and who is known to have business interests in the city of Nyskilde. However it transpired that the real culprit was an agent of an unknown city state by the name of Theresa Holbourn. This agent had managed to gain a position as the cook to Cllr Gillian Howe and is believed to have passed sensitive trade information out of the city. Unfortunately she ran when confronted by the Guard and, after a cross country chase and a fight with the Guard, she was killed by Cllr Aralan Derwent who had been assisting the investigation.

Alderman Ann Tasker and Lady Cox have been in close consultation with the Citadel about the preparations for the Dragonfeast. In addition to all the usual sports for which magnificent trophies have been prepared, a grand public barbeque is to take place on the Tournyfields with free beer and ale. In an attempt to prevent a plague a vast encampment has been prepared on the far riverbank for all the visitors to the city. Two huge floating bridges will be constructed across the Ishtan to permit free movement during the festival. A tapestry worth £100 will be presented to His Majesty as a token of the city's respect for him. One person who won't be joining in the festivities is Alan Monterey of Tevestone, who has spoken out against the expense, arguing that the money could have been better spent upon the freshwater project of Richard Firethorn.

Richard Firethorn's motion of censure against Tarken Drumm and Adam Avery was overwhelmingly voted down. Cllr Drumm was less than tactful in his description of Cllr Firethorn, and the Chronicle is surprised that another duel has not yet taken place. Councillors Avery and Drumm have, however, far more to be embarrassed about than the motion of censure as it has become apparent that neither of them issued the challenge, and that they were both duped into the fight. The person responsible for this was none other than Theresa Holbourn, who was killed by Cllr Derwent.

The Hearing of Harry Truestaff resulted in the dismissal of the accusations against him. Despite skilful questioning by Ann Tasker, Poppy Soboll was unable to provide a coherent account of events on the night. Cllr Truestaff was also able to demonstrate that he had left the party by the time the event was claimed to have occurred. Despite this two of the female members of the Truestaff group have decided to move to safer factions this month. Melanie Romanie to Beatrice Perignon's faction and Jenny Davy to Richard Firethorn's.

# Late News! Late News! Late News! Late News!

The results of the Sheriffs elections were an overwhelming victory for Beatrice Perignon and Matthew Dixon:

Perignon = 16	(EA, MA, DB, NB, AC, MD, AF, AG, GH, LM, BP, PP, MR, AD, NW)
Dixon = 15	(EA, BB, DB, NB, DD, MD, JD, JI, SF, AS, LM, BP, MR, OW)
Griffiths = 7	(BB, DB, SF, AG, AS, NW, OW)
Andrews = 7	(MA, AC, JD, AF, GH, JI, AD)

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 143

The Dragonfeast was a most outstanding success with thousands of visitors and the citizens of Linrodeth enjoying two days of festivities, feasting and sport. His Majesty is reported to have described it as the best Dragonfeast he had attended, and Ann Tasker's organising committee have been justifiably pleased with the entire event. The only upset seems to have been Charain Meduenin's victory as the best overall performance. This win by a member of the floating market caused much debate however, as Charain pointed out, the competition was open to all comers. Given he had just won the Duelling competition few people were keen to argue. At the prizegiving ceremony Charain and His Majesty are said to have had a prolonged, private conversation.

The prizegiving took place during the sumptuous Civic Ball held that evening. The hall was resplendently decorated with fresh flowers, while the massed candles glittered off the civic plate and the ornate attire of the councillors and Aldermen. Lady Samantha chose a simple emerald gown, decorated only by her insignia of office, rather than compete with the magnificence of her royal guests. Sheriff Perignon wore the gold and black of formal Hahnite mourning, but presumably not as a direct rebuke to the new Sheriff Dixon, who wore elegant deep crimson, proving that some humour is still left in him. The King proved much interested in Sheriff Dixon's conversation during the ball, leaving Sheriff Perignon to fence words with Lord D'Assarn. Lady Samantha eventually moved to rescue Sir Henry Longbridge, colonel of the Kings Rangers, who like many other guests was politely ignoring Cllr Derwent's attempts to doze off throughout the evening. Another elegantly dressed councillor was one Tarken Drumm, who spent much of the evening surrounded by young ladies, but elsewhere both Adam Avery and Richard Firethorn drove companions away with their heartless behaviour. Cllr Harry Truestaff opted to host his own roisterous party in one corner with as many wine flagons as he could intercept. This was rumoured to be partly in protest at the size of the banquet portions served to councillors on the junior tables. Cllr Truestaff complained that these were mainly decorative and called for a return to the old spit roasts and an end to experimenting with fancy foreign concepts. Between the meal and the dancing the King was presented with a commemorative tapestry, and invited to present the Dragonfeast prizes. The evening concluded with a bardic recitation in honour of the Witanmoot Guard's heroic battle against the bandits.

Plenipotentiary Darlorn of Alvidian has been elected as the new Archimandrite by the Temple of Hahn. Darlorn is a respected traditionalist Hahnite who is unlikely to initiate, or permit, any major changes to the faith. Many observers are seeing the election of this ageing conservative as a stopgap measure which clearly demonstrates deep and unresolved divisions within the Temple. During the election the Witanmoot Guard prevented a large body of people from marching on the Hahnite Temple to demand the election of Gax the Heretic as Archimandrite.

Unconfirmed rumours suggest that an attempt to summon a daemon during the Dragonfeast Festival was foiled by the Astrologer Royal. Although no direct evidence exists Goodgulf and a number of the Witanmoot Guard were seen throughout the day in the company of the soothsayer 'Mad Mab', who had earlier prophesied doom, engaging in a number of strange activities.

Sheriff Dixon has started his new job by announcing that the Witanmoot Guard is to receive training in horsemanship. Sheriff Dixon is funding this activity himself and explained to the Chronicle, "One never knows when they might need to go out into the countryside to take on some more bandits". This clearly shows that he is backing Sam Cox's commitment to an extending of the role of the guard, and a number of councillors have expressed concern over this militaristic expansion.

Harry Truestaff remains undaunted by his recent hearing. This month he has been voraciously wining and dining both Jenny Davy and Melanie Romanie. Both women appear to have had many 'late night discussions' with him and Jenny has since rejoined his faction. However Melanie Romanie is clearly not having any of it. She told the Chronicle, "Real politics is far more stimulating than anything Harry has to offer".

Due to the holidays, Witanmoot business was concluded in something of a rush this month. An uncontroversial Lands & Agriculture budget was passed through on the nod, and Sheriff Dixon has nominated the absent Envoy Mowbray to replace him as Alderman of Tevestone. Sadly, the strain of the celebrations proved to be too much for Cllr Aralan Derwent, who has not been in robust health since her escapades last year. She has again collapsed and has been rushed to the Torian infirmary.

Alan Monterey has become conspicuous by his absence following a summons to the Perignon mansion to explain his comments in the last Chronicle. However, he may take solace in the fact that Beatrice herself was summoned before Guildmaster Alison Shefford to explain "certain unacceptable behaviour". Sheriff Perignon was not available for comment, however investigations by the Chronicle suggest that Madam Perignon has been interfering in the business of her daughter Julia, who has become Malcolm Mowbray's journeyman. Alternate rumours suggest that a major fight is brewing between the Perignon and Mowbray factions as Beatrice positions herself to make a bid for the overlordship next Springtide.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 143

Sheriff Matthew Dixon has headed off a major Treasury crisis by foiling an attempt to debase Tinrodeth's coinage. The plotters, working from a forge in Cadene, are thought to have passed nearly £3000 of debased coinage into circulation. However, due to prompt action by the Sheriff, nearly all these coins have been recovered, and Dixon assures us that there is no threat to the value of our coinage. Anyone who believes that they have a suspect coin should present it the Witanmoot where it will be replaced on a one for one basis. This offer will be maintained for a year and a day. Sheriff Dixon announced the exposure of the plot to a packed emergency meeting of the Court of Common Council, and the Chronicle was most interested to note the obvious division between those guilds in the know and those to whom it came as a nasty surprise. News of the counterfeiting had clearly been leaked beforehand. We suspect that many guilds will be increasing their political funding in an attempt to avoid future embarrassment. Shortly before the meeting the plotters had been apprehended by the Witanmoot Guard, led by Sheriff Dixon and Cllrs Avery, Firethorn and Derwent, in raids throughout the city. In one fight Cllr Adam Avery was seriously injured, and has lost an arm despite the best efforts of the Torian chirurgeon. The Chronicle wishes him a speedy recovery.

The vacant Levestone Aldermanship has resulted in a sudden influx of inquisitorial councillors into the ward. Despite endorsements from both Sheriffs, the councillors are determined that the absent Envoy Mowbray will not be returned uncontested. Many retired aldermen or up and coming young councillors have been interviewed, but so far the nominations stand at Malcolm Mowbray, Martin Key and William Hoskyns.

Concern is growing over the 'tent city' which has remained outside Tinrodeth following the Dragonfeast. Some estimates suggest that as many as two thousand people are still inhabiting the temporary accommodation set up for the feast. Many councillors have been expressing fears about the possibility of plague, or the establishment of a second 'floating market'. Councillor Randy Parkinson has also warned of the serious implications for the environment if they have not moved before winter.

The Harvestide Festival looks set to be a generous celebration, with many predictions for an excellent corn harvest. Concern remains over the possible damage wrought to the fruit crops by the unexpectedly early frost this month.

Councillor Richard Firethorn has renewed his campaign for the 'sweet' water project and has been pressing the Chair for Welfare and Education, Ann Tasker, to include it in her forthcoming budget. However the most influential member of Tasker's Faction, Adam Avery, is known to bear a strong dislike for the project, indeed his last comment on the subject is unprintable. In order to gain more leverage, Cllr Firethorn has therefore formally proposed a motion that the Council approves, in principle, the allocation of funding for the sweetwater project as part of the Welfare and Education budget for 144. This will be voted on next month. The Esprayenna Ship of the Dawn is nearing completion. The ship, which is currently completely filling the Temple Dock at the port, is attracting much attention and the people of Tinrodeth are look forward to witnessing an elaborate consecration ceremony next month. Sheriff Dixon has also been showing unusual interest in the project and rumours persist that the Temple of Esprayenna received a number of generous donations from the coinage counterfeiters.

Anonymously donated papers have revealed that Philip Portman's fletching business is much overdue for a tax re-assessment. The reason for the sudden appearance of this paperwork is unknown, but at least one councillor has been brave enough to suggest that it may be related to Portman's defection from the Perignon camp to that of Tarken Drumm's.

Regular visitors to Hunters will be distressed to learn that Brandy is re-negotiating her contract there. Rumour has it that an unknown rival patron is tempting Tinrodeth's most popular dancer to leave the city.



News from the Citadel is that the Gelt have retaken the foothills of Slievekallen. This sudden reawakening of the Gelt has concerned many who had assumed that, following a series of defeats, they had given up. Most of the fighting is in the west with the area around Cascorach remaining quiet. However, the Princess has cut short her visit to Linrodeth and is returning to Cascorach immediately to prepare for any potential attack and to deal with a plague which is sweeping the city.

On a lighter note Lady Amelia Fortesque, the youngest and most ravishing of the Queen's Ladies-in-Waiting, is looking for suitable ideas for her birthday ball later this autumn. The Chronicle is collecting suggestions for appropriate catering, music and surprises. Contact Chinon Starsinger with your inspiration at the Empty Barrel in Welland.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 143

The unannounced arrival of Crown Prince Edward has sent ripples of concern throughout the city and the royal court. As soon as his ship docked the Prince rode up to the Citadel where he had a long, private audience with His Majesty. Rumours abound with the possibility of a massive Gelt invasion, or war with the City States, causing the most concern. The Prince returned to Salvoy after one week, but the cause of his visit remains a mystery.

Citizens are warned to stay clear of the Floating Market, which is dangerously riven with interfactional fighting. The reason for the problem remains unclear. Following the initial outbreak of fighting, no major incidents have been reported. The trouble seems to centre on the Solistel/Cursos boundary, although other areas are showing more armed activity than normal. The Witanmoot Guard seems to have become entangled in the activities with Guard officers having been seen entering different areas of the market to hold 'negotiations' the day before the fight. Rumour also suggests that a major assault by the Guard on the Cursos section was called off just before the trouble broke out. Official sources at the Witanmoot are denying all knowledge of the incident. Cllr Richard Saunders has been demanding a full enquiry. He told the Chronicle, "I have for some time been warning of the increasingly active role the Witanmoot Guard has been taking. Over the last few years Lady Cox has built the guard up into a large and effective military force. What we are seeing now is that force beginning to be used by the Sheriffs to their own ends. This Floating Market involvement and the recent incident in Castle Bard convince me it is vital that they be brought under the democratic control of the entire Witanmoot, before a major disaster occurs."

A major dispute has broken out between the Temple of Torus and the freshwater project. It would appear that Cllr Derwent discovered some masons surveying the Torians' holy lake as a possible source of water. She, being a good Torian, immediately told the Temple and stormed off to the Witanmoot to confront Cllr Firethorn. The normally passive Torians called out the Knight Hospitallers and mounted a guard on the lake. It is also rumoured that a strongly worded communication was sent to the Witanmoot threatening to excommunicate the city and deny it the services of the temple. Cllr Derwent has proposed a motion to council apologising for the unfortunate incident, and confirming that the lake will be in no way be affected by the project. Cllr Firethorn denied that there was ever a plan to use the lake and blamed the incident on over zealous interpretation of his instructions to the Masons' guild. He described Cllr Derwent's activities as deliberate troublemaking.

There have been a number of movements within the Witanmoot factions this month as the councillors position themselves for the run up to the Midwinter elections. Marc Bergeren, a long standing supporter of Aralan Derwent, has deserted her for the faction of Harry Truestaff. Marc is rumoured to have become dissatisfied with the increasingly establishment position taken by Cllr Derwent. Meanwhile Grantham Morgan, an important member of the Firethorn faction, has moved to join Tarken Drumm and his new ally Martin Key. Melanie Romarnie has completed her tour of the factions by returning to the Mowbray faction, with which she saw success some years ago. Lady Amelia's birthday ball proved to be one of the most important social events of the year. The theme of a masked ball seems to have caught the attention of the court and vast amount of money were spent of ever more impressive costumes. The unexpected attendance of the Crown Prince added to the importance of the occasion and may people now expect lady Amelia's masquerade to become one to the regular events of the court calendar.

Sheriff Matthew Dixon has initiated a city-wide manhunt for the twin brother of Witanmoot Sergeant Nicolo Barondolpho. The Sheriff has determined that this man was behind the forgery ring which nearly ruined the city's finances. Sergeant Barondolpho was killed in a 'rockfall' incident a year ago which has never been fully explained. Some commentators have suggested that the family may now be waging a bloodfued against the entire city.

The recent Civic Ball to welcome the Salvoynian Envoy passed without any undue incidents. Harry Truestaff charmed his way around the female delegation, and finds himself in high favour. Richard Firethorn and Beatrice Perignon made elegant appearances, but Sheriff Dixon was unexpectedly ignored by the Envoy's entourage. Cllrs Aralan Derwent and Tarken Drumm brought the ball to standstill with a dazzling display of complex dancing, which drew applause from all onlookers at its finish. Noticeably, Aralan was escorted to the ball not by Sir Henry, but by Chinon Starsinger, surprising everyone (especially this editor). Chinon's wit and eloquence seem to have riveted Aralan's attention for much of the evening. Perhaps a new romance is in the air for her?

The freshwater project of Cllr Firethorn has gained overall approval from the Witanmoot., although the Derwent and Dixon factions chose to abstain. Had the vote taken place after the incident with the Torians it is unlikely that it would have been passed so easily. An aggressive Cllr Firethorn is already believed to be manoeuvring to gain the Treasurer's post for a member of his faction. One other vote which was passed without comment was the Law and Order budget. A question was raised by Cllr Tarken Drumm, who demanded to know what the Council intended to do about the 'tent city' left behind after the Dragonfeast.

The Levestone Aldermanship election has generated a close result, with old timer Martin Key beating his son-in-law Malcolm Mowbray by 15 votes. Martin described himself delighted to be "once more back in the fray" and confessed that he had been "missing the inner council". He put his success down to the skill of his new faction leader Tarken Drumm and described the Mowbray campaign as "lacklustre". The Mowbray camp does not seem too dismayed by the result, Cllr Mowbray has surprised everyone by deciding to overwinter in Cascorach, and it is unlikely that he could have held the position come the Midwinter elections. Alison Shefford described the election as, "a useful exercise in finding out who our real allies are".

The final piece of council gossip to reach the Chronicle this month is news of a luncheon date between Alderman Ann Tasker and the up and coming Alan Monterey. It would appear the Ann is casting around for fresh blood following the incapacitation of her previous flunky Adam Avery.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 143

Citizens have been most surprised by a generous move by the councillors of Linrodeth. In response to an initiative by Sheriff Matthew Dixon, the councillors have forestalled an emergency tax increase by dipping into their own pockets to the tune of 3s 6d each. The potential tax crisis was precipitated by Lady Samantha Cox who has made it clear to councillors that she intends to veto any committee budget which fails to meet its target. This radical move sent our councillors into a panic, when it became clear that the trade budget was many pounds overspent. Unwilling to face cutting services or increasing taxes in the run-up to the Midwinter elections, our good councillors have met the deficit themselves. How they will cope with the rumoured 'significant' overspend by the Welfare and Education committee is yet to be seen.

In an attempt to forestall similar crisis next year, Treasury Chairman Alison Shefford has proposed the total reform of the budgetary process. Commenting informally at a recent lunch at the Goldsmiths hall she said; "The budgetary system of Linrodeth is a historic and much amended entity. Committees which produce their budgets late in the year, are in effect publishing a *fait accompli*, with the vast majority of the funds having been spent. I will be formally proposing a completely new system to next month's Witanmoot." She refused to be drawn on the exact nature of the new system, and it is clearly still the subject of much back room discussion between the various Witanmoot factions.

Shocked and outraged citizens have been calling for the city to either close or directly supervise the running of Gax's orphanage. This follows the conviction of one of the youngsters on charges of arson, burglary, breaking and entering, resisting arrest and entering the city illegally. Indeed many more of the orphans were fined after they gave evidence at the trial, and it is clear that their sense of morality and ethics has not been improved by their contact with Gax. The orphan was sentenced to death but in fact died during an ill-judged escape attempt at the Law Courts. Chairman for Welfare and Education Ann Tasker has called for the city to fund Gax's orphanage next year rather than attempting to create its own. However her call has met with opposition from an unlikely alliance of the Thatchers Guild and the supporters of the Hahnites. Both groups maintain that the Orphanage is an unsuitable institution for the city to support. Elith Lansdowne called for Sheriff Perignon's original proposal of a city orphanage to be implemented; "where the destitute children can be taught strict discipline and respect for the Kings Law".

The great Ship of the Dawn has sailed for the Western Isles where it will overwinter before setting off on its journey of discovery. At a noisy and emotional ceremony the Navarch of Esprayenna named the ship The Avatar, and gave a personal blessing to each member of the volunteer crew. Many mysterious packages and holy gifts were loaded into the cargo, along with a stunning large amount of provisions. The Avatar sailed out on the evening tide and into a dramatic blood red sunset, and provided the citizens of Linrodeth with a fitting end to what has been a most colourful and eventful season.

We have been asked to remind citizens that a curfew is still in effect during the night of the Ghostmoons, it being a crime to venture onto the streets during the hours of darkness. Given the recent discovery of large cat-like footprints found in the early snows around the city walls, and Mad Mab's recent prophecy of "the gathering of the lost ones during the night of evil", this reminder seems unnecessary. In a clear attempt to recover from the damaging 'lake affair', Richard Firethorn has been making strenuous efforts to distance himself from the events leading up to the crisis. He vehemently seconded Cllr Derwent's motion of support for the Torians, and insisted that the Masons' Guild formally apologises to the city for its over-zealousness. This did indeed result in a rather stiff little speech of apology from Robert Beaureli, which managed to imply that he was deeply sorry about any distress that may have been caused, without ever admitting any liability for it whatsoever. As well as this very public change of mind, Richard has also started pouring money into an early re-election campaign in a determined attempt to repair his image.

Not content with killing every suspect that the Witanmoot Guard can find, Cllr Aralan Derwent has spent the month seeking an assassin to duel with. A number of the more imaginative councillors did at one stage start up a fund to hire one for her, but this eventually died out when no-one would admit to being responsible for collecting the money.

Meanwhile socialite Harry Truestaff has thrown his faction into further turmoil. After throwing his considerable weight behind talk of a major reshuffle, and making a number of conflicting promises to his various supporters, the great man appears to have abdicated responsibility for finalising his new organisational structure. Unkind rumours suggest that he has yet to sober up from the last 'interesting' party that he attended.

Another person launching an early election campaign is Alan Monterey, who started his bid to join the Levestone wardmoot with a wine tasting party. Amongst the notable attendees were most of the Vintners Guild of Levestone and a number of senior council members, such as Ann Tasker, who Alan was clearly sounding out on the possibilities of joining their faction.

The only good news this month is an announcement of the opening of the notorious comedy 'Please Yourself' at the Theatre Regale. The play stars famous actors Greville Danvers and Ms Madelaine Pompette, who have brought the play to Lirodeth following its runaway success in the playhouses of Salvoyne.

## The Chronicle of the month of Ternoost in the year 143

The vigorous pre-election campaigns of our councillors were rudely interrupted by a number of crises last month. The various faction leaders managed to hide their irritation, and didn't embarrass themselves too much in the scramble to gain publicity from the various problems. Probably the least put out has been Harry Truestaff who, despite precipitating a full scale emergency by being kidnapped, seems to have had a fairly relaxed month. Harry's kidnapping was announced to the Witanmoot by Sheriff Matthew Dixon, who explained that he had received a letter from Barondolpho demanding that the city pay a ransom or Truestaff would be killed. Uproar ensued as various councillors loudly insisted that the City could not give in to terrorism while other councillors, mainly in Harry's faction, demanded his safe return with the City's full co-operation. Although the council session was secret the Chronicle has been able to determine that during the heated and noisy debate three resolutions were put forward. The first called for the city to pay the ransom and was spoken against by Councillors Drumm and Avery; "It would only lead to further incidents, I'm sure if Harry were here he would tell us not to pay it....". This was voted down overwhelmingly with only the Perignon and Mowbray factions abstaining. The second called upon the councillors to pay the ransom, despite support from Adam Avery and Sheriff Perignon this was similarly defeated. The final motion was proposed by Sheriff Perignon who suggested that the city pretend to pay the ransom whilst attempting to rescue Harry. This was also lost with the councillors being unwilling to even appear to be paying a ransom.

With no chance of a ransom it looked like Truestaff would be killed. For some unknown reason our councillors appear to have become convinced that he was to be sacrificed at the barrows on the edge of Botmoor. Bravely, a Witanmoot Guard contingent lead by Sheriff Dixon and accompanied by Aralan Derwent (there to deal with any inconvenient witnesses one presumes) set out on a rescue mission. Officially they didn't find anything, however rumour suggests that they disturbed yet another necromantic ceremony and prevented the summoning of a demon. Certainly at least one guard member was so shocked by the experience that she has had to retire from the guard. Meanwhile Cllr Truestaff emerged from his captivity none the worse for his experience, having been wined and dined by his captors and released unharmed on Ternoost Firstday.

The other major problem to face our Councillors this month was the Welfare and Education budget. With citizens still calling for more money for the orphanage, rumours of a big overspend and a threatened veto from Lady Cox it looked like Chairman Ann Tasker might well stand up and make a resignation speech rather than attempting to put forward a budget. However some impressive backstage manoeuvring by her colleague Adam Avery led to an unlikely compromise under which Lady Cox has loaned the city the money to make up the deficit. The Councillors leapt upon this way out of a sticky situation and it received overwhelming backing. There is no more money for the orphanage, however plans are afoot for a Hahmite backed replacement to be run, it is suggested, by Lilith Lansdowne.

Following the Truestaff kidnapping a number of councillors have strengthened their security, providing an unexpected bonus for the mercenaries over-wintering in the city. A number of councillors have also had official guards allocated to them following rumours of another kidnap attempt against Adam Avery. One person who won't be looking for Witanmoot Guards is Richard Saunders. During the Truestaff debate Richard Saunders and Sheriff Dixon got into a heated argument when Saunders accused the Sheriff of using the Guard for his own political ends. This led inevitably led to them duelling the next morning. Both are accomplished duellists and a large crowd gathered to watch the contest. It looked like it would all be over when Saunders opened with a lightning thrust which penetrated Dixon's defence and drew blood. However Sheriff Dixon was unwilling to end the contest there and insisted on the fight continuing. An angry Saunders renewed his attack with deadly precision and both contestants appeared to be doing their best to kill each other. Dixon's skill looked to be giving him the upper hand, but Saunders held out long enough that Dixon's earlier wound began to tell, and with blood now streaming down his arm the Crimson ex-Councillor was forced to concede defeat.

Our sources at the Citadel suggest that, as a result of the Gelt offensive, His Majesty is considering a large increase in the tax paid to him by the city and it will be interesting to see which of the many pet schemes survive: the guard increases, the water project, the orphanage, the expansion of the guild training system, or the removal of the floating market.

Alison Shefford's new budgeting proposals look set to provide a good debate for the new councillors to cut their teeth on next year. Under the scheme each committee would propose its budget in Jasmarrill, a vote on the level of tax and split of money between committees would take place in Setheran, and each committee would then bring forward a budget to that amount in Arvinoth. The most controversial part of the proposal is to require the committee to come back to the full council for extra money and to make the committee responsible for any overspend.

The opening night of the play 'Please Yourself' was disrupted by a rowdy (and probably drunk) contingent from the Citadel, who continually interrupted the performance, and who at one stage took over the stage. There were also reports of a werewolf roaming the backstage area. Despite this the actors performed well and the large, and notable, audience were treated to a marvellous entertainment.

Guildmaster of the Poulterers, Alice Fytton, has announced that an unknown disease has led to a serious shortages. The disease does not seem to harm the birds, but anyone eating their eggs becomes violently ill. A number of deaths have been reported. The Temple of Daleth is investigating the problem and has ordered the destruction of a number of affected flocks. Guildmaster Fytton assured the people that all the affected birds had been killed and that it was still safe to buy eggs. However she warned that a number of infected birds had been stolen and stressed the importance of only purchasing from Guildmembers.

Cllr Firethorn has dispelled much of the confusion surrounding the recent coinage and kidnapping crises. At the last council meeting he explained that most of the Witanmoot knew that the forgeries and the kidnapping had both been perpetrated by Barondolpho, that Barondolpho had attempted to kill a number of councillors, was a known Necromancer who had infiltrated the Bards College and who had connections in the floating market. He demanded to know what measures, beyond Sheriff Dixon's pitiful reward, were being taken to capture this arch criminal. Sheriff Dixon refused to confirm the accusations and suggested that if Cllr Firethorn had evidence to present he should do so forthwith.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 143

Uncertainty about the fate of the orphanage continues into its third month, with citizen's protests becoming increasingly unruly. At one stage this month the Witanmoot Guard were called out to prevent one demonstration from turning into a full scale riot. Anger at the councillors, whose own children are protected by the guild system, was not appeased when Ann Tasker restated the official position, that 'something' would be done 'sometime' next year when funds become available. "It's always 'next year'," shouted one worthy citizen. "I have four young daughters. What's going to happen to them if anything happens to...", whereupon the sudden arrival of a Guard with cudgel terminated the speech. "It's outrageous", added Gax from the safety of the Mootstone. "Once again we see the privileged of our city ignoring the Citizens who it should be their duty to protect. We need fundamental reform. Until we cease to be ruled by the Guild elite, and their Hahnite conspirators, justice will remain the unfulfilled wish of the masses." Vanessa St Lawrence, a long-standing patron of the orphanage, is standing in Castle Bard and has promised to lobby for the reform of the Welfare & Education committee if elected.

With Yuletide approaching our civic streets are once again being decked out in ribbons, flags and colourful bunting. Following the trend of earlier festivals, these garlands are becoming increasingly colour-specific, depending on which ward or street you happen to wander down. The exception to this appears to be Kingsgate, where the exuberant Purple/Gold/Green/Pink/Turquoise combinations can only be the official colours of Harry Truestaff's Party Party. Meanwhile Avery's sea-blue colours are showing heavily in Marshgate, Firethorn's saffron yellow directly competes with Larken Drumm's bottle green in both Avigon and Dracas, while Ma Perignon has paid for extensive burgundy bunting in Faringdon, Arpent, Portsoken and Berewic.

Elsewhere, our doyenne of Law & Order, Aralan "don't mention the witnesses" Derwent was hosting a lavish party at her promises premises in Berewic. Despite several infringements of highway by-laws as the party spilled over into the street, the event passed noisily but without incident. No doubt this was due to the vigilance of the local watch, who made a point of frequently dropping by to check for problems. Her most notable guest was Sheriff Dixon, who took the opportunity to ask local residents some penetrating questions about the history of the Lansdownes, and their possible future. A serious incident at the home of Sheriff Beatrice Perignon has left one Witanmoot Guard dead and several seriously wounded. A band of skilled mercenaries attacked the Sheriff's mansion and, although their attempt on the Sheriff's life was thwarted by the Guard, it is rumoured they managed to escape with a chest full of gold. The dead guard was Corporal Theo, who will be remembered by many for the tours of the city which he was fond of giving to visitors. It is not yet clear which faction ordered the assault and a major investigation has been launched. One of the assassins was captured and has revealed the names of the other assailants. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Gerald Scrogins (previously a Gardener at the Perignon mansion), Jeremia Davison (mercenary last seen at the Broken Drum) or John Varcaif, they should contact the Witanmoot immediately.

In the last full Council session of the year, Lady Samantha's Witanmoot budget was voted through by a wide margin with only Harry Truestaff's faction abstaining and Larken Drumm's faction opposing. Objecting, Cllr Drumm described the level of Witanmoot Guard wages as "crap" and added, "It's disgusting. Even labourers get more." Much later in the session Cllr Firethorn rose to read a prepared statement pointing out that the Freshwater project "has been passed by Council and now comes under the democratic control of the Welfare & Education Committee, which will supervise any expenditure and work carried out, and will not employ anybody who deliberately offends the temples by encroaching upon their grounds without permission from the priests concerned." Afterwards Cllr Avery spoke to the Chroniclers and added, "I believe that the rumours linking Firethorn, the Masons and the Dalethian Well are entirely unfounded, and he retains my full support". So that's all right then.

Public Health Notice: It has been brought to our attention that young Elizabeth Dixon (aged 8 and a half) is receiving her first fencing lessons. You have been warned.



Up at the Citadel the nobility have been gathering for the seasonal celebrations and the King's formal Yuletide Court. The theme of the Grande Ball is not yet known, but there are rumours of a closed off courtyard, and several enthusiastic young knights have been organising the delivery of barrels of hot liquid to it. The only other regular source of steam (as opposed to hot air) in the Citadel are the apartments of the Imperial Envoy.

Fans of the theatre, and especially those of the popular comedy 'Please Yourself', are concerned at the prolonged absence of Ms Madelaine Pompette, the leading lady. Ms Pompette was last seen being escorted across the Bridge to the north side of the river, by a number of unknown cloaked gentlemen. Her shoes have since been discovered in a sack under the Shipwrights Steps, along with a transparent eye-patch, a small wooden vole, a pouch of grey powder and three boiled pigeon eggs.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The surprise result of the elections turned out to be the return of Ann Tasker as Alderman of Kingsgate, fighting off a strong challenge by Harry Truestaff which forced the vote to a recount. The result was all the more surprising given the recent orphanage riots. More predictably, Alan Griffiths was returned to his old Aldermanship of Dracas, and Berewic was finally won over by Aralan Derwent, awarding the Aldermanship to a non-Tansdowne for the first time in seventeen years. Ariane Pencric ran a slick campaign to oust the Carpenters' Guildmaster, Nicholas Bowden. And in the absence of any strong challengers, Martin Key secured his hold on the Aldermanship of Tevestone. Alice Fytton was returned by Dowgate with one of the widest margins ever recorded for an Alderman, and her new mandate is likely to result in a firmer line against the scum of the Floating Market.

In the full Court of Common Council, the Chroniclers note two surprise retirements. George Bergeren has retired to concentrate on his business, and Grantham Morgan has retired for unstated 'personal' reasons. Barely avoiding a forced retirement was Larken Drumm whose meteoric rise in Witanmoot influence seems not to be reflected in Avigon popularity. This is in sharp contrast to Richard Firethorn, whose lively endeavours seem to have caught public imagination. Less fortunate was Alan Monterey over in Tevestone, who failed to win the last handful of votes needed to reach the Council.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 144

A large crowd gathered to listen to the full council meeting where Vanessa St-Lawrence put forward a motion calling for the council to fund an orphanage for all the city. An earlier public meeting had made it quite clear to the councillors what the citizens thought of their indifferent attitude to the problem and it was apparent that the crisis had reached a point where our councillors would either do something or face a full scale riot. An amendment to the motion was attempted by the unlikely alliance of Cllrs Richard Firethorn and Adam Avery. Cllr Firethorn's amendment attempted to put the city in overall control of the orphanage and it looked like he would gain sufficient support to push this change through. However a last minute switch by Cllr Avery threw the Witanmoot into turmoil and the amendment was lost by 128 votes to 62. Whether this U-turn was a carefully planned double-cross or whether Cllr Avery had suddenly noticed the large crowd outside, remains unclear. The full motion was then opposed by Sheriff Beatrice Perignon who pointed out that the Hahnites intended to build an orphanage for the city's children if the city did not and hence the project was a waste of money. However many of the non-Hahnite councillors felt that this was an unacceptable solution and, to the cheering of the crowd, the motion was passed by a majority of 149 to 47. The ecstatic crowd carried Vanessa and Gax back to the orphanage where a large celebration was held.

The blizzard sweeping in from the North has caught most of the city by surprise just as the preparations for Springtide were beginning. All but the half dozen main roads have been completely blocked by snowdrifts and the Ishta is now frozen from bank to bank. This has brought commerce in Linrodeth to a complete halt until the wind changes. Soothsayers have been uttering dire warnings about the hatching of Ice Wyrms and other ominous portents if the wind does not die before Springtide.

Complaints have been heard about a dangerous incident when drunken revellers from the Citadel pelted through the city in a sleigh pulled at full gallop by no less than six horses. A number of citizens were injured while scrambling to safety, and an informal debate on the orphanage at the Mootstone was broken up just as Sheriff Perignon had begun her speech. That venerable lady, although unhurt, seems to have been particularly offended by the large amount of Adam Avery's campaign bunting seen trailing from the back of the sleigh.

The city has set its budget for the following year at £83,374. Despite a £4,000 in the tribute due to the King, the extra spending on the orphanage and dire warnings for Sheriff Dixon in the run up to the budget, no extra taxes will be required. The Dragonfeast last summer, much to the surprise of its organisers, has generated a large guild income, and this will more than cover the increase in this year's budget.

The nominations for the Chairmanships have not produced the usual carve up along fractional lines. A complex plan by Sheriff Dixon to distribute the posts evenly among the factions seems to have collapsed and a free for all of nominations ensued.

Treasury	Anderson, Faithside, Shefford
Trade	Warin
Law and Order	Andrews, Derwent, Lambourne
Shipping	Carter, Romanie
Welfare and Education	Tasker, Andrews
Lands and Agriculture	Derwent

Salvoyn	Rimon, Portman, Beaureli, Blessop, Davy
Nyskilde	Derwent, Howe, Blessop, Davy
Eresan	Saunders, Jholin, Firethorn, Bergeren, Blessop, Davy
Cascorach	Mowbray, Blessop, Davy

Aldermen Olivia Warin and Aralan Derwent are therefore elected unopposed.

Despite the recent incident in which outraged citizens stormed his house, Cllr Randy Parkinson has re-iterated his usual call for frozen beggars to be dumped in the marshes rather than the Ishtan. "I will not be intimidated by bleeding heart liberals such as Gax and Cllr Edge" he told the Chronicle.

Alice Fytton, Alderman of Dowgate has ordered the Watch to close the Dow entrance to the Floating Market. "This entrance is the source of most of this Ward's ill. This is the first step in our campaign to remove the blight of the market from our doorstep", she told the Chronicle. A number of incidents have already ensued as citizens attempted to gain access to the market, and rumours speak of at least one unmistakable Councillor stumped for a way to get into the market.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 144

This year's committee elections proved very interesting, with a number of surprise landslides and some very close votes. A powerful alliance between Sheriff Matthew Dixon and Alderman Aralan Derwent just failed to gain a number of key posts. Lack of support from the smaller factions combined to defeat what should have been a winning team. On one occasion the emissary was decided on the Lord's casting vote, with Samantha blowing a kiss across the room and saying "thanks Harry". Adam Avery is however, the clear winner of this round of elections, securing Shipping and Welfare & Education for his relatively small faction. Jenny Davy's election is subject to her being cleared of charges of financial irregularities at a hearing before Alderman Horl. The full election results are provided later in this Chronicle.

The election Council meeting started with considerable confusion when the list of published nominations proved to be wildly inaccurate. After investigation it transpired that a junior scribe had misunderstood the handwriting of the Clerk to the Council's notes during nominations. A motion from Cllr Derwent quickly righted the record, but Cllr Firethorn's motion to have the Clerk to the Council dismissed was defeated. However the junior scribe is now seeking other employment.

Cllr Adam Avery has made a strong attack on the ward of Dowgate for closing the Dow entrance to the floating market. He said, "I do not believe that the closing of this entrance is in the interests of the citizens of Linrodeth and I question the ward's right to do this". Cllr Edge has put down a motion the next council, "This council calls upon the Ward of Dowgate to reopen the Dow entrance to the city and instructs the Witanmoot Guard to enforce the people's right of free access". Alderman Fytton told the Chronicle, "Cllr Edge is a fool, can't he see that the scum of the Market are destroying our once proud City? We will reopen the entrance once the guard have cleared the blight of the Floating Market from our doorstep. And I intend to amend his motion accordingly."

Alderman Aralan Derwent has expressed concern over the worsening apprentice situation in the City. According to her investigations there are a large number of hopefuls reaching the age of fourteen and a growing shortage of apprentice places. She believes that few of next year's fourteen year olds will be able to gain a placement.

Lady Samantha Cox has herself formally proposed the new budget arrangements. As expected these will mean that each committee will propose its budget in Jasmarrill, with a vote on the level of tax and split of money between committees taking place in Heliora. Lady Cox is also proposing that the current 143 budget be continued with until the new system can be brought into operation. However another test for her new 'no overspending' policy has appeared in the form of the Shipping budget. Chairman Warin has reported that the committees funds are inadequate to repair the damage done to the docks by the harsh winter, and has requested £100 of additional funds.

This year's lordship elections look set to be particularly boring with both Matthew Dixon and Beatrice Perignon declaring that they have no intention to campaign for the Lordship. Sheriff Dixon described his chances of winning as "practically nil".

Following her unanimous re-election to the Chairmanship of Welfare & Education, Ann Tasker has been formulating the governing body for the new orphanage. Gax told the Chronicle that he was delighted with the progress which was being made, and the very positive attitude taken by Alderman Tasker to the whole project. Asked if he was upset at losing control of the Orphanage he said, "I opened the orphanage because the rulers of our city were unwilling to accept their responsibility to the citizens. I am pleased that our councillors have been convinced of the orphanage's necessity. I will now be concentrating on a number of other issues where I feel the government is ignoring the aspirations of the citizens, and where the restrictive guild practices are preventing people from fulfilling their potential"

## Election Results

### Treasury

Sheffield	11 Votes	DdB, AF, SF, AG, GH, AP, BP, MR, AS, AT, OW
Anderson	10 Votes	EA, BB, DB, AC, AD, GD, MD, JI, ML, NW
Faithside	2 Votes	MA, MK

### Trade

Warin	21 Votes	EA, BB, DB, DdB, AC, AD, GD, MD, AF, SF, AG, GH, JI, ML, AP, BP, MR, AS, AT, NW, OW
Key	2 Votes	MA, MK

### Law and Order

Lambourne	21 Votes	EA, BB, DB, DdB, AC, AD, GD, MD, AF, SF, AG, GH, JI, ML, AP, BP, MR, AS, AT, NW, OW
Andrews	2 Votes	MA, MK
Isembard	No Votes	No Votes - Poor James

### Shipping

Romanie	13 Votes	DdB, AF, SF, AG, GH, ML, AP, BP, MR, AS, AT, NW, OW
Carter	10 Votes	EA, MA, BB, DB, AC, AD, GD, MD, JI, MK

### Welfare and Education

Tasker	23 Votes	EA, MA, BB, DB, DdB, AC, AD, GD, MD, AF, SF, AG, GH, JI, MK, ML, AP, BP, MR, AS, AT, NW, OW
Andrews	No Votes	No Votes

### Salvoyn

Beaufeli	12 Votes	EA, BB, DB, AC, AD, GD, MD, JI, MK, AP, MR, AT
Portman	5 Votes	EA, BB, DB, AC, AD, GD, MD, JI, AP, MR, AT
Rimon	4 Votes	DdB, ML, BP, NW
Blessop, Davy	No Votes	No Votes

### Nyskilde

Davy	12 Votes	MA, DdB, AF, SF, GH, MK, ML, BP, AS, NW, OW (Lords vote)
Travers	11 Votes	EA, BB, DB, AC, AD, GD, MD, JI, AP, MR, AT
Howe	1 Vote	AG
Blessop	No Votes	No Votes

### Cascorach

Mowbray	23 Votes	EA, MA, BB, DB, DdB, AC, AD, GD, MD, AF, SF, AG, GH, JI, MK, ML, AP, BP, MR, AS, AT, NW, OW
Blessop, Davy	No Votes	No Votes

### Eresan

Jholin	14 Votes	EA, MA, AC, MD, AF, SF, AG, GH, MK, AP, MR, AS, AT, OW
Davy	5 Votes	BB, DB, AD, GD, JI
Saunders	4 Votes	DdB, ML, BP, NW
Blessop, Bergeren, Firethorn	No Votes	No Votes

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 144

The Great Fire which destroyed most of the Wards of Cripplegate, Avigon and Faringdon has now died down. The smouldering ruins of top of Faringdon hill still dominate the skyline and much of the City's thoughts. A vast funeral pyre lies outside Cripplegate and hundreds of citizens are believed to have perished. The exact cause of the fire remains unknown; it is understood to have started near the top of Faringdon hill, although rumours of the fire starting in a number of places have led some people to suggest it was deliberately set. Throughout the night of the fire many acts of bravery were performed. The Witanmoot Guard led the fight to contain the fire, and without their heroic efforts a far greater area of the city would have been destroyed. Within the area of the fire Cllr Firethorn led the evacuation through Dowgate, returning many times to rescue stricken families. Martial Law was declared during the night and the Witanmoot bell tolled for the first time since the Civil war to summon all citizens to the Marching Watch.

Lady Cox in a speech from the Mootstone the day after the fire made the following announcements:

"First of all I would like to thank everyone for the strenuous efforts they have made on behalf of the City since the fire. My thanks especially go to Sheriff Dixon for collating the suggestions that have come forth since the great fire and to Alderman Shefford for producing a revised budget.

I have a number of announcements:

His Majesty the King has most graciously made a gift of £5,000 to the city to assist us in our moment of need. I am sure all of the City will join me in thanking His Majesty for this most valuable assistance.

Three cheers for the King.....

I have decided to make the following appointments to a crisis committee: Law and Order (Midnight to Midday), Dixon; Law and Order (Midday to Midnight), Perignon; Shelter for the Homeless, Avery; Food provision for the city and feeding of the refugees, Derwent; Planning, title deeds and building priorities, Truestaff; Orphans and Pensioners, Drumm; Drinking supplies for refugees, Firethorn; Assistant to the committee, Monterey.

I will take direct responsibility for Guild issues and the provision of the Kings taxation. All other responsibilities remain as determined in the committee elections. Committee Chairs and members of the Crisis Committee will produce budget proposals this month. In the interim Alderman Shefford will administer spending directly.

It is my intent to lift rule by decree at Midsummer. There will be no Sheriff's election. Sheriffs Dixon and Perignon will hold office until Midsummer 145. All Guild prices are fixed at their pre fire rates. Construction guilds will provide me with proposals for how they intend to manage the increased workload which I will be placing upon them.

I announce a general amnesty. All prisoners are hereby released. The Dow entrance to the city is opened.

The standing watch is disbanded. The Wharf guard and Witanmoot guard are merged. The complement of the new Witanmoot guard will be extended by a further 50 men."

The Chronicle would like to add its congratulations to the people who worked to save the City and to echo the thanks of the people to His Majesty for his most generous gift. Citizens are warned that the Sheriffs are pursuing a very vigorous line against looting. The Witanmoot Guard have already slain a number of suspected looters. The Chroniclers have been told to remind the city's councillors that sedition carries the death penalty and that, with the Witanmoot suspended, they have no right of open speech.

The most immediate problem facing the city is the homeless. The bitter winter which has been gripping the city thankfully broke the day after the fire, but the spring is still tentative and many people still risk death sleeping outside. The guilds are housing their own but this still leaves hundreds homeless, without possessions, or the means to feed themselves. The crisis committee must deal with this problem if another disaster is not to occur.

Tension with the floating market remains high. The closing of the Dow entrance has led to a number of incidents and prior to the fire full conflict between the Ward of Dowgate ward and the Solistel seemed inevitable. Lady Cox's decree reopening the Dow Gate has done much to relieve the pressure, but with the City in such a serious situation many fear that the criminal elements within the market will take this opportunity to strike against the city. Opinions in Dowgate are also running high, with the heavy hand of the Witanmoot Guard very much in evidence. Shortly before her arrest, Cllr Jocelyn Barns of Dowgate told the Chronicle, "Lady Cox has betrayed the ward of Dowgate, first she opposed Alderman Fytton's motion which would once and for all rid us of these creatures, and now she uses the excuse of the fire to overrule democratic decision of the Witanmoot and for us to admit these scum into our ward".

At the last council meeting before the fire the Witanmoot passed a motion revising the budgeting as follows: " In the month of Jasnarill the Chairman of each committee will produce proposals for expenditure in the year from Midsummer. In the month of Heliora, the Chairman of Treasury will propose and the full Council will determine the division of money between committees and levels of taxation. In the month of Menderal the chairman of each committee will propose and full council will determine each committee's spending plans. Each committee shall be responsible for the spending of its budget. Any spending beyond that approved in Heliora must be approved by the full council, the members of the Committee being held responsible for any unauthorised overspending."

This important motion will have major repercussions on future budgets; Lady Cox has declared her intention to lift Martial Law at Midsummer, and many Committee Chairs have been seen desperately negotiation for votes to defend their budgets from the cuts which must inevitably follow the fire. The revised budget produced by Alderman Shefford is rumoured to show £8,000, mainly resulting from the loss of income from the wards of Cripplegate, Avigon and Faringdon, and the reduced payments from the guilds some of whom have been devastated by the fire.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 144

The City is slowly recovering from the Great Fire, with many parts of the recovery plan devised by Sheriff Dixon and the Crisis Committee now in place. The scale of the damage to the city is becoming apparent; the rebuilding costs are estimated at many thousands of pounds. With the serious budget crisis caused by the devastation of a large area of the city, many of the services to which we have become accustomed are under threat and it is unclear which rebuilding projects, if any, will gain priority this year.

The Crisis Committee has so far concentrated its efforts on housing and feeding the refugees. Following the destruction of many of the city bakeries in the fire emergency bread ovens have been constructed. Alderman Derwent has toured the surrounding lands and has already secured much of the food the city will need in the immediate future. However this years very late winter is likely to mean a poor harvest and her efforts may only have postponed a food crisis. Housing has been a more serious problem. Although the guilds, relatives and friends were able to house most of the refugees, there still remain many hundreds of homeless. All the vacant land and property left over from the plague has been occupied and even the prisons have been pressed into service as temporary accommodation.

The repercussions of the fire on the city's finances are still being worked out. Lady Cox has announced the recalling of the Witanmoot for the purposes of setting a budget. The committee chairs are expected to come forward with their final proposals in the near future. The members of the crisis committee have caused much disruption as they attempt to get their various schemes funded through the appropriate committee. The committee chairs are believed to be resisting the additional expenditure in the light of the severe cuts they are already imposing on their own budgets. Likely things to feel the axe this year are the civic balls, the port and bridge maintenance, Guild examinations (to be abandoned) and the Emissaries. Even the donations to the Temples are rumoured to be under threat.

The newly combined Wharf and Witanmoot guard have defied rumours of an impending disaster following their merger and fought together to defeat a large band of mercenaries. The mercenaries had slain a number of Witanmoot guard and then fled down river on stolen boat pursued by the Wharf Guard. The Guard managed to disable the boat but were fought off by the enemies superior numbers. The Wharf guard continued the pursuit across land and were joined by a large body of mounted Witanmoot Guard. This combined force then fought the mercenaries at a manor house that had taken over and defeated them. The battle was fierce and the Wharf Guard in particular suffered serious losses, the entire force including their Captain being killed. It is believed that a number of very valuable looted goods were recovered from the mercenaries.

Crime remains a major concern following the fire. Despite marshal law and a merciless approach from the Sheriffs, much theft and mugging is being perpetrated. Impostors claiming to be refugees are now becoming a problem. Much of the Athionic section of the floating market has been vacated as these disreputable people move into the city to exploit the unfortunate and prey on the weak.

A number of incidents have occurred in Dowgate following the arrest of Cllr Barns. Some protest meetings have been held by her supporters and on one occasion the Dow entrance was blocked by an angry mob. Fortunately so far the protesters have dispersed before the arrival of the Witanmoot Guard but it is only a matter of time before a confrontation occurs. Whether Lady Cox is prepared to kill citizens in order to maintain her absolute control of the city remains to be seen. A spokesman for the guard told the Chronicle, "We have orders to maintain the rule of Law in this city. These troublemakers in Dowgate can not be tolerated, and we will do whatever we have to to deal with them".

Finally, just to show that the Gods do have a sense of humour, many citizens will no doubt be amused to learn that whilst most of the city has been worrying about the Great Fire, the offices of the Chroniclers have been subjected to flooding.



## The Chronicle of the month of Heliora in the year 144

Princess Selina Karandros paid a surprise visit to the city this month. Arriving in full state aboard *The Allapsus*, she proceeded straight to the Citadel where she was met by the King. A spokesman for the Princess explained. "We received rumours in Kerun that the City of Tinrodeth had burnt down. Concerned for her betrothed, and for the citizens of his city, the Princess felt she had to come here at the earliest opportunity." The Princess has been showing her obviously genuine concern during tours of the devastated wards and refugee camps, during which she has distributed alms to the needy. The Princess and young Prince Edwin have now left for Kerun and the Chronicle would like to wish the every happiness in their future lives. Prince Edwin is being accompanied on the voyage by a number of his friends from the Bards College, who it is believed will be putting on a performance as part of the marriage celebrations.

The City's budget crisis is now coming to a head with Alderman Shefford's publication of her proposals for the budget split and taxation levies for the coming year. The proposals include the removal of taxation from the burnt out wards and an increase in taxation for all other wards, despite protestations that the fire will reduce the level of taxes that can be raised. Alderman Douglas Du Bolay of Arpent told the Chroniclers, "By not reducing the levy due from the ward, Alderman Shefford is effectively increasing taxes by one and a half shillings in the pound. For many people in my ward, who already pay several times what people in other wards pay, this is unacceptable."

The budgets for each committee are also very tight and rumoured cuts include nearly all the building and road maintenance, the orphanage, the water project, the closure of the some prisons, the mothballing of the embassies, the withdrawal of the City's donations to the Temples and, most controversially, the cancelling of all guild examinations. Alan Monterey has earned himself the respect of a number of councillors during the process, by succeeding in the normally thankless task of co-ordinating the activities of the various committees.

Alderman Aralan Derwent has announced the conclusion of a deal to secure supplies of grain to the City for the rest of the year. The deal with Isabella de Chabot of Salvoyn guarantees the city 20,000 bushels at a fixed price of 2s a bushel. Lady Chabot told the Chronicle, "We are delighted to be able to help Tinrodeth thorough this crisis." The negotiations were somewhat fraught and at one stage an attempt was made to poison one of the City States bidders during a reception at the Bards College. Alderman Derwent, however, seems to have come out on top of the situation. To the Chroniclers' knowledge she received several expensive gifts from the potential bidders, all far too 'personalised' to go into the city coffers.

We are told that the City's refugee problem is now under control. Cllr Adam Avery has spent much time establishing a scheme to house some of the homeless with members of the same guild in other wards. Citizens whom it has not been possible to cater for under this scheme have been housed in the Marshgate and Kingsgate prisons which are also acting as centres for the distribution of emergency food. Some disputes have arisen after the imposition of strictly enforced rules about who may have the emergency food, however with martial law still in force, these disputes have not lasted long.

Several citizens of Dowgate have been killed by the Witanmoot Guard. Sergeant Gruffyd who ordered the attack told the Chronicle, "The mob had abused several citizens who attempted to use the Dow Gate and was in the process of killing a resident of the Floating Market when we arrived. I ordered them to disperse, and when they refused to do so I ordered their arrest. Several of them were injured when they failed to come quietly." Alderman Fytton told the Chronicle, "These citizens were merely complaining about the arrest of Cllr Barns. I am outraged. The guard have no justification for this disgraceful act - the Sheriffs should resign at once."

Chinon Starsinger reports that the Empty Barrel in Welland is now broaching several new barrels of 'Reggy's Best', pints of which are being offered free to members of the Council. See you there.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 144

Cllr Reg Marc has lodged a formal complaint against Alderman Aralan Derwent following a raid upon the Empty Barrel. The Witanmoot Guard forced their way into the Barrel at three in the morning, assaulted a number of the staff, broke down doors, dragged residents out of their beds and threatened Cllr Marc's life. Aldermen Derwent then questioned a number of residents and left, without laying any charges, giving a reason for the raid or offering an apology. Gax the Heretic who is handling the case for Reg commented, "We cannot allow the imposition of Martial Law to remove our fundamental rights as citizens. Alderman Derwent has clearly exceeded her authority in ordering this unacceptable assault upon a citizen and his business".

The Witanmoot Guard and its connections with the councillors are also being questioned in relation to the murder of Simon Berryfield, who was apprenticed to Cllr Geoffrey Linden. Although Samantha Grange (also apprenticed to Cllr Linden) has been charged with the crime, there are rumours of a cover-up. Various sources have accused Cllr Linden of using his influence to involve the Guard in the intimidation of citizens, and of the Guards' possible contribution to the death of Simon Berryfield. It would appear that only the intervention of Gax the heretic prevented Cllr Linden from blaming an innocent group of young apprentices of indirectly causing this death.

Sheriff Beatrice Perignon has been taken seriously ill. Although the official line is that she is suffering from a stomach complaint, rumours persist of a poisoning or even an outbreak of summer plague. Despite the illness she is apparently determined to officiate at Aralan Derwent's hearing.

Our councillors appear to be close to setting a budget for the city which will include severe tax increases - both on citizens and the guilds. A major crisis has been avoided following the personal intervention of Sheriff Matthew Dixon, who is credited with having negotiated gifts to the city from the temples of Brynette, Hahn, Esprayenna and Daleth, which equal the funds the city gives them each year. However all is not yet settled, there is still a £400 shortfall and councillors will have to vote on whether to cut the donation to the Temple of Torus or accept an offer from the Carpenters guild to make a loan the city. Cllr Adam Avery seems to be the only person to take issue with the overall budget, although his proposals seem to be gathering a reasonable level of support. Avery has suggested that the level of record keeping at the docks be further reduced and that the donation to Torus be cut to £250. Ann Tasker the Chair of Welfare and Education, is refusing to take responsibility for the feeding of the homeless. "This is surely a matter for the Committee for lands and Agriculture," she told the Chronicle.

The Midsummer Fair was well attended this year with many people trying to shake off their depression following the city fire. A larger than normal number of stalls demonstrated the determination of many citizens to rebuild their ruined businesses, however the day's focus was as always on the sports. The fine weather helped in the breaking of a number of records, including an amazing display of archery by Miranda Andrews. The weather did however make the pig wrestling something of a non-event with Jasper Tinny emerging from a massive dust cloud to claim the prize. There was at least some drama; A clearly illegal football challenge took place, and Cllr Drumm's irate comments following the theft of his newly donated Avigon Cup provided entertainment for a large crowd.

Alan Monterey and Richard Firethorn have announced an agreement with the Brewers and the Vintners guilds to supply cheap beer and wine to the damaged areas of the city. However before you all rush to move wards, the reason it will be cheap is that it will be watered down.

Citizens are warned that tension in the Floating Market remains high. A number of minor fights have occurred around the Dowgate entrance and the Kinjuru section in particular seems less than friendly. Rumours persist of a number of raids and counter raids between them and the Athion sector.

## The Chronicle of the month of Setheran in the year 144

The hearing of Aralan Derwent turned out to be the dramatic show everyone had hoped for. Once Gax the Heretic and Pendentite Antonius had got over the difficulties of finding themselves on the same (prosecuting) side the questioning got under way with some enthusiasm. Sheriff Perignon, presiding, showed a surprising impartiality, listening intently to all the witnesses. First of all many eminent members of the Mercers guild and of Welland were called to testify to the good and upright character of Phred Marcos. Next Alderman Derwent was called, she explained how during her successful negotiations to secure the city's grain supplies she had been subjected to a total of eleven assassination attempts. She had come to suspect someone called Marcos of having been involved and had ordered a member of the guard to "find that person". Sheriff Dixon was called next and wholeheartedly supported Aralan Derwent's story. Alderman Derwent was clearly upset to find herself facing a hearing as the result of her efforts to save the city from starvation, and the sympathy of the courtroom was very much with her. However the assembly then heard further details of the violent raid that took place in the early hours of the morning by the Witanmoot Guard, and heard a brief summary of this guard's court-martial where she was found guilty of conduct unbecoming to an officer. With opinions evenly balanced the proceedings were suddenly thrown into confusion by the arrival of Lady Amelia and some courtiers from the Citadel. They took the witness stand and described how Cllr Derwent had been offered £500 for finding Marcos by Princess Selina. Sheriff Perignon intervened immediately and stopped the hearing. "This is a most serious accusation and clearly requires further investigation, I refer the case to Lady Cox for Trial" she told the stunned assembly. Commenting later to the Chronicle on Sheriff Dixon's robust defence of Aralan's actions she said, "If Sheriff Dixon has a fault it is that he is sometimes a little tender-hearted when perhaps impartiality might be more appropriate".

The budget debate has come to a conclusion with our councillors reaching a surprising consensus, to tax us mercilessly and cut many essential services to boot! Adam Avery's proposal to forcibly cut the Torian budget was passed and has resulted in the immediate closure of the Aralan Derwent Memorial Ward. A distraught Chirurgeon explained, "There is nothing we can do, we are already overloaded following the fire, with the city cutting its support to us we will be hard pressed to deal with the needs of all the people. The Derwent Ward has always been used for those mercenaries, guards and members of the Witanmoot who have suffered injuries as a result of their profession of violence. In these difficult times, we must prioritise, and we simply can no longer cater for these people." Defending his cuts Avery launched a swingeing attack on his fellow councillors, "I am deeply upset that only two committees have seen fit to help the city out of its current dire financial situation and make sacrifices for the good of the city as a whole. I am sure the city will remember those who were prepared to sit on their fat backsides and let others make the sacrifices."

Citizens are warned to be on their guard for polluted wines and beers following a spreading of the vomiting and diarrhoea illness reported in the last Chronicle. Commenting on the problems Guildmaster Martin Key told the Chronicle, "I have absolute faith in the quality of the guilds goods. I blame bad waters used for cooking". More worrying rumours contend that this is the first outbreak of a new plague caused by the refugee camps. Due to the Torians being extremely overworked, they have been unable to investigate this idea.

Unrest has been noted in the countryside as the peasants become aware of just how much grain the city will be needing this year. Baron Scrope told the Chronicle, "the late spring planting damaged the crops quite badly. The peasants are worried that they will not have enough to feed themselves, let alone the city dwellers." Travellers are warned particularly to avoid journeying alone in the Gavelkinden area, where local serfs are exploring the 'panic stock-up' concept without the consent of the goods previous owners.

An irate Cllr Drumm was incoherent with indignation yesterday as news reached him that his Avigon cup was being displayed in several market squares around the city. The perpetrators of this theft appear to be a miscellaneous mob of (apparently) homeless children. Their noisy appearances in the market squares coincide with the distribution of treasonous literature (not reproduced here) and a collection for money using the Avigon cup as storage. Amused onlookers appear to have donated quite a haul of coppers.

## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 144

Aralan Derwent's trial turned out to be something of an anti climax following the dramatic hearing. Both the prosecution and defence had had much time to prepare their cases and the long trial, though well argued, lacked the drama of the earlier occasion. The only spice was added by the deaths of a number of witnesses in the run up to the trial, however the prosecution made little of this claiming that they suspected it was the work of factions within the floating market. In her summing up speech Lady Cox said "After consideration of all the evidence, the key facts which have guided by decision are; that at the hearing Alderman Derwent claimed that her reason for seeking Citizen Marcos was that he was suspected of involvement in the assassination attempts. However no evidence has been presented to suggest that she had any reason other than the offer of £500. Further officer Kali of the guard has been convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer as a direct result of the orders that "There is a man from Kerun called Marcos, get him" given by Alderman Derwent. Cllr Marc and Citizen Marcos have clearly been subjected to unacceptable treatment as a result of Alderman Derwent's orders and I must therefore find her guilty. I fine her the sum of £100 payable to Citizen Marcos. However bearing in mind the incredible strain Alderman Derwent was under and the immeasurable contribution to the future of the city which she made in negotiating the grain deal, I postpone the payment of this sum until Midwinter. I hope that this will give the Witanmoot time to consider what action it might wish to take to mitigate the effect of this sentence upon her." Opinions on the sentence vary, Derwent supporters claim that it is tantamount to bankrupting her, however other commentators have suggested that she was lucky to escape with her life.

The Chronicle has learnt that Sheriff Matthew Dixon intends to contest the Lordship election next year, and is already in secret negotiation with various powerful members of the Witanmoot. It is unclear whether Sheriff Dixon is responding to rumours that Lady Samantha does not wish to continue as Lord, or spreading them. However the uncertainty has already lead to one shock defection from the rapidly weakening Mowbray faction. Susan Faithside, long term supporter of Lady Cox, has moved to the newly emerging Monterey faction. Alderman Faithside told the Chronicle, "I have always backed Samantha and she continues to have my full support. However I feel that the problems the city will face in the years to come will require a new and radical agenda. I believe Alan is now setting that agenda and I am proud to be part of his team."

The Monterey faction has not wasted its time in making a mark on the city's government. In his maiden speech Cllr Monterey thanked the city for recognising his hard work, "even if only by the promise of further work" and then went on to launch an amusing and wide ranging attack on the complacent committee chairs. He also called for the immediate reinstatement of the guild examinations and the donation to the Temple of Torus. Much to the surprise of the faction leaders (who only a month ago had voted through these measures) Cllr Monterey summoned enough support to have these two proposals formally moved, and a full debate will take place next month.

Early reports of the harvest suggest that the city will suffer serious shortages despite the hard work by Alderman Derwent earlier this year. The recent heavy rains have damaged what was already a poor harvest and many Barons are now openly calling for the City to rely only on the imported grains rather than "ravage the countryside". Linrodeth is not the only city to be suffering grain problems. The deal with Salvoyne has left the Kings Army short of supplies and His Royal Highness has resorted to commandeering grain supplies which have not already been earmarked for us. The King has imposed a special tax on Linrodeth's richer citizens to assist in the cost of this action.

Adam Avery has launched an all out attack upon Marcus Lambourne, the chairman for law and order, claiming that non guild members were openly trading in the burnt out wards. Other councillors backed up the attack pointing out the committee's continuing funding for the Law Court whilst other committees had made wide ranging cuts. However some Avigon councillors defended the lack of enforcement, claiming that to force these people out of business when they have no homes and no other means of support would be tantamount to murder.

## The Chronicle of the month of Lorinfall in the year 144

Fears that martial law would be re-imposed following the civil disorder recently witnessed in the Ward of Cripplegate, are beginning to recede. Reports on the reasons for this incident are confused, but what is clear is that, following Adam Avery's motion to restore guild controls to the burnt out wards, the Witanmoot Guard began closing down a number of businesses in the Cripplegate area. Within a few days large gatherings were taking place, with local residents complaining at the closure of a number of bakeries and the death of one protester, shot in the back by the guard. The protesters set up barriers to prevent access by the guard to the area and declared it free of guild law. The 'Free Trade' leader Jasmine told the Chronicle, "People are starving to death here. We just cannot allow the fat cats of the Witanmoot to close down bakeries and murder shopkeepers, simply to protect the profits of their guild paymasters." The following morning the guard, assisted by a large body of citizens from other wards, launched an all out attack upon the ward of Cripplegate. Dozens of people were killed in the ensuing fight, although the guard suffered no casualties. The Chairman for Law and Order, Marcus Lambourne, said after the fight, "It is regrettable that a number of people have died. However we must remember that these scum were criminals, who were protecting illegal traders from the Law." It is believed that some of the ringleaders of the rebellion escaped. Our correspondent spoke to someone who was near the rebel headquarters throughout the incident. They described how a crack unit of the Witanmoot troops launched the final assault: "It was deadly. The people didn't stand a chance against them. There was indiscriminate arrow fire mowing down anything that moved. The few people who tried to defend themselves were cut down almost instantly. Nobody ever tried to talk to us. All we wanted to do was to work, so we could feed ourselves".

The arrival of the ship *Half Chance* has caused consternation amongst merchants of the city. The ship, a converted Corsair, was laden down with valuable and exotic items from the Empire of the Inner Sea. Travelling on the ship were the renown dressmaker Eshi Cyarçon, notorious apothecary Talus Snapdragon, unorthodox trader Raven Lindis, and a number of other people whom it was thought had perished in the City States. Rumour has it that this group have travelled to the very heart of the Empire of the Inner Sea, and the possibility of such a lucrative shipping route opening up is bound to cause major shifts within the Grocers Guild. Commenting upon their return to the city Raven told the Chronicle, "It's good to be home again. Although Linrodeth looks different from what I remember, and I'd forgotten about the smell. It certainly brings tears to my eyes".

It seems that new Councillor Alan Monterey has taken Raven's comments to heart. Our newest Councillor has been seen sneaking around the city wells and pouring the water into perfume bottles. Personally the Chronicle does not think he's onto much of a winner and anyway, with the crackdown on non guild trading, it seems rather risky for this Vintner to venture out into the realms of the Apothecaries. Alternately he may have caught the Firethorn madness and plans to make us drink the stuff.

The continuing illness of both Sheriffs, and the prolonged absence of Lady Cox at the Citadel has left the city council pretty much to its own devices. However, apart from passing the Avery/Drum motion on non guild trading, our councillors' don't seem to be taking much advantage of this. Indeed they have been nearly falling over themselves in their desire to do nothing. Their most noticeable inaction has been to ignore Lady Cox's instruction to consider mitigating the effects of Aralan Derwent's sentence. Apart from a brief speech by Alan Monterey to attack Lady Cox's sentence, poor Alderman Derwent has been left to fend for herself. Perhaps they are not as upset at her potential demise as they would have us believe?

The Harvestide festivals were a subdued affair in some areas. As more detailed reports come in from the Daleth temples, it is becoming clear that those farmers who took the risk of a late second planting have reaped a rich reward. The continuing good weather has led to a successful crop and concerns over mass starvation are now receding. The good weather is now breaking up, with odd pockets of frost appearing in some parts of the city.

## The Chronicle of the month of Kryll in the year 144

Watchers and members of our worthy Witanmoot were caught by surprise when Lady Samantha Cox announced an amnesty for all those involved in the recent trading riots, except the instigators. After a month of relatively peaceful protests at the mootstone, and innumerable 'special pleadings' in the courts, the move has done much to restore calm in the blackened wards. In the official statement Lady Cox declared, "This has been an inglorious episode, which I hope the city will quickly forget. To this end I am announcing a full amnesty for all rioters bar those who were the ringleaders. The fate of the ringleaders however, I will take a personal interest in." Commentators were also taken aback when the amnesty was announced from the Citadel, where Lady Cox appears to have taken up residence. Persistent investigation by the Chroniclers has uncovered the exclusive news that most of Lady Cox's retainers at her Oldgate residence have been given notice, and many trunks of personal belongings have been transferred to her official apartments at the Witanmoot.

Quieting the burnt wards appears to be the main occupation of councillor Tarken Drumm, who is trying to speed up the work of the Guilds most affected by the fire, and persuading them to expand the apprenticeship programme to include adult and unskilled workers. This has drawn some considerable criticism from merchants in other quarters of the city, who fear that longstanding arrangements for their own children could be jeopardised. Resident have also been pleased to see a large donation of wood from the Shipwrights Guild. Despite muttering from councillor Adam Avery about "firewood stocks", a good portion of it has already vanished to complete shelters before the winter storms, which should be due any day now.

More disruption at the Citadel where, it seems, the contents of the ship Half Chance are being bargained for in a series of private showings. This seems to be causing much frustration amongst the Mercers and Grossers guilds who were expecting the choicest deals. Amongst the perfumes, spices and artwork, the fiercest bidding seem to be over the bolts of iridescent silk and the exotic fashion styles of Eshi Cyarçon. One particularly vicious skirmish is said to have involved Lady Cox over ownership of the bolt of emerald silk which matched the gem on her chain of office. The Lady Therese FitzGerald was only persuaded to back down after the relative size and proximity of their respective armies were raised.

A sudden fire has scorched a corner of the taproom at the Dancing Bear in Welland. Alert drinkers (such as there were) improvised on firefighting until Erik Dragonsbane arrived with buckets of water. Relieved regulars congratulated Erik on his prompt action, but have complained about the small group of affluent customers drinking there as the fire broke out. They are believed to be especially concerned at the presence of one small, stumpy character who bore a striking resemblance to Talus Snapdragon.

A spokesperson for the Temple of Torus has confirmed a statement by councillor Alan Monterey that many wells in the burnt wards are contaminated, and are the probable cause of a fever which has been lingering in those wards. Cllr Monterey has issued a further proclamation that all wells are to be closed in that area, pending clearance by the Witanmoot Guard. Rumours that the good councillor has even more unpleasant clean up duties in line for the Guard have not been confirmed.

Alderman Aralan Derwent is believed to have sent members of the Lands & Agriculture committee out to re-negotiate to grain tithe to the city. Disgruntled members have been disappearing out into the wild blue yonder for the past few weeks. The Chroniclers only hope that the roads will hold until both they and the wagons can return.

The last ship to arrive in harbour before the winter storm is the Black Banshee captained, inevitably, by one Eagleview. Crewmembers unloading the cargo of wines and wool have commented on the fair weather around the estuary, which is in contrast to the snow already falling in other lands. Captain Eagleview, disgusted at such an easy run, is believed to be in the Temple of Esprayenna doing penance.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 144

The relative peace of the council chambers has again been disturbed by protesting citizens. The protests, so far conspicuously peaceful, have been by people demanding more money to spend on increasing the stores in the city's granaries. Sue Quinn, speaking to the Chroniclers yesterday, allowed that the grain stores were still marginal and that a prolonged winter might cause problems. "Despite this, I do pledge that the guild will do all it can to maintain the current price of a penny farthing a loaf." Amongst the protesters, opinion was strongly divided over the role of Aralan Derwent, with some grateful for her intervention in the negotiations with Salvoy, and others saying that she could have got more from other sources, and yet others criticising her recent disposal of good grain in return for stores of greens and other cattle fodder.

The ambiguity is reflected by their elders within the council chambers where councillors were once again debating Derwent's fine for damage to Reg Marc's business. A new motion was proposed by Cllr Adam Avery, "That, in accordance with Lady Cox's wish, the Court of Common Council permit Aralan Derwent to pay the fine over time with a minimum of a guinea per year. The payment will be restricted to Aralan Derwent herself, and not the heirs of her estate." Several strongly worded protests by indignant councillors on Reg Marc's behalf were quieted after a compromise was proposed by Cllr Lilita Lansdowne. "Out of fairness to both Aralan and Reg, I would like to amend Adam's motion by deleting 'one guinea' and replacing it with £5".

Rumours abound of a major cover up at the Witanmoot following the apparent theft and recovery of the city regalia. Sheriff Matthew Dixon was, despite his illness, drafted in to sort out the problem and is believed to have led a pursuit into the countryside. Matthew returned a few days before the guard who had accompanied him, bearing the regalia of the Lord of the city, along with his own Sheriff's sword. However all suggestions that anything at all happened are being strenuously denied. The only comment which the Chronicle has been able to get was when our reporter caught Sheriff Dixon in an unguarded moment and got him to admit that he, "could become accustomed" to the feel of the Lord's sword.

Sheriff Beatrice Perignon has reappeared on the political scene and confounded those who had been claiming that she was near death with a mysterious wasting disease. Beatrice has been seen in many parts of the city rallying her faction and campaigning hard in the run up to the Midwinter elections. She has been most in evidence in the ward of Berewic where her faction has strong hopes of unseating the much troubled Alderman Aralan Derwent.

A number of mysterious deaths have been linked to an arcane scroll which has now been confiscated by the Bards college. Brad Hardacre, a well known shipwright of Bridge, literally disappeared in a column of flame whilst working at the dockyards. Rumours persist of a similar fate being suffered by a student at the Bards college. Brad's family has now disappeared, apparently taking with them a large haul of ancient silver which had been found with the scroll. Apart from these strange events the annually prophesied destruction of the city failed to materialise, with the night of the Ghostmoons passing uneventfully.

One surprise item which is selling well in the run up to the Midwinter feast and elections is a new range of dolls depicting the two Sheriffs of the city. The manufacture, Bill Gowther of Oldgate, told the Chronicle, "quite a few people are buying them for their kids. I'm thinking of expanding the range to include other notable citizens, but the cost of the first doll is quite high. So who gets produced may well depend on whether I can get some commissions." Bill refused to be drawn on which of the two Sheriffs was selling better.

The Winter snows have hit the city with a vengeance. Following the prolonged summer a storm blew and dumped several feet of snow on the city during a single day. The weather has now settled down to a more normal pattern but many unwary people have been left trapped in the surrounding villages by the unexpected blizzard.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 144

A fire wood collection organised by Tarken Drumm has eased the fears of many of the people who were short of fuel for the winter. A large body of people left the burn out wards and manhandling converted wagon/sledges forced their way up the frozen river and through the snow. The event has however called into question Sheriffs Matthew Dixon's ability to hold the office of Lord following the revelation that the collection had concentrated almost exclusively on the woodlands owned by Sheriff Dixon. Apparently Matthew has nearly all his capital invested in coppices and woods around the city, and their destruction may bankrupt him if he needs to raise funds quickly. Cllr Drumm, a known supporter of Sheriff Perignon, claimed that it was not a deliberate attempt to secure the Lordship of the city, and that the move was in fact at Sheriff Dixon's suggestion.

Lively debates punctuated the final session of the current Court of Common Council as it met to discuss the matter of Alderman Derwent's fine. A fine speech from Aralan herself explained that a guinea a year was as much as she could afford, although she thanked Ilith for her "sudden interest" in these matters. The debate then went rapidly downhill as councillors sought a pre-election platform, and it was rounded off by Adam Avery's contribution; "She's doing a bloody good job. Stop knocking Aralan, you bastards", which definitely brought the debate back to basics. At the vote the amendment failed by 95 votes to 147, and the substantive motion was then carried by 153 votes to 116. It was noticed that the main opponents to the motion were the Grossers, Perignon's faction and, surprisingly, much of Aralan's faction. A subsequent motion by Cllr Monterey, over lined cesspits, was speedily passed without obstruction.

The highlight of an extravagant Yuletide ball at the Citadel was Lady Samantha Cox's announcement of her engagement to Earl Arbuthnot, and her intention to marry at Springtide. The resulting ennoblement will mean that she will be no longer able to continue as Lord of the city and a straight election between Sheriffs Dixon and Perignon will decide the next Lordship. Lady Samantha told the Chronicles "To cease to be able to directly serve the city I love will be a great loss to me. However, I intend to spend much of my time at the Citadel, where I will continue my advise to his Majesty that all his decisions should be to the benefit of his capital and its undoubtedly loyal citizens". Lady Cox went on to explain that she has postponed the announcement for some time as she did not wish it to affect the Midwinter elections. Earl Arbuthnot has extensive and valuable lands to the North East. It is rumoured that his influence within the Royal Court vanished in an unfortunate incident some years ago, and that his political career has needed taking in hand for some time.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The midwinter elections have thrown the existing political alignments into chaos, and the outcome of the forthcoming committee and lordship elections is currently anyone's guess. After a year of heavy tax increases, food shortages, fire, riot and martial law, a severe backlash against all the existing councillors has left many without seats. In Berewic a bitter fight between Ilith Tansdowne and Aralan Derwent caused both the Sheriffs to throw their full efforts into that ward. On election night this resulted in a dramatic finish which went to not one but two recounts, and resulted in the astonishing confirmation of scrivener Mary Hastings as the new alderman. Mary's solid concentration on local grass roots issues seems to have caught both major factions unawares. In Cartage Osguard Dunn took the Aldermanship from Miranda Andrews by a narrow margin. In the burn out wards almost complete new Wardmoots have come into being with Faithside, Carter, Du Bolay and Barnett all losing their seats to 'unknowns.' In Avigon Susan Faithside suffered a stunning defeat, being thrust into sixth place, with Tarken Drum coming in second and the Aldermanship going to Samuel Rucche. Alan Carter has been replaced by Bernard Hubold, Du Bolay has not only lost the Aldermanship to Judi Spich but nearly lost his place on the council completely, and Duncan Barnett is replaced in Oldgate by Emily Martel. Other victims include the emissary to Cascorach Malcolm Mowbray, whose decision to overwinter in Cascorach has proved too much to defend when his faction also had to hold off



a strong challenge to Alison Shefford from Sue Quinn and Vanessa St Lawrence. Richard Firethorn has also retired from the council, having suffered continuing poor health since his inhalation of smoke during rescue efforts in the Great Fire. In all this chaos, a few Aldermen somehow managed to emerge unscathed. In Faringdon Marcos Lambourne defeated a strong challenge by Maud Blessop. Alice Fytton retained her large share of the vote despite a vigorous challenge by Mary Clifford. The Chroniclers would also like to welcome new councillor William Trueman of Faringdon, whose stirring speeches on the Mootstone last month were obviously well remembered by citizens.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 145

A bejewelled and glittering Lady Cox, clearly enjoying her role, opened the first meeting of the new Court of Common Council. Although lively, the proceedings were frequently disrupted by the large numbers of new councillors requiring explanations, order papers, advice on procedures or directions to the garderobes. Progress was further delayed by the many veterans who were absent from the main chamber as they intercepted key figures for recruitment in what has been described as a "feeding frenzy in the corridors of power". A number of well-known names have found new political homes in the wake of the elections. These include Sharon Brehon, Alan Griffiths, Gibian Horl, Bernard Hubold, Samuel Rucche, Alison Shefford and Olivia Warin. Back in the chamber Cllr Alan Monterey took the floor, looking surprisingly chipper after a Midwinter feast so dedicated to the promotion of his craft. "May I congratulate Lady Cox on her engagement? She deserves our thanks for her selfless devotion to the city over these past years. I am sure that her wise governance and handling of our recent troubles (what about the bread riots' shouted newcomer Alderman Rucche) will stand her in good stead in her future married life", continued Monterey doggedly. He then went on to make a rather optimistic plea for continuity in the committees. "Many improvements to our lives and the city's well-being have come from having the same steady hands directing the affairs of the various committees. There is little chance of such improvement when we continually change direction and vote in different committee heads 'except of course to remove those who have fulfilled their duties.'"

Cllr Drumm was summoned (or dragged in from the corridors) next. Ignoring past events and Lady Cox entirely, he placed an emergency motion before the Council:

"That those nominated by Iarken Drumm, in consultation with the chairman of Lands & Agriculture, be allowed to gather firewood from the city's forests, in the form of dead wood. That as little damage as possible is done. That there be proper working parties, with verderers to supervise. That the whole forest be available so as not to concentrate the work to the detriment of a small area. That the working parties be small and organised properly to minimise harm to and disturbance of the forest as a whole."

He continued, in a clearly emotional voice, to offer thanks for the success of his earlier firewood expedition. "The city owes a debt of gratitude to Sheriff Dixon, whose selfless generosity has doubtless saved the lives of many who suffered grave losses last year in my ward and others. For myself, I can only say that I feel privileged to have encountered and been able to assist such generosity." The stunned silence which followed this endorsement was disturbed only by the sound of Lady Cox casually stirring her tea.

Cllr Derwent next took the floor, to ostentatiously deliver the sum of one guinea to Cllr Phred Marcos, as required by last month's council motion. Equally deliberately, the Grosser's treasurer immediately handed the entire sum to a nearby Mandatien as a donation to Hahn. Before further speeches could be made, Lady Cox decided to quickly move the council business onto the important matter of nominations. The results were as follows:

Treasury	Shefford
Trade	Pencric
Law & Order	Lambourne, Tasker
Shipping	Anderson, Worton, Griffiths
Welfare & Education	
Land & Agriculture	Downe
Salvoyn	Blessop, Beaufeli, Saunders
Cascorach	Andrews, Faithside
Eresan	Tholin, Rimon
Nyskilde	Carter, Davy, Travers

Aldermen Shefford, Pencric and Downe were therefore elected unopposed. The chairmanship of Welfare & Education became the surprise appointment of Lady Cox, a development which turned her smile of amusement into something rather more predatory. After summoning all four new aldermen in turn to the dais for a whispered interview, Lady Cox appointed the now white Alderman Rucche to the post.

Attempts by Cllr Aralan Derwent to take the firewood collecting expeditions under more official control ran into a number of logistic setbacks. Exhortations to crowds in the burnt wards, to join a prolonged journey up the river for enough willow coppicing to last the entire winter, went down well enough. The problem came as the harried councillor tried to muster sufficient wagons for the trip, only to discover that first all the grossers' wagons, and then subsequently all the vintners', had been called in to the guild yards for an overwinter 'safety check'. Further visits to borrow wagons off the skimmers and mercers revealed that these had already been taken by Cllr Larken Drumm, who had also acquired the bulk of the eager crowds. As the massive caravan disappeared up the iced-over river, Cllr Derwent finally gathered a half dozen wagons from the cornmongers, some willing latecomers and a few remaining verderers still hungover from Sheriff Dixon's party, and set off in hot pursuit. A bemused Cllr Drumm, watching her progress from the warmth of the Witanmoot belltower commented, "I had no idea. If only the poor lass had said something." "Always was an impetuous filly," added Cllr Rimon.

The guild of Fruiterers has sent official notice to the Witanmoot that supplies of preserved fruit and stored vegetables are at an all time low, and that stocks are unlikely to last another month. Trade has been temporarily suspended to prevent a run on goods, and to give the Council time to decide whether to release the city stock, impose rationing, fixed prices or some other response. Cllr Fulcher commented, "There's no cause for alarm yet, I'm sure that there cabbage mountain got in last autumn will go a long way to getting us through the winter."

Alderman Hubold has taken decisive leadership in Cripplegate, issuing a spate of new appointments and streamlining the watch rota. According to the new alderman, the recent measures are aimed at freeing up citizens' time so that they can concentrate on renewing their businesses. Most citizens feel that this has been successful experiment, with clear improvements in law and order around their ward, as well as extra free time. A few sceptics, most of whom have lost out in the appointments, continue to make dark mutterings about new-fangled, undemocratic quangos. Alderman Hubold has hinted that tax reforms may be next for review, and hoped that a generous budget from the Witanmoot would help him to improve conditions in his ward.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 145

Speculation is growing as to who will win the Lordship election at Springtide. Despite the pitifully small size of his personal support, Matthew Dixon's long cultivation of the other faction leaders appears to be paying dividends, with a general view forming at the Witanmoot that he will be the next Lord. One highly placed source told the Chronicle "Perignon seems to have upset the powerful Drumm faction which was expected to support her, so that's her chances blown." If this proves to be true and Drumm has switched sides it should mean Dixon will win with a landslide. However Beatrice is never to be underestimated and very few people have come fully off the fence. Interestingly, the time of the election has been moved forward to the early morning to enable the Aldermen involved to get ready for Lady Cox's wedding in the evening. This should mean much late night activity as the final votes are firmed up.

The committee elections proved nearly as farcical as the nominations, with many Aldermen apparently making up their minds at the last minute, and lots of cries of "but you promised to vote for..." resounding around the chamber. Whilst Ann Tasker had a clear victory in the Law and Order election, the Shipping vote turned into a messy three way split, with Elliott Anderson just winning through. Perhaps because so many of the main committees had already been sewn up, the normally simple elections for the emissaries were also hard fought. Robert Beaureli cleanly won the Salvoyne vote, and promptly caused uproar by leaving the Avery grouping (which had just voted for him) to join Beatrice Perignon's faction. For Cascorach, Susan Faithside just beat Miranda Andrews. The Eresan vote was tied. After a tense delay, a messenger returned from the Citadel and announced that Lady Cox would use her casting vote to elect George Rimon. After this excitement, the victory of Alan Carter in the Nyskilde election (in another three way split) was something of an anti climax. The final outcome of the elections has left the newer factions in a strong position with the previously powerful Dixon, Perignon and Derwent factions being overtaken by the Monterey and Avery groupings and the increasingly influential Larken Drum.

Concern is growing over the food situation in the City. Problems continue to be experienced by the Fruiterers, and now the Cornmongers have started rationing supplies so that only bread can be produced. This has led to protests from the Pastriers who claim it will ruin their business. Once again Alan Monterey has been the only councillor actively pursuing a solution to the problem. Whilst others have been indulging in pointless debates and fretting over committee elections, Alan has organised the release of the remaining vegetable stocks. His hard work has been repaid with yet another Alderman joining his faction. Emily Martel told the Chronicle. "I've thought very carefully about which grouping to support, and it seemed to me that Alan is the only person combining radical action with careful management of the city's future."

However all is not well for Monterey. Opposition appears to be growing to the recent cesspits motion which he pushed through council. The motion, which requires all cesspits to be lined with stone, has led to protests from around the city. Alderman Hubold has taken up the case of the protesters. "It's alright for the Witanmoot to make these worthy motions, but they don't understand that most people can't afford to line their pits with stone. I've told my watch not to bother enforcing the regulation. After all what are we going to do? Tell people to fill their pits in and use the street instead? If the council wants stone that badly they can pay for it".

Preparations for the Wedding of Lady Samantha Cox continues to take place. The event is generating much rivalry amongst the guilds as people jockey for the privilege of supplying the wedding. Sheriff Beatrice Perignon has struck a major coup by gaining the contract to supply the catering. This is a surprise appointment given that the Lordship election will be taking place on the same day. Rumours that some of the Vintners most hallowed supplies are to be opened up have further fuelled competition for invitations.



## The Chronicle of the month of Pipetal in the year 145

Sheriff Dixon survived a surprise attack in Oldgate last week when a lone archer, apparently choosing the same vantage point as Cllr Castlemaine's murderer, narrowly missed putting an arrow through Dixon's back. The Sheriff was amongst a group of senior councillors setting out for a Torian service. All displayed remarkable agility for their age and various disabilities, finding cover before a second arrow could be loosed. Apart from bruises and dusty garments, none of the group took any injury apart from the Witanmoot Guard member who had considerately caught the first arrow. Sheriff Perignon, when informed of the incident, displayed genuine horror and concern. "They'll never believe I didn't do it," she said.

The Witanmoot is becoming increasingly concerned at the continued absence of the firewood gathering part that set off up the river well over a month ago. Aside from the problem of fuel for the burnt quarter, Aralan Derwent's friends and followers are voicing fears for her personal safety. The wagons, which will have to come back down the river ice to return to the city, may well be caught by an early thaw. Cynics have commented that Aralan is well used to walking on thin ice.

The distinctive aroma of boiled cabbage has been added to the city's reek now that the stores have been released by the Fruiterers. Although this has provided a cheap and welcome addition to the pottage of many poor householders, the Torians have noted with concern that problems with teeth and skin sores continue to worsen.

Dowgate is in uproar after Cllr Jocelyn Barnes and several members of the watch were arrested by the Witanmoot Guard after an alleged attack on Sheriff Dixon late one night. Residents, while clearly appalled that a local councillor might turn to violence, have noted with suspicion that yet again the Guard 'just happened' to be in the vicinity of the attack, and that those arrested are in isolation at the Torian Temple and are too 'damaged' from the arrest to be permitted to talk to relatives. Wild rumours are flying round of a provoked attack, and of the sheriff either (a) turning the Floating Market into a ward of the city or (b) wanting to remove certain 'difficult elements' from the existing wards so that Floating Market traders can be moved into the city proper.

Alderman Hubold has become the target of some direct legislation to prevent his planned ward reforms. An emergency motion proposed by Adam Avery and seconded by Larken Drum was pushed through council in a surprise move against the Alderman. The motion states, "That the Ward Watches be composed solely of Citizens of the Ward and no other. The members of the Watch shall receive no financial recompense for this work". This effectively means that Hubold will have to disband his current paid watch, and recruit a new one from the citizens. The Aldermen, in a furious speech told the council, "It will lead to blood all over the ward. Normal citizens are no match for the criminals which my watch has been keeping under control. The council's motive for this is disgraceful, the nearby wards are seeing their crime level increase as the criminals move out of Cripplegate. They want to keep the crime in Cripplegate, and sod my residents who will have to cope with their ward becoming a second floating market." Alderman Hubold, however, saved his most strident remarks for Sheriff Perignon; "That pompous bitch just doesn't understand what we are trying to do. We in Cripplegate are at the front line in the fight against crime. As a sheriff she ought to be supporting us. Instead she backed this stupid motion and made snide innuendoes about the legality of what I and my watch are doing. I'm disgusted that she put the need to 'do a good performance' and look good before the election, above her duty to defend the people from crime."

Troubles are beginning to beset the charmed owners of the Half Chance and its exotic cargo. The investigation by Alderman Griffiths and his guild into the activities of Eshi Cyarçon and Talus Snapdragon, have been complicated by the attention of the Salvoynian envoy and the suspicious disappearance of their Imperial interpreter.

Cllr Alan Monterey demonstrated surprising courage when he decided to meet protesters marching against his cess pits legislation. The noisy and near riotous group marched on the Witanmoot to demonstrate their dislike of the legislation by 'shitting in the street'. Alderman Hubold, who led this novel protest, told the Chronicle, "We are trying to show the council the result of their ill-considered law. Poor people are now committing a crime if they dig their own cess pits. Shitting in the street is the only legal thing they can do." Cllr Monterey's strident defence of his legislation, "its for your own good", did not please the marchers and resulted in him being pelted with some very unpleasant missiles. Cllr Richard Saunders commented to the Chronicle, "The whole thing stinks. The council's really up the creek without a paddle on this one. They just can't admit to themselves that the whole idea was stupid."

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The Springtide festival dawned bright and clear, and many families took part in the dancing, processions and naming celebrations around the city. People were especially please to see the new flowers and small gardens being created around the little houses and shacks in the burnt quarter. "Ought to do well with all that manure," commented Cllr Rimon.

In a brief announcement to just prior to the elections, Lady Cox has completed by Decree her plans for the Witanmoot Guard. The Guard now has jurisdiction throughout the city and no longer needs to answer to the Alderman of any ward in which they are operating. The Council was stunned into silence, and as yet the only comment on this shocking expansion of the power of the Lord and Sheriffs is Richard Saunders smug, "I told you so". Gax is believed to be considering a legal challenge.

In the closest vote ever recorded Beatrice Perignon has been elected as the new Lord of the City. The victory was achieved due to a last minute switch by a consortium of Larken Drumm and Adam Avery. Initially it was thought that the switch was the result of the exposure of Sheriff Dixon's links with the floating market. However Larken Drumm's decision seems to have been based more on Beatrice Perignon connections with Citadel society and the opinion of the influential Lady Amelia. Grantham Morgan commented to the Chronicle, "It amazes me that Larken can maintain an image as a man of the people, when it is quite clear that his main aim in life is to join the aristocracy." More serious questions are being asked about Avery, a previously adamant supporter of Matthew Dixon. Rumours persist that he has been promised a major shipbuilding contract and a 'large investment' in the Portsoken docklands. "I think it's disgusting that he should let his own re-election chances dominate such an important decision" said one prominent councillor. The Chronicle itself would like to congratulate Lady Perignon on her election, and looks forward to her inaugural ball with interest. The full voting was:

Perignon	Romanie, Dunn, Tasker, Worton, Martel, Pencric, Key, Perignon, Shefford, Fytton, Hastings, Rucche.
Dixon	Anderson, Griffiths, Dixon, Belcher, Horl, Downe, Lambourne, Hubold, Warin, Isenbard, Spitch.

The announcement was delayed both by late voting and many careful recounts. It was followed by an undignified scramble as aldermen and senior councillors simultaneously attempted to offer personal congratulations, conspire to select a second sheriff and nab a front seat for Samantha's wedding.

Lady Cox's long-awaited wedding turned out to be a small, private ceremony held in the Citadel's own shrine, much to the disappointment of the hundreds of well-wishers gathered outside the gates. Shinannon the wellkeeper officiated in a haze of perfume generated by the clumps of primroses, daffodils, celandines, forsythia, broom, hyacinths, crocuses and witch hazel. A few members of the court appeared to be overcome by the occasion. The bride, of course, outshone her surroundings in a trailing silk gown of a most startling yellow. The exchange of names was witnessed by the King and Queen, senior members of their court, seemingly the entire Arbuthnot family, and the city's Aldermanic court. Some noted the complete absence of the bride's family, and the Chroniclers themselves have been unable to track down any close relatives to question on this.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 145

Lady Beatrice Perignon's negotiations with his Majesty the King have resulted in a complicated tribute agreement which commits the city to a payment this year of only £55,000. This agreement has been heralded as a major success by Beatrice's supporters, who say that it vindicates their decision to back her for Lordship. Indeed tax levels this year could even be cut. However, other groupings within the Witanmoot have pointed out that the deal commits the city to a tribute of £60,000 in 146 and £65,000 in 147 and 148. Worse; Lady Perignon has offered the King gifts of £10,000 and £5,000 in 147 and 148 in return for the Dragonfeast being held in Linrodeth. With the delicate budget negotiations in progress most of the faction leaders appear to be keeping a low profile on the issue, however Cllr Richard Saunders told the Chronicle, "Beatrice has really pulled a fast one here, she has bought short term prosperity and personal popularity at the expense of her successor." Gax the Heretic, however, disagreed in a speech from the Mootstone he complimented "Lady Perignon's bravery in accepting liability for the future payments".

The budget proposals from the various committees are currently generating a lot of heat. The Trade budget seems to be forming the main battleground. Alderman Rucche's attempts to restore the budget to pre-fire levels is meeting strong opposition. Alderman Rucche described the consequences of not having his budget passed as "disastrous to the future of the city". Controversy is also centring around the Welfare and Education budget which includes proposals for a city orphanage and for a "five year program to properly re-house all those all those who have properties in the wards that were destroyed". Looking at the proposals, the Chronicle is not convinced that Lady Perignon's agreement with the King is going to come anything like close enough to balancing the budget. Indeed, according to a source close to the Marshgate Wardmoot, secret negotiations are already under way to restore taxation of burnt out wards.

Jocelyn Barnes has been committed for trial on charges of attempted murder. She made an unrepentant speech accusing Sheriff Dixon of Treason and Conspiracy to undermine the city. Meanwhile Sheriff Dixon appears to be attempting to push through the reforms which gained him Jockey's animosity and lost him the Lordship election. He has started this process with a detailed bill proposing definitions of the status of Citizens and Inhabitants of the city. The Chronicle would like to report the controversy around this proposal, however it seems to have met a solid wall of apathy from the other councillors, who are obviously far too worried about the budget to try to define who should and should not be paying taxes.

Adam Avery has come forward with an interesting proposal to reduce the number of debtors held in prison. In a speech from the Mootstone he proposed that the City impose 'easy payment schemes' rather than prison terms. "We have already permitted such a scheme on behalf of Cllr Derwent and I believe we should permit the same for other debtors" he told the crowd. The Chronicle will be interested to know how Cllr Derwent intends to deal with this insult given that she can not duel with the crippled Avery.

An embarrassed Chairman for Law and Order, Ann Tasker, has announced that some prisoners in Cripplegate Prison seem to have pre-empted Cllr Avery's proposals. Apparently some thirty of them escaped when a new guard dropped his keys in one of the cells. Most of the escapees were indeed debtors, however one significant addition was Albert Higgins, who was awaiting execution for the murder of a number of residents of Dracas.

The Spring thaw has relaxed the pressure on food supplies, with many ships arriving in port. However there are continuing shortages of bread which it seems likely will not ease until the harvest. Cllr William Trueman's mystery rosehip supply business seems to have done well out of the fruit shortage (once he convinced people they were edible). William is clearly enjoying his success and a generous donation by him of most of his remaining supplies to the Torian Temple and the residents of Faringdon has done a lot to increase his popularity.



Alderman Alan Griffiths' clearly took his investigations into the activities of Eshi Cyarçon very seriously. The two were seen to be dining at Maud Blessop's and it seemed likely to most observers that the negotiations were likely to continue thorough the night. However the intervention of the Witanmoot guard disrupted his plans somewhat when they arrested his new paramour for a murder committed in Salvoyn. Talus Snapdragon, who was also accused, evaded the guard and escaped over the rooftops, adding to suspicion of their guilt. Things looked to be getting sticky and an execution seemed the likely outcome when Oliver Warin (the then envoy to Salvoyn) intervened to clear the accused. Citizen Snapdragon later handed himself in and was fined five pounds for evading justice.

## The Chronicle of the month of Heliora in the year 145

Cllr Jocelyn Barnes has been imprisoned following a lengthy trial at the law courts. Cllr Barnes never denied attacking Sheriff Dixon, however she claimed throughout the trial that her actions were justified on the grounds that Dixon was 'treacherously plotting with the Floating Market against the city'. However Pendentite Torrel (prosecuting) destroyed this accusation and went on to explain how Barnes had deliberately lured the Sheriff to a meeting with her supporters, so that he could be assassinated. The Sheriff had only been saved by the swift intervention of the Witanmoot Guard that he had ordered to follow him. Sheriff Dixon described the sentence as lenient, however the imprisonment has done something to quell the unrest in Dowgate where many observers had feared that a death sentence would have precipitated an immediate riot. Protesters in the ward are continuing to campaign for Barnes' release and many are still calling for Dixon to be tried for treachery.

Matthew Dixon's chances of surviving as Sheriff are deteriorating following a large number of nominations for the post. Apart from Dixon himself, Ariane Pencric, Alan Griffiths, Martin Key and Samuel Ruche have all been nominated. Dixon and Griffiths are clearly the front runners, but Ariane Pencric has the backing of the powerful Drumm faction and may do well, especially considering the deal Tarken cut with Lady Perignon during the Lordship elections.

Aralan Derwent has once again disappeared upriver, this time accompanied by Gemma Downe. The purpose of this errand remains a mystery and rumours of a secret renewal of her liaison with Sir Henry Longbridge abound. However more than one wag has seen fit to suggest that she is just taking a summer break away from the chaos her fellow councillors seem to be creating. An alternate theory is that Gemma Downe has gone into hiding whilst she recovers from the embarrassment of nominating Duncan Barnett for Sheriff. This might have been a good choice if it wasn't for the fact that Barnett lost his Aldermanship last year.

Grain shortages continue to be a problem, and may not be alleviated for some time. Recent shipping arrivals concentrated on much needed fruit, and the harvest is expected to be late and patchy. The Dalethians are warning of another bad year and price rises seem almost inevitable. A large group of Avigon hovel holders has already mounted one protest against the proposed price rises and if as expected the Cornmongers raise prices, food riots seem almost certain to happen.

The Treasury proposals for the budget split have caused outrage in the wards of Cripplegate, Faringdon and Avigon where taxes have been reintroduced, and in Oldgate where the levy has been raised to its pre fire level. Guilds throughout the city have also been protesting at the increases in their taxation. Despite these increases many services are still not being provided. Treasurer Alison Shefford told the Witanmoot, "The Treasury committee regards the city finances as still being on an emergency footing, and has attempted to trim all the budget proposals presented. The proposals of the Welfare and Education Committee have been hardest hit, I regret to say, since it is our recommendation that expenditure be maintained in those areas which are an investment in the future of the city". Not satisfied with the outcry against these proposals Alderman Shefford went on to announce that there will be further tax rises in 146 and 147 and that "the Treasury committee is investigating other possibilities for raising money". Despite the protests, many observers are commenting that Alderman Shefford has performed an excellent job in attempting to organise the city's chaotic finances and are surprised that she did not receive a nomination for Sheriff. It is interesting to note that she was scathingly critical of Lady Perignon's agreement with the King over the Dragonfeast, describing it as "not worth a candle", and it may be that she is biding her time for a Lordship bid in 147.

Adam Avery seems to have decided to spend most of his month looking into the recent prison breakout. The councillor has been talking to people throughout the city and has been getting more and more blunt in his questioning and suspicions about the event. Meanwhile, concerned residents of Dracas have been demanding immediate action to recapture Higgins, and at least one murder has already been ascribed to the madman.

Alan Monterey has been relaxing following the hectic budget proposals. Obviously satisfied with the outcome of his consensus building activities, he has taken up a new hobby of wagon counting. The councillor's presence at a number of the city gates is beginning to cause concern amongst the merchant guilds who fear a new wagon tax may be forthcoming. However, a source close to Monterey denied this; "Alan has simply been spending time gaining an understanding of the flow of trade into the city. If other councillors did the same instead of wasting their time getting drunk the City would be in a much better state."

Gax the Heretic has made a rousing speech from the Mootstone demanding that the cities budget be revised to include funding of an orphanage. He told a large crowd, "Alderman Shefford tells us she wants to spend money on investments in the future of the city, and yet once again the vitally needed orphanage goes unfunded. Once again the financiers, guild adventures and traders will benefit from investment of the cities funds whilst its greatest resource goes to waste. The children of the city are where investment needs to be made. In many wards street gangs are forming of the dispossessed, who will become the disenfranchised. If we do not do something about this problem the next generation will curse the current council for their short term thinking and concentration on lining the pockets of their guild paymasters."

The last council session turned into a mammoth event with a huge raft of boring procedural and organisational motions dominated by Sheriff Dixon's 'Definitions of Citizenship' Bill which was eventually passed with little dissent. After the exhaustion of this, the Avery 'easy payment' proposal was passed by a large margin, mostly with only Tarken Drumm summoning up the enthusiasm to complain. Alan Monterey then proposed the creation of two new Trade delegate posts for the Western Isles and Kerun which also didn't raise much comment. Although we suspect this may get more controversial when it comes time to vote on the three hundred pound cost. As the evening approached and with the council in a state of near torpor, Adam Avery made a speech on the importance of land registry in the light of the recent fires and proposed that "By the end of 146 all plots of land in the City of Inrodeth shall be registered in writing at the Witanmoot. Such registration shall define the principal owner and any other co owners of such land. An administrative charge may be made by the Witanmoot for the initial registration and subsequent changes to these records or the inspection of said records". This apparently worthy proposal was about to go through on the nod when George Rimon stood up and asked how much the administrative charge was likely to be. Avery's reply that he had thought something around a pound reasonable, caused uproar, with Cllr Rimon bellowing across the room that this was a disgraceful attempt at back door taxation on property ownership, caused many other councillors to wake up. There were speeches from Cllrs Edge and St Lawrence pointing out the stupidity of assigning a principal owner when most houses were owned by couples; there were protest from the wealthy about the cost of registering their own properties; there were protests about the plan to charge for access and so on. Despite the efforts of the various faction leaders to push through this, the councillors weren't going to let it go. Lady Perignon was forced to adjourn the debate until next month.

Lady Perignon is once again suffering a summer illness. However this time the Torians have been unwilling to ascribe the cause of the illness and some people have suggested it may be poisoning. Given that the problem struck the day after the Barnes trial, foul play may be a possibility. However the guard have denied that a poisoning was possible. "All Lady Perignon's food is extensively tasted by a volunteer guard who takes her duty very seriously" they told the Chronicle.

William Trueman seems to be attempting to take on the mantle of the much missed Harry Truestaff. The councillor appears to have decided to blow the profits of his dried rosehip business on a major drinking session. Not wanting to cause any problems in his own ward of Faringdon, he seems to have ended up in Ishtan. Here, along with Captain Eagleview and most of the sailors in the port, he attempted to drink the ward dry. The ensuing debauchery led to a number of unfortunate incidents which the watch proved totally unwilling to deal with. Several citizens have demanded the restoration of the Wharf Guard.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 145

This month's budget debate, which had been expected to occupy a major session of the Witanmoot, turned out to be one of the shortest debates on record. Tarken Drumm had been expected to propose a raft of amendments, but both the councillor and the amendments failed to materialise. In his absence his erstwhile ally, Adam Avery, attempted to make up some proposals on the hoof. However his vague "we should have two more trade posts" proposal was followed by a polite pause as the council waited for more details and, more importantly, costs and fundraising. The silence and the amendment were terminated by Lady Perignon who called for a brief show of hands ("oh, sorry Adam") of those who supported and opposed the idea. After less than an hour of debate Alison Shefford's meticulously prepared budget was passed by a large margin with some scattered and disorganised dissent centring around the Drumm and Trueman factions.

Bandits have once again struck at a caravan, this time capturing a large shipment of goods for the Broiderers and Tapisers guild. The attack took place near the location of a previous raid and it is clear that the bandits are operating out of the Wealden forests to the north of the city. The guilds have demanded that the Sheriffs take action.

The controversial Home Tax proposals proved to be a more heated affair. Following last month's debacle the faction leaders had laid down the law to their various groups and clear instructions to vote for the proposal had been issued. However despite this a large section of the Witanmoot defied the orders and opposed the tax. An odd alignment of the hard line rich (led by George Rimon) the poor (led by Alderman Hubold) and the reformers (led by Cllr Edge) actively opposed the motion. Eventually the 'Registration Duty' was approved by a margin of 40 votes, but only after Avery had amended it to allow for the registration of a list of Principal Owners with witnessing by a local councillor.

Following on from this, Alan Monterey's proposals for new trade delegate posts should have been a simple matter, backed as it was by the merchant guilds and with the vocal support of Sheriff Dixon and the Lord of the City. However a brilliant and powerful speech by Vanessa St Lawrence proposed instead that the same money instead be spent on an orphanage. Building on the rebellious mood of the Witanmoot, she quickly gained support for her proposals from all areas of the Witanmoot, and before the faction leaders could do anything about it, the council had approved a donation of 300 pounds to Gax's orphanage project.

The expected threat to Sheriffs Dixon's re-election failed to materialise, with the council clearly deciding to back experienced candidates. Dixon was elected by a resounding 21 votes. The only dissent coming from Alice Fytton who said she was surprised that other aldermen were willing to give power to someone with such a history of abusing it. Alan Griffiths returned to the post of Sheriff after an absence of some years; his 15 votes easily outweighing Key's 6 and Rucche's 2. Ariane Pencric had been expected to do well but received no votes at all and had difficulty covering her disappointment.

Lady Perignon's Midsummer Ball was a lively event. With the long absence of such balls and the need to recover from a heavy week on council, most people let their hair down and relaxed. Lady Perignon glided around as a stately and gracious hostess, while Sheriff Dixon celebrated by turning up in an elegant new suit of black velvet which managed to exceed even Sheriff Griffiths' distinctively startling costume by Eshi. Alan Monterey's continued sulk over his trade delegate proposals led to him being mostly ignored, and William Trueman's drinking binge led to some heartless comments. Much attention was paid to Adam Avery's startlingly witty comments which kept everyone entertained while the musicians were distracted. However it was Aralan Derwent who provided the most dramatic incident, being expelled from the ball under scandalous circumstances involving a rolled up tapestry, a dozen wine goblets and most of the minstrels gallery. Despite the Chronicler's best efforts we have not been able to determine exactly what happened, but a disgusted Lady Perignon has banned the councillor from future civic balls. Sheriff Dixon was rather more relaxed about the incident: "She's probably just upset everyone. That's what she normally does, doesn't she?" he commented.

## The Chronicle of the month of Setheran in the year 145

The Witanmoot had been shocked to learn this week of Councillor Iarkin Drumm's arrest after a military sweep of the Wealden Forest to eliminate the bandit problem. A thorough search of the area was carried out by the combined forces of the Witanmoot Guard and the King's Rangers, under the orders and leadership of Sheriff Dixon. Aside from several mangy peasants suspected of poaching, the operation also picked up an extremely annoyed Cllr Drumm along with his merry men. Iarkin's loud assertions that he was merely out on a prolonged painting expedition did not satisfy the Sheriff, who received no explanation for the presence, at Iarkin's side, of several heavily armed mercenaries from the Dancing Bear. Since the return of this large hunting party and their irate prize, we have heard rumours that a further search of Iarkin Drumm's camp uncovered a haul of jewellery, likely to be the spoils from the ambushed Mercers' caravan. However, Sheriff Dixon refuses to confirm or deny this rumour, and Councillor Drumm remains in the Witanmoot cells unavailable for comment.

Lady Perignon appears to have abandoned the city to the tender mercies of the Sheriffs this month. As expected, she has left Tinrodeth to enjoy the hot summer sunshine at her country estates. We hear that these may be further enlivened by the presence of m<sup>l</sup>ord Fernando Sidonia of Kerun, who is visiting her for some "serious" wine tasting and importation negotiations. What will poor Dom make of it all?

In the absence of both Lady Perignon and Sheriff Dixon, Sheriff Griffiths was left to chair this month's sweltering meeting of the Witanmoot Council. As soon as the budget section opened, both Councillor Monterey and Councillor Andrews rose to amend the original budget to provide further funds. Cllr Monterey, with his characteristic persistence, resubmitted the original trade delegate motion costing £350, while Cllr Andrews requested a further £150 to "properly fund" the city's orphanage. Both of these were refused by Sheriff Griffiths who pointed out that they were "already resolved items". He further rebuked the two junior councillors for wasting council time and advised them to develop their ideas properly in time for the 146 budget debate. All other budgets were proposed to be as detailed in the main budget split, apart from the Law & Order committee who submitted an amended budget coming in at 6s less than the original estimate. As expected, both Sharon Brehon (Broiderer) and Philip Portman (Fletcher) have been proposed to fill the vacant post of Alderman of Dracas. This will be voted on by the full Court of Common Council next month.

Councillor Derwent's 'Queue Here' sign has been dusted off and put outside again. This seemed to confirm recent rumours which swept through Tinrodeth that the "impetuous filly" was about to choose another apprentice. A hoard of hopeful youngsters brought toy rapiers, frying pans and (apparently) bedding from all across the city to wait in line for several days for the opportunity to impress Aralan. Some even remembered to bring an embroidery sampler. Some commentators have suggested that it is significant that Aralan was not permitted on the recent military manoeuvres which netted such interesting witnesses in the Wealden Forest.

Councillor Alan Monterey's recent public austerity measures have been questioned following a most extravagant party held last week for faction members. Participants remain close-mouthed (and hungover) following a dinner party which must have exceeded even Harry Truestaff's flamboyant bashes. Scavengers clearing away debris around the house in the early hours of the morning report clattering heaps of the finest vintage wine flacons, torn silk hangings, fragments of unusual imported delicacies including fish eggs from the Empire, and drifts of discarded summer flowers.

Citizens will be distressed to learn of reports from Salvoyn that the Lady Isabella de Shabot has died in a barge accident during the Midsummer regatta. Lady Shabot's generous corn deal with the Witanmoot last year, which provided supplies almost at cost, is widely credited with saving the city from starvation and famine this last winter. She was known as a friendly, outgoing personality whose charity work was unsung and undertaken without thought of publicity. Gax's orphanage will be one of many children's charities who will feel her loss. She will be sadly missed.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 145

The murderer Higgins and several other prison escapees have been killed in a combined Ward Watch and Witanmoot Guard operation in Bridge. Higgins was tracked down to his hideout next to the Fishmarket and was held there by the prompt actions of the local Watch whilst reinforcements arrived from the Witanmoot. Sheriff Griffiths has declared himself delighted by the operation which he describes as, "an excellent example of the Guard working in support of the local Watch" He went on to praise Aralan Derwent who led the investigation which found Higgins. However, questions have been raised about the actions of Cllr Derwent, and her failure to negotiate for the release of the children that Higgins was holding hostage, both of whom were killed. Descriptions of events vary considerably and her opponents are yet to find anyone willing to bear witness that she ordered the guard to attack and not to bother taking any prisoners.

Iarken Drumm has been committed for trial following a long hearing before his Alderman. The packed courthouse hear how the combined City and Ranger force captured Iarken in an area known to be frequented by the bandits. Sheriff Dixon explained in detail the reason the force suspected bandits to be in the area and circumstances of the capture, but refused to be drawn as to whether Iarken was actually guilty. Iarken himself explained how he had been on a painting expedition, whilst seeking a location for a summer residence, and it was clear that he felt that he had been set up. A number of Rangers then gave evidence of Cllr Drumm's odd movements through the forest and the hostile attitude of his guards when confronted. The mercenaries however explained that they had recently been hired to protect Cllr Drumm from bandits and were obviously cautious when the Rangers 'ambushed' them. A number of citizens then came forward to testify that Cllr Drumm's lifestyle was rather more prosperous than could be expected for someone in his position, and several people questioned his ability to afford a summer residence. Summing up, Alderman Rucche was clearly unconvinced that Iarken was a bandit and he told the court "Although I do not see a clear case of guilt, the evidence would suggest that Cllr Drumm's activities in the forest were rather more than he would have the court believe. I feel that more investigation is required and I reluctantly commit Cllr Drumm to a trial."

The unpopular Home Tax seems to have become a complete flop. So far only a few people, mostly the scheme's originators, have bothered to register at the Witanmoot. However following Gax's comment that his landmark Hanley ruling may call into question the entire validity of the tax, a much larger number of citizens have been up to the Citadel to ensure that their records are up to date.

Contrary to expectations a bumper crop is now being predicted for this year's harvest. Alderman Gemma Downe told the Chronicle, "All the indications are that in addition to alleviating the food shortages, we will be able to build up strong reserves for the coming years". The Chronicle notes with interest that Alderman Downe has recently offloaded all her own corn stocks and stands to make a handsome profit from the reduced prices likely to emerge come the harvest.

This month's Witanmoot meeting looked like being one of the most turgid on record. Only about half the city's councillors bothering to turn up to vote in Sharon Brehon as the new Alderman of Dracas. However the few who were there were shocked by Lady Perignon's surprise declaration at the end of the meeting that she was "unhappy with the budget debate" and that she was decreeing the establishment the trade delegates posts anyway, with the funds to be drawn from those bonded towards the King's Dragonfeast payment. Lady Perignon obviously intends to impose her view of things on the city as quickly as possible. The Chronicle wonders if her rush to get things done has anything to do with the likelihood that Sheriff Dixon will defeat her in next year's lordship elections; should she lose the support of the large Drumm faction.

Alderman Olivia Warin has described Lady Perignon's decree as "yet another example of this administration's ill-considered and erratic approach to finance." In a keynote speech which clearly positions her as a contender for the Sheriff posts next year, she went on to propose her view of the city's future "We need stability to recover from the fire, not wild and adventurous attempts at expansion. The City should abandon its plans to host the Dragonfeast in 147," she told a large gathering at the Grocers Guild. She ended by describing the current situation as, "the kind of mess which would never have happened under Samantha".

## The Chronicle of the month of Lorinfall in the year 145

Following overwhelming evidence from a wide variety of sources, Cllr Tarken Drumm has been found guilty of banditry and is sentenced to be beheaded at noon on the 15th of Kryll. Both within and outside the packed courthouse, many people protested at the leniency of this sentence and a large crowd gathered on the steps demanding his immediate execution. However Lady Perignon, whilst clearly disgusted by Drumm's crimes, told the gathering, "I will not permit mob rule. As long as I am Lord of this City we do things according to the Law. Tarken is a councillor and, however low he has now fallen, we must remember his previous services to the city. He may have forfeited the right to live, but he still has a right to die with dignity." The prisoner was returned to the cells under heavy guard to protect him from the mob.

The trial was a clear cut affair with much of the evidence having been presented at the earlier hearing. However, the weight of proof against Tarken was swung by Karen Marsh of the Broiderers guild who testified that Tarken had discussed her recent trade activities with her, shortly before the caravan they were discussing was attacked. Mark Sage, a guard on the caravan, also testified that one of the bandits bore a resemblance to Cllr Drumm and could easily have been him. In his summing up Pendentite Antonius put the case for the prosecution succinctly when he said, "All the evidence may be circumstantial, however these suspicious circumstances occur in what can only be described as a damning quantity". Lady Perignon, who is considered to have presided with great skill and fairness throughout the trial concurred with his view. Commenting on the trial Aralan Derwent told the Chronicle, "The Broiderers have suffered badly from the Bandit scourge. I am simply glad that the matter is over." Cllr Avery went further, "It's bloody obvious he is as guilty as sin and should die for it," he proclaimed. A more formal approach was taken by Sheriff Dixon who had pressed hard for the death penalty throughout. Clearly pleased with the outcome, he told the admiring crowd, "My duty as Sheriff is to root out and destroy threats to this City, whoever and whatever they are".

Drumm did not languish quietly in prison to await his execution. A fiendish floating market-backed plot to effect his escape was foiled at the last minute by the intervention of the Witanmoot Guard. Three mercenaries were killed in the ensuing fight. The Chronicle has learnt that the information which led to the escape being blocked came from Cllr William Trueman. However Cllr Trueman has refused to reveal his sources saying only that, "An honest citizen approached me with the information, and I immediately passed it on to Sheriff Griffiths, who personally lead the guard to stop the escape. Tarken must pay for his crime, I did only what anyone loyal to the city would have done."

A Civic Ball will take place next week to celebrate the formal establishment of an Embassy from the city state of Kerun. Ambassador Fernando Sidonia told our reporter, "Trade between our two great cities continues to grow and I am delighted that the Princess Selina has appointed me to the vital role of fostering this relationship." Lady Perignon will no doubt be almost as pleased as Milord Fernando and probably just as keen to see a close relationship built between the two great institutions. This year's harvest has surpassed all estimates and a large and a very successful Harvestide Festival was enjoyed by all. A delighted Alderman Downe told us, "This is marvellous, over the last few years the city has lurched from one food crisis to another. I really pleased to be able to guarantee the people of Tinrodeth that there will be no shortages next year".

William Trueman and Alan Monterey are being accused of pulling a fast one by their fellow councillors after they nominated Maud Blessop and Eva Capel for the Kerun Trade delegate post. Sheriff Griffiths, who was presiding at the nearly empty council session (taking place at the same time as the trial) defended his action in accepting the nominations. Lady Perignon's decree was quite clear and I would be failing my role as Chairman if I had not processed the nominations correctly. To be honest I find it odd that supposedly more experienced Councillors were not ready to give in the nominations. It just shows how complacent the establishment has become."

## The Chronicle of the month of Kryll in the year 145

The city of Nyskilde has fallen to an unexpected attack by the Noord. This shock news arrived with the few ships to escape the raid and reports are still confused, with the fate of envoy Alan Carter remaining unknown. It appears that a large force of longboats led by Prince Konrad vagn Korsbaek entered the harbour and stuck with complete surprise. The King's Navy was already on the move south to overwinter near Tinrodeth and will be unable to respond before the winter ice closes off the city. The merchant Leviathon ran the harbour blockade two days after the loss of the city and its captain reports that the Noord appear to be digging in. It may be that they intend to attempt to hold the city indefinitely. Recent rumours from the Western Isles would suggest Prince Konrad has recently had a number of disputes with his father, so it is hoped that this is an unsanctioned action rather than the beginnings of all out war between the Noordic Nation and the Kingdom of Athion. The Knight Marshal has advised calm and assures Tinrodeth citizens that there is no threat to this city's safety; "Be assured that we will regain Nyskilde in the spring, and that this young adventurer will suffer the same fate as everyone else who has ever been foolish enough to challenge the authority of His Majesty."

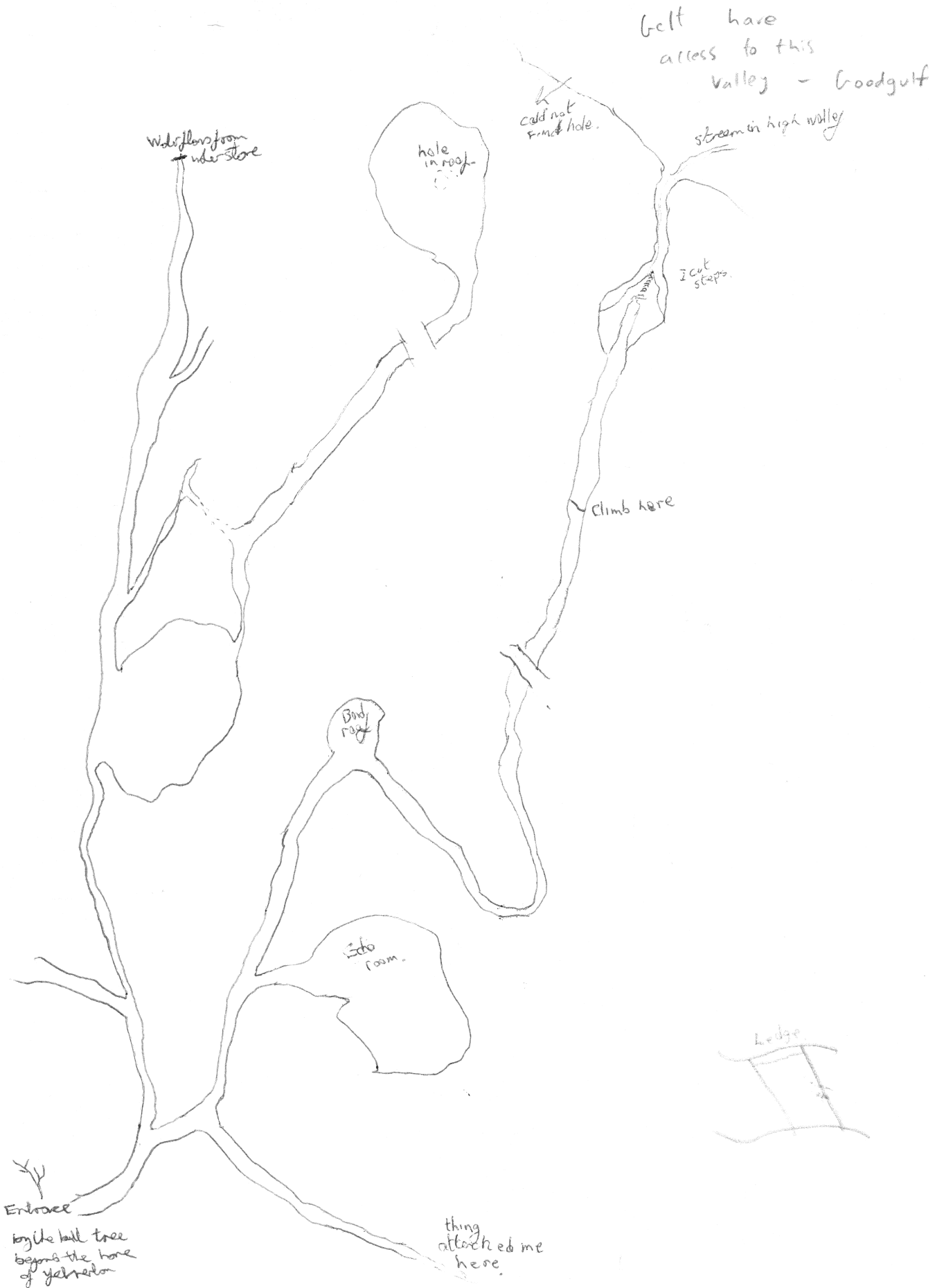
The centre of attention within the city this month was a small cell in the Witanmoot constraining one Cllr Larken Drumm. This appeared to be the focus of an enormous amount of activity with many citizens (supporters, gloaters or the merely curious) attempting to gain sight of the notorious bandit against the orders of the Sheriffs. Substantial amounts of money appear to have changed hands, often for no more than a promise of "seeing what I can do" by Witanmoot staff. So it remains unclear whether any form of escape attempt was forming or if this was just another example of Tinrodeth's fine free market economy in action. In the event, all schemes were quelled by the near permanent encampment of Cllrs Adam Avery and William Trueman outside the prison for the month. On the Fifthday, secondweek this month, Larken Drumm went to his death with dignity expected of a councillor. Facing down the baying mob he proclaimed his innocence from the scaffold and, refusing to be blindfold, laid his head on the block. The traitor's head now adorns Bridge Gate as a warning to others who would betray the trust of the city. The execution was attended by many worthies of the city, all of whom seemed assured of Larken's guilt. Only Leonard Tholin stood by Larken to the end, "The City and Avignon have lost a good man today," he told the Chronicle. However public opinion seems to be running against this view. The masses who had gathered in the dawn light were treated to an unexpectedly rousing speech by Lady Perignon who praised her fellow councillors for helping to defeat this "viper who had insinuated himself into the heart of the city." The massive cheers in response to her promise to "root out corruption and destroy treachery throughout the city," clearly shows the backing of the public for her actions.

The much anticipated civic ball to celebrate the new envoy appointments has had to be unexpectedly cancelled. A clearly embarrassed Lady Perignon has had to announce that the city will not be sending a trade delegate to Keyrun after all. She announced in a written statement to the Trade Committee that the King had overruled her decree and refused Tinrodeth permission to create its own ambassadorial relations with foreign powers, although some sort of trade appointment was possible with the consent of the official Ambassador and the swearing of an oath of fealty. Given this and the events in Nyskilde, it is perhaps a good thing that Cllr Quinn was only nominated and not appointed as the trade envoy to the Western Isles.

The Marcs family of Welland are pleased to announce the acquisition of 'The Phoenix' in Levestone from Gilbert and Elsa Parret. The sum of money involved has not been disclosed but it is understood that the Parrets are looking for a quiet estate upriver. The Phoenix Inn has long had a reputation as a merchant adventurers inn, providing fine wines, food and translation services to suit all budgets. It is understood that this tradition will be continued under the new management, although Carl assures the Chronicle that he will be adding the range of fine beers available at their other pubs, the 'Empty Barrel' in Welland and the 'Hat and Firkin' over in Faringdon. Fellow brewers are reminded that entries are now invited for the annual Beer Festival in Portsoken.



# A map in the Gelt Mountains



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternoost in the year 145

With no more news arriving from Nyskilde, preparations for a spring campaign to free the city from the evil invaders are continuing apace. Much of the King's Navy has been moved into the docks for a re-fitting, whilst other ships brave the weather to protect our city from attack. The road between the City and Kingsport is being kept open by the strenuous efforts of the Kings Infantry. Both the Infantry and the Navy have been carrying out a vigorous recruitment campaign, emphasising the bonus payments and promotion opportunities. Rumours of a full call up of the Marching Watch have not been denied and many of the open areas in the city have become dangerous to cross as citizens refine their archery skills.

The news from Nyskilde has thrown many of the carefully planned election campaigns into disarray. Hawkish factions such as those of "Iron Lady" Beatrice Perignon, and "Crimson" Sheriff Matthew Dixon have been doing well, whilst those who argued against Lady Cox's wise decision to expand the Witanmoot Guard are keeping a low profile. The many attempts by the factions to concentrate on local issues are being ignored as the population searches for the strong, resolute and experienced leadership that it needs. With campaigns on issues faltering many of the factions have turned to sniping at each other. Alan Monterey's attack on Adam Avery and William Trueman was both vitriolic and incisive, accusing both councillors of being more interested political gain than justice in their treatment of the Tarken Drumm trial. Both Avery and Trueman have been caught unprepared by this attack and it has clearly done damage to both of them. Aralan Derwent seems to have stayed out of all this, although not for want of trying. A small queue of young men waiting to hear her opening campaign speech were disappointed to discover that the hall had been double booked and they were, in fact, about the to join a practice session for the Midwinter dancing. Derwent's hunting has also been little in evidence. Only last year's tired cloth is on display after a tired councillor allegedly ordered the wrong colour from her local dyer.

Sheriff Dixon has not been campaigning for the Midwinter elections. In a surprise move he appears to have started his campaign for the Lordship. The Chronicle can reveal that one major faction previously loyal to Beatrice has secretly declared its intention to bring her down. The Chroniclers are accepting the highest bidden donation to the King's war fund to disclose (or to hide) who this is. Meanwhile the noble Sheriff has been seen talking to most of the Aldermen in the City this month, with an interesting line of conversation which seems to be attempting to find out whether they will be any use to him once he's Lord. The Chroniclers' source within the Witanmoot suggests that he may be about to pull off a major recruitment coup. Lady Perignon, however, is clearly unconcerned and has responded by emphasising her experience and long service. In a beautifully crafted public interview she reminisced about her time as Matthew's Campaign Manager, "Plugging Matthew has become something of a tradition" she said.

Retired councillor Richard Firethorn was much in evidence at the opening of the new baths in Avigon. Doug and Lavinda Bloggs, the owners of the restored baths, have told the Chronicle, "We remembered that there used to be a major public bath here, but over the years it fell into disrepair and got built upon. Following the fire we bought the land and were delighted to discover most of the structure had survived intact in the basements of the properties. We hope that our new 'Green Glade Private Baths and Clubhouse will provide a centre around which the prosperity of this area can be rebuilt." One party not too happy with the announcement are the proprietors of the Greengrove Tavern in Temple ward. Alicia Lorrin told the Chronicle, "Our tavern is undoubtedly the oldest in the city, and I find this attempt to cash in on that tradition distasteful."

Residents in Castle Bard have been complaining once again about the antics of the college students. Apparently a group of students has invented a new competition which involves seeing how many snow covered roofs you can climb over before breaking your neck. Despite the obvious disruption this is causing to residents, none of the local councillors could bring themselves to attack the students. The closest we could get to a denunciation was Sue Quinn's comment that their time would probably be better spent studying. The Chronicle thinks that their time would be better spent in the King's Navy.

The Chronicle has learnt of a high level inquiry into Witanmoot security after a street urchin was found in Sheriff Griffiths' office. Rumours persist that the urchin was caught reading through the Sheriffs notes on the defences of the city in the event of a Noordic raid. Certainly Gax the Heretic, and other inhabitants of the orphanage, have already been questioned about the incident. Further details have not been forthcoming and nobody at the Witanmoot was willing to comment.

The private club 'Hunters' is rumoured to be considering banning Cllr Aralan Derwent. Apparently the impetuous councillor got fed up with her failures on the campaign trail and decided to go out for a night on the town. Not satisfied with getting banned from Lady Perignon's civic balls, Aralan descended upon the poshest club in town and indulged herself (and several other attendees) in what one witness described as an outrageous display of immoral behaviour. The ban probably won't take effect, given that a number of the people we spoke to seemed rather more interested in the club hiring Aralan as an understudy to Brandy Bejar. "It was simply spiffing," one said, "Just what we've all been wishing for. Ill wager the rest of those council chaps will be sorry they missed it."

The major docks refurbishment was successfully completed before the final ice closed in. It should put the city's port in a good position to increase its trade in the spring. A large and impromptu celebration by the carpenters, dockers and the ships' crews followed its completion, with Cllr Avery losing no time in providing copious drinks for the celebration of 'his' dock improvements. The event went off fairly smoothly compared to previous dockland binges, however one group of drunken revellers did accidentally manage to release an exotic pet belonging to one of the captains. The creature is apparently not dangerous unless cornered, but it has been creating some disruption on the dockside where it has been seen clambering around rigging, stealing food and vandalising warehouse roofs.

Lady Beatrice has announced plans to throw a Midwinter civic ball to celebrate the first winter for some years not overshadowed by food shortages (and possibly to make up for the abandoned envoy ball). This has also now been thrown into doubt following the death of the chef's wife. An investigation has been launched following the discovery of her body, and the kitchens have been thrown into complete chaos by the distraught chef.

The annual Beer Festival in Portsoken looks like being the largest yet with the hiring of the main Warin warehouse confirmed as the venue. Almost all of the city's master brewers will have representative barrels at the event. This year there will also be a special apprentices' section for the adventurous. Doors open at noon of Kruthos thirdweek seventhday, and will stay open for three further days just to ensure that everyone reaches their desired level of hangover.

The Hahnite Temple has now completed its lengthy re-dedication of the new Law Schools with the unveiling of a central statue of the previous Archimandrite, who is said to be much missed. The occasion marks the re-opening of part of the Temple's law library to the public, as the great re-cataloguing and indexing is now completed. The Pendentites are justly proud of this great work, but remain a tad baffled as to where all the extra books found in storage have come from.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 145

Investigations are continuing into the death of Witanmoot chef's wife after a disastrous start which resulted in three guardmembers undergoing intensive sobering up at the Torian Temple. Tracking the comings and goings of all the friends and staff members of the council buildings is obviously an arduous business, which the guard are treating with their usual due diligence. It is rumoured that suspicion has centred on the trade and consumption of certain unusual substances around the council chamber. It is not thought that these include the chef's range of exotic spices. Yet another rumour doing the rounds of the Witanmoot suggests that the investigation has been quietly dropped by Sheriff Dixon for political reasons.

Cllr Adam Avery has suffered a swift eviction from the family home following the exposure of his affair with a Priestess of Esprayenna. Rumours suggest that he returned from yet another evening out only to discover the door barred and his irate wife in no mood to negotiate. The councillor is now believed to be residing at a nearby inn. Cllr Avery's surpassingly indiscreet affair has been the source of much discussion throughout the city, and many people have begun to wonder just how many of his late night council duties were actually a cover for secret assignments. However, judging from the reaction of most of the people in his faction, these rumours seem to be unfounded. Arianne Pencric has been mumbling regrets that Avery is incapable of facing up to a duel and Alderman Ann Tasker is reported to be livid about Avery's "continuing irresponsibility" and its likely impact upon the election chances of other faction members. Only Osguard Dunn voiced his support for his wayward colleague. "Having met the young lady myself, I can understand Adam's position" he said. The dockers and shippers of Avery's Portsoken ward also appear to be finding the incident amusing, so the wayward councillor may yet be returned to the Witanmoot.

Despite her continuing inability to mount anything approaching a successful campaign, Aralan Derwent's chances of gaining the Aldermanship of Berewic are improving. Her strong line against criminal activity has certainly gone down well with the majority of the population, and her recent aggressive (and apparently Witanmoot-supported) raiding of suspected criminals has done nothing to harm her reputation. However, some people have voiced concerns over her increasingly unpredictable activities. Sheriff Matthew Dixon, in a clear attempt to stop his ally going too far, has placed a watch on Faringdon to keep her away from important witnesses. Alderman Marcus Lambourne, who previously had no idea that he was in a target seat, is reputed to be extremely disconcerted.

The war of words between councillors Alan Monterey and William Trueman shows no signs of abating; Trueman having just launched a major campaign to "put the record straight". Cllr Trueman accused Monterey of having lost touch with the real world, and has been making it quite clear to everyone that without his and Avery's efforts the criminal Drumm would have escaped. This seems to have successfully turned the tide of opinion which was beginning to form against him and Avery. Cllr Monterey has mostly been steering away from the conflict and concentrating on campaigning. However he couldn't stop himself making one swipe back at the easier target of the struggling Avery, whom he described as bloodthirsty and usually responsible when things went wrong.

Complaints have been made to officers of the King's Navy about the vigour of their recruiting campaign now taking place throughout the city. The problem appears to be that it is rather too successful. Although many citizens may be pleased to see the docks and taverns cleared of their crowds of bored adolescents, it appears that some of the young men and women joining up are doing so without the permission of their legal guardian. Some cases have even included apprentices under indenture to influential craftmasters. So far all complaints seem to have been settled informally, but at least two major Guilds are reputed to be considering reprisals should more of their youngsters abscond.

A spokesperson for the Knight Marshall has confirmed recent rumours that a Noord negotiator is currently in residence at the Citadel. In a rare mood of elaboration he added that the Noordic envoy hoped to be allowed to address the Witanmoot and answer councillors' questions, once reasonable precautions for his personal safety were in place. Clearly dubious of the latter, the spokesperson declined to give further details of when this event might take place. It is thought unlikely that a civic ball will be held for the envoy.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

This year's elections seem to indicate a return to stability for the city, if not yet prosperity, as many old names reclaimed their established positions. Miranda Andrews returns to her customary position as Alderman in Cartage, as does Douglas Du Bolay in Arpent and George Rimon in Faringdon. A three way fight took place in Avigon between oldster Suzan Faithside, youngster Samuel Rucche and Leonard Tholin. After a re-count it emerged that most citizens had compromised on cornmonger Leonard Tholin as the best choice for alderman. The returning Hahnite refused to comment on rumours that a substantial proportion of that ward insisted on voting for a dead criminal. As expected, the indiscretions of Adam Avery proved too much for Mary Hastings to defend, and Aralan Derwent returns to the Aldermanship. A solid campaign on top of a year of solid work (not to mention some wild parties) also saw Alan Monterey promoted to the Aldermanship of Tevestone, where he will have some mollifying to do of his staunch supporter Martin Key. Elsewhere the controversial Bernard Hubold held on to his lead in the reconstructed Cripplegate ward, helped enormously by the continued absence of Alan Carter, the missing envoy to Nyskilde. The recently elevated broiderer Sharon Brehon also managed to hang on to her new post, despite a strong challenge from Philip Portman. Among the councillors William Trueman made a strong showing in his first re-election, and Adam Avery also managed to retain his councillorship. Finally, the Chroniclers would like to welcome newcomer Ellana Cressoniere and looks forward to her first Witanmoot speech with interest.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 146

Alderman Ann Tasker has abandoned her own faction and political ambitions and aligned herself with the increasingly influential Alderman Alan Monterey. Alderman Tasker who is known to have had talks with a number of powerful people over the last few months commented. "'I've long admired the way Alan has taken the lead in facing up to the City's problems and am delighted to be joining his team'". However not everybody is happy with Alderman Monterey, especially it would seem ex-Alderman Martin Key who has quietly moved to sit with the new grouping forming around Ellana Cressoniere.

Plans for the Noordic envoy to address the Witanmoot are now nearly complete. The ambassador will travel amid strict security, and is expected to address a closed session of the council for about an hour. Rumours from the Citadel suggest that negotiations are going well, however the Kings Navy still appears to continuing preparations for a major campaign to regain the city of Nyskilde in the spring. There are a large number of troop carrying ships being prepared, and the lengthy meeting between Sheriff Matthew Dixon and Sir Henry Longbridge has led to concerns that Inrodeth would be required to provide a force to travel north. Reg Marc has announced last months beer festival to be a resounding success. "'The quality of the bears on tap was marvellous,'" he commented. Our reporter Chinon Starsinger agreed so much that his report on the event has yet to be received. With nearly every brewer in the city making an entry this was a unique opportunity to sample the best (and the worst) the City has to offer.

Adam Avery seems to have occupied himself away from the Witanmoot this month, perhaps it was the desire to avoid all the 'helpful' suggestions from his colleagues or the embarrassment of being abandoned by Ann Tasker, but Adam popped in only long enough to make a few nominations and disappeared again before anyone could corner him for a conversation about the forthcoming Lordship elections. On the home front the Cllr's attempts to talk to his estranged wife are providing hours of fun for the crowd of onlookers which has gathered near his residence. Rumour has it that the couple have met on neutral ground at Aunty Beatrice's, but that Adam has yet to be forgiven for his escapades with the Priestess.

Nominations for the various committees have followed the same pattern of returning to safe and known options which were seen in the Council elections. Alison Shefford was once again unopposed and retains her now customary place as Treasurer, whilst her great friend Olivia Warin returned surprisingly uncontested to her position as Trade Chair. Jemma Down also took the Lands & Agriculture chairmanship without a contest. By contrast, Shipping and Law and Order look set to turn into major fights with three contestants going for each. As expected, Aralan Derwent will be challenging Ann Tasker for the Law and Order seat, in what may well turn out to be a precursor for the lordship elections in a few years time. Shipping will also be strongly fought, although Elliott Anderson may once again benefit from a three way split in the vote. Amongst the Envoys Susan Faithside is attempting to move from Cascorach to the more influential Salvoyn post, and has opened up an interesting contest for Cascorach in the process. Finally and perhaps not surprisingly, nobody seemed willing to challenge Alan Carter for Nyskilde.

Treasury	Shefford
Trade	Warin
Law & Order	Jholin, Derwent, Tasker
Shipping	Anderson, Martel, Romanie
Welfare & Education	Andrews, Fytton
Land & Agriculture	Downe
Salvoyn	Faithside, Travers, Hastings
Cascorach	Quinn, Key, Dunn
Eresan	Martel
Nyskilde	Carter

## The City Guilds

The chartered and liveried guilds of Tinrodeth are:

The Worshipful Company of Mercers  
The Worshipful Company of Grossers  
The Worshipful Company of Cornmongers  
The Worshipful Company of Dairiers  
The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers  
The Worshipful Company of Meatmongers  
The Worshipful Company of Poulterers  
The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers  
The Worshipful Company of Bakes & Pastriers  
The Worshipful Company of Drapers & Tailors  
The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers & Weavers  
The Worshipful Company of Dyers  
The Worshipful Company of Skinners & Leathersellers  
The Worshipful Company of Saddlers & Harnessers  
The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths  
The Worshipful Company of Armourers  
The Worshipful Company of Bowyers  
The Worshipful Company of Fletchers  
The Worshipful Company of Masons  
The Worshipful Company of Carpenters  
The Worshipful Company of Coopers  
The Worshipful Company of Woodturners

The Worshipful Company of Vintners  
The Worshipful Company of Brewers & Hostellers  
The Worshipful Company of Apothecaries  
The Worshipful Company of Broiderers & Tapissers  
The Worshipful Company of Glaziers  
The Worshipful Company of Painters  
The Worshipful Company of Plasterers  
The Worshipful Company of Scriveners  
The Worshipful Company of Chandlers  
The Worshipful Company of Watermen's  
The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights  
The Worshipful Company of Thatchers

The Worshipful Company of Thatchers was granted a guild charter during Heliora 138.

The Shipwrights are the only guild based north of the river. They have always worked just outside the City because of the fire hazard of their wood stands.

Mercers are travelling traders who sell 'by the balance', i.e., smaller scale goods. Grossers are travelling traders selling 'by the beam' or wholesale.

Weights and Measures are maintained by particular guilds: lengths by the Clothworkers; weight by the Armourers; volume by the Coopers and alloy quality by the Goldsmiths.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 146

Despite a large hostile crowd, the Noordic envoy's address to the Witanmoot went ahead without any major incidence. A very strong showing by the Witanmoot Guard quickly dealt with anyone who stepped out of line, and effectively quelled any attempt to interfere with the envoy. Once within the chamber the envoy faced an equally hostile audience, and on a few occasions the guard had to step in to defend the envoy from irate councillors demanding the freeing of Nyskilde. However once the envoy overcame the initial barracking, he made an impressive speech sympathising fully with the concerns of the guilds, and deploring the action the young Noordic prince who has led the raid on Athionic lands. The envoy voiced the concern of the Noordic King that this should not be regarded as anything like an officially sanctioned expedition, and expressed a sincere belief that the raiders would depart peacefully if he was permitted the opportunity speak with them.

His Majesty King Edmund has announced a revision of the city's taxation. This will mean a lower taxes in the years to come, in return for increased assistance to His Majesty's Nyskilde campaign this year. It is not clear if this 'debt rescheduling' was being sought by the Witanmoot treasury. Although rumours lobbying by Lady Perignon and Sheriff Dixon have been rife, few details of the actual proposals put forward have leaked and it is to the credit of both that they have continued to co-operate and not turned this vital matter into a campaign issue. The only dissenting voice has been Kennet Maxil, who told us, "I believe that the deal means that the next Dragonfeast will not be held in Linrodeth. It's terrible that we have thrown away the reputation build up by our magnificent success with the last Dragonfeast". The only other person willing speak on the matter was Alderman Bernard Hubold, who expressed his pleasure that "His Majesty has had the wisdom to scrap the daft scheme cooked up by the Witanmoot last year."

The Chronicle is pleased to report a reconciliation between Cllr Adam Avery and his long suffering wife. The couple are believed to have settled their differences over dinner in a private room at Maud Blessop's. The unusually quiet clientele earwigged desperately for sounds of raised voices and plummeting crockery, but had to make to be content with the presence in the main room of Aralan Derwent entertaining the departing Orissian delegation. Cllr Avery, who is obviously delighted to be back home, is now believed be attempting to put together the tattered remain of his once powerful political grouping. It will be interesting see if he recruits quite so many women this time.

The traditional first sign of spring has appeared late this year as Cllr Randy Parkinson delayed usual warning against dumping frozen beggars in the Ishtan. "These late frosts are a serious concern," he the Chronicle, "many of the beggars will be caught by them and we risk having their thawing bodies cluttering up the streets." Despite this he urged citizens to take the time and effort to do the job properly and carry the corpses out to the marshes.

Whilst Cllr Adam Avery has been concentrating upon dining at Maud Blessop's, his faction seem have taken to holding their meetings at Reg Marc's Empty Barrel. It's good to see them still working together, and the Chronicle is sure that the fact they chose the venue where they were most likely to meet other faction leaders was purely coincidental.

Alderman Alan Monterey and his fellow 'new radicals' have spent the last few weeks touring the burnt out wards. Whilst this obvious interest in the wards' plight was initially welcomed, it soon became clear that the main purpose of the survey was to report to Alison Shefford on the wards' ability to survive a tax hike. Needless to say, the good citizens of Cripplegate were not too keen when the assessors showed up, and Alderman Monterey spent most of his time trying to persuade Alderman Hubold of good intentions.

The Floating Market has pre-empted Dowgate this year by managing to burn a substantial part itself through the ice. A communal bonfire in the Cursors section of the slum got out of control during an equally communal fistfight, with the result that part of the river ice has experienced an early thaw. Citizens are advised not to skate immediately upriver of the bridge, where an alarmingly large crack has appeared.



## Election Results:

This year's committee elections have proved to be an interesting precursor to the Lordship elections. In the Law and Order election Leonard Tholin, backed by both the Dixon and Perignon factions, solidly defeated both Aralan Derwent and Ann Tasker. Most observers believe that his success is based mostly the desire of the main factions to please newcomer Ellana Cressoniere. The powerful Perignon faction gave Tholin their full support and Dixon even managed to persuade Aralan Derwent not to vote for herself. Ellana certainly playing a close hand and her abstention in all the other votes will have told the potential Lords very little. In the Shipping Election the Dixon backed candidate (Anderson) secured a clear win a result that was carried through to the Welfare & Education votes. Whether these results will also be reflected in the vote for the Lord of the city remains to be seen, however the Perignon faction has always been better known for strength amongst the common councillors and its inability to carry these committee votes does not auger for the continuance of Lady Perignon's lordship.

Law & Order	Tholin	14	BP, MD, EA, MR, SB, BB, NW, GD, AP, JI, AF, AD, DdB, T
	Derwent	4	AG, MA, BH, OW
	Tasker	6	AT, GH, GR, EM, AM, AS
Shipping	Anderson	17	MD, AG, EA, MA, SB, AT, BB, GH, GD, GR, BH, OW, EM, AM, AS, JI, AD
	Martel	-	
	Romanie	6	BP, MR, NW, AP, AF, DdB
Welfare & Ed	Andrews	13	MD, AG, EA, MR, MA, SB, BB, GD, BH, OW, AP, JI, AD
	Fytton	10	BP, AT, NW, GH, GR, EM, AM, AS, AF, DdB
Salvoyn	Faithside	10	AG, MA, AT, GH, GR, BH, OW, EM, AM, AS
	Travers	7	MD, EA, SB, BB, GD, JI, AD
	Hastings	6	BP, MR, NW, AP, AF, DdB
Cascorach	Quinn	4	AG, MA, BH, OW
	Key	2	MD, EA
	Dunn	11	BP, MR, SB, BB, NW, GD, AP, JI, AF, AD, DdB

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 146

The King's Navy has become the focus of frantic activity as it prepares to move out once the river thaws. Substantial quantities of provisions have been ordered from the city guilds, and most are being delivered via a steady stream of wagons moving down the cleared road. However, the captains are having some trouble with the supply of other items which have been ordered through the Mercers and Grossers Guilds. These guilds claim to have the goods ready, but are apparently unable to pinpoint their exact location. The 'mislaid' goods appear to be related to the problem of the 'missing' indentured apprentices which Navy has had so much trouble locating. An impatient Admiral Greystoke has publicly declared that he will commander all the harbour warehouse goods rather than allow the fleet to be delayed. However, rumours reaching the Chroniclers suggest that confidential negotiations are proceeding apace. Meanwhile the esteemed Noordic envoy is packing in order to accompany the Admiral. Speculation that a certain Noordic-speaking sheriff might again be packed off to Nyskilde at short notice was stopped after the Citadel issued an official disclaimer.

This year's budget looks set to become an undignified scramble for slush funds even as our councillors attempt to deflect the blame for last years overspend. Cllr Monterey's proposal that the excess prison charges be met from surplus looked to be passed without comment until news arrived that the Docks project had also overspent. A revitalised Cllr Avery attempted to distract attention from the latter; "As I have commented in the past, this City's policy of jailing debtors is shortsighted, expensive and counter-productive as an imprisoned debtor can never work to pay off the debt. I wonder how much of the £57 overspend on behalf of Law & Order is due to imprisoning debtors? This lunacy must stop. While the Council's mind focused on this overspend, I would like to propose the following motion for consideration and voting next month:

That, in cases of debt brought before Aldermanic Courts where the debtor is an inhabitant of the City, the Alderman presiding shall give full and formal consideration to repayment schemes not involving the imprisonment of the debtor and that any sentence involving imprisonment of the debtor shall be accompanied by a detailed description of why no repayment scheme was considered viable. However, we have not learnt this lesson fast enough, and £57 must be found. I urge the Council to vote for the payment of this money from reserves." The Council agreed and authorised the payment from surplus on the nod.

Business then moved on to the matter of the Docks, where it emerged that the extra £82 for the docks comes from the increased cost of the seasoned hardwood in the wake of the re-fitting of the King's Navy. The Carpenters Guild have submitted the bill to the Council since it is in excess of the budget for this project last year. No-one else has yet authorised the spend. Alderman Shefford, with evident reluctance, has proposed that the excess is paid from surplus. She also took the opportunity to announce the main budget proposals will take place during Jasmarrill in order to "respond appropriately to the outcome of the Lordship elections".

Citizens have been warned to be on their guard following a sharp increase in the number of muggings in the ward of Ishtan. "It's clearly the work of an organised gang" commented Alderman Elliott Anderson, "and the watch will get them in the end". Alderman Anderson denied rumours that the watch had been paid off the muggers; "there was one unfortunate incident where the watch failed to respond effectively to a hue and cry. However I have looked into the matter and it was an unavoidable effect of the circumstances in which they found themselves." he said. Sheriff Griffiths commented, "These muggings are another facet of the spread of crime into the city. Following the fire many criminals from the floating market found new homes in the city, and new crime gangs have sprouted up from the ashes of the burn out wards. As Sheriff I put the safety of the people of Linrodeth first and I will make the suppression of this crime wave my highest priority."

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The annual flowerfest and dancing were rudely interrupted this year with the arrival in all wards of the Perignon bandwagons, strolling minstrels and election bunting. Onlookers expecting a free show were somewhat confused by the vigorous exhortations to get along to the Mootstone without delay. Those curious enough to obey joined a record throng gathered to hear Sheriff Matthew Dixon embark on an uncharacteristic epic speech:

"People of Tinrodeth, hear me speak, for shortly your aldermen will be voting on who should be the next Lord of the City. It is right, therefore, for me to share my beliefs with you so that you might advise your aldermen on your opinions and considered viewpoints."

"I believe that this city is beautiful. Not just the Temples, not just the Witanmoot, but the whole city, from its mansions to the lowliest hovel, from the heights of Faringdon to the depths of the river, from the Citadel to Castle Bard."

"I believe this city has earned, is earning, and will to continue to earn its rightful place in history. There has been a city here for hundreds of years. During the civil war we were the base of the King's operations and now we are the Capital."

"But most of all, I believe in this city. Not the buildings, not its history, but its people. And I don't mean only the Aldermen and the Councillors, but every one who lives in this great city of ours."

"This election is not about the past, nor even the present, it is about the future. Do we want to live in a future where we lose our dignity and pride, a city where thieves and murderers prosper? a city which can't be bothered to protect itself from marauders, can't even become roused to save itself from fire, a city which relies on the throne to save it?"

"Or do we want a city which protects its citizens from injustice, both from without and from within, a city which can help the throne, a city of which we can be proud?"

"But there are no threats! I hear you cry. Baahh! All bet that's what the people of Nyskilde said before their city was attacked by Renegade Noord led by an ambitious prince. And now they are forced to ask the King for aid in restoring their freedoms!"

"How would Tinrodeth have fared if they had attacked us?"

"Badly! Oh, we would have defeated them what with Witanmoot Guard, the untried Marching Watch and the regiments at the Citadel. But, at what cost? The invaders would have entered the city within hours due to the incomplete city walls and levelled the city. Your home, my home, indeed everyone's home would go in a conflagration that would make the fire seem like a minor backyard bonfire!"

"I hear some of you blaming the floating market for this situation. HAH. The floating market is next to one of the best sections of the wall, and it is my belief that without them, the invaders would be inside the city within minutes. With them, Dowgate and the upriver wards would be protected."

"The future can be secure and prosperous, but we must work to achieve this. I have several plans that I believe will bring that secure future closer to us all."

"Firstly, I will work to complete the city walls. I will act to ensure that all inhabitants of this city feel that they are a part of this city."

"I will act to bring up the training levels of the Marching Watch. Since the civil war the Marching Watch has been called up exactly once - to fight the fire. I intend to call up the Marching Watch annually and have it train for one day in that year."

"We need to complete the rebuilding of the wards so badly affected by the fire."

"I will act, to protect this city and lead it into a bright new future. Thank you."

The crowd broke into wild applause which may have had much to do with the presence nearby of his self-appointed campaign manager surveying the results of her work. Later in the day, Matthew Dixon was elected to the post of Lord Chief Magistrate *nem com*.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 146

Lord Dixon has, much to the appreciation of the rest of the Witanmoot, restored the traditional Civic Ball in celebration of his election. The event followed the traditional format; mixing style and grace with licentious and decadent behaviour. Alan Monterey stunned the assembly with his elegance and sharp wit. However, his entourage of hopeful ladies were due for a disappointment if they thought they could get past Ann Tasker who was, as we are coming to expect, the only Lady Alan was interested in. The jilted Alison Shefford spent the evening talking to Adam Avery, which given her mood is not going to help Adam shed his womanising reputation. One person who is regretting noticing these events is Ellana Cressoniere. Her snide comment to Emily Martel about Monterey's harem lead to an immediate challenge from the outraged Martel who was at pains to point out that she was only interested in Alan's radical agenda. Lord Dixon managed to remain above all this and seems to be rapidly adapting to the role of Overlord. Mind you, given the imaginative motions he dumped on the hungover councillors the following morning, it's difficult to see how Alan Monterey's policies can be described as anything other than mundane.

Lord Dixon has placed a number of motions before the Council, these include a punitive law preventing people from voting if they had not paid the new house tax. In defence of this outrageous imposition, Lord Dixon told the Witanmoot that any moneys raised this year would go to the areas of the city affected by the fire. It will be interesting to see if the rest of the council backs him in this unpopular move. Lord Dixon has however taken no chances with his desire to improve the defence of the City and has issued the following decree "Be it known that the Marching Duty will be called to training on the Last Day Second Week of Menderal. The first Ward to complete its assembly once the Witanmoot Bell is tolled on that day will be treated to a round of drinks by Lord Dixon. The Watch which in the opinion of the judges, makes the best impression during the day of training will also be treated to a round of drinks by Lord Dixon".

Anger has been growing over Lady Perignon's parting decree pardoning Ferdinand Lansdowne. Many citizens have been calling for Lord Dixon to oppose the decree. Richard Saunders has gone further, "The young man is a traitor and should have been hung in the first place. It was only his mother's connections which saved him then, and his pardoning now is utterly unacceptable. If the fool returns to the city Lord Dixon should use his powers to carry out the execution which should have taken place years ago."

Concerns have been raised over the recent surveying of the Ward of Ishtan by Witanmoot officials. Worried that they are preparing a plan for a new city wall, many citizens have been distressed to discover that their properties may be on the wrong side of the line, or worse, underneath it.

Lord Dixon has provided the Chronicle with an exclusive and far-ranging interview. He told our reporter that he was "surprised by the strength of his election result" although he felt that Lady Beatrice "had not done enough for the city" to justify her re-election. He said that he would be doing a lot more and that he intended to enact "New and Radical Policies of his own". He confirmed his intention to complete the City wall and to enable the city to "re-establish its reserves". Turning to Council politics he promised problems for those who had failed to support him. He specifically commented on last year's elections and told us that he has "not forgiven those who did a last minute change" and that he had "no respect for those who put self interest ahead of that of the city".

It seems that the Council's budget has been thrown into turmoil this year by a whole host of conflicting amendments brought forward by (amongst others) Adam Avery and William Trueman. The debate has gone on so long that the budget has still not formally been set. Frustrated Treasurer Alison Shefford commented that, "the budget is a carefully crafted and intricately connected artefact which should not be meddled with by amateurs who can't add up". In the other votes this month the shipping overspend was agreed despite Aralan Derwent's opposition, whilst the Avery Debtors motion was passed without amendment.

First ships into port this spring were *La Trivulziana* with silk, *Le Cygne* with grain and the *Pietra Palera* with a cedar and ivory cargo. Tinrodeth also welcomes the return of the Vespasian players from a prolonged season in Kerun.

## Battle of Nyskilde Special Report

Prince Kieran has achieved an incredible victory over the Noordic invaders of Nyskilde. The Chronicle is proud to be able to reproduce a detailed record of these events penned by our special correspondent.

"His Royal Highness Prince Kieran spent the days before the momentous Battle in careful study of the northern lands. Kieran determined that the weather was about to turn, and that the Noord were preparing to fire the city of Nyskilde and leave. Kieran determined that he could force Konrad of the Western Isles to give battle, if he were to fire the Noord ships drawn up under the western promontory. The Prince sorrowed at the suffering of the people of Nyskilde, and exhorted his troops to give of their best in the conflict.

"Kieran divided his forces into six battles, under his most senior captains. One force was detached to hold the coast road, and pin the Noord in the coastal tower. The second force, commanded by Prince Kieran went to attack the Noord ships drawn up on the foreshore. The third force was detailed to cover the flanks of the attack. A fourth force was deployed to ambush the coast road. Two more forces, led by David Myddfai, Colonel of the King's Rangers, were deployed in the woods above the Eastern road out of Nyskilde. Accompanying the King's Rangers were the Nyskilde Duchy Militia who had bravely volunteered to serve. Kieran's force attacked the Noord ships and their defenders, and simultaneously a group of Noord warriors from Nyskilde were ambushed on the road. As the ships began to burn, Konrad's forces began to straggle out of Nyskilde. The first wave of Noord crossed the eastern ford, and were attacked by Myddfai's King's Rangers. The Rangers slaughtered the first wave of Noord, and then deliberately withdrew in front of the oncoming mass of the Noord army.

"Kieran's troops took the tower on the Western Promontory, and some of them set about the long ships with axes. The smoke from the fires of the burning longships drifted up into the winter sky. As signal to advance was sounded, the remaining troops of Kieran's army formed up along the banks of the Deepening River. Drawn on by Kieran's brilliant feint, the Noord army advanced between the fords. On command, the King's Rangers opened fire with a withering rain of arrows, and one thousand of the enemy fell. The Noord wavered at this time, and several hours passed while Konrad tried to rally his men. Finally, Konrad deployed his banner in the centre of his household troops, and forced all his unwilling allies to march in front to cover his advance. Then the Noord army charged between the fords.

"Once more the archers of the King's Rangers opened fire, and once more the several hundred Noord fell under the withering fire. The huscarles of Konrad's house charged, and waded through the torrents of the Deepening River against the 1st Regiment of the King's Rangers. The King's Rangers held firm, repulsed the attack and the Noord fell back in the muddy water. Once again Konrad forced his household troops on. Once again the Noord waded through the torrent. The King's Rangers were waiting, and inspired by Prince Kieran slaughtered their opponents. Kieran ordered his archers to shoot high, and over the heads of the huscarles. Hiding at the rear, Konrad fell injured. A final thrust by the King's Rangers and the Noord huscarles broke in rout, and ran through the Deepening river. The King's Rangers streamed across the ford in pursuit, and the Noord army fled as they saw the King's Rangers putting the cream of Konrad's household to flight. Konrad tried to hold the Eastern ford, but Prince Kieran and the King's Rangers reached them and once again superior bow fire took its toll. The Noord ran in terror to Nyskilde and tried to make good their escape. In the pursuit, the Navarch of the Western Isles, who masterminded the attack on Nyskilde, was captured in personal combat by David Myddfai. After the battle, Konrad's body was found and his raven banner was presented to Prince Kieran. When the pyre was built between the two rivers, over three thousand Noord bodies were burnt. Over forty of the invading long ships were destroyed, and another 50 were captured. The roll of honour for Prince Kieran's army listed 121 of the Nyskilde Duchy Militia who had bravely given their lives for the Kingdom, and 87 of the King's Rangers who died during the campaign.

On that fateful evening, Prince Kieran raised his father's standard over his own on the western promontory facing out to the Western Isles, and ready to welcome his father's fleet. Then he entered Nyskilde to the acclaim of the entire citizenry.

## A map of Linrodeth



- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Castle Bard | 12. Levestone |
| 2. Temple      | 13. Bridge    |
| 3. Oldgate     | 14. Portsoken |
| 4. Avigon      | 15. Shambles  |
| 5. Cripplegate | 16. Welland   |
| 6. Faringdon   | 17. Kingsgate |
| 7. Dowgate     | 18. Cadene    |
| 8. Berewic     | 19. Cartage   |
| 9. Arpent      | 20. Dracas    |
| 10. Marshgate  | 21. Ishtan    |
| 11. Bassishaw  |               |

On the far side of the river, west of the bridge, lies the port and docks, while the area to the east of the bridge on the far side lies the slums and tosh heaps.

In the very centre of the City surrounding the Mootstone lies the Witanmoot, the seat of the City's governance.

Adjacent to the wards of Dracas and Ishtan and dominating the river is the Citadel, the residence of his majesty the King of Athion.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 146

Frenzied attempts to push through an orderly budget before the Midsummer muster and sheriff nominations has resulted in Lord Dixon postponing the vote on Land Registration. This may not help the majority of councillors trying to read the small print for changes while keeping track of which version they are on. Fortunately the overall budget split has been passed, with Trueman withdrawing his amendments for that stage and the Avery amendment being defeated with a sizeable majority. Yet more parchment is now circulating with the individual committee budget proposals. One Alderman who seems to have opted to ignore the process entirely is Elliott Anderson, who has completely failed to produce proposals from the Shipping Committee. The Trueman and Cressoniere controlled committees have proved to be active participants with a number of amendments, despite various incidents which have resulted in both faction leaders retiring to the Torian Infirmary. Concern is also growing at the current whereabouts of Aralan Derwent who has gone missing just before the opening of nomination for the Sheriff elections, in which she was expected to do well. Citizens with any information or sightings of the Berewic alderman are asked to contact the Witanmoot Guard before they come looking for you.

The Journey Fields, on a brisk summer morning, was the location for Councillors Emily Martel and Ellana Cressoniere to meet to settle a point of honour. The event was well attended by many Witanmoot members, and Lady Beatrice led a sizeable contingent of court ladies from the Citadel. One conspicuous absence was Cllr Alan Monterey, the cause of all the trouble in the first place. The two duellists turned out to be very evenly matched, with fast and stylish bladework throughout the first few minutes. The exchange began to work in Ellana's favour with Emily losing ground, until a particularly risky and flamboyant attack by Emily forced Ellana back onto the defensive and drew applause from the onlookers. Cressoniere's next attack was the first to draw blood with a light cut, but again this seems to provoke an improved level of fencing from her opponent. A second acrobatic attack from Martel was less successful and left her off-balance but Cressoniere, obviously suspecting a trap, failed to take advantage of the slip. The duel then became much quieter, eventually causing some heckling from the crowd which provoked Martel to a returning cut on her opponent. Both councillors then launched into a furious exchange which left both women wounded, at this point the Torians stepped in and halted the fight. The duel was declared to be an honourable draw.

Proclamations have just arrived from His Majesty King Edmund who has announced his intention to hold the next Dragonfeast in Nyskilde. The move will come as a blow to many of Tinrodeth's merchants who felt that the outstanding success of the last Dragonfeast would have enable Tinrodeth to establish itself as the natural location of this important event. Siliniel Falgar told the Chronicle "I'm devastated, Tinrodeth should never have given up its agreement to hold the feast. It's just once again an example of councillors putting short term gain ahead of the long term future of this City" Donal Lanark, the envoy from Nyskilde, expressed his delight "I hope that many of Tinrodeth's merchants will travel to our city for this momentous event. His Majesty has made a very wise decision which will enable us to demonstrate to the world our recovery from the recent invasion."

Concern is growing over arson in the wards of Cripplegate and Faringdon. The attacks seem to be an attempt by the original residents to force out many of the people who have taken the opportunity of free land to establish makeshift homes. One fire was definitely perpetrated by a mob of about 30 people chanting "Back to the river" and "scum go home". Bernard Hubold told the Chronicle "I deplore people taking the law into their own hands but it is, I am afraid, an understandable reaction. Although many of the new settlers have established honest businesses it's an unfortunate fact that we have also acquired a lot of criminals. With the restrictions the Witanmoot have placed upon my watch there is very little we can do to get rid of them"

More merchant ships are returning from Nyskilde, including several which had overwintered there during the invasion. Descriptions of a bloody and destructive occupation are numerous, although there is little information on individuals as yet, much to the concern of many merchant families. Also in port is an unexpected



arrival, the Barracuda from Hadabrynn with a cargo of spices, paints, perfumes and many other substances which are proving difficult for the city officials to classify and tax. The Apothecaries guild is said to be "ecstatic", which may at least account for the properties of one of the powders.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 146

Alison Shefford's efforts on this year's budgets have been very successful, with only minor amendments to the Welfare & Education budget to accommodate at the committee stages. In the event, both the Trueman amendments and the separate committee budgets were passed nem com. This left the agenda clear to discuss the topic closest to Lord Dixon's heart; the upcoming muster of the Marching Watch, which continues to overshadow the Midsummer feast and indeed has resulted in mainly foreign merchants booking the few stands allowed to remain on the Journey Field close by the city wall. Less dear to Lord Dixon's heart will be the motion, passed overwhelmingly by full council, that a full standing watch remains in the ward during the muster. He also looked less than pleased at the news that Lady Perignon and her entourage are organising seating and refreshments for Citadel residents atop the walls. At least Eorlaine Cox has been diplomatic enough to retire to the country while the City ties itself in knots.

More detailed news has reached us from Nyskilde and its lands, and it seems that the occupation took a deadly toll of the more senior and distinguished names, with many merchant families having suffered the execution of the head of their houses. The Chroniclers are saddened to have to break the news that Envoy Alan Carter was amongst the elders executed by the Noord in their traditional manner. Evan Carter, who now inherits the business with two minor siblings, has already begun a compensation claim from the Witanmoot, citing inadequate security at the Envoys' halls as a major factor in his father's capture and execution. Of the city itself, most of the warehouses around the port have been destroyed, as have large sections of the city wall. Fortunately heavy snow prevented the Noord from reaching far into the surrounding countryside, and the lands and castles there have remained untouched. His Majesty the King has already ordered large portions of the country grain stores to be transported to the city, and has sent word to grain traders in his other cities to ship food to Nyskilde as speedily as possible.

Investigations into the continued disappearance of Alderman Derwent continue, with her household claiming that she took ship for Nyskilde suddenly last month. This appears to contradict several independent reports of her presence in Orissa, and the discovery of a headless body wearing Aralan's distinctive black and white leathers which was uncovered at a building site in Faringdon last week. Her entire household has been taken into custody and it appears that a number of allegedly stolen goods have been retrieved from concealed sites around her house.

Offr Avery has called for a full investigation into the mysterious disappearance during a night of thick river fog of the entire watch crew posted on the Sestiga from Kerun. The alarm was raised by a returning crew member in the early morning of eightday firstweek, and anyone who noticed anything unusual that night is asked to get in touch with Alderman Worton.

Speculation over the private life of Alan Monterey continues this month after yet another episode in the prolonged and extremely public wooing of Alderman Ann Tasker. Diners at Maud Blessop's eatery were once again fascinated by the charm and wit brought to play on one of this year's sheriff nominees. Alderman Monterey does not of course have to account to spouse or family for his actions, but his courtship does not seem to be going down too well with Alderman Shefford, another nominee and a very longstanding stalwart of the Monterey faction. Bets are already being placed on the repercussions should either or both fail to achieve their ambitions this year. The Chroniclers suspect this will be as nothing to Lord Dixon's problems should both of them take charge of the Witanmoot Guard.

Alderman Shefford has been having a bad day all round with renewed disputes between her ward and the students of the College over the current location of the ward's boundary stone. The 'Demon's Turd', which normally rests outside the house of Widow Kele, was removed by a large group of revellers last Thirddnight, and is rumoured to have become a central piece in the students' end of term art display. Provosts of the college have been sympathetic but none too helpful, and have refused the ward watch permission to enter the

college to retrieve the stone or to conduct investigations within its walls. Alderman Shefford is now reduced to undignified negotiations for the stone's return, in the hope that it will not be too badly altered to put on public view.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The Midsummer festival this year took place without much of the traditional fair, as many of Tinrodeth's citizen's prepared for the full muster on the Journey Fields. Minor celebrations were still carried out around the temples, and on the fields where Gax's orphanage set up their traditional refreshment tent among the foreign traders. By late morning most of the ward squads had formed up and had begun the long march, well queue really, towards the mustering point. Berewic was somewhat delayed by the absence of their alderman, until matters were firmly taken in hand by Ilith Iansdowne. Levestone watch was also in considerable shambles, partly due to Elizabeth Dixon who decided to assume command of one squad, but mostly due to Brandy Bejar whose minimalist leather hunting outfit proved more disruptive than a Noordic longship. Cripplegate and then Kingsgate were the first wards to assemble on the field, but all wards had managed to turn out by lunchtime whereupon Lord Dixon gave in to widespread calls for a picnic lunch.

Interested observers at this point were able to see the numerous 'special units' that also traditionally respond to the calling of a marching watch; specifically the cavalry of the Knights Templars and Knights Hospitallers, and the armoury unit from the Brynette Temple. The college Provosts also led groups of about a dozen students, but since all of these were unarmed it is difficult to see what their purpose could be. The Witanmoot Guard, on this occasion, was dispersed among the ward watches. An extra unit, apparently composed of ragged warriors from different parts of the Floating Market, formed an uneasy group off near the fringes of the marsh. Sightings of this unit by the members of Dowgate provoked the first incident of the day, which looked set to become a pitched battle until Lord Dixon sent in the Knights Hospitallers to keep them apart.

Several more incidents occurred during the form-up just after lunch, when rival factions amongst the wards, mostly on the east side of the city, looked set to degenerate into a wider melee. Ruthless interventions by the Witanmoot Guard eventually restored order, but not before another hour had passed by. Fortunately these incidents provided both the time and the incentive to clear the children back to the sidelines, and the squads formed up enough for Lord Dixon to risk some elementary manoeuvres across the flat land. Here, sadly, coordination went badly wrong, much to the delight of the Citadel watchers. After Cadene, Cartage and Dracas disentangled, Lord Dixon called a halt and conducted an inspection instead. Drinks for the most complete turn-out were awarded to the small Castle Bard watch, while Arpent won praise for being the best turned out. At this point a dark column of smoke was seen rising from within the city, and Lord Dixon gave permission for the Marshgate and Avignon wards to disperse and investigate (it turned out to be from a large garden bonfire), before calling out phased dismissal for the rest of the citizens.

Fortunately the late summer evening meant that all aldermen still had an opportunity to vote in the sheriffs' election, even after the muster stood down. An extremely tired and unusually quiet Aldermanic Court convened to hear the result announced at sunset:

du Bolay	NW, AF, DdB, I
Derwent	EA, SB, BB, GD, JI, I
Griffiths	AG, MA, BH, OW
Shefford	EA, AG, MA, BH, OW, A, GH, GR, AM, AS, MR, AP, EM
Tasker	A, GH, GR, AM, AS, SB, BB, GD, JI, MR, AP, EM

Alison Shefford and Ann Tasker are therefore elected to serve as Sheriffs of Tinrodeth for the coming year. Nominations for the posts of Aldermen in the wards of Castle Bards and Kingsgate are now open. The validity of nominations for Berewic ward will be ruled on when Lord Dixon recovers, say in about a week.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 146

Alderman Alice Fytton of the Ward of Dowgate has formally tabled a motion of censure against Lord Dixon demanding that he be placed on trail for gross misconduct. Alderman Fytton told the Chronicle "Lord Dixon's association with the criminals in the Floating Market has always been a concern to us in Dowgate, but we never dreamed he would use the Witanmoot Guard to support one of the crimelords. I have it on very reliable information that twenty members of the guard led by Major Aldridge himself without the knowledge of the Sheriffs, assisted the alien Solistel and Babel in an unprovoked attack upon the Cursos. This is an astounding abuse of power for which he must be held to account." A different view of the incident has been put forward by Guard who claim that the assault was in response to a raid by the slum upon the Witanmoot which resulted in the death of a number of guards and the theft of important documents. Unfortunately this has not been seen as an adequate reason by many riverside wards, most of whom have now had to impose a curfew to try and contain the violence after several groups of foreign scum began using the streets for night-time manoeuvres and skirmishes. Seconding the motion, Alderman Gibian Horf stated that, "I don't care why it's been done, the point is that by this irresponsible action Lord Dixon had destabilised the entire dockside", Richard Saunders added "I've heard rumours that Dixon has had personal meetings with the leaders of the Floating Market and also that Cllr Edge has been acting as a go between. It's even been alleged that this raid was the pay off for funding his election campaign."

Fighting continues this week in the Floating Market with fires and shifting boats throughout the upriver section. The allegiances of the scum are difficult to understand, but citizens watching from the bridge report that there are some half-dozen yellow or pink floaters appearing for each brown or green. An early lead in pink 'uns has now been overtaken by the number of yellows. Cllr Parkinson is believed to be organising an emergency shift of garbage boats to ensure that the shipping lanes and wharvesides are undisturbed.

Sheriff Shefford has been having a month of indifferent success with the inhabitants of the Bards' College. The boundary stone was duly returned, conspicuously clean, and re-installed under Widow Kele's watchful eye. However the good sheriff has had cause to arrest several students and citizens for inciting more violence on the river. Apparently the accurate launching of small fire boats towards the slum has become something of an evening pastime in her ward. An even more trying night, spent with the Guard holding the top of the wall against both Dowgate and aliens, was not improved by returning home in the morning to find some £60 of jewellery and small valuables stolen from her Castle Bard home.

Despite, or perhaps because of the wards disturbances, the post of replacement alderman has been hotly contested with Sue Quinn, Bever Edge and Vanessa St Lawrence all being nominated for the post. Robert Beaureli has been nominated to the post of Kingsgate alderman unopposed. Rimon and Pencric have both been nominated to fill the vacant Treasurer post, and a brief re-appearance by Aralan Derwent produced the nomination of Travers as the next Nyskilde envoy. The 'impetuous filly' appears to have been reinvigorated by her sea voyage, appearing at the Witanmoot only long enough to make an impassioned speech to the Witanmoot, to propose a new envoy plus £100 more for the Trade budget, and to spring her household from gaol, before vanishing in the direction of Faringdon. In the stunned silence following this apparition, Lord Dixon smoothly re-introduced his land bill tax.

Elsewhere in the Witanmoot corridors Lady Perignon has successfully added Sue Quinn to her entourage, amid keen competition from at least two other factions. A slightly glassy eyed Cllr Avery is being enlightened by Gax the Heretic, presumably not in an attempt to improve his mind but as an indirect introduction to Gax's wealthy benefactor, Vanessa St Lawrence. A determined attempt by William Trueman to woo Alderman Brehon into his faction was terminally disrupted by the re-appearance of Alderman Derwent and her account of the Nyskilde problems. The Tapissers & Broiderers Guild has been working frantically since receiving Aralan's news and it seems that at least one guild ship will be ignoring His Majesty's recommendations by hauling a non-food cargo up to the devastated city. Alderman Derwent's ship also returned with the coffin of Envoy Alan Carter. A full state funeral will be held early next month.

## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 146

The state funeral of envoy Alan Carter has taken place in the presence of almost the entire Witanmoot. The pyre was lit by the late envoy's young daughter after moving eulogies from many of the leading members of the Witanmoot. Hundreds of ordinary citizens also turned out on the fine autumn day to pay their last respects to a man who had served the city so well for so long. It is understood that, in a personal show of sympathy and thanks, Lord Dixon has offered to take the two younger Carters into his own household. An act which has led Evan Carter to drop his proposed court action. Lady Beatrice Perignon also took the time to attend, and delivered an abundant and spectacular tribute of flowers. Cllr Avery's tribute was slightly less auspicious since he managed to singe himself on the embers on the way past. It was, however, rather more adept than the absent Monterey and Trueman, who attended most of a nearby funeral for an elderly Knight before realising their mistake. The formal procession of the Witanmoot back into the city provided a brief interlude of dignity and grandeur.

Once back in session our beloved leaders attacked the continuing problem caused by the Floating Market rioters and the dispute over the alleged personal involvement of Lord Dixon in the crimelord wars. After a prolonged, acrimonious and very noisy debate, the Witanmoot voted by 62 votes to 48 against the motion of censure and arrest of Lord Dixon, with a noticeable 129 abstentions. A return motion by Lord Dixon to censure Alderman Fytton for "not preventing members of her ward from attacking the Castle Bard watch" was attacked as "outrageously untrue" by a choleric Alderman Fytton. She went on to add quite a few more things about the Lord's opinions and ancestry under the legal protection of Witanmoot privilege, and Dixon's motion fell by 41 votes to 198. It was, perhaps, rather unfortunate that Lord Dixon chose this point to re-introduce his land tax bill which, despite vocal support from Alderman Monterey, went on to be defeated by 87 votes to 128 in a snap vote whose legality will have to be ruled on. A second Dixon bill, for another £100 on the trade budget, was referred to next month's session. At this point the agenda returned to the problems on the riverfront with a motion from Cllr Avery:

"There is enormous potential for major damage to ships anchored in the river caused by fireboats released in the hope of hitting the Floating Market. We welcome the Castle Bard watch's vigilance in this matter, and encourage them to take whatever action necessary, up to and including bowfire, to stop this grossly irresponsible behaviour. This city can have no tolerance for arsonists."

This was passed *nem com*. The chamber then turned its attention to internal appointments, electing Janice Travers as envoy to Nyskilde, and George Rimon as Treasurer. The hotly contested post of Alderman for Castle Bard was resolved as follows: Sue Quinn 131; Bever Edge 58; Vanessa St Lawrence 53.

Outside the Witanmoot the streets of Tinrodeth near the river maintain an uneasy, watchful truce during the daytime, but become almost completely empty of an evening as the ward watches continue to attempt to enforce a curfew. This appears to be having little impact on the Floating Market, where fighting continues each night, but has turned the port into an unusually silent place, much to the dismay of many taverns and eateries. Traders are predicting an early start to the winter hiatus this year, despite the unusually warm autumn weather.

The Dalethian Wellkeeper has confirmed rumours of a record crop of corn due to be harvested over the next few weeks. Shinannon notes that the new seed grain, combined with extremely favourable weather, is now proving its worth after several years of disappointing results caused by freak conditions. The Chroniclers look forward to a Higharvestide of rare celebration.

Lady Beatrice Perignon has been having a busy social time this month, entertaining members of her faction at the Citadel, in the company of Lady Amelia and Sheriff Shefford. This can only mean that she has not yet heard the latest hot rumour from Levystone about young Julia's pregnancy, or she would surely be down there investigating personally.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 146

The late autumn sunshine and bumper harvest last month resulted in the most exuberant and lavish Harvestide Festival seen within Linrodeth for many years. The collective hangover on Firstday Firstweek this month was such that there were very few people to witness the Floating Market hijack the first of the grain barges bringing Daleth's abundance to the warehouses of the city. In the absence of leadership from the Witanmoot, several ward watches and guilds have combined forces to send out an armed guard for the river traffic. The response was co-ordinated by the Portsoken watch and the Grossers Guild, who have already suffered substantial damage from previous raids by the river scum. The Floating Market is now ringed by an armed guard on a flotilla of small craft. The guard, comprising mainly of hired mercenaries, forms at sunrise and disperses at sunset, during which time the heavily laden barges make their way to dock undisturbed. A spokesman for the Grossers Guild commented "We are distressed to have to take this unusual and necessary step to protect City supplies. It appears that those in power on Witanmoot Hill find it more important to squabble with their neighbours or to protect known thieves than safeguard food and trade routes." This display of effective power by the trading families has triggered widespread protest at Witanmoot inaction in the street. Several demonstrations have lobbied the Witanmoot to support the reforming of the Wharf Guard, or for more powers to be given to ward watches to deal with trouble from the river. Alderman Hubold has been quick to point out the advantages of a professionally trained, locally funded ward watch.

Sheriff Shefford has been delighted to get her hands on one Guy de Tabarie, a lapsed scholar of the College, who has come forward to complain about a serious deception. It appears that on the night of the robbery, our young hero dined at The Mule with a fellow scholar, Francois Villon, who introduced him to Colin the Keys, Tank John, and a lapsed Brynette priest known as Dom Nicholas. After dining and listening to the news, they made their way to a muddy alley behind Sheriff Shefford's study window. Here, de Tabarie was posted sentinel while the others disappeared up a ladder and explored the upper rooms of the house. Some four hours later, according to our hero, they re-emerged having rifled the coffers and extracted a haul of some £20, as they told de Tabarie, to whom they gave two guineas and suggested that he buy himself a good dinner on the morrow. Not until the following week did Master Guy learn from the Chronicle that the stolen haul had been worth considerably more. It appears that our hero found the outrage of the deception considerably more important than the theft and the possibility of torture as an accomplice. Incorrectly, as it turned out.

Romance may be in the air around the Witanmoot following rumours of a strictly private and intimate discussion between Sheriff Tasker and Alderman Monterey this last Sevenight. Both were observed leaving with slightly flushed and stunned expressions, but have resolutely refused to comment on events. Elsewhere, flushed might be a good description of Alderman Derwent and Councillor Trueman, who have been noted holding discreet meetings around the Witanmoot. Rumours suggest that they have been putting Committee Room 4 to intense if somewhat unorthodox use.

Also stunned are Lady Beatrice and Lord Matthew who have take time out of their busy schedules to confirm rumours that the first Dixon-Perignon child is due next Springtide. To save quarrels, Roland and Julia have already announce that they intend to name the baby after the Wellkeeper Shinnanon. Alderman Monterey has kindly offered to place a guard on the house to prevent the happy couple being pestered by well-wishers, but it appears that the grandparents have paid frequent visits anyway.

More quarrels have broken out in Portsoken over the likely routes for the extended city wall which, being through the prime property on the docks, has caused most of the main shipping families to be warned that their warehouses may be demolished forthwith. Unease at the loss of such valuable property has been exacerbated by the discovery that not all sites appear to be registered for land tax with their current owners. Ongoing disputes with the tax registry over the accuracy and probity of Lord Dixon's scribes are adding to an already difficult situation for the surveyors, who are now accompanied by a squad of the Witanmoot Guard.

## The Chronicle of the month of Kryll in the year 146

The remains of the Floating Market are still smouldering, two weeks after its destruction. Lord Dixon's decisive action to deal with the grain theft shocked many, but has in general received widespread approval. Lord Dixon's ultimatum to the market, demanding the return of the grain, resulted in only a fraction of the stolen amount being returned and late on the night of the 7th of Kryll the destruction on the market started. It is not clear if the order was given because the deadline was reached or in response to the large exodus from the market or the acts of violence being perpetrated against the citizens watching. However the destruction, once ordered, was thorough. The market was fired at a number of different points by infiltrators from the Witanmoot Guard, and despite the cold weather was burning throughout its length. Units from the Guard and the general citizenry prevented the criminals from invading Dowgate or gaining the Bridge, although the refugees were permitted to make their way along the river and out of the City. By morning Sheriff Ann Tasker was able to announce that the entire river slum had been destroyed. Temporary repairs to the section of the Bridge which collapsed during the fire, appear to be holding, but are unlikely to last the Winter.

Cripplegate Ward has been suffering from an outbreak of illness which has left its cesspits overflowing. Many of the residents seem to have already caught the disease and whilst the Torians have not imposed a quarantine, they advise people not to use any wells in the affected area. Concern is growing for Cllr Poppy Soboll, one of the first victims of the disease, who is now close to death in the Torian Temple.

A large body of refugees from the Floating Market is now encamped outside Newgate and the Gate Guard have been busy keeping them out of the City whilst keeping the road open. Despite their efforts some made it into the City and small encampments have formed in the more vacant Wards, with a particular concentration in Faringdon. Whilst most of the City seems indifferent to their fate Vanessa St Lawrence has been actively campaigning for the City to provide shelter for them "I find it astounding that the Witanmoot is prepared to let these people freeze to death" she said. She has proposed the following motion to the Court of Common Council: "This Council instructs the Committee For Welfare And Education to provide shelter and food for those people made homeless by the destruction of the Floating Market". Some religious groups have also been helping the scum with food provided by the Sisters Of Mercy being particularly well received, a small soup kitchen has also been provided by the Grossers. However Alderman Miranda Andrews of Cartage has expressed concern that the problems of the Floating Market may just have been moved to her Ward.

A further grouping of Solistel and Babel has established a camp beyond the Torian Temple. The group, which escaped upriver by boat at the very start of the market's destruction, have dug ditches around their camp and at one stage started to erect fortifications. However an ultimatum from Lord Dixon soon stopped this and they now seem to be attempting to encourage citizens to visit them. Boats from this group have already started trade during the day, returning to the camp at night. Polite requests from Alderman Alice Fytton (who seems to have suddenly become a Dixon supporter), for the destruction of this camp have been rejected with the revelation that the land is being legally rented from Baron Beeching. One person who has not been offering Lord Dixon his support is Adam Avery, who spent most of the preceding weeks organising his wards response to the Floating Market troubles completely independently of the Witanmoot. He has been reserving judgement on Lord Dixon's handling of the Floating Market incident until more information is provided, and told the Chronicle, "I look forward to a full justification from Lord Dixon - it should be good". Avery has also been investigating the new plans for a city wall which runs through his ward and which is continuing to cause controversy.

Sheriff Shefford has had no luck tracking down the group who burgled her house some weeks back, and has now advertised a purse of 10s for any information leading to the arrest of the criminals. The funds appear to have been privately donated by Alderman Monterey, who seems to be almost as worried by the theft as she is. Her fellow sheriff Ann Tasker now seems to be going through a sticky patch in her relationship with Alan Monterey. Rumours persist that during her command of the Floating Market's destruction, she placed the overly-protective Monterey under house arrest to keep him out of the way.

## The Chronicle of the month of Ternoost in the year 146

The first ice and snow of the winter has arrived, closing the roads and neatening the various refugee camps outside the city with a uniform layer of white. The ex-inhabitants of the Floating Market appear to be settling into their shacks for the winter, and no attempt has been made to move back to the river slum. The site of the Floating Market is eerily silent and deserted, with only a few food stands and souvenir sellers appearing during daylight to cater to the curious onlookers. These included Lady Perignon who commented, "I remember Matthew referring to the Floating Market as a burning issue, but I didn't think he meant it literally." The blackened timbers of abandoned boats and rafts look set to become an interesting obstacle for skaters once the ice thickens on the river. A contingent of Masons has already ventured under the bridge to inspect the fire damage and suck teeth in an offensive manner. Up at the Witanmoot, Cllr St Lawrence's motion that: "This Council instructs the Committee For Welfare And Education to provide shelter and food for those people made homeless by the destruction of the Floating Market", was roundly defeated, despite vociferous support from Alderman Monterey's faction. He has instead begun organising donations of food and blankets for the refugees.

The Chroniclers are saddened to announce the death of Councillor Poppy Soboll after a brief and unpleasant illness. Cllr Soboll, who did much to enliven the social events of the Witanmoot, died in the Torian Temple on Fourthnight, Firstweek. Her estate has been left to a senior journeyman who, like many other householders within that ward, is also ill. The Torians are investigating possible causes, but have already ruled out possible infection by the river slum refugees. This has not re-assured the Guards, who are taking a dim view of any non-citizens attempting to enter the City Gates. The Guards are especially nervous after a wizened crone, returning from gathering marsh herbs in the twilight, proclaimed "The Hour of Doom is at hand, for the mildewing mist surrounds the towers, and none now can stop the Retribution which comes. Buy some comfrey root for luck, deary?"

The Masons Guild looks set for a prosperous year in 147 after announcing a contract to construct the first proper Guildhall of the Thatchers within the ward of Bassishaw. Guildmaster Marc Bergeren, who was instrumental in winning the Thatchers their charter back in 138, commented "The fact that we've been able to secure the funds to build this hall so soon after establishment is a vindication of His Majesty's decision to grant us a charter, with the result that we can receive a fair recompense for our labours." Observers note that the Thatcher's decision to opt for a stone hall, although apparently expensive, will avoid any direct disputes with the Carpenters Guild which opposed them for so long. Alderman Downe has welcomed the new development within the ward, adding that it was another splendid example of the rebuilding of the city after the Great Fire.

The annual beer festival has moved back to Welland this year after recent events made the Portsoken warehouses unsafe. The Empty Barrel laid on several barrels of Marcson's Old Peculiar and Reg's Best as well as guest beers such as Speckled Pheasant, Pendentite's Tipple and Dark Dawn. The festival, which has grown somewhat since last held in Welland, severely stretched the local watch and Alderman Isenbard was eventually forced to restrict entry to Coopers Row to prevent a crush. It is thought that this action probably saved the life of the Grosser's Treasurer, who was attacked by a knifeman halfway through the event. Participants report that the man had been "acting suspiciously" during the evening, and so was quickly intercepted when he tried to assault Cllr Marcos. The assailant is being held in the ward lock-up until he recovers enough from the arrest to withstand questioning.

Sheriff Alison Shefford has received an early Yuletide gift in the form of a bedraggled Colin the Keys, who was brought in by a local Baron earlier this month. It seems that the felon unsuccessfully attempted a career change to highway robber after splitting up from his earlier cronies. Future career choices look likely to be restricted even further. No more light is being thrown on the elapsed time during the burglary, which he and Tank John spent sampling the pantry and wine cellar while the other two explored upstairs. The Witanmoot Guard confirm that fellow prisoner Guy de Tabarie was less than delighted to see him. So far the Bards College has not submitted any plea on behalf of their lapsed scholar.



## Military Units

There are several military units that have, over time, been mentioned in the newspapers of Athion. Among them are:

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment

One of the few cavalry regiments of the Kingdom of Athion, this regiment typically accompanies the King on his progresses around the kingdom.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

Initially stationed at the Citadel, this regiment was reassigned to Salvoyn and took part in the campaigns against the Gelt.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

Replaced the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and seen as more uncouth than that regiment.

### Knights Hospitallers

There are those who will obstruct the Temple of Torus in its Divine Duty. To protect those in service of the Temple there is a martial arm, the Knights Hospitaller. The Knights

Hospitaller are stationed at the Infirmary they serve.

While the units of the Knights Hospitaller are typically smaller than the King's Regiments and often smaller than many mercenary bands, they are typically by far the healthiest and fittest of the troops on a battle ground. They are also as well trained as any army and their love for Torus for Torus to drive them further than any mercenary army will go for love of gold.

### Knights Illuminati

Order of Knights who defend the Temple of Brynette. The traditional livery of the Knights Illuminati is black.

### Knights Templar

Order of knights who defend the Temple of Hahn. The traditional livery of the Knights Templar is red.

### Queens Infantry

An infantry regiment whose patron is the Queen.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 146

The illness which has debilitated Cripplegate these past few months has spread to parts of neighbouring wards after a difficult month which saw many of citizens laid low. The Torians have been forced to close their gates because so many of their own priests are ill after working within the afflicted ward. The Abbot has sent out a call for anyone with healing skills to report to the temple where their assistance is urgently needed. Following an inspection of the Infirmary last month, Cllr Adam Avery proposed the following emergency motion to the Court of Common Council: "That the council fund the transfer of water into Cripplegate for the duration of the illness, and one month subsequently." This was approved unanimously and the Witanmoot Guard have been sent in to isolate local wells and cart barrels of clean water to the area. Unhappily the Portsoken councillor has himself fallen ill with the disease and is being kept in isolation at home where his wife describes his condition as "tenuous". The civic funeral and cremation of Poppy Soboll took place late last month but was poorly attended by her fellow Witanmoot councillors. Most dignitaries opted to send written tributes and flowers rather than risk infection.

Investigations into the attack on Cllr Marcos have been allegedly successful despite the escape and subsequent death of the would-be assassin. The attacker has been identified as one Jack Sculler, an ex-resident of the Floating Market with known connections to the Toddman. Whether the original attack on Cllr Marcos was ordered by the Toddman remains unclear. Before his death Sculler identified a number of his co-conspirators and it is believed that he was killed in order to prevent him from disclosing more information or being a witness. Fortunately another conspirator was arrested during Sculler's escape attempt and this person is now being held and questioned further by the Witanmoot Guard. Cllr Jilly Falgar has protested that the ward watch should not have had to deal with such a dangerous case in the first place. However Alderman James Isenbard has defended this decision, pointing out that a civilian investigation was able to collect information more widely than the guards. Local carpenter Jim Bottler, the courageous leader of the watch investigation, commented, "There were a few problems and a bit of a scrap, but our local knowledge paid off and I don't think the Witanmoot Guard could have done any better. I am proud of my men."

The Floating Market area of the river is doing brisk business now that the ice has thickened and many ex-inhabitants have returned to set up shop during the day. The reduced market has cleaner, more exotic contents than most people remember from before the fire. The site is already proving popular as a source of unusual Yuletide gifts, and is being used by many citizens in preference to shops on East Hill in or near Cripplegate. The refugee camp outside Newgate has also become more ordered after hard work by many almoners from the city. The soup kitchen provided by the Grossers Guild has started distributing blankets and other goods collected from Alderman Monterey's appeal, and this is reducing the number of deaths in the camp.

The campaign election season is with us once again, adding colourful bunting and much hot air to this chill time. The most prolific colours are Beatrice's Burgundy and the Derwent Cream which are found in almost all wards in the city, although never in direct competition with one another, even to the extent of Lady Perignon allowing Aralan an uncontested run in Berewic. Trueman's Apple Green is decorating Cartage and most of the East Hill, where other campaigners are fearing to tread. Monterey has provided some discrete Indigo flags for insistent supporters in Levestone and Avigon, with all bunting reserved for Faringdon where the Trueman green is strongest. The Avery and Dixon factions have had to improvise campaigns from last years material and their colours are seen in only three wards each, mostly along the Ishtan docks.

The Brynette Temple has noticed a sudden increase in attendance now that The Citadel has announced a 'Fire, Flame and Flare' theme for the Midwinter Ball this year. Courtiers are also exploring ideas with the Dyers, Drapers and Apothecaries Guilds, although Citadel commanders have already banned 'Snapdragon's Experimental Candles' for security reasons.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

This year's most exciting finish of the Midwinter elections took place in Portsoken, where a three way fight ended in a surprise change in the Aldermanship. Early voting revealed a strong lead for Worton, Avery and Russell, with the split challenge looking likely to leave Worton in control. An emergency lunchtime meeting by the remaining Avery faction resulted in a decision to swing support behind a single challenger and, in light of Adam's continuing ill-health, the group chose elderly waterman Geoffrey Russell. The team worked on neighbours throughout the afternoon, and were rewarded at the count with the news that Russell had won, with Avery and Worton coming in a close second and third.

An equally close election in the hotly contested ward of Welland looked like returning Gillian Howe as alderman, displacing James Isenbard for the first time in over a decade. Fortunately for the Derwent faction the situation was rescued by the Marcs' family, who swung in behind the Isenbard campaign during the afternoon, strongly endorsing James as the Law & Order choice for the local residents. The fight went to three recounts after sunset, with Alderman Isenbard retaining his post by the narrowest of margins. A close finish also took place in Cartage, where Helen Kregt just failed to beat Miranda Andrews. The bowyer eventually opted not to ask for a recount against her friend and Guildmaster.

A solidly run campaign by Judy Spich resulted in her election over Douglas du Bolay as alderman for Arpent. Nearby in Berewic, Aralan Derwent retained her post despite an extremely low turnout which saw her votes slump from last year. Quinn, Fytton and Hubold all improved their margins to gain solidly safe seats. Ex-sheriff Griffiths was returned to serve Dracas but failed to displace Alderman Brehon. Suzan Faithside and Mary Clifford both failed to be re-elected at all. The Chroniclers would like to welcome newcomers Richenda Sylvanus, Hywel Duthon, Abigail Chastellain, Oliver March, Maureen Quiller and Stefan Leaming plus the return of the renowned apothecary Tilly Falgar, to the Court of Common Council

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 147

Citizens will be relieved to hear that the lethal pestilence in East Hill has died down and appears to be spreading no further. Fortunate survivors include Cllr Adam Avery, who has been working hard this month to secure the supply of clean water to the area for another two months. Although the duty remains unpopular with the Witanmoot Guard, the barrels have cost a mere £1 to supply and are unlikely to bankrupt the new committee for Welfare & Education. The abatement of the disease has been confirmed by Physickians from the Torian Temple, which has re-opened its doors in recent days. The re-opening of the temple gates was preceded by an unusual amount of activity by the Knights Hospitallers, who appear to have detained a number of people tending the nearby funeral pyres. So far the Witanmoot has not chosen to investigate the incident. The Abbot later released the following statement to the Chronicle:

"The Temple of Torus wishes to give notice that it accuses James Spooner, ex-journeyman of the Apothecaries Guild, of Malpractice and Misconduct. Citizens are advised not to purchase or use products from this person."

Teams of servants are still cleaning up the Citadel after a most enjoyable Midwinter Ball. Despite the Knight-Marshall's obvious misgivings, the 'Fire, Flame & Flare' celebrations were carried out with remarkably little scorching of the interior furnishings. However it appears that cavalry knights are once again going to have to apologise to the Queen for the state of her rose garden. Highlights of the evening included a lavish and outrageous Miros Pageant from the Vespasian Players, and a spectacular procession from the kitchens of the banquet food immersed in supernatural blue flames. Despite the absence of the Royal Family, who are overwintering in Cascorach this year, the court displayed a remarkable selection of new fashions. The 'Phoenix' theme appeared to be especially popular amongst the younger members, and resulted in a number of rather risqué feathered costumes. A good number of Brynette priests were invited to attend, and commentators speculate that this may be the turning point for a religion long ignored by the Royal Court.

At the Witanmoot, Alderman Monterey has tabled the following emergency motion for debate next month: "That the Treasury shall make available such funds as are required from the City Reserves to pay for the repairs required to the bridge." Much of the councillors' activity was concerned with the nominations for the committee chairmen. This has already resulted in a surprise loss of the powerful Treasury post from the Monterey faction, who may have been concerned that their gain of both sheriff posts last year was too obviously power-hungry. The Treasury post was promptly cornered by Lord Dixon's faction, who have no such concerns. The other uncontested posts were that of Shipping, which has gone to the silkmerchant Arianne Pencric, and Eresan envoy which is now Marcus Lambourne. The full nomination list is as follows:

Treasury	Anderson
Trade	Martel, Rimon, Warin
Law & Order	Derwent, Tholin
Shipping	Pencric
Welfare & Education	Andrews, Beaureli, Horl, Monterey
Lands & Agriculture	Downe, Romanie
Salvoyn Envoy	Blessop, Hastings, Jardine
Nyskilde Envoy	Davy, Travers
Eresan Envoy	Lambourne
Cascorach Envoy	du Bolay, Dunn

Those citizens who thought that the chances of a City Orphanage went up in smoke during the Great Fire may be encouraged by recent developments in Faringdon. Councillor William Trueman has spent much of the month in negotiation with householders in that ward to purchase land for a possible orphanage. Proceedings are said to be in an advanced stage for one burgage plot on Little Bear Lane, and further enquiries are being made about clusters of shacks in the adjacent alleys and mews. Rumours that sponsorship and donation requests have been sent to Guild Treasurers have not yet been confirmed, but it is hoped that the newly elected Witanmoot will nonetheless take a keen interest in developments.

The industrious councillor has also taken the trouble to sponsor the adjacent health notice for all victims of the current illness. Another regular advocate of the Torians, Alderman Derwent, was admitted to the Temple two weeks ago and has not been heard from recently.

Notices posted in the ward of Kingsgate reveal that Sheriff Ann Tasker will formally divorce her husband next month. Goldsmith Michael Beresford and the sheriff have been estranged for a few years, but neighbours had believed that a legal separation would not be sought until after their son was apprenticed.

**PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE:**

Due to the unfortunate closure of the Torian Temple I have published this fact sheet to help you care for your loved ones. I wish you a speedy return to good health.

Cllr William Trueman

**ADVICE FROM THE TORIANS:**

For loose bowels, take the yolk of seven eggs, twice as much of clarified honey, the medullary portion of a wheaten loaf reduced to fine crumbs, and a pennyworth of powdered pepper. Boil them together and eat warm. To relieve nausea of the stomach, take an infusion of the clove pink, mix with honey, the powder of anise-seeds and fennel seeds.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 147

This year's committee elections turned out to be a hard fought contest which the longer established factions marginalised the less powerful newcomers. A strong alliance between Beatrice Perignon and Adam Avery lead to them gaining control of all the key posts except Lands and Agriculture where a concerted effort by all the other factions enabled Gemma Down to beat Melanie Romanie. This resurgence of power for the Perignon faction has caused grave concern amongst some members of the Aldermanic court. Bernard Hubold in particular made a blistering attack on her faction, accusing them of being the "lap dogs of a Citadel hag who hasn't been seen in the city for months". The mood lightened during nominations for the forthcoming election of the Lord. Sheriffs Shefford and Tasker were nominated, to their apparent displeasure, by Martin Key and David Ravensdale respectively. Should either manage to get elected, they can only avoid the duty by proving that the office would bankrupt them - not a difficult task given the current number of civic improvements. Alderman Romanie provoked outright laughter by suggesting that the Witanmoot skip the middlewomen and nominate Alderman Monterey directly. This was ruled out of order by a frowning Sheriff Tasker, presiding in the absence of Lord Dixon. The Dixon faction spent the session elsewhere auditing everything in sight, and was saved severe embarrassment by Alderman Derwent who was the only person to remember to re-nominate Lord Dixon himself.

Following the elections the potentially contentious bridge repairs vote went surprisingly smoothly. The motion gained widespread support despite some reservations raised by Richenda Sylvanus. Emily Martel now has unlimited access to the Treasury Funds and the Chronicle wishes her luck in coming up with a solution which will keep all the various factions happy. Alderman Martel has already been visited by leaders of both the Carpenters and Masons guilds who, having spent the last few months in detailed negotiations with Olivia Warin, suddenly find themselves having to start all over again. Elliot Anderson can be expected to have an interesting time with next month's budget split. apart from trying to guess how much money the bridge repairs will cost he is also expected to fund the city wall plans of Lord Dixon whilst re-establishing the City reserves and keeping all the other factions happy by backing their initiatives. This may go some way to explaining the secrecy with which this year's budget is being prepared. Even the Witanmoot scribes are at a loss for gossip about whose pet project will be scrapped this year.

Following the final end to the East Hill pestilence, tributes and appreciation have been pouring into the Torian Temple. A motion of thanks proposed by Aralan Derwent gained unanimous support and citizens throughout the City have been paying tribute to the hard work of the Torians in containing the threat from this illness. It has also been confirmed that the illness was less prevalent in areas which had been complying with Alan Monterey's much derided stone cess pits legislation. Suzan Faithside told the Chronicle, "As with so many other things Alan's visionary leadership has been of great service to the city" Aralan Derwent seems to have uncharacteristically avoided the pestilence outbreak this time and celebrated her return from Torian duties with a boisterous party at the Greengrove tavern. Her preferred escort for much of the evening was David Ravensdale, although their decorum was said to disappear after the arrival of several junior Physickians from the temple. The proprietors, perhaps used to clientele from the Bards College, took the resulting scenes of debauchery in their stride, and were only heard to murmur protests when vociferous medical discussions resulted in a slump in food orders from other customers.

Alderman Miranda Andrews and William Trueman anticipated this month's committee changes by completing their spend of the amended W&E budget well before the elections. The ringfenced £82 has purchased some land in Faringdon for the city orphanage, as well as enough building materials to allow completion of initial foundations and a copious stone-lined cess pit. The project has generated considerable local interest. Both Gax and Alderman Rimon enterprisingly organised collections from onlookers and unwary passers-by, which included a rather startled-looking Cllr Hywel Duthon.

## The Full Election Results

Trade	Martel	13	RB, AF, T, SQ, MR, GR, EM, AP, AT, AS, GH, GR, AM
	Rimon	7	SB, BB, GD, JI, AD, MD, EA
	Warin	4	JS, OW, MA, BH
Law & Order	Jholin	15	RB, AF, T, SQ, MR, GR, EM, AP, AT, AS, GR, AM, OW, MA, BH
	Derwent	9	JS, GH, SB, BB, GD, JI, AD, MD, EA
Welfare & Education	Beaureli	8	RB, AF, T, SQ, MR, GR, EM, AP
	Horl	7	JS, AT, AS, GH, GR, AM
	Andrews	5	OW, MA, BH, MD, EA
	Monterey	5	SB, BB, GD, JI, AD
Lands & Agriculture	Downe	16	JS, AT, AS, MA, BH, SB, BB, GD, JI, GH, GR, AM, OW, AD, MD, EA
	Romanie	8	B, AF, T, SQ, MR, GR, EM, AP
Salvoyn Envoy	Blessop	8	JS, AT, AS, GH, GR, AM, MD, EA
	Hastings	12	AD, MR, GR, OW, MA, BH, EM, AP, SB, BB, GD, JI
	Jardine	4	RB, AF, T, SQ
Nyskilde Envoy	Davy	13	RB, AF, T, SQ, MR, GR, EM, AP, , AT, AS, GH, GR, AM
	Travers	7	OW, MA, BH, SB, BB, GD, JI, AD, MD, EA
Cascorach Envoy	du Bolay	11	RB, AF, T, SQ, SB, BB, GD, JI, AD, MD, EA
	Dunn	7	MR, GR, EM, AP, OW, MA, BH

Cllr Randy Parkinson insists on reminding citizens of their responsibility towards the many frozen beggars now that the Spring thaw is due. Please ensure that you dispose of them in the marshes in the approved civic manner.

## The Chronicle of the month of Pipetal in the year 147

Lord Dixon, bolstered by a unanimous re-election, has backed Elliot Anderson in proposing a shocking increase in the tax imposed upon the city. The budget proposals placed before the Witanmoot this month have led to protests throughout the city as citizens face an increase of a several pennies in the pound. However Alderman Anderson seems unrepentant. He told the Chronicle, "Whilst I regret the need for this tax increase, all I have done is my duty as Treasurer. The extra taxes are needed to fund the commitments made by the council and Lord Dixon's predecessor. I believe it was Lady Cox who said five years ago that, "It's about time some members of this council realised that when they vote for an increase in service, they have to be prepared to back it up with an increased budget." It is unfortunate that since Lady Cox's time that policy has not been followed. I have Lord Dixon's complete support in pushing through a realistic and honest budget. Surprisingly the proposals have yet to be attacked by any of the major faction leaders, however Alderman Pencric has already described the increase suggested for her ward of Marshgate as "An outrageous imposition".

A sleaze scandal looks set to engulf the Witanmoot this month after revelations that official watch members have been used to procure refugee children for senior aldermen. Reporters for the Chronicle have confirmed several incidents where young blond children were sought and apparently lured by watchmen to an address on Wheat Hill with promises of an inheritance or "wealthy benefactors". It appears that the scheme went wrong when too many refugee parents turned up at the location, only to be met with official denials and dismissal. A spokesperson for the angry parents said, "They's gone too far this time. Burn our 'omes, freeze us, starve us and now nab our kids will they? We're going to see about that."

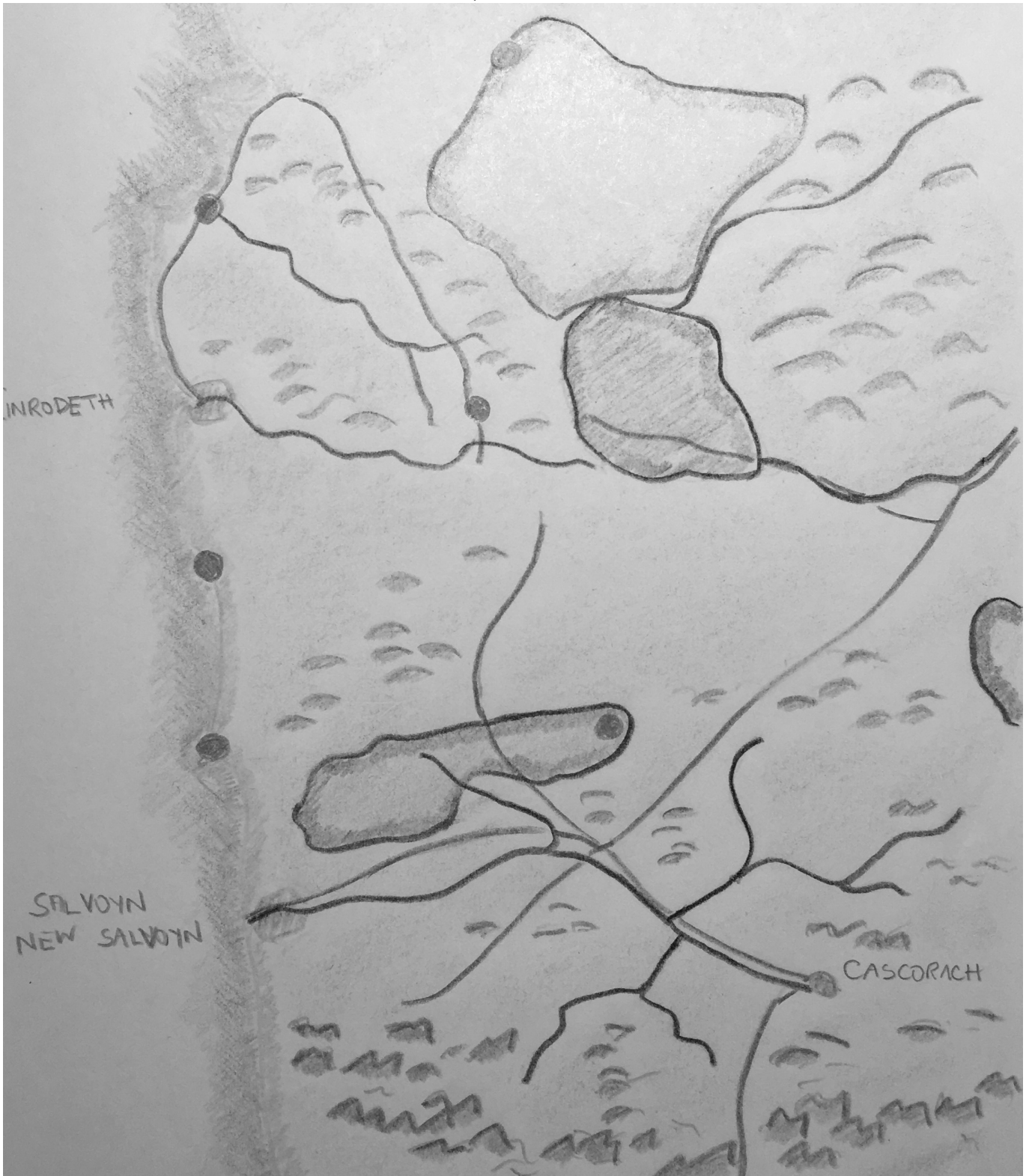
The behaviour and effectiveness of certain ward watches may only be one of the topics troubling the new Law & Order chairman, Leonard Tholin, as he takes up his post this month. It appears that last month's prison escape has drawn the attention of the redoubtable Lady Perignon herself. The elegantly dressed matriarch has completed a tour of inspection of all the gatehouse prisons, accompanied by a number of bejewelled and bemused citadel cronies. No doubt the snap inspection would have been even worse had the tour not been narrowly preceded by quick visits from Alan Monterey. Alderman Monterey is apparently assisting Sheriff Shefford's own investigation of the break-out, but without results. Aunty Beatrice has also been the target of a dramatic attack by Cllr William Trueman from the Mootstone this week. The gist of the outburst appears to refer to some expert politicking during the recent elections: "Citizens, Alderman Andrews and myself were honoured to be able to start the City Orphanage project. It is unfortunate that the Perignon/Avery league squeezed Miranda Andrews out of office before we could see this important work through to completion. I can only hope that Alderman Beaufeli continues with this good work. However, I have my doubts as he has yet to consult either Alderman Andrews or myself about the matter...It is particularly worrying when recently appointed Ladies ignore the noble tradition of "my word is my bond" and instead reflect the worst aspects of their origins...I accept that I was fooled, being a person who believes in the truth I trusted that those in respected positions would behave in a manner worthy of respect...Alderman Andrews and I accept our losses, we just hope that Lady Perignon's perfidy doesn't destroy the wonderful opportunity to build your orphanage."

Alderman Aralan Derwent, whose promiscuous private life has allegedly been linked with the Witanmoot sleaze scandal, has now been challenged to a duel. The once supreme rapierist has not been seen on the fields for some years, and speculation is growing that she may be defeated by young Laurella Lausada. Miss Lausada has represented the Drapers Guild in many fencing competitions over the past few years, winning several purses of prize money. It appears that the bookies have been unable to extract any reliable information on the alderman's current fitness, and good odds can still be obtained by anyone willing to shop around.

Those looking for diversion from the cut and thrust of Witanmoot debates might do worse than visit the recently reopened Kings Theatre (formerly the Theatre Regale) in Temple. The resident company are as yet unnamed but rumours persist of highly placed patrons. Theatre manager Geoffrey de Puisset has announced that the first production will be the perennial favourite, 'The Merry Wives of Faringdon'. A Chronicler reviewer has been despatched.



# A map of Athion



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 147

The Witanmoot has been caught out by the surprise arrival at the city gates of a large delegation from Cascorach, seeking to establish a formal envoy to Tinrodeth. Despite rapidly taking over several nearby hostelrys, the delegation soon became bogged down in the Witanmoot's internal confusion, especially since most aldermen are far too interested in forthcoming budget and nomination negotiations to stand in for Lord Matthew Dixon, currently indisposed with summer fever. The sheriffs offices also appear to be having some trouble communicating. This latest recurrence of Lord Dixon's illness adds new level of interest to the forthcoming sheriff nominations which are already rumoured to involve new candidates.

Other notables within the Witanmoot have been indulging in a month of intrigue and espionage on their fellow councillors, but it is unclear whether this is the result or effect of a spectacular rift within the Monterey faction. Alan's attempts to play down the significance of his troubles look unlikely to succeed as his rivals move in for a recruiting-fest. Sheriff Ann Tasker appears to be one of those reconsidering her allegiance commenting, "I joined the Monterey faction on the clear understanding that the group's policies would always put the welfare of the city as its top priority. It now appears that we are merely supposed to act as a prop for the current administration." Duthon, Trueman and Perignon have all been displaying considerable interest in the reactions of Monterey's councillors although, in a rare display of tact, none were invited to this month's banquet at the Perignon mansion for members of the recently successful Perignon/Avery alliance. It was perhaps unfortunate that Councillor Avery was called away at the last moment to intervene in a planning dispute, but both Lady Perignon and Mrs Avery seemed to get on very well in his absence.

Watch members were called out to a noisy disturbance earlier this month at Blessop's Carvery in Levestone. The incident appeared to be no more than a particularly large, sticky and enthusiastic bun-fight, but given that it quickly engulfed several aldermen, one sheriff and various gentlefolk from the Citadel, the fate of those youngsters arrested may be dire. The subsequent wrath of Mrs Blessop once the clean-up and redecoration bills arrived was said to be truly impressive, and imprisonment may be the best bet for these perpetrators.

Work on the alleged city orphanage in Faringdon has come to a complete standstill due to lack of funds, despite the hard work of enthusiastic citizens in lobbying the Witanmoot. Various guilds and almoners are also beginning to actively support it and have begun collections in other wards around the city. This made for another trying month for Cllr Hywel Duthon, who found himself once again on the sharp end of a whip-round organised by the Little Sisters of Mercy, an active group of ladies who can command an extensive vocabulary and loud oratory skills should their wealthier victims prove less than generous.

The dusty, hard-baked tourney fields were the venue this month of the fencing encounter between Miss Laurella Tausada and Alderman Aralan Derwent, an event which drew a large crowd of pundits, fencing fans and Witanmoot hecklers. The duel got off to an inauspicious start with Aralan passively awaiting attack and Laurella actually stumbling over the rough ground. Once the scattering of boos had died down, both ladies switched immediately into top form and launched into blistering attacks which left both slightly wounded. A hurried conference between their seconds failed to resolve the issue and the duel was resumed. The next flurry of attacks left onlookers applauding and resulted in another minor wound to Derwent and a slight cut to Tausada. A dodge by the younger woman forced an opening in her defence which Derwent immediately moved in to exploit. However a superb recovery and stylish swordwork finally resulted in a third wound to the tiring alderman. Derwent yielded.

The great and the good were much in evidence as the Kings Theatre opened its doors for the first night of 'The Merry Wives of Faringdon'. The inaugural performance of the recently formed De Loquin Players took place on schedule despite the tragic suicide of its leading actor and sudden illness of leading lady Rosamund Ravensthorpe. Understudy Felicity Mint, thrust suddenly into the limelight, made an impressive

debut as Ann Dropstick. Less convincing was Jerome Harding, stumbling into the shoes of the late Edmund Garlick as Sir John. The other leads acquitted themselves well under the sparkling direction of Gerard Boscombe, the performances lifted by the delightful creations of wardrobe mistress Hilda Hobson.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 147

The City is still nervous after the near imposition of martial law by Sir Salverian Dadrini. Lord Dixon and both Sheriffs were summoned to attend upon the Knight Marshal after a group of knights were attacked by muggers whilst returning from the Hahnite Temple. The Chronicle has learnt that Sir Salverian had already ordered the mobilisation of all forces at the Citadel and was preparing to take over the City when the Lord and Sheriffs arrived. Fortunately for the City, one of the captured attackers confessed to being a paid assassin from a foreign power, and confirmed that the Witanmoot Guard tabards used by the attackers were fake. A somewhat conciliatory Sir Salverian is reported to have told the Sheriffs that in future he intends to hold them personally responsible should any more of the King's officers be attacked in the city.

Despite Sir Salverian's warning, nominations for the post of Sheriff have rolled in. First off the mark was Lord Dixon himself who nominated long term ally Aralan Derwent. Alan Monterey predictably nominated both the current incumbents and William Trueman nominated Olivia Warin. The Perignon/Avery alliance surprised everyone with Avery nominating Olivia Warin and Aralan Derwent, whilst Perignon nominated Ann Tasker. With the factions split the votes of independent Hywel Duthon it seems may prove critical. However it would seem that just for once our political leaders are supporting the people they think would be best for the job - but there is still a month for them to stitch up a grubby deal. The Chronicle looks forward to the voting with interest.

Lord Dixon has indulged in another decree this month: "Henceforth the Marching Watch will, as it was in the past, be called to training on every Midsummer's Day. The first Ward to complete its assembly once the Witanmoot Bell is tolled on that day will be treated to a round of Drinks by the Lord of the City. The Watch which, in the opinion of the judges, makes the best impression during the day of training will also be treated to a round of drinks by the Lord of the City."

The civic ball which Lord Dixon threw to celebrate the establishment of a new Cascorach embassy proved to be a great success. The predictable point scoring between the great and the good was particularly in evidence. Aralan Derwent, Alan Monterey and William Trueman spend the entire evening producing an entertaining satirical commentary of the proceedings. This finally became too much for Lord Dixon who was less than Lordly in his order that they desist and behave. Meanwhile the Avery and Perignon groups were doing their best to look as if they ran the city, and were thoroughly respectable. The only frustration for their ambitions turned out to be Cllr Hywel Duthon, who obviously had the ear of envoy Amber Toubert. Meanwhile, the reason for Richenda Sylvarnus' apparent lack of interest in politics became apparent when she and Samuel Rucche went very public on their obviously well developed relationship. Even Aralan was rumoured to have blushed.

The City's budget provided a brief, and probably much needed, moment of boredom for our councillors. The committee accounts were passed with only a few quibbles and the main budget voted through with no organised dissent. Only Richard Saunders spoke out, accusing Lord Dixon and his Levestone cronies of "engineering the crisis with the Citadel in order to suppress protests against these outrageous tax increases." Cllr Samuel Rucche, who showed up slightly late for the morning debate, was stunned to discover that the business had moved on and he couldn't give the impassioned speech he has obviously spent the night writing. In the amused atmosphere which followed this, Cllr William Trueman proposed that the City pay the expenses of its best competitors who wished to travel to show their prowess at the Dragonfeast. This apparently simple amendment started a flurry of activity. Nearly every faction waded in with its own version of the amendment, many of them claiming to have had the idea first. Citizens in the public gallery were not impressed to see the same people who had sat stoically through the largest tax hike the city has ever done making such a mess of something so trivial. Lord Dixon eventually had to order the gallery cleared of hecklers.

The Witanmoot Guard has been much in evidence this month maintaining order and responding rapidly to any gathering of more than half a dozen people. Comments about what happened to the Cripplegate Free Trade movement have soon broke up any potential protests. Although this example seems to have been ill chosen;

rumours persist that the leader of the free trade movement has come out of hiding and is preparing to "lead the armed struggle to free the people from their Guild oppressors" One potential hotbed of protest seems to be the Newgate refugee camp. Although the residents are fortunate enough not to pay taxes they have been outraged by the Witanmoot Guards' pursuit of the Sisters of Mercy in an apparent attempt to close down food charity. The Sisters had obviously been pre-warned and had already gone into hiding when the Guards staged a dawn raid on their soup kitchen. The Guard were perhaps fortunate that the news of their raid was met with disbelief and they were long gone before any potential riot could materialise. However, tensions remain high and there have been a number of separate incidents where the Guard have ended up in fights with small groups of the refugees within the bounds of the city.

One positive piece of news this week has been Alan Monterey's resounding support for the continuance of the Orphanage project. Susan Faithside has been much in evidence at the development site and in guild meetings explaining how "The orphanage is a key part of Alan's ongoing reforms to the structure of the city. He has been very active behind the scenes in defending its funding, and we can expect work to begin almost immediately after the Welfare and Education budget is passed". Asked about Alderman Monterey's rumoured falling out with Sheriff Tasker, Susan replied, "Ann is a highly valued member of our team. I think her comments last week simply show that she would be deeply unhappy in one of the more self-serving factions. Her true home is with Alan and she knows it"

The surprise retirement of Brandy Bejar has caused a major upset amongst regulars at Hunters Club. Many people were turned away at the door and expressed frustration at the number of people from the Citadel who appear to have received advanced notice and tickets. A number of notables from the Witanmoot were also spotted also amongst the people who did gain entry. Ms Bejar, who has delighted visitors for many years, is expected to retire to her country estate.

The Torian Temple has been exercising a high degree of security over the last month with all visitors being checked and large numbers of Knights Hospitallers in evidence. The reason for the heightened security seems to have been the brief visit of the Order's Principal, who called into the Linrodeth temple on his way through to the Dragonfeast. However, other people have suggested that it may be connected to the uncompromising speech made by the Abbot last Tenthday in which he described people who take and supply drugs as, "an evil canker which should be cut from the body of the city". Greg Martingale of the Apothecaries guild described the speech as a disgraceful attack on a legal business, and called upon the King to revoke the temple's right to maintain its own troops.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 147

Tensions have been escalating between the Witanmoot Guard and the refugee camp. The camp leader has now been definitely identified as the same Jasmine who lead the Free Trade movement, and she has made a number of speeches within the camp calling on the people to "rise up against the tyranny of the Guilds" and described the Witanmoot as "murderers with the blood of hundreds of people on their hands". She also attacked the Witanmoot Guard for persecuting people suspected of being from the camp. Gax the Heretic has joined in the debate. Speaking from the Mootstone he announced that he had been informed of plans by Lord Dixon to "sell these people into slavery" and called upon the Witanmoot to "oppose Lord Dixon's dangerous slide into guild-backed oppression".

This month's budget debate generated little controversy. William Trueman's amendment to the trade budget, which will sponsor Tinrodeth's best to attend the Dragonfeast, was passed with only Cllr Avery dissenting. Such speed was perhaps a good thing given that by this time most of the guilds were well into their final preparations for the trip. A large caravan left the City by the northern road at the beginning of the month and should arrive with a few days to spare. The Chronicle wishes them good luck.

David Northropp has caused a major upset in the Witanmoot by proposing the following motion "In view of the recent controversy over drugs, this Council instructs the Apothecaries Guild to maintain records of all sales identifying the quantity and type of substance sold and the name of the recipient" Greg Martingale, the Apothecaries Treasurer, is believed to be apoplectic and one source quotes him as suggesting that Northropp was a "bookkeeper with nothing better to do than impose bureaucratic stupidity on professional craftsmen." A stronger challenge may come from Cllr Tiliniel Falgar who has described the motion as "a dangerous interference in internal guild procedures", she went on to warn fellow councillors "not to set a precedent". Guildmaster Marcus Lambourne was less subtle, "The guild will refuse to serve anyone who votes for this absurdity" he warned.

Work has restarted on construction of the City Orphanage. William Trueman was much in evidence and clearly enjoying seeing his efforts come to fruition. Many of the city's other worthies have been eager to show their support and at times it looked like the site might become the location of alternative council meeting. Beatrice Perignon spent significant amounts of time at the site politely pointing out that she had first raised the matter of a city orphanage back in 142. She told the Chronicle "In recent times it has been comforting to know that fellow members of the Witanmoot, especially Miranda Andrews and William Trueman, have continued to make the case for this important project." However Gax the Heretic was somewhat less enthusiastic, "Perhaps Lady Perignon has forgotten that she opposed the city's decision to found a secular orphanage back in 144." All this charitable activity clearly inspired Martin Key, who could be found distributing alms around Tevestone this month.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The Midsummer festival proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable day which was saved from a disastrous start when the Witanmoot Guard arrested some orphans who were attempting to ring the Witanmoot bell for muster at 3am. Later in the morning the Marching Watch formed up much more effectively than last time, and most of the Wards were in position within two hours. Welland proved the surprise winner of both the first to form and best turned out prizes. A smug Alderman Isenbard confessed that he had co-opted some professionals from the Dancing Bear and that they had been secretly practising on the Wellhouse field. Also surprising was the chaotic turn-out and carnival 'uniform' of the Berewic watch, who appeared to be intent on celebrating their alderman's wedding day regardless of the circumstances. The early muster meant that there was plenty of time before lunch for the assembled mass to practice manoeuvres. The army even managed to advance across the field in good order before a misunderstanding caused the left flank to halt and things once again de-generated into chaos. It was at this point that a trumpet fanfare from the Citadel echoed across the

field and a full muster of the King's Forces marched forth. The regiments formed rapidly at the far end of the field and performed a brief sequence of complex manoeuvres before Sir Salverian ordered their return to the Citadel. The Marching Watch, clearly inspired by this display of discipline, managed to disperse in good order.

After lunch the normal population of the City returned for some serious enjoyment of the fair and the entertainment of traditional foot races, pig wrestling and archery competitions. The more domestic nature of this year's fair was somewhat relieved by the presence of a lively Cascorach delegation of merchants, and some stalls of Orissian traders who had clearly left too late to hear any news of a change in location for the main Dragonfeast. Meanwhile the City's Aldermanic Court gathered at the Witanmoot for the Sheriffs' elections, which proved to be very close run. As the day progressed it looked like the vote would be too close to call with all the candidates looking equally likely to succeed. Many last minute deals were attempted and the various dignitaries seem to have found time between watch duty and picnics to hold a number of hurried meetings. A last minute talk between Lord Dixon and Ann Tasker caused even more speculation, however in the end it was Adam Avery's support for Aralan Derwent which swung the vote:

Aralan Derwent	16	Anderson, Brehon, Belcher, Derwent, Dixon, Downe, Horl, Isenbard, Martel, Monterey, Pencric, Romanie, Russell, Rimon, Shefford, Tasker
Alison Shefford	12	Anderson, Brehon, Belcher, Derwent, Dixon, Downe, Horl, Isenbard, Martel, Monterey, Rimon, Shefford,
Ann Tasker	12	Andrews, Beaureli, Fytton, Hubold, Pencric, Quinn, Romanie, Russell, Spich, Tasker, Thofin, Warin
Olivia Warin	8	Andrews, Beaureli, Fytton, Hubold, Quinn, Spich, Thofin, Warin

Lord Dixon then used his casting vote to re-elect Ann Tasker to the post of Sheriff and immediately announced that he would be appointing the obviously shocked Alison Shefford to the role of special liaison with the Citadel. Lord Dixon told the Witanmoot that he hoped this new post would prevent any future misunderstandings between the City and Sir Salverian. After the tension and announcement of this result Lady Beatrice Perignon, who had been observing closely from the gallery, commented, "I always expected Aralan to come on top."

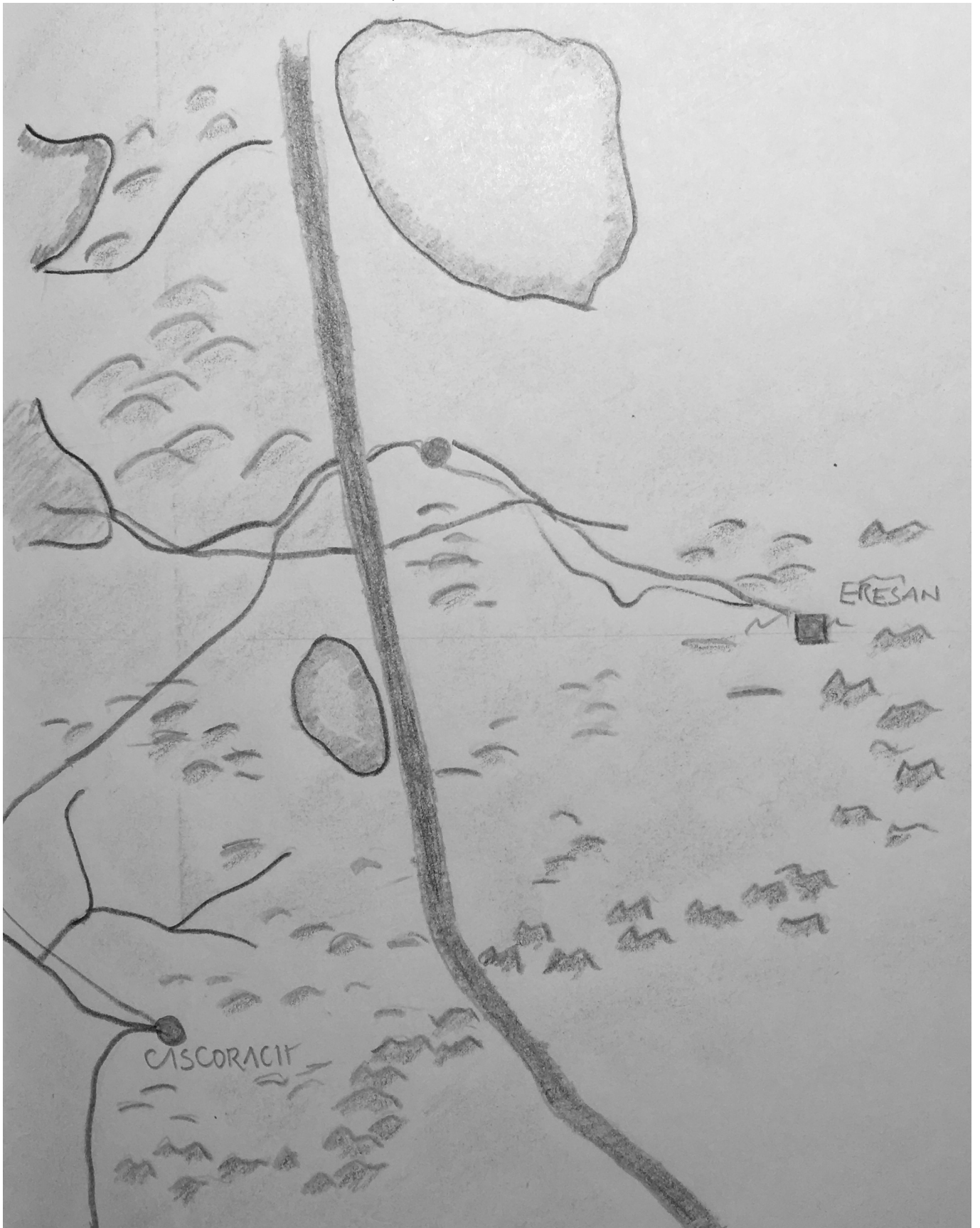
The surprise wedding of Aralan Derwent to her journeyman and one time apprentice, Sebastien Chandos, proved to be one of the most enjoyable civic gatherings yet seen. The ceremony and reception were both held within the Torian Temple, with the Knights Hospitallers proving a very effective deterrent to the many gate crashers. The traditional Torian ceremony was presided over by the Abbot and ended with the couple exchanging names and rings before the high altar. It left even the most hardened of Witanmoot cynics with tears in their eyes; the assembled dignitaries even managed to control themselves when the Abbot called for the witnesses to step forward. As could be expected from such a prominent member of the Broiderers guild, Aralan's collection of dresses for the day can only be described as trend setting. The stunning embroidery highlighted the intricate work of Eilonury Beale beautifully. Following Beale's success with Julia Perignon's wedding dress, these two outfits clearly establish her as the city's premier dressmaker. The evening reception was held within the Abbot's private gardens, and in the long and warm dusk a relaxed festival atmosphere prevailed. Lord Dixon was particularly elegant, as was William Trueman who charmed the entire assembly with his moving and impromptu congratulation speech. Both Lady Perignon and Cllr Avery gossiped steadily amongst the revellers. Only Alan Monterey seemed to not be enjoying himself, but nothing was able to dampen the celebrations, even the brief summer lightning storm which blew over in the early evening.

Those overindulging in the Midsummer festivities made a late start on the even wilder celebrations which began early the following day to mark the four-yearly Dragonfeast. The traders fair expanded to include even more merchants stalls; and entertainment was provided by a series of horse races, bull baiting, a number of musical events and plays put on by the Bards College, and an unexpected jousting tournament organised by the Second Cavalry from the Citadel. Jugglers, monkeys, fire swallowers and mummers all added new hazards for the holiday crowd. Throughout the morning various criers announced the imminent Naming

Ceremony for Sean Perignon, first grandson of Lady Perignon and great-nephew of Lord Dixon. The ceremony took place at Noon in the Wellhouse under the watchful eye of Shinnanon, who even managed to prevent Chinon Starsinger from interrupting the proceedings with too many refills from the Perignon cellars. Crowds of cheerful onlookers were showered with coins and red flowers when the family procession returned to the Perignon mansion for a magnificent reception, but were consoled when Sheriff Tasker ordered several barrels of ale from nearby hostelrys to be donated to celebrate the day's events. It has clearly been an uplifting holiday which has left the whole City in an optimistic mood.



# A Map of Eastern Athion



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 147

The Royal Exchequer has caught up with the many great and good merchants of this city who were prematurely celebrating the commercial success of the festivals. An unexpected tax demand to support the Crown Prince's ongoing war effort has left squeals of protest sounding around the Guildhalls. Although the Witanmoot worthies are concerned at the effect on their own pockets, more sophisticated commentators are wondering why the cash cannot go towards rebuilding Nyskilde, rather than to Salvoyn's moribund war effort.

David Northropp has been forced to withdraw his controversial proposal to impose public record keeping on the Apothecaries Guild. It provoked fierce criticism from all sides as the merchants' guilds strove to protect their expensive Royal Monopolies. Noticeably, he received only silence from the senior members of his own faction, and was forced to make one of the fastest climbdowns of any politician in recent months.

Tension continues to grow between the Newgate camp and the Witanmoot Guard as the search for the Little Sisters of Mercy continues and the number of overnight detentions increases. Rumours that a guard member shot and seriously wounded a young child from the camp have fuelled local resentments and recalled the notorious sleaze scandal earlier this year. Traders who have been entering the city to use their usual pitches have been reluctant to return to the camp at night, citing the dangerous mood of unrest and the frequent pilfering of stock by the guard as reasons for avoiding the area.

The city orphanage is developing rapidly under the watchful eyes of Cllr William Trueman and Gax the Heretic. Trueman is ensuring that the construction work is not being delayed by the Witanmoot bureaucracy, and the walls of the new orphanage are already rising around the building site. Gax is taking a keen interest in the project, and has now thrown his full support behind Trueman's efforts. Speaking at the building site, Gax commented, "This orphanage is a symbol of a united people. It demonstrates the will to care for others and to build a just and decent society. William Trueman's selfless devotion to making this dream a reality is a model for the reform of the corrupt and self serving Witanmoot factions".

The disappearance of Sheriff Derwent has been noted after she failed to show up for the traditional review of the Witanmoot Guard on Setheran Firstday. Sheriff Tasker took the salute alone and appeared to be none too displeased with the occasion. It is presumed that Aralan's absence is due to nothing more sinister than a surprise honeymoon. Nonetheless, the Broiderers Guild have assured us that precautionary measures have been taken. Meanwhile displaced citizen Alison Shefford has been reduced to lobbying Witanmoot members for an extradition paper. It seems that she has received news from Salvoyn of the arrest of Francois Villon, who masterminded the break-in to Shefford's house last year. Villon has been convicted of pilfering, debauchery and 'sedition', and is currently in prison awaiting hanging.

The diminutive apothecary Talus Snapdragon is once again helping the Witanmoot Guard with their enquiries as they try to discover the cause of a recent, fierce blaze at Master Leon de Lamoye's fencing school. Master Talus, who is not known to be a fencer, is apparently helping to find the possible cause of the fire rather than being the prime suspect this time. A number of interesting plumes of smoke have been drifting from his Marshgate home this month, but the prime result seems to be the invention of a particularly indestructible glue. Snapdragon's agents are already in negotiation with the builders guilds.

Scandal has rocked the Kings Theatre once again. On the closing night of their most recent production *Ralph Woodcote*, the leading man, was killed in full view of the audience when a prop collapsed. The Chronicle has learnt that this reported accident was in fact a murder perpetrated by Dick Stermy, stage manager, and his sister Rose Pollard, a Welland hat maker. The pair also killed Peterkin the theatre boy and made an attempt on the life of Sir John Trowbridge and his pregnant (ex actress) wife Eleanor. The pair were arrested by Alderman Sue Quinn in a dawn raid. She has been at pains to deny rumours that the pair were also involved in demon summoning and black magicks. Miss Felicity Mint, the leading actress at the theatre, told the Chronicle, "This whole business has been a great test of us. However, we have rooted out the evil within our midst, and I know dear Ralph and Peterkin would have wanted us to go on with the show".

## Late News

### The King is dead

Travellers fleeing the rebellion in Nyskilde have spoken of a treacherous ambush by the rangers.

The King, Queen and many other nobles have been killed on the orders of Prince Kieran.

There will be a state service for the late King and Queen on the Tourney Fields on Lastday Setheran.

Gods save King Edward

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 147

A state funeral service for King Edmund Caralingas was held last month on the Journey Fields outside the city. This sombre occasion drew in many thousands of people from the countryside, as well as the citizens of Tinrodeth. It was perhaps fortunate that the summer heat had extended the dry fields to accommodate the immense crowd. The service was preceded by a solemn and silent procession of the Witanmoot and Guilds along Wheathill to Newgate, where it joined the courtiers and regiments from the Citadel moving out to the fields. After prayers from all the recognised religions, both great and small, tributes to the King's life and memory were paid by the many attending noblemen, albeit these were only heard by the nearest sections of the vast crowd. Sir Salverian started a symbolic pyre to conclude the service, and after a minute's silence led the return to the city. Many people in the crowd remained, queuing to give their own personal offering into the pyre. These lesser tributes kept the fire burning for another day and night. The city now rests in an eerie quiet while its citizens await the next actions of the great and the good.

A picture of events in Nyskilde has been provided by Lady Petronella Sackville, Colonel of the Queens Infantry. Lady Sackville took time to brief the Witanmoot on events following her receipt of reports from the North. There appears to have been little warning of the impending tragedy with the unsuspecting King Edmund seemingly pleased with his son Kieran's appointment as Prince of Tark. However there were subtle signs that Kieran wanted more, and it may be that King Edmund was making the appointment in an attempt to appease his ambitious son. Matters came to a head at the ceremony in which Kieran was to be crowned Prince of Tark. Kieran, surrounded by a bodyguard of knights, entered the hall dressed in the livery of a King. As His Majesty rose to protest, he was shot down by rangers positioned in the balcony by Kieran. Loyal knights and archers immediately attacked Prince Kieran and the traitorous rangers, but the ambush was too well laid. The King, Queen Emma, Lords Dubhainn, Grenville and Niceilin of Tark, Arnor Samhach, Plenipotentiary of Nyskilde, Princess Kira Karsback of the Noord and many others were all slain within minutes.

Merchants fleeing riots in Nyskilde after the King's assassination have spoken of lynchings and other atrocities inflicted on traders visiting for the Dragonfeast celebrations. Many families fled the city for safety and are returning south with dire warnings. Reports from Tinrodeth's own contestants returning home provide a most disturbing and chaotic picture. Their tales confirm reports of riots in Nyskilde, and an attack by the rangers on a barracks outside the Castle. However stories are now circulating that Prince Kieran was also an intended victim of the attack on the Royal Court by unknown assassins allegedly working for forces based in Salvoyn. These third hand rumours appear to say the Prince Kieran officially became, or was to become, the Crown Prince and named heir to the kingdom shortly before the assassinations. These amazing rumours do, of course, contradict the verified statements emanating from both the Citadel and the Hahnite Temple.

After extensive consultation at the Citadel, Lord Dixon has issued the following emergency decrees:

A third of the Marching Watch (in rotation) is to be called to training every Tenthday.

Lady Cox has been appointed special emissary for the city and will be touring the Duchy in the coming two months.

Alison Shefford is to be appointed as a third Sheriff until Midsummer 148.

Further measures will undoubtedly follow. The Chroniclers have already heard news that a clandestine committee is being formed to implement Lord Dixon's less popular measures. The usual candidates are being rounded up, and blame will no doubt be apportioned appropriately. Lord Dixon, meanwhile, is being summoned to the Citadel on a regular basis. This appears to be playing havoc with a long list of vital interviews which he is attempting to complete before Harvestide. The election for the Aldermanship of Berewic took place in a subdued atmosphere of campaigning, mostly due to the period of mourning observed at the Witanmoot, and partly because of the unreal atmosphere caused by the continued absence of Sheriff Aralan Derwent. At the

count in the Court of Common Council, voting went 179 to the popular campaigner and one-time alderman Mary Hastings, while newcomer Abigail Chastelaine picked up 85 votes. Hastings thus becomes the new Alderman for the Ward of Berewic.

During the same sitting of the council, the annual lottery took place for a Private Member's Bill. This will be a particularly interesting opportunity to direct next year's budget, given recent events. The winner turned out to be a minor member of Hywel Duthon's personal faction, and the Chroniclers look forward to hearing which radical cause he intends to champion. The outline Bill will be submitted to Council next month, Lorinfall, and amendments can be proposed during Kryll.

Erik Dragonsbane, the proprietor of the Dancing Bear, has announced a series of talks at the inn entitled "Civil War, And How To Survive It", in which veterans of the last civil war will describe their experiences. Tickets are 1s each and include a meal and drinks. Cllr Siliniel Falgar has expressed outrage at this "crass exploitation of the king's death", however Eric responded that he was merely "providing an important and obviously popular public service".

Gax the Heretic has made one of his most outspoken speeches ever. Following an interview with Lord Dixon, Gax leapt onto the Mootstone and delivered a scathing attack upon the current overlord and the entire Witanmoot. The cause of Gax's ire seems to be a proposal to demolish his orphanage 'in the interests of security', however Gax's attack was wide ranging and at times incomprehensible. Choice phrases from the speech include, "The Witanmoot has already become disenfranchised, with its democratic structure destroyed through the wanton employment of decrees. This war is being used to justify disregarding the will of the people entirely", or the even more obscure, "now is the time for the people of Tinrodeth to throw off the chains of the Guild structure and break down the doors of this self-perpetuating oligarchy."

Cllr Adam Avery has been making himself popular in his ward of Portsoken through a sustained campaign to ensure that the proposed new wall will not completely stop trade. So successful has his lobbying been that rumour places all three new gates in Portsoken, and none at all in Ishtan, to that ward's increasing consternation. Not content with this success Avery has been actively distributing alms to the poor fisherfolk in his area and lobbying hard for Mary Hastings' election as Alderman of Berewic. Although his enthusiastic late night celebration of her victory may have been unwise.

Alderman Bernard Hubold has renewed his call for the instigation of a professional ward watch. Describing attempts by Alan Monterey to train the Levestone Watch as "pathetic", he reminded people that he had been prevented from building up a skilled and full time watch in his own ward. "What this city needs now is a permanent and effective law and order force based on skilled and trained staff. The idea that somehow the local citizens are going to be able to tackle a civil war on a half hour's extra training would be laughable were the consequences not so grave".

Alan Monterey and William Trueman have both appointed assistants this month in a move which will worry other factions in the run up to the Midwinter elections. Both were at pains to point out that they were merely responding to the additional workload generated by the current crisis. However, not everyone is convinced and Richenda Sylvanus has responded by dropping everything to concentrate on campaigning within her own ward. Miss Jean Marsden, responding on behalf of Alderman Monterey commented, "I look forward to working with Alan to take forward his new and radical agenda. In these difficult times it will be a privilege to work for someone who capable of leading the city out of this crisis".

Rumours abound of incompetence within the Apothecaries Guild after a dangerous mix up of a Citadel order. Lady Beatrice Perignon took the time to comment on the rumours announcing, somewhat cautiously, that "Whilst I cannot comment on the truth of these accusations it seems clear to me that David Northropp's proposal for better auditing of the Apothecaries was a well timed and much needed idea." An official denial has already been issued by Marcus Lambourne on behalf of the guild.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 147

Ambassadors from King Kieran arrived in the City on Thirdweek Seventhday last month. Riding openly through the City in full regalia, they made their way to the Citadel before holding meetings with Lord Dixon, the heads of the various temples and a number of other prominent figures. The Chronicle has learnt that they carried a letter signed by numerous prominent figures, attesting that King Edmund had declared Kieran his heir and that Kieran holds a document signed by the King to this effect.

The Chronicle regrets to announce the death of the Archimandrite. During these difficult times the loss of the leader of the Hahnite religion will be a severe blow to those seeking stability. Plenipotentiary Jasmine told the Chronicle "This is a loss we will all feel very deeply. The Archimandrite led us with compassion and reserve and was loved by us all." The Hahnites will now undergo their traditional period of mourning before picking a new Archimandrite in two month's time. Given the officially pro-Edward stance taken by Plenipotentiary Falmand Ingulfos of Eresan, the studied neutrality of Plenipotentiary Antonius, and Plenipotentiary Jasmine's rumoured support for Kieran, the battle within the Hahnite Temple is expected to be highly charged. The civil war will no doubt disrupt the gathering of the Plenipotentiaries, and it will be interesting to see if Cascorach's Edward De Belleme, another likely contender, will make it to Lirodeth in time for the vote.

Lord Dixon has issued the following emergency decrees:

All warehouses along the line of the new city wall are to be commandeered by the City and modified by the Carpenters' Guild to form temporary battlements. Three new gates will be permitted to access dockside. The interior of the warehouses may still be used by the original owners provided that this use does not obstruct military activities

The Witanmoot Guard is to be doubled by Midwinter.

The existing Witanmoot Guard will receive riding lessons at city's expense for the next four months.

The City has been thrown into panic by rumours that King Edward has mustered an army and is already marching north to Lirodeth to claim the throne. Alderman Elliott Anderson and George Rimon have denounced the prevarication of the Witanmoot and called for the City to welcome Edward as the rightful King. Meanwhile the other leaders of the City appear to be too deep into preparations for war to take the time to debate who the City plans to fight. Alan Monterey has been concentrating on assisting with the completion and stockpiling of the harvest whilst Richenda Sylvanus has been assisting Ann Tasker by organising the city's production of arrows.

The dock front palisade is progressing erratically under the watchful eye of Adam Avery, despite persistent rumours of bankruptcy at the city Treasury. These rumours appear to have been started by the renewed debate within the council chambers about this year's budget. It seems that a number of radical cuts have been proposed, and concern is growing over the fate of a number of renovation projects deferred since the great fire. Fortunately, Cllr Trueman's vigorous lobbying has already ensured the completion of the new orphanage, although this may have to be used to re-house orphans made homeless by Lord Dixon's war preparations.

Concern is growing over the continued presence demanded of Matthew Dixon and Beatrice Perignon at the Citadel. Both of these key political leaders have spend most of their time this month at the Citadel in discussions with Sir Salverian and King Edward's representative, the Duchess of Haronne. Lord Dixon has appeared briefly at the Witanmoot to make the decrees, but has not taken part in any of the numerous debates. Alderman Bernard Hubold told the Chronicle, "We're all very worried. Effectively the City is being run by decree from the Citadel."

There are signs that the consensus of co-operation within the City government is breaking down. Gax the Heretic is continuing his campaign against Lord Dixon's intention to burn down the Vintner's Orphanage and has gained the outspoken support of Cllr Edge and the less public backing of William Trueman. However, Lord Dixon appears adamant that the orphanage will be destroyed.

Tensions are building over the local response to the arrival of King Edward. Whilst most councillors are still maintaining a 'wait and see' position, some have decided and at least one fist fight has ensued in the Witanmoot between rival supporters of King Edward and King Kieran. These Witanmoot debates do not appear to have damped the rising tide of coronation fever, with tankards and bunting going into early production. A number of rallies near the Mootstone have already called for a special Coronation Fund to be raised by the Witanmoot, "to make up for the Dragonfeast fiasco", as one lobbyist put it. Sheriff Aralan Derwent has returned to the City and has immediately set about destroying the fence which her colleagues are sitting on. At an emergency session of the Council she denounced the City of Salvoyn as being behind the wretched murder of King Edward and Queen Emma. She declared her support for King Kieran and confirmed the planned investiture of Kieran as crown prince. She went on to declare ""As you know I have had long associations with the City of Nyskilde and its people, and I know many of the leading citizens of that city. Some of my friends were murdered on that dark day. What I have found is that these most wretched murders were carried out by agents from Salvoyn, who had been infiltrated into Nyskilde. They slaughtered the King and Queen during the Investiture of Prince Kieran as Crown Prince. I ask you to honour King Edmund's memory by following his last wishes and pledging the allegiance of this city, as I have pledged my allegiance to a unified kingdom of Athion under his chosen heir." Her final call caused uproar and the Witanmoot Guard were forced to clear the chamber before a riot ensued. She has since been heard speaking on a similar theme from the Mootstone and at several market places around the city.

A surprising and radical Private Member's Bill has been proposed by Cllr Hywel Duthon, who is obviously looking further ahead than his fellow councillors these days. He proposes to establish a Market area (exact location to be decided) with 'Freeport' status. This apparently means no tax and no immediate customs and excise on goods at the port; which sounds interestingly similar to legitimising the Floating Market. Hywel Duthon told the Chronicle: "The establishing of a Freeport within the boundaries of Tinrodeth can only be good for the city in these troubled times. I look forward to hearing the proposals of my fellow councillors for suggestions as to the most appropriate location. Without doubt it will bring prosperity not only to the city, but especially to the ward where it is located."

Such reasonableness does not appear to part of Alderman Monterey's repertoire this month, as he renewed his attack on fellow Alderman Bernard Hubold, ""I entirely agree with Alderman Hubold that, in his words, the city needs a permanent and effective law and order force based on skilled and trained staff. It is somewhat surprising to hear him champion the Witanmoot Guard, but we shouldn't let the praise go to waste. However, civil war is coming. At some point we, the citizens of Tinrodeth, will have to defend our city. When that time comes, a few mercenaries scattered here and there will make no difference; it is we who will man the walls, we who must fight for Tinrodeth and Athion. I would rather that we had little training for that than none at all."

## Late News Late News Late News Late News

The vanguard of King Edward's army has been sighted and is expected to arrive at the city gates by Firstday Thirdweek. The main army can therefore be expected to reach the Tinrodeth by the end of the month. The vanguard appears to consist of a full regiment of cavalry massing at least 500 horse. King Edward does not appear to have called a feudal muster and the main army is said to consist entirely of regular units, massing a further two regiment of horse and 10,000 infantry. Alderman George Rimon has tabled an emergency motion, "This council congratulates King Edward on his swift response to the threat of war and calls upon all citizens to welcome his arrival at the capital of Athion".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 147

It has been a truly dramatic month in which the Witamoot declared for Prince Kieran; Lord Dixon imposed martial law and arrested many prominent members of the council, the Witamoot Guard stormed and, amazingly, took the Citadel; and a major battle was fought with Prince Edward's vanguard. The City is now bracing itself for the arrival of Prince Edward's army and preparing for a long winter siege.

The first sign of trouble came when smoke was spotted from the direction of Gax's orphanage on the Vintner fields. When news of this reached a public meeting in Welland, an outraged protest march formed which immediately began marching through Tevestone. The protest was stopped by a hasty barricade thrown across the streets by the Witamoot Guard who then charged the marchers, scattering the crowd and making several bloody arrests. The Sheriffs are claiming that the riot was caused by agent provocateurs who set fire to Gax's orphanage. However the Chronicle has learnt that the fire was indeed set by the Witamoot Guard, and many people remain convinced that the riot was deliberately provoked by the Witamoot as an excuse for more draconian measures. Gax the Heretic has yet to comment, or indeed to be found, and rumours persist that he was killed during the attack on the orphanage.

The subsequent imposition of martial law, curfew, and arrest of many prominent members of the Witamoot caused great consternation amongst the great and the good, but generated very little public comment. Lord Dixon's policy of arresting anybody who took a strong position on anything seems to have created a very rapid enthusiasm for moderation amongst those people left outside the Witamoot cells. The arrests were carried out immediately after the Tevestone riot. Whilst most of the people arrested during the 'night of short speeches' have now been released, prominent supporters of Prince Edward such as Aldermen Rimon and Isenbard remain under arrest. Cllr Jardin, speaking from a secret hiding place, denounced Lord Dixon and the rest of the faction leaders for believing Aralan Derwent's lies and leading the City into an untenable position. He went on to accuse Sheriff Derwent of being in the pay of Prince Kieran and called for the citizens to rise up, overthrow the rebellious Witamoot and take the City for King Edward.

Rumours persist of a major policy split within the apparently united Crisis Committee. According to reports from our source, Sheriff Alison Shefford has argued vigorously against the policy of supporting Prince Kieran. It is interesting to note that she took no part in the battle against the vanguard, and that she has not, unlike the rest of the committee, been seen praising the virtues of Prince Kieran. A yet greater split may be forming around Sheriff Aralan Derwent and Alderman Alan Monterey who are believed to have come within a whisker of successfully censuring Lord Dixon. The loss of the support of these two stalwarts, and the near disintegration of his faction, leaves Lord Dixon in a dangerously exposed political position. However with martial law in place, it may be many years before he is required to relinquish control.

One of Lord Dixon's more disconcerting actions was the successful storming of the Citadel with a handful of Witamoot Guard. Reports of the exact events differ, however it is clear that Sir Salverian was killed late on eightday secondweek of Lorinfall by troops loyal to Prince Edward. A major conflict then broke out within the Citadel. The Queen's Infantry regiment, in a pre-planned action, attacked the Ranger's barracks and set it on fire. At the same time they disarmed the Second Cavalry and imprisoned many nobles at the Citadel. Lord Dixon responded to the crisis by personally leading the Witamoot Guard in an assault which gained control of the Citadel gate, enabling the rest of the Guard to penetrate the Citadel defences and release the cavalry from their imprisonment. The cavalry and the Guard were joined by the Marching Watch, summoned by Sheriff Derwent, and the combined forces assaulted the inner keep. Losses were heavy on all sides but by the following morning the entire Citadel was under the control of Lord Dixon. Colonel Karine Agrevaine now controls the Citadel forces, and has confirmed that Sir Salverian was standing vigil in the Chapel and was preparing to declare for Prince Kieran just before his untimely death.

Relieved citizens gave a warm welcome to Eorlaine Samantha Cox and her entourage when they returned with news of a good harvest and a generous tithing from the surrounding countryside. The delegation



had been touring the duchy for the past two months, and spent a tense final week avoiding the scouts from Edward's army in order to complete their mission.

The City is mourning its losses following a battle with Prince Edward's vanguard. In all some 300 citizens were killed or injured during the battle, with the brunt of the losses being taken by the wards of Faringdon and Cadene. The City also lost nearly all of the remaining troops. There appears to be a growing concern that the City will not be able to stand against Edward's army when it arrives. The consensus at the Dancing Bear seems to be that the City forces could not afford the losses which were suffered taking the Citadel and defeating the vanguard. One commentator told us, "As I reckon it, the City has just enough professional troops left to provide a bodyguard for the Sheriffs. The Rangers and Infantry wiped each other out in the Citadel, and we lost all but a platoon of the Cavalry defeating the vanguard. Sure we have good walls and a lot of keen amateurs, but when Edward shows up with six or seven regiments of seasoned veterans, I reckon we'll last about two days."

### **Official Statement by Sheriff Aralan Derwent:**

The morning of Seconday, lastweek of Iorinfall dawned fair over the City of Tinrodeth. Many citizens loyal to Kieran assembled on the walls to look out over the army assembled four bow shots from the walls. Lady Agrevaine commanded the force, and rode at the head of the 2nd Cavalry, while Sheriffs Derwent & Tasker commanded the forces of the City of Tinrodeth. Brave citizens, together with the Witanmoot Guard, formed the heart of the army. Edward's cavalry appeared in the distance. The first wave of the attack was broken up by City archers, and though the enemy forces threatened to break through, the centre held, and repulsed the attack. The second wave of the enemy cavalry was also repulsed in a volley of arrows. Then the 2nd Cavalry showed how they earned their motto ("Death before Dishonour") by charging into the third and final wave of cavalry on the left flank of the battle.

The battle swung to and fro for several hours, and the enemy cavalry was destroyed while many of the 2nd Cavalry bravely fought to the end. In a final desperate effort, two squadrons of Edward's cavalry charged on a unit formed from the Witanmoot Guard and the 2nd Infantry, augmented by brave councillors. The first wave was repulsed, and then the attacking cavalry was mown down in a hail of arrows. The second wave of the attack burst through the Witanmoot Guard and tried cravenly to ride off the field of battle. They were challenged on their honour by Agrevaine, and reluctantly turned to offer battle. Edward's last surviving cavalry broke and routed for the fourth and final time on that fateful day, and the stragglers from the attacking force fled the field.

The bodies of over 500 of the enemy dead were burned on the Journey Fields. When the army returned to the City, it was welcomed at the gates by Lord Dixon, where he praised the heroism shown by the Citizens of Tinrodeth in defence of their City under the leadership of Lady Agrevaine, Sheriff Derwent and Sheriff Tasker, who all returned to the City bloodied after the conflict, but unbowed. Lord Dixon told the assembled crowd: "Edward's actions in murdering the late King Edmund's brother Salverian, after slaying his own father and attacking the City have shown his unfitness to rule. I call on the citizens of Tinrodeth to take arms for King Kieran; to train each day, and to be prepared to defend their city and families. Gods save the King."

### **Late News Late News Late News Late News Late News**

Confusion continues to mount over the continued absence of Prince Edward's main army. The army was due at the end of Iorinfall, but has still not appeared some 15 days later. Scouts have been dispatched to Fenny Bridges to see if the army has crossed the river, and southwards to discover if the army has paused to prepare siege engines. Clearly the defeat of the vanguard has disrupted Edward's plans, however everyone at the Witanmoot has stressed that the vanguard was only a small fraction of Edward's force, and suggestions that he may have retreated as a result of its loss are, at best, fanciful.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 147

Prince Edward's army has suffered an unexpected defeat at the hands of Princess Eleanor's forces. The Princess marched her entire army to the rescue of Tinrodeth and struck without warning at Edward's encampment. Losses on both sides were heavy, with Edward's cavalry being particularly hard hit. After suffering serious damage to his supplies and siege engines, and with the prospect of a hostile army to his rear, Prince Edward had no choice but to abandon his march on Tinrodeth. Both armies are believed to have withdrawn to their respective strongholds. The news has brought relief amongst the citizens as the City's safety is now secured - at least until the spring. Nonetheless no chances are being taken: Sheriff Derwent continues to train sections of the Marching Watch, Sheriff Tasker is co-ordinating scouting expeditions through the duchy, and Sheriff Shefford is busy clearing barges away from under the new wooden walls along the waterfront. Cllr Avery has joined in by organising ice-breaking expeditions on the river now that the first snowfalls of winter have started. Rumours that the Knights Templar of Hahn fought on the Princess' side have caused consternation in the Temple, where the election for Archimandrite is now underway.

Alison Shefford's clearing of the barges in the Floating Market area proved to be a slow and messy operation. It was achieved in the teeth of opposition from the armed residents. The attack was the first action seen by most of the Witanmoot Guard, which now largely consists of new recruits. After several hand-to-hand fights across the decks, the Guards managed to take control and demolish the barges. The inhabitants temporarily scattered on a flotilla of smaller boats, but returned to the wrecks later. The Witanmoot Guard retreated with five dead and six wounded; about half of their current strength.

The wall of silence about Lord Dixon's arrest of the Witanmoot last month has been broken by his erstwhile staunch ally Alan Monterey. The Alderman has found himself in the unusual position of being the only faction leader to be speaking out against the establishment. Whilst most of his colleagues and the vast majority of the city have been rallying behind Lord Dixon's strong leadership and decisive action, Alan has launched a lone attack upon the Lord's "dictatorial style". A spokeswoman for Alderman Monterey explained, "The fact that the Lord imprisoned all the senior members of the Witanmoot is a very serious situation which cannot, for the sake of the future of our democracy, go unchallenged." Asked if he would be taking any action to deal with Alderman Monterey, Lord Dixon replied, "Provided that he doesn't contradict any of my decrees he is free to say what he wants."

Curiosity is surrounding the status of George Rimon who has been released but who, to the best of anyone's knowledge, has not signed up to Lord Dixon's imposition of silence. So far George has not said anything in public which could be seen as a direct breach of the decree, and it appears that the severely overstretched Witanmoot Guard have decided not to attempt his re-arrest. Many key members of the Witanmoot are known to be unconvinced by the wisdom of the decision to fight Prince Edward, and some of these people will be looking to Rimon or Jardin for leadership. Cllr Jardin, who remains in hiding, has again spoken out against the leadership of the Witanmoot. He told the Chronicle, "These traitors have betrayed the City and caused the unnecessary death of many of its citizens. The actions of Princess Eleanor make it clear to me that there is a carefully planned conspiracy against the rightful heir to the Crown. I am beginning to wonder just how co-incidental Aralan's sudden wedding and trip to Nyskilde was." Cllr Jardin's suspicions will no doubt be reinforced by the departure of Cllr Richenda Sylvanus. She left for Nyskilde and northern climes on the last ship out of port before winter. The Chroniclers are unable to substantiate any rumours of a wedding.

The campaigns for the Midwinter elections seem to have started despite the current crisis in the City. Many the faction leaders are making their support for Prince Kieran the key plank of their campaign - Monterey, Derwent, Trueman and Perignon have already declared for Kieran. With the Witanmoot Guard ready to arrest anyone putting forward a contrary view, it will be interesting to see how the campaigns develop. So far the ordinary electors are more worried about the legality of the election under martial law, but it seems that councillors are taking no chances and are already making arrangements for knocking up.

# Religions (Part One)

## Aldor, the Hunter and Far-Wanderer

Aldor is the God of the forests and of the wilderness. He is a remote, wandering God, usually depicted as a grey-cloaked archer. In legend it was he that first taught men the skills of bowmanship. Unsurprisingly for such a solitary deity, there is no organised priesthood or religion although he has a following amongst archers and foresters. He is also supposed to be the protector of travellers, and merchants on the road can often be seen wearing his emblem (a twig of oak leaves) to bring good luck. Tradition has that this God sometimes appears in human form asking to share the evening meal of travellers, so solitary strangers should never be turned away.

## Daleth, the Earth Goddess

This is the largest and most popular of all the different religions, being particularly strong amongst the peasants and yeomen farmers. Its priests are either Wellkeepers or Earthspeakers, and work as partners based at a Wellhouse. The Wellkeeper oversees the House and its lands, and attends to the needs of the guests and the inhabitants (usually children or the old). The Earthspeaker travels the surrounding lands acting as a teacher, advisor and preacher. The philosophy of this cult is simple: The Goddess is, and we are the Goddess. The Earth is. Nothing else is needed. Circling a finger over the heart is the sign of the Goddess, and the priests teach the cycle of life and death and rebirth. For them the greatest crime is destroying the land beyond its ability to regenerate, and death is a lesser penalty than living landless. Although neither priest wears any kind of weapon, they are protected by earthspirits. These unseen creatures destroy anyone that murders a priest or desecrates a Wellhouse. They can also be summoned by the large scale destruction of land. This effects anyone from woodcutters who replant as they go, to a general who ensures that his army forages more widely for food. No-one can remember the last time a retreating army pursued a 'burnt earth' policy. Occasionally people disbelieve, during the civil war there were several mercenary bands who decided that

Wellhouses were easy prey, but the discovery of the corpses reminded everyone that earthspirits are not an ancient and harmless myth. Green and Brown are the colours associated with this cult.

## Esprayenna, the Sea Goddess

Esprayenna is the Goddess of the Ocean, beautiful and terrible, both generous and destructive. Her priests, all seafarers, hold that life is a privilege that must be earned. They measure respect by a person's ability to survive the Goddess, maintaining that only ability, and not luck, affects the outcome; "The Goddess delivers those that deserve". All priests regularly pit their skill against the tides and the weather, and refuse any retirement. Those that survive to old age are often semi crippled but are recognised as the most expert Master Mariners anywhere. It is not unknown for these mariners to crew a ship together and sail off to make a last gesture, such as riding the winter storms or seeking the Land of the Sun across the western ocean. Deep blue and silver the colours of this order.

## Torus, the God of Healing

Not surprisingly, this religion believes in the sanctity of Life. They are organised in a loose hierarchy of respect and experience based around the scattered hospital temples. Each Infirmary trains new members with as much theory and practice as they can offer, it is then the responsibility of these new Physickians to travel around the land giving help wherever it is required. This duty tends to find Physickians working closely with the Earthspeaker of a region, the Torian Priests however regard all life as sacred, and will fight death rather than treat it as part of a natural cycle. Many priests spend their entire lives as wandering Physickians, but others will return to an Infirmary when they are older. Here they teach Novices, heal patients and contemplate the benevolence of Torus. These Curofanii often specialise their expertise, becoming herbalists, hypnotists, bone-setters or even one of the very rare chirurgeons. Unadorned white is the sacred colour of this religion.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 147

Scouts returning from the south have confirmed the destruction of Prince Edward's cavalry and baggage train by the forces of Princess Eleanor. They have also confirmed that a force of Knights Templar formed the core of Princess Eleanor's forces. Princess Eleanor seems to have called a full muster of the Cascorach feudal levy, and it was this large force which fell upon the unsuspecting Prince Edward whilst he was camped only 20 miles from Linrodeth. The assessment from the Citadel scouts is that if Prince Edward's force had reached Linrodeth, the city would have fallen within days. Sheriff Derwent has been at pains to point out that Prince Edward's entire force of over 3,000 professional infantry survived that battle and that the city must continue to prepare for battle in the spring.

The assassination of Cllr Matthew Jardin has caused shock and outrage throughout the city. Cllr Jardin had just left his secret hiding place to campaign for the Midwinter elections when he was cut down by masked swordsmen describing themselves as members of 'Retribution': a new, secretive, pro-Kieran cult. The assassins also attempted to kill the popular Welland alderman James Isenbard. Cllr Stefan Teaming is alleged to have links with Retribution and he told the Chroniclers, "Jardin was a traitor who got what he deserved. Retribution have told me that they have intend to act whenever the authorities fail to deal with such people." Alderman George Rimon is also said to be on Retribution's death list. He has announced that he, "will not be intimidated by Kieran's thugs," and that he intends to, "continue to campaign for the return of the rule of Law under Edward, the rightful King." The Sheriffs continue to deny rumours that Retribution is really a front for a Witanmoot Guard death squad.

After a month of debate behind the sealed doors of the Hahnite Temple, the announcement of the election of Falmand Ingulfos as the new Archimandrite has caused an immediate schism in the Temple of Hahn. Supporters of rival candidate Plenipotentiary de Belleme have taken control of the adjacent Hahnite Law School and are refusing to accept the election result. Although the two groups are pro- and anti-Prince Edward, the split seems to be based on religious grounds, with De Belleme supporters describing Ingulfos as a, "decadent and sacrilegious schismatic." Archimandrite Ingulfos has called upon de Belleme and his supporters to, "accept the election, as prescribed by the Law of Hahn, or face excommunication". Both groups seem to have substantive forces of Knights Templar and the situation in the Ward of Faringdon is described as very tense.

Already nervous citizens may be alarmed to hear that the soothsayer Mab has braved the displeasure of Lord Dixon and novice Witanmoot Guards to venture onto the Mootstone. From this unstable perch she issued the following warning: "Lo, the sands of time fall one by one into the abyss and the hour of nothingness creeps ever closer. Then shall the light be dimmed unto utter darkness and none shall halt its fading. All that is and was shall be naught but the whisper of a memory in a failing mind, and all that was to be remains in the pen of fate, unwrit upon the page of destiny." Whereupon she fell into a faint and was removed by the Guard for questioning.

The encampment of alien river workers a little way outside Oldgate has become the source of angry dispute. Two score of raggedly dressed warriors (both brown and yellow folk) have insisted on participating in the Marching Watch drill whenever Sheriff Derwent leads the muster. Citizens have become increasingly annoyed at this intrusion, claiming that it is disrupting serious attempts to improve the defence of the city. So far Aralan has managed to avoid any confrontation between 'her' irregulars and the Dowgate watch.

Eorlaine Samantha Cox and Colonel Karine Agrevaine have formed a partnership to jointly oversee the running of the Citadel. Like the Witanmoot, the Citadel appears to have become a pro-Kieran base, but its strength has been severely reduced by the loss of troops during the autumn battles. Negotiations continue with Lord Dixon on the supply, stockpiling and best use of its forces. It is believed that the Citadel still holds the bulk of the Royal Treasury, and that a major recruiting and purchasing initiative is being prepared for the spring. Rumours that the city's grain supplies have already been moved into the Citadel for safe keeping remain unconfirmed.

## Late News Late News Late News Late News Late News

This year's Midwinter elections went ahead with Lord Dixon's blessings, despite concerns about the continued state of Martial Law. The elections have produced interesting results with a general loss of power by overt supporters of both sides in the Civil War. In some wards however, strongly pro-Kieran candidates suffered defeat at the hands of the supporters of Edward. In Dracas, Sharon Brehon was narrowly defeated by Philip Portman, and in Oldgate the pro-Kieran Emily Martel lost out to Duncan Barnett. However the real surprise of the evening came in Shambles where Ralf Seagrim was clearly shocked to defeat long standing Alderman and fellow Meatmonger, Bert Belcher. In Ishtan the hard fought contest resulted in a narrow victory by Eva Capel, whilst in Tevestone Martin Key came within a few votes of defeating Alan Monterey. Similar close calls came in Kingsgate and Faringdon where the standing aldermen barely held on to their positions. The major upsets for the pro-Edward groupings came in Welland, where the avowedly neutral Tilly Falgar unseated James Isenbard, and in Portsoken where the outspoken pro-Kieran Nicholas Worton subjected Godfrey Russell to a crushing defeat. Lost from the council completely is Dominic Melchet, while the Chronicle would like to welcome Jim Bottler, Peter Rochess, Bartholomew Hyde and Marie Cripstead to the fray. For the factions the results of the elections show a weakening of power for Lordship contender Aralan Derwent and a strong consolidation of the position of Hywel Duthon.

It remains to be seen if Lord Dixon will follow through on rumours that he intends to require all candidates to swear an oath of loyalty before taking office. Alderman Rimon told the Chronicle "I owe it to the memory of Matthew Jardin to stand up to this tyranny. I'm proud to support King Edward and the citizens of Tinrodeth have clearly backed me and my colleagues. There is now a firm pro-Edward majority in the Aldermanic court and it is only Dixon's control of the City Guard which is preventing us from correcting the terrible error the council made in supporting Kieran."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 148

The tense situation around the Hahn Temple and Law School in Faringdon has eased slightly. Delegations from both groups of Knights Templars seem to have suggested to the priests that no-one would come to blows over the schism. The stand-down and mutual truce allows the good knights to return to barracks rather than patrol the snowbound streets, and also comes as a relief to the sheriffs who were beginning to be tetchy about armed guards on 'their' streets. The breakaway faction led by Edward de Belleme is still debating its tactics once the spring thaw arrives. One option seems to be a strategic withdrawal to Princess Eleanor's stronghold at Cascorach, where Belleme was the Plenipotentiary. It seems likely, however, that this fragile calm may be shattered by Cllr Avery's recent proposal to the Witanmoot that: "In keeping with its support for Kieran as rightful King of Athion, the Court of Common Council not employ in any capacity those members of the Temple of Hahn who have sworn allegiance to Falmand Ingulfos."

Cllr Adam Avery went on to explain, "Ingulfos has made his support for the pretender Edward quite plain. We cannot allow our City's legal system to depend on those who support this position. We cannot allow our finances to pass through the hands of those we cannot trust. We cannot allow our secret papers into the sight of the enemy." A spokeswoman for the Archimandrite deplored the councillors' politicising of a temple crisis. "It is unfortunate that certain elements within the council wish to widen the rift between ourselves and our misguided brethren, rather than try to heal this distressing theological split. I will not comment further on the motives of someone so well known for alliances with Esprayennan priestesses." Gax the Heretic has made a dramatic return to civic life this month by staging a takeover and occupation of the new city orphanage by street urchins. Gax has been recovering from injuries sustained while trying to extinguish the fire at the old orphanage. He roundly condemned the board of the new orphanage, accusing them of admitting only a few, select orphans of citizens. His bold ousting of the official supervisors appears to be popular with the local residents, despite the sudden appearance of dozens and dozens of street urchins.

A disaster at the City defences was narrowly averted last week when quick thinking revellers doused a dangerous fire. Trouble began in the early hours of the morning when an oven fire at a nearby bakery set light to the chimney and flared out of control. The fierce easterly wind blew a stream of sparks towards the newly constructed wooden walls. A group of late party-goers spotted the blaze on their way home and managed to avalanche enough snow onto the fire from surrounding rooftops to douse it. Daylight revealed that their route of climb was exceedingly dangerous, and the successful intervention nothing short of miraculous. The Scratch Street bakery will remain closed until repairs can be completed in the spring.

The Guild of Glaziers appears to be in trouble after it suspended its Treasurer, Master William de Mattock, for alleged misuse of guild property. A number of creditors have already sought to recover debts from the guild, and Guildmaster Melanie Romanie assures the Chronicle these will be paid in full. All senior masters are refusing to comment further other than to state that their businesses will continue as usual. Local residents of Cadene are speculating that this event may be linked to an unclaimed account book which was recently retrieved from a snowdrift by the ward watch.

Sheriff Derwent's scaly irregulars have once again scandalised citizens by petitioning to move within the city walls. The Solistel and Babel spokeshings correctly point out that an army or two is due outside the city walls any month now, and that their overnight camp outside Oldgate remains defenceless at Lord Dixon's request. While they are fully prepared to take Dixon's assurance of safety on trust, they have pointed out that there are limits to this. Sheriff Derwent is now left to ponder possible solutions and the subtlety of inter-species translation.

The Masons and Coopers apprentices have decided to celebrate the passing of an era by staging a full scale football match out on the river ice next Tenthday. This will be the first public match for some twelve years. Debate about the rules, or lack thereof, is expected to be rife.

The Fleapit Theatre in Castle Bard has a hit on its hands with the restaging of 'School for Sleaze'. The old play was written towards the end of the last civil war, and recounts the triumphs, difficulties and embarrassments of establishing a new Witanmoot Council after martial law. Although the students allow that it has been slightly updated and rewritten, they maintain that much of its satiric dialogue is original. Tickets have sold out for months ahead in the hope that the Witanmoot Guard will allow its run to continue.

One frequent theatre and concert-goer this month is Hugh Perignon, who seems to be doing his best to avoid home until his application for a cavalry commission can be considered. Ma Perignon's plans for a brilliant marriage for her remaining son are moving into the final stages. Young Hugh is still hoping to make a last minute escape, but marital laws may yet prevail. Lady Beatrice has frequent access to Colonel Karine Agrevaine and Eorlaine Samantha Cox and may well delay their review of appointments. The citadel appears to be coming to accept the Eorlaine as its de facto commander, and a thorough audit of the Royal Treasury is taking place in her customary style. Senior clerks at the Witanmoot have been waxing almost nostalgic and have apparently advised Lord Dixon that the early morning briefings are likely to continue.

The newly-elected Witanmoot Court of Common Council was opened by Lord Matthew Dixon with a characteristically uncompromising speech:

""Alderman and councillors; the past year has been a long and difficult one and one which has seen the greatest changes in a generation. We can be well pleased that we have managed to maintain this great city of ours in a manner that would have made the late King Edmund proud of us. However, the next year will be even more difficult as we adjust to the new situation confronting us. The late King was assassinated by those who opposed his beneficent rule, and thus by extension ourselves. For our mandate to govern our own affairs was directly and openly acknowledged by King Edmund. We have and will continue to serve the throne best by keeping the King's Law. I will not tolerate those who break the laws of the Kingdoms of Athion and I will pursue all who break those laws, even those, like the group calling itself 'Retribution', who claim to be acting for their King. I will not accept that there are any legitimate reasons for promoting sedition. All those guilty of such actions will be executed. I do, however, look forward to happier times ahead when all the splits and feuding bedevilling our country are resolved and we can, once again, unite the country through trade. It is in the interests of the future, and with the traditions of the past in mind, that I am proud and happy to announce that Springtide Lordship elections will happen and occur this year as normal. However as Alison Shefford is Sheriff nil regalia there will be four candidates eligible at this year's election: myself, Sheriff Tasker, Sheriff Derwent and Sheriff Shefford. May I recommend to you all, but in particular those who feel that I have in the past year overstepped my mark, to consider the alternatives offered by the Sheriffs.""

Despite an official complaint from Miss Planchet over the Midwinter election results, the Witanmoot then moved swiftly on to consider the important matter of committee appointments. Alderman Monterey proposed that, given the current difficult circumstances, the Envoyship to Salvoyne be suspended until further notice. There was widespread agreement and the proposal was carried on the nod.

Treasury	Barnett, Warin
Trade	Horl
Law & Order	Tholin
Shipping	Pencric
Welfare & Education	Andrews, Beaufeli, Capel, Horl
Lands & Agriculture	Downe
Nyskilde	Slyvanus
Eresan	Bergeren, Dunn
Cascorach	Chastelaine, Martel

Gibian Horl thus becomes Chair of Trade, and is dropped from the Welfare & Education election. Leonard Tholin remains in Law & Order, Pencric in Shipping, and Downe in Lands & Ag. Cllr Richenda Sylvanus acquires the title of Envoy to Nyskilde, presumably either because she's already there or because they don't want her back. Elections for the Treasurer, Welfare & Education, Eresan and Cascorach will take place next month.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 148

The Witanmoot Guard have been called out several times this month to suppress street protests following Lord Dixon's latest decree:

"The Solistel and Babel inhabitants of our city have given and will continue to give their utmost to help in the defence of this city. In recognition of this, She'pan Meduenin and Oulgarian Dingol, and their descendants in perpetuity will be treated, for all purposes connected with the governance of the city of Tinrodeth, as if they were guildmembers. In particular, they will:"

"Attend call ups of the marching watch

"Be permitted to seek refuge within the city walls in times of siege.

"Be permitted to buy and own property, with all associated rights, within the city walls.

"This decree does not remove any rights, privileges or duties from any existing guildmembers or citizens of Tinrodeth, in particular the guild rights and duties with regard to quality of merchandise remain in place and intact."

This announcement of the elevation of brown and yellow scaly river scum to the status of Guildmen triggered widespread anger, and incensed some citizens so far that they forgot about the martial law still in place. Members of the Guard practised their now infamous cudgel charge, and scores of bloodied residents sought treatment at the Torian infirmary. One anonymous protester commented, "he's gone too far this time, I reckon. Good job that the King's army is due here soon; Dixon'll be swinging for treason soon enough."

Other events in the Witanmoot received less attention, but another crisis was narrowly averted when the controversial Avery amendment was voted down. The motion, banning orthodox Hahmites from assisting the city in its own courts of law, was eventually defeated by just 78 votes to 68. Many councillors abstained, stating that this was a matter of conscience for believers in that faith. Others decided that regulations on who the council employed was indeed a civic matter and that Cllr Avery should look elsewhere for opportunities to needle the new Archimandrite. Finally, the Court of Common Council moved on to the new committee appointments. The voting for the posts was:

Treasury: Warin 109 votes Barnett 37 votes

Welfare & Education: Beureli 70 votes Andrews 41 votes Capel 35 votes Horl 5 votes

Eresan: Bergeren 105 votes Dunn 35 votes

The ex-Treasurer Emily Martel was voted as the Emissary to Cascorach nem com.

The city orphanage returned to normal this month once Gax received assurances from the new Chairman of Welfare and Education. Alderman Beureli has confirmed that the orphanage will in future admit street urchins to its care. To this end he has already installed many of the orphans who took part in the occupation last month, tripling the number of residents and creating instant overcrowding. Sheriff Ann Tasker is widely tipped to be re-married next month, assuming that she and her intended, Alderman Alan Monterey, can fit the time into their busy schedules. Our intrepid reporter asked for the Sheriff's comments on this rumour, and received only "balderdash" by way of reply. This appears to be something of a bluff, since we can confirm that catering arrangements have already been finalised.

A more passionate affair seems to be taking place in the 'Dancing Bear' this month where George Cuth Williams, the retired mercenary captain, has recently acquired a mistress old enough to be his granddaughter. Several steamy scenes have caused near riot in the veterans gallery, and the proprietor Erik Wyvernsfield has threatened to throw buckets of cold water over the pair unless they remain moderately respectable.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 148

Tensions between the Watches and the Witanmoot Guard, created by Lord Dixon's elevation of the Babel and Solistel to citizenship last month, have somewhat died down. The Guard having decided to withdraw to the Witanmoot precincts, except for the Marching Watch training. Opinions about the river scum citizenry continue to add controversy to the succession debate, and Cllr Avery has helped matters along by proposing to employ the new citizenry in the Shipbuilders Guild. Sheriff Derwent also persists in her use of the brown and yellows as irregular units within the Marching Watch.

Sheriff Aralan Derwent has taken the thaw as a signal to increase the training of the Watch by another half day. All citizens are reminded that each ward has an assigned half day of training which they must attend. In addition each Tenthday morning is archery practise, and on every Tenthday Lastweek there will be a massed drill on the Journey Fields for all citizens. The melting snow and rising floodwaters add urgency to her reminder that the port and roads are about to re-open for travellers, merchants and armies. Captain Eagleview is already taking bids for his first cargo destination this year.

The Witanmoot has been stunned into respectful silence after the defection of three of its leading aldermen from Adam Avery's faction to that of Alan Monterey, at the instigation of Ann Tasker. Not since Beatrice Perignon's destruction of the Dexter faction has Tinrodeth seen such a major shift in power. Matthew Dixon's re-election as lord, which had looked like a 'done deal', now appears to be in jeopardy. Observers at the Witanmoot calculate that, with the votes of Hastings, Pencric and Romanie added to the existing strength of the Monterey and Duthon factions, and with a number of other Aldermen refusing to give Dixon their support, Sheriff Ann Tasker now stands a good chance of defeating Lord Dixon. Indeed the only thing which may save him is his masterful political move of elevating Alison Shefford to Sheriff. This could still split the vote and enable Dixon to slip in. Cllr Adam Avery remains staggered by the move as his increasingly desperate attempts to save his faction during the later part of the month failed against the carefully planned assault of Sheriff Tasker. Asked to comment of the reason for the defection Alderman Pencric told the Chronicle, "I have always seen Ann Tasker as the best leader this City has. I was delighted when she asked me to join her".

Lady Beatrice Perignon is delighted to announce the marriage of her remaining son Hugh to the Lady Nicola Perpont. The Lady Nicola is the beautiful daughter of Lord Rauf Perpont, who owns large tracts of land along the Great Fens. The marriage is due to take place on Springtide day at the Hahnite Temple, and Beatrice, ever considerate of the Lordship elections, has thoughtfully invited all the aldermen of the City to the wedding feast at the Citadel afterwards. Plans for an epic stag night are already afoot. Hunters is already preparing itself for the occasion, but the Hon Hugh seems to have more peripatetic plans.

Alderman Leonard Tholin has outlined a novel plan to renovate Marshgate Prison using something called 'community service'. This appears to be a modification of the chain-gang punishment traditionally assigned by the magistrates, except this time the convicts are allowed home at night. Further plans by the Law & Order Committee for a city-wide investigation squad have also been mooted, but presumably remain uncertain until the Treasury unveils its budget for the coming year. The Law & Order Committee may have a hard fight on its hands with the Welfare & Education Committee also lobbying for extra funds for the popular City Orphanage. Early rumours from the Witanmoot suggest that City income is falling, and that taxes may be an early casualty of these troubled times. Retribution has claimed responsibility for last week's assassination attempt on the new Archimandrite. A volley of arrows landed amongst the Archimandrite's party as it returned from the Royal Courts of Justice, and the High Priest was only saved by the quick reflexes of his bodyguards. Two Templars and one Mandatien died from the shots, which were loosed from a nearby rooftop. The perpetrators had prepared a 'Long Live King Kieran' banner which they found time to unfurl before escaping. This latest incident, with its echo of the old King's murder, has created further unease about the City's leadership and loyalties. Members of the Witanmoot have been quick to distance themselves from the organisation; Lord Dixon voiced his disgust at the incident and vowed to bring the assassins to justice.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Springtide in the year 148

### LATE NEWS!

Tinrodeth has fallen to Kerunian invaders. At dawn on Springtide, a large fleet entered the Ishtan Estuary and attacked Kingsport. A smaller force continued upriver and landed troops along the dockside. Fortunately, the alarm had already been raised and the Portwall was already defended by the ward watches of Ishtan, Portsoken and Shambles. The Portwall, so recently constructed by Adam Avery, clearly disrupted the invaders' plans to rapidly overrun the City. The citizens' longbow inflicted terrible losses on the advancing forces as they attempted to storm the defences. Eventually, two of the dock gates were broken down, but each time the invaders were beaten back by the stout citizenry. Bert Belcher's redoubtable butchers contingent proved particularly difficult to shift, and they fought several heavily armoured companies to a bloody standstill. The enemy gained the north side of the bridge, but never seriously tried to enter the City gate there. By mid-morning the Kerunian ships were forced to stand off from the docks and use catapult fire, while their few remaining troops sought shelter in warehouses.

Unfortunately the defence of Kingsgate had not gone so well, and the main body of the Kerunian troops advanced to Tinrodeth by lunchtime. After a brief but unproductive negotiation with Lord Dixon, the Kerunians advanced and fierce fighting took place at Newgate and Kingsgate, and the attack on the Portwall was renewed. The Kerunians brought forward heavy catapults which concentrated their fire on a section of wall along Cartage. By late afternoon the Cartage wall had collapsed under repeated bombardment, and a mercenary company fought their way inside the city. The attackers finally broke through the Portwall and advanced to cut off the Citadel. After heavy losses from the Citadel longbow, the Kerunians finally took Newgate and Kerunian cavalry charged into the City. Kingsgate held out slightly longer, but fell after the demoralised Hahnite forces were destroyed. By evening most of the Western part of the City was under Kerunian control and Sheriff Aralan Derwent ordered the City forces to pull back to the Witanmoot. Overnight the invading forces moved the lighter catapults inside the city and set them up on the Wellhouse green, defended by pike. After a few ranging shots at the Witanmoot the following morning, the Kerunians sent forward a herald and Lord Dixon met with the Kerunian General. At noon Lord Dixon stood upon the Wellhouse green and formally surrendered control of the City to Princess Selina. He laid his sword of office at her feet and resigned as Lord. In a surprise move Selina immediately appointed Ann Tasker as the new overlord and declared that she intended to establish Tinrodeth as a free City State. She blamed the war on Royalist forces intent upon preserving the old order.

Aralan Derwent, Matthew Dixon and a number of other dignitaries were permitted to leave the City with a small force and it is believed that they have gone North to join Prince Kieran. Lady Tasker has called upon all councillors to get in touch with her at the Witanmoot in order that the proper running of the City can be resumed. Such Athionic laws as may still apply will be overseen by the Hahnites of Plenipotentiary de Belleme, who now occupy the Temple following the Archimandrite's abandonment of the City. The Citadel, under the command of Eorlaine Cox, remains under siege and the wards in the immediate vicinity of its walls are under military occupation. The mercenary companies appear to have been brought under control once again, although much of Cartage, Cadene and Kingsgate has been pillaged. Domestic looters have also wrecked considerable damage on Oldgate and Cripplegate, but have now dispersed.

## Religions (Part Two)

### Hahn, the God of Law and Justice

This is a God much used by all forms of government. During the civil war it did much to try to maintain the law of the land. The religion has a complex form and initiates sometimes use the idea of a trinity: Hahn, the Father-who-rules (a mature figure, crowned and seated and seated on a cubic throne), Lahm, the Lady-of-Justice (a woman, not blind-folded, balancing a pair of scales), Shin, the Son-that-Judges (a youth, unshielded, holding a gold sword).

All three are normally depicted in red robes, red and gold are holy colours for this order. Initiates, who must be literate, are trained in numeracy and begin a lifelong study of the law. Mandatiens are sent out as clerks and treasurers to the ruling lords around the kingdom. They attend the provincial courts with the Lord, gaining experience of the practical application of the law, keeping the court records. It is interesting to note that they also act as the eyes and ears for the King's Justice, it being difficult to conceal a corrupt ruling from these ubiquitous clerks. Pendentites are attached to a temple in a city, and work at preparing and presenting cases for judgement at the various secular courts. Their duties sometimes include acting as judges in an internal court. Plenipotentiaries are individuals attached to an Eorl's court as his legal advisor. They are also entitled to attend the Lord's council in Tinrodeth. The Archimandrite is the absolute leader of this order. In addition to attending the Lord's council, he is often found to be one of the King's advisors.

### Opal, the Star Queen

This order claims that all stars, including the sun, are daughters of the Star-Queen and that her messengers fly from star to star carrying her blessings. One day, aeons hence, her blessings will be free and

the world will find peace and happiness. They are, of course, completely mad.

### Resh

The Holy Son Resh is described as the beloved child of Daleth and Torus and is an incarnation of that aspect of Hahn that is the Son-that-Judges. Worship of Resh has many adherents in the Daleth, Torus and Hahn religions but with many orthodox priests denouncing worship of Resh as Heresy he is a brave god to follow.

### Azial

Azial is seen by most as a demon. As such worshippers of Azial are reviled as demon-worshippers.

### The Dragonborn

The Dragonborn are a particularly obscure religious sect of warriors reputed to live high in the Kalkas Mountains. Once every generation or so they appear at a major battle, often causing mass desertion of the opposition. They have never been known to be defeated, and after a battle they disappear as mysteriously as they come. They are known to all share the distinction of having been born on Dragonfeast. A child destined to become one of the Dragonborn vanishes on his first birthday and a small shield (depicting the four elements) is left in their place.

### Religions in Kerun

Religions in the City States, such as Kerun, include many gods that are different to those in Athion. Even those that are similar have many unfamiliar differences. For example while there is a god of healing, the priests that follow it are a lot more mercenary than those of Torus, so that your access to their services (both spiritual and practical) are often determined by your ability to pay.

Amongst the gods unique to the City States are: Miros, Baccelos, Hermos, Poseiros and Hippone.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 148

The new city government has placed Tinrodeth under curfew between sunset and sunrise. These measures are intended as a temporary arrangement while residual problems of burglary and looting are brought under control. General Olvini stated that the curfew should not inconvenience lawful citizens, but it will greatly simplify his efforts to suppress the lawless few who are attempting to exploit the current crisis. His reformed city guard, the 'polizei', appear to be achieving a state of civic peace very efficiently. Miscreants finding themselves on the sharp end of the justice system are being drafted onto labour gangs and put to work repairing the docks and city walls. The docks especially are in a sorry state, having seen several skirmishes during the battle, much catapult shot and at least one major fire. With the spring run of ships coming in this has become a matter of some urgency. Temporarily ships are being forced to anchor out in the port, while goods and people are being brought ashore in boats organised by the Esprayennan temple.

The military situation in Tinrodeth has stabilised with the siege of the Citadel settling down into a waiting game following Selina's decision to withdraw catapults from the city and river. It is rumoured that Aralan Derwent and her Exiles' Army of some 100 troops and 50 cavalry have not gone north as expected but instead have taken Fenny Bridges. This has clearly caused concern and a large screening force has been deployed to the east of the city in case they attempt to interfere with trade. Selina's army appears to be well disciplined and citizens with complaints about the behaviour of the troops should report them to General Olvini's HQ. Now that the navy and marines have been redeployed to Kingsport, the city appears to be billeting a force of some 5000. The Chronicle has learnt that this is a permanent army under Selina's control rather than an expeditionary force from Kerun as originally believed. Their integration into the economy has been much helped by the fact that the troops are paid in a Kerunian coin of similar size but slightly heavier than the shilling.

The vital but often overlooked role of the infirmaries received a boost from Princess Selina who visited all of the field hospitals early in the month. She distributed alms and spoke to various Torian priests. The Emergency Committee appointed by Lady Tasker has reinstated a number of emergency measures introduced after the Great Fire, and these are helping the damaged wards and returning evacuees. A large number of abandoned properties have been commandeered to shelter the homeless and to re-house residents of Cartage, Dracas and Ishtan. These three wards have been declared a military siege area and are closed to all civilians. It is understood that Selina, on learning of the interrupted Perpont-Perignon wedding, has offered a truce to the Citadel authorities to allow the trapped wedding guests to return home. Lady Tasker has appointed an Emergency Committee to deal with the civilian government since so many members of the council are absent or injured. The appointees include Sheriff Shefford, Alderman Monterey (of course), plus Cllrs Trueman, Lambourne, Duthon and Key. As well as dealing with the missing, displaced and returning masses, this committee seems to be desperately working out what exactly they are permitted to do. It seems obvious that much of the Witanmoot's ongoing projects have had to be shelved, and one wag has gone so far as to hang the multiple copies of Olivia Warin's carefully proposed budget in the Aldermanic privy. Rumours that the heroic butchers leader, Bert Belcher, would amply fill the vacant sheriff post were swiftly dispelled by the great man himself. "Not got time for poncing round like that" he said, "not when there's things needing fixing back home".

Gax the Heretic has issued a plea for more helpers and supplies for the city orphanage, which has become a focal point for many strays in the aftermath. At the suggestion of Selina's staff, he is collating a list of all youngsters present, placed with foster families or passed onto the Guilds. Copies of the list are to be passed to the Witanmoot, and anxious relatives should call there initially to save further disruption of the overworked orphanage staff. Selina has indicated that she expects the Guilds to be generous in their support for needy families, and intends to inspect their response soon to ensure that no misunderstandings occur.

And finally. Cllr Randy Parkinson, emerging unscathed from recent events, has told the Chronicle, "I'm very concerned about the possible risk to the health of the City as a result of the invasion. It is essential that the bodies which are still being found are disposed of properly. The frozen beggar problem is a drop in the Ishtan compared to this."

## The Chronicle of the month of Heliora in the year 148

The Chronicle is delighted to announce the capture and destruction of the Little Sisters of Sedition. This group of assassins plagued the City for many years, and is responsible for many outrages during this time. The Little Sisters were tracked down to a hide-out in Cripplegate by Cllr Jim Bottler who was looking for Elizabeth Dixon. Jim Bottler led a brave attack which prevented the criminals escaping until a large force of polizei, led by Alderman Alan Monterey, could arrive. The polizei were just in time to save Bottler and his allies from their highly-trained opponents. Speaking afterwards, General Olvini commended the actions of Bottler and his friends. "They are an example to us all, their courage has led to the defeat of a terrible threat to this City. It is from the fortitude and resolve of such citizens that we will build our new Principality." Olvini particularly singled out for praise Benedict Plover, the well-known actor, who saved the life of Elizabeth Dixon by throwing himself between her and an assassin's sword. In Aralan's absence the City has, for the first time, succeeded in capturing a group of assassins alive and their interrogation is already underway.

One surprise outcome from this affair has been the committal for Treason of Chairman for Law and Order, Marcus Lambourne, who will stand trial next month. The charge against Lambourne is believed to be the obstruction of the investigation. Both Bottler and Monterey will be called as witnesses against him. There is concern that this will be a show trial with the only real 'crime' committed by Lambourne being a failure to co-operate with the new regime. However, General Olvini has surprised the Witanmoot and confounded this accusation by returning the courts to civic hearings and having the trial put before Lady Tasker. Of course some people now consider Lady Tasker and "her little poppet Monterey" as part of the problem.

Edward de Belleme has taken full control of the Temple of Hahn and declared himself Archimandrite. This move seals the schism between the Eresan orthodoxy led by Archimandrite Ingulfus, and the Tinrodeth traditionalists led by De Belleme. It would seem to the Chronicle that the Hahnites, who did so much during the last civil war to maintain order, intend to spend this one fighting each other. The city's new Archimandrite has already met with Princess Selina. She has formally asked him to investigate and recommend on something called "separating the judiciary from the legislative structure". Perhaps she should have had a meeting with Gax - who at least might have been able to understand her.

Princess Selina has denounced Aralan Derwent's decision to threaten the City. "Derwent left the City as an exile and stated her intention to join Prince Kieran. Instead she has raised a baronial levy and has obstructed the Eresan road. She is gravely disrupting trade and harming the prosperity of this city."

Because of the threat from Aralan Derwent's Exiles army, Lady Tasker has decreed that the Midsummer Festival will be held inside the City Walls at the various market squares. With the curfew still in place the festival will be a somewhat subdued affair, although the free wine which will be provided from the captured Perignon cellars will undoubtedly cheer many.

Hopes of an early raising of the curfew have been dashed following the killing of three Kerunian officers in Welland. They were returning to their rooms after an evening of drinking when they were set upon by a small mob of assailants and bludgeoned to death. Polizei patrols have now been increased and citizens are warned that a 'shoot first and ask questions later' policy will be used during curfew.

In a surprise development Princess Selina has received official envoys from Prince Kieran. The secrecy surrounding the discussions has defeated even the Chroniclers investigators. The knights rode out of Tinrodeth the following day and headed towards Fenny Bridges.

The new Government has started to re-mint the city coinage to a higher standard. The improvements have much distressed the Guilds, who have had their ceremonial plate commandeered to assist with the process. The acquisitions have been made by a team of auditors attached to Princess Selina's office acting on the advice of the Witanmoot. Particularly hard hit are the Mercers, Vintners, Cornmongers and Goldsmiths who the 'commando accountants' describe as "excessively exploiting their monopoly". However they have fared far better than the Grossers, Glaziers, Broiderers, Apothecaries and Carpenters who have all had Guild licences suspended following the discovery of "substantial irregularities" in their accounts.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 148

The continued interrogation of the Little Sisters of Sedition produced a full confession and revealed that these Salvoynian-sponsored saboteurs were behind many crimes. Their actions ranged from multiple assassination attempts on leading citizens, debasing the coinage, strategic arson, introduction of addictive drugs, subversion of Citadel servants, leading the Free Trade rebellion, forming the seditious Retribution cult to criminal religious practices. In light of this extensive treachery, Princess Selina decreed that the prisoners be publicly hanged, drawn and quartered. The sentence was carried out on Firstday, Firstweek, and their remains are displayed above the city gates as a warning to other perpetrators.

The trial of Marcus Lambourne, chair of the Law & Order committee, dominated the actions of the Witamoot this month. After weeks of speculation and gossip, the event itself became a tale of two parts. First came the case for the prosecution, offering a meticulously detailed account of his failures and omission during the course of the investigation into the activities of the Little Sisters. Lambourne's failure to properly oversee the case and order the arrest of the assassins was clearly shown to have endangered the lives of Jim Bottler and his team. So damning did the trail of confusion and woe become that by the end it seemed entirely possible that Lambourne himself was in the pay of the Little Sisters of Sedition. After the recess an entirely different picture was drawn by the Defence. Witness after witness was called forward to attest to Marcus Lambourne's good intentions and fine, upstanding character. Speakers ranged from the authoritative voice of Alderman Monterey to the generosity of Jim Bottler himself, who suggested that the new 'situation' caused problems of communication. In the end it was this argument which won the day for Cllr Lambourne. Lady Ann Tasker ruled him 'not guilty', blaming the incident entirely on "cultural misunderstandings". This reversal seemed to come as a surprise to a few, but Orvini remained impassive, describing the verdict merely as "interesting". Lambourne has declared his intention of remaining as chair of Law & Order.

Cllr William Truman has assisted Olivia Warin in drawing up a revised city budget for the new regime. The loss in tax base has been more than offset by the reduced levy required by Princess Selina, leaving the Witamoot with a healthy balance to spend. The Chronicle notes with approval the restoration of Tinrodeth's much-delayed replacement orphanage and a sweet water supply. New items include a Kerunian embassy and improved fortifications in stone for the city docks.

The Witamoot may prefer to hold the extra monies in reserve given the newly perilous state of Tinrodeth's overland trade. Reports from merchants arriving on the North road recently suggest that a major raid has been staged by the Noord. Whether this is a full invasion is unclear but large areas of land have been devastated and citizens are strongly advised to postpone plans to travel until the situation clears. The large force of cavalry assembled by General Orvini last week, which many believed would be sent to attack Aralan Derwent's force, was instead sent North to secure the Tinrodeth approaches. However Aralan may be about to make herself a target after merchants arriving from the East announced that she had fortified Fenny Bridges and raised the levy in that area. Derwent is also blocking the shipment of food into the city and taxing any merchants she does let through at double rate. An official statement from Princess Selina's office commented that "After the last civil war Tinrodeth suffered from a number of robber barons. It is a great pity that one of its former citizens has chosen to resort to this."

The midsummer fair was a widely varied, often strange and frequently chaotic event which seems to have been thoroughly enjoyed by the entire city. Despite the constraints imposed by the need to stay within the city walls nearly all the traditional events took place. In addition many wards arranged special activities ranging from pig wrestling to poetry. The focus of events was on in Welland where Princess Selina chose to make her main speech of the day and where the Wellhouse Green became the centre of the main religious festival. Princess Selina used her first major public gathering as an opportunity to praise the actions of Jim Bottler, Benedict Plover, Eddie Englefield, Valindar, Wat Gurney and Bruce Harris in defeating the

Little Sisters of Seditio. She went on to present them all with the Order of Merit. She finished her speech by denouncing the tax level demanded by the King and, to the obvious delight of the crowd, proclaimed that she intended to reduce it by a third. The removal of the curfew for the evening was also extremely popular, and the fact that the night passed without serious incident bodes well for a permanent lifting.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 148

Prince Edwin has unexpectedly joined Princess Selina in her new residence at the Citadel. The prince, who will be formally welcomed to the City at a Royal Banquet next week, seems to have been resident at a 'safe location' outside of the city for some time. The prince is reported to be delighted to have returned to the city and he has already paid one unofficial visit to see old friends at the Bards College. Keen court observers have noted that it is Princess Selina's colours which still fly over the Citadel and this is being interpreted by many as an indication that Edwin will not make a play for the crown himself. The views of the prince regarding the death of his father are still unknown although it is rumoured he supports the claim of his sister Eleanor. The prince's arrival at the Citadel is a clear indication that Princess Selina now feels secure in her power and may be preparing to take sides. The civil war has taken a new turn with the announcement of the birth of Prince Edmund to King Edward and Queen Kybele. The child was born on the fourth day, second week of Heliora at what is being described by the astrologers as a highly auspicious time. Both mother and child are doing well and King Edward is reported to be "delighted that the royal line is assured of continuance". King Kieran still remains unmarried and this birth is likely to weaken his political position.

In what is being seen as a draconian response to the election of Jenny Davy, General Olvini has announced a major reorganisation of the City defences. The polizei has been disbanded and merged with a regiment of the army to create a new Tinrodeth City Guard. The Guards are led by the newly promoted Colonel Aldridge who will report directly to the General. All responsibility for military matters has been removed from the Sheriffs, the Witanmoot and the elected structures. The General told the Chronicle, "Athion faces many years of unrest and civil war. Today I have put in place the measures necessary to ensure that Tinrodeth can survive this strife. The Princess and I recognise the contribution made to the good of the city by Tinrodeth's elected councillors. However they have clearly demonstrated that they are not competent to make decisions regarding the safety of our citizens." The General refused to answer any detailed questions saying only that "Colonel Aldridge would have a high degree of discretion in determining how the new force would operate". Ex-Sheriff Miranda Andrews was more forthcoming. "This is not the plan Princess Selina and I had been working on. However, following my removal from office it seems a reasonable approach." Major Aldridge welcomed his promotion and commented that it "demonstrates the Princess' commitment to work with the existing structures and people for the good of the city". The Chronicle wonders how he reconciles this statement with the removal of one of the City's most ancient rights. In a further military development the mercenary units have moved out of the city and rumours abound that they have begun to return to the city states.

The Witanmoot has, almost unanimously, passed an emergency motion in which it "reiterates its support for the traditional Guild system". The motion lays out in detail the requirements for guild members, including the ability to speak fluent Athionic. The growing numbers of Kerunian craftsmen arriving in the city has become of concern to many guild members and the motion is a clear challenge to Princess Selina's countrymen. The proposer of the motion is Jim Bottler, who many see as a supporter of the Kerunian regime, but currently out of favour with the court over his support for Jenny Davy. One councillor described the motion as a desperate attempt by Bottler to realign himself with the opposition. Princess Selina's response to the motion was succinct. An official of the court called on the guilds to urgently review their procedures and to actively seek ways of resolving the conflict between the traditional approach and the needs of the city. Councillor Bever Edge, who was one of the few to risk guild sanction by voting against the motion, called on the Princess to "revoke all guild charters and enable a new era of free trade for the benefit of all citizens".

In an uncontested vote Richard Saunders has been elected as Alderman of Bridge ward. The elevation of the once unpopular councillor to such a powerful post is seen as the strongest indication yet that Marcus Lambourne is in complete control of the council. Many commentators have concluded that Alan Monterey's active support for Lambourne is a price he is having to pay to ensure that Lady Tasker remains as Lord of the City.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 148

Relations between the City and Citadel have dramatically improved this month following a series of high level meetings. Representatives from the offices of Princess Selina and Lady Tasker have described talks with the Citadel leaders as "extensive and productive". Significantly, grain stores from the Citadel are being moved down to the city, and in return the city is to give top priority to improving its defences against the Noord. The crucial breakthrough seems to have been made by Alderman Monterey, who clearly retains credibility with his former mentor Lady Perignon. The grain will form an important reserve for the citizens should longships appear along the coast or the exiles' disrupt tithing. Lady Tasker has yet to release an official statement, but it seems likely that the grain will be held in civic stores rather than released to the Cornmongers guild. The Princess' office is understood to be proposing a regular schedule of meetings with the Citadel to discuss civic matters and coordinate the defence of the river valley.

News continues to trickle in from the few refugees to have escaped Noordic attacks. The longships have been sighted landing from Mausdyke northwards, with major fleets invading at Glasgain and Ulthwaite. The lack of survivors seems to show that the invaders achieved almost complete surprise, and may have reached further inland than has ever been seen in this lifetime. The Chroniclers continue to search for news from Nyskilde, but without success, and it may be that Prince Kieran's bid for the Kingdom was doomed to be short-lived. Unconfirmed rumours that he died early in the invasion have begun to circulate within Tinrodeth.

Polizei investigating the murders of Kerunian officers have made a number of arrests in Berewic of junior journeymen in the Fruiterers guild. Chief Antonio Secchi has confirmed that the four are so far only charged with 'obstructing enquiries' and that further charges are still pending the results of interrogation. Witnesses to the arrests spoke of a general brawl which caused widespread damage to properties in the street.

The Archimandrite in Tinrodeth has announced sweeping reforms to the criminal justice system in a key sermon from the pulpit. The announcements clearly have the endorsement of the Kerunian administration, and signal the Hahnite leader's clear intention of becoming a major player in the future of Athion. Described as "a move towards more traditional Hahnite values", the reforms include a complete removal of Witanmoot members from the bench, and the installation of Hahnite priests as judges and magistrates. From Midwinter the Criminal Courts will use something called a "jury system" of citizen landowners (excluding Witanmoot members) combined with Pendentites as the judges. For the Civic Courts there will be a panel of four ward citizens led by a Mandatien. Secular clerks will deal with the paperwork for the first time. The congregation included many Aldermen who were clearly taken aback by the announcement and had difficulty concentrating on the remainder of the service after this pronouncement. Frequent outbreaks of whispered consultation had to be sternly suppressed by the officiating Mandatiens.

The Princess' crack team of auditors have once again gone on standby alert. A senior aide discovered that the phrase "several outstanding committee budgets" in the Witanmoot report was not the compliment which the translators originally took it for. Instead it appears that, although the Trade budget is currently before council and the Law & Order one due in very shortly, all other detailed budgets remain overdue amid huge confusion over who is responsible. The Shipping committee may have good reason for keeping quiet, but Welfare & Education are proposing a number of new initiatives which require a careful examination of available moneys. Chief among these is a search for a new orphanage site within the city, which has focused on utilising guard rooms in the closed prisons. These have the benefit of being nearly habitable already, although their use if the City should come under attack is not yet clear. Some grumbles have been made about the lack of space; perhaps this could be remedied by persuading the Portwall builders to construct a hollow wall?

Despite all the bustle seen around the Witanmoot this month, several faction leaders are clearly not about to risk being labelled as "active". Maud Blessop and Jenny Davy were the only nominations for the envoys to Cascorach and Kerun respectively and were duly appointed as such. They intend to depart as soon as their new allowances are approved.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 148

News has arrived from Salvoyne of advances by Prince Edward in his campaign for the southlands. Since turning attention away from Linrodeth last year, Edward's army has been kept busy trying to oppose Princess Eleanor's cavalry forces. After a succession of manoeuvres and skirmishes throughout the summer, his army claims to have forced the 'rebellious knights' into retreat across the mountains, and is now poised to attack Cascorach itself. Salvoynean merchants are hoping for a speedy conclusion to the rebellion, and have confirmed that the port has recently given shelter to the Kings Fleet. The naval forces disclosed that they had retreated from a major engagement with Noordic longships. It seems that the city of Nyskilde has once again been conquered by the Noord clans. Prince Kieran's ranger regiments were heavily defeated in their attempt to defend the city, and Prince Kieran is widely reported to have died in the fighting.

Closer to home, Dalethian Wellkeepers have reported an average harvest. With minor exceptions, the harvesting in Baronies subject to Linrodeth has not been unduly disrupted. Reports that large quantities of the grain have been concealed by lords and peasants alike have already reached the Witanmoot and the situation is being monitored by Princess Selina's office. The Cornmongers guild has pledged to hold bread prices steady for at least a month, while the situation is investigated. Citizens are requested not to demand huge increases on their usual orders. Cllr Gemma Downe has pointed out that the most recent batch of Citadel grain will be available to cover immediate demand.

Work on a stone replacement for the Portwall has officially started now that a full complement of construction guilds has been assembled. The teams ran into an immediate snag when the ownership of the demolished wood was disputed. The carpenters have commandeered the use of the wood, claiming that this is part of their negotiated contract. Witanmoot representatives have lodged an injunction to prevent its reuse, claiming that it is the city's to resell or reuse. A further complication is the claim of the Shipwrights Guild that the wood was 'on loan' from them to the city for its defences, and that it should be returned if it is no longer needed. At this rate, the case could well become one of the first items to be heard under the Archimandrite's new justice system.

The Witanmoot is scrambling to recount its assets after it emerged that none of the treasury clerks had filed a copy of Trueman's carefully revised Budget papers. An unseemly rush to draw up a new version was much helped by Cllr Trueman's personal notes of his budget. It is believed that Lady Tasker has been seriously embarrassed in her efforts to promote democratic rule to the Princess' office. The Princess' auditors have refrained from comment.

A diplomatic incident was narrowly averted last week over a huge explosion at the Citadel. The centre of the blast appears to be the small astrologer's tower perched on the uppermost roofs of the Citadel. It appears that neither the Kerunian army nor the Citadel defences were responsible for event which cause minor damage to the tower and several injuries from falling masonry. Observers have since concluded that the watchman may have attempted to alleviate his boredom by exploring the tower's contents. The citadel has confirmed that their watchman did not survive his curiosity.

The ward of Dowgate has been thrown into turmoil following the disappearance of their Alderman, Alice Fytton, along with the treasury of the Fruiterers guild. Her supporters have objected to the obvious conclusion, and are launching their own ward enquiries. Speculation that the more criminal elements of the ward may have taken revenge is circulating the local taverns. Any witnesses to the movements of Alice Fytton on Thirday, Firstweek last month are requested to contact the Fruiterers Guild, or Cllr Syd Reed at the 'Frozen Ferret'.

Cllr Jim Bottler is also launching enquiries from the 'Mooning Barrel' in Welland. Concern for the safety of officers patronising the pub is a source of some worry to the ward. A number of citizens have complained about the increasing belligerence of mercenaries from the 'Dancing Bear' on the other side of the ward, and it is believed that the intrepid councillor's investigation may start there.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 148

The city of Salvoyn is preparing to celebrate the official coronation of Prince Edward during the Midwinter festivities. The prince has summoned the leaders of all the major religions to his declared capital city for the event. Rumours are circulating that he may depart from tradition and announce an 'official' religion at the coronation. The most recent ships into port have brought a number of invitations to worthies across the city, but it is not believed that the Tinrodeth Archimandrite is included on the guest list. It seems that the Eresan Archimandrite, Ingulfos, is to officiate in Salvoyn. This selection makes it all the more interesting that rumours have started of Prince Kieran's survival and residence in Eresan. Unreliable sightings of the younger prince do not seem very likely in light of Eresan's loyalty to Prince Edward.

As an alternative, Tinrodeth's joyous winter event may well be the marriage of Lady Ann Tasker to her long time partner, Alderman Alan Monterey. Although the Chronicle has been informed of this event many times in the past, it seems likely that the match will now finally go ahead. A significant change is that Lady Tasker has at last found time to be fitted for a wedding dress. Alderman Monterey has already inspected several wine cellars, and has audibly regretted the loss of the Perignon reserves. The wedding will take place at the Hahnite Temple, with the Archimandrite himself presiding. Princess Selina has generously offered the Lansdowne mansion for the reception afterwards.

Tensions in Welland got out of hand last week when an attempt to enforce the law caused rioting across the Wellhouse green. A number of ward councillors remonstrated with customers from the Dancing Bear for openly carrying arms in the streets. The argument rapidly escalated to the point where the weapons had to be confiscated, with predictable results. Fortunately the fight remained at the level of fisticuffs and the Polizei, who quickly arrived on the scene, were extremely efficient in their arrests. General Olvini and the Polizei Chief, At Antonio Secchi, will be reviewing the ordinances on mercenaries in the city.

Keen Hahnite worshippers will have noticed a familiar piece of regalia at recent ceremonies in the Temple. The Holy Ring of Ascalon, which has been absent for many months now, has begun to be worn by the new Archimandrite for the first time during a sermon in which he exhorted Ingulfos to "give up his vile ways and return unto the Grace of Hahn". Speculation surrounds both its absence and its reappearance, and the ability of Ingulfos to crown anyone without this ring. An official Hahnite statement confirmed that it is the genuine ring, and that its presence on the High Priest's hand was "the Will of the God." This does not appear to have deterred Gax the Heretic, who has also reappeared for the first time since the invasion and has begun to denounce the forthcoming changes in the Justice System. The Chroniclers are beginning to wonder if these events are related?

Investigators trawling the taverns and dens of Dowgate have been startled to hear that the Toddman is said to have died. A number of known criminal establishments have begun to shut down, and several pawnbrokers have 'closed for stocktaking'. The Polizei claim that this is a direct result of their improved operations, and predict that the crime rate will drop still further. Alderman Bernard Hubold has been quick to praise the work of the Polizei, pointing out that "this is just precisely the type of professional force which the city has needed, and which I have been lobbying for, for many years." Alderman Tilly Falgar also congratulated the force on their results, while adding that the work of the master criminal may take many years to unravel.

Despite assurances of a good harvest, citizens have been interested to note that Cllr Trueman has invoked the old emergency committee procedures for the gathering of the rosehip crop in the hedgerows. A number of working parties have already been sent out and report a good haul. Readers might be interested to remember the old wives tale which suggests that the forthcoming winter will be a cold and hard one. It appears that the weather has already taken a turn for the worse, and it looks likely that Tinrodeth will be experiencing its first snowfall before Ghostmoons. This will at least mean that the city is safe from attack for another season. The last ships are preparing to leave port.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternoost in the year 148

Tinrodeth has now been cut off from the rest of the country by the heaviest snows for many years. The river has already iced across and all the routes out of the city are blocked. The severity of the snowfall caught many travellers unawares and a major caravan of refugees from Cascorach is believed to have become trapped some three days to the south of the City. The likely harshness of the winter has renewed pressure on the City to resolve the impending grain crisis. With many harvested stores still not delivered to the City before the snows it is not clear if reserves will last should the snows remain longer than usual.

One ship which managed to beat the storms was that of Captain Eagleview, which returned to its home city a few days ago. The crew have confirmed that since the ship's dramatic departure from Tinrodeth during the invasion, they had travelled north to Nyskilde and then all the way south to Salvoyn. Their stories, when added to those of the merchants from Salvoyn and the Chronicle's own investigations, finally provide a clear picture of the state of the Civil War.

Nyskilde and the lands to the north of the Weald are held by the Noord. Nyskilde itself has not been subjected to the same deprivations it suffered during the previous invasion and after the initial sacking the Noord appear to be digging in with the intention of holding the lands permanently.

Tinrodeth and its the lands as far north as the Weald and as far east as the Great Fens are held by Princess Selina. However Tinrodeth's Citadel is still held by troops apparently loyal to Prince Kieran, and the road to Eresan is blocked at Fenny Bridges by another pro-Kieran force under the command of Aralan Derwent. Salvoyn remains the base of operations for Prince Edward and is his declared Capital. It retains the army from the Gelt wars and a recently enlarged navy. Cascorach has finally fallen to Prince Edward after a long and protracted siege, although Princess Eleanor may still be in control of the Castle. The remains of her cavalry force have retreated across the mountains and are now effectively cut off in the City States.

Eresan, which was thought to be loyal to Edward, is now held by Kieran following the arrival of his forces from Nyskilde. Reports confirm that he was betrayed by the navy at Nyskilde and suffered serious losses before his retreat. The rangers took Eresan without opposition shortly before Kieran's arrival.

The Witanmoot has confirmed that elections will be held as normal at Midwinter. With rumours circulating that last year's elections were rigged, and with many key political figures missing or incapacitated, there are likely to be sweeping changes. Hard fought campaigns are expected in Faringdon, Welland, Avigon and Castle Bard. The Chronicle will observe with interest the progress of supporters of Princess Selina, such as Jim Bottler and Alan Monterey. It will also be interesting to see what effect Princess Selina's publication of the Guild accounts will have. Many citizens were unaware of the funds spent by some guilds to support political activities and this may cause problems for certain faction leaders. The Witanmoot spokesman refused to be drawn on how elections would be held for those wards under military occupation, however Princess Selina's office has confirmed that the properties have not yet been confiscated and hence are still owned by their original occupants. Lady Tasker has announced that the Emergency Committee will be disbanded at Midwinter and that after the elections, the city's administration will return to near normal.

Tensions between the mercenaries and the polizei have escalated significantly following an assault on Jim Bottler by a group of thugs. Councillor Bottler was left for dead by the mercenaries and has spent the entire month in the Torian infirmary recovering. Shortly afterwards the Polizei raided the Dancing Bear and other well known mercenary pubs. General Olvini is believed to be considering direct intervention by the military and it seems likely that all hope of having the curfew lifted have now been dashed. Elsewhere the polizei crackdown on crime has had a dramatic effect, although the reduction may have more to do with the criminal underworld's preoccupation with replacing the Toddman.

The city's committee budgets have finally been passed by the Witanmoot in a session reminiscent of the old days. Those councillors who had thought they were in for an easy session were surprised by a well orchestrated attack by Richard Saunders on the entire budget. Cllr Saunders expressed his outrage at plans to

fund pet schemes such as the sweetwater project and other "profligate spending" such as the Avery memorial. Denouncing his fellow councillors for being out of touch with the needs of the City he went on "Some people are obviously unaware there is a War on, we should be reducing taxes to help people through these difficult times and concentrating our spending upon the defence of the City". Princess Selina is also reported to be unhappy with plans to build a memorial to Adam Avery who was killed during her invasion and no one has yet been brave enough to take on the contract to build it.

The wedding of Lady Ann Tasker to Alderman Alan Monterey was one of the most lavish witnessed in recent years. The main ceremony took place at the Temple of Hahn and was officiated by the Archimandrite himself. Within the vast and sumptuous displays Anne's simple and elegant dress stood out as the centre of attention. Afterwards a magnificent feast was presented at Princess Selina's mansion. The many guests, which unexpectedly included Beatrice Perignon, enjoyed Lady Tasker's marvellously entertaining and touching account of her courtship by Alderman Monterey and Alan's moving speech praising the politicians of Tinrodeth for their service to our great City. Celebrations the night before were unfortunately somewhat subdued by the curfew, however Lady Tasker's party which occupied the Green Grove for the entire night is reported to have been highly successful. Even Alison Shefford is reported to have enjoyed it.

The problems over the construction of the Portwall seem to have sorted themselves out, following Lady Tasker's decree that the wood must be returned to the Shipwrights Guild. Several senior Stonemasons have visited Jim Bottler at the Torian temple and work has begun on the section next to the bridge. However some concern has been expressed over funding of the project. The city budget included a sum of £8,000 which is clearly inadequate.

The reform of the legal system is now well underway and the Hahnites have been making strenuous efforts to explain the changes. Those criminals who will be unfortunate enough to be the first to be tried under the new rules, may face long and protracted sessions as the involved Hahnites try to decide on the detail and its implications of the changes. A sudden flurry of minor civil actions seem to have started in an attempt to seek redress before the Midwinter changes. Gax has made a number of speeches on the subject the most interesting element of which was his recognition of Edward de Belleme as the rightful Archimandrite.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 148

Cllr Richard Saunders is radiating an unusual air of smugness following the council's decision to reconsider the budget. Guildmaster Bottler has presented plans to complete the wall with all due speed and has asked the council to fund the project in full. Whilst there is near unanimous support for his proposals, a number of conflicting views have emerged about how the significant money necessary will be raised. Bottler himself seems keen to raise taxes whilst other councillors have proposed various creative accounting schemes. William Trueman is even reported to have been brave enough to suggest that Selina should delay the collection of a significant proportion of her tribute till next year.

General Olvini is believed to be considering the establishment of a city guard which will have responsibility both for the defence of the City and for its law and order. The General's office refused to discuss the situation, however a member of the polizei told the Chronicle "The General must be aware that its the squads of polizei led by former members of the Witanmoot guard which are the most effective. He wants to broaden the involvement of citizens and normalise things, I think." However a pamphlet purporting to be from the Tinrodeth Freedom Fighters' denounced the plans and said that only traitors would be willing to join the new force.

The Brynette Temple has been slow to make an official response to rumours that its holy flame failed on Ghostmoons Eve. The story, which has only just emerged from the confines of the temple walls, maintains that the senior priests' attempts to rekindle the flame on the high altar during the service failed, despite increasingly ingenious techniques which, perhaps fortunately, stopped short of sending for Talus Snapdragon. Junior acolytes deduced from the continued cold that these problems continued for a full day. So far the elders of the temple have remained tight lipped when questioned about the incident, but they appear to be making intense preparations ahead of the forthcoming Midwinter Festival.

The provisional lifting of the curfew in Welland appears to be going well with few reports of any incidents. The presence of polizei on the borders arresting anyone who steps out of the ward after curfew, plus the incredibly inflated prices of accommodation in the ward's hostelrys, has limited the feared swamping by late night revellers. A source close to the Witanmoot leadership asked the Chronicle to, "urge all citizens to ensure that the provisional lifting is a success so that the unwarranted and oppressive curfew can be lifted across the city."

An expedition to rescue the trapped caravan from Cascorach has returned having failed to get through. Terrible weather conditions and conflicting reports of the location of the caravan were blamed. The continuing harsh weather is also claiming victims amongst the beggar population with anyone failing to find shelter overnight facing certain death.

Another pair of victims of the cold caused great interest earlier this month when two bodies were noticed trapped under the ice near the citadel. After much application of boiling water the corpses were extracted and taken off to the Torian Temple. Why two dead people should warrant the attention of a squad of polizei and several leading Witanmoot members was unclear at the time. However rumours are beginning to circulate that they were of a Babel and a Kinjuru on a secret mission from Aralan Derwent to get a message to the Citadel. Important papers are believed to have been recovered from one corpse.

An anonymous benefactor has founded a new hospice in Cripplegate for the shelter and aid of poor invalids and beggars. The hospice replaces a shack which existed on the road outside the gate for many years, and which was demolished for security reasons early on in the civil war. Alderman Hubold is reported to be livid.

A recent play at the Bards College has been receiving much critical acclaim. The performance is being staged by a group of senior students and centres around the story of Julia and Roland Perignon and their troubled romance. Attendance at the play could have been guaranteed by the subject. However the players are

delighting the audiences and the crafting of the play is truly masterful. Evette Qualtor as the leading lady is outstanding, but the show is stolen by Harry Marsterson and his hilarious portrayal of the evil schemer Armundus Septer.

## LATE NEWS

The midwinter elections have signalled a clear return to traditional campaigning from our councillors. Elections were hard fought throughout the city. Clear factions and lobby groups have once again come into evidence. The greatest, and dirtiest, fight was in Faringdon where Marcus Lambourne and William Trueman went head to head for the Aldermanship. Marcus' campaign pivoted around his strong record of decision making and leadership. However this was undermined by William Trueman's victorious campaign which also called on people to judge Marcus on his record and the "unresolved questions" surrounding his trial in Menderal. Trueman's running mate Olivia Warin was also successful in Temple and an elated Trueman announced that the broad success of his team would enable a new era of "responsible leadership" which would "impose order on the current chaos". Elsewhere in Welland Jim Bottler and his pro-Selina faction gained overwhelming control of the wardmoot but a split vote between Eddie Englefield and Bottler enabled Gillian Howe to take the Aldermanship. Perhaps the most interesting result is from the occupied wards where a number of avowedly anti-Selina candidates were elected. However the expected purge by the electorate of Selinas' lackeys did not materialise. Alan Monterey was returned as Alderman for Tevestone with a massive majority and in Avigon the Kerunian merchant Petro Cutario even gained a seat on the Witanmoot.

The Full Aldermanic election results are:

Castle Bard	Gilbert de Clare, Mason	Temple	Olivia Warin, Grosser	Oldgate	Duncan Barnett, Mercer
Cripplegate	Bernard Hubold, Plasterer	Avigon	Samuel Rucche, Painter	Faringdon	William Trueman, Goldsmith
Dowgate	Graeme Porter, Waterman	Berewic	Mary Hastings, Scrivener	Arpent	Judi Spich, Glazier
Marshgate	Maureen Quiller, Mercer	Bassishaw	Gemma Downe, Cornmonger	Tevestone	Alan Monterey, Vintner
Bridge	Jenny Davy, Dairier	Portsoken	Nicholas Worton, Shipwright	Shambles	Bert Belcher, Butcher
Welland	Gillian Howe, Draper	Kingsgate	Godwin Green, Fruitier	Cadene	Melanie Romanie, Glazier
Cartage	Alice Barbiter, Fletcher	Dracas	Randolf Flambourd, Leather Seller	Ishtan	Eva Capel, Grosser

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 149

In the wake of last month's election results a three way fight is emerging for control of the Witanmoot. Marcus Lambourne has laid down a clear challenge to the control of Alan Monterey by recruiting Aldermen Davy and Romanie; however the newly energetic Alderman Trueman may prove to be a greater threat, with powerful players such as Miranda Andrews joining Olivia Warin under the Trueman "New Order" banner. Alderman Monterey does not seem unduly perturbed, and will no doubt have gained some pleasure from the renewed support of Allison Shefford. Meanwhile, as the traditional leaders re-establish their control on the Witanmoot, pro-Selina groups such as Jim Bottler's are increasingly being marginalized. An internal fight between Bottler and his running mate Eddie Englefield may be the root of the problem, although so far Bottler appears to have managed to prevent Englefield becoming politically active in his own right.

The saga of the new wall has continued this month. Rumours that stone warehouses were to be dismantled to provide foundations for the new wall caused outrage amongst the merchants and prompted several hurried meetings between Jim Bottler, Gilbert de Clare and several prominent Aldermen led by Olivia Warin. The upshot of the meeting was unsurprisingly that no one would admit to having come up with the idea, no one thought it was a good one and no one was going to stand up and defend it. Meanwhile Bottler has been quietly finalising his plans for the route of the wall, which is expected to be much closer to the river than the wooden one.

The lifting of the curfew will be extended to Avigon and Levestone from tenthday secondweek. General Olvini has pronounced himself pleased with the Welland test and expressed hope that the lifting could be extended to the entire city in the near future. A spokesman for the "Tynrodeh Freedom Fighters" derided the announcement as a "reward for treachery" and she went on to describe the current lack of action as "a period of consolidation" and vowed that "Kerunian blood will flow through the streets before the end of the month".

Relationships between Marcus Lambourne and William Trueman appear to have hit a new low following Trueman's victorious election campaign. Marcus Lambourne is publicly playing down the extent of the fall out, and describing the situation simply as "healthy competition". However sources close to the ex-Alderman describe him as privately fuming and deeply hurt by Trueman's campaign tactics. A source close to the Faringdon Wardmoot described the atmosphere between the two as "icier than the Ishtan".

Nominations for the Chairmanships of the various reformed committees have gone more smoothly than ever this year with only one slight glitch. Jenny Davy's nomination for the post of Law and Order chair fails as her uncontested election to the Trade chairmanship takes precedence. Nominations for the Law & Order chairmanship therefore falls to Lady Tasker.

Envoy to Kerun	Maud Blessop
Envoy to Eresan	Marc Bergeren
Shipping	Graeme Porter
Welfare and Education	Melanie Romanie
Lands and Agriculture	Gemma Downe
Law and Order	(Jenny Davy)
Trade	Jenny Davy
Treasury	Olivia Warn

No nominations have been received for the unwelcome posts of envoy to Nyskilde, Salvoyn and Cascorach. Alan Monterey's nomination of someone for the post of Envoy to Kerun was described by one Witanmoot official as "brave assertion of the city's independence" and has certainly caused a stir amongst those who thought that he was one of Selina's henchmen.



## The Chronicle of the month of Galemir in the year 149

The lifting of the curfew has now been extended to the entire City. Making the announcement General Olvini told a cheering Witanmoot, "The people of Tinrodeth have shown themselves to be honest, hard working and loyal. I see no reason to continue with the curfew which is no longer a necessary part of our plans to control the supporters of the old order". The lifting of the curfew has been celebrated throughout the city with the greatest revelry occurring in Castle Bard. The rolling programme of lifting a few wards each day resulted in a fresh party in every night for a week with the few brave survivors claiming to have managed to visit every celebration. Citizens are reminded that the militarised zone is still out of bounds and that the City Gates remain closed during from sundown to dawn.

The route of the new wall has been confirmed by Lady Tasker's decree confiscating the required land. Warehouse owners have been told that they will receive reasonable recompense, although the form and timing of this will be at the discretion of the Treasury. Master Mason Gilbert de Clare told the Chronicle, "Councillor Bottler and I have worked day and night to bring this proposal to fruition. The proposed route has been agreed by the military and by the local wards. It is not a compromise. It is the best route for everyone"..

A desperate and daring attack by Tinrodeth Freedom Fighters on the home of General Olvini has failed, leaving six members dead and three others in prison. The attack was well planned and executed by men who knew the building layout, however they were betrayed and fell into an ambush. The Polizei have since rounded up a number of other suspects and further arrests are expected. Concerns that the attack would result in a return of the curfew have been allayed by the General who described the incident as "the last desperate attempt of a collapsing opposition which is no longer worthy of attention". Indeed the failure of the attack seems to have broken the Freedom Fighters and no further incidents have occurred this month. The Chronicle has been unable to make contact with the surviving members and it seems likely that the campaign against the Kerunian invaders has been seriously damaged, if not destroyed.

The realignment of the Witanmoot has continued this month with major announcements from all the key factions. Aldermen Barnet and Belcher have declared for Marcus Lambourne, Graeme Porter has joined Alan Monterey and Alderman Barbiter has declared for William Trueman. Jim Bottler is still struggling to keep up, although he does seem to have put down the Englefield challenge and is now forming a base within the construction guilds. However none of the groups seems yet ready to make a push for power and Lady Tasker's nomination as Lord has gone forward unchallenged. A source close to the Monterey ruling group told us "We are still all working for the good of the City, I'm glad the others have recognised the need for stability".

The newly emerging factions will face a tough test next month. Rumours persist that the original estimates for the construction of the wall were very low and that dramatic cuts in the recently expanded budgets will be required to pay for it. Even more worrying the Masons and Carpenters seem to be gearing up to complete the wall in one year a scale of undertaking which would require a devastating tax levy on the citizenry.

Following on from what appears to have been an embarrassing confusion between the Monterey and Lambourne factions last month, Jenny Davy has been assigned to the Law and Order committee by the decree of Lady Tasker with her vacated place as Chair of Trade being taken by Samuel Rucche. All the involved parties have been at pains to play the move down as something requested by Alderman Davy however a number of Councillors have raised severe misgivings. Cllr Joanna Russell described the event as "An outrageous imposition which totally undermines the democratic principles upon which this Witanmoot was founded."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 149

Jim Bottler has formally moved a motion that the City commit £32,000 to the immediate and rapid construction of the new city wall. Amid the stunned silence which this astronomical sum produced William Trueman's consequently revised budget was proposed with surprisingly little dissent. Only Alderman Hubold voiced his immediate concern. "Trueman, Bottler and Monterey are in an unholy alliance and are conspiring to ruin this fair City" he proclaimed. It is thought that the budget will face more opposition from the full council when it comes to a formal vote next month. The loan of £7,000 from Princess Selina and major cutbacks are expected to prove contentious. Despite the lack of a formal approval of the budget work on the wall is starting. Work teams have been assembled and the clearing of buildings has already begun within the militarised zone. Concern is growing that Aralan Derwent intends to interfere with the stone supplies and her troops have become "very active" in the region near the Quarry. Most of the local cavalry has been deployed to the countryside to prevent her, however this leaves the northern approaches vulnerable to a surprise Noord attack.

The factions within the Witanmoot continue to strengthen with only a few Aldermen now uncommitted. The three leading factions remain equally positioned, with Bottler's rump now half the size of the other groups. Trueman's group seems to be pulling a little ahead and his recent long meeting with Princess Selina has heightened speculation that he intends to make a bid for Sheriff.

The Hahnite temple has been the centre of a number of major events this month. Devotees and onlookers have been marvelling at the ceremonies surrounding the formal excommunication of Archimandrite Ingulfos and his followers and the subsequent appointment of many new Plenipotentiaries and Pendentites. Questions as to whether the Inrodeth Archimandrite could back up this move were stopped by the shock arrival of 50 supportive Knights Templars who demonstrated their allegiance to the "True Archimandrite". There was a tense moment as Selina's forces deployed however no conflict ensued. Two days later the full force of cavalry left the Temple and headed south led by Plenipotentiary Jasmine on an unknown mission. Later, a thick column of smoke was seen to rise beyond the Botmoor hills. The fact that the temple has become active on the military scene has been welcomed by many who remember how much it did to secure the lands following the last civil war. This pro-Hahnite sentiment was further enhanced by Plenipotentiary Antonius announcing "that the Hahnites planned to create a new Orphanage to provide for and educate the city's youth."

The River Ishtan has been in full flood this month following the spring melting, but very little damage has been caused now that the Floating Market no longer exists. Dock workers and traders have been busy preparing the port for the anticipated arrival of the first trading ships, expected within a week of the floods subsiding. Less welcome may be news of more Nordic longboats; travellers in the vicinity of Kingsport report much activity and rumours of damage to Kerunian ships.

The provisioners guilds have been distressed to discover substantial loss of stock over winter. Allegedly, an untimely increase in the mouse population has made big inroads onto food stores. Guildmasters are now urgently seeking a meeting with Witanmoot leaders to discuss what might be done. Other merchants have questioned these reports, having suffered little loss themselves. Given that most of the Treasury's monies this year will be put into the Portwall, the guilds may be left with little choice but to accept the damage and attempt to reduce the mice numbers. A number of enterprising individuals have already offered to hire out their cats.

Now that the curfew has been lifted throughout the city, it has become apparent that the Bards College is enforcing its own curfew on residents. This is deeply unpopular with the students, and has prompted a sudden increase in youngsters seeking rented rooms outside the college. The college itself is refusing to comment, but it may be an attempt to protect those of its students who come from distant lands and kingdoms.

### LATE NEWS:

The first ships have arrived, including the Royal Phoenix from Salvoy.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 149

The City is still recovering from a shock attack upon the Citadel by Princess Selina's forces. Just before dawn on Firstday the entire army, including members of the Witanmoot guard, stormed the fortress and within an hour had control of all except the Great Keep. It is believed that a substantial force still holds the Keep and a second siege is now expected. Reasons for the assault seem to include the Citadel's sinking of the Royal Phoenix and the apparent failure of negotiations over the supply of grain. Cllr Jim Bottler was responsible for the negotiations and played a major part in the taking of the fortress. Under cover of the construction of the new wall, Bottler was able to prepare a causeway across the moat and to sneak Babel and Kinjuru forces through a secret underwater tunnel into the castle. The causeway and the opening of the gate by the floating market troops proved decisive in allowing Selina's forces to overwhelm the Citadel.

Not all of Tinrodeth's population seems entirely enamoured with Bottler's decision to betray the Citadel, and the relationship between him and Alderman Monterey is believed to be particularly frayed. Whether the councillors are upset at the betrayal or simply by the fact that they were not in on the secret is unclear. One guild however which does seem to know what it wants is the Brewers and Hostels, who immediately presented Bottler with several barrels of beer to aid celebrations. Their spokesman Bertram Southey has complimented Bottler on his "strenuous and brave efforts in the defence of the city".

The killing by Witanmoot Guard of several members from the entourage of the Ambassador from Salvoyne has been strongly supported by General Olvini. Whilst being careful not to insult Prince Edward or the Ambassador, the General denounced the Salvoynean dead as worshippers of the demon god Azial who had been caught in an attempt to commit a sacrifice upon the Battle of Berewic monument. Witanmoot troops, who have particular experience in dealing with devil worshippers, were waiting in ambush and did not take any prisoners. The Ambassador has claimed that the group was framed by pro-Kieran supporters and has demanded an immediate apology and the execution of Major Aldridge who led the ambush. General Olvini remains firm in support for his men. Princess Selina has been noticeably quiet on the affair, however Chronicle sources suggest that relationships between her and Olvini are strained at the moment.

Against the backdrop of the assault on the Citadel and the killing of the Salvoyneans, the budget debate proved difficult for many faction leaders. A revolt by the, as yet unaligned, commons meant that despite the efforts of nearly all the faction leaders the budget proposals were substantially amended before they were passed. The speech by Marcus Lambourne proved to be the turning point. Whilst personally speaking in favour of the budget, Lambourne's reluctance to excessively fund the wall was picked up by many subsequent speakers. In particular his theme that "the future prosperity of our city cannot be ignored" and that "the wall will not become a bottomless pit, swallowing up the hard earned money of the good people of Tinrodeth" gained strong support and resulted in more funding for the Trade budget and the appointment of Lambourne as leader of a financial oversight committee. Lambourne himself seemed surprised by this move and his elevation to a position of leader of the Commons, and the growth of his faction appears to be causing him problems with other factions.

The Temple of Hahn continues to be active this month with detailed planning now taking place over temple support for a great city orphanage. Both the Torians and the Welfare and Education Committee are involved and the Archimandrite has expressed himself well pleased with progress and "the developing relationship between the Temple and the people". The recent reopening of the Temple orders to candidates has also been welcomed. Once again Gax the Heretic has surprised the city by making a speech in support of the Archimandrite's "fair and meritorious selection of candidates"

## LATE NEWS!

The Citadel has surrendered! At dawn of Fifthday the entire remaining force marched out of Newgate and departed south over the causeway. The terms of surrender are unknown but Princess Selina is believed to have secured the grain stores and a significant portion of the treasury intact.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 149

The fight for control of the Witanmoot has intensified with Marcus Lambourne finally breaking the status quo consensus with his nomination of Jenny Davy for Sheriff. Lambourne has the clear support of the commons and has been much in evidence supporting the rights of backbenchers and building support amongst the councillors. Richard Saunders told the Chronicle, "It is about time someone stood up against the rich and powerful of this City. The Commons are the elected representatives of the people, but Monterey and his ilk have for far too long ignored us. If Marcus is going to change that then I for one will be supporting him." Councillor Saunders protestations have not dissuaded Alan Monterey from proposing Alison Shefford, and William Trueman Miranda Andrews. The Sheriffs vote is after all a vote of the Alderman and Lambourne may not be strong enough in this area to pull off his coup. However the breaking of the consensus is an important event confirming a return to normal politics and a likely challenge to the Lordship.

The Commons' new-found independence did not prove a particularly receptive environment for Alan Monterey's proposed reinstatement of the envoy to Kerun. Despite his well reasoned arguments he narrowly failed to win the vote. It was also less than receptive to his criticism of the oversight committee. The councillors did not take well to having something they had voted for described as "an ill-defined, waste of money" and his attempt to have the committee removed failed. This of course means that the council will now have to define what the money is to be wasted on.

William Trueman has been exhibiting a bravery comparable with that of the much missed Richard Firethorn. Not content with the risks involved in approaching Princess Selina for a £12,000 loan to get over the budget crisis, our fearless Goldsmith has made a very brave speech thanking the Citadel for their unselfish surrender which has enabled the city to be effectively defended despite Princess Selina's attack.

General Olvini has announced his intention to return the occupied wards to civilian control as early as possible. All citizens with a claim to property in the occupied wards are requested to present themselves along with supporting evidence of the Generals office in Dracas before the end of the month. The General hopes to restore houses before the Midwinter Festival with preference going to those people who can exchange a current accommodation in another ward for their old property.

With the Citadel firmly under her control Princess Selina has ordered much of the Cavalry to the north to deal with the Noordic threat. The troops have already had a number of successful engagements and Linrodeth's Northern approaches appear to be secure. Rumours suggest that the Noord may be in a mood to negotiate, and that this news is being suppressed by the Witanmoot in their desire to get the wall funded through excessive taxation.

Travelling merchants have confirmed earlier reports of the fall of Cascorach to forces of Prince Edward. Whilst the great castle is still holding out, it is now only a matter of time before Edward controls both the great cities of the south. Wild stories abound that Princess Eleanor escaped from the castle on the back of a great winged dragon. The Chronicle would normally discount such news, however a significant number of witnesses claim to have seen the great fiery beast.

Many citizens will already have felt the effects of the out-of-control wagon which rolled down Levestone hill last week causing much property damage and several injuries along the way. The ensuing attempts to clear up the mess effectively blocked all roads between the port and the Witanmoot for several hours, bringing much of the city to a halt. Unsurprisingly, no-one has come forward to claim the smashed wagon and its few remaining wool bales. Alderman Monterey is particularly keen to find the perpetrator after personally losing a crate of Kerunian white under those wheels.

The river Dow turned purple this week much to the delight of the street urchins and disconcerting the cluster of river families below Dowgate. The unusual event was rapidly traced to an outflow from the workshops of one Talus Snapdragon, whereupon a number of polizei patrols declined to investigate further.

The Bards' College have been much in evidence this month setting up pendulums and dowsing in a number of areas in and around the city. The participating students have described these odd exercises as "standard field work". The presence of several senior masters suggests otherwise. A number of eyewitnesses have reported a prolonged visit to Master Aethorn by Alderman Monterey, who appeared not to be reassured by whatever was discussed. A number of ex-Witanmoot Guard polizei have expressed concern about the enpurpled Berewic monument, recently the scene of activities by Salvoynian visitors.

Lilith Tansdowne's hopes of getting her house back may be delayed by the poor state of the Citadel. Those allowed into the Citadel soon after its capitulation were shocked by its deterioration. The outbuildings and much of the furniture have been demolished for firewood, and the kitchens may have been the scene of minor riots. Visitors speak of tapestries and substantial sections of the library burnt or missing. The Princess has ordered a great number of furnishings from the local guilds, but in the meantime is continuing to hold court within the Tansdowne residence. General Olvini is believed to still be undergoing a security sweep of the inner keep of the Citadel after a number of traps were found, and has sent several samples of well-water to the temples for testing.

The Trade Committee is lobbying for increased recognition from the Council, asking for better access to the port and improved wharves. Members point out that with the long distance land routes closed or very hazardous, almost all of Linrodeth's high value trade is coming in via the port. While a number of food guilds have chosen to take offence at the statement, it does appear that the numbers of ships in dock this summer is high. The Customs Master is believed to be implementing something called a 'fast turnaround' on ships, which seems to be immensely unpopular amongst the ships' crews.

The hot, sunny weather has brought Linrodeth's beggar community out in force. Citizens used to the clear, quiet streets of the military curfew seem bemused by the reappearance of the maimed, diseased and filthy poor. Street life has also taken a turn for the noisier with the appearance of a number of Kerunian style 'tea parlours' which are setting tables and chairs out on the street. These new drinking establishments, confusingly, do not sell normal alcohol but concentrate on tea and a number of "interesting addictive social drugs". The Torians are believed to already be investigating these tea dens with a view to lobbying for their immediate closure.

A pall of thick smoke is visible along the southern horizon beyond Botmoor. This has raised much speculation in the city on the eventual fate of Lady Perignon's army and what forces it might have met with on its march. Some commentators have pointed out that with the ex-Citadel regiments, the Hahnite cavalry, any local peasant levy and King Edward's forces all looking for supplies, life in the Tonoma Hills might be very interesting at the moment.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 149

The return of the militarised wards to civic control is going smoothly and a major handover ceremony is being planned for the Midsummer Festival. The biggest problem has been finding accommodation for the displaced troops. Wards such as Levestone, Welland and Berewic which took a significant number of displaced residents after the invasion are suddenly finding these residents replaced by Kerunian Soldiers. The situation is not helped by the fact that the reason these wards could house so many was that most of the real owners had been killed by the very troops who are now moving in. The wardmoots have also been shocked to discover that Princess Selina has taken ownership of those properties for which no surviving heir exists and has already started to sell them to Kerunian officers and merchants. On a related note, General Olvini has moved into the Citadel and rumours persist that the Perignon mansion will be auctioned to the highest bidder.

The situation at the docks has eased slightly after an intervention by Graeme Porter. Ships are now being moored in the estuary unless actually loading or unloading, and a major effort is being made to ensure that sufficient Watermen's skiffs are always available to ferry sailors back to their ships. However the docks are still crowded and the growing disruption caused by the portwall construction is becoming a major problem. Dock watchers have also noted an influx of Kerunian youths disembarking from the various ships complete with the tools of their trade and a naive enthusiasm for the opportunities offered by Princess Selina's new City.

The Council has finally approved the city budget in a surprisingly quite and subdued debate. Major cuts across the board made few councillors keen to bring attention to the plans and a general consensus seems to have grown around just letting them go through on the nod. A few attempts were made to make something positive of the fact that taxes had not been raised but even this failed to raise the enthusiasm of the assembled councillors.

### LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The Midsummer Festival proved to be as enjoyable as ever. The marvellous weather helped the event and celebrations surrounding the restoration of all the wards of the city to civic rule provided a focus for the event. There were the usual competitions and festivities. Last year's success with events being held inside the City seems to have encouraged many wards laying on special activities. The Wellhouse Green once again emerged as the main religious centre, although the Hahnites made an unusual and welcome attempt to bring their normally hidden ceremony out onto the streets.

Later in the day the Sheriff election resulted in a surprise defeat for Miranda Andrews. Whilst Alison Shefford received unanimous support the remaining votes were split between Davy and Andrews. The victory of Davy by a clear margin of 4 votes confirms Marcus Lambourne's position as the leading challenger to Monterey's power block. The full voting was as follows.

Davy: Monterey, Shefford, Tasker, Hubold, Belcher, Barnett, de Clare, Porter, Davy, Spich, Romanie, Worton, Flambourd, Rucche

Andrews: Barbiter, Capel, Downe, Howe, Green, Hastings, Quiller, Andrews, Warin, Trueman

Princess Selina has yet to make a public comment on the Sheriffs elections and it appears that she does not wish to be seen to be interfering in the Witanmoot democracy. However Chronicle sources have discovered that she is amazed with the result. One source close to the Princess described her as simply stunned that in a time of war the Witanmoot would want its forces controlled by a milk seller rather than a skilled military commander. The plans for the rearrangement of the military, on which Andrews is believed to have been working, are also likely to be disrupted.

## The Chronicle of the month of Setheran in the year 149

Prince Edwin has unexpectedly joined Princess Selina in her new residence at the Citadel. The prince, who will be formally welcomed to the City at a Royal Banquet next week, seems to have been resident at a 'safe location' outside of the city for some time. The prince is reported to be delighted to have returned to the city and he has already paid one unofficial visit to see old friends at the Bards College. Keen court observers have noted that it is Princess Selina's colours which still fly over the Citadel and this is being interpreted by many as an indication that Edwin will not make a play for the crown himself. The views of the prince regarding the death of his father are still unknown although it is rumoured he supports the claim of his sister Eleanor. The prince's arrival at the Citadel is a clear indication that Princess Selina now feels secure in her power and may be preparing to take sides. The civil war has taken a new turn with the announcement of the birth of Prince Edmund to King Edward and Queen Kybele. The child was born on the fourth day, second week of Heliora at what is being described by the astrologers as a highly auspicious time. Both mother and child are doing well and King Edward is reported to be "delighted that the royal line is assured of continuance". King Kieran still remains unmarried and this birth is likely to weaken his political position.

In what is being seen as a draconian response to the election of Jenny Davy, General Olvini has announced a major reorganisation of the City defences. The polizei has been disbanded and merged with a regiment of the army to create a new Tinrodeth City Guard. The Guards are lead by the newly promoted Colonel Aldridge who will report directly to the General. All responsibility for military matters has been removed from the Sheriffs, the Witanmoot and the elected structures. The General told the Chronicle, "Athion faces many years of unrest and civil war. Today I have put in place the measures necessary to ensure that Tinrodeth can survive this strife. The Princess and I recognise the contribution made to the good of the city by Tinrodeth's elected councillors. However they have clearly demonstrated that they are not competent to make decisions regarding the safety of our citizens." The General refused to answer any detailed questions saying only that "Colonel Aldridge would have a high degree of discretion in determining how the new force would operate". Ex-Sheriff Miranda Andrews was more forthcoming. "This is not the plan Princess Selina and I had been working on. However, following my removal from office it seems a reasonable approach." Major Aldridge welcomed his promotion and commented that it "demonstrates the Princess' commitment to work with the existing structures and people for the good of the city". The Chronicle wonders how he reconciles this statement with the removal of one of the City's most ancient rights. In a further military development the mercenary units have moved out of the city and rumours abound that they have begun to return to the city states.

The Witanmoot has, almost unanimously, passed an emergency motion in which it "reiterates its support for the traditional Guild system". The motion lays out in detail the requirements for guild members, including the ability to speak fluent Athionic. The growing numbers of Kerunian craftsmen arriving in the city has become of concern to many guild members and the motion is a clear challenge to Princess Selina's countrymen. The proposer of the motion is Jim Bottler, who many see as a supporter of the Kerunian regime, but currently out of favour with the court over his support for Jenny Davy. One councillor described the motion as a desperate attempt by Bottler to realign himself with the opposition. Princess Selina's response to the motion was succinct. An official of the court called on the guilds to urgently review their procedures and to actively seek ways of resolving the conflict between the traditional approach and the needs of the city. Councillor Bever Edge, who was one of the few to risk guild sanction by voting against the motion, called on the Princess to "revoke all guild charters and enable a new era of free trade for the benefit of all citizens".

In an uncontested vote Richard Saunders has been elected as Alderman of Bridge ward. The elevation of the once unpopular councillor to such a powerful post is seen as the strongest indication yet that Marcus Lambourne is in complete control of the council. Many commentators have concluded that Alan Monterey's active support for Lambourne is a price he is having to pay to ensure that Lady Tasker remains as Lord of the City.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 149

The death of Queen Kybele has been announced by King Edward's court. According to the herald the Queen was murdered by Prince Kieran's envoys when she attended a diplomatic meeting under truce. King Edward is reported to be enraged by the attack on the Queen, who was still frail after the birth of their first child. He has vowed vengeance upon the knights responsible. According to several reports these are the same assassin knights who murdered King Edmund. Cllr Ralf Seagrim has called upon the Witanmoot to denounce Prince Kieran. Tabling an emergency motion he denounced the prince as "an evil murder and oath breaker against whom we must actively wage war". Credence has been given to the murder accusations by reports that the Queen did indeed leave Cascorach with a small escort a few days before she went missing. So far the Citadel has remained silent on the matter, however Colonel Aldridge has caused uproar by announcing that he intended to hold a party in celebration. The Colonel told the Chronicle "This is the evil woman who we know was behind the Little Sisters of Sedition. Her death is good news for Tinrodeth and I intend to celebrate it"

The royal reception to formally welcome Prince Edwin to the city was a colourful and lively affair. The entertainment provided by the Bards College was magnificent and highly entertaining. Despite the obviously dilapidated state of the Citadel the main hall was beautifully arranged and the Princesses cooks provided a magnificent banquet. Few of the councillors and other prominent citizens invited can have experienced anything similar and many were clearly overwhelmed by the opulence of the Citadel surroundings. That so many citizens were invited shows a welcome change at the Citadel and augers well for future relations between the city and its rulers. Indeed the new commercial nature of Tinrodeth's rulers was evidenced by the fact that most of the discussion at the gathering focused on the massive contracts for the rebuilding of the Citadel rather than on politics. Hopes that Prince Edwin would use the event to declare for one side in the civil war were not fulfilled, and it is now clear that the court intends to steer a delicate course between the warring factions.

Colonel Aldridge has provided the Witanmoot with details of the new watch arrangements. The City Guard now consists of a regiment of infantry, a regiment of archers and one company of cavalry. The Witanmoot Guard has been re-established as a unit within the new City Guard. In addition to the normal military staff, the City Guard has its own armoury and support staff making it able to operate completely independently of the main army. In all the Guard has an armed strength of nearly a thousand men, dwarfing any force previously deployed by the city. The Guard has total responsibility for law and order within the city and for the manning of the city gates and walls. The force has spent the month demonstrating its presence with what is hopefully an unsustainable show of activity. The cavalry in particular have been noticeable and the mounted patrols have already been seen, and more unfortunately heard, thundering through the streets practising their response to summons.

William Trueman has managed to stun the Witanmoot and gain himself the thanks of the City due to his strenuous efforts to uncover fraud. Storming into the Council chamber last week he announced that he had solved the funding crisis and whilst the rest of the council was still wondering what was going on, two City Guardsmen marched up to Olivia Warin and poured nearly three thousand pounds in gold coins at her feet. Alderman Trueman announced that this was stolen money from a fraud perpetrated upon the City by ex Alderman Emily Martel. Alderman Trueman told the council that he had noticed discrepancies in the funds received from the roof tax and after months of work tracked down the perpetrator. Amid a standing ovation he went on to explain that when Alderman Martel was killed in the invasion the money disappeared and perhaps would have been lost forever if he had not tracked it down to behind a false stone wall in her fireplace.

Rumours are circulating that Matthew Dixon has returned to the city to sell fast food in the ward of Welland. Quite why he should break the terms of surrender in order to support the Pastriers profits is not explained. However, Dixon fever appears to have gripped the city and judging from the rumours, he has transformed himself into a master spy and has also developed an ability to be in more than one place at once.



Campaigning for the Midwinter elections has started early this year with a flurry of activity in a number of wards. Tilly Falgar in particular has been active and has launched a major bid to take the Aldermanship of Welland from Gillian Howe. Her fast start has clearly caught Alderman Howe, unprepared and it may be that she has already built up an unstoppable momentum. In what may be a panic move Cllr Howe has declared her support for Jim Bottler's faction within the Witanmoot.

Controversy is waging over plans to extend the docks outside of the city walls. Alan Monterey has been heavily occupied with the planning, and has found himself the centre of a veritable storm as Tinrodeth's shipping family protest at the inadequate provision for their ships. The problem has been emphasised by Princess Selina's decision to build a private dock for the use of her ships.

The Guild membership crisis rumbles on with councillors lining up to make speeches in support of their guilds rights. Alan Monterey has been most prominent in attempting to move the debate beyond gesturing and took the time to make a major speech on the subject from the Witanmoot. In the speech Monterey warned of the dangers of making a "disastrous decisions, based on misinformation and muddy thinking" he described the plans to rescind the guild charters as likely to lead to impoverishment for everyone. Turning to the needs of the newcomers he made a major play of the financial loss which the guilds would suffer if these people were allowed to become members and in what is seen as a challenge to Princess Selina he demanded that significant payments be made to the guild for by each new member. He went on to assure everyone that "all of the possibilities are being investigated in order to ensure the future prosperity of Tinrodeth". In reality however most Councillors do not see resolving the problem as a high priority. A view which they may need to change rapidly following the news that Cllr Bever Edge, and Gax the Heretic have held a private meeting with Princess Selina.

Major military movements have occurred around Tinrodeth in the past two weeks. Lady Perignon appears to have joined forces with the army of Plenipotentiary Jasmine. The combined force has made a major push to the south and seems to be establishing a buffer zone (or perhaps a private kingdom) between Tinrodeth and Salvoyne. In addition to all this activity to the south a large force of professional troops, including a regiment of Rangers, is reported to have arrived at Fenny Bridges. The news can not have been received well at the Citadel, where last months decision to send many mercenaries to Kingsport prior to sailing home now seems dangerously optimistic.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 149

Sheriff Jenny Davy has taken decisive action to resolve the guild membership crisis. She has placed a hard hitting and controversial motion before council which, she announced, "will force people to face up to the issues and provide a clear path to resolving them".

This Council recognises the important role of the Guilds and will resist all attempts to diminish this. We affirm our desire to see the many new and highly skilled craftsmen arriving in our City participating actively within this structure. Council resolves to establish a review committee, chaired by Sheriff Davy and tasked with determining how best this can be achieved. In the interim, this council strongly advises the Guilds of Tinrodeth to immediately accept, without charge, any suitably skilled immigrant as a provisional member of the Guild with all rights and obligations except the ability to hold guild posts or vote in guild elections.'

Marcus Lambourne is believed to back the proposals and rumours are circulating that they originated from Princess Selina. With both Jim Bottler and Alan Monterey taking on Kerunians within their own business it seems that, despite the strong words, our councillors have already capitulated. Marc Bergeren has returned from Eresan with the dramatic news that King Kieran is marching a huge army south to Cascorach. Whether this force will be sufficient to raise the siege of that city is unclear and military pundits describe the move as a desperate risk, which is most likely to result in the loss of most of his forces. Cllr Bergeren also described how he was forced to disguise himself and travel cross country in order to get past Aralan Derwent's camp in Fenny Bridges. He described the village as an armed camp training to attack the City and massively disrupting its trade. He expressed outrage that Aralan had detained him there for several months on his way out to Eresan.

Despite the likelihood that King Edward will soon be in charge of most of the country, Cllr Ralf Seagrim's motion that "The city of Tinrodeth declares its intention to wage war upon the evil murder and oath breaker Kieran" has been heavily defeated. This is a reaffirmation that the pro-Kieran position taken by many of the senior members of the council is taking hold. Some are now suggesting that the City should formally declare for King Kieran, however the arrest of Cllr Seagrim by the City Guard on charges of Sedition may change this view. A major crisis may be about to blow up as the factions argue over whether to oppose Selina's move. Princess Selina's office however has expressed surprise that there is any controversy, commenting that anyone who attempts to unlawfully issue orders to the Army is committing a serious crime and is likely to have a nasty shock.

The proposals to restrict Guild membership on the basis of an ability to speak Athionic has been ruled invalid by a Hahnite Court. Gax the Heretic successfully argued that language was not a requirement to perform a craft. Since as only a monarch was able to amend the guild charters then the enactment of the Witanmoot's motion by any guild would in fact be a breach of that charter.

William Trueman has been elected as Guildmaster of the powerful Goldsmiths Guild. The outgoing Guildmaster George Rimon who was forced to retire by ill health announced his delight that Trueman's uncontested election. Trueman himself has been uncharacteristically quiet, simply commenting that he "was honoured that the Guild has seen fit to place this responsibility upon him" and praising George for "his many years serving the Guild and the City".

Arguments have raged in the Witanmoot this month over how to spend the extra funds provided by Alderman Trueman. A strong lobby came close to having the funds allocated to the restoration of the cuts in Welfare and Education budget. however an impassioned speech by Alderman Graham Porter extolling the virtues of trade as a means of generating future tax revenues convinced the Council to instead allocate the funds to "investments in the docks and associated roads to ensure continued growth in Tinrodeth's trade".

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# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 149

Last month's tensions between the Witanmoot and Princess Selina continued to run high following the arrest of Ralf Seagrim. It is believed that most of the prominent members of the Council, including those who are known enemies of King Edward, have lobbied for his release. Tensions were raised when a new scaffold was erected outside the city walls. However rumours that he was about to be executed proved false and after a week of incarceration Cllr Seagrim was released from prison. Soon after his release he spoke from the Mootstone and has made a formal and public apology to Princess Selina. He declared "I recognise Princess Selina as the rightful and only ruler of the Principality of Linrodeth. I reaffirm my support for King Edward in his battle with the usurper Kieran and call upon Princess Selina to ally the great city of Linrodeth with the rightful King of the rest of Athion". This latter proposal will probably not have pleased many of the people who lobbied for his release. Late returning merchants bring news of the elaborate and lavish celebrations held in Salvoyn over Harvestide to mark the official naming of baby Prince Edmund. The festivities, although subdued in the wake of Queen Kybele's murder, clearly demonstrated the growing prestige of Salvoyn as King Edward's capital city. The royal court has been enriched by the wealth and glamour of Salvoyn's noble matriarchs, and their generous patronage of the arts has already encouraged an explosion of new and exciting work. The naming ceremony also saw the traditional temples arrayed in a new order as a single pantheon under the unification of the Holy Son Resh.

The Guild membership debate proved to be a highly charged occasion. Sheriff Davy opened the discussion by explaining the background to the proposals which, she explained, were the result of many hours work by herself and Marcus Lambourne. The speech has consolidated her position as the leading threat to Lady Tasker, she skilfully explained the reasoning behind what she described as "Genuinely the best solution possible" and warned of the "potentially disastrous implications" if this compromise was not accepted. It looked as though this motion would go through virtually unopposed with Bottler, Monterey, Trueman and many other leading Guild members all rising in quick succession to support it. However an amendment proposed by Jim Bottler to delete the penultimate word so that provisional guild members be prevented from voting in the Midwinter elections caused uproar in the chamber. Sheriff Davy weighed in first announcing in a commanding voice that she seconded the amendment, which had been part of her original proposal to Princess Selina. Cllr Petro Cutario was first off the mark in opposing the motion, describing it as an outrageous attempt to remove the right to vote from the householders of Linrodeth. Cllr Cutario was strongly supported by William Trueman who described the proposal as confused beyond belief. Alderman Trueman had clearly been well briefed. In a devastatingly well argued speech he reminded the Council of the great "Definitions of Citizenship" reform enacted by Lord Dixon and the rather unfortunate effect this amendment would have upon it. Using examples which had many Councillors roaring with laughter he explained that in effect immigrants who bought property in the city would be able to vote in elections, unless they joined a guild. His closing words "I ask you fellow Councillors, reject this lunacy, and let us get back to the simple, clear politics this city needs" received a standing ovation and it looked as though the amendment would be lost. However the strong Lambourne faction fought back and argued vehemently that the motion was not intended to affect the definition of citizenship. In a hurried conference with Cllr Bottler they revised the amendment to "Except that such provisional Guild membership, shall not in itself confer the right to hold guild posts or vote in elections". A proposal which passed by 112 votes to 108, with the main motion then being passed by a margin of 80 votes.

The city orphans, under the encouragement of their board of governors, is to put on a Yuletide miracle play to entertain and raise money for their coffers. The story of Persilus and the Golden Acorn was selected in honour of Her Highness Princess Selina and her foreign entourage. Tickets are on sale from the Trueman and Lambourne households in Faringdon for sixpence each.

The fallout from the guild membership debate is playing out in the already heavy campaigning for the midwinter elections. Observers suggest that major changes may be on the way. Many wards have been resettled following the disruptions of previous years and clear political positions are beginning to emerge in the Witanmoot. The Monterey and Lambourne factions were expected to do well in this environment as people

seek stability, however William Trueman's many recent successes appear to have started a bandwagon rolling behind his "Efficient, Responsible and Honest" slogan, and across the city Trueman candidates are doing well. In contrast to last year the Bottler faction is struggling to hold ground against accusations that it has lost direction, and amongst suspicion that Princess Selina has withdrawn her support for him.

Alderman Alan Monterey has been at pains to recover from his embarrassing defeat by Gax the Heretic last month. Thanking Gax for pointing out the legal situation he has reiterated the need for people to gain fluency in Athionic, in particular to avoid "guild rules, and indeed the laws of the city being broken simply through ignorance". Unusually for our civic leaders Alderman Monterey has taken action to help the situation by arranging for the Bards College to provide formal teaching of the language. A move which has received significant funding from the Carpenters and a number of other guilds.

Gilbert de Clare has marked the end of the building season with a major celebration culminating in the completion of the first gate through the new Portwall. Announcing that the project is significantly ahead of schedule he assured the oversight committee that, funds permitting, it could be completed by the middle of next year. Cllr de Clare did however express concern that the repairs to the Citadel and the new docks extension could draw off many skilled craftsmen.

A week of thick fog in Tinrodeth has closed the city more effectively than any curfew. Torches and improvised railings have not always helped disoriented citizens when fog concealed even houses across the street. Rivermen braving the water crossing have been spooked by mysterious shapes afloat in the port, and one patrol of the city guard has reported following a trail of blood which vanished at Levestone crossroads. The blanketing fog has brought an abrupt halt to the city's meagre trading convoys this year. It now seems unlikely that we will discover the outcome of the vital battle for Cascorach before the Springtide melting.

## The Chronicle

### of the month of Ternost in the year 149

Princess Selina has announced a grand Yuletide ball to celebrate the completion of the renovation of the Citadel's great hall. Many of the city's most worthy citizens have found themselves in the surprising position of not being invited. It seems that the new regime has not yet entirely understood Tinrodeth's social scene and the invitation of many prominent tradesmen in preference to the nobility has caused consternation in some quarters. The ball will however provide a massive boost for Tinrodeth's dressmakers as few of those invited possess the necessary court clothes. The refurbished hall is being kept under close wraps however a number of people who have seen it claim that the new Bottler design has achieved a stunningly successful blending of Kerunian and Athionic styles.

Tinrodeth has been gripped with election fever this month. Normal political activity seems to have come to a complete stop as all the factions throw everything into the hardest fought campaign the City has ever seen. Under a massive onslaught the Trueman bandwagon has begun to falter. Faced with accusations of being out of touch with the common people, and with rumours that Trueman's business is "unusually profitable" which by implication calls into question his honesty, the whole faction has been forced onto the defensive. However Trueman himself appears to be secure in his own ward where a backlash against the many accusations appears to be boosting his popularity. Alderman Trueman described the attacks as, "lies perpetrated by people more interested in politics than the good of the city". He went on to explicitly deny rumours that he intended to challenge Marcus Lambourne to a duel over the matter. Lambourne's faction itself is making a strong showing and looks set to continue its steady progress.

Elsewhere on the political scene perhaps the most startling turnaround has been that achieved by the Bottler faction, which has been spending significant sums of money. Melanie Romanie's vote-buying campaign has been particularly generous and looks set to secure her seat. The high level of campaigning makes it difficult to predict the outcome in many wards as opinions are rapidly changing, however one area where an upset seems likely is in Dracas where Randolph Flamboard is facing a strong challenge from Thomas Osbert. The competition is made all the more interesting by the fact that the protagonists are business partners and "the best of friends". The emergence of a strongly pro Selina faction is also causing confusion, in particular because of its novel strategy of only having one candidate in each ward.

Alderman William Trueman has been having a bad month all round. In addition to the many political attacks which he has suffered, his house was burgled last week. Fortunately for Alderman Trueman an alert member of the City Guard spotted the thieves as they made their entry through the roof of the house. A squad of City Guard arrived soon thereafter and, following a noisy and occasionally violent search of the house, all of the criminals were apprehended.

Rumours circulating in the City suggest that King Kieran has withdrawn most of his professional forces from Fenny Bridges, leaving Aralan Derwent's army seriously exposed to a potential attack by the City forces. General Olvini, who had originally refused to comment on the matter, was eventually forced to issue a statement in order to quell the growing hysteria over the matter. Speaking in an open address to the City Guard, the General evaded questions about Derwent's exact military position but did state, "The military force of the City has a duty to defend the property and prosperity of citizens. The forces at Fenny Bridges have continued an unacceptable campaign of intimidation and interference with trade. However launching an attack upon land we have not claimed is a serious undertaking. I would like to therefore advise that I have no current intention of ordering an attack upon Fenny Bridges by the City Guard or other units of the Army."

The City orphanage has finally received some funds following the intervention of Graeme Porter who has announced that due to careful budget management, the dock extensions will not cost as much as had previously been assumed. His motion that the surplus £100 be transferred from the dock extension to the "underfunded" orphanage received unanimous support.

# Linrodeth City Governance

In Linrodeth the common citizens (householders) of each ward elect an Alderman and 12 Councillors to represent their city ward at the Court of Common Council. Their representatives must also be guildmembers as well as citizens. The Alderman in turn elect three officers who have a great deal of power: the two sheriffs and the Lord Chief Magistrate (normally known simply as the Lord of the City).

## The Lord Chief Magistrate

The Lord is elected annually at the Springtide Festival by the Alderman from among the two Sheriffs and the current Lord. The Lord is the first citizen and overlord of the city corporation and the land that it holds. During his years in office he lives at the Witanmoot and is host to the hundreds of official envoys and foreigners that visit. None of the expenses of this office are meant to be borne by the citizens and indeed the Lord is expected to subsidise the city's annual tax payment to the King. The King holds the Lord entirely responsible for the payment of this tax. As the title implies, the Lord is also Chief Magistrate of the city, presiding as judge in the most important court cases. He is answerable to the King for the peaceful and lawful running of his capital city as long as the taxes are paid in full and on time.

## The Sheriffs

The two city Sheriffs are elected annually by the Alderman, from among the Aldermen and Sheriffs, on Midsummer Day. There is always one Sheriff in attendance at every session of the criminal courts, and they are responsible for ensuring that the directions of the judges are carried out. They are jointly responsible for the correct and efficient conduct of the city's Standing Watches, and in less peaceful times they are responsible for raising and ordering the full Marching Watch (the turn-out of every able-bodied citizen). They are responsible for liaising with the Knight Marshall at the Citadel, and with his captains who run the prisons at the city gates.

## The Court of Aldermen

The Court of Aldermen meets once a month and is presided over by the Lord. It forms an inner council which advises the Lord. It also appoints the Chairmen of the various committees, which are responsible for administering their respective areas and for submitting policy recommendations to the Court of Common Council.

The Alderman vote a Chairman into power, but the Chairman chooses the rest of his committee from among the common councillors. A Chairman is removed either at the discretion of the Lord, or by the Court if he fails to solve a political problem for three months running. Emissaries (and their spouses) reside in the city they are assigned to.

## The Aldermen

There are twenty-one Aldermen, elected by their Ward voters at Midwinter. They are the Justice of the Peace for their Ward, and are answerable to the Sheriffs for the running of the Local Watch within their ward. Since guildmembers tend to concentrate within a particular area of the city, the Alderman is usually a senior officer of the most important local guild.

## The Court of Common Council

This is the main policy-making body of Linrodeth. It is made up of the 252 Common Councillors, the 21 Aldermen, 2 Sheriffs and the Lord, and meets twice a month in the Witanmoot. The Court receives recommendations from the Committees and Envoys on the conduct of the city's business. There are no official party affiliations, each councillor is meant to vote "in light of reason and conscience". However groupings and alliances are noticeable.

## Common Councillors

Elected annually by the citizens at Midwinter, they have to be citizens (householders) themselves, and must also be full guildmembers. Voting is recorded in confidence by a Hahmite priest. At sunset the person with the most votes becomes Alderman and the next twelve become the Common Councillors.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 149

Preparations for Princess Selina's Yuletide Ball continue apace this month with hectic to-and-froing between the Bards College and the Citadel. Numbers of amateur entertainers have been pulled in to supplement the students, with rumours of an eclectic dance exhibition circulating. An entirely new play by the poet Oespasian has also been commissioned. Clearly a major event is being planned and rumours of a massive budget for the lavish entertainment has heightened rivalries over attendance. Key members of the offended nobility have now been invited however, with the seating plan still a closely guarded secret and a large number of tradesmen still on the guest list, it seems clear that Princess Selina plans to send a strong message in favour of the City Guilds.

The feverish pace of Linrodeth's election campaigns has refused to abate this month with heavy activity in all areas. Last month's aggressive personal attacks seem to have died down and campaigning has returned to a more traditional pattern of bunting and canvassing. Most factions appear to have moved to defensive positions with only the Monterey faction still placing the taking of seats as a high priority. Alderman Monterey's political assistant, Ms Linette, has been much in evidence, and it would appear that she has enlisted the help of some of her mercenary friends to ensure that the Monterey campaign runs with "near military precision". Jim Bottler's heavy spending has continued and looks set to prevent the expected meltdown of his faction. Indeed Bottler himself is now reported to be doing very well - which may be a good thing given Tilly Falgar's clear lead over Gillian Howe. In Avigon Petro Cutario, operating without the support of any faction, is mounting an unexpectedly serious challenge to Samuel Rucche. A battle which Rucche is clearly ill-prepared for.

One possible explanation for the apparent revitalisation of Jim Bottler's fortunes is a rumour going around the City that he was responsible for rescuing Elizabeth Dixon from the Citadel. Elizabeth has been sighted at Fenny Bridges and a persistent story about how Jim Bottler and his craftsmen managed to spirit her out of imprisonment in the Citadel refuses to die down. According to reports, Bottler and his men discovered Elizabeth imprisoned in the Citadel and managed to get her out by disguising her as an apprentice. The clear problem with this tale is that Bottler is still alive and apparently in favour at court again. The Chroniclers conclude that this odd story is about as likely as Matthew Dixon returning to Linrodeth to sell meat pies.

Lady Eshi Cyarçon is to launch her summer collection in Salvoyñ this year, according to word from the docksides. The loss of this prestigious event is yet another blow to the local aristocracy and their attempts to retain status. Princess Selina does not seem to be unduly worried by this turn of events. Investigations into the attempted burglary of Alderman William Trueman's house have revealed that many people spent money last month seeking dirt on Trueman and his lucrative business dealings - obviously to no avail. Apparently these offers of reward were generous enough to convince a speculative group of thieves to go and see what they could find. Attempts to trace the crime back to a particular faction have failed. However visits by the City Guard asking awkward questions may well have gone a long way toward the cessation of the attacks by Trueman's rivals.

Reactions from the various Linrodeth temples to the announcement of the Holy Church of Resh remain studiously neutral, a full two months after the announcement. Whether this is simply because of a need to verify with their authorities is unclear. Until the proclamation, the Holy Son Resh was virtually unheard of within Linrodeth. The Chronicle has now spoken directly to the merchants who brought the reports from Salvoyñ, and can confirm that Archimandrite Ingulfus has declared to the Hahnite temples that Resh is an incarnation of Shin, the Son-that-Judges. In addition the Wellkeeper and the Chirurgeon in Salvoyñ have announced that Resh is also the beloved child of Daleth and Torus. Archimandrite Ingulfus announced that the Gods gathered together before a great battle with evil and decided to collectively create Resh as an embodiment of their warrior spirit. According to the latest pronouncements, the return of Resh signifies that a great evil has once again risen. The Chronicle suspects that, at least on this point, that they may be right.



## Late Midwinter News! Late Midwinter News!

The Citadel's Yuletide Ball was a stunningly successful event. The refurbished Great Hall lived up to expectations; Jim Bottler has clearly redefined the style of the Citadel, and perhaps all the future building in the City. Certainly judging by the number of people who wished to compliment him, he will not be short of commissions. The celebrations opened with the interesting idea of announcing the Midwinter election results. The many Councillors and Aldermen in the Great Hall clearly enjoyed seeing each other's reactions to the news, and it may be that a new precedent has been set. After a suitable period of discussion, the entertainment started with a dramatic flamenco by Maria Consuelo, the well known socialite, which stunned the audience into silence. Following this, Princess Selina's speech was heard with all due deference. Describing the new Hall as "symbolic of the benefits of combining Kerunian and Tinrodeth styles", she made an impassioned call for people to work together for the good of the City. Her message was made all the more compelling by the announcement that Jim Bottler had succeeded as the new Alderman of Welland, a result which the Princess described as a shining example of the rewards and success likely to befall those who work for the good of Tinrodeth. The speech was followed by a new play written and performed by the Vespasian Players. The audience was once again appreciative of the quality of the performances and the beauty of the plot. The production clearly confirms the Players as the foremost theatrical group in the city. Midnight was marked by another speech in which Princess Selina looked forward to the coming year and the problems which together the people of Tinrodeth will have to overcome. A message which was reinforced by the immediate performance of a Nyskildian Sword Dance, where the violent, militaristic style and northern origin served to remind people of the threat facing the city.

The election results turned out to be less dramatic than expected with most Aldermen retaining their seats. In Cartage Miranda Andrews predictably regained the Aldermanship. In Bassishaw Mark Bergeren defeated Gemma Downe by a surprisingly large margin, whilst in Marshgate Nicholas Bowden just defeated Maureen Quiller. The most interesting changes however were in Avigon where the popular Mercer Petro Cutario just edged ahead of Samuel Ruche to claim the seat and in Welland where Jim Bottler claimed victory at the expense of the previous Alderman Gillian Howe being forced into third place.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 150

The Torian Temple has issued a warning for everyone to be on their guard after several people died of a mysterious illness last week. All the deaths were from members of the Cornmongers Guild however the source of the pox has not yet been identified. Victims die quickly and are left covered in small red bumps. The initial symptoms are a cough and a desire to drink lots of liquids. Anyone with these symptoms is advised to stay indoors and send a message to the Temple immediately. The warning has already resulted in most Cornmongers being shunned by the populous in general. Of greatest concern is the fact that the Torians have declared the illness untreatable.

The City Guard has been criticised by a number of Salvoynian merchants for its failure to control the anti-Resh riots which were sparked by the speech of the Atharvan of Brynette last Firstday. The Atharvan's inflammatory speech called upon all worshippers to "root out this evil and to prevent the corruption of the innocent by cleansing with the holy fire of Brynette". It would seem that the congregation took her literally. Hoards of devout Brynettes waving burning torches swarmed through the streets to seek out people associated with Salvoyn and known supporters of King Edward. By contrast the Archimandrite of Tinrodeth's strongly worded denunciation, which reminded devotees that Ingulfus was excommunicate and warning against the risk of listening to evil, seemed somewhat tame.

Sheriff Alison Shefford has caused consternation within the Witanmoot by proposing that a compulsory oath of allegiance to the City to be taken by all citizens. Sheriff Shefford told the Chronicle, "We live in difficult times and must be sure that people who wish to shelter under the protection of the City are loyal to it. We have to recognise that the Kingdom of Athion died with King Edmund. Everyone knows that I campaigned to keep the kingdom together, but that is now a lost cause. We have to look to the future. We also have to recognise that a lot of people from other cities have arrived recently and are seeking Citizenship. In my view anybody who is not prepared to take this oath has no place in this City, and certainly no place in its government." The full proposals are:

No person whom, by whatever right, is entitled to become a citizen of Tinrodeth shall have Citizenship conferred upon them until they have sworn as follows "I declare my loyalty to the City of Tinrodeth and place my fealty to it above all other Cities, States and Kingdoms". All current citizens must take this oath upon the occasion of their first voting in an election or will lose their citizenship. The oath must also be taken by all members of the City Guard and anyone seeking service with the Witanmoot. In recognition of their service those members of the City Guard above the rank of Sergeant shall become Citizens, and all members of the Guard shall obtain citizenship upon the completion of 15 years of service.

It appears that even Alan Monterey was unprepared for the announcement and amongst the debate on the motion, rumours are circulating that this is a bid by Sheriff Shepherd to position herself as the next Lord of the City. Certainly the skilful wording which would not require any Citizen to take the oath for another year will help with this. The motion would however require the Kerunian members of the City Guard to swear loyalty to the City immediately. A proposal which surprisingly has gained Alison Shefford a "productive, and positive discussion" with Princess Selina, rather than a beheading.

A major fire has completely destroyed the Phoenix Inn. The fire, which seems to have been started deliberately at a number of points around the building, claimed several lives including that of the owner Derrick Sanderson. The Phoenix, which has for some years held a position as one of the finest Inns in the City, has recently become a favourite drinking place and residence for rich Kerunian merchants. Whilst the motive for the attack is not clear it may be political and the City Guard are already aggressively seeking the perpetrators.

The nominations for the committee places looked set to be completely uncontested until a last minute intervention by Jim Bottler. During the day the nominations for each of the posts had arrived in a highly ordered way and with an unbelievable lack of any contention. First Marcus Lambourne's faction proposed

Richard Saunders for Welfare and Education, Duncan Barnet for Law and Order and Tilly Falgar for emissary to Eresan. Next Alan Monterey proposed Flamboard for the Treasury, Graham Porter for shipping, Hugh Fitz-Abushon for Eresan and Maud Blessop for Kerun. William Trueman's nomination of Warin for Trade and Eva Capel for Lands and Agriculture were met by heckling from the back benches as councillors realised that a deal had obviously been struck in the back rooms. A number of councillors stood up to decry the lack of democracy and the bypassing of the elections. At the last minute perhaps spurred on by these speeches Jim Bottler stood up to propose Melanie Romanie for Trade, Nicholas Bowden for Land and Agriculture, Samuel Rucche for Eresan and Gillian Howe for Cascorach. The cheering subsided rapidly when people realised that he was only contesting the seats proposed by William Trueman. Cllr Martin Key denounced the entire process. "How can we possibly get the right person for the job when what obviously matters is the back room dealings of a few powerful members of the council". He proclaimed, adding much to the amusement of the rest of the council "Saunders for Welfare and Education, have they gone mad?"

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 150

The Cornpox has disappeared as mysteriously as it appeared. The strict quarantine imposed by the Torian Temple appears to have been effective, although a number of people have suggested that the pox had little to do with illness and a lot to do with intrigue. Certainly the council has shown a lot of interest. Richard Saunders has been much in evidence trying to prove himself a good Chairman of Welfare and Education by "co-ordinating everyone" whilst Alderman Monterey has been asking questions which clearly show he suspects fowl play. There have even been rumours that necromancy is suspected.

Storms sweeping in from the coast have caused flooding and damage across the Ishtan valley. Many roofs and belltowers within the city suffered wind damage and one household in Bassishaw had a very lucky escape when the old moot-Oak fell through their roof. Out in the countryside the deluge has signalled an early end to the snows, but is also likely to delay the spring planting. Earthwalkers at the Dalethian Temple are concerned by the possibility of further rains, and are meeting with Wellkeeper Shinannon to assess temple advice for the coming season. Rumours via the Cornmongers Guild say that the limited stock of the new damp resistant seed has been recalled to the Gavelkinden. The Dalethians will most likely urge a cautious approach to the coming sowing, risking a delayed harvest later in the year.

Sheriff Alison Shefford's "Oath of Fealty" motion has been passed unamended by the council by 148 votes to 67. Notable votes against were Kate Penipot, Irving Grendle, Phillip Candever, Maureen Quiller, Marie Cripstead, Bert Belcher, William Scrut, Estelle Wynstanly, Ralf Seagrim, Gillian Howe, Elliott Anderson, Graeme Porter and Nicholas Worton. With none of the major factions voting against the motion it fell to Bert Belcher to lead the opposition; a task which he fulfilled, for once, eloquently. Openly denouncing Sheriff Shefford as a traitor who had sold out the city and her king for the promise of power, he went on to describe the motion as an oath-breakers charter. "Did we not all swear fealty to King Kieran, have we not all fought the invaders and had friends die for the sake of this City? How can anyone who takes this oath to serve under the rule of a foreign usurper ever be trusted again? I beg you, do not force those of us who have any decency out of the council chamber - for I will not take this oath and neither will anyone else with any honour". After this onslaught the faction leaders were at pains to take a "reasonable view", expressing concern and reluctance but also announcing that they would be supporting the motion. Only Alan Monterey spoke strongly in favour of the motion declaring that "I am loyal to Inrodeth" and announcing that at least he would "always do what was best for the City". This was followed up by Cllr Bever Edge who reminded people that their oaths of fealty to Kieran were forced out of them under duress. "How many of you still remember being dragged from your homes on Lord Dixon's orders?" An attempt by Gillian Howe to delete the reference to kingdoms was defeated by 154 votes to 112.

The Mercers Guild has taken the unusual step of issuing a tax warning to the Witanmoot. A recent audit, encouraged by the Citadel, has revealed a worrying rise in declared bankrupts. The ventures failing seem to be the smaller ones who have not been able to weather the changing patterns of trade and reduced income during the war. Failures have been particularly high over the past winter, with many merchants hoping that Springtime will see renewed trade from the sea routes. The Mercers' concerns are certainly reflected in the composition of the Witanmoot, where their once proud domination of committees has become rarer in recent years. The Grossers guild has so far declined to comment.

Strong tides and unusual weather have provided an unexpected boon for traders and scavengers along the river banks. Last sixthday saw the unexpected deposit of a hoard of silver coin along the high tide mark of the muddy banks. The next few hours became an undignified scramble as locals attempted to win their loot from the ooze. Even today there are still a few hopeful urchins digging around for stray pieces. Observers note that the coins are of recent mint and seem to be mostly of Inrodeth origin, so it is likely that this was abandoned or lost by someone fleeing the city during the Kerunian invasion. The Citadel has declined to declare trove rights, commenting that this was "undoubtedly the bounty of Esprayenna".

Results of the Committee Elections:

Trade:

Warin: Bernard Hubold, Bert Belcher, Duncan Barnett, Eva Capel, Godwin Green,

Jenny Davy, Judi Spich, Mary Hastings, Miranda Andrews, Nicholas Worton, Olivia Warin, Richard Saunders, William Trueman.

Romanie: Alan Monterey, Alison Shefford, Ann Tasker, Gilbert de Clare, Graeme Porter, Jim Bottler, Marc Bergeren, Melanie Romanie, Nicholas Bowden, Petro Cutario, Randolph Flambourd.

Lands and Agriculture:

Capel: Alan Monterey, Alison Shefford, Ann Tasker, Bernard Hubold, Bert Belcher, Duncan Barnett, Eva Capel, Godwin Green, Graeme Porter, Jenny Davy, Judi Spich, Marc Bergeren, Mary Hastings, Miranda Andrews, Nicholas Worton, Olivia Warin, Petro Cutario, Randolph Flambourd, Richard Saunders, William Trueman.

Bowden: Gilbert de Clare, Jim Bottler, Melanie Romanie, Nicholas Bowden.

Eresan:

Falgar: Bernard Hubold, Bert Belcher, Duncan Barnett, Eva Capel, Godwin Green, Jenny Davy, Judi Spich, Mary Hastings, Miranda Andrews, Nicholas Worton, Olivia Warin, Richard Saunders, William Trueman.

Fitz-Abushon: Alan Monterey, Alison Shefford, Ann Tasker, Graeme Porter, Marc Bergeren, Petro Cutario, Randolph Flambourd.

Rucche: Gilbert de Clare, Jim Bottler, Melanie Romanie, Nicholas Bowden.

There have been no nominations received for Lord, other than that of the incumbent Lady Ann Tasker.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 150

Ships arriving from Salvoynd and, more reliably, merchants arriving from Cascorach have provided details of a great battle fought last Autumn between Prince Kieran's and Prince Edward's armies outside the gates of Cascorach. Prince Kieran marched his army south on the eve of Winter and seems to have managed to reach Cascorach without a major engagement. Outside the city walls the two great armies lined up and the largest battle of the civil war so far ensued. Prince Kieran's smaller force appears to have fought valiantly and with more skill and, following the collapse of Prince Edward's right flank under an onslaught of heavy cavalry, his remaining army broke and only a desperate intervention by the Royal Guard prevented a crushing defeat. Princess Eleanor has been left in undisputed control of Cascorach, Prince Edward's forces having withdrawn in good order to Salvoynd. Prince Kieran's army made a desperate and nearly disastrous dash back north, just reaching the Cantos Falls before the first heavy snows blocked them. There appear to have been heavy losses on both sides during the battle, particularly amongst the cavalry and professional troops, and Princess Eleanor's forces have suffered badly from the long siege. This leaves Princess Selina in the surprising position of possessing one of the stronger professional forces now active in Athion, although we note that Prince Edward has yet to call upon the significant strength of the Salvoyndian Levy.

Citadel watchers have wondered, in light of the above news, whether recent celebrations at Princess Selina's court have been entirely coincidental. The mainly Kerunian participants claim that this pre-Springtide "Feast of Fools" is a long standing tradition of the city states. Certainly the masked revels have included many libations to Miro, Baccelos, Hermos, Poseiros and many other strange Kerunian deities. The occasional local guests have returned quite bemused at the unexpected liberties permitted at the Princess' court this week, and seem intimidated at the idea that this might prove an annual event. It remains to be seen whether this "carnevale" tradition will reoccur after another year of civil war.

By contrast business at the Witanmoot has been sedate this month. A proposal to postpone the budget another month has been passed without opposition, in order for councillors to consider the implications of the latest tax audit currently circulating. Lady Ann Tasker has been returned as overlord unopposed; apparently such a high profile post is far less appealing to our aldermen in the current political climate. Alderman Jim Bottler has proposed the following motion to the Witanmoot "The court of Common Council notes that the Portwall project is due to be completed ahead of schedule and congratulates the labours involved. Council also notes however that labour costs have increased by a factor of three due to current economic circumstances. Council therefore approves an extra £3,000 for the payment of the labour costs of the wall". One for the oversight committee, it seems.

General Olvini's quartermasters have been forced to discard "significant weight of corn" which was found to have spoiled over the winter. The corn was reserved for the Kerunian cavalry and was not part of the city's stocks. The new city guard is investigating possible sabotage after a drainage ditch was found to have been diverted into the tower where the corn was kept. General Olvini's comments on the situation are not publishable.

As predicted the River Ishtan has flooded fast and early this year. Much of the valley around Tinrodeth has been inundated, and boats are now the only way to reach the nearby villages. Port authorities are bracing themselves for record flooding during the high tides over the Springtide festival, which are also expected to provide an early test of the new Portwall foundations. Dalethian Earthwalkers have already departed into the countryside to advise farmers and monitor the flooding. News has not yet been received of the state of Aralan Derwent's army, which remains camped at Fenny Bridges full in the path of flooding from the Great Fens.

Followers of fashion are distressed to learn of Lady Cyarçon's intention to depart for a season of commercial travel in the Spring. The lively couturier will be much missed, not least by Alan Griffiths whose on/off courtship of the eligible Eshii remains unsuccessful. Observers note that Lady Cyarçon's business partner, Master Talus Snapdragon, remains in or near the city of Tinrodeth.

# Elections

## Election of Councillors and Alderman

Every Midwinter the electors of a ward may cast a vote to elect one person to the Wardmoot of that ward. The guildmember receiving the highest number of votes is elected as Alderman of that ward for a period of one year. The remaining people for whom votes have been cast are ranked in order of the number of votes cast for them, with the person receiving the highest total being placed at the top of the list. The top twelve guildmembers on this list are elected as councillors for a period of one year. In the event that less than twelve guildmembers are present on the list, all the guildmembers on the list are elected as councillors and the Alderman must co-opt sufficient guildmembers owning property in that ward to act as councillors to make up a total of twelve councillors.

## Election of Envoys

In the month of Skelern, the Clerk of the Court of Common Council shall accept nominations for envoys to the following cities: Salvoyn, Eresan, Nyskilde, and Cascorach. The nominations must be for members of the Court of Common Council, and if the nomination is for a member of the Aldermanic Court, the nominated member may insist that the clerk reject the nomination. During the first meeting of the Aldermanic Court held in the month of Galemir, the Aldermanic Court shall elect the envoy for each of the above mentioned cities from amongst the nominated members for that city. In the event of a tie the Lord of the City has a casting vote. In the event of one person being elected to two or more envoyships, that person must choose one of the envoyships. The other envoyship(s) are then awarded to the candidate with the next highest total of votes.

## Election of Committee Chairs

In the month of Skelern, the Clerk of the Court of Aldermanic Court shall accept nominations

for chairmen of the following committees of the Witanmoot: Treasury, Trade, Law & Order, Shipping, Welfare & Education, and Lands & Agriculture from members of the Aldermanic Court. The nominations must be for members of the Court of Aldermanic Court. During the first meeting of the Aldermanic Court held in the month of Galemir, the Aldermanic Court shall elect the chairman for each of the above mentioned committees from amongst the nominated members for that committee. In the event of a tie the Lord of the City has a casting vote. In the event of one person being elected to two or more chairmanships, that person must choose one of the chairmanships. The other chairmanship(s) are then awarded to the candidate with the next highest total of votes.

## Election of the Sheriffs

In the month of Menderal, the Clerk of the Aldermanic Court shall accept accept nominations for the post of Sheriff from members of the Aldermanic Court. The nominations must be for members of the Court of Aldermanic Court. During the Midsummer festival, each member of the Aldermanic Court shall have two votes in the Election of the Sheriffs. The two votes must be for different candidates (but one or both votes may be abstentions). The Lord of the City shall not normally vote, but has a casting vote with which to resolve any ties.

## Election of the Lord of the City

During the Springtide Festival, each member of the Aldermanic Court has one vote in the Election of the Lord of the City. Each vote must be cast for either the existing Lord of the City, for one of the two sheriffs or not cast at all. The person with the highest number of votes shall be the Lord of the City. In the event of a tie, the existing Lord of the City has the casting vote.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 150

Torrential storms and record high tides over the Spring festival have flooded many parts of the city. The River Ishtan has reclaimed miles of marshland and continues to flow very fast. Within the city many low lying wards have become waterlogged and the streets are thick with the sticky black silt which is finding its way even into the households on top of the two hills. The bridge and northern causeway remain dangerous and are closed to all but military traffic. Most worryingly, a large crack has appeared in the newly built Portwall section between the bridge and the fishmarket. Elsewhere the Foam Dancer from Zedigal broke loose from its moorings and was swept against the Esprayennan Temple where it remains lodged. Rising tidewaters also found their way into the Snapdragon workshops on north shore, resulting in several colourful explosions. The oldest citizens say they have never seen such a disastrous Springtide, and are muttering dire, dark predictions for the year ahead.

The Witanmoot has come close to crisis twice this month as the various factions have debated and argued about the City finances. The debate over the Portwall cost overrun turned into a highly heated affair which may sour relations in the Witanmoot for some time. Alderman Bottler introduced his motion by once again praising all those who had made the wall project such a success. Alderman Gilbert de Clare then explained the difficulties of cheap labour hire during wartime, which resulted in the increased costs. However Marcus Lambourne in his role as chairman of the Oversight Committee declared himself unconvinced by such "Bottler-babble" and declared his intent to vote against the motion. Alderman Monterey questioned this approach given the lack of any evidence of fraud or illegality. However Cllr Nicholas Bowden responded most vehemently by commending the incredible achievement of Alderman de Claire in creating the wall so quickly and within such a tight budget. He went on to denounce Cllr Lambourne as "a traitor who had always been against the wall and who was now willing to bankrupt an honest man for political gain". In a highly charged vote the Trueman faction and the Independents chose to sit on their hands and the motion scraped through by the 87 votes of Bottler and Monterey to the 82 of the Lambourne faction.

Following on from such a major bust up it seemed unlikely that the factions would come to an amicable agreement over the budget, and indeed a number of varying proposals have been put forward for the amounts to be allocated to the various committees. The final budget proposal from the Treasury was:

Lords' Household	£670
Sheriff's Offices	£990
Treasury	£2,510
Law and Order	£2,290
Shipping	£1,140
Welfare and Education	£2,290
Lands and Agriculture	£4,060
Trade	£300

This included extra spending on the City Guard, Welfare & Education and Shipping. Alderman Trueman questioned the level of spend on the Treasury and Sheriffs Office and suggested, to much applause, that perhaps it was time for a tax cut. Cllr Lambourne has proposed that the budget be restored to the original proposal for 149 before it was "slashed" to free up money for the wall. This final suggestion prompted another outburst from Cllr Bowden who demanded that all the wall money be transferred to military funding to help defend the city against the evil of King Edward. The chamber once again descended into chaos and none of the proposed budgets were passed. The Chronicle is interested to see how quickly Princess Selina will unleash her Kerunian auditors if the budget is not sorted out next month. Against this backdrop of growing division one positive move is the announcement by the pro-Selina group that it is throwing its campaign behind Petro Cutario and joining the faction of Alderman Monterey. The announcement sparked rumours that Alderman Cutario would be running for Sheriff are squashed after he declared that he had been very impressed with Jenny Davy's performance as Sheriff and had no intention of standing against her.



Warin Shipping has taken advantage of the chaos caused by the Spring weather to buy out a number of smaller, less stable rivals. These include the Eye of Kith from the Secchi family, the Longmans' Storm Runner and the newly built Zinda's Tale. Funding for this aggressive expansion appears to have come from a number of wealthy Kerunian backers via Trueman's banking operations. Clearly for some, war is proving to be good for business.

Rumours are circulating around both the Citadel and the Witanmoot regarding the reinstatement of City-wide military training. Those citizens who remember Lord Dixon's valiant attempts to get the Tinrodeth militia organised will no doubt greet this possibility with amusement. However it appears that the proposal is entirely serious and has the backing of "senior members of the Witanmoot". The Chronicle believes that most people in the city would welcome the city being better able to defend itself, but it remains to be seen if General Olvini will be willing to arm the potentially hostile citizenry.

The City Guard were summoned to the Bards College to take custody of a number of city children. The intrepid youngsters were apparently intent on "rescuing the Masters' treasure cellar" from the effects of the flooding Ishtan, but were quickly stopped by college porters who seemed to be well prepared for their intrusion. Rumour names the ringleader of this intrepid gang as one Peter Bottler. After a night in the cells the youngsters were released with the news that the college declined to press charges. A college spokeswoman noted with amusement that their cellars included "casks of considerable character which were best not manhandled by youngsters".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 150

The prolonged Spring flooding has finally subsided, leaving a thick black ooze covering the lower city and surrounding countryside. City scavengers are hard at work shovelling the malodorous muck off the streets, and the Dalethian Wellkeeper has rapidly ordered the sealing of many wells. Alas, the stink has already attracted plagues of flies to the area. The Torians are warning that various illnesses are on the increase this month; they advise drinking copious boiled water rather than the traditional beverage of good ale. The Citadel has decided to evacuate many of its troops at this point, and has dispersed much of its cavalry to the borderlands. This may be a prelude to renewed engagement with Aralan Derwent's troops, of which little has been heard since last autumn.

Following their criticism of last month's budget proposals, Marcus Lambourne and William Trueman have rejected the proposals brought forward by the Chairman of the Treasury and have set a budget based on last year's pre-wall proposals. The most noticeable change is in the Sheriffs Office; it would seem that the Commons is yet to be convinced on increasing the spending upon the City Guard. Whilst both faction leaders seem to keep the door open to this and other amendments, they made it clear that any changes would need to be justified to them. The defection of Graham Porter to Marcus Lambourne means that the alliance of Trueman and Lambourne hold a majority in both the Commons and the Aldermanic court, and that they intend to use this to determine the budget. Alderman Flambourd was barely able to contain his frustration at seeing his proposal overridden; a situation which was not helped by comments that this revised budget was a result of "Alderman Warin stepping in to sort out the mess". The budget split was set at:

Lords' Household	£670
Sheriffs Offices	£3,920
Treasury	£1,900
Law and Order	£2,640
Shipping	£1,150
Welfare and Education	£2,000
Lands and Agriculture	£4,060
Trade	£300

The Chairman of Shipping, Graham Porter, has announced that he is joining the Lambourne faction. The defection appears to have been triggered by tensions within the Monterey faction following the 'oath of fealty' motion. Alderman Porter made his announcement to the full Witanmoot and then dramatically crossed the floor. "Whilst I still respect Alderman Monterey and consider him my friend, I find myself unable to continue to support the course he has set. Tinrodeth will need new leadership if it is to be restored to its rightful role as the capital city of Athion." Later in the meeting, nominations for Sheriff predictably produced Alison Shefford, Miranda Andrews and Jenny Davy as candidates for election next month.

The budget discussions and Sheriffs' elections have been thrown into further confusion by an announcement from General Olvini that the City contribution to Princess Selina will be raised from its current level of £45,000 to £47,500 and that the military will be taking permanent responsibility for the City Armoury and Guard. Announcing his proposals to the assembled Aldermen, the General was less than flattering about the Witanmoot's ability to organise the defences of the City. He went on to declare, "Many of you are aware that we have been debating how best to organise the defences of the City. Princess Selina has always been of the view that a force funded and run by the City would be best. However it has become blatantly apparent that the Witanmoot is incapable of doing either. Therefore, for the security of all citizens, all military authority, including the rights of the Sheriffs, will rest directly with the Princess and be exercised by myself as General of the Army. I will also be bringing forward laws regarding the obligations on all citizens to train and participate in the defence of the City."

Merchant traders are reporting an increase in attacks around the shipping lanes to the south. A number of privateers appear to be operating freely in the high seas between Athion and the City States.

## The Chronicle of the month of Menderal in the year 150

People in Linrodeth are succumbing to a devastating illness which is spreading through the city like wildfire. The summer heat has dried out the Ishtan mud, but is adding to the problems of Torians, Dalethians and city authorities trying to tackle the thirsting sickness. Official advice is to drink 10 to 20 pints of water per day, but many wells across the city are sealed, and few sufferers have the ability to boil large quantities of river water. Attempts to drink ale instead have left some sufferers in a drunken stupor. Untreated, sudden collapse and death seems to be claiming about half of its victims. The Princess has ordered the Citadel gates closed and is sending military wagons out to bring in fresh water supplies from Botmoor for her troops.

Following last month's budget proposals things have still to be finally settled. As the month moved forward it looked increasingly likely that a budget would be set unanimously due to the strenuous efforts of all the councillors to reach a consensus. However this was put paid to by the following statement by Alderman Bottler. "The extreme weather has brought a good many unwelcome things: a bad smell over the Riverside wards, illness to many citizens and me, cap in hand looking for more money for the Portwall. While an annual maintenance budget for the Portwall was inevitable, just as there is for the Bridge and the dry land City walls, the dramatic flooding, unparalleled in living memory, has brought about serious subsidence in the foundations of part of the Portwall. This needs to be repaired. The cost of this operation will be between £4,000 and £5,000. I therefore request the Council to authorise payment of up to £5,000 for the repairs to the wall's foundations." An indication that bad news was on its way was given by the attention the Bottler faction has been taking in military matters and their constant desire to remind people just how much of a threat the city is under. The Witanmoot is now debating how this money is to be raised and which of the many options for unpopular tax rises they will plump for.

Merchant traders have confirmed a new hazard from City States privateers taking advantage of the absence of Athion's navy from international waters. With the Royal Fleet committed to defending Salvoy and the southern coastline of Athion, a new opportunity has opened up for pirates and privateers in the unpatrolled high seas off the Gelt Mountains. Shippers allow that these pirates are still few and badly equipped, but may pose a threat if their numbers are allowed to increase. The Esprayennan Temple is organising lists of departing ships who may wish to travel in convoy for greater safety.

General Olvini has confirmed that the Midsummer Fair will not be held this year amid fears for the health of anyone attending such a large gathering. It seems that the event was already being boycotted by many provincial traders, who have chosen not to travel to Linrodeth this month. Rumours that caravans leaving the city were being barred from entering some local towns were quickly denied by the General, who assured the Guilds that his troops would keep the highways clear for all travellers until and unless an official quarantine was declared.

Recriminations over the budget and the failure to transfer the Portwall to General Olvini have soured relations within the Witanmoot. Both Alan Monterey and Marcus Lambourne have been making claims to have found inaccuracies in last year's budget. Whilst both have shied away from a direct accusation of corruption, it is clear that both factions are now out to show the other in the worst possible light. The first casualty in this exchange has been the truth, and the second any chance the council had of setting a unanimous budget. The Monterey faction has been making dark hints that any unacceptable budget will be vetoed. Further heat has been added by the accusation from the Bottler group that it was the bureaucratic meddling of the inefficient oversight committee which prevented the hand over of the wall. A delay which has cost the City dearly.

The Sheriffs' Elections were won by Jenny Davy and Miranda Andrews with 20 votes and 14 votes respectively, incumbent Alison Shefford only received an embarrassing 6 votes.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 150

The thirsting sickness has taken a heavy toll on the city over the past month. Although the Citadel and most of the guildsmen classes managed to secure clean drinking water for themselves, the death toll amongst the common citizenry has been high. It seems to have struck the very young, the elderly, and the already sick most hard, and it is estimated that almost 5,000 bodies have now been taken to the mass graves outside the city walls. The Welfare & Education committee worked tirelessly through the summer heat, but found their efforts swamped by the scale of the crisis. Surprisingly, William Trueman and the Brynette Temple have become the heroes of the hour. Trueman's emergency commandeering of the Brewers facilities provided the first mass supply of clean water. The Brynettes' construction of an experimental boiling tower on the embankment, at great personal risk, has also supplied huge amounts of clean free water since it started working. The situation seems to be stabilising, although the Torians admit that they are still at a loss as to how to clean and reopen the hundreds of contaminated wells across the city. The most recent outbreaks of the disease appear to centre around attempts to reopen and use some of these wells.

Shipping has largely diverted to Kingsport in recent months, in order to reprovision in relative safety. The Dockmaster there has passed along several more reports of attempted piracy on the high seas, and commends the Esprayennan convoy scheme to all ships captains. Trade to the city states continues to be brisk, with several Salvoynian ships joining them during this temporary lull in the civil war. Rumours that the Noordic settlers wish to re-establish trading contacts have not been confirmed by the Citadel.

Business in the Witanmoot has been very subdued with so many members severely ill this month. A barely quorate Court of Common Council managed to pass Bottler's motion for more money for the Portwall, and £200 of significant cuts were also made to the Welfare and Education budget in order to fund the Plague works. Alice Barbiter has been elected unopposed as the new Alderman of Cartage, further strengthening the position of William Trueman in the Witanmoot. The once powerful Monterey faction is now clearly weakening and may face major problems in the Midwinter elections.

Along with the merchants from Salvoyn comes news of a major breakout of political hostages held in the Royal Palace there. The rescued families, all apparently of southern nobility, have been successfully spirited away, but those responsible for plotting and aiding the escape have since been arrested and charged. Salvoynian authorities are apparently confident that full details of the incident will come to light during the trial, and may yet reveal the hiding place of the hostages. Of particular interest to the Citadel is news that the prime defendant is a Kerunian citizen based in Linrodeth, using Kerunian funds to arrange the escape. The Chroniclers also wonder whether it is entirely a coincidence that Kingsport has been opened to commercial shipping this month, which would allow any unusual visitors to disembark discreetly.

Rumours abound that the Cheddingham copper mine has been taken by a hostile incursion. The first news came when a lone miner who had escaped the attack arrived at the Witanmoot. He confirmed that a small force of well armed and "proper lookin' troops" attacked the mine at dawn on Secondary Firstweek. The miner who had fled the attack was not able to identify the attackers, however the speculation is that this was either a bold move by Aralan Derwent or a rebellion by a local Baron. The Citadel has refused to comment and concern about the scale of the situation has been raised by the sudden withdrawal of an infantry regiment from assistance with the plague and the re-deployment of a large cavalry force through the City last week. There has even been a suggestion that one of the royal armies may be planning to take advantage of the City's current inability to defend itself.

The Chronicle regrets to announce the death of Richard Firethorn. Councillor Firethorn will be remembered by many for his heroic efforts during the Great Fire and for the many important initiatives which he created and guided through the Witanmoot. He will be remembered for championing the much needed but, since his retirement, maliciously ignored sweetwater project. Despite continuing poor health Cllr Firethorn has been very active in the relief of the plague and is believed to have died from an infection gained during this work.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 150

Although the City is now almost free from the thirsting plague, its effects still linger on. Most of the city is in mourning with almost no family left untouched by the tragedy. On the advice of the Torians mass funerals have been taking place in order to clear the backlog of corpses. Whilst some wells have been reopened many have been permanently sealed, however following a suggestion made by Marcus Lambourne the army has been actively digging new wells and many of these are now in service providing fresh and safe water to the city. The boiling tower has been dismantled as it was becoming dangerous. Most of the temples have now held services of thanksgiving and there has been angry reaction to the suggestion made by the newly arrived Reshite priests that the plague is a punishment visited upon the city for its failure to accept Resh.

King Kieran's army has taken control of a number of strategic locations upriver. A large force of infantry and rangers is reported to be encamped around the Cheddingham copper mine and to be digging in. The King's forces at Fenny Bridges are also reported to be on the move and a number of skirmishes with scouting units appear to have taken place. General Olvini has called for calm, and indeed the reaction from the city's forces has been surprising muted. The guards on the gates have been increased and all the cavalry have been deployed deeper into the countryside. However the bulk of the army still appears not to have mobilised. One exception to this is the company of pike men which arrived over the bridge and has deployed just beyond the Torian temple. This unit was thought to have departed back to the city states several months ago. In response to the many questions this raised General Olvini has announced that only a few mercenary units have in fact left and the majority of the army has been engaged in a secret operation to defeat the Noord. The General told the Chronicle "We have a significant reserve of battle hardened troops based to the North in an addition to the feudal levy available from the liberated lands." Princess Selina added, "It is my hope that Prince Kieran will join us in the fight against the Noordic barbarians rather than pressing a fruitless attack on the people of Tinrodeth. However if he is in fact here to take advantage of the City's current problems, the General assures me that it is well within our capability to destroy his army". The Chronicle notes that this assertion seems optimistic given the size of Kieran's forces and their success at Cascorach. Certainly the Princess appears to be going out of her way not to force a battle.

The re-establishment of the marching watch this month has proved a particularly interesting activity. Plans for the controversial move have been under consideration for some time and an announcement has been expected about now. However, for the professional fence-sitters in the Witanmoot, its coincidence with the arrival of King Kieran's army could not have been worse timed. Lady Tasker announced the watch's re-establishment in a formal decree as follows:

"All able-bodied citizens are required to participate in the Tinrodeth Marching watch. The Marching watch shall be organised on a ward-by-ward basis. Within each ward, the citizenry shall be divided into watches numbering 150 people. Each ward watch must practice drill for at least one hour per week. In addition each Tenthday the Sheriffs shall summon a number of full wards to perform further practice. Aldermen are responsible for the turnout of their own ward and will appoint a leader responsible for organising each of the wards watches. The penalty for citizens who fail to fulfil their watch responsibilities shall be a fine of 1s for each offence. The City Guard shall, in consultation with the Alderman and Sheriffs appoint a suitable person to commander each ward watch."

Lady Tasker defended her use of the decree on the basis that it had prevented a divisive debate which the city could ill afford under its current circumstances.

Alderman de Clare has proudly announced that the repairs to the wall will be complete by the end of the month and that he has managed to deliver the project dramatically below budget. He told the Chroniclers, "Re-establishing the wall is essential to the safety of all of our citizens and I am deeply proud of my workforce, who have continued tirelessly through the recent troubles with this great task. I am delighted that we have been able to complete the work at a cost of only £3,250."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 150

Fighting has broken out between the city forces of Princess Selina and the army of King Kieran. In a speech to the Witanmoot the Chairman for Lands and Agriculture has confirmed that Kieran's forces are attempting to either disrupt or capture parts of the city's harvest. Alderman Capel described King Kieran's move as, "an outrageous and unprovoked act of aggression which threatens the life of every person in the City". She expressed satisfaction with the reaction from our army; the cavalry have inflicted several crushing defeats upon the raiders, although the number of wounded soldiers arriving at the Torian temple implies that as yet that no major engagement has taken place. Princess Selina still appears to be seeking to avoid a pitched battle and it is rumoured that a personal meeting is being arranged. The Princess expressed hope that the conflict was the result of "a misunderstanding or the actions of rogue, undisciplined units". However she announced her determination to defend the harvest. She told the Chronicle, "I have sent envoys to Prince Kieran making it absolutely clear that any encroachment by his troops into Linrodeth's lands is at best an act of banditry and at worst an act of war. The army stand ready to respond appropriately to either."

The first flourish of pre-election activity has taken place with most of the remaining independents joining factions in order to boost their chances of re-election. The Chronicle has also noted a dramatic increase in the desire of Councillors to be noticed. For once, this is welcome as our politicians have a good reason to expect that the city will be grateful for their recent actions in dealing with the plague. Justifiable praise has been heaped upon William Trueman and Richard Saunders for leading the efforts, however the mood of the city was best summed up by the words of Alderman Monterey who commented that everyone had worked together and "proved that Linrodeth can face any threat united and strong" and it made him "proud to be a citizen".

Confusion and perhaps a brewing crisis surrounds what will happen to those citizens who fail to vote in the forthcoming elections. The law states that "All current citizens must take this oath upon the occasion of their first voting in an election or will lose their citizenship." Current Hahnite opinion seems to be split on whether failing to vote will cause someone to lose their citizenship or whether a loss of citizenship will only occur if the person votes but then fails to take the oath. It seems likely that a debate in the Witanmoot will be required to resolve the issue, however as yet no-one has been brave enough to reopen the conflict caused by the original motion. How much the new Oath of Fealty requirement will affect the forthcoming election is unclear. Some pundits are suggesting it will create an anti-Selina backlash whereas others believe that the act of oath taking will encourage people to think more about future of the city, thereby resulting in a more forward looking Witanmoot being elected. Either way the Chronicle suspects that the coming election will require most of the fence-sitters to take a position on the key issues facing the city.

General Olvini has now fully mobilised the city's professional forces and the Sheriffs have been advised of the likelihood that the Marching Watch will need to be called out. Both Sheriffs have expressed delight with the level of turn-out so far achieved during the practice sessions, with the wards of Levystone and Faringdon both producing noteworthy displays of organisation. The Chronicle notes with interest that members of the Monterey faction are in particular very active in ensuring that the new watch structure will work. No doubt they are aware of the consequences for them and others who have supported the new regime should Kieran take control of the city.

William Trueman has made a dramatic and highly public denunciation of the Reshites. Echoing the words of Linrodeth's Archimandrite, he described the Reshites as "poisonous murderers who had slaughtered the innocents of Cascorach and who were now bringing their foul heresy to our city". Alderman Trueman's words have been taken to imply that he believes the rumours circulating in the city that the Reshites are responsible for poisoning many of Linrodeth's wells.

Alan Monterey has proposed that the bill for the wall repairs be paid promptly thereby digging into the city reserves. Alderman de Clare expressed surprise and gratitude, but also commented that it was a shame it required a motion to council in order to get paid on time.

# Witanmoot Definitions (Part One)

For the purposes of the motions carried by the court of common council the following definitions shall apply:

## Guildmembers

Guildmembers are those inhabitants recognised by a guild charter as being members of a guild.

## Guild Charter

A Guild Charter is a document recognised by the monarch as such.

## Citizen

A citizen is a householder, or a person recognised by a householder as being members of that household. Direct employees of the Witanmoot are also classed as citizens. Citizens (or the householder of their household) must pay the poll tax of that household's ward.

## Ward

A ward is an area of the city of Tinrodeth recognised as such by the court of common council.

## Householder

Any inhabitant owning property in a ward of the city of Tinrodeth. If a citizen owns property in more than one ward, that citizen is considered to run a separate household in each ward in which that citizen owns property, and as such is liable to pay the poll tax for each such household.

## Elector

An elector for a ward is a citizen who owns property in that ward.

## Alderman

An alderman for a ward is a guildmember who resides in that ward and is elected to that post as per the Witanmoot procedures for Aldermen and Councillors. Aldermen are members of the Aldermanic Court and of the Court of Common Council.

## Councillor

A councillor for a ward is a guildmember who resides in that ward and is elected to that post as per the Witanmoot procedures for Aldermen and Councillors. Councillors are members of the Court of Common Council.

## Inhabitant

An inhabitant of the city of Tinrodeth is anybody capable of saying (or writing), in Athionic, the phrase "I am an inhabitant of the City of Tinrodeth", and whose residence is within one mile radius of the Mootstone.

## Lord of the City

The Lord of the City is elected by the Aldermanic Court by the standard procedure for the election of the lord of the city. The Lord of the City is also the Lord Chief Magistrate and the Duke of the Ishta Valley. The Lord of the City is a member of the Aldermanic Court and of the Court of Common Council.

## Sheriff

The two sheriffs are elected by the Aldermanic Court by the standard procedure for the election of the sheriffs. The two sheriffs are members of the Aldermanic Court and the Court of Common Council.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 150

King Kieran's forces have withdrawn from Tinrodeth's borders and given up the captured mine. The move comes after a meeting between King Kieran, his brother Edwin and Princess Selina. The meeting was organised by Alan Monterey and Jenny Davy and took almost a week to arrange, including the complex precautions against treachery. The Princess has praised Alderman Monterey and Sheriff Davy for their courage and the skill with which they negotiated the agenda. The Royal discussions, which lasted most of the day, were believed to be wide ranging but generally inconclusive. Prince Edwin has expressed pleasure at seeing his brother again and hopes that a peaceful resolution to the current conflict can yet be achieved. The Princess has emphasised that no deal has been struck and that King Kieran's withdrawal is temporary. However the mood of celebration in the Citadel and the visibly relaxed state of the army implies that if a threat does still exist it is unlikely to resurface until after the winter. But many people have noted that members of the Monterey faction have this month again been active in the new watch system. It would appear that, assuming Alderman Monterey has some inside information, this is indeed only a temporary respite.

The pirates which have been disrupting Tinrodeth's trade have been identified as Orissian corsairs after the capture of one of their ships by the City navy. The Tinrodeth warship Indomitable caught the pirates whilst they were raiding the small trading ship Sea Falcon. A pursuit and boarding action followed with a number of the pirates being captured alive. Interrogation of these prisoners confirmed that the pirates are an organised group of corsairs who have been operating with the secret supply from Orissian merchantmen, who were also claiming to be under attack, but who have in fact been exchanging provisions for stolen goods. Of more concern is the conformation that the sabotage of a number of ships, including the regrettable loss of the Lindis' Fair Fortune, was sponsored by the same corsairs in what appears to have been a planned attack of Tinrodeth's trade. Whether the attack on trade is a direct Orissian action or if the Orissians have simply been hired by some other state is unclear. The Citadel has sent a strong protest to Orissa and all Orissian shipping passing through Tinrodeth waters is now subject to boarding and search.

Alison Shefford's Oath of Fealty motion has been a source of contention in the Witanmoot this month, with attempts to move or not move amendments to the motion occurring, including some impressive attempts to avoid the whole thing. Numerous requests were made to postpone the debate for clarification, simplification and most honestly to enable a back room deal to be worked out. However, despite these requests, Alderman Monterey has put forward two motions to resolve the matter. Explaining that the Hahnite advice had identified two separate issues, the timing of the Oath and the reason for loss of Citizenship he proposed "The Oath of Loyalty must have been taken by a Citizen before they may cast a vote in the Midwinter Elections." and "Citizens who by Firstday 151 have not taken the Oath of Loyalty will lose their Citizenship". Alderman Monterey was at pains to point out that these were not necessarily his own views but that the passing or defeat of either or both of these motions the council would resolve the matter. Commenting that if this was clear she would hate to see a complicated Hahnite proposal, Maureen Quiller has come up with a much simpler motion which will be taken first "this Council no longer requires existing Citizens to take the Oath of Fealty".

Dozens of wounded soldiers have been arriving in the City indicating that a major battle has taken place. General Olvini has announced that the engagement was with renegade forces not under the control of King Kieran or King Edward. Sceptics have noted the strict secrecy with which the wounded are being treated and the lack of any visible prisoners. Rumours abound that either a large battle accidentally took place with King Kieran's army, or Princess Selina's forces have come off very badly in a bandit ambush, or even of a mutiny within the army. More generous speculators have suggested that the real reason King Kieran has withdrawn is that the City forcibly retook the mine, and has demonstrated that if he wishes to threaten the city he will have to fight and suffer losses he cannot afford.

The Temple of Brynette is currently considering what to do with the Great Altar Screen which arrived unexpectedly at their temple last week. The screen, which has previously resided at the Temple in Salvoy, is a massive and ancient celebration of Brynette worship. However since the Temple already has a



famous altar screen built by its founder, debate is now raging within the temple about which should take precedence.

Alison Shefford was once more the centre of controversy when the apparently minor matter of appointing an acting Sheriff whilst Jenny Davy was out of the City came before the Witanmoot. Lady Tasker quietly made her intention to make use of Alison's expertise for a temporary period and was obviously surprised when Marcus Lambourne stood up to object. Describing the appointment of someone who is not currently elected as "cronyism" Cllr Lambourne suggested one of the existing Aldermen such as Gilbert De Clare be appointed. He also questioned the conflict of interests that would arise given Alison Shefford's role in the Oath Motion. However this aggressive statement was as nothing compared to the blistering attack launched from directly behind Lambourne by Bartholomew Hyde; a normally quiet member of Lambourne's own faction. Describing Alison Shefford as "the obvious choice if what you want is someone who can help defend Tinrodeth" he described the only conflict of interest as the one between "the need to fight to defend the city and Lambourne's own unquestioning support for King Kieran". If this wasn't enough he went on to cause further offence by describing all Kings as "murderers, gaining their position by killing everybody who opposes them" and called old King Edmund "the biggest murderer of them all, who had created Athion from a mountain of corpses, and whose children are about to do the same". Barely audible amid the howls of outrage he went on to accuse Lambourne of deliberately trying to hand the city over to one of these murderers and announced that he and several other faction members were looking forward to next year when, thanks to Alison Shefford, traitors like Lambourne would be removed from the Council and the faction could make a new start. At this point the Guard intervened to pull the rapidly forming lynch mob away from him and Lady Tasker suspended the session. When Lady Tasker reconvened she announced that she was decreeing the appointment of Alison Shefford to avoid further problems. Cllr Hyde was last seen trying to hire a bodyguard.

The Archimandrite has used an invitation to address the Council on the matter of the Oath of Fealty to further denounce the Reshite faith and King Edward. The Archimandrite described the Reshites as an evil cult similar to the worshippers of Azial. He described a number of events which he had become aware of and directly accused the Reshites of child sacrifice and of the murder of the previous Archimandrite. He warned against the dangers of permitting the Reshites to enter the City and called upon the Witanmoot to outlaw the worship of this evil heresy. In response Estelle Wynstanly has formally proposed "This City prohibits the worship of Resh and the promotion of his worship on pain of imprisonment". However this has not gone down well with a number of councillors. John Madigan described the whole session as a disgraceful attempt by the Hahnites to bring their schism into the council and called upon the Lord not to permit the motion time for debate. Others have described this as a cynical attack upon King Edward by an Archimandrite who is known to support King Kieran. His primary source of information also appears to be King Kieran's bodyguards; the same knights who killed Queen Kybele and who many people believe were responsible for the death of King Edmund. Reaction on the streets has not been as dramatic as the previous riots, however the Reshites are now noticeably cautious. Should the motion pass the most difficult problem facing the City Guard will be Lady Terri Wholeman, a leading Reshite and currently in residence at the Citadel as King Edward's ambassador.

The surprise arrival of the Noordic longboat last week has caused much speculation. The boat contained a number of senior Noord from both the Western Isles and Nyskilde, who spent several days in discussions at the Citadel before departing. As with the meeting with King Kieran, information about what happened is irritatingly unavailable, although the Citadel has confirmed that the "Ambassadors" arrived with a number of truce proposals which they wished to place before the Princess.

Followers of fashion will be delighted to hear that Lady Eshi Cyarçon has returned to the city following her visit to Salvoyñ. However as most of Lady Cyarçon's goods were lost in the sinking of the Fair Fortune, it may be some time before Tinrodeth is once again treated to the display of her creations. The lady's trip does not seem to have enamoured her to the City authorities, as it is suspected that she has formed a strong link with the Salvoyñian government. Indeed a number of her staff are believed to have resigned over Lady Cyarçon's growing attachment to King Edward's court and the Reshites.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternoost in the year 150

The debate over the Oath of Fealty motion has been resolved with a clear victory for the opponents of the motion. Maureen Quiller's motion that, "This Council no longer requires existing citizens to take the Oath of Fealty" was passed by a majority of 164 votes to 105. As expected the powerful Lambourne faction backed the motion, as did William Trueman's group. As a result of the vote the subsequent motions proposed by Alderman Monterey were not tabled. The debate was at all stages acrimonious and has set the stage for a vicious Midwinter election campaign. In an interesting move Alderman Trueman urged citizens to voluntarily take the Oath of Loyalty before they vote. Commenting that he believed, "it is impossible to legislate for loyalty and any loyalty which is not freely given is worthless". Several prominent citizens, including Petro Cutario, Melanie Romanie, Nicholas Bowden, Alison Shefford and Godwin Green, have strongly supported this move. Alison Shefford commented, "Whilst the political elite are obsessed with the rights and wrong of Prince Kieran and Prince Edward, we believe that the vast majority of people in Tinrodeth are loyal to and want the best for the City. Alderman Trueman has set an excellent example for us and I think that many ordinary citizens will wish to follow his lead."

The Noordic ambassadors have now left the City and returned to the north. Despite protests from many people with relatives in Nyskilde, the ambassadors have managed to maintain a high profile and clearly wished to establish a new and peaceful relationship with Tinrodeth. However their overtures appear to have been rebuffed and a spokesman for Princess Selina has made it clear that she sees the re-conquest of the north as an important part of her future policy. Whilst this move seems to clearly position her as a contender in the civil war, the spokesman was at pains to make clear that the action is simply a practical response in the face of an untrustworthy and aggressive neighbour; "Princess Selina has no intention becoming involved in the contest for the remainder of Athion." Chronicle investigations have confirmed that the Princess has had a number of significant military victories to the North. The Noordic move seems to be a genuine attempt to make peace and to establish a stable border in the face of increasing pressure from Tinrodeth's forces.

The split between Cllr Lambourne and Alderman Monterey has been further widened by the debate of Estelle Wynstanly motion that "This City prohibits the worship of Resh and the promotion of his worship on pain of imprisonment". Lady Tasker ruled the motion out of order and in support of this Alderman Monterey made a long speech about the role and legal remit of the Council. He commented that he had consulted widely and he was clearly surprised when Cllr Lambourne launched a scathing attack on Lady Tasker's decision. In what was apparently the opening engagement of a battle for the Lordship, Cllr Lambourne described the decision as "yet another assault on the Witanmoot's democracy from an increasingly authoritarian ruler". He went on to express fears that Lady Tasker intend to decree next year's budget and that the Witanmoot would not be allowed to take any important decisions. Under the banner "Decree or Democracy" he launched his campaign for the Midwinter elections as a referendum on the current lordship and called upon everyone to consider how people would vote in the Lordship elections should they become Aldermen.

Cllr Bartholomew Hyde has been arrested by the city guard and is being held in the Witanmoot prison, apparently in response to last month's outburst in Council. Gax the Heretic has come forward to demand that his Alderman Eva Capel confirm what charges he is being held on, and has offered his services to defend Cllr Hyde at the hearing. A number of people has suggested that the delay is a cynical move by Alderman Capel, who very nearly lost to Cllr Hyde last Midwinter, however there appears to be genuine confusion at the Witanmoot as to why and on whose authority he was arrested.

Security surrounding information on last month's battle continues to be tight, however the Chronicle has managed to confirm that the battle was against forces lead by Lady Beatrice Perignon which used to hold the Citadel. These forces were apparently attempting to link up with King Kieran's troops and were marching through Tinrodeth's territory. The route they took appears to imply a plan to trap the city forces operating to the south in a pincer movement. However a major re-deployment of the city army and the commitment of the cavalry stopped them in their tracks. It would appear that the invaders were offered the opportunity to

surrender and, when they refused, were given no quarter. Our informant described the resulting battle as a massacre in which the city cavalry routed the opposition and pressed them without mercy. It is not clear whether Lady Beatrice Perignon escaped the slaughter. A number of people, particularly supporters of King Kieran, have expressed outrage at the use of Tinrodeth's army in this way, and it seems that the engagement will further strengthen the belief held in some camps that Princess Selina is close to committing to King Edward. General Olvini has refused to discuss the battle other than to state that "all invasions of the city's lands will be met with a vigorous and uncompromising response".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 150

The Oath of Fealty motion is still causing chaos in the Witanmoot. Alderman Monterey has pointed out that officers are still required to take the oath and that in his opinion councillor was an office of the Witanmoot. After much further acrimonious debate the Hahnites were called in to resolve the matter and stated that in their opinion councillors could not be considered an office of the council, however a committee chair could. The council must now consider how to deal with the fact that Chairman for Shipping, Graham Porter, has declared his intention not to take the oath. Marcus Lambourne's "Decree or Democracy" campaign, which seemed to be setting the early election agenda, has now faltered following a concerted counter-attack by the Monterey faction which pointed out that Lady Tasker has issued fewer decrees than any of the predecessors. A Monterey spokesman described the Lambourne campaign as "dead" and he went on to describe Cllr Lambourne as a "lying troublemaker, interested only in his own power". It looks as though the two factions will fight each other to an acrimonious standstill. Certainly most voters see the debate as pointless and damaging to both of them. In contrast William Trueman's supporters, already benefiting from his marvellous work during the plague, are building upon their 'Working for the People' campaign to rise above this debate and it is likely that they will gain from both Monterey and Lambourne.

As the election day nears the campaigning is becoming characterised not by fractional politics but by the civil war. Throughout the city, people's views on the war are governing whether factions are gaining or losing votes. Whilst the 'Oath of Fealty' debate has brought the matter to people's attention, it was the surprise intervention by all the leaders of the Temples that has made this the central point of the campaign. In what was clearly a planned and co-ordinated move, every service this week has denounced the worship of Resh and called upon people to "stand against this evil, King Edward and all who support it". The effect upon pro-Edward politicians has been devastating. Several prominent supporters of King Edward look likely to lose their Aldermanship and some could be knocked out of the council completely. Supporters of King Kieran are also suffering from citizens' distrust of his recent actions near the city. Supporters of Princess Selina are clearly elated by this and, whilst they cannot claim to be winning, it is they and the more neutral councillors who will gain from this shift in emphasis. Some local campaigning is still managing to distinguish individuals from the great trends. In Castle Bard the popular Gilbert de Clare is fighting a strong campaign to retain his seat, with many prominent figures from all wards and factions coming to his aid to praise his work on the wall. However Castle Bard has always been Alison Shefford's ward and given her incredible popularity she still looks set for an unequivocal victory. Elsewhere Gemma Downe's campaign in Bassishaw appears particularly noteworthy and a close result is expected.

## LATE NEWS!

The Midwinter elections resulted in the return of the following citizens as Aldermen for the Wards of the City of Tinrodeth. Arpent: Judi Spich. Avigon: Petro Cutario. Bassishaw: Gemma Downe. Berewic: Mary Hastings. Bridge: Richard Saunders. Cadene: Melanie Romanie. Cartage: Alice Barbiter. Castle Bard: Alison Shefford. Cripplegate: Bernard Hubold. Dowgate: Audrey Wirstan. Dracas: Thomas Osbert. Faringdon: William Trueman. Ishtan: Eva Capel. Kingsgate: Adam Povre. Levestone: Alan Monterey. Marshgate: Nicholas Bowden. Oldgate: Duncan Barnett. Portsoken: Nicholas Worton. Shambles: Bert Belcher. Temple: Olivia Warin. Welland: Jim Bottler. The forthcoming nominations for Committee Chairs will likely be disrupted by a number of aldermen failing to make the Oath of Loyalty. These include aldermen Bert Belcher, Nicholas Worton, Adam Povre, Duncan Barnett and Richard Saunders.

## Witanmoot Definitions [Part Two]

### The Royal Court

Any court designated as such by the Monarch.

### The Court of the Lord Chief Magistrate

Any court designated as such by the Lord Chief Magistrate.

### The Sheriff's Court

Any court designated as such by either Sheriff.

### The Magistrate's Court

Any court designated as such by any Alderman.

### The Aldermanic Court

Any meeting designated as such by any 13 (all of whom must be present) members of the Aldermanic Court.

### The Court of Common Council

Any meeting designated as such by any 140 (all of whom must be present) members of the Court of Common Council.

### Wardmoot

Any meeting designated as such by both the alderman and a majority of councillors for that ward.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 151

The anniversary of last year's anti-Resh riots has been marked by further violence. The Atharvan of Brynette used the date to once more call for all true believers to "root out this evil and prevent the corruption by cleansing with the Holy Fire of Brynette". In what was clearly a pre-planned event, a hundred Brynette worshippers forced open the homes of known Reshites. Several people were killed and Cllr Maureen Quiller's house was destroyed, although the City Guard arrived in time to save her life. In the aftermath of the attacks a number of prominent Brynettes have been arrested. The Atharvan herself has been summoned to appear before Princess Selina to explain her actions. Tensions are running high and Colonel Aldridge has threatened to impose martial law.

By far the most contentious debate in the Witanmoot this month was caused by Cllr Marcus Lambourne's proposal that "The Witanmoot no longer requires officers of the Witanmoot, and those wishing to stand for office, to take the Oath of Fealty". Describing the motion as an emergency one which must be debated immediately, Cllr Lambourne explained that "a third of the Aldermanic court has chosen not to take the oath as a matter of conscience. Given their record of service to the people of Linrodeth I challenge anyone to question where their loyalty lies". He went on to praise Aldermen Barnett and Saunders and to suggest that not all Aldermen were suitably qualified or experienced, and that it was vital that the pool of candidates be as wide as possible". With Jim Bottler sitting out of the debate and William Trueman declaring that he was "fed up with the whole issue" and that the City had "more important things to do than continually debate this motion" it was left to the Monterey faction to provide opposition. Alderman Alison Shefford agreed with Alderman Trueman and reminded the council that the debate had gone on for over a year. Speaking with her usual authority, she expressed surprise that the council was still debating the matter a year later and accused Marcus Lambourne of deliberately prolonging the debate in order to cause confusion and 'ill considered' decisions'. She described Cllr Lambourne as "a puppet of Prince Kieran who would sell-out the City given half a chance" and reminded councillors that the purpose of the motion is to ensure that "people who wish to shelter under the protection of the City are loyal to it". She also eloquently reminded council of the clear rejection by the electorate of those candidates supporting the princes, and called upon councillors to show the loyalty which the citizens demanded. Alderman Petro Cutario added, "The Princess is doing a superlative job of defending the city and maintaining its trade during this difficult civil war. It behoves us all to give her our full support and anyone who does not simply cannot be trusted with an official post." But finally, the most devastating attack came from Lady Tasker herself. Breaking her normal habit of not entering in the debates, she spoke for nearly two hours to describe her loyalty and love of the city of Linrodeth. Her closing words sealed the debate; "how can anyone who is not prepared to take this oath be trusted? Cllr Lambourne has missed the point. His argument is that you cannot legislate for loyalty. He is right. But the oath is not about legislating for loyalty, it is about keeping traitors like him out of our government and away from control of our money, our lands and the welfare of our children".

The loyalty vote, when it was finally taken, was one of the closest the Witanmoot has yet seen with many people choosing to abstain rather than take sides in what has clearly become a pro- or anti-Selina debate. Faction discipline broke down completely. The first count showed a tied vote at 91 all. However before Lady Tasker could use her casting vote, Bert Belcher forced a recount, by the calling out of names. On this vote many who had previously abstained decided to participate and the recount showed the motion defeated by 102 votes to 98, with 76 abstentions.

Following the defeat of Cllr Lambourne's motion the nominations for the Committee chairs descended into chaos with many unexpected and cross fractional nominations. The situation was not helped by Jim Bottler's proposal, "That the Council recognises the inflexibility of the standard set of trade envoys in time of civil war and authorises the Trade Committee to create envoy ships as and when it deems fit, within the budget allocated to it, and subject to the envoy being selected by the Aldermanic Court from the body of councillors of the Witanmoot".

In the end the validly record nominations were:

Treasury: Alison Shefford, Melanie Romanie

Trade: Petro Cutario, Jim Bottler

Law and Order: Eva Capel, Duncan Barnett, Judy Spitch

Shipping: Thomas Osbert, Olivia Warin, Alan Monterey, Petro Cutario.

Welfare and Education: Richard Saunders, Judy Spitch, Eva Capel

Lands and Agriculture: Gemma Downe,

Aldermen Barnett and Saunders will only be considered valid nominations should they take the oath before the election vote. Saunders is rumoured to be thinking of doing just that and it is clear that the Lambourne faction is in trouble, with several members reported to be furious with Tilly Falgar and Sheila Herman for voting against the faction, and with David Northrop for abstaining. But perhaps the greatest shock was Sheriff Davy who in voting against her own faction declared that "whilst she deeply respected the faction for its service to the city, she could not as Sheriff support a motion which would remove the need for the all officers of the city to take the Oath."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 151

The fall out from last month's oath debate continues to disrupt the old faction loyalties. Marcus Lambourne has used the nominations for the Lordship to make a further attack on Lady Tasker and has accused Alan Monterey of deliberately attempting to create dissent within the Witanmoot. An accusation which may have some foundation given that Tilly Falgar, who has been a long standing member of the Lambourne faction, has defected to Alan Monterey. However celebrations in the Monterey camp were muted by the loss of senior member Randolph Flambourd. Cllr Flambourd, whilst reiterating his respect for the excellent way the city has been run, told the Chronicle that he could no longer tolerate Monterey's "failure to support the rightful leadership of King Kieran".

Richard Saunders and Duncan Barnet have taken the Oath of Loyalty. Both sought to keep the matter a low key affair. However as no formal arrangements had been made for taking the oath after Midwinter, they were required by Lady Tasker to take the oath in front of the Witanmoot before the committee chair vote. Marcus Lambourne once again used the occasion to attack Lady Tasker and to describe the taking of the oaths as a sacrifice made under duress.

General Olvini has expressed his growing satisfaction with the performance of the city's armed forces. The General told a private gathering of leading Bowyers and Fletchers that he was becoming increasingly impressed with the city's practice of archery and suggested that next year would see much opportunity for its use to be demonstrated. The General's interest is rumoured to stem from his growing frustration at weapons supply problems related to the Brynettes activities. Several prominent Brynettes remain under arrest, although no hearing or trial has been held.

The most interesting shift in the Witanmoot this month is the emergence of a new faction. Alderman Petro Cutario has gathered together with fellow aldermen Thomas Osbert and Adam Povre to form a powerful group which is already lobbying hard on a pro-trade, pro-Selina agenda. Alderman Povre told the Chronicle "I have spent the last month considering taking the Oath and trying to decide what would be best for the City. We face a difficult year which we will only survive as a city if we pull together. Having thought long and hard and witnessed last week's divisive debate, I have decided to throw my whole hearted and unequivocal support behind Princess Selina. I hope many of my fellow councillors will stop sitting on the fence and do the same." Several Witanmoot watchers have expressed themselves daunted by the idea of a group which has split off from Alan Monterey because he wasn't pro-Selina enough.

This month's weather has been surprisingly mild and it looks as though an early end to the winter is likely. Several outlying towns have already re-established contact with the City and a few ships are being prepared to make early runs south. The city navy is already active and is currently celebrating a successful raid on an overwintering group of pirates. The returning marines described how "the last remaining pirate group" was surprised with their ship still hauled up onto the beach and "overwhelmed in minutes". The prisoners are currently being interrogated in at the Citadel and a mass hanging has been scheduled for next week. In a rare show of unity the Council passed Jim Bottler's proposal on trade envoys without debate. Alderman Bottler expressed his delight at the "sensible and positive move".

## Late News

This month's committee elections have dealt a devastating blow to the hopes of Alan Monterey who has been excluded from all the leading roles and who must now expect his wife to also lose the lordship election. Petro Cutario's faction has gained control of the powerful combination of Trade and Shipping; a victory which appears to owe much to the forthcoming fight between Miranda Andrews and Jenny Davy. Judy Spitch suffered the indignity of receiving no votes. Whilst Jim Bottler's decision not vote for himself caught William Trueman by surprise. It is clear that Bottler and Lambourne have made some form of deal and that they may have gained the support of Cutario. Jenny Davy therefore looks set to become Lord of the City.



## Full election results:

Treasury	Alison Shefford	Andrews, Barbiter, Capel, Downe, Monterey, Shefford, Tasker, Trueman, Warin
	Melanie Romanie	Barnett, Belcher, Bottler, Bowden, Cutario, Davy, Hastings, Hubold, Osbert, Povre, Romanie, Saunders, Spich, Wirstan, Worton
Trade	Petro Cutario	Barnett, Belcher, Bottler, Bowden, Cutario, Davy, Hubold, Monterey, Osbert, Povre, Romanie, Saunders, Shefford, Spich, Tasker, Wirstan, Worton
	Jim Bottler	Andrews, Barbiter, Capel, Downe, Hastings, Trueman, Warin
Law and Order	Duncan Barnett	Barnett, Belcher, Bottler, Bowden, Cutario, Davy, Hubold, Osbert, Povre, Romanie, Saunders, Spich, Wirstan, Worton
	Eva Capel	Andrews, Barbiter, Capel, Downe, Hastings, Monterey, Shefford, Tasker, Trueman, Warin
Shipping	Thomas Osbert	Barnett, Belcher, Bottler, Bowden, Cutario, Davy, Hubold, Osbert, Povre, Romanie, Saunders, Spich, Wirstan, Worton
	Olivia Warin	Andrews, Barbiter, Capel, Downe, Hastings, Monterey, Shefford, Tasker, Trueman, Warin
Welfare and Education	Richard Saunders	Andrews, Barbiter, Barnett, Belcher, Bottler, Bowden, Capel, Cutario, Davy, Downe, Hastings, Hubold, Monterey, Osbert, Povre, Romanie, Saunders, Shefford, Spich, Tasker, Trueman, Wirstan, Worton, Warin

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 151

The mild weather has led to a very early arrival of shipping into the port this year. Reports from these ships and overland merchants arriving from the south have confirmed a muster of the Salvoynian Levy. Although the scale of the call up is not known, it would appear that King Edward is committing to a major military campaign at the cost of the planting and harvest. Whether he will move this massive army together or break it up into a number of forces; and what his intentions are is as yet unclear. Early news from Eresan is also of a major military build up although details are even less clear.

Generals Olvini's decision to close the port for five days last week has caused outrage amongst the merchants and traders. The closure followed a northern deployment of the City Army and was made in order to prevent news of this move being communicated. The City Guard has been commended by Richard Saunders for the sensitive way with which they dealt with the near rioting merchants however others have been rather less complimentary. A number of merchants have demanded compensation for the losses which are likely to be incurred by the stranded ships. A spokesman for the Citadel told the Chronicle that while the Citadel need not justify its actions; the move had been deliberately left until most of the early run shipping had departed and that individual cases of hardship from later ships were being considered.

The departure into the northern hills of a huge force of cavalry and several regiments of Infantry lead personally by General Olvini has caused much speculation. This is clearly a major invasion of the Nordic lands and a very high risk strategy for the Princess to take. That Princess Selina is prepared to leave the City so lightly defended has been interpreted by some to mean that the negotiations which took place between Princess Selina and Prince Kieran last year led to an agreement of some sort and it may even be that Kieran is intending to repeat his overland march on Nyskilde.

Speculation and manoeuvring around the Lordship elections has all but paralysed the Witanmoot this month. The defection of Mary Hastings to the Lambourne camp, apparently as a result of concerns over Miranda Andrews support for King Edward seems to have sealed the result in favour of Jenny Davy. This has however not prevented much to-ing and fro-ing between the various factions and a huge increase in rumours.

An official deputation from King Edward has been received at the Citadel. The Chronicle has discovered that their ship was one of the first to arrive, but was kept waiting at Kingsport for several days before being allowed to approach the City the day after the generals departure. The delegates were then further frustrated by Princess Selina being unable to meet them due to her being ill. The deputation finally met with Prince Edwin and is now in residence at the Citadel. It is not quite clear if the Princess' illness was an excuse or if she is genuinely ill. Citadel watchers have however commented that she has been seen a lot less in public recently.

The Citadel's celebration of the pre-Springtide "Feast of Fools" was apparently slightly more subdued this year, perhaps due to the Princess' lack of involvement. However as many citizens will be aware the festival has spread to the city with many Kerunian residents and merchants confusing their neighbours and customers with wild and baffling festivities.

Leaks emanating from the Witanmoot suggest that the Cities finances may have undergone a dramatic revival. Initial estimates of Guild and Ward taxes suggest a major increase in the health of the cities economy.

## Late News

In a shock result Miranda Andrews has become Lord of the City, wining the election by the vote of one Alderman. All the pre-election speculation was proved to be completely wrong as Lambourne and, of all people, Alan Monterey made the case for Jenny Davy and Trueman, Bottler and Cutario lined up for Miranda Andrews. The election appears to have been a watershed in relations within the Witanmoot with

Lambourne and Monterey apparently putting their differences behind them to support the candidacy of Jenny Davy. However it may be that this is simply the result of the strong relationship between outgoing Lady Tasker and Sheriff Davy. Even more surprising was the change in Jim Bottler's position, with slippery Jim once again changing sides at the decisive moment. However it was the last minute defection of Duncan Barnet to the rapidly growing Cutario camp which secured a result which would otherwise have gone to Jenny Davy on the Lords casting vote. Alderman Barnett has been stressing since the vote that his move was not prompted by the Lordship elections but rather by a desire to join a faction more interested in 'creating wealth rather than spending it'. However it would appear that the Lambourne group has no intention of falling for this smoke screen. They have pointed out that if this was the case he could have declared his change of group before the Lordship vote rather than engaging in what Richard Sanders described as a "Cynical betrayal of trust".

The Voting was:

Andrews: Andrews, Barbiter, Barnett, Bottler, Bowden, Capel, Cutario, Downe, Osbert, Povre, Romanie, Trueman, Warin.

Davy: Belcher, Davy, Hastings, Hubold, Monterey, Saunders, Shefford, Spich, Tasker, Wirstan, Worton.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 151

Princess Selina is due to give birth within the month. A stunned City has greeted the news with surprise and amazement that the secret has been kept so long. Supporters of the Princess are elated and pronounce the pregnancy to be a strong sign of the Princess' commitment to the City. The news explains the Princess' absence from public events over the last few months.

Sheriff Jenny Davy has proposed an emergency motion that "In the light of the ongoing emergency it is against the interests of the City of Tinrodeth to have a single Sheriff until the traditional Midsummer election. The Witanmoot instructs that these elections be brought forward, with Nominations closing at the end of Secondweek Heliora and elections taking place of Firstday, Firstweek Menderal". The motion achieved strong support across the Witanmoot and was passed unanimously. Sheriff Davy's choice of Alison Shefford as the person to second her motion has caused much debate and some anger in the Witanmoot. It certainly upset Nicholas Bowden who appears to be the Bottler/ Trueman candidate for the post.

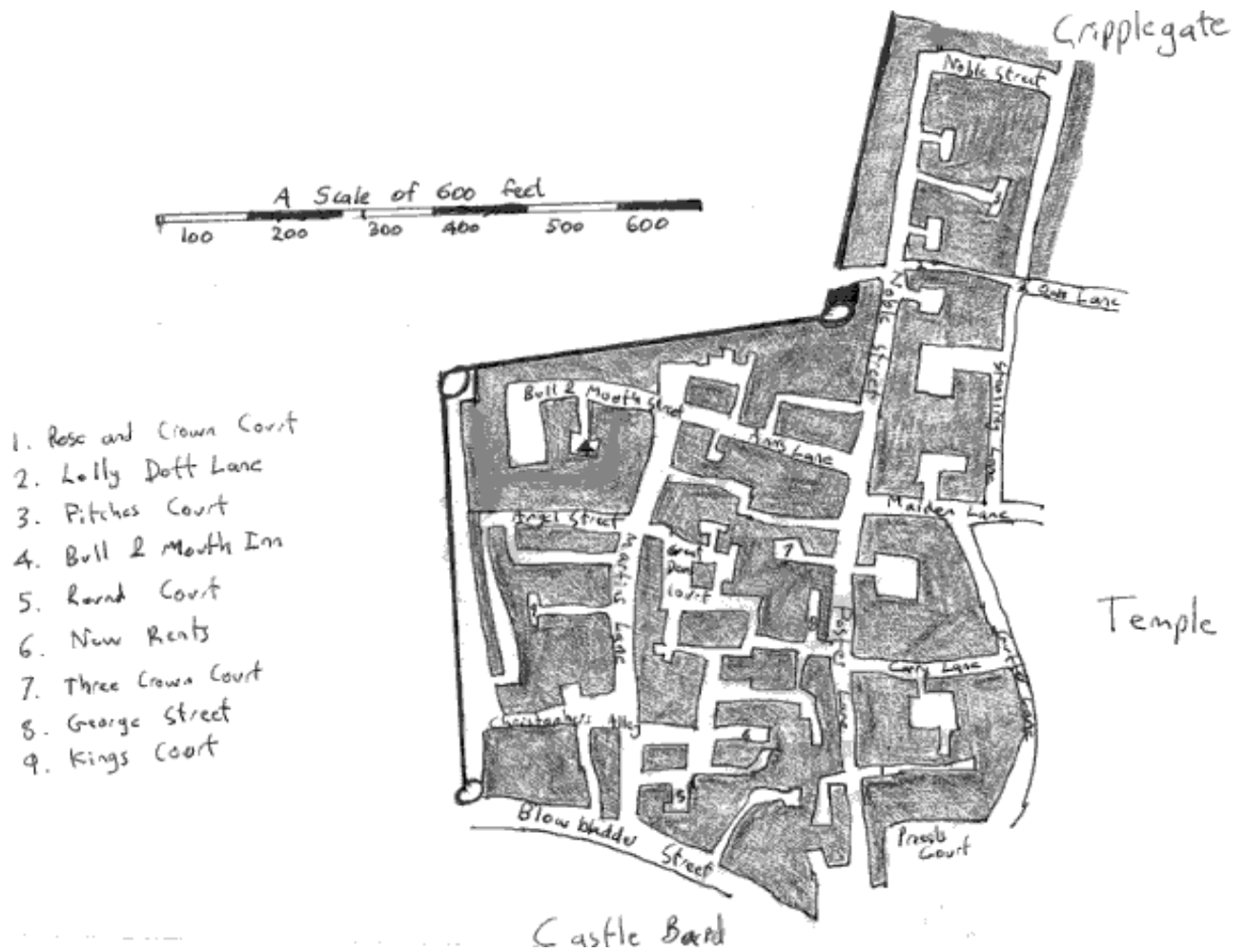
The City's recovering finances are causing more dissension in the Witanmoot than the previous year's cuts. Richard Saunders is clearly very proud of his proposed improvements to the Welfare and Education Budget, which include increased spending in nearly all areas with funding restored to pre crisis levels, the introduction of a fostering scheme for orphans and even funding for that old chestnut the Sweetwater Project. Petro Cutario has launched a strong attack on these proposals suggesting instead that it would be wiser to spend the money defending the City rather than preparing to fund the consequences of loosing the war. He has suggested that the W&E budget be increased by only 10% with the rest of the funds going to the military via General Orvini. When the full import of this suggestion with its implications for all the budgets sank in their was uproar in the Witanmoot, however Lady Andrews stifled the arguments. She announced that she felt that the idea of creating Tinrodeth regiments had significant merit. She pointed out that the £10,000 would create and support half a dozen regiments of Tinrodeth regulars. Lady Andrews accepted Alderman Cutario's proposal and stated that a motion that "All budgets be held at last years levels, except for Welfare and Education which will be increased to £2100. All surplus fund being used for the defence of the City" would be voted on next month before the main budget debate.

News from the North is slight, however it appears that the army has fought a number of minor battles and is advancing, virtually unopposed, deep into Noordic territory. Petro Cutario has made radical proposals for the formation of a Merchant Navy. His suggestion is that the City fund the creation of a fleet of armed ships which would be rented to merchants in times of peace and deployed to defend the city should it be attacked. The proposal has gained strong support from the Mercers Guild, the Carpenters and many prominent citizens as well as the Esprayennans. Indeed the Esprayennans have agreed to use their £500 donation from the City for this scheme as well as making contributions of staff across the shipping budget. However Bert Belcher described it as "yet another stupid and overcomplicated Kerunian scheme backed up by a bunch of ship mad fanatics".

Marcus Lambourne has established himself as a serious thorn in the side of the new Lord Miranda Andrews. His whole faction appears to be concentrating on tracking and harrying the new Lord, whom Cllr Lambourne clearly intends to have a short tenure in office. He has been particularly persistent over the issue of the Reshiites, demanding on a number of occasions to know what action Lady Andrews intends to take regarding them.

Not content with throwing the budget debate and Shipping committee into chaos, Petro Cutario has further baffled the council with proposals for the trade committee which suggest that he intends people to bid for the jobs. This might seem sensible for the bridge repairs but Alderman Cutario has caused much consternation with his suggestion that people should pay for the right to scavenge the streets and the Market Provost is said to be furious at having to put together a bid to do his own job.

# A map of Oldgate Ward



Editor's note: If you compare this map to the overall map of Linrodeth you'll note that it is rotated 180° with respect to that map (i.e. the river is below the bottom of this map).

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 151

The Citadel has announced the birth of Prince Sikander Edmund Caralingas, born at sunset on Tenthday Firstweek. The son of Princess Selina and Prince Edwin is believed to be healthy and the Princess is also reported to be well. There has been general rejoicing throughout the city and major celebrations are planned for the three day festival which has been created by the Princess' declaration that the day each side of Midsummer will be public holidays this year.

The army has returned from the Northern Campaign having destroyed the Noordic army and driven the invaders back to the gates of Nyskilde. General Olvini, after paying his respects to the Princess at the Citadel, rode his horse onto the wellhouse green and described to the growing and jubilant crowd how the marauders, unable to stand against their cavalry, were defeated at every battle and pushed back completely from the Weald. The enemy were clearly surprised by the early move of city forces and proved unable to bring their forces together. Many small war bands were totally destroyed. In the one major battle fought most of the Noordic lords were killed and the remnants of the Noordic forces have retreated totally defeated. Linrodeth's losses have been comparatively light.

Lady Miranda Andrews has announced that a debate will be held next month on the motion "The Cult of Resh and its adherents have no place in this City. All Worshippers of Resh are prohibited from attempting to enter or residing in the City and Duchy of Linrodeth. The penalty for such shall be imprisonment, forfeiture of all goods and further punishments befitting their evil crimes". Lady Andrews is believed to have secured Princess Selina's backing for the move and, given the sentiment in the Witanmoot, the motion looks likely to be passed. Cllr Maureen Quiller has voiced her opposition the motion describing it as a vile piece of political positioning which would rob the city of its salvation and lead to unavoidable war with King Edward.

The debate over Alderman Cutario's 'force first' motion turned into a long and very heated affair. Alderman Cutario opened the debate by explaining that he felt the city could have only one priority this year and that was its survival. He realised that some felt the expenditure was unnecessary, and if, in a year's time, that turned out to be the case he would unreservedly apologise. However he would much rather be able to make an apology than be dead. The main opposition to the motion came from Marcus Lambourne's faction which saw the proposed decrease in the Welfare and Education budget as callous and unnecessary. Attacking both Cutario and Lady Andrews, they dismissed as impractical and excessive the proposals to "put a uniform on the back of spotty teenagers who don't know which end of a sword is which" and attacked Alderman Cutario for being "disinterested in the people of Linrodeth" because he was not one of them. Bartholomew Hyde then intervened to describe Cllr Lambourne as "a traitor who just wanted to prepare the city to be taken over by Prince Kieran". As the chamber broke into uproar Alderman Monterey attempted to calm things down by proposing an alternative solution. He finally gained enough attention to make his point that whilst raising this level of funding would theoretically be a good idea it was impractical and excessive. He proposed that proposed budgets be slightly modified to enable £300 to be spent on the raising of two regiments of light archers and that £3000 be placed in the Sheriff's budget to fund the support of these units. This proposal gained widespread support, both from those who had clearly been pre warned about it and from those seeking to prevent a split within the Witanmoot, this did not include an increasingly irate Lady Andrews. Alderman Cutario described the amendment as "a typical half hearted fudge which compromises the safety of the city and its people". However the mood of the Witanmoot was set and the Monterey amendment was supported by everyone except apart from Cutario's faction and a number of notable others including Samuel Rucche, Bernard Hubold, Judi Spich, Brunstan Blackbeard, Alison Shefford, Melanie Romanie, David Northropp, Maud Blessop, Jenny Davy and Bever Edge.

Lady Andrews then stunned the Witanmoot by calling a halt to proceedings and decreeing the budget as follows:

Lord's Household	£ 800 os od
Sheriffs' Offices	£ 3,500 os od
Treasury	£ 2,000 os od
Law and Order	£ 2,650 os od
Shipping	£ 1,250 os od
Welfare and Education	£ 2,200 os od
Lands and Agriculture	£ 4,100 os od
Trade	£ 500 os od
Total	£ 17,000 os od

Establishment of two Regiments of City Bow	£ 300 os od
Donation to Princess Selina's Army	£ 5,000 os od
City Reserves	£ 1,247 os od

A clearly furious Lady Andrews declared that "I have not been elected to oversee the death of the city due to the timidity of its councillors. I stood on a platform of defending this city and if the Witanmoot doesn't feel competent to spend the money I will give it to someone who can. The meeting descended into chaos with an apoplectic Richard Saunders having to be escorted at sword point from the chamber.

Alderman Cutario's proposals on the Trade Budget have caused, if possible, even more stress than his 'force first' proposal. Marcus Lambourne described them as a "recipe for corruption" that would create an unacceptable threat to the Guild price controls. Alderman Bottler described them as a "flight of fantasy, wholly without merit". Summing up Alderman Monterey described them as appalling and horrifying and proposed a motion that "no service provided by or on behalf of the Witanmoot shall be bid for or subcontracted in any way, without the explicit permission of the court of common council". A surprised Cutario maintained that the proposals were in no way intended to undermine Guild charters, if anything the opposite. He requested a deferral of the motion by a month in order to explain the principles in more detail. In all this noise the strong support which Cutario's Merchant Navy idea has gained seemed somewhat lost.

The nominations for the Sheriffs have turned out predictably to be Alison Shefford, Jenny Davy and Nicholas Bowden. Sheriff Davy seems secured of her place however the contest between Aldermen Bowden and Shefford appears to be very close. Rumours are circulating within the Witanmoot that one of Tinrodeth's most eligible bachelors, the rich and powerful Alderman William Trueman, is seriously involved with Lady Maria Terasio; one of Princess Selina's Ladies-in-Waiting. Lady Terasio is believed to have a military background or perhaps to be from a military family. The couple have been seen at a number of events and are frequent visitors to each other's abodes. Information is surprisingly difficult to obtain with the normally talkative Trueman faction, which is clearly pleased to see their leader so happy, maintaining a smug silence.

News has just reached the city that King Edward has mustered his army and is marching north to Tinrodeth. The ship, Paladio's Pride, sailing up from the south reports that a massive force has departed from Salvoyn and started its way up the coast road, being well supplied from the sea. The force is allegedly huge, suggesting that many of the men at arms and nobles from the southern lands have been called upon. Travellers from Eresan and Cascorach also report major preparations in order and it would seem that armies may be converging on Tinrodeth from all directions except the recently secured North.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 151

King Edward's army has halted its advance on Linrodeth in response to what appears to be a major mobilisation by Princess Eleanor and King Kieran. Reports suggest that a large force of Cascorach troops has set forth and that cavalry are attempting to break out from Cascorach to engage King Edward's main force. King Kieran's forces are already reported to have descended the escarpment and are advancing cautiously towards Linrodeth. General Olvini has ordered a full mobilisation and forces have already been deployed outside the city to hold key approach routes. Lady Andrews has assured the city that she has no intention of permitting Linrodeth to become a battleground and the enemy will be faced before they reach the walls. As yet no call up of the full city muster has been planned, however, volunteers wishing to join the defence of the city are asked to report to the Citadel.

Within the Witanmoot debate has raged over what the city should do, with every debate overshadowed by the threat to the city. Lady Andrew's decision to decree the budget resulted in a heated debate, with many councillors complaining bitterly at the decision. All made the point that whilst the decision to fund the military was clearly a good idea given recent events, there was no need to issue a decree as the Witanmoot would of course have reconsidered the budget when it became necessary. In an impassioned speech Alan Monterey described Lady Andrews decree as wanton vandalism. In contrast Jim Bottler, whilst clearly angry, controlled any outburst and put across a reasoned argument against the use of decrees. Cllr Lambourne's motion that "Lady Andrew publish full accounts of the moneys appropriated for the defence of the city at the earliest opportunity", received a surprise response when Lady Andrews declared that she had that morning transferred all the money to General Olvini and what he did with it was up to him.

The Sheriffs elections resulted in a clear win for Bowden and Davy with Bowden actually gaining more votes than Jenny Davy. Both Sheriffs immediately declared their intention to defend the city against all invaders. Sheriff Bowden then stunned the Witanmoot by proposing that all members of the Witanmoot who had not taken the Oath of Loyalty be excluded from any discussions relating to the security of the city. "It is plain to me that certain people in this chamber are not loyal to the city and would happily see it overrun by the marauding armies of the Princes. The budget debate was a disgraceful example of this, with old chestnuts like sweetwater being funded whilst our defence was ignored. We cannot allow these people to imperil our future in this way. It is time for those of us who put the city first to take control of it."

The Witanmoot has announced a Midsummer Civic Ball in celebration of the birth of Prince Sikander, a move which has not been welcomed by the Lambourne Faction. Richard Saunders has called for a boycott of the civic ball, describing it as insensitive junket. Cllr Saunders proclaimed "The money saved from the absent councillors should be diverted to the Welfare and Education Budget". Marcus Lambourne himself has maintained a steady stream of criticism of Lady Andrews decree of the budget, describing Lady Andrews as "silencing the Witanmoot on a whim because she was not getting her own way". His faction has taken to the streets to campaign on the issue. The boycott campaign is clearly desperate not to offend Princess Selina and has issued a public letter congratulating the Princess on the birth of her son.

Unrest has broken out throughout the city as supporters of the various dissenting factions argue for the city to side with Kings Kieran or Edward. The response of the City Guard has been swift and merciless with all those involved being dragged off to prison. Those failing to reassure the Guard of their loyalty to the city have been incarcerated indefinitely. Cllrs Phillip Candever, Maureen Quiller and Estelle Wynstanly are included in those arrested. Colonel Aldridge has emphatically denied the rumours that mass executions of traitors are planned.

The imprisonment of Cllr Quiller gave extra intensity to the debate on the Motion that "Worshippers of Resh be prohibited from attempting to enter or reside in the City and Duchy of Linrodeth." After a technical amendment by the ever diligent Alderman Monterey, the full debate was opened by Lady Andrews who described in detail the foul practices of the Reshites and the need to keep them from the city. She was strongly supported by Jim Bottler and Alison Shefford who both spoke of the need to protect the city from



its evil influence. Cllr Irvine Grendle then spoke up in support of the Reshites which he claimed were a unifying force for good. He claimed that the reports of Reshite Evil were a construct of Prince Kieran's and pointed out the dire consequence of offending King Edward. The debate was long and finally concluded over a discussion of the wisdom of outlawing Religions. A point which was soundly won by Olivia Warin who pointed out that the Cult of Azial has been outlawed by King Edmund. Despite a large number of abstentions the motion was carried by a good margin.

The extra month accorded to Alderman Petro Cutario to explain his ideas for the trade budget does not appear to have helped his cause much. Although several councillors did stand up to explain that they now understood the concept and could see that it might have merit, the motion to prevent him from placing the work out to tender was clearly passed. The proposal being most eloquently argued by a clearly outraged and appalled Alderman Monterey. Alderman Petro Cutario clearly expects that his Shipping plans will suffer a similar fate. Judging by the number of happy Shipwrights in the city and, the feverish work now underway across the river, he would appear to have already spent the entire Shipping budget. Hard working Alan Monterey continues to hold the city together making sure the budgets are sorted out, meetings happen etc. Nobody seems willing to tell him his faction no longer controls the city. However his attempts to submit a Sheriffs budget were frustrated by Lady Andrews, who is clearly not in a mood to have her authority challenged.

## Late News! Late News! Late News!

Despite a small protest in the street outside, and an apparently impromptu move to the Citadel to see the young Prince, the Civic Ball was clearly a great success. Amongst the many things which happened William Trueman announced his marriage to Lady Terasio, an event which took place immediately much to the delight of the assembled councillors. Alderman Trueman later told the Chronicle "I'm in love with her and wanted to marry on Midsummer. She's wonderful and I couldn't wait a whole year. Anyway I suspect we will all be busy in the near future." Alderman Trueman's pre-battle marriage appears to have sparked a trend with many young lovers deciding to marry immediately. Several Temples have begun a booking system for the service.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 151

Linrodeth is safe from invasion and suffered no losses in the great battle fought on the last day of Setheran. King Edward is dead, King Kieran has withdrawn and both King Kieran and the new "Council of Regency for King Edmund II" have recognised Princess Selina's right to rule the Independent Principality of Linrodeth. The great armies of Linrodeth, King Kieran and King Edward met on Denley Moor, where the high road linking Linrodeth to Salvoyne meets the eastern drovers' road. Eyewitnesses report that King Edward's army consisted of over 4000 infantry, 1000 archers and 300 cavalry. Facing him was King Kieran's force of 2000 infantry, 1500 archers and 300 cavalry. As night fell both sides encamped to await reinforcements. In particular King Kieran hoped to be joined by the Clan Host of Eresan and a force of cavalry from Cascorach. However during the night it would appear that the two Kings met along with their bodyguards, and that King Edward was slain during a personal fight between the brothers. The following morning the vengeful forces of King Edward launched an all out assault on King Kieran's well fortified lines. The two great armies fought for most of the day. By nightfall the once massive Salvoyne army had broken itself against King Kieran's lines which buckled in several places but never quite gave way. By the following morning Linrodeth's forces, which had hitherto held off to one side, had advanced to a position where they could engage King Kieran's remaining force which had at last been reinforced by the Clan Host. A tense negotiation ensued. Princess Selina has recognised Kieran as High King of Athion and in return King Kieran agreed to recognise the Independent Principality of Linrodeth and withdraw his army from its lands. Significantly, the agreement allows Princess Selina to control taxes and levies raised by Linrodeth, and recognises the new lands held by the city since holding off the Noordic invaders. The decimated army of the Regency withdrew during the course of the negotiations, and is now being pursued by King Kieran's forces. The bulk of Linrodeth's army remains in the field for the time being.

Linrodeth has been celebrating almost continuously since the news arrived. Even supporters of King Edward, whilst shocked by his death, have welcomed the safe return of the unscathed army. Early responses from the Witanmoot have been ebullient. William Trueman described it as "about as good as a battle can be. Now we can look ahead to the future instead of worrying if we have one." The one person failing to make a verbal statement has been Alderman Petro Cutario, who has been too drunk in celebration to put together a coherent statement for the last three days. There have however been some questions over Princess Selina's use of the Witanmoot's £5000. This appears to have been spent on Noordic mercenaries, led by one Captain Ravensgrim, whose troops were responsible for the sack of a number of wards during the invasion of Linrodeth.

The debate of Sheriff Bowden's loyalty motion was as fractious and ill tempered as expected. Marcus Lambourne and Alan Monterey lead the attack. Cllr Lambourne proclaimed his outrage at the motion and pointed out that those who had chosen not to take the Oath had just as much interest in not seeing the city razed to the ground as anyone else. Backing him up Alderman Monterey suggested that the Witanmoot was unlikely to survive the election of a Sheriff who was almost as undemocratic as Lady Andrews. He berated his fellow councillors for even considering throwing out those they disagreed with and suggested that if the motion was passed then the Witanmoot should give up the pretence of being a democracy and simply hand over control to Lady Andrews. The motion was supported by Petro Cutario who described it as entirely reasonable in time of war to restrict debate. William Trueman, who later abstained, described the preservation of the city as more important than the preservation of democracy. Sheriff Bowden himself made an eloquent closing speech. "My intention is not to exclude these people from our democracy. But the oath they have not taken to take is a simple one. By their refusal they decree that they place their fealty to some other Cities, States or Kingdoms over their loyalty to Linrodeth. Those of us who have taken the Oath form the vast majority of this Council and of the Citizens of Linrodeth. Make no mistake, the true threat to our democracy comes not from this motion but from people who wish to see Linrodeth ruled by other interests." In the end the motion was narrowly defeated, with a large proportion of abstentions and little adherence to political groups both being prominent factors.

# A history of the Kingdom of Athion (Part One)

The Kingdom of Athion was founded by King Calric Caralingas through the systematic conquest of the three smaller kingdoms of Sarth, Arden and Tarkh. Nowadays although most people now think of themselves as Athions many of the traditions of these ancient kingdoms still remain. The eastern kingdom of Arden is separated from the rest of Athion by a high Sheer escarpment which offers few paths to the top. The land itself is mountainous, and the society is based around Clans which have lived in the same valley for generations. The Clans are ruled through a concept of Honour in which the power and status depends on the honour and prestige which it had earned. Thus those who governed well, fought hard and performed great deeds earned Honour for themselves and their family. Honour is a powerful currency and it would be unthinkable for an Arden lord to damage his Clan's Honour by breaking a pledged oath.

The southern country of Sarth was ruled from the great port of Salvoyn, which is still the largest city in Athion. Sarth is a rich, fertile and colourful land where the skills of the musician and storyteller are highly prized. It has been ruled for many years by the a matriarchal, with trade monopolies run by families rather than guilds. Tarkh was the northern nation, with its capital at the seasonal port of Nyskilde. The snows which isolate Tinrodeth for three or four months of the year last for four, five or even six months here. The people are a dour, practical and traditionally patriarchal folk, and although they also place a high value on Bards, physical prowess is equally important to them and hence warriors are the highest caste in this society. Separating the three Kingdoms is a large expanse of fens, forests and downlands. Having been on the receiving end of invasions by both Tarkh and Sarth, its strongly independent people gave allegiance to neither and by preference traded with the, then small, independent town of Tinrodeth.

The amalgamation of the three kingdoms was achieved by Calric, who was in origin a warrior prince of Tarkh. By the age of thirty he had united the tribes and leading them in campaign of unprecedented efficiency he conquered the Arden Heights, Calric earned himself great Karn by reinstating the defeated Clan chiefs and with the support of Arden he turned his attention to the fertile and prosperous plains of Sarth. However the professional knights and highly disciplined army of Sarth fought his numerically superior forces to a standstill within sight of Salvoyn. Calric was forced to besiege the area, but the tactic could never be entirely successful because of his inability to completely blockade the port. During this period of protracted stalemate, Calric established a new capital at Tinrodeth and began construction of the Citadel.

After four years Salvoyn underwent an internal coup which overthrew the old royal line of the Taratorhts and established the Tavyndryn as the ruling family. Their matriarch offered terms for surrender in which trade concessions were retained by the matriarchs, and which also required her eldest daughter to become Calric's queen, after all Salvoyn had assimilated barbaric conquest's in the past. Calric accepted and thus the Carlingas dynasty and the kingdom of Athion was founded. Cadric and Eredain ruled for many years, bringing a much needed stability, and laying the foundations of modern Athion. Guthrum, their only heir, ruled thereafter and his long rule is looked back upon by many as a golden age of justice and prosperity.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 151

Tinrodeth's army made a triumphant return to the city this month. Bar a few regiments which remain to defend the southern approach, all forces returned to the city for the official celebration. General Olvini rode at the head of a procession which eventually stretched from the Citadel gates all the way back across the city to Oldgate. Along the route the Royal Treasury had paid for elaborate banners and floral arches to decorate their progress. Free beer and welcoming confetti were in plentiful supply, and numerous street entertainers were quick to join in the event. Citizens gave the unscathed army a rousing return, perhaps unsure of the extent of the political victory, but with undoubted relief that a bloody invasion had been avoided. Private celebration continued long into the night. Princess Selina made only a brief appearance at the victory banquet in the Citadel, General Olvini heading the tables and being the guest of honour at the subsequent services of thanksgiving and official receptions by the Goldsmiths and Mercers guilds. Official sources maintain that the Princess, "has no wish to detract from the General's momentous triumph". Sources familiar with city states' intrigue are beginning to speculate on a shift of power within the Citadel, and whether a military coup has taken place.

The Wellkeeper at the Dalethian Temple has reported that a "good" harvest is in progress with crop yields sufficient for the forthcoming year. Her terse summary, which in other years might be the cause for alarm, may well be explained by the care and attention which all the religious leaders have given to the battlefield dead. In a remarkable display of co-operation, the priests of all the Temples have held a number of services for the thousands who died in the armies of King Kieran and King Edward. A special vigil of remembrance was held for the souls of King Edward and the infamous bodyguards of King Kieran, who are said to have perished in an off-battlefield encounter that night. Strangely, no bodies were available for burial.

Cadene ward was disturbed by a fire in Pewter Street last week. A row of four shops had to be pulled down before the fire could be contained. Prompt action by local residents prevented the blaze from becoming a major emergency. Everyone is believed to have escaped from the burned households, and only minor burns and cuts have been reported to the Torian Temple.

Docks along the north bank have been exceptionally busy this month laying keels for the new fleet of merchant warships which have been commissioned by both official and private patrons. A lively renewal of interest in Tinrodeth's naval expertise has been further excited by news that the Citadel is offering Letters of Marque for sale. £50 will buy merchant adventurers the right to harass and pursue Her Highness' enemies on the high seas, so long as the booty is brought back to the home port of Tinrodeth for trade.

The Witanmoot has been blessedly quiet this month as factions within the council re-organise themselves in the wake of General Olvini's triumph. A notable exception being Cllr Marcus Lambourne who created a storm by going against the trend of congratulating Lady Andrews and the Sheriffs on the successful outcome of the battle. Whilst Aldermen Jim Bottler and William Trueman were praising the army, Cllr Lambourne launched into a direct attack on the conduct of the battle "Lady Andrews last month showed callous disregard for the way our taxes are spent and we have all seen the outcome. But a short time ago Ravensgrim and his band of cut-throats wreaked havoc in many of our wards, raping our womenfolk and murdering innocent children in cold blood. And Lady Andrews is now ultimately responsible for paying him for that privilege, with our hard earned money. If she had one ounce of compassion for the families of those affected by this creature's depredations she would resign her office forthwith. And, if this were not sufficient, she presumably condones the decision to let the remainder of the heretic Reshite murderers skulk away from the field of battle." Lady Andrews described Cllr Lambourne's comments as "disgraceful and deeply offensive". Sheriff Bowden went further and has accused Cllr Lambourne of Misconduct and has instructed that a Hearing take place next month into Cllr Lambourne's behaviour.

Alderman Monterey has been loudly scathing about the complete and utter absence of any committee budgets this month. Alderman Cutario and other members of his faction who are due to submit these, are clearly suffering from over-partying. Not much is expected of an entire faction which is currently wincing at bright

lights and loud noises. Speculation that the Chairs have only escaped the attentions of the Citadel's team of crack auditors because of generous donations of vintage wine has been officially denied by a Citadel spokeswoman. Albeit groggily.

Alderman Jim Bottler has stunned the Witanmoot with the audacious proposal that "The Court of Common Council calls upon the Lord of the city, and requests of Princess Selina, to lift the exile on all those who were exiled for their loyalty to High King Kieran." The motion will be voted upon next month. Later, the first signs of a new agenda appeared with Alan Monterey's suggestion that trade envoys be sent to Eresan and Cascorach. There were also rumours about also sending an envoy to Tinrodeth's most important trade neighbour, Salvoyn, now the cities are officially at peace.

Fallout continues from last month's debate of Sheriff Bowden's loyalty motion. Cllr Lambourne is clearly determined to draw attention to his Alderman's comment that described the preservation of the city as more important than the preservation of democracy. Speaking in the Witanmoot Cllr Lambourne commented, "We should be grateful to Trueman for nailing his colours to the mast well in advance of the next election. His concern for the preservation of the city is laudable, but his remarks constitute the thin end of the wedge and clearly set the tone for the remainder of Lady Andrew's tenure as Lord. Let us hope that that tenure is short-lived. Alderman Trueman does not believe in democracy and thus forfeits any right he may have had to the people's trust. Last month a narrow victory for democracy was won in this house. Let the defeat of Sheriff Bowden's motion stand as a shining testimonial to all those brave souls who believe that the people of this city have the right to determine their own individual destinies". The Chroniclers note with interest that the good councillor continues to concentrate attacks on his own ward Alderman, despite the far more extreme position taken by Alderman Cutario and his followers in the debate.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 151

News has been received that King Kieran's army has encamped for the winter along the River Tyrill in the Duchy of Orbihan. The relentless pursuit of the Regency army appears to have lost momentum when troops received rumours that part of the retreating Royal Treasury had become bogged down while crossing the tidal estuary. The Host of Eresan proved to be much diverted by this piece of fortune, and King Kieran opted to call a halt rather than push forward into the Salvoynian heartlands. A line of wooden fortifications is being erected along the valley, and no doubt the offensive will continue next Springtide.

Back in Tinrodeth Alderman William Trueman has launched a scathing attack on Cllr Lambourne, describing Lambourne's views on the defence of the city as "irresponsible". Others within the Witanmoot chamber have waded in and many of the speeches were clearly aimed at positioning for the Lambourne hearing. Surprisingly Alderman Trueman's later chairmanship of the Hearing was scrupulously fair and balanced. The decision he faced between condemning Lambourne for his views, and permitting him the right to express them fully, weighed heavily on him. Pendentite Antonious, acting for the Defence, explained that in order to be guilty of misconduct Cllr Lambourne would have had to be acting against the interests of the Witanmoot or in an inappropriate manner. "I contest that challenging the executive is an entirely right and proper activity of a councillor," he declared to much applause. However Sheriff Bowden is clearly not going to let this one go. He explained that his accusation of Misconduct was not aimed at the precise remarks Cllr Lambourne made, but rather at Cllr Lambourne failure to act in the best interest of the city, last month's comments only being one example of this. "Cllr Lambourne has made no secret of his sympathies for Kieran. I believe he has put these sympathies ahead of the interests of the city." After a long and closely argued Hearing, Alderman Trueman reserved his judgement in order to consult with other senior members of the Witanmoot before making a decision.

There are rumours of severe problems within the Lambourne faction with several key members close to resignation. It seems that the Lambourne Hearing has been their last straw, and the faction is splintering in acrimonious recriminations. One Witanmoot insider told the Chronicle "That faction has always been a loose consortium held together by the desire for power. Lambourne is pro Kieran, Davy is pro Selina and Saunders is pro Edward. I'm surprised it didn't fall apart months ago."

Alderman Jim Bottler's motion calling for the return of exiles has received widespread support, with Marcus Lambourne in particular voicing his appreciation of "Bottler's courage" and Alan Monterey describing the exiles as "an embarrassing blot". The motion was passed by a large majority with only the Cutario and Trueman groups objecting. Following the motion, however, Lady Andrews refused to act without first receiving permission from Princess Selina; and this permission has not yet been received. With this and Cllr Lambourne's attacks on Tinrodeth's military policy, a dangerous split appears to be opening up between the Citadel and the Witanmoot.

Alderman Monterey took advantage of a lull in the Witanmoot infighting to ask the Chair of Shipping what preparations he has made to ensure that booty brought back by privateers has indeed been obtained from Her Highness' enemies. Alderman Osbert pointed out that Letters of Marque were issued by the Princess' office, and could be withdrawn equally efficiently should the law courts uphold prosecutions against shipowners who abused the terms of those Letters. He expressed confidence that any problems could be dealt with within the existing legal structure pointing out that, while it was possible to appoint a special Commission of Enquiry (with powers to enter, search and confiscate business records and premises), such a Commission would be highly bureaucratic and deeply intrusive on the guilds.

Amazingly a city budget has finally been presented for approval. A grumpy Alan Monterey has been inspecting it in detail, and William Trueman took time in the Witanmoot to praise his dedication and to suggest that the choice for the post Treasury should be simple next year. Monterey has also made nominations for the Envoys to Cascorach (Blessop) and Eresan (Bergeren), although the roles are purely ceremonial given the complete lack of funding and late season of the year.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 151

Alderman William Trueman has finally completed his ruling on the Lambourne Hearing with a decision to commit him to Trial. Addressing the court with much solemnity Alderman Trueman declared, "Councillor Lambourne has done no wrong in expressing his opinions and I would hope that this case reinforces the right of a councillor to express his honest opinions. However, on the charge that Councillor Lambourne has put his personal sympathies ahead of the interests of the city, I have reached a different conclusion. I have seen no evidence to acquit Councillor Lambourne. Furthermore, I also believe that he would have preferred King Kieran's army to have defeated Princess Selina's forces on the field of battle. While I will not deal with the affairs of Kings and Princesses here, the likely outcome would have been the sacking of the City of Linrodeth. This is manifestly not in the interests of the city. I am not absolutely certain that Councillor Lambourne took any actions against the interests of the city, but neither am I convinced that he is innocent. Thus it is my legal duty to commit him for trial on the Charge of Misconduct on this matter." The reaction of Marcus Lambourne has been noble whilst Alderman Alan Monterey has made it clear he intends to challenge the legal basis of the whole event. Cllr Lambourne has not been imprisoned. Cllr Irvine Grendle, an old hand at Witanmoot politics, described Lambourne as "incredibly lucky that Lady Andrews is soft." he declared, "Old Lord Dixon would have topped him without trial months ago". The trial will take place before Lady Andrews next month.

The Witanmoot has clearly resolved into two distinct groups. The first a coalition of William Trueman, Jim Bottler and Petro Cutario has a strong and positive line on the new budget and the need for a massive Merchant Navy. The second, led by Marcus Lambourne and Alan Monterey, has denounced Lady Andrews policy, the budget and the expenditure on ships as sheer folly. However the key split goes deeper than this, with the pro-Selina faction looking to an independent Linrodeth and the Pro-Kieran faction seeking to link Linrodeth into a wider Athionic alliance with High King Kieran.

The budget debate provided an excellent opportunity to see the widening gulf between the two groups. The speeches of one time allies Jim Bottler and Alan Monterey sum up the situation. Bottler's proud speech to the council commending the budget as "a forward looking investment in the future" was met by Monterey's careful explanation of the budgets' faults and outraged incredulity. Things became tense when Alderman Monterey declared that the shipping budget would be passed over his dead body and several councillors stood up to oblige him. However it became clear that the new league had done a deal and Monterey and Lambourne were simply not worthy of their consideration. Indeed the turning point of the argument occurred when, after strong speeches by Lambourne and Monterey regarding the cut donation to Esprayenna, Alderman Cutario stood up and expressed surprise that they had not checked facts and that the Esprayenna Temple had itself suggested the cut. In the end it was not the arguments but the combined votes of the new league which won the day. Once Lady Andrews, Cutario and Bottler has agreed to Trueman's amendment to donate the contingency from Trade to Law and Order in order to raise the donation to Hahn, votes went through on the strength of the new league block vote of 162 to 114 with most of the independents siding with the new league.

The first of the newly refitted armed merchantmen has completed its sea trials and participated in a successful raid against a large Noordic port. The Pugnacious returned from her mission having destroyed two Noordic boats and captured a third. The refitted 200 tun cogs Bellicose and Belligerent will be launched this month to join the consortium fleet.

Repercussions from the budget debate are continuing to create tensions throughout the city and within various factions. Richard Saunders and Jenny Davy launched a combined assault on the Shipping budget's removal of the storm rescue funding. Alderman Monterey joined the fray and described Alderman Cutario suggestion that this was an unnecessary sinecure for the citizens of Bridge as a "vast insult to the people of Bridge". Richard Saunders was more reserved, and yet more scathing with his comment that. "The people of Bridge will still perform this duty as we have for decades. The reward has never been important. It is lives not money that matter to us".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 151

The killing of three members of the City Guard last week appears to mark the start of a new campaign by the Linrodeth Freedom Fighters. The attacks were against off duty members of the guard, who were all ambushed and killed by a group of masked assailants. In a letter obtained by the Chronicle the LFF claim that these officers were corrupt and had forced people to make payments to them, under threat of arrest. The LFF states that they will continue to "strike blows for freedom against Kerunian oppression".

After much consideration, emotion, endless debates and legal wrangling the trial of Marcus Lambourne has been resolved. Cllr Lambourne's defence was that the entire trial was a completely baseless political move which was being deliberately drawn out in order to damage his election campaigning. Bringing the courts attention to his well known interest in his family the Cllr described the idea that he would "deliberately place my wife and children, and the children of the Orphanage in jeopardy" as "frankly ludicrous". In a well timed move the Cllr also publicly took the Oath of Loyalty. However it was the intervention of Alderman Monterey and Pendentite Antonius which resolved the matter. In a carefully constructed case they demonstrated that the accusation of misconduct was not a valid basis for a trial regarding someone's loyalty to the City. Lady Andrews promptly halted the trial stating "I concur with the assessment. The question we are being asked to resolve can be summed up as 'is Councillor Lambourne a traitor to this City?'. If this is the case then he should be on trial for treason. It is not the role of the Witanmoot to resolve such matters."

Just as the Witanmoot was relaxing from trial hysteria, Alderman Monterey stepped in to start a new farce. In a prepared statement he declared "I firmly believe that Alderman Cutario acted without authority and to the direct detriment of the city in the budget that he set, specifically that he deliberately and unnecessarily under spent the budget set by Lady Andrews, running a severe risk that the roads might become unusable or the bridge structurally unsound, purely to run up a large contingency which he had no intention of spending on Trade." He went on to add "Presuming that he intended to act honourably, the money would either rot unused in the Trade budget until some future year, or would be quietly transferred to another budget. In neither case was that his decision to make, and for these reasons I accuse him of acting unlawfully and against the best interests of the city." Alderman Cutario's bemused response "Is it a crime to under spend a budget?" raised a laugh from the Witanmoot however he must still attend a hearing before Lady Andrews next month.

Alan Monterey's unhappiness with the budgets managed by members of Alderman Cutario's faction seems unbounded. Not content with accusing the Alderman of misconduct, his faction has launched as strong and aggressive campaign against Thomas Osbert's record in Shipping. His scathing views included comments such as "I mean, the Merchant Navy is a great idea, particularly if you're a carpenter, but the rape of Shipping that he did to get it was mad" He went on to add "The docks go unprepared, the Bell tower's been given away, the heroic efforts at storm rescue now go unrewarded and he can't even guarantee that privateer booty hasn't come off one of our own merchantmen. He could at least have asked Lady Andrews for some of the money that went to overpay those mercenaries, that would have been more honest, but no. I hope there's a dockside left after his year of "careful stewardship". The attack appears to have some effect and a concerned Alderman Osbert spent most of the month shoring up his ward vote. Cllr Marcus Lambourne's attack during his trial on William Trueman over the funding by the City of the Ravensgrim Mercenaries has seriously backfired. Cllr Lambourne asked "Given Alderman Trueman's view that the City being sacked was a bad thing" why "the man whose mercenaries were responsible for a recent sacking of wards in the city, to wit one Ravensgrim, has just been paid out of our taxes" He went on to query whether the Alderman opinion "was that, that particular sacking good for us" and summed up, much to the amusement of those listening with the view that perhaps if he had been found guilty it would mean that he would be due a big payment in a couple of years time. However in a surprise move General Olvini commented openly that the funding of mercenaries by the Witanmoot was critical to the City's success at the battle of the three roads. "I am certain that if the forces of Captain Ravensgrim had not



been with us that day, we would have been forced to battle rather than being able to negotiate" the General announced. Public response to this intervention by the hero of the Battle is likely to damage the election chances of Cllr Lambourne group, and to a lesser extent that of Alderman Monterey.

In a clear attempt to acquire the political agenda and turn attention away from his trial Marcus Lambourne has launched a radical proposal to review the taxation system within Lyrodeth. Announcing his proposal Cllr Lambourne stated "In recent years unskilled labourers have done very well out of certain major projects. Perhaps now is the time to bring them into the taxation system. In return for tax (at a lower rate to full citizens) we might create another, lower, level of citizenship with certain limited benefits such as recourse to the law, but not the vote. This could increase the revenue of the Treasury and, at the same time, allow a welcome reduction in the tax burden for citizens." The proposal has received a mixed response, with notable resistance coming from the more traditional members of the Witanmoot.

With vigorous election campaigning already underway, moves between factions should be rare. However the haemorrhaging of Marcus Lambourne support continues with Sheila Herman moving to join Alderman Trueman and Graham Porter moving to join Jim Bottler.

Ann Tasker has given birth to a daughter. Both mother and baby are well and Lady Tasker was even able to make a brief appearance at a civic event only days after the birth.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 151

The famous poet and playwright Cornelius Marlowe has been killed in a tavern brawl. The Bards College, Playhouses and Literati of the city are all in deep mourning following this tragic incident. The fight broke out in the Anchor & Hope tavern in Drayford, a notorious den of sailors, dockers and other unsavoury types. Eyewitnesses say that Marlowe heroically tried to prevent a young naval officer from stealing goods. The officer immediately murdered the unarmed playwright, whereupon a general melee broke out in the main taproom. The brawl was quickly broken up by the arrival of a military squad, but not before the young naval officer had also been killed. The Admiralty at Kingsport then conducted a cursory investigation, at the end of which both deaths were labelled as "accidental", an insulting conclusion to such a noble and brilliant life. Marlowe's true epitaph will be found in his works, especially 'Il Dottore', 'The Opalite of Orissa' and the much imitated 'Tambourine'. The Rosamund Players are understood to have retrieved the final chapters of his last play from the clutches of the Admiralty. They will be performing this play in the coming season as a tribute to Marlowe's genius. It is entitled 'The Castaways'.

The most distracted election campaigner this month was Alan Monterey, for whom recent fatherhood, an odd fascination with obscure issues and diligent pursuit of Petro Cutario seem to have been a priority. Alderman Cutario appears to have decided to turn the Hearing into an opportunity and built his election campaign around the slogan "dare to underspend". Alderman Monterey clearly seems to have decided that he was just helping Cutario and switched his line of attack to the fact that "Alderman Cutario recklessly and needlessly endangered the fabric of this city". A line that was going well until a Bottler-inspired rebuff from the construction guilds declared that the roads and bridge were in good order. By the time the matter came before Lady Andrews she was able to dismiss it without debate. Tinrodeth has been locked in the grip of a particularly cold winter, with the river Ashtan freezing early and now iced solid down to the Erith bend. An attempt earlier this month to revive the pre-war Frost Fairs on the river was abandoned when the first of the blizzards set in. Snow storms have been freezing the city for over a week, and the Dalethian Temple warns that this will continue at least through to Midwinter before the city can hope to see more usual snowfall.

The new consortium ships being built by the city are now beginning to take shape, but what shape that is exactly is unclear. A recent flurry of security around all the shipyards concerned has meant that all views into those yards have been screened off, and hardy skaters along the river are being sharply discouraged from sightseeing. It is understood that the new design is controversial, and has caused much bitter argument within the closed chambers of the Shipwrights' Hall. The first ship of this design is due to be launched from Kingsport in early spring. It promises to be a memorable occasion.

Election campaigning has been pursued this month in the teeth of bitter weather and even more bitter opposition. The gulf between those in power and those not appears to be widening, despite a thawing in public attitudes to Salvoynian sympathisers. Bottler and Cutario were both early campaigners, but a loosely co-ordinated assault by Lambourne and Monterey has begun to attack both Cutario's and Trueman's candidates. As ever, opposition tactics are sharply critical of this year's events, while Cutario and Bottler launched "manifestos" heralding innovative trade and new shipping initiatives.

Uproar has broken out in Faringdon over the sudden arrest of one Brendan Hall, and all his family and business associates, on the capital charge of Treason. Possible membership of the IFF has been mentioned, along with a link to Cllr Lambourne's continued problems. Rumour and counter-rumour are running wild along the corridors of the Witanmoot, and there appears not to be a chamber large enough to accommodate all the people who wish to be present at Hall's interrogation. A clearly harassed Colonel Aldridge would only state that, "investigations are proceeding, and any conclusions at this point would be exceedingly premature."

## LATE NEWS!

The verdict of the electorate this year shows a shift way from the concentration on the Civil War and the beginnings of a recovery for those people whose support for King Edward had made them unpopular. Similarly those closely associated with the Great Victory, have done well, in particular William Trueman made strong gains across the City. Marcus Lambourne's recent problems have clearly done him damage with a noticeable decline in support for him adding to his reduced ability to mount a cross city campaign. Popular opinion seems unhappy with the return to combative politics with independent candidates doing particularly well, especially when standing against the Lambourne and Monterey candidates. The Bottler and Cutario faction both made small gains. The Monterey faction fared erratically with their leader obviously distracted from the campaign, presumably as a result of his recent fatherhood.

There was a shock result in Shambles where Bert Belcher lost his seat by 6 votes to Marie Cripstead. Sam Kutler suffered a crushing defeat in Marshgate where Maureen Quiller overturned the decision of the Council to make him their Alderman. The hardest fought campaign was that of Graham Porter in Dowgate. His recent move to the Bottler faction clearly paid off with the entire faction and a lavishly funded campaign descending upon the previously uncontested ward to deliver him an easy victory. Indeed so strong was Porter's vote that several established Dowgate councillors lost their seats as voters switched from them to Porter. Elsewhere there was a close call for Alice Barbiter who fought off a strong challenge from Estelle Wynstanly. At one point Bartholomew Hyde's challenge to Eva Capel looked threatening and perhaps most surprisingly of all Irvine Grendle made a good challenge to the previously safe seat of Bernard Hubold. Gemma Downe majority was also reduced. A victorious Alderman Trueman was clearly pleased with the night's results, not least with the electors' response to Lambourne. "He is entitled to his personal viewpoint, I am delighted that he now represents fewer people with it," was William Trueman's verdict.

The final Aldermanic results were:

Arpent Judi Spich, Avigon Petro Cutario, Bassishaw Gemma Downe, Berewic Mary Hastings, Bridge Richard Saunders, Cadene Melanie Romanie, Cartage Alice Barbiter, Castle Bard Alison Shefford, Cripplegate Bernard Hubold, Dowgate Graeme Porter, Dracas Thomas Osbert, Faringdon William Trueman, Ishtan Eva Capel, Kingsgate Adam Povre, Leyestone Alan Monterey, Marshgate Maureen Quiller, Oldgate Duncan Barnett, Portsoken Nicholas Worton, Shambles Marie Cripstead, Temple Olivia Warin, Welland Jim Bottler.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 152

The deep ice of the River Ishtan has encouraged traders to set up a Frost Fair above the bridge. A good number of acrobats and troubadours are entertaining visitors alongside the food sellers and guildless traders. The Frost Fair has even attracted an unexpected visit from The Citadel. The young Prince Sikander was taken around the attractions in a small silver sled towed by Her Highness Princess Selina and her ladies-in-waiting. An enterprising trader presented the young Prince with a souvenir scroll illustrating his visit.

The inviting expanse of river ice enticed some rash youths into an extended game of football. Unfortunately for their tournament, their activities were observed by Sgt Kali of the City Guard, and rudely broken up at sword point. The punctured leather ball has been confiscated as evidence. Sgt Kali's ever-efficient squad has imprisoned two dozen youngsters en-mass, only the dog escaping the long reach of the law. It appears that many of these footballers are from the city orphanage, leaving Gax and the other trustees wondering how to pay off the fines if everyone is duly convicted. The detention of the orphans has left another City Guard squad at a loss for prime suspects. The clapper for the Big Tom bell in the Hahnite belltower was subsequently stolen, leaving the tolling of the hours sounding ... feeble. Customarily this prank would normally be ascribed to the long standing rivalry between the Hahnite scholars and Gax's orphans. But it seems that this time the orphans have a perfect alibi. The Archimandrite is reported to be "unamused".

Rumours are circulating in the both the Citadel and Witanmoot regarding certain "significant discussions" between Princess Selina and senior members of the Witanmoot. If the rumours are true and talks relate to a major change in the responsibilities of both the Witanmoot and the Citadel, then we could be about to witness Princess Selina's first move against the democracy of the City.

The taverns and hostelrys around The Bards College have been coping with an unexpected boom in business and damages by the number of students at large. Lectures and classes have been cancelled by the masters, leaving students very much to their own devices. Rumour has it that the masters are dealing with the unexpected return of a minstrel and the material which he has brought to their attention. Unfortunately, the students are not merely speculating but have also been organising many impromptu demonstrations of their skills at all hours of the day and night. Complaints to the porters lodge and city guard have tripled this month.

The House of Eshi has launched its latest season of fashions. Lady Cyarçon on hired the largest of the acrobat tents in the Frost Fair to unveil a collection of court wear heavily styled with soft lace around the collars and cuffs. Despite its immediate popularity with the Citadel crowd, almost equal interest was given to debut of a rival couturier to following week. Jorian's "Unruffled Collection" of soft daywear has gained an instant following amongst the younger set.

A falling slab of thick ice has killed a resident of Bassishaw in a freak accident. Master Gifford Payne was a respected cornmonger of the ward, and was returning home when a cart-sized ice slab fell from the Brynette temple roof. Master Payne died instantly. Acolytes from the temple have already been sent to inspect the roof and break up any further ice found on the tiles.

Activity in the various shipyards across the river continues apace. It seems as if the consortium is especially keen to launch the first new ship from Kingsport Old Dock, where most preparations have already been made despite the deep winter snows. Anyone interested in free entertainment from the Navy should take themselves and a picnic down to the estuary spit at the first sign of a thaw and see the new design briefly in action. Marlowe would no doubt have been looking forward to the event, had he not met an untimely end.

This month's committee nominations show for the first time the shift of power which is occurring in the Witanmoot. A balanced set of nominations from across all groups demonstrated a failure of the usual pre-nomination stitch up. The only uncontested role is Chairman for Lands and Agriculture where, perhaps due to other discussions, Gemma Downe retains unassailable control. The full nominations for chairmen were as follows:

Treasury; Alison Shefford, Melanie Romanie

Trade; Petro Cutario, Olivia Warin

Law and Order; Bernard Hubold, Duncan Barnett, Mary Hastings

Shipping; Alan Monterey, Thomas Osbert, Eva Capel

Welfare and Education; Richard Saunders, Judi Spich, Marie Cripstead

Lands and Agriculture; Gemma Downe

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 152

This month's committee elections have confirmed William Trueman's control of the city. His faction took the important chairmanships of Trade and Law & Order from Petro Cutario's group, and was instrumental in the selection of all the other chairs. Both the Monterey-Lambourne and Bottler-Cutario groupings lost their coherence. Sporadic voting across all the contests enabled the Trueman block to control the election. The full results were.

Treasury; Romanie (19), Shefford (5)

Trade; Warin (14), Cutario (10)

Law and Order; Hastings (12), Barnet (9), Hubold (3)

Shipping; Osbert (17), Monterey (7) Capel (1)

Welfare and Education; Saunders (14), Spich (7), Cripstead

Lands and Agriculture; Downe

The vote was preceded by heated exchanges in the Witanmoot over the role of outgoing chairman of Law and Order Duncan Barnet. Marcus Lambourne accused Alderman Barnet of abusing his power by using the Witanmoot bodyguards assigned to Cllr Lambourne as spies. Cllr Lambourne, who reiterated that he had been found Not Guilty in his trial, described his one time friend Barnet as having "stabbed him in the back" by having supposed bodyguards report upon everything he did. He went on to call for "the arrest of the guards and the removal from office of Alderman Barnet". He went on, "I'm sure Colonel Aldridge will agree the Witanmoot Guard should be beyond reproach and I am sorrowed that a few individuals have tarnished their reputation in this way". The Witanmoot erupted into chaos and it was some minutes before Alderman Barnet was able to speak. Appearing bemused, he commented: "The guards protect my honourable colleague from some of the consequences of being a controversial councillor. Whilst I appreciate his developing sense of paranoia, I don't believe he is yet paranoid enough. Perhaps Colonel Aldridge would also like to comment". With permission from Lady Andrews, the Colonel proceed to announce "These men were acting under my orders, because I still suspect that Cllr Lambourne is a traitor. I decided that they would report through the Law & Order Chair to ensure suitable involvement with the Witanmoot. I thank Alderman Barnet for his co-operation". This damning condemnation from the widely respected colonel clearly stunned the normally unflappable Lambourne and the Witanmoot once again descended into chaos. Lady Andrews had to order a recess before the debate could be brought back under control.

A warm easterly wind brought the beginnings of the spring thaw this month. As predicted, the break-up of the river ice saw a sudden increase in activity around Kingsport shipyard, and many citizens took a day off to go sightseeing there. Much to the surprise of the many onlookers the not-so-secret launch of the new consortium ship, named The Invincible, proved to be a great success. Surprisingly she had been fully kitted out whilst in dock and it was only a few hours before a maiden voyage was attempted. News of the launch had by this time spread to the few souls who didn't already know it was happening, and most of the city turned out to see if the ship returned. There was a tense hour when neither The Invincible nor her two escorts returned on time, however the final late arrival was explained by The Invincible's stunning capture of a Noord warship. The new design of ship, which many have described as too big to hold together and too tall to stay upright, has proved to be too fast to outrun and too powerful to oppose. The Invincible has been a triumph and the Chronicle congratulates Princess Selina, the Temple of Esprayenna and leading citizens of Tinrodeth who have promoted this bold move.

The massed Hearing of the orphans is causing difficulties partly because of jurisdiction disputes over the frozen river, but mostly because widespread calls for clemency, led by Judi Spich, have run into the late King Edmund's unequivocal edict; "that the most ungodly and riotous sport of football is BANNED, on pain of imprisonment." Meanwhile the youngsters remain incarcerated, and Gax is very busy researching legal technicalities.

Next month's Lordship vote looks like being a quiet matter with little political activity apparent. William Trueman's dominant position in the Witanmoot means that he need only secure the votes of four Alderman to retain the Lordship for Miranda Andrews. Indeed if it had not been for Marcus Lambourne's last minute nomination of Jenny Davy the election would have passed uncontested. What little activity there is seems concentrated on recruitment, with Cllr Bever Edge moving to Alderman Cutario's faction, and Cllr Gregory Benton joining Alderman Monterey.

Speculation continues to be rife about last month's significant discussions between Princess Selina and senior members of the Aldermanic Court. However "everything seems to have gone terribly quiet" according to one alderman, with faction leaders spending the month avoiding the Citadel. Latest speculation centres around the Witanmoot gaining control of Customs, and Gate taxation, which may improve the Witanmoot's drive to promote more trade. Despite the apparent boycott of the royal court, Jim Bottler's motion "That the Aldermanic Court elects trade envoys from the Court of Common Council for attachment to those embassies which Princess Selina creates in foreign cities", claims to have the princess' support.

Cripplegate has been plagued by an unusual number of dead beggars discovered thawing in the ice melt. A distinct odour has arisen in the ward and Alderman Bernard Hubold is re-forming a local watch to deal with corpse disposal. A nearby stretch of marshland has been renamed Stiffs Causeway.

Castle Bard is attempting to return to normal now that lectures have been resumed by the college. Students are paying for their unexpected month of freedom with an extra-heavy workload, and the college is proving generous in its payment of claims for compensation. A number of curious Witanmoot councillors have been observed to pay social calls on various masters, but have clearly come away unsatisfied.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 152

Tinrodeth has been stunned by the rapid enactment of radical reforms in both the city's finance and tax duties. Although rumours of a great reform have been circulating no-one, except a few insiders, seems to have been aware of the discussions. When Alderman Jim Bottler stood up to propose them he warned the Witanmoot that what he had to proposed had been discussed with both Princess Selina and the Hahnites at great length and was a "take it or leave it deal". He described his pride at being able to bring forward a huge improvement in the fortunes of the city and thanked William Trueman for his assistance in the huge task. Then to a silent Witanmoot he read out the following motion:

"The Witanmoot hereby defines the boundaries of the City of Tinrodeth to be two bow shots from the City Wall as measured by the Lord of the City on the Springtide Festival 152. The Witanmoot acknowledges that all lands and holdings of the Principality of Tinrodeth beyond this boundary, and the rights thereof, are solely those of Princess Selina.

"The Witanmoot welcomes and accepts the grant to the City by Princess Selina of the lands of the mines of Botmoor, Cheddingham, Bramble Coombe and Horndean. The Witanmoot welcomes and accepts the intended grant to the City by Princess Selina of the right to raise tax duties from trade entering and passing through the City.

"The Witanmoot thanks Princess Selina for her permission in perpetuity to use the lands known as the Journeyfields for such events as the City sees fit."

Alderman William Trueman then rose to give the motion his support and informed the Witanmoot that as a result of negotiations resulting from these proposals, the City would have a spending budget significantly higher than the £23,000 which was possible last year. The Treasurer, Alderman Melanie Romanie, then made it clear if the motion was passed she would be able to propose a halving of all trade duties and still be able to deliver a spending budget of at least £30,000. Lady Andrews then adjourned the session for one day to enable people to study the proposals in detail. Feverish lobbying then took place. Cllr Marcus Lambourne expressed concern about a number of details, for example "what if Lady Andrew's shoots short?" and warned that rushed motions rarely bring good to the city. When the Witanmoot reconvened an overwhelming approval was gained for the reform although a stony-faced Alderman Alan Monterey lead his faction in an abstention. Alderman Romanie then published her budget proposals which show huge increases for all the city areas and a very substantial payment to the Temples "in gratitude to the Temples for their forbearance in our times of hardship."

Riding on the back of this victory, Lady Andrew's victory in the Lordship elections was never in doubt. However some wags have suggested that she was helped by the fact that she was likely to shoot arrows a lot further than Jenny Davy.

Following on from last months fun in the Witanmoot, Marcus Lambourne refused the official guards assigned to him. He has pointed out that no arrest has been forthcoming for the very good reason that there is nothing to be arrested for. Members of his faction have expressed distress that the once honourable Aldridge has been corrupted into playing politics. Alderman Jim Bottler has also come to his defence making it clear that, "suspicion does not equal guilt and that treason is a crime of actions, not beliefs".

The official boundary ceremony took place on the Springtide Feast day with much celebration. Lady Andrews executed her duties with great style by clout shooting a massive distance "more akin to three bow shots than two". Great boundary stones are being put in place to mark the points where her arrows fell and Princess Selina herself has walked the bounds to confirm them.



# The Proposed Budget

## Reproduced from the Treasury documents

Total income from city wards	£27,352 0s 0d
Total income from guilds	£41,286 0s 0d
Gate and Tax duties	£2,500 0s 0d
Income from other taxes & Holdings	£637 0s 0d
From Reserves	£300 0s 0d
Grand Total Income for the City of Linrodeth	£71,475 0s 0d
Contribution to Princess Selina's Expenses	£40,000 0s 0d
Income for Linrodeth budget items	£31,475 0s 0d
Current Spending Proposed Budget Budget Split	
Trade	£221 15s 6d
Lands and Agriculture	£4,058 11s 0d
Welfare and Education	£2,199 0s 0d
Shipping	£1,249 8s 0d
Law and Order	£2,840 12s 0d
Treasury	£1,883 16s 0d
Sheriff's Offices	£3,422 0s 6d
Lord's Household	£670 8s 0d
Total	£28,750 0s 0d
To City Reserves	£2,725 0s 0d

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 152

Tinrodeth enjoyed an unexpected feast day mid-month in bright sunshine. The celebration was proclaimed by the Citadel to mark the launch of the remaining seven ships of the new fleet. The delays were caused by major alterations needed to the rigging following the Invincible's maiden voyages early in the year. The Invincible is now joined by her sister ships The Intrepid, The Illustrious, The Inflexible, The Indefatigable, The Incendiary, The Indomitable, and The Inconceivable. There were some raised eyebrows at the final launching, which has been put down to a possible translation error. Four of the ships are to be put to immediate work on behalf of the merchants of the consortium, while the remainder will take up patrol stations beyond the Ashtan estuary. The successful launch is a great relief to all concerned, but particularly to the Guildmen who have been paying warehousing costs during the delay. The launch clears the shipyards just in time for the new Shipping budget, which is expected to include further consortium shipbuilding.

Revellers returning home the following morning were amongst the first to note a large cavalcade approaching from the Eresan road. Numerous banners indicated a very official delegation to the Citadel, and court officials (not to mention the gate guard) were immensely relieved when the procession stopped at the Temple of Torus for over an hour. The hastily convened welcoming party were able to escort Sir Eridan of Mickelsford the remainder of the way to the Citadel. Sir Eridan of Mickelsford is to be High King Kieran's official liaison with the Court of Princess Selina of Tinrodeth. The renown Lord was accompanied by a complete escort of five younger Knights and a full ambassador's entourage. Given the rather formidable reputation of all these Knights, the Chroniclers expect that Princess Selina's equally versatile Ladies in Waiting are going to be kept rather busy. Amongst the first news brought by the Embassy is confirmation the King Kieran will be resuming the attack on Salvoynian lands this year. Various levies have been recalled to push southwards, but their task is now made more difficult by new defensive fortifications which have been built over the winter, and by the Regency Council's decision to recruit many foreign mercenary companies. Priority will be given to ensuring that the Cascorach road stays open, and merchants using it this past month have confirmed that it is "mostly safe".

The Glaziers Guild have presented the Brynette Temple with a new glass window which displays recent developments in their craft. The ceremony of dedication included a closed demonstration of the technique, which eliminates many small bubbles and other distortions. The Guildmasters were clearly immensely pleased with the end product, which they hope will prove a popular alternative to horn windows, even for domestic use. Guildmaster Melanie Romanie let slip that the technique owed much to the input of new Kerunian members, although others credited a chance find in the guild archives for the breakthrough.

Brynette surveyors have also been observed hard at work on the north shore this month. Given that this is an unlikely route for any sweet water pipes, and that Alderman Saunders has been having numerous discussions with local residents, it seems that Tinrodeth may be about to have another civic project announced. Currently the area is notorious for its bear baiting, gambling, unlicensed playhouses and, ah, other entertainment. This has given rise to wild rumours that the whole industry may be legalised, and/or that the Kerunians are keen to add a gladiatorial arena similar to the famous Amphitheatre in Kerun.

Lady Andrews has called for nominations for Trade envoy to Kerun with an election to take place on Midsummer, to coincide with the Sheriffs election. No other Embassies have been confirmed. Nicholas Bowden is already campaigning hard for the Sheriff's role and it looks as though a hard contest is about to be fought.

The Witanmoot has otherwise been relatively quiet this month with most councillors getting down to the difficult business of spending lots on money. Alderman Alan Monterey is still apparently firmly believing that he is in control of the budget, despite having no committee chairmen in his faction. In proposing his amendments the Alderman told the Witanmoot. "I strongly believe that Alderman Bottler has underestimated the needs of the Trade committee, both in the expense of envoys and in the amount of essential repairs needed to our roads. I also distrust Alderman Cutario's attempts to absorb Trade into Shipping; Shipping supports

Trade, not vice versa. Anyway, the main item of expense (the dock extensions) can't possibly be completed in a single year, and the new roads required to link the new docksides to the city would come out of the Trade budget". His assertions were backed up by the usual weighty research tomes.

Cllr Marcus Lambourne remain a controversial figure with Alderman Trueman remaining highly critical and suspicious of him. Commenting on last month's excitement Trueman stated, "I trust that Marcus knows what he is doing by refusing to accept the guards which have been assigned to him. The Chair of Law and Order, and by extension the city authorities, will be categorically unable to accept any responsibility for his safety after this action on his behalf. Anyway, what has he got to hide from Colonel Aldridge who is completely non-political? I do doubt whether this will impede the Colonel's investigations significantly."

Cllr Lambourne himself has concentrated on the "hasty and ill considered" transfer of lands to the Citadel. His constant and pointed questioning of Lady Andrews on such matters as "who will take charge in a grain crisis" and "what guarantees the city now has over its food supply" have exposed a number of open issues. Lady Andrews herself is clearly getting very irritated and a sources close to her are have suggested that she is considering 'permanent resolution' to the Lambourne matter.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 152

The continuing war with Salvoy continues to affect Linrodeth with the closure of the Cascorach road bringing a halt to much overland trade. The movements of the armies has destabilised the region so much that few caravans are making it through without losses to bandits or mercenaries. In another development the area to the south of Linrodeth, previously held by Lady Perignon has declared itself an independent Duchy, and is rumoured to be asking Linrodeth for support. Compared to last year's debacle, this year's budget debate was sensible, well-argued and ultimately successful. The Chronicle suspects that having more money that they know what to do with has shocked our leaders into a new mood of rationality. The first debate was over the Monterey proposal to move £1000 from Shipping to Trade. Alderman Monterey explained that "the primary purpose of this amendment is to balance up the financial commitments between Trade and Shipping" he went on to suggest that perhaps a special subcommittee be established to oversee the building of the new docks. The heat was taken out of the debate when Chairman for Shipping, Thomas Osbert, stood up to back the proposal. The amendment passed unopposed despite mumbling from the Bottler benches about "wasting time on the minutiae of Witanmoot structures and regulations instead of getting things done for the City." The second debate over the proposal to lower the Lands budget to £1750 was won by 161 votes to 115. A much closer vote than the lacklustre debate would have suggested. The overall budget split was then passed unanimously. Lady Andrews thanked the Witanmoot for its prompt and diligent decision-making which enhanced the smooth running of the city.

This years Sheriff election looks already to be decided following a set of nominations which declare the voting intentions of most of the factions. Jenny Davy was proposed by Lambourne, Monterey, Cutario, Trueman. Nicholas Bowden was proposed by Trueman, Cutario, Bottler and Alan Monterey was proposed by Lambourne, Monterey. With neither Davy or Bowden looking willing to challenge Lady Andrews at Springtide it looks as though the City is in for a period of stability not seen since the era of Lady Cox. In the other Midsummer election Alan Monterey has proposed Maud Blessop as envoy for Kerun, enabling her to gain the post unopposed. Alderman Monterey has also placed a shot across the bows of Shipping during the normally turgid debate on the acceptance of Committee accounts. He demanded to know exactly what the items under Shipwreck and Storm Rescue is, and exactly where it leaves the volunteers of Bridge ward. He also declared his intention to move an amendment that funding for the Bell tower be restored to the levels it enjoyed in the year 150. Warming up to his popular voice of the outraged citizen style he declared, "I am in no way prepared to tolerate the gratis transfer of a civic building and responsibility to military use without a full and proper debate in the Witanmoot, rather than in the underhand manner that this committee is attempting. Understand that I have no objection to our forces having use of the Bell tower, but the manner in which it is being managed is unacceptable." As an utterly bemused Cutario pointed out, "The Belltower at the estuary is of course well beyond the bowshots of even Lady Andrews. Its ownership was transferred as part of the reforms passed by the Witanmoot at Springtide, which superseded this committee's previous arrangements; it's all perfectly straightforward."

The reason for last month's fervent surveying by the Brynettes is becoming clear. Rumours around the Witanmoot suggest that Alderman Saunders has secured backing for a complete redevelopment of the Outer Bridge area. It would appear that he has persuaded people that the area on the far side of the river is suitable for both the new docks and the Sweet water project. If he pulls this off the Chronicle for one will be impressed. With such large sums of money to be spent any Aldermen who has the skill to get all of it for his own ward will be well on his way to becoming Lord of the City. The greatest asset he has is that it actually looks like a good idea. However the one weakness in his plan appears to be that he has yet to obtain the backing of the powerful Bottler group which is known to have significant influence over the establishment of all large construction projects.

Marcus Lambourne has asked Lady Andrews to distance herself from the remarks in the last issue of the Chronicle, supposedly by sources close to her, about 'considering a permanent resolution' to the Lambourne problem. He made it clear that in no way was he accusing Lady Andrews of seeking to eradicate him "quite the contrary I should be very much surprised to find that she intended what was being inferred. It would seem that

some of her staff are being a little 'overzealous' in her defence." He went on to ask Lady Andrews to "to take this opportunity to reaffirm her commitment to the democratic process". He continued with a long speech which the Chronicle feels is worthy of reproducing in its entirety "From time to time contributors from the floor of this august house will have a hitherto unconsidered insight into one of the many issues that face us. It is that individual's duty, however painful, to bring those considerations to light, to ask the questions that need to be asked, many of which can be dealt with by simple answers. I know that I am seen by many as a focus of opposition within the Witamoot. That is not a mantle that I feel comfortable wearing. Let me state here and now that, when I agree with Lady Andrews, as I do on a great many issues, then I shall back her to the hilt. When I believe that some important factor has not been brought to her attention, then, out of loyalty to the City, I shall raise it in the Witamoot. That does not make me disloyal, quite the contrary. I deeply regret that some individuals have sought to make capital from my contributions and accused me of disloyalty. I have sworn the Oath of Fealty and, as anyone who knows me will attest, I do not undertake Oaths lightly. I find it very sad that Alderman Trueman feels the need to resort to insinuation and slurs against me to further his political ends. I don't believe for one minute that there is any real threat to my safety. It was simply a ruse to plant spies in my household, and generate unwarranted suspicion about my motives. The Law and Order Committee, then under the control of Alderman Barnett, involved the Witamoot Guard, a body of men and women for whom I have the profoundest respect, in political skulduggery, tainting the good name that they have earned in their many years service to the City. They deserve better than that. If I truly believed that there was a threat to my life, I would have no hesitation accepting their protection. Alderman Trueman seems so fearful of my safety that I would suggest that he is the one suffering from paranoia! In what is probably a vain attempt to put his fevered mind at rest, I want to say categorically, and on my word of honour, that any attempt to find evidence that I am guilty of treachery or disloyalty to the City of Tinrodeth is doomed to failure, for the simple fact that it does not exist. If anyone wants evidence that I am a traitor then they are going to have to fabricate it."

After this speech all eyes turned to Lady Andrews for a response. With characteristic style she leaned forward and commented quietly, but with some menace in her voice "This city's democracy has always been rigorous in defending itself from those who fail to work for the best interests of that democracy. Provided he continues to serve the city by providing a healthy opposition, then Cllr Lambourne can be assured that he will remain healthy himself."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 152

The King of the Noordic Islands is dead. King Ketill vagn Korsbaek of Garth died two months ago, apparently of natural causes in his extreme old age. The news has taken some time to reach Linrodeth, and reports are still unclear as to his probable successor. Given that both his adult children Crown Prince Konrad and Princess Kattena were killed some years ago in Athion, it seems that the Noord will have to arrange a huge tribal gathering to elect a new ruling dynasty. This process could take many months and result in much bloodshed if the result is disputed. The Citadel has confirmed that Linrodeth will not be sending representatives to the funeral. King Kieran's reaction is unknown, but he may be too busy for such niceties. The southern advance of the Athionic armies has become bogged down as it approached Salvoyn. The lines have so far been unable to close within 40 miles of Salvoyn due to difficult ground, poor supply and active sabotage by the local population. Rumours of curses and extreme bad luck dogging the expedition are likely exaggerated.

The approval of the committee budgets proved to be as boring as the debate on the main budget split. The only excitement came when Alderman Jim Bottler pointed out that the Temple of Daleth was getting £300 less than the other temples and moved an amendment to correct the discrepancy. However Gemma Downe refused to rise to his pointed questions and quietly seconded his motion, mumbling something about "not having been fully briefed on all the back room deals". This amendment was then passed without debate and the full budget was approved unanimously, much to everyone's surprise.

Her Highness the Princess Selina is reported to be in a towering bad temper following the theft of many state jewels last week. The strongroom of the Treasury was broken into overnight and the thieves made off with a selection of the best gems, discarding many smaller pieces. By sheer luck, the Crown was absent from the collection, having been sent to the Goldsmiths Hall for repair after young Prince Sikander got hold of it. Servants are refusing to discuss the details of the daring raid, but there are rumours that it was "an inside job". The Household Guard has asked all citizens to be on the lookout for quality jewellery being resold, although the Chroniclers reckon that the loot is long out of the city by now, probably in pieces.

Cllr Phillip Candever of Avigon has launched an uncompromising attack on the proposals to provide sweetwater to Outer Bridge ward. Describing it as "one of the worst examples of pork barrel politics the city has ever seen", he went on to accuse Cllr Saunders of "betraying the work done by Richard Firethorn and the great vision which had been the Sweetwater Project". Pointing out that the small source of water which has been found is only capable of supporting North shore, he went on to demand "on what basis are vast funds being spent to provide fresh water to marginal land across the river, whilst many thousands of people in the city proper suffer from foul and polluted wells?"

There have been calls to expel all beggars from the city boundaries following the vicious mugging of Senaro Falconi, a popular silk merchant of Cadene. Citizen Falconi was attacked whilst returning home from work and relieved of several pounds. However the beggars were not content with this windfall and continued to beat their victim senseless, leaving him bleeding in the gutter. Questions have already been asked in the Witanmoot about the City Guard's failure to deal with the matter. There are also rumours that the Citadel has shown an interest and may take the matter into military hands.

Sheriff Bowden is preparing a Midsummer muster and has been much in evidence. Clearly working on the assumption he will be re-elected, Sheriff Bowden has been drilling wards of the city on how they should respond to a sudden attack from the south. All the preparations are expected to cumulate in a grand muster on Midsummer when the entire City and the forces of the Citadel will mobilise and deploy on the Journeyfields. The Witanmoot is pleased to confirm that a Midsummer Fair will also be held, as was usual in more peaceful times.

Clearly concerned by the quiet and stable nature of recent debates in the Witanmoot, Alderman Trueman has made a strong attack on Cllr Marcus Lambourne. Although the speech had been widely expected to start rebuilding bridges between the two Faringdon representatives, it seems that either Alderman Trueman

got carried away or that he is at last mastering the skill of the truly vicious speech. Certainly describing Cllr Lambourne's more recent speeches as "showing promising signs of a return to sanity" does not seem to the Chronicle particularly conciliatory. Nor does his expression of hope that Cllr Lambourne will "not talk himself into an early grave" seem particularly friendly.

The Admiralty is hosting a number of "open days" this summer, inviting numerous merchant families in the city to dine with officers, inspect the classrooms and perhaps join some Midshipmen on a tour of the estuary. A spokesman confirmed that this initiative was an attempt to make citizens consider a Navy education for their children, rather than the more usual apprenticeships. The Chronicle's note that all invitations so far have been addressed to respectable merchants, and none have found their way down to the docks. Undoubtedly this reversal of secrecy is designed to attract officer material, and that the ranks of able seamen will continue to be filled out in the usual way.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The Sheriffs elections proved to be as exciting as the committee elections. With Jenny Davy unassailably in the lead, the only question was whether Alan Monterey could mount an effective challenge to Nicholas Bowden. In the end the combined efforts of the once mighty Lambourne and Monterey factions could only muster the support of Aldermen Monterey, Hubold, Spich, Saunders, Shefford and Worton. Jenny Davy gained the full 24 votes and Nicholas Bowden 18. The incumbent Sheriffs were therefore re-elected. A clearly delighted Jim Bottler praised "the decision to assure continued stability".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 152

The search for the stolen crown jewels has hotted up this month with several dawn raids made by the city guards. A number of "likely suspects" have been rounded up from the less salubrious corners of the city, and premises searched with startling thoroughness. Although this has resulted in a quite amazing range of unlikely goods being confiscated, and a number of arrests, no trace of the state gems can be found. Wild speculation that this is a Goldsmiths conspiracy against the Kerunian bankers at the Citadel have been vigorously denied, and indeed a number of goldsmith families have been keen to present Her Highness with a range of replacement jewellery. The Chroniclers note that Lady Andrews is keeping the Witanmoot regalia under particular close guard.

The aggressive methods of the city guard were raised in Witanmoot later in the month by Cllr Marcus Lambourne. After raising a number of technical points about the due process of Law and Order, the councillor was clearly disappointed by the "I'll get back to you on that one" replies from Alderman Mary Hastings. Lambourne's comment that, "Well, I'm sure it's just an oversight further down the chain of command and, now you know about it, you can take steps..." clearly signals his intention to pursue the Law & Order committee further on this matter.

Fallout from the farce that was the Midsummer Muster continues to dog Sheriff Bowden. What should have been a wonderful display of the city's might turned into a rout as orders were misinterpreted and entire sections of the 'army' marched off in apparently random directions. Eventually things were brought under control by the intervention of the city guard. But it would appear that somehow in the last few months the city has forgotten how to fight, or indeed march. Princess Selina is rumoured to be less than impressed and suggestions are circulating about possible conscription and compulsory training. On the other hand, attendance continues to grow at the Fairground and there are hopes that it may yet return to its pre-war size and prosperity.

North Shore continues to attract unprecedented attention from city officials this month with continued surveys, land purchases and new pilings being driven in along the banks. Two of the smaller shipbuilders below the bridge have decided to merge their yards in the hope of attracting one of the lucrative Consortium contracts for the new ships. The combined business of Thomsons Yards and Yate's Wherry Wharf may well succeed, but clearly against the bitter opposition of Old Man Yates who has now retired permanently to the Ragged Bear Inn. Officials remain curiously silent about the ongoing sweetwater project, but "a statement" has been promised soon.

Alderman Petro Cutario has pulled off a major coup with both Sheriff Jenny Davy and Alderman Richard Saunders joining his faction this month. Sheriff Davy expressed strong support for Cutario's focus on creating wealth and security for the city and Alderman Saunders backed this up by waxing lyrical about the skill with which Cutario was orchestrating the North Shore developments. Cynics have pointed out that both Davy and Saunders need to get close to Cutario to protect their interests in Bridge Ward. Some factions in the Witanmoot have also commented on the elitist nature of the Cutario faction with its concentration on the Aldermanic Court. However this does not detract from the fact that Cutario has just displaced Bottler as the second most powerful force in the Witanmoot.

Alderman Alan Monterey has stoutly supported Bridge Ward's bid for the Sweetwater project. In reply to last month's attack by Cllr Phillip Candever, Monterey commented; "Alderman Saunders, as everyone who has any practical experience of this project agrees, is doing an excellent job of dealing with the situation as it is. Grand ideas are all very well, but we live in a world that does not see fit to conform to those ideas. Furthermore, if Cllr Candever's wells are foul and polluted, perhaps he should have lined his cesspit properly." Cllr Candever has responded with a carefully crafted analysis of the benefits to the citizens and the expenditure required. He asked pointedly why the city was spending more on water for Bridge than Bridge itself gave the city in taxes this year?



## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 152

King Kieran has called an early halt to the summer campaign against Salvoyn, and may disperse the host within the month. The provisions to the armies have been rotted by a mysterious blight and starvation of the besieging soldiers is a real possibility. The dismissal of the host would permit the remaining forces to feed properly, once the blight is brought under control. A number of Earthwalkers from the Temple of Daleth are investigating the problem. The King is also mourning the loss of Duke Ralph Fitz-William and his liege men who were lost when a line of earthworks gave way because of waterlogged foundations. The King's forces did, however, manage to destroy a sizeable force of Salvoynian irregulars who launched an assault upriver in the direction of Cascorach. The Chronicle is assured that the roads to Cascorach remain well-protected and safe for merchants.

After years of neglect during the civil war, the city docks are finally receiving some much-needed rebuilding. Large sections of the waterfront are being re-fronted with massive pieces of hardwood, and two new piers are being built extending deep into the river. A sign reading "Your Shipping budget at Work" has recently been hung from the scaffolding... Across the river a mini causeway is being built to extend the northshore back road, complete with good drainage and gravel topping. Funded by the Trade budget, the road work seems to be Monterey's answer to the rival Cutario faction, although he has tastefully refrained from erecting any notices.

Alderman Jim Bottler has started work on a massive mansion for his family next to the Wellhouse Green. Estimates of just the cost of the land alone run to hundreds of pounds and rumours circulating in the Carpenters Guild suggest huge contracts are being let to build an elaborate new palace. The fact that Jim Bottler has become rich from his many major contracts has been well known, but the scale of his wealth is now becoming clear. Many pro-Selina councillors seem rather proud of how well Jim has done and are pointing to him as an example of the benefits of the new regime.

There have been further late-night muggings of wealthy citizens, leading to calls for the beggars to be cleared from the streets. However Sheriff Bowden has refused to authorise a clearing of the streets. He pointed out that evidence linking the incidents to the beggars was somewhat lacking. To everyone's surprise the usually intolerant Lady Andrews backed him up, commenting that "the city is not in the habit of killing people simply because they are poor." Cllr Bever Edge applauded and endorsed the decision, while commenting "that in fact Tinrodeth has on a number of occasions killed people for being poor and I am delighted to see a more enlightened policy enacted".

The Citadel has been thrown into disarray by the arrival of Lord Portinari, the prominent banker of Kerun. Apparently he is visiting Tinrodeth to see his daughter and grandchildren. The Lady Killasandra Portinari recently arrived in Tinrodeth and is the wife of the renown Sir Eridan, King Kieran's Ambassador to Princess Selina's Court. A number of official receptions, feasts and entertainments are being hurriedly planned. Lady Andrews will be hosting a Harvestide Ball in his honour at the Witanmoot.

Reports from the Noord border confirm that all is unusually quiet, presumably as their clan leaders return home to elect a new King. General Olvini has ridden out to the borders with a light cavalry troop to inspect the situation, but dismissed suggestions that an immediate assault will be made, "I never exploit a situation until I know what it is."

The Harvestide festival is being happily celebrated by citizens throughout Tinrodeth after a most prosperous year. A successful harvest was confirmed by the Wellkeeper Shinannon, whereupon a number of wards rolled out free beer barrels donated by local guild halls, and began a series of street parties. The Bards College is contributing strolling entertainers, who are in most danger of being kidnapped by over-enthusiastic audiences. So far the celebrations have been noisy but restrained. This may not continue much after dark when the serious partying will begin, especially up at the Witanmoot Ball.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 152

Citadel watchers wasted a significant amount of time this month discussing the mysterious disappearance of Alderman Maureen Quiller. Several wild rumours circulated about her having fled the city to Salvoyne. However it would appear upon investigation that the respected mercer has simply decided to go off and do her job, having left on the consortium ship Pugnacious heading south to the City States "on business".

Apart from the diversion over Maureen Quiller, the Witanmoot has fallen into relative silence. The only entertainment has been watching the normally composed Chair for Law and Order, Mary Hastings, fight off an audit and several investigations of her committee. The City Guard have been somewhat over-zealous recently in their pursuit of possible traitors and Alderman Hastings is busily engaged in an allegedly successful cover up. In the end the Chairman was forced to come before the Witanmoot and make a statement pointing out that the City Guard are a military force under the control of the Citadel and suggesting that if anybody had any complaints they should take them up with General Olvini. A suggestion which so far no-one has been brave enough to take up.

Rumours circulating wildly around the city would suggest that one of the reasons for the visit of Lord Portinari is that the recently stolen Crown Jewels were the security on the massive loan Princess Selina took out to fund her invasion of Inrodeth. Relationships between the two seemed more than cordial at the Harvestide Ball, however that may just be because Princess Selina has agreed to raise taxes to pay off the debt.

One of the reasons for the Witanmoot's apparent silence this month has been that the various political factions appear to be spending all their time spying on each other and scurrying around trying to find out why the Midsummer Muster was such a failure. Independent investigations by the Chronicle would suggest that some mischief certainly took place; although these seem to have been good humoured pranks rather than a fiendish plot.

The Torians have issued a warning about a strange melancholy and wasting disease which is affecting the old and the weak. The illness does not respond to any treatment and victims are tending to die within a month of the symptoms first showing. The only help identified so far is devout prayer, which is reported to have lead to the recovery of several victims. The initial symptoms are a disinterest in food and work which develops over time into a disinterest in continuing to live. Several victims have died because they simply could not be bothered to take care of themselves.

Following the initial excitement (or outrage), interest in the Bottler mansion appears to have died down. Although one wag couldn't resist the temptation to move the "Your Shipping Budget At Work" sign from its dockside location to just outside the building site. Fulfilling the prophecy that many a true word is said in jest; Alderman Bottler has confirmed the award to him of the contract for the rebuilding of the docks. Things however are not moving so smoothly on the Sweetwater project. An attempt by the Witanmoot to introduce new contract terms has resulted in protracted negotiations between the city and the Carpenters Guild. Apparently the Witanmoot is demanding that the Carpenters stick to their estimates, a concept which everyone will know is clearly beyond the comprehension of the guildsmen.

Alderman Alice Barbiter's has been saved from bankruptcy by a guild loan. Heated discussions at the Fletcher's Guild resulted in the loan after it became clear that her business had seriously over committed on a Citadel contract and was likely to default. It would appear that running a business and being active in politics is beyond the popular, amiable but not particularly clever Alderman.

The various shipyards involved in Consortium contracts have successfully launched the second group of new design ships. The Rehoustable, Renown, Revenge, Rapide, Resolute and Repulse have taken up station near Kingsport to be rigged. All are listed as 700 tuns, although they appear to nearer 1000 tuns in length.

# A history of the Kingdom of Athion (Part Two)

As his parents had laid the foundations of a kingdom Guthrum built the identity of the nation, combining as he did the fierce honour of the northern tribes with the sophistication of the Southern families. Eliser, his daughter, carried on the process he had started and although her reign was short, and despite her error in naming Edwin as her heir she is also well remembered. Edwin was crowned in the fifty-fifth year of the kingdom at the age of thirty, and it is with him that the nations problems start. Edwin was an easily dominated and fickle man and It was no surprise when he died that a dispute arose between his heirs Edith and Tristran as to which had been named as his successor. The battles of the succession quickly brought the Kingdom to civil war and within a few years the strong kingdom which had been built up by the Caralingas, had disintegrated into a collection of small baronial holdings.

A generation later, news from the dales of the northeast spoke of Prince Edmund, Judith's youngest son. Like so many of his siblings and cousins, he claimed the crown, and had put together a small army to back him. His early battles ended in defeat, and he was soon reduced to living in the saddle, raiding where he could. The young prince survived, learnt, and began to be successful. The Battle of Dorts Vale established his first domain, at which time he married Emma, an old childhood friend who claimed direct descent from the Taratorhts. Over the following years he relentlessly expanded until Tarkh, and the coastlands of Tinrodeth and Sarth were reconquered. Tinrodeth, a border city of both Tarn and Sarth, which had been Calric's base throughout the long campaign was chosen as the capital of the new nation, and the existing castle was expanded and rebuilt over the next five years to become the citadel which dominates the city today. Opposition remained in the east and southeast, in the form of a brother and a cousin. But here Edmund's long campaign ground to a halt, defeated at last by the punishing terrain and by the stubborn refusal of the

Arden to recognise his kingship. The breakthrough came in the unlikely form of the Sweating Plague, which broke out again in the Arden during the long summers of 113-115. Along with large numbers of the population, it also killed the last remaining members of Edmund's family. In all honour, the Arden Lords could not now refute Edmund's claim to overlordship, and in 116 they renewed their oath of fealty to the Carlingas dynasty. However the kingdom had suffered many years of neglect, war and plague, and the task of rebuilding it is still continuing.

Over the next five years Edmund subdued the rebel barons and placed them under the rulership of Dukes loyal to him. At the Battle of Northmoor in 117 he finally defeat the last challenge to his rulership, and returned to his capital Tinrodeth, to begin the task of rebuilding the three kingdoms of Athion.

## The Chronicle of the month of Kryll in the year 152

The Torian priests continue to be concerned about the strange melancholy and wasting disease which is affecting the old and the weak. Although the disease is not widespread and is claiming few victims, there has been little sign of it declining and the Torian Temple is baffled by it. Alderman Richard Saunders has been much in evidence seeking to reassure the populous. Alderman Monterey, noting Alderman Cutario's continuing obsession with Shipping, has criticised him for failing to back up Alderman Saunders "at a moment critical to the health of the city purely because he's too busy playing with ships." An unrepentant Alderman Cutario replied that "a strong Navy is very relevant to the health of the city in these unsettled times."

Alderman Alan Monterey has also not let up in his relentless pursuit of Mary Hastings and the Law and Order committee. Pointing out that it is "the duty of the Law and Order committee to defend the rights of our citizens as well as to hold them to account for their responsibilities." He pointed out that it should be "her duty as Chair to bring to the attention of the Witanmoot such behaviour as has been going on, not to cover it up. It is her duty to challenge the Guard and the Citadel if need be when such excesses occur. It is her duty to release those held without charge, rather than keeping them in our prisons, at our expense." He claimed that she has signally failed in all these duties, demonstrating that she is unfit for the post of Chair of Law and Order, and he demand that she resigns immediately. This request was met with what can only be described as disdain by Alderman Hastings who refused to rise to the debate and simply reiterated her previous statement on the matter.

The return of Alderman Maureen Quiller aboard the consortium ship Pugnacious turned out to be a rather dramatic event. The Pug struggled into Linrodeth's port during a severe storm several days later than most sensible captains (and for that matter some fairly brave captains) had docked for the Winter. The ship was sailed superbly and, much to everyone's surprise, manage to make it into port and indeed to the dock. However the ship subsequently sank due to the damage caused by the storm. The reason for this desperate last minute dash to Linrodeth by the ship's military crew turns out to be the delivery of a most vital staircase for the new Bottler mansion - once again your shipping budget at work.

Sea trials of the new 700 tun Resolute class ships have proven the ships to be better than anyone's expectations. Indeed Aldermen Bottler and Cutario have been wandering around in a smug haze ever since the first sea trial. The height of the ships more closely resembles the 1000 tuns cogs of the old Royal Navy, but are proving to handle better under full sail. The ships have now been laid up for the Winter and will formally join the fleet in the spring. The Consortium offices on the docks are now inviting tenders for the cargo of the four ships which will be sailing commercially next season. The four remaining on military patrol will manifestly be a major boost to the city's defences.

The battle lines for the Midwinter Elections have now been clearly drawn. Aldermen Marcus Lambourne and Alan Monterey have clearly formed a campaigning alliance against the might of a Trueman Faction which has no intention of relinquishing power which it believes it is using well. Indeed with strong personal attacks launched this month by Alderman Trueman upon both Jim Bottler and Petro Cutario, whose factions continue to co-operate with each other, it would seem that three equally sized and distinct groups are emerging as the choice at the elections. The Trueman "stability" faction, the Bottler/Cutario "remember there's a war on" factions and the oppositions' "change everything" Lambourne/Monterey grouping. The key election seats this year therefore look likely to be Arpent, Avigon, Cartage, Dowgate, Kingsgate, and Shambles.

The Theatre Royale has announced a new extravaganza to open at the turn of the year called "A Midwinter Knight's Story". It will of course star the delightful Miss Felicity Mint in the lead role as the Lady Arasandra, Queen of the Fairies. The show is expected to be a sell-out sure-fire success given the well-known scantily clad nature of the faerie queens.

Alderman Marcus Lambourne has launched his Midwinter Election campaign with a major speech on the nature of the Witanmoot and a call for its reform which was resolutely blocked by Lady Andrews. Whilst being careful not to criticise the Aldermanic court directly, he bemoaned the lack of involvement in the governance of the City by the Court of Common Council. Describing the Council as being full of people who "have also given long years of service to the Witanmoot" and who have "played a vital role in building the prosperity of the City of Tinrodeth" he questioned why "when it comes to the elections for the Committee Chairs, the Envoys, the Sheriffs and the Lord Chief Magistrate, these men and women are without a voice, unable to bring their wisdom and experience to bear on these vital decisions." He went on to declare that "The time is ripe to make a sea change in the way we handle these elections, to make the process more democratic." In a clearly pointed remark at the current Lord he commented that "Now, I know that democracy is regarded by one or two individuals as a dirty word, but I feel sure that the majority of the Aldermanic Court are staunch defenders of this vital principle. He then formally proposed the following motion:

"In the interest of making its internal processes more democratic, the Witanmoot instructs that, whilst the rules governing candidates eligibility for the offices of Committee Chairs, Envoys, Sheriffs and Lord Chief Magistrate shall remain unchanged, as from the coming Midwinter elections:

- 1) The electoral college in the elections for Committee Chairs and Envoys shall be extended to include both Aldermen and Councillors, with the Lord Chief Magistrate retaining a casting vote.
- 2) The electoral college in the elections for Sheriffs shall be extended to include both Aldermen and Councillors, with the Lord Chief Magistrate retaining a casting vote.
- 3) The electoral college in the elections for the Lord Chief Magistrate shall be extended to include both Aldermen and Councillors.

The motion was seconded by Alan Monterey who described it as "in line with our desires to properly represent the citizens of Tinrodeth that all the Witanmoot should be party to such decisions, not just a few." He commended the proposals as leading to a greater accountability of our leaders to the people of this city. The motion was however refused by a clearly well briefed Lady Andrews who commented, "Whilst I am always interested in schemes to improve the functioning of the Witanmoot, especially when they are sponsored by two very experienced politicians, I am extremely surprised and disappointed by the lack of research evidenced by it. I would have thought that these two worthies would have made enquiries with the Hahnite temple before introducing this to the Witanmoot. The current system for electing the Lord and Sheriffs was authorised by our late King and confirmed by Princess Selina. This house does not have the authority to change that system, and I for one have no intention of explaining to Princess Selina why we have attempted to usurp her authority." She then promptly moved next business.

## Late News!

Initial thoughts that this year's Ghostmoons festival would pass uneventfully have been dashed by the discovery of an entire room full of Reshites mysteriously killed during a sacrificial ritual. According to reports leaking from the Torian Temple, there were no signs of any injuries whatsoever and all of the participants seem to have dropped dead where they were standing. Except that is for the victim who died from a knife wound to the heart. The house in Marshgate has been sealed off and the identities of those involved are being kept secret, although rumours suggest that most of them were Kerunians. One local resident described being woken at midnight by several blood curdling screams and a bright flash of light. Speculation is rife that a daemon has been summoned to the city.

## Late Late News! Late Late News! Late Late News!

The coastal warning beacons have been lit! It is unclear whether they warn of an invasion by land or by sea, but General Olvini has mobilised his troops despite the snow, and the Admiralty are busy relaunching as many ships as possible. Citizens are warned to stand ready.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternoost in the year 152

Tinrodeth is celebrating a stunning victory of the navy over the Noordic invasion fleet! When news first reached the city that over a hundred Noordic warships were heading down the coast, a massive mobilization was ordered to fight off the invasion and to re-float the ships which had been laid up for the winter. The news was brought to the Admiralty by Lieutenant Giotto Mortovelli following a desperate dash across land and sea. The naval patrol ship Vexatious had encountered the fleet whilst moored at the far village of Drigg. Lieutenant Mortovelli is believed to be the sole survivor and he described the determination the crew felt when they spotted the fleet, and the rapidly taken decision to get one man through no matter what it took. Lieutenant Mortovelli told of the brave efforts of his colleagues who sacrificed themselves in order to enable him to get free with the news.

With possibly only hours before the enemy arrived, massive efforts ensued to clear the ships from the mud and squadrons were dispatched north as ships became available. However with such a huge fleet to face it seemed unlikely that Tinrodeth fledgeling and unproven Consortium navy would be able to do anything other than delay and harry the raiders. A full military mobilization was ordered and preparations were made throughout the city to repel an invasion. Activity was particularly strenuous to protect the unwall'd Northern wards and the exposed shipyards along the Ishtan river.

Stunningly, the enemy fleet was defeated at sea, miles north of Tinrodeth. Commodore Emmanuel Cortez led the hastily assembled fleet against the invaders in a devastating direct attack from which only a handful of the enemy escaped. Commodore Cortez's leadership is said to have been astonishing and verging upon genius. The Commodore himself has continually praised the skill and bravery of the naval crews which fought so fiercely against such massive odds in a battle which many expect to lose. The other decisive factor was the new design of the Consortium ships. In a vindication of the huge sums of money spent of these innovative designs, Commander Cortez explained that it was the speed and size of the new Resolute class ships which made the difference to the battle. A full battle report is given later in this Chronicle.

The scale of the victory is still difficult to accept and it seems unlikely that the Noord will be able to threaten Tinrodeth for a generation. Hawks in the Citadel and the Witanmoot are already talking about a counter-strike to be launched in the Spring to recover the northern city of Nyskilde. General Olvini is understood to be counselling caution instead as this only eliminates "one of the many threats to our safety". Princess Selina has declared a special feast day to be held in honour of the Navy and in celebration of our victory one month from the day on Firstday Thirdweek Krythos.

The preparations for the Noordic attack have dominated events in Tinrodeth this month during what would normally be a key campaigning time for the Midwinter elections. Election campaigning has been subdued but fierce and clear alliances are emerging, reinforcing the three way split first reported in last month's Chronicle. In the Witanmoot Marcus Lambourne reintroduced his 'democracy' motion pointing out a mechanism by which it could still be made legal. However, after Lady Andrews scathingly described the likely reaction of the citizens to the Witanmoot "contemplating its own navel instead of matters naval", he respectfully deferred the motion to next month.

The Torians are rejoicing after a Miracle of Torus. Following a special prayer vigil on Ghostmoons the strange wasting disease has disappeared. There have been no new cases reported this month and all the existing sufferers are making a rapid recovery. The Temple is also preparing a special Service of Thanksgiving for next month's feastday, in gratitude for the deliverance of the city.

A heavy blizzard during thirdweek has brought business in Tinrodeth to a standstill, although it has failed to dampen celebrations in the taverns. No messages announcing the victory have been able to leave the city, and the river ice has thickened rapidly. Officials at the Admiralty are now concerned about laying up the older fleet ships again to avoid storm damage.

The following report has been published by the Admiralty Board:

"Following reports of a Noordic Fleet of some 100 ships heading for Tinrodeth, a full mobilisation of the Navy was ordered with ships taking to the seas as they became ready. An initial squadron of ships under my command sailed out to meet the Nordic fleet. The squadron was primarily made up of Invincible class warships together with the Revenge which had been in dry dock as the flag ship. The squadron sailed up the coast into the teeth of the wind, which was blowing from its customary Northerly direction. About one third of way to Drigg a group of five raiders were encountered just pulling out from a raided village. The larger size of the Invincibles, and especially the Revenge, soon overran the enemy sinking one long ship and capturing four others. Loot in the captured vessels was returned to the fishermen who had wisely taken to the hills to avoid the raiders. The vessels were dispatched back to Tinrodeth under prize crews.

Having dealt with the raiders the squadron proceeded up the coast until they met, in strong winds, the vanguard of the Noord fleet which outnumbered the Tinrodeth ships three to one. Lulled by their superior numbers the Noord allowed us to get to windward, whereupon we swooped down and eliminated the Noord squadrons individually. Despite oars, the enemy were unable to regroup to meet him together. Again our navy triumphed, capturing approximately half the longships and sinking the rest.

Despite their two successes the squadron sailed up the coast with trepidation, passing many burnt fishing villages. All the crews knew that ahead lay their toughest test; the main Noord fleet. The next day dawned clear and very cold with a moderate breeze and good visibility. About midmorning the enemy fleet was sighted. Lookouts initially reported 36 vessels, which rapidly rose to 60 and finally to over 70 long ships. Realizing that we could not hope to defeat such a force, I opted to retreat before the enemy while keeping them in sight. Due to the wind direction the two fleets swept rapidly down the coast until, about half a day's sailing from Tinrodeth, my squadron were met by a second squadron comprising largely of Resolute class warships under the command of Commodore Phillipe Vincento.

I took overall command of the fleet and began to manoeuvre, hoping to split the enemy fleet. However, rather than stop to engage the fleet, the enemy split off a force of four squadrons to keep us occupied while the bulk of approximately 50 vessels pushed ahead for Tinrodeth. Declining to engage the delaying force, I decided to attack the main body of the enemy with the heavy Resolute class vessels, while detailing Commodore Vincento to hold up the covering squadrons with Invincibles.

With the Revenge in the middle of the line, I ran the squadron into the rear of the main Noord force. Initially, the heavy vessels smashed through the light hulls of the longships but soon lost their momentum and Noord swarmed about us. The battle settled into a fierce hand-to-hand fight with the Tinrodeth forces holding their own until a determined attack by the Noordic commander and his personal Huscarls overwhelmed both the Rapide and Resolute. Despite this we fought on and I commend the bravery of the crews. We made a great number of boarding actions against the enemy, during which dozens of the enemy vessels were sunk. Finally, however, the exhausted crew of the Revenge were overrun by Prince Guthrum's personal bodyguard and I was taken aboard the enemy flagship Isarwhar.

Observing my capture, the rest of the fleet rallied and smashed back into the Noord turning the tables once again. The Intrepid stalled the escape of the Isarwhar at the cost of being overrun herself. The Noord flagship was sunk however I was dragged from the icy sea and was able to resume command shortly thereafter. The Intrepid and the Revenge were recaptured while the Noord managed to sink the captured Rapide and escaped with the only the Resolute and a handful of longships.

This was a decisive naval victory. Over 90 enemy vessels were either sunk or captured for the loss of only two of our ships. Thousands of the enemy have lost their lives and the Noord threat to Tinrodeth has been eliminated for the foreseeable future."

- Commodore Emmanuel Cortez

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 152

The victory celebrations for Linrodeth's heroic navy proved to be a hugely successful event. With enthusiastic help from the citizens, the Journey Fields were cleared of snow and a procession arrived up the causeway from Kingsport. Before a delighted Princess Selina and her court, Admiral Cornaro formally presented Commodore Cortez and delivered a hundred Noordic chiefs as prisoners into the keeping of the Citadel Guards. Her Highness Princess Selina rewarded Commodore Cortez with a jewelled sword before formally knighting him and granting him the manor of Kelderon. The huge crowd cheered Lord Cortez and the assembled naval crews before enjoying a massive re-enactment of the battle staged by the Citadel cavalry using horses dressed as ships. Numerous barrels of free beer were broached to help the crowds stay warm. Afterwards Lord Cortez thanked Princess Selina for trusting him with such a great task and once again praised his brave crews and the councillors of the city who had given him the new ships without which he could never have succeeded.

Alderman Jim Bottler's campaign, which like Petro Cutario's has been riding high following the naval victory, has suffered a setback with the defection of Eddie Englefield, his fellow Welland carpenter, to Marcus Lambourne. Whilst Cllr Englefield has avoided comment sources have been quick to suggest that the massive Bottler mansion and a strong interest in continuing to work with "real people" are behind the move.

Cllr Marcus Lambourne's much delayed democracy motion was finally debated in the Witanmoot this month. He explained the means by which his objectives could be achieved. "Of course Lady Andrews is quite right when she states that the way in which the Sheriffs and Lord are elected is a matter for Her Royal Highness, Princess Selina. However it would appear that the first clause of my motion, namely that 'the electoral college in the elections for Committee Chairs and Envoys shall be extended to include both Aldermen and Councillors with the Lord Chief Magistrate retaining a casting vote', is actually within the power of the Lord of the City to accept." Unable to avoid his now ritual criticism of Lady Andrews he pointed out, "I'm sure that Her Ladyship simply overlooked this in her eagerness to save me the embarrassment of treading on Her Royal Highness's toes and we should therefore take a vote, the result of which the Lord Chief Magistrate may take under advisement if she so chooses. Quite rightly, there is no question of our discussing the substance of the rest of my original motion. So I respectfully request that the Witanmoot be permitted to vote on the issue of asking the Lord Chief Magistrate, on our behalf, to present the preamble and clauses 2 and 3 of my original motion to Her Royal Highness for her gracious consideration." After all this and a heated debate the motion was defeated by 102 votes to 173.

## Late Midwinter Election News

The following people were returned to the Aldermanic Court: Arpent Judi Spich, Avigon Petro Cutario, Bassishaw Marc Bergeren, Berewic Mary Hastings, Bridge Richard Saunders, Cadene Melanie Romanie, Cartage Brunstan Blackbeard, Castle Bard Gilbert de Clare, Cripplegate Irving Grendle, Dowgate Graeme Porter, Dracas Thomas Osbert, Faringdon William Trueman, Ishtan Eva Capel, Kingsgate Adam Povre, Levestone Alan Monterey, Marshgate Maureen Quiller, Oldgate Duncan Barnett, Portsoken Nicholas Worton, Shambles Ralf Seagrim, Temple Olivia Warin, Welland Jim Bottler.

The closest contest was in Shambles where a few votes separated Seagrim, Cripstead and Belcher. The vote was also close in Arpent (Hugo Merewell), Avigon (Samuel Rucche), Bassishaw (Gemma Downe), Castle Bard (Alison Shefford) and Ishtan (Bartholomew Hyde). Whilst the Alderman of Bridge, Cadene, Faringdon, Portsoken and Temple all had large majorities. The result gives the Monterey, Bottler, Trueman and Cutario groups about five Alderman each with Lambourne having two and there being two Independents. In the Commons all the main factions have about 50 votes, which should make the coming committee elections more interesting.



## Argent Late News

It is with shock and sadness that the Chronicle reports the assassination of Prince Edwin. The Prince was kidnapped by what are believed to have been Nordic infiltrators as he left the Theatre Royale after chatted backstage with the cast. His ritually murdered body was dumped outside the Hahnite Temple in the early hours of the morning. Martial Law has been imposed and everyone present at the Theatre has been arrested. The prince's four bodyguards were killed in the fight.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 153

The body of Prince Edwin has been interred in the family vault at the Citadel. His highness had laid in state in the Hahnite Temple for one week and queues remained though this time as nearly all the citizens of Tinrodeth sought to pay their last respects. The funeral took the full Hahnite form and lasted for most of the day. Princess Selina spoke at length about the prince, in a deeply moving and clearly personally written eulogy. Once the funeral was completion the carriage bearing his highness's coffin was drawn through each ward of the City before proceeding to the Citadel. Shortly after the funeral three brave Knights from the retinue of King Kieran's ambassador departed the City into the depths of winter in an attempt to get a message through to the High King about the death of his brother.

Investigations into the murder have continued amid strict security. Colonel Aldridge has taken charge of the investigations and his troops have been highly active both in the vigour of their investigation and in the vehemence with which they are dissuading the curious from seeking to find out about the events surrounding the death on the Prince. Noord within the City have come in for particular attention. All Noord have been arrested, although citizens who have already taken the oath of allegiance were later released. The remainder are being held in the re-opened Kingsgate prison pending questioning. A mass execution of the captured Noord Chiefs is also under consideration. The audience of the Theatre have now been released although the cast of the play remain under the protection of the Citadel. Colonel Aldridge has announced that the investigations have confirmed that one of the assailants was injured during the attack and both the Torians and Apothecaries have been questioned in the hope that a clue can be found. Several Citizens who have suffered injuries last week have complained about being dragged off to interrogation, some before their wounds were seen to.

Princess Selina has formally declared War upon the Noord. All wards have been asked to detail their plans for mobilisation in the Spring. The Witanmoot is also believed to be considering how a major military expansion can be funded although debates have already opened up between the Wall Builders, The Ship Builders and March on Nyskilde groups. The first council session of the year was a subdued and solemn meeting. The council still shocked by the murder of Prince Edwin had difficulty working through the formal process of welcoming new Councillors, congratulating new Aldermen and calling for nominations to the Committee Posts. Lady Andrews made a deeply moving speech of condolence and pledged the Witanmoot to assisting the Citadel in all ways possible to track down the culprits and avenge this "offence against the entire state of Tinrodeth". Speeches followed from many prominent citizens reinforcing the shock and outrage felt by the city. Alan Monterey as usually was particularly eloquent describing the "callous murder of our beloved Prince Edwin as a crime that cannot be allowed to go unpunished", and calling upon all citizens to help "find out who committed this heinous crime, so that they can receive the justice they so richly deserve".

At the request of Lady Andrews the Goldsmiths guild has undertaken an end of audit of the Witanmoot and Committee accounts. Much to everyone's surprise it would seem that they failed to find anything wrong other than a few misdemeanours.

This years Witanmoot nominations, perhaps in anticipation of an interesting year, show a renewed interest in the emissaries. Probably the most difficult post this year, Treasury is uncontested with the incumbent Melanie Romanie returned unopposed. More surprisingly Thomas Osbert who has received much criticism from the Lambourne faction for his control of the Shipping budget is also returned uncontested. Lands vacated by Cllr Capel also goes uncontested to Gilbert de Clare. For the other Chairmanships Marc Bergeren and Mary Hastings will contest Law & Order. Richard Sanders is challenged for welfare and Education by Judi Spich and William Trueman whilst Duncan Barnet and Olivia Warin will contest Trade. Fro the Envoyships Kerun goes to Alison Shefford and Orissa to Joanna Russell. Eresan will be contested by Gillian Howe and Sam Kutler, Cascorach by David Northropp and Hugo Merewell.

## Plays and Playhouses

One of the main forms of entertainment in Athion is go to see the latest play at one of the many playhouses. Even a small rural town will often play host to a touring troupe of actors staging a play in one of the taverns.

Within the city of Linrodeth there are many theatres. The most famous (and rivals) are the King's Theatre and the Theatre Royal. Both have been patronised by both nobility and royalty, whilst many notables of the city have been seen at the venues.

At the lower end of the spectrum, the Fleapit Theatre has a certain reputation to live up to (or down to depending on your point of view).

While the Bard's College is not a theatre, it does sponsor several plays during the year and the students are often seen as part of the cast and crew of many of the plays.

Travelling troupes are common as well, with many making tours around the country, often in spite of the dangers of bandits and worse. The profits to be made from staging of popular plays and from

dramatising recent events ensures that these troubadours will continue to make the rounds.

Playwrights who can turn even the most mundane of events into dramatic and stirring scenes are in high demand (although many a mediocre play has been rescued by the acting troupe). The plays of the most popular are performed at regular intervals.

A short list of popular plays includes:

The Castaways

The Demon of Berewic

Il Dottore

Innocence Lost

King Tir

The Merry Wives of Faringdon

A Midwinter Knight's Tale

Miros Pageant

The Opalite of Orissa

Persilus and the Golden Acorn

Please yourself

Roland and Julia

School for Sleaze

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 153

Lady Andrews has clearly demonstrated her authority over the Witanmoot with a clean sweep of successes in the Committee elections. All the candidates sponsored by Lady Andrews were without exception elected. There seems little chance now that she will not continue as Lord for another year. The victory for the Trueman faction was helped by the support of Maureen Quiller and Irvine Grendle. Rumours are circulating in the Witanmoot that Alderman Quiller has joined the Trueman faction in a role reporting directly to Lady Andrews. This surprise elevation of the previously outcast Reshite has certainly raised some eyebrows. Alderman Monterey was "shocked and appalled. Lady Andrews has chosen to appoint a Reshite as one of her closest advisers. This is no longer a matter of foolishness and stubborn pride, it is an active danger to the security of our city." The full results of the election are:

Treasury Melanie Romanie

Trade Olivia Warin (13) votes, Duncan Barnett (11) votes

Law & Order Mary Hastings (13) votes, Marc Bergeren (11) votes

Shipping Thomas Osbert

Welfare and Education Richard Saunders (18) votes, Judi Spich (4) votes

Lands and Agriculture Gilbert de Clare

Kerun Alison Shefford

Orissa Joanna Russell

Eresan Gillian Howe (16) votes, Sam Kutler (8) votes

Cascorach Hugo Merewell (13) votes, David Northropp (11) votes

Thus the only change from last year the Chairman for Lands and Agriculture which was required when Gemma Downe lost her position as Alderman of Bassishaw.

Princess Selina has formally convened a Council of War consisting of General Olvini, Admiral Coronado, Lady Andrews, and Sheriffs Davy and Bowden. The inclusion of Lady Andrews is being seen as a major policy shift by the Princess who has up until now not included the city in any of her councils. The fact that all three leaders of the city have been included is being seen as particularly significant. Citadel watchers have been also interested to note the amount of the Princess' personal time that Alderman Jim Bottler has been permitted to occupy. Indeed several courtiers have been seen seeking out Alderman Bottler to lobby the princess on their behalf.

Amid the caution being exhibited by his fellow councillors William Trueman's strong pro-war position has stood out this month. In a keynote speech to the Witanmoot, which he later repeated from the Mootstone, he called for Tinrodeth to significantly strengthen its Navy in order to "build a sword to strike at the heart of our enemies" Preparations for war are continuing across the City with most wards stepping up their training and drill practice. Castle Bard and Faringdon have been particularly busy. However as yet there is no co-ordinated plan for this training and approaches vary from practising building barricades to practising storming them. Indeed some wags have suggested that the city looks like it is preparing to go to war with itself rather than some distant enemy.

Alan Monterey has gained widespread support for a motion he has proposed to Council which will immediately trigger a Sheriffs election should Lady Andrews not be re-elected. He commended his motion to the Witanmoot pointing out that with Tinrodeth at war it would not be wise to leave one of the Sheriffs posts unfilled until Midsummer. The full motion reads "The Witanmoot resolves that, should the Lordship elections

for 153 result in the vacancy of a sheriff, then emergency elections for the posts of Sheriff will take place as early as possible in the following month in accordance with the normal rules of elections. These elections, if they take place, will replace the normal Midsummer Sheriffs elections."

The Cornmongers and Grossers guilds are dealing with an increased number of complaints about prices and quantities of foods sold in the marketplaces. The Guildsmen stoutly maintain that guild policies and prices remain unchanged, but a large number of citizens are obviously stocking up before the spring thaw.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 153

A large fleet of warships, including all of the new classes of Consortium ships, has departed Linrodeth. The ships stopped at Kingsport to take on troops and then headed south. Despite the frenzied activities of the city's councillors and the best investigative activities of the Chronicle, no-one has yet been able to determine their mission. Given the relatively small number of troops that the ships embarked, speculation has centred around a raid upon the Salvoyn navy. Although given the current stable relationship with Salvoyn this seems an unlikely course of action for Princess Selina to pursue. The other possibility is that sailing south was a ruse. Indeed, recently arrived merchant ships have not reported seeing the fleet. It may be possible that a small force is to be inserted up the coast to form a surprise part of the attack. Several commentators have also suggested that this may simply be an exercise to enable the ships to practice for the forthcoming attack upon the North.

This coming month's budget negotiations look set to be fun. Rumours circulating suggest a massive tax increase in the offing in order to pay for the war. Jim Bottler is at the centre of negotiations and appears to be trying to agree everything in advance so that a united front can be presented to the populace. However the plans have leaked and the Chronicle is able to reveal that a £10,000 increase in the tax raised from the city is planned. How this will be put across to the citizens is yet unclear but with support for the war running high there may not be too much opposition. One insider suggested "The city has been under-taxed by Her Highness for years. She's finally found the excuse to put taxes back up without facing a rebellion."

The Archimandrite has made a pronouncement against the dangers of the worship of Resh. In an uncompromising sermon he described the worship of Resh as a mortal sin and expressed outrage that it was still being tolerated in Linrodeth. "This foul and evil heresy has brought forth the death of the old King and all the peace and stability which we had come to love under his reign. The blighted souls of those who follow Resh, even in misguided goodness, must be saved from their own folly. We must redeem them or destroy them to stop the evil which they worship".

The Springtide arrival of produce and trade goods from the northern Weald has this year been accompanied by a large deputation of peasants to the major temples. Several villages to the north have been haunted by large swarms of wispy lights floating over the sea marshes, and by mysterious wailings through the winter nights. The peasants are begging the temples for the assistance of a senior priest willing to undertake an exorcism.

The seasonal thaw has also seen the arrival of a few welcome trade caravans from Adaquia via Cascorach. As well as re-supplying Linrodeth's Kerunian citizens with luxury goods from home, the merchants also bring news of a further daughter for Duke Alexander. Princess Eleanor gave birth to Princess Amelia at the beginning of Galemir, and both are said to be doing well. The news echoes speculation around the citadel after Princess Selina recently required her mourning robes to be let out.

Alderman Cutario may be in trouble with his Wardmoot following an apparently spontaneous decision to sponsor an illegal soccer match. The local derby was taking place between the Chalkers and the Shooters, and their ingenious passage through the cheese market entertained the alderman enough that he offered his purse as a prize to the winning team. The Chalkers eventually triumphed with two bladders down the home well; and celebrations continued well into the night at the Empty Barrel.

Alderman Monterey has returned from an excursion into the icy north looking particularly pleased. His arduous travels around the border manors have resulted in the "rescue" of several cellarfuls of fine vintage wines which were apparently in terrible danger of being quaffed. The new border lords were only too pleased to turn their assets into hard cash, although they may be less pleased when they discover the final market value. The Vintners Guild is considering holding an auction of the finer vintages late next month.

The Chroniclers wish to apologise for any disruption to their services. They are currently in the midst of negotiations to buy larger and more derelict premises.

## Late News:

Lady Andrews has been re-elected in the Springtide Lordship vote by 18 votes to 6. As expected she gained the support of the Trueman, Cutario and Bottler factions and was opposed by the Lambourne and Monterey factions. With everyone's positions very clearly announced in advance, little politicking took place around the election, although Alan Monterey does appear to have made a concerted, earnest and largely ignored attempt to get others to "see sense". Commenting on his support for Nicolas Bowden Marcus Lambourne stated "Given that Jenny still doesn't want to be Lord we appear to have a choice of two evils, so I'm plumping for the one we haven't tried before".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 153

In a shock move at the Witanmoot the Trueman faction stalwart, Olivia Warin, has defected to Alan Monterey's opposition. The announcement comes in the wake of Trueman's recruitment of known Reshite Maureen Quiller and opens up what would otherwise have been a bland Sheriffs election. Chair of Trade Olivia Warin has long been seen by many as a credible Sheriff candidate who has been increasingly frustrated by the constraints imposed on her by the Trueman factions holding of the Lordship. Whether Alderman Monterey will be able to field sufficient allies to pull off an election win is open for debate. The consequences for the Trade, Shipping, Construction grouping of Trueman, Cutario and Bottler will also prove interesting.

Alderman Jim Bottler (OM) has finally moved into his lavish new mansion with a massive and entirely excessive party. Almost everyone of any importance in the city attended along with many ordinary workers who had helped build the 'Palace on the Green'. With substantial Athionic food by Maud Blessop and fine Kerunian wines from the newly recovered Wealden horde, things were bound to go well. An excess of libellous gossip throughout the evening was perhaps the result of the aged and extra-strong wines. A surprise visit was made early in the evening by Her Highness Princess Selina, still in mourning and now looking distinctly rotund. She formally opened the celebrations and wished that everyone would enjoy sharing with Jim Bottler the fruits of his hard work. Fortunately she departed before Lady Portinari, Alderman Cutario and a number of other senior Kerunians decided to strip off and make use of the massive marble baths. This development inspired Marcus Lambourne's acerbic wit to reach new heights; of all the guests he seemed most distressed at the excess and wondering where all the money had come from. Perhaps Alderman Warin should have bought along the "Your Shipping Budget at Work" sign to remind him?

Alderman Alan Monterey has been voicing his support for the increase in spending upon Shipping and Trade in the current budget proposals, as well he might following the recent defection of Olivia Warin. Several older members of the Witanmoot looked like they might die of shock when they heard the normally acerbic Monterey proclaim "In the last year Tinrodeth's Merchant Navy has more than proved its worth, and it is clear to me that we need to build more ships to support both our military and mercantile goals. We all want a safe and prosperous city, and these proposals will give us that. I therefore have no hesitation in commending the proposed budget to the Witanmoot." His support was warmly welcomed by Alderman Cutario. With no amendments proposed the budget passed uncontested, although an abstention by Marcus Lambourne signalled his disquiet with the increase in taxes.

Alderman William Trueman has stirred things up for next month's Committee Budgets by proposing that the city fund its own investigators to look into unsolved crimes. Although it is clear that Alderman Trueman was not courting such a confrontation, the proposals have outraged the City Guard who see it as a direct insult to them. Colonel Aldridge is said to be privately furious that the implication that the Guard are just there to "bash heads". Questions have also been raised as to the legality of the city raising such a force now that Princess Selina has taken direct control of the guard. Continuing the theme of confusing boundaries in the Witanmoot, Cllr Marcus Lambourne voiced his unequivocal support for the proposal although he couldn't bring himself to even indirectly support Alderman Trueman as a result. "Trueman and his team have finally taken their fingers out of their ears and decided to listen to me. I can only hope that this becomes a regular occurrence." He proclaimed.

Less controversially Alderman Trueman has proposed that the Trade Committee establish a war compensation scheme which would underwrite merchants who lost their goods due to the war. He appears to have worked though most of the obvious pitfalls and a number of the guilds are supporting the initiative. However Alderman Warin did not see fit to budget for it in the Trade figures, asserting instead that the under-funded Emissaries would be a much better investment. The increasingly important Consortium Board has said only that it would take it under advisement.



Alderman Cutario appears to have got away with his sponsorship of a football match. Certainly Lady Andrews has not seen fit to call him to account. Spurred on by this apparent approval, several football matches have been held through the city this month. The most interesting was the contest between the Students and the Watermen's apprentices which resulted in an unusual amount of foot injuries.

Another person conspicuously not being pursued by Lady Andrews is Reshite Maureen Quiller, who continues to enjoy her newfound position as a leading member of the Trueman Faction. However this dereliction of duty by Lady Andrews has not gone unnoticed and Marcus Tambourne in particular has been increasingly distressed about the matter. In a surprise move he has called upon all citizens of Tinrodeth to boycott Reshite-owned businesses. "If Lady Andrews isn't prepared to uphold the motion passed the Witanmoot, outlawing the worship of Resh within the city, then it is up to the true, faithful people of Tinrodeth to set her an example by this peaceful protest. The initiative has been fully supported by both the Hahnite and Brynette temples, which have taken up the theme of not supporting or associating with evil in their sermons.

The Torian Temple is increasingly worried about the fate of one of its senior priests who has disappeared while on an expedition to the Ollerton Temple on the north road. Physickian Geoffrey de Pontville was travelling with an armed escort and is described as a very experienced traveller. Rumours that he was diverted to the Martonford Marshes to investigate a disturbance there have not been confirmed.

The Vintners Guild is pleased to announce an auction of fine wines at its guildhall on the Tenthday next month. Although nominally a routine sale of the wines shipped in from the city states, it is widely rumoured that Alderman Monterey may choose to put some of the Wealden horde up for auction. If the drunken revels of our Witanmoot representatives are anything to go by, these lots will be a fine addition to any forthcoming celebrations.

The Chroniclers wish to repeat their earlier apology for any disruption to their services as the negotiations to buy larger and more derelict premises are proceeding with increasing dereliction.

## Late News! Late News! Late News!

A military courier ship has arrived from the Noordic Isles with the unexpected news that the Princes of the Noord and the massed Noordic clans have been defeated by a Tinrodeth-sponsored army. The fleet, which left Tinrodeth last month, apparently sailed south to rendezvous with the mercenary army of General Ravensgrim. The navy shipped the entire army to the Noordic Isles, where the Althing had convened and a contest to claim the Noordic crown was underway. The highly skilled elements of Tinrodeth's Marines, Archers and Cavalry which sailed with the force made the decisive difference, and the Noordic Isles fell to the surprise attack by our allies. The mercenary general then demanded and got the fealty of the surviving Althing. King Ravensgrim Tryggvarsson now rules in the city of Höfn. Princess Selina declared, "Let this be a signal to all who challenge us and this great city of Tinrodeth. We are a power to be reckoned with: threaten us and you will lose everything." Her Highness has officially come out of mourning and ordered a public holiday in celebration of the victory.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 153

A month after the news of the Noordic invasion broke, the reaction of Tinrodeth citizens continues to be one of bemusement. While opinions range from "Good, a new trading ally", to "It's that damned Ravensgrim who trashed Cadene", by far the most common comment is "We successfully invaded and then gave it back?!!" Commentators point out that Princess Selina's manoeuvre does bear more resemblance to a trading take-over than an Athionic assault. Most surprising is the efficiency and enthusiasm with which the Guilds are launching new trade initiatives to the Noordic Isles, suggesting that the trade routes south may be more hazardous than was previously thought. Alderman Cutario has hosted several soirées at the Citadel in an attempt to drum up new investors, and Alderman Monterey has amended the Trade budget by transferring £200 from the new docks to fund an emissary to the Western Isles. His initiative was perhaps upstaged by Alderman Bottler who was pleased to announce that Princess Selina has created an Embassy to the Noord King, and approved a post of trade emissary from the Witanmoot. Alderman Bottler concluded by nominating Samuel Rucche to this post.

Other business in the Witanmoot has taken some surprising twists and turns this month. The controversial tax-raising budget was passed nem com, then Davy, Bowden and Warin were all nominated for the posts of Sheriff as expected. After this Cllr Lambourne raised the subject of Reshites with the following statement, "The good and loyal people of Tinrodeth are sick and tired of seeing the laws of the City openly flouted, with the collusion of high-ranking members of this house. It is our duty to lead by example. Our hands must be seen to be clean. I therefore propose the following motion before Council:

"This house affirms that no public funds will knowingly be spent on goods or services provided by known Reshites. Neither will it knowingly employ known Reshites as public servants. To this end it will take all reasonable steps to investigate such persons and businesses before public funds are spent. This house further undertakes to investigate all current public servants, suppliers and contractors, and to cease the disbursement of public funds to all those found to be practising the illegal Reshite heresy."

As a clear attempt to disrupt Maureen Quiller's recent acceptance into the Trueman faction, it was especially interesting to note that the motion was seconded by Alderman Bottler who added, "This Council has, in its wisdom, already passed a motion expelling the worshippers of Resh. And yet we have done nothing to enact this order. No further judgements need be made by this Council; it requires only action. I call upon the Chair of the Committee for Law and Order to begin immediate proceedings to banish from the City the followers of this evil cult." As a follow-up Cllr Lambourne asked Lady Andrews to make a statement on the recent football matches, "Has the late King's law now been struck from the statute books and, if so, why weren't we officially informed?" An amused Lady Andrews instead called upon Alderman Cutario to speak. He announced, "Her Highness Princess Selina is most willing to consider the repeal of this law. I am aware that a large petition is already being organised by citizens and I applaud their initiative. I call upon the Witanmoot to declare its support for the repeal of this archaic and obstructive decree."

This announcement ended Lady Andrew's brief success in council as business then moved on to debate the proposed War Compensation scheme. This idea was criticised from all sides of the chamber and the proposal was overwhelmingly defeated. The Guilds will clearly have to look to their own coffers to support their members. Next up was Trueman's proposals for a civic investigative force; this idea was also widely criticised in its current format, but councillors seemed unwilling to vote down the concept altogether. After several alternative proposals were made, Lady Andrews referred the matter to the Law & Order committee for a recommendation to council.

Tinrodeth's victorious navy has returned to Kingsport. The official Admiralty welcome became particularly warm when the flagship Resolute hove into view. The Resolute was one of the few losses in the major sea battle last autumn, and it was expected that the captured ship would be sold to Salvoyne at the earliest opportunity. The Resolute was manned by what can only be described as a skeleton crew, as she was freed shortly before the invasion by an enslaved group of navy officers who are looking distinctly the worse for their

experience. The rest of the fleet have now resumed their stations beyond the estuary, or have returned to trading duties (much to the relief of the waiting merchants). Suggestions that either the escape of the *Resolute* or the glorious fleet invasion become the subject of an especially commissioned play have so far met with a cool reception from the Bards College.

The Citadel has made the by now unsurprising announcement that Her Highness Princess Selina is indeed pregnant and will be making no further public engagements from Midsummer until the end of the year.

The Vintners Guild have offered their apologies for the postponement of the eagerly awaited auction of the Wealden Hoard. The delays are apparently due to Monterey's more pressing business concerning the forthcoming Sheriffs Elections.

Seagulls are causing serious problems for the Brynette surveyors in Bridge ward. Work on the new dockside has almost ground to a halt after labourers disturbed a nesting colony of Herring gulls. The gulls promptly attacked and are proving exceptionally aggressive in defending their nesting grounds, where the young gulls are nearly ready to fly. The gulls have shown a particular dislike of the saffron robes worn by the junior Brynettes, and repeatedly dive on the acolytes. The local fishermen are vastly amused but deny egging them on.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 153

Lady Andrews, Alderman Bottler and Alderman Cutario are said to be deeply disappointed at the failure of William Trueman to support the incumbent Sheriffs in this year's elections. An attitude which is shared by Alan Monterey who is equally disappointed with Marcus Lambourne for failing to support Olivia Warin. Rumours circulating the Witanmoot suggest that Alderman Trueman and Alderman Lambourne had fallen into an argument outside the Witanmoot hall and had been so engrossed that they had failed to notice that the vote had started. Confused by the non-arrival of their leaders, and wondering if some new deal was being cut, both factions abstained. Fortunately for the embarrassed leaders the result of the vote was as expected with Jenny Davy and Nicolas Bowden being re-elected Sheriff on the votes of Bottler and Cutario against those of Monterey.

Her Highness Princess Selina is pleased to announce the repeal of the unpopular football ban, declaring it "Unnecessary, given the already high state of war preparedness and dedication of the Tinrodeth's marching watch. It is longer necessary for us to stop people having fun in order to force them to practice warfare. The citizens of Tinrodeth know their duty and I see no need to prevent them from enjoying themselves."

The debate surrounding the proposal to prevent the city trading with Reshites turned out to be one of the most energetic and confused debates that the Witanmoot has seen. Despite being the original mover of the motion, Cllr Marcus Lambourne did not seem well prepared and it was left for Jim Bottler to take the lead in putting forward the motion. However before the proposal could progress any further, William Trueman raised a point of order and accused Marcus Lambourne of deliberately misleading the Witanmoot when he described the proposals as "already budgeted for. In fact investigations by Alderman Trueman had identified significant costs relating to the proposals and absolutely no provision for supporting them within any of the budgets. In particular, the implications for the trading viability of the Consortium fleet were deliberately ignored.

The meeting descended into chaos with accusations and counter-accusations flying across the floor. Lady Andrews eventually bought the room to order and declared that debate on the motion would still proceed. However if it was passed then it would be held in abeyance until the conclusion of a misconduct investigation against Councillor Lambourne. A surprised Alderman Trueman, who had clearly not been prepared for this wise judgement, then gathered his forces to make an attack upon the original motion. "Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify for the house that the Law and Order budget has no budgeted resources to carry out the investigations proposed in the motion put forward by Marcus Lambourne. The only source of funds might be the 200 pound budget proposed to form the investigators who are aimed to be used for the serious task of unearthing the criminal elements who are actively damaging our city. Secondly, we already have effective Laws against the activities the Reshites in Salvoyne are accused of: Human sacrifice is murder. Additionally, anyone convicted of being a Reshite will be banished. Thirdly, this bill would prohibit trade with Salvoyne which we all know is openly Reshite. This would severely impact the profitability of the Consortium which would damage both our income and the push to build more ships. We need those ships! Tinrodeth's security rests in our having the wealth to build ships. We need trade! Without thriving trade we will not have enough resources to resist attackers from either the north or the south. All in all, any attack on our trade is an attack on our freedom. It is clear that this Law would do us more harm than the restriction on trade would ever do to the Reshites and Salvoyne. We do not need this law! Finally, I will not form an inquisition to conduct witch hunts against anybody who someone holds a grudge against."

With the battle lines clearly drawn, Alderman Bottler then made an even more impassioned speech. "We are told that this will hurt our trade with Salvoyne. The motion refers only to public funds and employments. The treasury is aware of no public funds directly spent on Salvoynean goods and we certainly restrict employment to citizens of Tinrodeth. I have faith in our merchants to carry on trade. We are told that the motion is too vague about what constitutes worship. Surely the quality of evidence required is a matter for the law courts to decide? I have faith in our legal system to treat this matter fairly. We are told that there is no

need for this motion. Listen to our temples! Is there not a priest in this City who has not implored us to end the Reshite peril? Are their words to fall on an entire Council of deaf ears? This motion supports the will of the gods and in this matter, quite simply, I have faith!" After much acrimonious debate a vote was taken and the proposal was passed by 163 votes to 113 lady Andrews then instructed Alderman Trueman to proceed with the Misconduct Hearing of Councillor Lambourne at the earliest possible opportunity.

Alderman Jim Bottler appears to have thoroughly enjoyed a chance to cull the gulls which have been causing the surveyors so much trouble. The sophistication and enthusiasm with which the Brynette team approached the task of producing a gull catching machine provided a large crowd of spectators with several days of entertainment. The final solution involved a number of what appeared to be engines of war provided by the Citadel, and large nets provided by the delighted fishermen. Alderman Bottler is now believed to be under investigation by Poulterers Guild following the establishment of his briefly successful roast gull barbecue business.

Continuing last month's approach of not arguing over money, this month's committee accounts were passed without comment The nominations for Envoy to the Kingdom of the Western Isles are Samuel Rucche and Randolph Flambourd.

The weather for the Midsummer Fair was gloriously fine and the citizens of Linrodeth enjoyed the festival with a huge fair on the Journey Fields. No doubt Alderman Trueman will be pleased to see the Fair thriving once again. At Kingsport the fleet enjoyed its own festivities with a splendid regatta.

Many fine ships of the Invincible and Resolute class were present and dressed in colourful flags and pennants. The first of the new 1000 ton Consortium ships was launched on the afternoon tide. In the absence of Her Highness, the launching ceremony was done by His Majesty's Ambassador, Lord Eridan. The Sabre was successfully launched amid much celebration and it is hoped that the others of her class (the Splendid, the Savage, the Sentinel, the Staunch and the Steadfast) can be brought into service as quickly as possible.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 153

The Citadel has announced several major victories against the Noord. Our forces have advanced to the very edge of Nyskilde and have removed any threat to our northern borders. The navy has swept the coast, scattering the few remaining longships to the winds. Speculation is now widespread that a siege may be laid upon Nyskilde to deny them this year's harvest; an option which would devastate the north and inflict a fair revenge for the murder of our Prince. If a full siege was to be laid then it would require the calling up of Linrodeth matching watch to provide the necessary manpower.

The activities of Cllr Marcus Lambourne and his followers are being blamed for the riot which took place in Cripplegate and which resulted in the burning of the home of Alderman Grendle. Anti-Reshite sentiments were already running high following a number of speeches by the temples, however Lambourne's campaign, which ran throughout the city in the month running up to his trial, has stirred up a city-wide fear and hatred of Reshite heretics. That campaign made it very clear that the city should not tolerate the Reshites and cannot take the risk of permitting their evil to spread any further. That Alderman Grendle's own house could be attacked when he has significant support within the ward, shows just how divided the city has become. Those opposed to the evil of Resh have clearly given up on the Witanmoot and found it necessary to take the defence of our souls into their own hands. The Citadel, clearly fearing that Salvoyn will take offence, has threatened to impose martial law if the situation is not brought under control.

The city of Salvoyn has demonstrated the power of its Royal Navy in a major exercise to destroy the pirates which have been plaguing shipping between Salvoyn and the city states. The victory celebrations were enhanced by the successful launch of three Great Cogs, all of 1,500 tons, and specifically designed for ship-to-ship combat. These huge ships have been named the St Edward, the Queen Kybele, and the King Edward IV. In what will be seen as a countermove, Linrodeth has successfully launched the remaining Consortium ships of this year's build, although the sea trials of the new Sabre class apparently revealed some manoeuvring difficulties.

The contest for the post of Envoy to the Kingdom of the Western Isles, between Samuel Rucche and Randolph Flamboard, was hard fought. Voting eventually resulted in a victory for Flamboard when he gained the backing of the Cutario and Trueman factions.

Princess Selina's pregnancy is reported to be in difficulty. Her Royal Highness has all but withdrawn from contact from all but a few trusted advisers. General Olvini, recently returned from the northern campaigns, is effectively running the city until she recovers. The Citadel is at pains to suppress any sense of panic or major concern, but hushed discussions are already taking place about the consequences if she does not recover quickly. The fact that General Olvini has been recalled is in itself significant as it would be he who would be the Regent for the young prince should anything happen to the Princess.

Several football matches have been held across the city this month, each ending with what could become a traditional toast to the wisdom of Princess Selina. A grand Harvestide contest is now being planned with teams from each ward competing in a knockout contest to find the best ward in the city. Alderman Petro Cutario will be funding the contest and is reported to be in discussions with both the Goldsmiths and perhaps more bravely the Glaziers about the commissioning of the Cutario Cup.

Cllr Marcus Lambourne has been found guilty of Misleading the Witanmoot over the funding of his Reshite trading motion. A hearing and subsequent trial in front of Sheriff Bowden turned into a major public event. Lambourne's entire faction spent a month campaigning for his acquittal and suggesting in the plainest terms that the entire accusation was politically motivated by those who wish to see the motion fail on technical grounds because they could not defeat it on its merits. Indeed at some points it seemed as if Lambourne was looking forward to being found guilty and proving to the world the corrupt nature of the Witanmoot. Cllr Lambourne, in his closing the speech of the trial, left the court in a no doubt that the trial was a test of the Lady Andrews power and not a test of his guilt "It is all too apparent that this charge of misconduct is motivated, not by any

concern for the way business is conducted in the Witanmoot, but by a desire to overturn a decision that has been arrived at by the Witanmoot after full and democratic deliberation." Lambourne's case was however somewhat constrained by the sheer number of his fellow counsellors willing to stand up in front of a court of law and confirm that they remembered Councillor Lambourne telling them that the proposals were already budgeted for. Even if Councillor Lambourne could not remember making such statements, certainly enough other people could that his guilt was never really in doubt. Sheriff Bowden, clearly irritated that what should have been a simple case had turned it into a major show trial, and not wanting to prolong things any further declared Lambourne guilty but simply banned him from the Witanmoot for one month. A punishment which is one of the most lenient sentences ever recorded for such an offence. Commenting afterwards Sheriff said "whilst I deplore the actions of Councillor Lambourne in this last month in creating division and fear within the city, it is not that which is on trial today. If it were I can assure you the sentencing I would carry out would be undeniably severe."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 153

Concern is growing for the life of Princess Selina. Efforts by the Citadel to play down her condition only fuelled rumours further, and General Olvini was forced to make a statement. He chose to do this by addressing a full session of the Witanmoot. In a brief speech he described the Princess as, "gravely ill" and declared that she had now formally granted him "the right to rule in her name until her recovery." The General went on to advise the Witanmoot to exercise extreme caution during this period of uncertainty and asked them to pray for the Princess' recovery." The subdued council suppressed any desire to ask difficult questions; the idea of the General being in charge does indeed seem to require some reassessment of strategy.

A surprising alliance of Alan Monterey and William Trueman has quelled any potential riots following Marcus Lambourne's calls for citizens to "deal with "the Reshite evil". William Trueman's calls for people to respect the law were backed up by Alderman Monterey who, whilst expressing frustration at the apparent failure of the Witanmoot to deal with the Reshite threat, called upon people to trust that things would happen. Although there is an undercurrent of tension in the taverns of Tinrodeth, these calls, and also the cavalry patrols which General Olvini has imposed upon the city, have been very effective. Alderman Trueman blamed last month's "shameful incident" on trickery by "forces wishing to see martial law". He described citizens of this city as being "duped" by "someone who has no respect for the Law or for the general well-being of the city". His remarks have triggered a furious debate with some claiming that the incident was part of a plot by General Olvini to suspend the Witanmoot, whilst others have blamed Salvoynian agents seeking to break the peace which currently exists between Tinrodeth and the Regency.

Problems continue with the new Sabre class ships. The newly launched Savage ran aground when the crew lost control of her in what could only be described as a moderate breeze. Reassuringly the ship survived the experience, demonstrating that if they can ever manage to get near to an enemy then the class will be effective. Following this incident, the Consortium has requested schemes for new rigging to be submitted to the Admiralty, with a £100 prize for a substantial improvement on the existing standard.

Despite the numerous wharves and warehouses being built on North Shore, the thriving Mercers Guild has decided that the old city port is the only site with suitable prestige. The corporation has purchased three large sheds just inside Portwall, and is planning to merge the sites, without regard for the small tavern wedged in between two of them. The new giant storage will be for the use of Guild members. The Guild also confirms that they will be applying for permission to open a new gatehouse through Portwall.

Following the unrest, the Bards College decided to cancel its season of "Roland & Julia", a nostalgic comedy. Instead, rehearsals are underway for "King Tir", a classic tragedy. The college had been commissioned to entertain at the Yuletide society wedding of Lord Roberto Cornaro and the heiress Jacqueline Fitz-Ailwyn. The change of programme seems to add an unwelcome burden to the youngsters' nuptial night.

Preparations for the Harvestide festival have been subdued in the light of concerns about her Highness. However the football tournament is still proceeding "in honour of her wisdom". Alderman Cutario seems to be exerting some influence on this wild sport and surprisingly actual teams and a semblance of rules are emerging. It is now expected that formal "knockout" competition will take place between a chosen team from each ward. The exquisitely crafted Cutario Cup is to be presented to the winning team.

### Late News! Late News! Late News! Late News!

The Citadel has announced the birth of Princess Phoebe, in the first seconds of Highharvestide. The Baby Princess is described healthy, however it was a difficult birth. The Citadel has refused to comment on the health of Her Royal Highness Princess Selina, who is believed to be close to death. Despite some unfortunate incidences of violence between the teams, the Harvestide football was a huge success, with the Welland team sponsored by Alderman Jim Bottler emerging as the unquestionable champions.



## The Chronicle of the month of Lorinfall in the year 153

Princess Selina's condition is still described as "extremely serious". Prayers have been said throughout the city, with the Hahmites in particular holding a number of special services. Alderman Monterey has been much to the fore in these, and the Archimandrite himself has called for continuous prayers to be said. Activity at the Temple of Torus is also high and several senior priests have now permanently moved to the Citadel. General Olvini has so far proved to be an effective ruler - by staying out of city affairs. The temptation to impose martial law would appear to have been resisted and the General so far has not sought to interfere with the Witanmoot. The General's attention would still appear to be on the north, with much military preparation still apparent. Alderman Jim Bottler's recent scathing attack on the Noord, in which he called for Nyskildian murders to suffer the same fate as their Noordic Isles brethren, will not have gone unnoticed. Unfortunately, Nyskilde does not have a moat so Bottler's unique wall-breaching skills may not be of use to the General this time.

Campaigning activity appears to be heating up across Tinrodeth as the Midwinter elections approach. The other groups have apparently woken up to the fact that Marcus Lambourne has been gathering support all year, and there would seem to be a tacit agreement to only run one candidate against him in each ward. More interestingly the old Trueman, Bottler, Cutario triumvirate which has run the Witanmoot for so many years appears to be breaking up, with much less co-operation across these three groups than has been seen in previous years. Tensions within the Monterey faction are running high. Alderman Monterey would appear to be attempting to adjust his policies in an attempt to court the Cutario and Bottler grouping and his recent public conversion to the cause of Princess Selina is not going down too well with his faction. "He spends more time at the Citadel than in the Witanmoot" one disillusioned stalwart complained. The situation has not been helped by the falling out with Marcus Lambourne who is reported to be privately fuming at Monterey's kow-towing to the pro-Salvoynian elements within the Witanmoot. Marcus Lambourne, perhaps with the scent of blood in his nostrils, has redoubled his attacks on Lady Andrews and the Trueman faction. Describing Trueman's group as "a bunch of Resh-loving cronies" he accused them of treating the loyal citizens and worshippers of the true faiths as fools. Clearly taking Trueman's comments last month personally, he declared, "I say to Alderman Trueman that you dismiss the intelligence and integrity of the people of this city at your peril."

Amid all this vicious campaigning and infighting Alderman Cutario has been quietly getting on with practical matters. He has paid for a very large oval space on the newly drained north shore to be marked out and has announced the development of a suitable space for regular football practice, so that teams do not disturb citizens by practising in the streets, or cause mutual distress by interrupting archery sessions on the Journey Fields. A group lead by Eva Capel has solved the rigging problem with the new ships. The Navy is reported to be delighted by modifications suggested by the team which consisted of Alderman Capel, several master shipwrights, Brynette engineers, several priests of Esprayenna and a couple of students from the Bards college.

### Late News! Late News! Late News! Late News!

High King Kieran has returned to Tinrodeth! The King, with an entourage of 50 knights, rode in through the Kingsgate at dawn yesterday, to the amazement and delight of nearby citizens. Under tight escort from Tinrodeth forces he rode straight to the Citadel. The main gate of the Citadel has since been closed, and the crowds which gathered around the moat have been disappointed that he has not reappeared to greet them. General Olvini's terse statement said merely, "His Majesty is concerned for the health of his sister in law, and has come to be with her and to join others in prayers for her recovery."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 153

A full Naval Review has taken place for the benefit of King Kieran. The parade of Consortium and Navy ships sailed down the estuary and presented themselves at the Citadel. The whole city came out to cheer the heroes of the Noordic battles and witness the display of the city's naval might. The new Sabre class ships demonstrated the effectiveness of their recent rigging changes by managing not to bump into anything, although the sheer scale of the ships does appear to make manoeuvring them difficult. The parade ended with the formal presentation to Eva Capel of the £100 reward from the Admiralty. King Kieran was clearly impressed by the power of Tinrodeth's navy, and the arrival back in the city a few hours later of Tinrodeth's main cavalry force will have further reinforced this demonstration of Tinrodeth's military might.

Temples throughout the city have been leading their congregations in prayers for Princess Selina. In what looks like a co-ordinated display of unity, the Temples of Esprayenna, Daleth and Brynette gave thanks for Her Highness's "benevolent ruler-ship and the prosperity which it has brought to the city". The Temples of Hahn and Torus, which have always been strongly pro-Kieran, were slightly less forthcoming in their praise although this could not detract from what is undoubtedly a strong political statement by the Temples. The Princess is reported to be recovering, although still dangerously ill.

Following the example of the Temples some of Tinrodeth's leaders have also nailed their colours to the mast this month. The support of Petro Cutario for Princess Selina has of course never been in question. However William Trueman and Lady Andrews have also gone out of their way to demonstrate to King Kieran whose side they will be on should he and Princess Selina "disagree over policy". William Trueman set the party line: praising the recent show of "Unity of people and religions in support of our Princess", he describing himself and his fellow citizens as "delighted with Princess Selina's rule and very concerned about her health." He went on, "We give General Olvini our full support as the Princess' chosen caretaker. We are also touched by his Royal Majesty's concern for the health of his sister-in-law." Even waverers such as Jim Bottler and Alan Monterey have been flouting their pro-Selina credentials. Alas, Jim Bottler's ostentatious display of wealth amassed in the service of Princess Selina may have gone too far. During a royal reception for civic dignitaries, a clearly annoyed King Kieran described Bottler's fine Kerunian silks as "looking like a courtesan's". Amid all of this Marcus Lambourne has been surprisingly quiet, with not a single mention of the High King or criticism of his fellow councillors commitment to Princess Selina in any of his many speeches. Campaigning for the elections has definitely come early this year with particularly fierce campaigns already being fought in Bassishaw, Cartage, Ishtan.

The huge storm which struck Tinrodeth last week has now abated. However most roads are still quagmires and the damage from the flooding of riverside warehouses and properties along the Dow is said to run to thousands of pounds. Luckily the majority of the Fleet was still in port following the naval review and only a few ships are feared lost. The freezing weather which followed is also causing problems with many of the pools of water freezing and creating fresh hazards for the unwary. Two elderly citizens are feared lost after they caught by rising floodwaters. King Kieran and his entourage have made a hasty exit from the city and were last seen battling their way along the East road in a desperate attempt to reach the high road before an early winter prevents them from returning to Eresan.

Elliot Anderson has placed an interesting motion before council. "Council confirms that, should a gate be built in the Portwall with said gate paid for by private funds, there will be no special restriction on those citizens who pass through it. However, the Council confirms that the right to carry goods for trade or working through said gate will be at the discretion of those who purchased the gate. These rights shall persist while those who purchased the manufacture of the gate continue to fund its running costs (both in terms of maintenance and manning) and shall be forfeit to the Council should such costs not be met in any year." Anderson has clearly done his research on this and followed his proposals with several quotations from the Hahnites clarifying the legality of such a proposal.

The war of words between William Trueman and Marcus Lambourne shows no sign of abating with Alderman Trueman accusing his fellow ward member of "having a guilty conscience. Lambourne spends all his time hurling insults and has not done anything for the city this year except stir up hatred and strife," he went on. The situation between the two has now gone so far that the Wardmoot is almost unbearable with both men unable to stand the other and even the simplest of debates turning into a personal battle. Marcus Lambourne has tried to rise above all this but pro-Trueman supporters are now stalking him and a brave Trueman supporter even attempted to heckle at Lambourne's campaign launch this month. Lambourne responded by hearing the man out and then destroying his every point in a brilliantly conceived counter argument. The enthusiastic rally then rose to his claim that his faction was "from the people, there for the people" and "the only true pro-democracy movement". Asked to comment on this Alderman Trueman replied "I know that the people of our city will judge us on our actions and not on his venomous rhetoric".

## Late News! Late News! Late News! Late News!

Harsh weather and impassable floods near the marshes have forced King Kieran to return to the city of Tinrodeth. He will now have to overwinter at the Citadel. It is hoped that a messenger has got through to Eresan and that they are aware that he is safe.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 153

The City has this month been almost completely consumed by campaigning for next months elections. With the old alliances breaking down there is an unprecedented opportunity to break the stagnation of the Witanmoot. Campaigning has been hard in nearly all areas as contests reach an intensity which has not been seen for many years. Looking to the results of all this hard work our reporters suggest that Arpent is too close to call between Hugo Merewell and Judi Spich whilst in Avigon, Bassishaw and Berewic, Bridge and Cadene Cutario, Bergeren and Hastings and Saunders Romanie look safe. In Cartage Barbiter appears to be holding off Brunstan Blackbeard, whilst in Castle Bard Gilbert de Clare and Alison Shefford are very close. Cripplegate is too close to call between Grendle and Hubold whilst in Dowgate Graeme Porter looks set to be easily returned. Thomas Osbert leads Dracas by a clear margin whilst Marcus Lambourne's surprising lack of support in his own ward will once more give Trueman an easy victory. In Ishtan Elliott Anderson and Eva Capel are locked in a perilously but unusually polite battle whilst in Kingsgate Adam Povre lacks a serious challenger. As expected Levestone belongs to Alan Monterey and more surprisingly after a year of sustained campaigning his college Sam Kutler looks set to demolish Maureen Quiller in Marshgate. Oldgate and Portsoken look solid for Barnett and Worton, whilst in Shambles Marie Cripstead and Bert Belcher both look set to exploit some very poor campaigning by Ralf Seagrim. Finally in Welland Jim Bottler is assured a majority almost as big as his mansion. Prayers have continued to be said throughout the City for the recovery of Princess Selina who remains gravely ill. Perhaps trying to make up for their earlier tardiness both the Hahnite and Torian Temples have redoubled their efforts and many prominent citizens have added their public support to the appeal to the Gods. William Trueman in particular has gone out of his way to show his concern for her highness by starting each of his campaign meetings with prayers. His advisors are obviously frustrated that he is paying more attention to making sure that the City prays for her highness than to getting them re-elected. However Trueman does appear to be a very genuinely convinced that the Cities prayers are all that is keeping her highness from death's door and his obvious and desperate concern for her highnesses health can only commend him to the voters.

Much to the annoyance of a number of people in the City who hoped the issue had gone away the Archimandrite has made a concerted effort to remind people of the evils of Reshism. In what sometimes verged on a direct call for citizens to vote against known Reshites he called for all who followed the false god to be excluded from every aspect of civic life.

In the one bit of real council business this month the Witanmoot surprisingly defeated the "Private Gates" motion by 111 votes to 97. Alan Monterey clearly caught Jim Bottler and Petro Cutario unprepared with his "are we sure this is a good idea?" opposition. Monterey's description of the risks of citizens being searched and his concerns about what sanctions the gatekeepers might have clearly convinced William Trueman's group to abstain whilst his hilariously painted image of the fun that an unscrupulous Guildmaster might have by closing the gate to his rivals brought over the majority of the Lambourne faction.

King Kieran has obviously decide to keep a low profile during his extended stay in the City. Apart from dining at the Hahnite Temple he has not ventured fourth from the Citadel. Concern is beginning to be raised in the City as to how Eresan might respond to his failure to return. Fears have even been voiced that the spring thaw might bring with it a vengeful army seeking to rescue him.

## Late News Late News Late News Late News Late News

Marcus Lambourne has survived an assassination attempt. The controversial councillor was ambushed by archers whilst on his way back from a campaign meeting. He is believed to have been saved by the bravery of his bodyguard who sacrificed himself by charging the archers and taking a number of arrows meant for Cllr Lambourn. The assailants escaped. The City Guard are investigating the attack and have called for witnesses to come forth.

# The Night Sky

There are many things which can be seen in the sky, clouds, birds, and of course the sun, the two moons, and the stars.

This article discuss these latter objects. The last, the stars can be divided into two groups. The first of these groups, the fixed stars, are, on the whole, uninteresting. The exception is **Polaris**, the pole star. This is the navigator's friend, known to sailors and guides alike as it always occupies the same location in the sky. It is easily recognised as it is part of a group of three bright stars which are grouped closely together and in a straight line. The direction of this group of stars can usually be safely taken as the direction of north.

The second class of stars is the planets or 'wandering stars'. These can be further subdivided into two groups:- those which always stay near the sun, and those which can wander across all the sky.

The first, **Psykomena** (the observer of folly) is the fastest moving, but is always close to the sun, thus committing the ultimate folly of assuming that folly only occurs during the day!

The second planet is **Alderoth** (observer of recovery and health) can be seen further from the sun than Psykomena and shows that for good health, a regular regimen of sleep is required.

The third planet, **Panurgio** (observer of Vitality and Wit), can be seen still further from the sun, but still shows that a quick mind also requires a regular regimen of sleep.

The next planet, **Erosina** (observer of love and enjoyment), can be seen yet further from the sun, and can often be seen in the late evenings.

**Genhelia** (observer of birth and growth) is never far behind Erosina, often reaching the same position in the sky in a matter of days. Genhelia can be distinguished from Erosina by its distinctive blue-green colour.

The second group of planets begins with **Psykelia** (observer of luck and fortune). Psykelia is the quickest of those planets which do not stay near the sun, thus visibly demonstrating that luck is fickle and cannot be relied upon.

The next is **Letophoro** (observer of malady and death) is difficult to observe, but also wanders

across the entire sky watching death occur at any time.

**Adamasto** (observer of conflict and war) is next. It too wanders far from the sun, and suffers from a striking orange-red colour as befits its nature. Adamasto shows that the causes of war can occur at any time, but also take time to build, as Adamasto only wanders slowly.

The slowest and last wanderer is **Celeno** (observer of slowness and dullness). Celeno only moves slowly relative to the fixed stars, but is able travel all around the sky in time, thus showing slow and careful will get you there! (The fastest moving planet, Psykomena, never moves far from the sun, whereas Celeno, the slowest, is the planet most often further from the sun in the sky).

The two most obvious features in the night sky, however, are the two moons, **Sisamora** and **Senemora** (These can, of course, be seen during the day, but are not the most obvious daytime features!). **Sisamora** (observer of good) is the larger of the two. Sisamora changes Phase in a thirty and seven-sixteenths of a day cycle. When Sisamora is full (Around the beginning/end of each month and, of course, during festival days), it can be seen brightly shining. However, it is recorded that it is occasionally suffers during these occasions from strange redness and indeed blackening.

The second moon, **Senemora** (observer of evil) is harder to describe. Senemora also follows a sequence of phases, but follows it's cycle in a matter of hours, (21 hours and 13 minutes to be precise!). However its movement across the sky is most fickle. Whereas all the other moons, planets and even the sun, rise in the west and set in the east (within 18 hours indeed), Senemora usually rises in the east and sets in the west 3 or 4 days later! In addition, Senemora is both eager to rise (often rising in the east several hours early then being forced to set in the east within a few hours) and reluctant to set (often rising again in the west, and then setting again within a matter of a few hours)!

The last object in the sky is, of course, the sun. It too, dislikes the winter and is in the sky for less than eight hours on **Midwinter Day**, while on **Midsummer Day** it is in the sky for over sixteen hours.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 153

Election campaigning has continued unabated this month. Fierce campaigning continued in all of the contested wards with the Bottler Campaign in particular gaining a boost as the clearly secure Cutario faction threw itself into helping his candidates wherever it could. Bottler was also active in backing Cutario and Monterey candidates. William Trueman's faction was clearly overwhelmed by this broad based attack and was hard pushed to defend against this concerted effort and the resurgence of the Lambourne faction. If all of these actions pay off it would seem likely that there will be a new Lord of the City come Springtide.

Marcus Lambourne's campaign lost momentum as he recovered from the shock of the assassination attempt against him. However after a few days a new and more determined Lambourne appeared to hold a major rally in Cripplegate, perhaps sobered by his experience but certainly not bowed. His poignant speech in praise of Peven Waterson his dead bodyguard will be remembered by all who were there. Cllr Lambourne described the risk of assassination as "the price I pay for speaking out when others have tried to stifle me, for speaking my mind instead of someone else's, for asking the questions that no-one else dared to." In a clear challenge to those who had attempted to kill him he went on to declare "It is a price that I pay willingly, and will continue to pay until the last breath leaves my body". But he warned the would be assassins that they could not win. "Cut me down, and another two will leap to take my place. Cut them down and four will come forward to fill their shoes. The people who love this City and who truly care for it will not be cowed by those who lurk in darkened alleys. The people who believe in democracy will not be put to flight by thugs and bully boys. The people who believe in freedom of speech will not be silenced by the assassin's arrow. They will speak out, and will continue to speak out; challenging those who use subterfuge and skulduggery to achieve their aims. Fearlessly, selflessly and tirelessly working to make the Witanmoot, once again, a place where democracy is respected, honoured and upheld. A place where truth and decency are held in proper regard. A place that the thieves, the liars and the ungodly look upon with fear; knowing that they live on borrowed time." The meeting concluded with prayers for the dead man.

Princess Selina has recovered slightly and was even able to leave her bed for a short time. The mood in the Citadel is now cautiously optimistic. The Princess is reported to be delighted with the brief time she was able to spend playing with young prince Sikander and the young prince has certainly appeared happier in the last few days. General Olvini has started preparations to mobilize the army as soon as the weather permits, much to the annoyance of King Kieran who has been unable to contain his frustration at the Generals intention to march north rather than south.

Much to the distress of his family, friends and supporters Cllr Lambourne has refused to hire another bodyguard because he is unwilling to risk another life. However a group of young Lambourne activists calling themselves the "Defenders of Truth" have taken it upon themselves to form an unofficial group to protect him. Lambourne's campaign was given a further boost later in the week when the highly respected Martin Key announced his intention to join the Lambourne faction, an action which clearly delighted Cllr Lambourne.

Despite last months vote preparations have continued for the establishment of a new gate. The Mercers Gate as it is to be known is apparently going to be paid for by private subscription and has the backing of the Citadel. Jim Bottlers construction business will one again be managing the contract and a proud Elliot Anderson was able to ceremonially break the first stone from the wall on the last day of the month.

## Late News Late News Late News Late News Late News

The Election results for this year failed to deliver the dramatic changes expected with heavy targeting enabling many of the at risk Aldermen to retain their seats. However Marcus Lambourne was the clear victor of a night which saw his year long campaign against William Trueman pay off as he regained a leading position in the Witanmoot at the expense of the Trueman faction.

In Arpent Hugo Merewell's challenge melted away to give Judi Spich the Aldermanship once again. Whilst in Avigon, Bassishaw and Berewic, Bridge and Cadene the expected victories were delivered to Cutario, Bergeren, Hastings, Saunders and Romanie, although riding the renewed popularity of the Lambourne faction Andrea Beablet gave Richard Saunders a scare. Cartage delivered the closest result of the night where after three recounts Alice Barbiter was declared victorious by a margin of 2 votes. In Castle Bard Gilbert de Clare saw off the challenge from Alison Shefford by a similarly close margin of 15 votes. The Cripplegate contest between Grendle and Hubold turned into a trouncing for the once popular Grendle who was pushed into third place behind Janice Travers as the full weight of the Lambourne faction descended upon the ward. In Dowgate Graeme Porter looks was as expected easily returned as were Thomas Osbert in Dracas and William Trueman in Faringdon. In Ishtan Elliott Anderson beat Eva Capel by 4 votes, and then promptly took her out to dinner. In Kingsgate and Levestone Adam Povre and Alan Monterey achieved there expected victories. As predicted Sam Kutler delivered the most astonishing victory defeating Maureen Quiller by over 100 votes to become the new Alderman of Marshgate. Oldgate and Portsoken returned Barnett and Worton, whilst in Shambles Bert Belcher squeezed ahead of Marie Cripstead to take the seat from Ralf Seagrim. Finally in Welland Jim Bottler victory party was able to start long before the votes were counted.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 154

Her Highness Princess Selina has continued to recover this month, although the anniversary of the death of Prince Edwin has been very distressing for her. The Princess insisted on attending a memorial service at her husband's tomb in the Citadel vaults. The stress of the occasion appears to have caused another relapse. Her Highness is reported to have told one fussing Torian that she refused to remain abed upon this solemn occasion. General Olvini marked the anniversary of the declaration of war against the Noord by praising the city for its support in bringing justice down upon the Western Isles, and for its continued strength in the fight to crush the remnants left in Nyskilde.

Much frantic activity has been caused by the sighting of Aralan Derwent within the City. Whilst many have dismissed this as a wild rumour the sudden appearance on the streets of a lot of Witanmoot Guard veterans would suggest that Colonel Aldridge is at least taking the matter seriously. Derwent who was exiled from the City is now "Duchess of Fenny Bridges" under King Kieran and some people have theorised that she must have sneaked back with his entourage and is now stuck in the City. Others have suggested that she is just visiting old friends, although the middle of Winter would appear to be a rather strange time to do this. What quite the Citadel would do with one of King Kieran's Duchesses should she be caught remains to be seen. However Colonel Aldridge, who was once a great friend of Derwent, has reminded everyone that she was exiled from the City of pain of death and it is a Citizens duty to aid in her arrest. The ex-Sheriff has been sighted at numerous places around the City and particularly in the Ward of Levestone.

The new Mercers Gate in Portwall is proceeding with unseemly haste. The gap in the wall has already been created and a wooden roof and walls have been constructed around the site to enable the craftsmen to work despite blizzards. Rumours are beginning to circulate that Jim Bottler has promised General Olvini that the gate will be finished before the thaw and that dire consequences will ensue if he should fail to deliver.

Maureen Quiller and Irving Grendle have split from the Trueman faction and formed a new grouping which they are calling the "Renewal party". Cllr Quiller described her unwavering respect for William Trueman and his "continued selfless dedication to the best interests of the city". However she declared that she needed to becoming independent of him so that she could speak out against the agitators and traitors who were so misleading the people of the city and who had so disgracefully manipulated last month's elections. Alderman Trueman has refused to comment on the matter.

There were confusing and, at some points, highly worrying scenes at the Torian Temple and Bards College this month. For the first time in many years a fight took place inside the boundaries of the Torian Temple. The Knights Hospitallers closed the Temple precinct for vigils and prayers to be said throughout the night. Reports emanating from those who were within the precincts at the time suggest wild stories of demonic possession. The following day Sheriff Bowden, Sheriff Davy and Ambassador Sir Eridan were all to be found at the office of Master Bard Aethorn, where even wilder rumours claim swords were drawn and dire warnings issued. All participants have firmly denied such goings-on and, indeed appear remarkably unscathed for a fracas of that calibre.

The Goldsmiths guild has once again descended upon the committee accounts and once again been disappointed to discover that they are all in order. Notably Olivia Warin and Alan Monterey failed completely to suppress their smugness when Trade scrolls passed the audit with absolutely no errors. The nominations for the Committee Chairs did not throw up any surprises other than the nominations from Maureen Quiller. Her arrival at the court of Aldermen in order to make the nominations threw up a heated debate from the assembled Alderman, however she was able to demonstrate that, whilst the Witanmoot rules explicitly required nominations for the Sheriffs to be made by Aldermen, no such constraint applied to the committee nominations. Even more fun was created by the bizarre nomination of William Trueman by Marcus Lambourne. This proposal can only be described as mischievous. Even Lambourne's speech of nomination contained a back-handed attack in its suggestion that Trueman was close to having no committee places; "this nomination may come as a surprise to many, but Alderman Trueman has a very definite flair for this kind of work. I sincerely



hope that he will accept this nomination in the spirit in which it is proposed. I would be dismayed indeed to see him prevented from putting his undoubted talents to good use" The proposal was met with a brief silence into which Duncan Barnett's cry of "disingenuous" broke with devastating effect. The final nominations were:

Treasury: Romanie (Bottler)

Trade: Warin (Monterey), Barbiter (Trueman)

Law and Order: Barnett (Cutario), Spich (Lambourne), Hastings (Trueman)

Shipping: Osbert (Cutario), Barbiter (Quiller)

Welfare and Education: Saunders (Cutario), Trueman (Lambourne), Bergeren (Monterey)

Lands and Agriculture: De Clare (Bottler)

Kerun: Shefford (Monterey), Candever (Quiller)

Orissa: Russell (Cutario)

Eresan: Howe (Bottler), Benton (Monterey)

Cascorach: Merewell (Monterey), Rucche (Quiller)

Western Isles: Flambourd (Monterey), Capel (Quiller)

Cllr Marcus Lambourne has proposed a motion to move the Sheriffs elections: "From this day forth, nominations for the Sheriffs' posts should take place by Tenthday Firstweek in the month of Jasmarrill, with elections taking place on Firstday Firstweek in the month of Heliora." He explained that the custom and practice of electing the Sheriffs at Midsummer has, on occasion, left the city with only one Sheriff in post for three months of the year and that this was not acceptable given the vital role performed by the Sheriffs. The idea which has been mooted on numerous occasions has previously been sponsored by Alan Monterey and it will be interesting to see if the great aficionado of Witanmoot procedure will seek to amend Cllr Lambourne's unusually brief proposal. Certainly Cllr Lambourne appeared nervous making the proposal, stating that the "dates suggested are not set in stone" and that he would "welcome reasoned debate and support any reasonable amendment that resulted". Why Cllr Lambourne, who is not noted for his interest in such things, has suddenly become active in this area is a question which has been asked by a number of people. The general answer appears to be that it gives the shortest possible gap between the stitch-up for the Lordship and any payback for Lambourne in the Sheriffs elections.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 154

Her Highness Princess Selina continues to recover in health and the Torian priests have announced that they consider that her life is no longer in danger. The Princess is apparently gaining strength very rapidly and it has been announced that she intends resume direct rulership of the Principality at the end of this month. Upon hearing the news many delighted citizens held impromptu celebrations at a number of points around the city. There is talk of this Springtide festival being particularly special with the Princess planning to make her first public appearance at Princess Phoebe's naming ceremony.

Miranda Andrews, Jenny Davy and Nicholas Bowden have all been formally nominated as candidates for the city Lordship elections. William Trueman made a particularly eloquent speech praising Lady Andrew's service to the city through difficult times. The speech was clearly heartfelt however the tone taken by Alderman Trueman was somewhat retrospective and it may be an indication that Trueman believes the Lordship lost and may be preparing to vote decisively with another group.

The debate on the Cllr Marcus Lambourne's proposals to amend the rules of the Sheriffs elections started quietly but grew through the day into a closely fought and hectic contest. At the beginning of the debate Cllr Lambourne amended his own motion by adding a clarification as to what should happen regarding any vacant Aldermanship. The amendment was widely supported and the new motion therefore advised that the candidate polling the second highest number of votes in the previous Midwinter elections would serve as acting Alderman. It was at this point that things went awry as a well prepared and determined William Trueman stood up to demolish the proposal. "While I am sure that Councillor Lambourne's motion is well meant, and I share his desire to ensure that the city has its full complement of senior figures, I believe that his motion is not fully thought out." He declared; "rushing nominations for sheriffdoms into a single week and then only allowing two weeks for people to consider the candidates, some of which may be a complete surprise, is clearly unwise" He went on to propose the following amendment:

"From this day forth, nominations for the sheriffs' posts should take place by the 1st Heliora, with elections taking place 1st of Menderal. Potential new aldermen should also be proposed by the 1st Menderal with elections, if any, taking place on Midsummer. "

Debate from this point degenerated in to the kind of arcane and near religious discussion which the Witanmoot appears to have when ever it discusses the rules of election. However things got personal when Cllr Lambourne asserted that "Given that it seems inevitable that we shall shortly have a new Lord Chief Magistrate, the prospect of only one Sheriff being in post for a number of months strikes me as highly undesirable." Whist he obviously had not meant to cause offence the Trueman faction went wild and the prospect for reasoned debate receded further. When Jim Bottler, who had clearly had enough, declared his intention to abstain things heated up even further. Feverish tallying of support suggested a close vote and indeed when the amendment was called the vote was drawn at 108 votes for and against. Lady Andrews cast her vote for the amendment and the substantive motion went forward to a similarly drawn result. Lady Andrews then surprised the Witanmoot by casting her vote against the motion on the grounds that it was a significant change in the rules of the city and she did not feel she could approve it on her casting vote.

The new Mercersgate in Portwall continues to proceed at a rapid pace and only the arch remains to be completed. The great gates have already been manoeuvred into position and, barring disasters, it looks as though Jim Bottler's gamble with the weather will succeed. There is however one unfortunate consequence of all this haste. The new gate is undoubtedly the most ugly ever to have been built.

This month's committee elections were strongly contested by all groups. Lambourne and Monterey constantly voted together and fielded 8 votes. With each of the other factions fielding between 4 and 6 votes all the elections were difficult to predict. The battleground turned out to be Law and Order and Welfare and Education where a fierce three way fight ensued. Judi Spich's assertion that "unlike the current incumbent, I intend to uphold of the laws of the city, most notably those regarding the Reshite heresy" caused much

consternation. The contest was eventually resolved by a mutually beneficial alliance between Petro Cutario and William Trueman. Indeed in the end there was not a single committee which changed places. This perhaps suggests that thoughts of a new order after the Midwinter elections are rather premature, although it did take the Lord's casting vote to keep Gillian Howe in Eresan. The final result was:

Treasury: Romanie (-)

Trade: Warin (20), Barbiter (4)

Law and Order: Barnett (6), Spich (8), Hastings (10)

Shipping: Osbert (20), Barbiter (4)

Welfare and Education: Saunders (10), Trueman (8), Bergeren (6)

Lands and Agriculture: De Clare (-)

Kerun: Shefford (16), Candever (4)

Orissa: Russell (-)

Eresan: Howe (13), Benton (12)

Cascorach: Merewell (18), Rucche (6)

Western Isles: Flambourd (20), Capel (4)

## Late News! Late News! Late News! Late News!

Marcus Lambourne and many prominent members of his faction have been arrested on charges of High Treason. Cllr Lambourne was arrested by Her Highness's guards at the house of Alderman Alan Monterey, where they were lunching with Alderman William Trueman and Sheriff Jenny Davy. Forces from both the Citadel and Witanmoot then rounded the rest of the faction up over the afternoon. As dusk fell groups of shocked citizens gathered at the Mootstone, the Citadel and outside Cllr Lambourne's house. The crowd at the Mootstone roared in anticipation when Alderman Monterey leapt on to the stone to give a speech; however their mood quickly changed when Monterey told them of his deep distress at hearing Cllr Lambourne confess to a number of heinous crimes against the city. "I do not want to believe it, myself", he told them, "but there is no question: Marcus Lambourne is guilty of the most foul treachery against this city and its citizens", He urged the crowd to disperse and to "warn others not to be drawn into protests of support for someone who was no longer worthy of it". Elements of this crowd clearly passed through Faringdon as the crowd there melted away. However at the Citadel things started to look ugly. General Olvini was obviously feeling less interested in explaining matters and the crowd dispersed only when the Citadel gates opened to reveal a company of cavalry mounting up.

The following morning Sheriff Davy issued a brief statement. "Yesterday I advised Princess Selina to arrest Marcus Lambourne. Investigations led by myself, Alan Monterey and William Trueman have revealed that Cllr Lambourne has for some time been engaged in treachery against this city. The details remain secret while our arrests continue, however I can reveal that the assassination attempt against him was proved fake and ordered by Lambourne himself in order to gain support in the elections. Officers of the guard are continuing to search for two mercenaries going by the names of Kiri Goodlake and Greg Henderson who we believe were hired by Cllr Lambourne to murder his bodyguard. Ms Goodlake is over 6ft tall and all information about any women matching her description should be reported to the Witanmoot."

The arrested members of the Lambourne faction are Bernard Hubold, Marcus Lambourne, Bert Belcher, William Scrut, Estelle Wynstanly, Nicholas Worton, Rose Cheping, Eddie Englefield, Emma Chireton, Audrey Wirstan, Janice Travers and Jean Pendleton. Judi Spich and Andrea Barbet were released after questioning.

## The Chronicle of the month of Pipetal in the year 154

Princess Selina has made a full recovery and made a marvellous speech of thanks to the city. She was particularly grateful for all the prayers that had been said, giving some weight to the rumours that her illness was not entirely natural. The celebration was attended by King Kieran, who thanked Tinrodeth for its hospitality and for the warmth of the welcome he had received. The King, who will depart the city within the next few days, also commented on the progress Tinrodeth had made during the civil war and how pleased he was to have the Princess as an ally. The King also commented on the evil of the misguided IF; "Let everyone be sure these people are as much my enemies as they are yours. Princess Selina is the rightful ruler of Tinrodeth. As High King of Athion any attack upon her is also an attack upon me."

The arrest and trial of a number of Alderman threw the Witanmoot into something of a quandary, not to mention panic. Various people made attempts to suggest how the situation could be resolved. But with the Lords elections coming up the potential for new Aldermen to changing the outcome ensured that none of these solutions was universally acceptable. Many pointed out that the practice of the Aldermanic court to co-opt replacements worked and didn't need changing. However gaining most support was Alan Monterey's suggestion that Lady Andrews decree "that the councillors polling the second highest number of votes at the last Midwinter elections in the wards whose Aldermen have been arrested should serve as acting Aldermen in those wards. With elections following if they were convicted". However Lady Andrews was not comfortable with this, decrees not being something she has favoured doing and also with the implication that the arrested Aldermen had already lost their posts. However in the end, commenting that she felt that "because the Aldermen are going to be representing their wards for most of the year, the people deserve to choose their own leaders" she declared, "that should any of the arrested Aldermen be found guilty of treason then they shall be immediately stripped of their rank and full elections for a replacement Alderman be held as soon as practical in the affected wards". In accordance with this decree elections will be held on Tenthday Jasmarrill in the wards of Cripplegate and Shambles.

The new Mercers gate in Portwall has, much to Jim Bottlers relief, been completed on time. The monstrosity, for which many a more derogatory names have already been proposed, was formally opened by Guildmaster Duncan Barnet on Lastday Pipetal. Commenting that it had required a huge effort from the various construction guilds to achieve this marvellous feat of engineering, he expressed his hope that they would be suitably recompensed for their exertions.

Ships have started to arrive in port bringing news from afar. Surprisingly little appears to have happened over the Winter with no major changes reported from foreign cities. King Ravensgrim has consolidated his hold on the devastated Western Isles, whilst to the South there are reported increases in pirate activity, particularly by displaced Noord. A squadron of Navy ships has already sailed to secure our trade routes against this threat. The election contests in Cripplegate and Shambles have already begun to heat up. In Shambles Ralf Seagrim has accused Marie Cripstead of unseemly campaigning before Alderman Belcher has been found guilty whilst in Cripplegate the contest between known Reshite Irvine Grendle and ex-Lambourne faction member Janice Travers looks particularly unattractive.

### Late News! Late News! Late News! Late News! Late News!

Several distinguished members of the Witanmoot have been found guilty of belonging to the seditious sect know as the IF, and have been executed for high treason. Bernard Hubold, Marcus Lambourne, Bert Belcher, William Scrut, Estelle Wynstanly, Jean Pendleton and seven other conspirators were all found guilty by a special court presided over by His Majesty King Kieran and Her Highness Princess Selina. The executions took place immediately after the trial within the closed courtyard of the inner Citadel. The heads of the traitors now adorn the Citadel gates. Other members of the Lambourne faction, including Alderman Nicholas Worton, were found not guilty and released. It has been confirmed that the Citadel Guards foiled a desperate rescue attempt in which the remaining IF fugitives were captured.

In the aftermath of the executions of two Aldermen, the Lordship election was expected to be a somewhat subdued affair. Hoping to get it out of the way most Alderman chose to vote early and it was therefore obvious by mid-morning that the vote was going to be very close. The Trueman faction had thrown its weight behind Nicholas Bowden whilst Monterey was backing Jenny Davy. By midday things had reached a fever pitch with 20 votes cast and the vote split 10/10. Only Judi Spich and Nicholas Worton remained to vote. Alderman Worton voted first; commenting on how pleased he had been by the professionalism with which Jenny Davy had carried out the Lambourne investigation and subsequent trial, he voted for her. Alderman Spich voted immediately thereafter for Bowden, drawing the contest at 11 each. The Witanmoot clerks informed Lady Andrews who was at the time officiating at a naming ceremony, that she needed to use her casting vote. With her usual style a delighted Lady Andrews promised them that she would get round to it some time before midnight.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 154

Jenny Davy has been invested as the new Lord of the City. Lady Andrews cast her deciding vote for Jenny in the closing minutes of Springtide, surprisingly voting against the previous line of the Trueman faction. Whilst she has resisted commenting upon her reasons, many people in the Witanmoot are drawing the conclusion that the suddenly frosty relationship between Alan Monterey and Jim Bottler confirms the rumour that Alan Monterey made a last minute and decisive intervention on behalf of Jenny Davy.

Lady Davy's inauguration ball took on special significance as the last public occasion for High King Kieran before he left the city. Lady Davy used the excuse to throw a lavish event reminiscent of old times. Indeed she and many of the Witanmoot and Citadel openly expressed the view that a new era was dawning for Tinrodeth. Princess Selina herself proclaimed during a brief speech that "With my recovery, the defeat of the Noord threat, the election of a new Lord and the firm establishment of our alliance with King Kieran, and now the destruction of the evil traitor Marcus Lambourn, a new time is coming for Tinrodeth." However most eyes were not upon the politics but rather upon King Kieran and Princess Selina. The two leaders, who are rumoured to have become close during their time together, seemed keen to keep their attentions to each other formal. But they could not hide the pleasure they took in dancing together, giving hope to the many well wishers who see this as the perfect match. King Kieran himself thanked the people of Tinrodeth and in particular the Princess for their kindness and the warmth of their hospitality. "In my youth I spent many a happy day in Tinrodeth, my father's capital city. Now as King of Athion I am delighted to see that the city is still prospering despite the many threats to its future"

Lady Davy has already shown herself to be a strong and determined leader. Following on from her discovery of the Lambourne plot, she argued vehemently in the Witanmoot for the establishment of a "Witanmoot Investigation Organization" which would be capable of undertaking investigations into possible malpractice by Councillors and actions of Treason against the city. This proposal gained almost unanimous support from the collective councillors with only a few dissenting voices raising concerns about the potential conflict with the Citadel and the role of Colonel Aldridge.

The elections for the replacement Aldermen led to an unambiguous and devastating defeat for Janice Travers who received only 22 votes compared to Irvine Grendle's 327. Demonstrating that the people are unwilling to forgive those associated with Marcus Lambourne, the once popular Travers would have, in a normal election, lost her seat on the Wardmoot with this poor a vote. Following the defeat the stoic Travers announced her intention to make a new start by joining the Monterey faction. In Shambles the victory was less emphatic, but Marie Cripstead still achieved a clean win over Ralf Seagrim whose association with Bert Belcher clearly damaged him.

The budget process appeared to be carrying on quietly until the intervention of Jim Bottler. No amendments were proposed to the main budget split and hence this should pass cleanly next month. However Bottler has proposed that within the Committee budgets the donations to the temples all be £500 with extra spending on building maintenance, alms houses and dock maintenance coming from the consequent reduction in payments to Brynette, Esprayenna and Torus. The only other change is that the trade budget shows a shift from the previous focus on Shipping with the suggestion that £1500 be spent of road building. A proposal which has apparently not gone down well at the Citadel despite much lobbying.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 154

Preparations are now underway at the Citadel for the arrival of King Ravensgrim who is expected on a state visit as soon as he completes the consolidation of his victories in the Western Isles. The Witanmoot will also need to decide if it wishes to throw any events for the apparently large trading contingent that will be accompanying the Noordic King. Colonel Aldridge has played down any suggestions that there might be civil disorder problems as a result of Ravensgrim's past history as leading the mercenaries which devastated properties in, and mercilessly killed the population of several wards of the city. General Olvini was somewhat clearer on the matter. Describing King Ravensgrim as "a trusted ally who had eliminated one of the most serious threats to Tinrodeth security and who now controls one of our most important trading areas", he expressed his expectation that the Noordic King would be greeted with spontaneous cheering.

In a quiet Witanmoot session the main budget split went through unopposed. This was then followed by a flurry of amendments as Alderman Jim Bottler proceeded to propose his recommended changes relating to the Temples. These proposals have proved a surprisingly uncontroversial and it would appear that Jim has again got away with walking through a field of cowpats that many others have avoided. A slightly more exciting council session may be provided by the elections of the Sheriff which are forthcoming. Olivia Warin, Nicolas Bowden and Mary Hastings have been nominated and, with the four remaining factions almost evenly represented it in the Alderman Court, it may well come down to the independent vote of Nicolas Walton to decide the outcome.

Lady Jenny Davy has already started to establish a distinct style as the leader of our city. Her most recent innovation is to openly meet with the leaders of factions as well as the Sheriffs and key committee chairs. Whilst factions have been an accepted part of Tinrodeth life for some time, this is the first occasion upon which the normal separation between the administration and the factions has been blurred. In a further innovation Lady Davy has decided to hold these sessions extremely informally. Apparently she has become used to having important discussions in the Bottler baths. Perhaps it will not be too long before the sweet water project achieves the official backing from the executive that it has always lacked.

Preparations for the Midsummer Fair are now well underway. Lady Davy has made it clear that she would like this year's event to show a return to Tinrodeth's trading roots. Formal invitations have been sent out throughout the duchy and prizes are to be offered by each of the guilds to the member who has made the greatest difference to Tinrodeth trade this year.

The new Mercer's gate is proving to be very popular. Flow through it has been surprisingly strong. Indeed on one occasion queues formed despite the fact that the accesses to the adjacent gates were unblocked. Several wags have commented that this simply goes to prove that Tinrodeth dockside workers are indeed the laziest in the world.

Rumours are beginning to circulate suggesting that the apparently quiet passage of the budget is a cover. Whispered conversations in the Witanmoot suggest that large sums of money have gone missing or indeed that the accountants got their sums badly wrong. However attempts to investigate what has happened to the apparently large amounts of money left over in various contingencies or indeed why people get so jumpy when the committee's accounts are looked into have been faced with absolute denials and bafflement by the Witanmoot Clerks.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 154

The state visit of King Ravensgrim to Linrodeth has proved to be a success so far. There has been absolutely no trouble or protests at the King's visit and it would appear that, with the death of Marcus Lambourne, all vocal resentment about the events of the invasion has subsided. The King, with his substantial entourage, has spent the majority of time at the Citadel but has made a brief visit to the Witanmoot, along with a memorable and unscheduled diversion to the Dancing Bear tavern in Welland. One further official engagement, a tour of the more respectable aisles of the Midsummer Fair, is scheduled.

Lady Jenny Davy appears determined to revive all the mercantile traditions of the past. Along with her drive to re-establish the Midsummer Fair as a major event, she has held a grand Civic Ball in honour of King Ravensgrim's visit. The ball itself was a lavish affair with Lady Davy drawing upon the much underused hospitality funds with apparent relish. Lady Davy's speech welcoming the King and looking forward to new trading links with his nation during the growth of a new, vigorous and enthusiastic Linrodeth will be seen as a landmark event for the city. So far however the Noordic efforts to establish new trading deals have not been entirely successful. The Noordic merchants, with the financial backing of their King, appear to be taking the lead in most of the deals with Linrodeth merchants reluctant to take risks themselves. Alderman Cutario's cronies appeared to be the only guildsmen prepared to invest in the various proposals mooted over the banquet.

Very little has been reported of King Ravensgrim's discussions at the Citadel other than a comment from General Olvini that he hoped the King would be able to stay longer than originally planned. In the absence of official comment, the rumour mill is buzzing with suggestions that the Noordic King is spending the majority up of his time courting Princess Selina; much to the distress of King Kieran's ambassador.

Work was started this month on what is apparently going to be known as Ye Oval. This land, as would be expected from its name, is a large oval and often boggy space which is being marked out on the far side of the river for the playing of public games. The start of the works coincided with the anniversary of the lifting of the ban on football by Princess Selina and resulted in a minor celebration of the event. It is hoped that the pitch will be in a good enough condition to for the staging of the annual football competition which will be held at Harvestide.

Observers at the bridge have been intrigued to notice a reduction in activity around the city's shipyards this year. The cordon of tight security has been pulled back to Kingsport down the estuary, and the local yards are busy on a flotilla of smaller mercantile vessels for a change. Notwithstanding, the navy continues to pursue a vigorous recruitment policy which has made the dockside a hazardous place for lone youths at night time. Midsummer weddings are proving to be very popular this season as citizens experience an unusual and hopefully continued return to prosperity. Whether this is a brief lull in the war, or a sign of things to come, many couples have decided to tie the knot during this bountiful summer. A number of aristocratic ceremonies at the Hahnite Temple, all vying for the title of Society Wedding of the season, have been eclipsed by a lavish and spectacular naming ceremony at the Torian Temple, during which largess was distributed like chaff. The centre of all this celebration was of course young master Marcos Fitz-Ailwyn, the new son of Jacqueline Fitz-Ailwyn and Lord Robert Cornaro.

Due to popular demand, the Bards College is to revive its production of Roland and Julia (a comedy of errors) for an autumn season. It is understood that more patrons are being sought in order to encourage a new generation of playwrights. The Chroniclers hope that any new talent will be spared the depredations of the Linrodeth Navy.



## Late News! Late News! Late News!

The Midsummer Fair has been a resounding success reminiscent of the great fairs which were held before the civil war. Lady Davy has expressed delight at the large number of people from outside the city who attended and also at the very positive impact that the fair had upon Tinrodeth's economy. All of the guilds got behind Lady Davy's schemes and a number of significant competitions were held. The most enjoyable of these was that organized by the construction guilds, whose teams formed with the intent of seeing who could build the best house in a day. The contest was closely called between the "Welland Wonders" led by Eddie Englefield and the "Blue Boar Bodge". In the end the higher quality construction of the Blue Boar team won out. It seems likely that this construction competition will become an annual event with teams training and bets being placed long in advance. The pig-wrestling competition also went ahead, despite the untimely escape of some Tamworths who briefly threatened the glasswork display of some guildsmen. A contingent of Celidon rangers provided a dazzling display of archery and may even inspire some Tinrodeth citizens to resume their practice. The large Nordic trading delegation reserved a major area of turf at the Midsummer Fair and provided a tempting display of golden amber, fine silverwork and exotic furs. A couple of competing fortune tellers proved to be rather more exciting than many customers had anticipated. Tinrodeth's official Temple's also made an unexpectedly strong showing during the afternoon with each of the temples major orators putting forth the view of that particular god and encouraging people to attend worship more regularly.

The Sheriffs' election was rather more hotly contested than expected. Mary Hastings looked secure to take one of the posts. Her efforts in the setting up the Witanmoot Investigation Organization have built on the Law & Order ticket and plays well to the council's paranoia in the wake of traitor Marcus Lambourne's gory demise. However, a closely fought contest developed between Nicholas Bowden and Olivia Warin and ended in a tie. Lady Davy, after brief consideration, cast her decisive vote for Olivia Warin.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 154

The expected showdown over the new committee chairman and Alderman failed to materialise this month. It was a surprised Alderman Trueman who this month found himself in the luxurious position of making several unopposed nominations. The Alderman proposed Judi Spich as Chair for Law and Order, Alan Monterey for Trade, David Northrop for Alderman of Temple and Emma Chireton for Alderman of Berewic. After a long pause Alderman Cutario rose to second these nominations. With no other nominations coming forward the posts were confirmed. Both factions are paying down suggestions of an alliance deal. The Chronicle would normally treat with contempt their claims to have independently come up with the same list, however both factions appear genuinely embarrassed and it is just possible that they are telling the truth.

King Ravensgrim continues to extend both his stay in Tinrodeth and his trade interests. Much is still rumoured (none of it substantiated) about the King and Princess Selina but it would appear that the King has in fact turned his attention to the City. Even more unsubstantiated rumours have connected the King with its old (and now very rich friend) Raven Indis or his even richer and not quite so old friend Lady Eshi Cyarçon. The most bizarre and more worryingly persistent rumour has him spending time with well known Reshites Maria Consuela, Irvine Grendle and Maureen Quiller.

Work on Ye Oval is proceeding at a surprisingly rapid pace. Alderman Cutario has been much in evidence and it looks like the project will be completed well ahead of time. The Alderman has apparently been confusing the Tinrodeth building guilds by planning ahead for the future of the "great stadium"; a concept which Tinrodeth's "if it gets in the way in the future we'll just knock it down and charge you double" building consortium is resisting with some vigour.

Pirate activity on the southern routes to the City States has increased significantly recently. The Navy is taking the matter very seriously and has started to operate along the entire route to the City States. The Admiralty has refused to comment upon the surprising concentration of force near Salvoyne, however many dockside conversations suggest that Her Highness is concerned that some of the pirate activity appears to be rather well organized and very professional.

The Bards College is undergoing a flurry of activity as it prepared for the first ceremony of elevation for many years. Master Bard Occam will be formally elevated at Harvestide although it is understood that he has already been granted the post by his fellow masters. Where Occam has been for the last two years remains a mystery, which we have been unable to get anyone at the College to comment upon.

This years harvest looks set to be a bumper one. The continued good weather, interspersed with just enough rain is creating apparently nearly perfect grain growing conditions. If the city can avoid been attacked, besieged or burnt down then it may be possible that this year may mark an earlier than expected return to prosperity.

Problems abound in the Fishmongers Guild. It would appear that the ever tactful Richard Saunders has got himself into a dispute with both the City Guard and his guild. The Alderman is accused of selling fish at below guild rate; an accusation which he fervently denies and which he has helpfully suggested is a result of "those morons in the city guard settling old scores". Kate Penipot has joined in demanding a full investigation and accusing Saunders of trying to cover up something rotten. Saunders in turn has rounded on her describing her as a "meddling Troublemaker who should have been exiled from the city months ago for her Reshite beliefs".

## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 154

A lavish civic ceremony of thanksgiving has been held for bumper harvest underway this year. Lady Davy led a formal procession of both the Aldermanic and full council members to the Dalethian Wellhouse on Wheat Hill, where a service was conducted by the Wellkeeper Shinannon. Later the dignitaries adjourned to a formal reception at the Lords Mansion in the Witanmoot, where additional generous libations were made to the Kerunian deity Baccelos. It has been a busy month for Chair of Law and Order Judi Spich. Firstly her well intentioned attempt to intervene in the Saunders' affair stirred up a hornets' nest of complaints. Perhaps if she had quietly asked the Investigation Agency to look into the matter, things would have gone smoothly. As it was her announcement to the Witanmoot was formally seconded, then challenged. Things quickly degenerated into a full council debate on the role of the Agency, the authority of the Chair of Law & Order, and the authority of the Witanmoot and the Citadel in enforcing Guild charters. Things got even more complicated when Cllr Kate Penipot proposed an amendment instructing (rather than requesting) the Agency to be involved. An irritated Lady Jenny Davy halted the debate and instructed the Agency to, "Investigate whatever it felt needed investigating and report back to the Committee for Law & Order". A decision which, according to the Monterey faction, has "dangerous and ill-considered constitutional consequences".

Alderman Judi Spich also faced a growing crisis over the failure of the city guard to prevent crime in Cripplegate. The frustrated citizens of the ward have re-formed their own watch and are informally patrolling the streets on a personal rota. Alderman Grendle described the activities of his fellow citizens as "unnecessary and unwise", and was appalled when his fellow councillors co-opted Peter Ryman, leader of the new "citizen's watch", onto the Witanmoot. Watch leader Ryman told the Chronicle, "I don't care whose job it's meant to be. All I know is that my shop was broken into three times last month, and we have had enough."

Admiralty is refusing to offer apologies for the deaths of three citizens who were killed trying to enter Kingsport without authorisation. A Naval spokesman commented, "it is now clear that the three dockers were trying to get a look at the new ships as some sort of dare. When challenged by the guards, the three attempted to run and were quite rightly shot down."

Controversy is raging quietly over the price of bread. The bumper harvest has led to a dramatic fall in corn prices but the Bakers Guild has yet to reflect this in the cost of a loaf. According to Maud Blessop "we have held prices down during the difficult years. We should be thanked for what we have done and not attacked for trying to recover our losses."

King Ravensgrim's attempts at courtship appear to be frustrated. Citadel insiders are clearly relieved that he will be leaving in the near future, with the relationship between him and Princess Selina never having passed out of the rumour stage. His other ladies have also apparently been unusually preoccupied and the King has reverted to his mercenary origin and gone drinking instead. Apparently he was overheard in the Dancing Bear complaining that "Women are more difficult to deal with when they hunt in packs".

The Oval has been put to good use this month with a series of horse races taking advantage of the ready made racetrack. Attempts by Alderman Petro Cutario to make this a vaguely organised event have come up against the usual Tinrodeth love of chaos and muddling through. Cutario's new approach to betting, where odds are offered on all the horses, has been rather more successful, especially with the Citadel accountants. However it appears to have flummoxed the less mathematically-minded and is optimistically being investigated by the Goldsmiths Guild as a possible breach of their Charter.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 154

Court and council decamped to Kingsport last week for the build up to the launch of this year's contingent of naval additions. Also present was an unexpected host of troops, both serving and summoned levy, which underlined how seriously Princess Selina is taking the latest threat from Salvoyn. Her Highness took advantage of this great gathering of her army at Kingsport to give a stirring and defining speech, which the Chronicle has transcribed opposite. After a full day reviewing the troops, the new ships of the line were launched on the evening tide. All were the largest vessels of the new design yet constructed, and the incredible size of the Kingsport build drew gasps of disbelief as it was finally unveiled. The 2,000 tun Leviathan and new flagship of the Linrodeth Navy was almost unable to turn into the main channel of the Ishtan, and manoeuvred slowly out to station on the ocean, along with the Cetus, the Yamma, and the Tiamat sister ships of 1500 tuns. The significance of raising the levy of the countryside controlled by the Principality was not lost on political onlookers, and stocks of luxury items in the market places fell significantly over the course of the week.

Ahead of the marching levy, and presumably unrelated to it, comes news of unrest and rebellion across the northern reaches of the Weald. It is unclear whether the discontent on the northern borders is due to taxation or some more local difficulty. Fortunately, it does not appear to have effected corn supplies from the area or the redeployment of troops.

Several of the more elderly citizens of Linrodeth have been highly agitated by recent activities of Brynette surveyors along the Botmoor road and atop Botmoor hills to the south. Citing Lord Raphael's famous assurance that "no further incidents of necromancy will be allowed to occur", the silver brigade are lobbying for a curfew to be re-imposed throughout the month of Kryll and Ghostmoons. As near as the Chronicle could ascertain, the surveyors are merely checking water levels during the autumn flooding. Residents of the ward of Faringdon have lodged complaints recently about strange noises coming from the abandoned home of traitor Marcus Lambourne late at night. Local councillors consider the source of the nuisance most likely to be optimistic treasure hunters, trying to loot the place ahead of redevelopment of the site. A few more excitable rumourmongers in the local tavern claim to have seen hooded figures entering and exiting over the roof tiles, while their young offspring seem to be intent on making a lightning raid during the early hours of Ghostmoons.

The wardmoots of Dracas, Shambles and Levestone are all dealing with distraught parents and guildsmen after a number of youths went missing during errands in the early autumn twilight. The youngsters all appear to be fit, strong apprentices from comfortable households and thus do not fit the usual descriptions of lost street urchins. The City Guard has confirmed that these incidents do not appear to be related to the trio of "floaters" hauled out of the flooded River Ishta last ninthday. Scribes at the Witanmoot remain puzzled by a small number of mysterious citizens who send in taxes for properties which do not appear to exist.

All these "landlords" appear to reside outside of the city boundaries, but repeated replies to those addresses seem unable to stem the small and persistent trickle of funds into the Treasury.

In the aftermath of the great troop assembly at Kingsport, several ward moots have been debating their future role in any emergency. In the wake of other reforms to city governance, most are unclear as to whether they still retain the right to call out a Marching Watch of ward citizens under the command of the Alderman. It has generally been agreed that this is not a good area for experimentation due to the watchful eye of General Olvini, and that the Witanmoot should clarify the duties of the armed citizens and councillors.

## Her Highness Princess Selina's Address to Troops at Kingsport:

"My loyal troops and sailors. We have been persuaded by some that are careful of our safety, to take heed how we commit our selves to armed multitudes, for fear of treachery; but I assure you I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and loving people. Let tyrants fear, I have always so behaved myself that, under the deities, I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and goodwill of my subjects.

"Therefore I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live and die amongst you all; to lay down for my city and for my lands and my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a Prince, and of a Prince of Athion too, and think foul scorn that the Council of Regents, or any witch of Salvoyne, should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field. I know already, for your forwardness you have deserved rewards and crowns; and we do assure you in the word of a prince, they shall be duly paid you.

"In the meantime, my Admiral Cornaro shall be in my stead, than whom never prince commanded a more noble or worthy subject; not doubting but by your obedience to my Admiral, by your concord in the camp, and your valour in the field, we shall shortly have a famous victory over those enemies of my lands and of my people."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 154

Dire news has reached us from the south; King Kieran has been injured in a skirmish against Salvoynian Cavalry. The High King was returning with a small escort from a supposedly secret visit to his sister in Cascorach, and was set upon by a large group of Salvoynian knights. The King's scouts had stopped the advancing force and his escort was therefore able to choose its ground and prepare a defence. Losses on both sides are reported to have been high and whilst the King's force was victorious, he is reported to have been received a serious wound to the arm when his shield splintered.

The controversy over grain prices flared up again with a number of councillors planning to censure the Cornmongers and Bakers Guilds. Cllr Peter Ryman has stepped into the fray with an outspoken maiden speech, "I just can't believe the hypocrisy of this council." he declared. "The Bakers Guild has always prided itself on supporting the city. We have coped with fire, riots, plague, civil war and grain shortages. We have only raised our prices when the alternative would have been for us to go bankrupt." He accused other guilds of profiteering from the rebuilding of the city and pointed out that no-one in the Bakers Guild had a huge mansion.

Alderman Petro Cutario has launched a major cross-city campaign on the subject of Security for All. For most of last week his faction has been rallying people to attend the free races which Petro will be providing at the new stadium. During an interval in the excellent entertainment Alderman Cutario spoke passionately about his support for Princess Selina and the defence of the city. He went on to explain his belief that security comes from both military strength and prosperity, and also from the knowledge that your fellow citizens will use their prosperity to support you in your time of need, just as you would support them in theirs. He followed this stirring speech by announcing that following a "generously priced" purchase of the Lambourne mansion by William Trueman, Princess Selina had decided to donate the proceeds to the city's Welfare and Education budget to enable the establishment of an orphanage for the children of the Principality. Chairman for Welfare and Education, Richard Saunders, is already actively seeking sites for the new building and has declared himself delighted that this long term ambition of the city has finally been realised.

Cutario's campaign appears to have caught the mood of the people, and many political commentators are describing it as a master stroke. The betrayal by Lambourne has seriously weakened peoples' faith in the political factions and this, combined with a shift in campaign emphasis by the factions towards campaigning for individual Alderman candidates, has left cross city support for all the factions dwindling. By capturing the high ground and being prepared to once again stand forth in belief for something, Cutario has set the agenda for the coming election and ensured that anyone associated with his faction will do well. Brunstan Blackbeard has denied the rumours, circulating the Witánmoot, that he is involved in organised crime. Whilst admitting that in his youth he was a regular visitor to the Floating Market and had "many contacts" amongst the city's criminals, he claimed that he had severed these ties upon becoming elected to the Witánmoot.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

We are at war and an attack by Salvoyn is imminent. A brave and loyal citizen of Tinrodeth has at some significant personal risk, brought advanced news of a fiendish plot by Salvoyn to attack the city. The Salvoynian fleet is already thought to be on its way to Tinrodeth and is expected to arrive towards the end of this week. The Leviathan, Cetus, Yamma, and Tiamat have all been rapidly fitted out and a full battle fleet is being formed up at Kingsport. All Consortium shipping returning to port for the winter has been redeployed onto naval duty and a general call up of all able bodied sailors initiated. Despite these actions, it is not clear that Tinrodeth is yet ready to take on the might of the Salvoynian fleet which still has as its core the old Athion Royal Navy, and land defences are also being urgently strengthened. It is not known whether the attack by the Salvoynian ships is a prelude to invasion or simply the beginning of a blockade. General Olvini has declared his intention to meet any invasion in the field rather than allow the Principality's lands to be ravaged. The first full practice muster of the Marching Watch is being planned and all citizens are reminded of the law requiring them to maintain a bow and full complement of arrows and practice with this at least once per week.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 154

The first practice muster of the City turned out to be something of a debacle. Only some of the Alderman had received the notification of the practice and in most areas the ringing of the City belles engendered panic and disorder. One notable exception was Faringdon where William Trueman's long interest in the efficiency of his ward turnout paid off. The worst wards were Shambles and Cartage which formed up in completely the wrong place causing terrible disruption to the arrival of the Citadel cavalry. General Olvini has summoned the Sheriffs and Aldermen to a number of subsequent meetings and is rumoured to be considering placing military officers from the City Guard directly in charge of the Ward watches.

Peter Ryman has declared himself at last satisfied that something is being done about crime in Cripplegate. Indeed a number of arrests have been made and large numbers of City Guard have been deployed into the area recently. However tensions remain between Mr Ryman and the Guard who are reported to be very unhappy about the fact that Mr Ryman has hired his own group of guards with which to "patrol the areas the City Guard are too scared to enter". With war upon us urgent reconsideration of the budgets is taking place. Rumours abound but the Chronicle has been able to discover that the goldsmith's guild has been approach for a loan. The welfare and education budget to be also expected to be savaged and Jim Bottler is rumoured to be highly distressed by the removal of funding for a number of extravagant building projects. Funding for the recently purchased City Orphanage is also causing some concern.

With the elections only a month the city has moved into full campaign mode. Trueman and Cutario of clearly in the lead having both been active on the safety and security agenda. Alderman speech on the subject this month was particularly well received with its unifying theme of "security for all and all for security". Other surprising active groups have been the renewal party with Maureen Quiller making a passionate speech asking the city to rally to defeat the Salvoynian evil that has corrupted Resh. Nicolas Worton has also spoken out and on the benefits of independence and the limitations of the current factions.

In an interesting development patriots have taken to displaying blue flags outside their windows. However this blue is the pale blue that of Princess Selina rather the traditional deep blue of Tinrodeth. Cynics have suggested manipulation by the Citadel however as far as the Chronicle can ascertain the display is spontaneous taking up of an idea by from the Cutario faction which produced the flags for their own use. The dyers guild has been rushing to meet demand and supplies of indigo are reported to be dwindling fast.

In sombre mood the Witanmoot has gathered to see a portrait of Lady Andrews unveiled on the walls of the Long Gallery, alongside her those of her predecessors. The painting, the work of Jessamine Scathlocke, was adjudged a worthy addition to the Witanmoot's collection, and Lady Andrews declared herself delighted with the results.

Marcus Stenmoor, the Political assistant to Jim Bottler, has left the Bottler group in order to stand for election in his own right. Mr Stenmoor, who it was widely thought at one point would become a bard, has been the main driving force behind the political activity of the Bottler faction and his loss is likely to be a significant blow to the Bottler grouping.

## LATE NEWS LATE NEWS LATE NEWS

The recent heavy snowfall and blizzard conditions most certainly mean that the expected Salvoynian invasion will not take place. A number of people had already begun to question the likelihood of an invasion this late in the year and the validity of the information about it. However the Citadel remains adamant that an attack was due and continues to urge citizens to prepare for one immediately the weather clears. Two brave crews have set forth from Kingsport to scout to the south and determine if the invasion fleet has been forced to put in and over winter on the coast. They will also provide early warning of any strike coming in the New Year. It is also possible that the invasion fleet has gone south to attack our allies in Kerun.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 154

Lady Davy's decision to practise the Tinrodeth muster in pre-planned groups of three wards and then build up to larger groups by adding these "triads" together, has enabled the most recent full muster to be a great success. Despite the hampering winter snow, it was by far the most rapid formation to yet be seen, with each ward using pre-planned routes and gates to exit the city. General Olvini is said to be delighted with the ability of Sheriffs Hastings and Warin to produce a plan and then execute it. He is reported to have commented at the end of the last muster, "What wonderful women; if they could fight I'd be out of a job."

A furious exchange of leaks is hampering the negotiations around the Goldsmiths' loan to the city treasury. Alderman Jim Bottler has accused the goldsmiths guild of a "lack of financial acumen" and an "inability to understand that they won't have any money if Tinrodeth loses the war". Alderman William Trueman, who was clearly annoyed that these discussions are taking place in public rather than in a darkened room, commented that "Bottler is asking the Goldsmiths to accept a far higher risk and far lower profit than the construction guilds, but despite this the Goldsmiths will do whatever is possible to help safeguard the security of everyone in the city of Tinrodeth. However, we would like to make sure that Bottler tightens up his financial act first so that none of the money is squandered."

Indigo blue flags festoon the sombre city streets, sometimes with party colours, but mostly on their own. Aldermen William Trueman and Petro Cutario have continued the "Security for All and All for Security" theme that they developed last month with the Bottler and Monterey factions struggling to carve out any agenda other than to go along with the tide of popular support for these policies. William Trueman has also become the first politician in Tinrodeth history to be cheered for proposing a tax rise following his impassioned call that we provide our troops with ships and the equipment they need to eradicate Salvoyrn once and for all.

The robbery perpetrated against Sheriff Warin's household during the last muster has outraged the citizenry. The one guard left at the house was viciously murdered by a gang of at least four people, who then proceeded to casually load stolen goods onto a cart. Had it not been for a diligent neighbour, who had remained behind with her children, they could have stolen a great deal. As it was the neighbour's warning and the ensuing hue and cry scared them off before most of the more valuable items could be taken. Sheriff Warin is understood to be furious. A reward of £50 has been offered by the Grossers Guild for information leading to the capture of these evil criminals who have so cynically exploited the city's defensive preparations for their own ends.

Alderman Alan Monterey is reported to be running urgent shuttle diplomacy between the Citadel and the Witanmoot. Despite his delight at their organisational skills it would appear that General Olvini is convinced it is time to dispense with the role of the Lord, the Sheriffs and even the Aldermen in anything to do with organising the muster. He is reported to be formulating plans to place the city's levy forces directly under his control. The General can be perhaps forgiven for not understanding the reluctance of the people of this city to let him do this, but he needs to learn that our Democracy is something which is not negotiable.

## LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS!

The following citizens were elected as the ward Aldermen in the midst of our Midwinter blizzards: Arpent; Hugo Merewell. Avigon; Petro Cutario. Bassishaw; Marc Bergeren. Berewic; Aldric Houghton. Bridge; Richard Saunders. Cadene; Melanie Romanie. Cartage; Alice Barbiter. Castle Bard; Gilbert de Clare. Cripplegate; Peter Ryman. Dowgate; Graeme Porter. Dracas; Thomas Osbert. Faringdon; William Trueman. Ishtan; Eva Capel. Kingsgate; Adam Povre. Levestone; Alan Monterey. Marshgate; Nicholas Bowden. Oldgate; Duncan Barnett. Portsoken; Stephanie Exton. Shambles; Marie Cripstead. Temple; David Northropp. Welland; Jim Bottler.

In what was clearly a strong endorsement of the Cutario and Trueman pro-war agenda (and a devastating punishing of those still seen to be associated with Marcus Lambourne) Rose Cheeping lost her seat and Ralf Seagrim, Eddie Englesfield and Audrey Wirstan were all only narrowly re-elected.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 155

Residents of Temple ward are becoming increasingly angry at a spate of window smashing which has suddenly struck the ward. There appears to be no pattern to the victims of the crime nor has there been the expected attempt to extract protection money. The attacks always occur at night with stones, and on one occasion snowballs, being thrown through a number of windows before the assailants run off. The city watch has deployed a number of additional guards into the area, although the recent snowfalls are making patrolling difficult.

This month's committee nominations proved to be a surprisingly messy affair. There was no sign of the usual carefully prepared stitch up and even the deviously diligent Petro Cutario seemed ill prepared for the meeting. The word in the corridors of power is that Bottler, Cutario and Trueman had failed to agree at the pre-meeting and that Trueman and Cutario were therefore trying to put together their preferred list on the fly. Alan Monterey's faction leapt on the confusion and as a result have left the Witanmoot with a real choice for the first times in many years. A bemused Peter Ryman commenting on his nomination said "We can do a good job after we've shaken things up a bit". The full nominations were as follows:

Treasury: Capel, Romanie, Spich.

Trade: Monterey, Bowden, Barbiter

Law and Order: Capel, Cripstead, Northropp, Ryman

Lands and Agriculture: de Clare, Cripstead, Barnett

Shipping: Osbert, Porter, Barbiter

Welfare and Education: Saunders, Trueman, Bergeren

Envoy to Kerun: Downe, Candever

Envoy to Orissa: Russell, Hyde

Envoy to Eresan: Howe, Benton

Envoy to Cascorach: Russell, Merewell, Rucche

Envoy to the Western Isles: Rucche, Flambourd

The newly elected Chair of Treasury will face an interesting task. Princess Selina is widely reported to have asked the city for an immediate payment of £10,000 to cover emergency war preparations to be followed by at £5000 increase in the city's annual payment to her. The scouring of budgets for potential savings is already underway. Apart from cutting the obviously ineffective Investigations agency and abandoning civic balls, candidates for reduction are proving elusive.

Heavy snowfalls and strong winds have been causing severe difficulties for people throughout the city. Last week has been announced by the Brynettes to be the coldest on record. The Wellhouse has opened its doors to all the beggars of the city in an attempt to prevent their wholesale death. With the recent abatement of the winds some normality has been restored and there is now talk of arranging a Frost Fair on the completely frozen river.

The reward for information regarding the robbery at the home of Olivia Warin has been increased to an unprecedented £100 amid rumours that the thieves have carried off the Warin business' entire reserve fund of some several thousand pounds.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 155

The highly successful Frost Fair has shown that Linrodeth's people are still capable of enjoying life even under the threat of invasion. William Trueman can take much of the credit for the events success having spent much of the month planning, organising and finally running the event. The best exhibit competition was won by Emma Chireton whose innovative "swan carved from ice" may well have started a new tradition. The ice added a new aspect to the welcome return of the pig wrestling and enabled some newcomers to shine as the old hands failed to get to grips with the unusual surface. People are now looking foreword to the forthcoming Dragonfeast in the hope that it will be a festival rather than a signal for battle.

The city's budget crisis rumbles on with none of the faction leaders wishing to be the person responsible for proposing the necessary cuts. Jim Bottler is continuing to focus his attention upon the goldsmith's guild, and some have even suggested that he is stalling in the hope that some other faction will take over the Treasury before the decision has to be made. William Trueman, however, is reported to be highly reluctant to grasp this particular nettle. Some observers have rather ungenerously suggested that Alderman Trueman wants this particular debacle to be unambiguously Bottler's. Lady Davy is clearly becoming less and less tolerant of the game playing although she also appears reluctant to react. Alan Monterey is rather wisely keeping a low profile.

Marcus Stenmoor appears to be wasting no time in establishing a faction to challenge the stagnation of the existing order. He has teamed up with newcomer Jessamine Scathlocke, hired a political assistant and made his first, highly amusing, Witanmoot speech.

The sudden rains which washed through Linrodeth last week have all but cleared the snow. The rapid dismantling of the remains of the frost fair was only just in time as the flood waters washed clear all of the ice from the river.

William Trueman has narrowly missed taking almost full control of the key committees. It required the casting vote of the Lord to prevent Eva Capel from unseating Melanie Romanie as chairman for the Treasury and, with the backing of Petro Cutario, Marie Cripstead easily took the Lands and Agriculture post from Gilbert de Clare. Thomas Osbert and Richard Saunders both retained their seats. Fortunately for Alan Monterey, neither Cutario nor Trueman was willing to back Bottler's attempt to take the Trade post and therefore both of the minor factions have managed to maintain one committee post each. The importance of the rapidly-fading Monterey faction was further lessened by the loss of the envoys to Kerun and Cascorach with Gemma Downe and Joanna Russell taking the posts with clear majorities. Bartholomew Hyde, Gillian Howe and Samuel Rucche were all unanimously elected.

Lady Davy is having second thoughts about her decision to leave Bottler in control of the Witanmoot finances and has proposed a motion inviting the Officers of the Goldsmiths Guild to "assay and audit" the city exchequers for reserves prior to the end of the year. She has also invited the Trade committee to formally propose an alternative budget to the general Treasury proposals.

The people responsible for the robbery of Olivia Warin's household have been brought to justice by the investigations agency. A raid by a large City Guard force resulted in the deaths of the mercenaries responsible and the recovery of most of the stolen items.

## LATE NEWS

The Linrodeth merchantman Warin's Cormorant has brought news of the destruction of the Salvoynian Invasion fleet at anchor in Salvoy. Captain Redmond described the massive fleet which had assembled and the shock raid by a dozen pirate ships. The Cormorant like many other Linrodeth ships had been held in port by "customs difficulties". They used the confusion to break free and were able to obtain a good view of the battle before making the difficult over winter trip north. The Salvoynian fleet was neatly lined up in rows and completely unprepared. Three or four large pirate ships broke through the screening force opening up the way for an attack by fire ships. The Cormorant crew described the incredible bravery of the attackers who

navigated their already burning and obviously oil laden ships into the midst of the Salvoynian forces. At least half the Salvoynian fleet including the flagship Grace Dieu are believed to have been destroyed. It seems incredible that pirates would stage such a daring raid and carry it through with such ferocity. Whilst the crew of the Cormorant admit that at least one of the attackers was a Linrodeth built warship, they say that it was flying a pirate flag and many others of the raiders were known pirate ships including the infamous Fury and Siren both known to be based at Port Felix. Our Navy has been fast to respond to the news, and a heavy force has sailed south. This initial squadron will provide reconnaissance for a rapidly assembling counter strike aimed at destroying the remnants of the Salvoynian fleet and establishing a blockade of the port.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 155

Tinrodeth's assault fleet has now sailed for Salvoy. The massive force took several hours to form into its sailing formation and is the most impressive naval force ever assembled. The size and beauty of the new style ships was apparent as even laden down with marines and supplies they handled with precision and grace. Princess Selina sailed out to join the fleet for its first few days of travel south and returned with a small escort which will now provide defence for Tinrodeth against pirate and Noord raider attacks.

Dire news has arrived from Eresan where High King Kigran is seriously ill. Whilst his wounds are not thought to be life threatening, he remains weak and will not be able to campaign this year. Forces from Eresan are reported to be consolidating defensive positions on the plains rather than making their usual march towards the Salvoynian borders.

The proposal to allow the Goldsmiths to audit Treasury proved to be hotly contested and a recount was required before it became clear that it has been defeated by 139 votes to 134. Following the defeat of the motion Alan Monterey, one of its main opponents, has now proposed that Princess Selina's accountants be invited to formally audit the Treasury and Committee accounts. The proposal for Trade to propose an alternate budget proved much less contentious with only the Bottler faction opposing it. Commenting on the victory Alan Monterey expressed his gratitude to Lady Davy for the opportunity and then went on to launch a harsh attack on Jim Bottler and William Trueman. "At the moment there is an unedifying squabble between two Aldermen who are more interested in lining their own pockets than running this city. It is about time we started budgeting properly. I remember a time when the fact that a large fraction of the city was destroyed by fire did not stop the Treasury committee from producing a balanced budget, hard though it was. Frankly, it was embarrassingly easy to produce the proposals now being circulated. The most trivial overview of last year's budgets revealed an enormous number of savings".

The budget proposals from Trade and Treasury show an interesting difference. Treasury has proposed a "modest 1 penny in the shilling" increase in Guild taxation pointing out that despite our economic recovery guild taxes are still dramatically lower than they were some years ago. Alan Monterey has however delivered a budget with no tax increases. Battle lines have clearly been drawn. Commenting on both excellent ways both cases had been made Maureen Quiller has suggested that perhaps we could approve the Bottler Tax proposal and the Monterey committee split thereby enabling us to create a much needed reserve for war emergencies.

Mr Marcus Stenmoor's faction has grown even more this month. The group still appears to be made up of independents but rather than voting separately they are flexing their muscle as group and were clearly delighted to have proved the decisive difference in the Auditing vote.

## LATE NEWS

Lady Davy came close to a shock defeat in the Lordship elections. A clearly shaken Lady Davy was forced to use her casting vote to retain her position as the Aldermanic court split 12 votes to 12. A clearly elated Sheriff Hastings told the Chronicle that she respected Lady Davy but felt that in these times of difficulty the precise and faultless leadership that she would bring was what was needed.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 155

News from the south is still awaited, with latest reports speaking of skirmishes between Tinrodeth's screening fleet and the Salvoynian forces. Heavy losses have been suffered by the enemy side with little damage to the superior Tinrodeth ships. By now our navy should be approaching Salvoyn and we should hear results of the ensuing fight. Prayers for the success of the action, and for the safe return of Tinrodeth's fighting forces, are being held in all the major temples.

Her Highness Princess Eleanor of Cascorach has announced the betrothal of Crown Princess Alexis to Prince Gian-Carlo DiLeo of Ravol. Royal watchers have tried to ignore the obvious difficulties of the marriage between a 12 year known for her independence of mind and a 24 year old known primarily for his love of food. Instead they have been keen to point out that whilst Ravol is one of the smaller city states, its strategic position commanding the southern overland access to Salvoyn will make it a vital ally in the fight against the regency council. Debates have already started within the Hahnite Temple as to the possible consequences should King Kieran die before Alexis comes of age, with opinion divided as to whether Prince Gian-Carlo or Princess Eleanor would become the Regent for Alexis. Cllr Thomas Castlemaine, who died for his love of Princess Eleanor, is no doubt turning in his grave.

The scout ship Peregrine has arrived from the north with the shocking news of the abandonment of Nyskilde. The Peregrine was laid up for the winter south of Nyskilde and was tasked with performing a reconnaissance as soon as the weather permitted, and then returning to Tinrodeth as fast as possible. The astonished sailors reported that the invading Noord, faced with a long winter and few supplies, have chosen to migrate into the mountain valleys. The population of the old city has dwindled to a few hundred scavengers and a small contingent of Huscarls who are doggedly maintaining control of the castle.

With much of the budget debate being stitched up behind closed doors, the vote on auditing the Treasury and Committee accounts by Princess Selina's accountants, as proposed by Alderman Alan Monterey, provided the most amusement for Witanmoot watchers this month. The motion was as hotly contested as last month's proposal that the accounts be audited by the Goldsmiths, but with the faction lines drawn rather differently. In the end with the vote split at about 130 for each, once again it came down to the decision of the emerging Stenmoor faction. A nervous Jessamine Scathlocke rose to make a competent, well reasoned but somewhat flowery maiden speech on behalf of the faction, expressing their support for the motion which "can only bring goodness".

Despite the somewhat half hearted attempts by Alan Monterey to engage the Witanmoot in a discussion about the level of each guild tax, this year's "back room budget" was passed with little debate. The guilds blocked the long overdue increase in guild taxes once again and have preferred instead to make cuts to the things that affect the citizens but not their profits. Whilst some guilds protested that anomalies brought about various historic events had not been corrected it was clear that the faction leaders were all feeling proud of having actually bothered to think about the budget in advance for a change and no argument, no matter how well-reasoned, was going to disrupt this one.

The marshlands surrounding Tinrodeth are unexpectedly blooming with a carpet of tiny white water lilies. The scented flowers have not been seen for many generations and were thought to have died out under the nearby effluence of the city.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 155

The Siege of Salvoyn has begun. The enemy ships fled before our fleet, a blockade has been established and Salvoyn has effectively ceased to be a port. Several attempts to break through have been thwarted and ships and goods confiscated. Work is now underway to establish a staging post where ships travelling up from the City states can break their journeys before continuing on to Linrodeth. Several protests from various city states have been received, however the Navy is holding firm. Any ship seeking to enter or leave the port of Salvoyn is subject to attack, search and seizure. The only concern now is the failure of Eresan to march upon the City. Whilst King Kieran's army has moved down from the escarpment it is lingering in the Gavelkinden the opportunity to decisively defeat Salvoyn may be lost.

Preparations for the Dragonfeast are continuing apace. Lady Davy has taken the lead and ably supported by the Sheriffs and the ever enthusiastic William Trueman the great day is taking shape as a major celebration. As would be expected military contests will form a major part of the pastimes with the archery contest taking a particularly major role. The contest has been split into three groups with the military and citizens competing separately and a later all comers contest which promises to be a tightly fought affair. Traditional sports will also play a major part. A new addition this year will be chariot racing which, along with some other special events and the ever important ward football march, is being organised at the stadium. Crafts will however not be forgotten and the guilds, under the co-ordination of Emma Chireton have promised a huge market and crafts show. The theme of dragons appears to be particularly prevalent this year and the ward apprentices "dragon wagon" contest is looking set to be a newfound favourite.

Lady Davy has announced a grand feast for the night of Midsummer and for the first time in years the cities dressmakers are declaring themselves to be too busy to take new orders. Princess Selina has confirmed her attendance and that of much of her court. Competition for invites amongst leading Citizens for the limited places is fierce with many new socialites seeking to replace the old stalwarts at what is clearly going to be the definitive social event of the year.

William Trueman has launched a major campaign to coincide with the Sheriffs elections. Commenting on the closeness of the recent Lordship vote he promised to "Allow people the choice of who leads them by continuing to put up candidates, even if it disturbs the cosy status quo". The vote for sheriff will be between Nicholas Bowden, Olivia Warin and Mary Hastings which to many observers looks rather cosy. Indeed in a surprising counter attack Audrey Wirstan made an impassioned speech about the desperate need for new factions to rise up to challenge the cosy status quo which the Bottler, Trueman, Cutario consensus represents.

Rumours are beginning to circulate that Princess Alexis has either been kidnapped or has fled Cascorach to escape from her marriage. Whilst official statements speak of a "seclusion and vigil the hectic military activity and frequent questioning of merchants about a "girl of about 12' has caused many to believe that the Princess is no longer in Cascorach. If the heir to the throne of Athion is indeed abroad with little or no escort at a time when King Kieran lies injured then the Chronicle fears for the safety of what little stability is still left.

## The Chronicle of the month of Menderal in the year 155

The naval blockade of Salvoyn is progressing well, and news that both the Cascorach and Eresan levies have now mobilized to besiege the Salvoyn delta has been welcomed by General Olvini. At sea our blockade is now completely effective with no shipping moving into or out of the city. A number of minor engagements have occurred and one major incident took place when a warship Asteri from Jedigal attempted to escort a merchantman into the city. A robust intervention was made by the highly manageable Broadsword which was able to engage and sink the merchantman without coming into contact with the warship. However the warship persisted in its attempt to force the blockade and the Leviathan was eventually forced to ram and board the ship. Surviving Jedigal seamen have been press-ganged into the navy, whilst the Asteri's captain is being held for questioning. King Kieran's Ambassador to Tinrodeth praised the forethought of our Princess in building up a strong navy and the tactical excellence of the Tinrodeth sailors.

High King Kieran is believed to be recovering from his mysterious injuries and has sent messages of support to Princess Selina, and thanks to the Tinrodeth temples who have held prayers for him. One of His Majesty's first actions was to appoint Duke Faure de Lamonte as Lord High Marshall for the overland siege of Salvoyn. The outspoken and energetic old Duke, whose family has suffered personally from the attentions of the Salvoynian witches, is expected to give new impetus to the overland attack.

It has been confirmed by sources in Cascorach that Princess Alexis is missing. Her mother Princess Eleanor has announced that the planned marriage of the young Princess will no longer take place and this has increased speculation that Princess Alexis has fled the city in order to avoid the marriage. Less certain is the safety of the young Princess, who may have been duped into trusting criminal or eldritch types with her escape. Her father, Duke Alexander, has personally led the blockade of the road to Salvoyn, while other household knights are searching travellers on all other roads out of the domain.

Tinrodeth's Mercers and Grocers guilds, for once in agreement, have expressed concern about the impact of the war with Salvoyn on Tinrodeth's economy. There has been a notable decline in the amount of shipping arriving from the city states and it is possible that the loss of Salvoyn as an intermediate destination is causing many ships to abandon the long trip north to Tinrodeth. Phillip Candever, speaking on behalf of the guilds told the Chronicle; "We don't think it is simply a matter of an over long journey, many of these ships traded goods at Salvoyn and the profit from a trip just to Tinrodeth may not be sufficient to make the venture worthwhile."

Despite the loss of shipping, all Tinrodeth citizens are determined to make the forthcoming Midsummer and Dragonfeast holidays ones to remember. Large numbers of caravans are arriving overland and the fairground on the Journey Fields is already being set up. There are decorations and bunting along all the main roads in the city, and rumours that the vintners guild will supply fountains of wine. The Bards College has many cultural entertainments planned to compete with the athletics and chariot programmes at Ye Oval. The Citadel regiments are adding music to their usual martial display, although the naval regatta will be sadly missed this year. The City Guard have confirmed that they will be patrolling at full strength over the festivities, and will not be seeking to win hearts and minds if they discover any lawbreaking.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 155

Linrodeth's Temples, Witanmoot and Citadel are still struggling to explain the incredible omen which Linrodeth received at Dragonfeast. Whilst everyone agrees that it was a good omen, accurate interpretation beyond that has been erratic. At exactly midday on Dragonfeast, the dark overcast skies were pieced by a bright column of light which leapt up from the area of Berewic and spread out in a ring which illuminated the centre of the city. Once the light had died down, clouds eventually cleared and the afternoon was bathed in warmth and sunlight. The Citadel has so far resisted the temptation to declare that Linrodeth is about to become "the centre of light clearing away the darkness of Resh", but a number of temples, in particular the Hahmites, have been much less reticent. The Witanmoot itself seems more pre-occupied with tracking down the source of the "magic" and hard questions are being asked of the actors who staged the play "The Demon of Berwick" which culminated at the same time as the omen occurred and which took place in the same location as the centre of the light. The Bards College has requested that the area be sealed off and is refusing to comment on rumours of a secret chamber beneath the stage. Whilst completely overshadowed (if that's the right word) by mystical events, both the Midsummer Fair and subsequent Dragonfeast were a great success.

The play itself has generated significant controversy with its "revelation" that the famed Battle of Berewic was in fact staged by Aralan Derwent to further her political career. Further fuelling the political furor over this, the Chronicle has been able to learn that it was the already controversial Witanmoot Investigation Agency that both sponsored and co-wrote the play. Just why the agency would be involved in an attempt to re-write political history, and assassinate the character of the now Countess Derwent, is unclear and raises further questions about what really went on at Dragonfeast. A furious Alderman William Trueman is demanding to know who approved the budget and has raised an urgent motion to "Bring the agency under control".

Further naval action has taken place between ships of our navy and warships from Zedigal at the blockade of Salvoyn. A formal embassy from the city state has arrived at the Citadel to protest at the blockade and its interference with trade in general and their ships in particular. The envoys are reported to have been in an uncompromising mood and fears are being raised that the powerful city state may launch an all-out attack on our forces. Whilst discussions are still continuing, Princess Selina has raised the stakes by authorising the Navy of Linrodeth to take "all actions necessary to defeat those offering support or aid to our enemies".

The Midsummer sheriffs' elections resulted in the appointment of Nicholas Bowden and Olivia Warin to the office. Mary Hastings, whilst clearly disappointed to have lost her chance at lordship, appeared genuine in welcoming back Bowden, "whose experience in the role of sheriff," she declared, "was clearly needed in these difficult times." Samuel Kutler, Maureen Quiller and Lyndon Skate (the latter a strong supporter of Bowden within the ward) have all been proposed as the replacement Aldermen.

To add to Princess Selina's already fraught schedule, Duke Alexander of Cascorach has ridden in at speed with a small but veteran troop of household knights. Going directly to the Citadel, the Duke is understood to have obtained an immediate private interview with Her Highness, followed by a lengthy and much less private search to find suitable accommodations for his retinue. His Grace is believed to now be residing in the Manticore Tower.



## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 155

The combined levies of Eresan and Cascorach have been able to secure at least the outer edges of the reeds and waterways surrounding the city of Salvoyn. This is the first time that the troops have been able to move into the immediate hinterland of the city, and the advance has halted while the army adapts to the unique hazards of the wetlands. This major success with troops controlling such a significant area pays tribute to the military vigour of Duke Faure de Lamonte, and his masterly use of intelligence provided by Viscount Constarlis, a native of the area, who has been placed in protective custody of the armed forces at the siege.

The city guard has launched a major raid on the criminal factions of Cripplegate. Over fifty troops, some of them mounted, descended on an inn which the Witanmoot Investigation Agency has alleged was the headquarters of a major criminal gang. All of the key members of the gang were either killed or taken prisoner. Alderman Ryman has declared himself delighted that "at last the city is taking action". He went on to praise the Witanmoot Investigation Agency for the robust way they were tackling crime and suggested that his political colleagues stop interfering and leave them alone to get on with the job.

Princess Alexis may be somewhere within Tinrodeth. Agents of Duke Alexander of Cascorach have been asking questions on the whereabouts of the young, missing princess, and there are rumours circulating on the streets that she has been spotted on more than one occasion. On some occasions the duke himself has taken to questioning witnesses, always with great charm and generosity, clearly playing on his enduring popularity within the city (especially amongst matrons of a certain age). Her Highness Princess Selina has also expressed concern for her niece's safety and is offering a reward of £1000 for anyone who can provide accurate information leading to Princess Alexis' safe return.

Another of Princess Selina's concerns may have been resolved, or at least postponed, with the departure of the Zedigal envoys aboard the trading cog Belos. Neither side was willing to comment on the outcome of the talks, but it was noted that the visiting merchant princes took no advantage of the opportunity to trade with Tinrodeth's guildsmen. Meanwhile reports from the navy on blockade duty say that a new port has been established on the main island overlooking the Salvoynian estuary. This will act as a trading base for ships wishing to provide goods for the surrounding army or on the trip between the city states and Tinrodeth. Beliste Port is already thriving with a number of prominent Tinrodeth merchants already taking warehouses on its rapidly filling dock front.

Within the lately quiet Witanmoot, the faction of Cllr Jessamine Scathlocke continues to grow with Gemma Downe, Bever Edge and Audrey Wirstan all joining her entourage. With a large base of support in the ward of Castle Bard, and an increasing presence in Dracas and Ishtan wards, this group looks poised to break the current impasse in the Witanmoot.

A small trading mission to Nyskilde has returned and reported that, whilst the city is not entirely abandoned, trade that has completely collapsed and the port has been reduced to a fishing settlement. Undeterred by this dismal information, a private fleet is being assembled by a group of nobles within our Principality in order to sail north and claim the land. The Citadel is denying any involvement in the venture, but is clear that this private invasion fleet is loyal to Princess Selina.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 155

The siege of Salvoyne continues with neither trade nor food permitted to enter the port. Duke Faure de Lamonte has launched a probing attack by raft through the upriver marshes, and has destroyed some outlying buildings. The Tinrodeth Navy continues to block seaward access, but its freshwater supplies at Belisle Port continue to be a problem and may hinder operations. The Admiralty has increased its water allocation to merchant vessels heading further south to the city states, and has also issued an official warning about increased "pirate" activity around Zedigal.

The Citadel is returning to normal following the abrupt departure of Duke Alexander and his armed retinue. The troop departed on an easterly road towards the Great Fens, presumably following up new information acquired during their recent investigations on Tinrodeth's streets. Despite this departure, speculation continues that Princess Alexis is being held captive within Tinrodeth for increasingly absurd amounts of ransom money.

The Nyskilde Venture Company may be forced to abandon its plan of campaign due to a shortage of vessels and able-bodied seamen. The Admiralty Board has moved quickly to ensure that any useable resources are either employed by the Consortium or commandeered by the Navy. The Nyskilde Venture Company is understood to be considering alternative plans, including a long overland trek or use of a very large fishing fleet.

Aldermen William Trueman and Alan Monterey are united in their campaign for the Witanmoot Investigation Agency to be bought under firm control with an open and accountable reporting structure and finance. Alderman Ryman remains a very vocal supporter of the agency in its fight against criminal elements with the city, and has chosen to leave the Monterey faction in protest. The Witanmoot looks set to become divided on the issue with some councillors pleased that someone is finally tackling street crime, and others remain deeply worried by the role of the agency in the mystical events of the Dragonfeast. The disagreements rumble on while one agency captain refuses to answer any Witanmoot questions on the subject, and the other captain turning up unconscious in the Torian Infirmary.

News from the Dalethian Temple confirms that this year's wheat harvest has been very much better than expected, despite the damp and miserable conditions earlier in the summer. Speculators planning on cashing in on the grain surplus are disconcerted to discover that almost all of it has been purchased ahead of time. Repeated statements from nearby towns expressed the sentiment that it had been acquired "for State, City, and the Consortium". And indeed Alderman Petro Cutario is looking extremely pleased with himself in recent days.

Scholars from the Bards College have been invited to catalogue the contents of a house in Cadene. This unusual step was taken after neighbours discovered the remains of the owner, old Ron Nevis, slumped in the garden privy. The very elderly gent and was known to be a formidable hoarder, but investigators were surprised to discover over 2000 items of parchment and vellum squirrelled away amongst the junk. Early plans for a hygienic burn and clear of the house contents have been halted while scholars try to understand what the documents are and where they originally came from. Old Ron was said to have worked as a janitor at many city institutions over the course of his long life, and to have been fired from most of them for pilfering.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 155

A major naval engagement has been fought in the Salvoynian estuary against a fleet out of Zedigal. Tinrodeth's superior navy was eventually victorious, but the battle disrupted the blockade long enough for a large group of merchant vessels to break through to Salvoyn. Observers fear that the enemy may have been supplied with enough grain to last out the winter. Hopes for a swift end to the siege have been replaced by a grim determination to see it through despite the onset of winter. Of longer term concern to Tinrodeth is the effect of Zedigal's hostility on merchant shipping heading south. Trade to Kerun is dropping off and there is some concern that the Treasury will have trouble balancing next year's budget.

The Nyskilde Venture Company has rallied its "settlers" in the Weald and has set out overland to Nyskilde. It is heading along the coast road, closely followed by a small fleet of well-paid fishing cogs carrying food and other essential supplies. The company still has a good chance of reaching Nyskilde before the winter sets in, but it is unlikely that any news of their fate will be had before Springtide.

The Citadel is pleased to announce that Princess Alexis has been reunited with her father. Dispatch riders from Fenny Bridges brought news that the princess was located in the wilds of the High Wolds, and will be returned to Cascorach forthwith. Officials are refusing to comment further, although it is understood that the young lady's immediate future may involve a religious establishment, or perhaps several.

The run-up to the Midwinter elections is getting underway in earnest, with the younger councillors particularly keen to hit the streets and set bunting out. Their seniors have been invited to the traditional pre-election discussion with her Highness Princess Selina. It was noted that Alderman Cutario returned looking no longer smug. At the start of the campaigning Jessamine Scathlocke is emerging as an Aldermanship candidate in her own right. The highly popular Cllr Bever Edge of Castle Bard has been extolling the virtues of Cllr Scathlocke. With Alison Shefford already trailing in third place it looks as though she may now be in a position to take the Aldermanship from Gilbert de-Clare.

An unexpected challenge to David Northrop's hold over the ward of Temple has emerged in the shape of one Dominic Horner. Cllr Horner's very well funded campaign has been spending money at an incredible rate and has completely caught Northrop off guard. Some groups in the Citadel have expressed concern that the Glaziers guild, which already has a number of prominent members in the Witanmoot is attempting to buy itself an Aldermanship.

Her Highness Princess Selina has announced that she will hold an official Programme of Remembrance for the dead of the war against Salvoyn. Although it will focus on the military, and in particular the brave sailors of Tinrodeth's formidable navy, there will also be prayers for civilian lives lost. This unusual step has been taken in recognition of the many years that Salvoyn has spent targeting the most vulnerable inhabitants of our city. The service will be held at Ghostmoons in the grounds of the outer Citadel. Representatives from all major temples will be present and all citizens are invited to attend. This marks the first time that the Citadel has been made open to casual visitors in very many years.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 155

The Service of Remembrance at Ghostmoons was a quiet and moving occasion. There were no security incidents despite the large crowd gathered in the outer ward of the Citadel. The night passed peacefully with the first fall of snow settling overnight.

The Midwinter elections next month are likely to see a number of closely fought battles. In Arpent Hugo Merewell is once again facing a challenge from Judi Spich, although he looks likely to hold his seat. In Bassishaw Marc Bergeren is facing a serious challenge from Gemma Downe whilst in Berwick ex-Sheriff Hastings and fellow Truemanite Alderman Emma Chireton are slogging it out a no holds barred contest. In Cartage the fight between Alice Barbiter and Brunstan Blackbeard looks set to be even closer than it has been over the last few years with the normally heavy Trueman campaign in this ward looking decidedly lacklustre against a well managed Monterey campaign. In Kingsgate Adam Povre will probably once again hold against Godwin Green, although the contest should once again be close.

Perhaps the most interesting contests this year are those where the new Scathlocke faction is disrupting the old order. In Castle Bard Jessamine Scathlocke herself is rapidly closing on Gilbert de Clare. Alison Shefford looks resigned to losing the contest but has so far refused to express a preference for which of the other two she would like to see as Alderman. A serious three way fight is also emerging in Dracas between Thomas Osbert, Randolph Flambourd and Scathlocke devotee Fanny Drake. The Scathlocke group's best chance at an Aldermanship however appears to be in Ishtan where Elliott Anderson looks set to defeat Eva Capel.

The Witanmoot has belatedly discovered that Maureen Quiller has unexpectedly departed to assist in the blockade of Salvoyn, along with a number of members of her household. With Nicholas Bowden now a Sheriff, Maureen was widely expected to regain her Aldermanship and her departure last month was a complete surprise. A spokesman for the household told the Chronicle, "The new Belisle port at Salvoyn is vital to the trade health of Tinrodeth and the defeat of the evils of the false Reshites in Salvoyn. As a senior member of the Mercers Guild she sees it as her duty to go where Tinrodeth needs her most. After all, we are at war." A warehouse fire in Ishtan ward was contained by the prompt action of local citizens. The Hodges Warehouse on Slip Street was completely gutted, but fortunately only half a dozen other buildings had to be pulled down to complete a fire break and prevent the blaze spreading. The warehouse is said to have been filled with linens and woollens awaiting shipment south. The fire is thought to have been started by a watchman's candle.

High winds have caused problems for the last travellers struggling to return to the city for the winter. Poor visibility and treacherous footing has made the bridge crossing especially hazardous. A number of wagons were overturned and abandoned on the bridge at the height of the blizzard, and were later removed by the City Guard. Citizens are reminded of their annual duty to keep the highways and byways of the city clear at all times, and to remove frozen beggars before they can accumulate underfoot.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 155

An early and prolonged spell of freezing weather has turned the river solid. Traders have already set up a Frost Fair on the ice and are offering the usual delights of skating, sledding, hot snacks and steaming drinks. Some of the students from the Bards College hauled a block of clean ice down to the fair and overnight carved it into a crystal mermaid. Within days the buxom lass had been joined by a menagerie of sea creatures, some very beautiful and a few clearly the products of a deranged imagination. The ice sculptures have added an artistic atmosphere to the usual gaiety of the Frost Fair, and are immensely popular with all but the smallest revellers. The craze looks set to sweep the Citadel with new pieces being commissioned for Her Highness' Yuletide celebrations at the end of the year. These festivities mark the end of a year where the threat of invasion was removed, are set to be the most splendid yet. The traditional masque will recreate the pirate raid on Salvoyne which ended in the firestorm in its naval dockyard. We trust the audience will remain unsinged during the finale.

Campaigning for the election has been fierce and unforgiving this year. With new contenders such as Jessamine Scathlocke and Dominic Horner disrupting the old order, the cosy agreements of the past appear to be breaking down and wards which have not seen activity for years are being hotly fought. The new challengers, whilst short of people do appear to be particularly well funded. The Horner faction in particular has been massively inflating the cost of a vote in the wards it is contesting. As ever with new contenders innovative campaign practices are emerging in particular the huge paintings which have been appearing on the sides of Scathlocke supporters houses.

Rumours that several theatrical companies have been bidding for the rights to the play "The Demon of Berwick" have unsettled the Witanmoot this week. Aldermen Monterey in particular has viewed the enterprising activities of the Witanmoot Investigation Agency with disapproval. Other patrons of the theatres clearly hope that commercial success of this title will allow further sequels to be written; "The Bandit Bitch of Botmoor" has already been suggested.

The city guard on duty at the magistrates' courts were forced to call on the Knights Templar for reinforcement after a brawl threatened to get out of control. A number of youths called before different judges for minor offences took rather greater offence at being in each other's vicinity outside the courtroom. A fistfight quickly escalated into serious trouble as knives were drawn, and the general melee left two dead before the situation was brought under control. It is understood that five witnesses, one Mandatien and three guardsmen have been taken to the Torian infirmary.

While the rest of the Mercers and Grosser guild fret about the fall-off of international trade, Alderman Cutario has decided to fling caution to the wind and enclose Ye Oval in tiered seating for its audiences. Clearly this will cost no small amount of money and suggests either great confidence in Linrodeth's future prosperity or great confidence in the number of punters willing to pay for sheltered entertainment. As this month's programme appears to feature a prolonged football tournament, which local Kerunians have described as "endurance mud wrestling", the likely payback would seem to be measured in decades.

## The Chronicle of Midwinter of the year 156

The expected breakthrough by Jessamine Scathlocke did not materialise as the established factions rallied their troops in a concerted effort to defend against her. In Castle Bard Gilbert de Clare, with the backing of Alison Shefford, received 54 votes; a comfortable margin over Jessamine Scathlocke's 46 votes. Alison Shefford and Bever Edge (who had both worked hard to transfer their votes to the main contestants) trailed in with 30 votes and 14 votes respectively. In Dracas Thomas Osbert had a tight 3 vote majority over Fanny Drake who received 34 votes. In Ishtan Eva Capel received 30 votes giving her a comfortable victory over Elliott Anderson's 21 votes and Bartholomew Hyde's 16 votes.

The battle between Alan Monterey and William Trueman was hard fought this year with Monterey emerging as the victor. In Arpent Hugo Merewell defeated long-standing Alderman Judi Spich by 44 votes to 42 votes, and in Cartage Brunstan Blackbeard beat Alice Barbiter by 47 votes to 39 votes. Elsewhere Trueman, who focused his efforts on defending what he had, held on to his Aldermen. In Portsoken Stephanie Exton received 60 votes, Nicholas Worton 45 votes and Kate Penipot 31 votes. In Shambles Marie Cripstead received 89 votes and Ralf Seagrim 47 votes. Trueman and Monterey themselves were never seriously challenged. In Faringdon William Trueman received 94 votes to Greg Heppledyke's 64 votes and Maud Blessop's 61 votes. In Levestone Alan Monterey received 43 votes to Martin Key's 37 and Hugh Fitz-Abushon's 32 votes. The Trueman faction was unclear if it should celebrate the Berewic victory of Mary Hastings, who received 51 votes to challenger Aldric Houghton's 47 votes, but in doing so defeated fellow faction member Emma Chireton who also received 47 votes.

In Avigon the election was thrown into huge disruption by the Citadel's dawn announcement that Princess Selina was ennobling Petro Cutario to a Count (Earl) and an Order of Merit for his services to the war effort. The title is thought to be in exchange for the military acquisition of this year's grain surplus. Count Cutario looked determinedly pleased despite his sudden disqualification from the Witanmoot elections. A day of panicky campaigning followed which resulted in Phillip Candever receiving 72 votes to Samuel Rucche's 69 votes. The ennoblement of Cutario did not otherwise seem to affect his faction members results either way. In Oldgate Duncan Barnett received 77 votes, Joanna Russell 57 votes and John Madigan 47 votes.

In Bassishaw Marc Bergeren received 69 votes, Gemma Downe 53 votes and Sheila Herman 43 votes; this was a closer result than expected but still shows a good margin for the Monterey faction. In Welland Jim Bottler received 58 votes, Gillian Howe 40 votes, Tilly Falgar 21 votes and Eddie Englefield 19 votes. In Bridge Richard Saunders, who received 97 votes, was never seriously challenged by Andrea Beablet who gained 54 votes. In Cadene Melanie Romanie received 83 votes, Tiffany Durnegate 61 votes and Gregory Benton 58 votes. In Kingsgate Adam Povre received 100 votes and Godwin Green 70 votes and in Marshgate Samuel Kutler confirmed his position receiving 72 votes to absentee Maureen Quiller's 52 votes.

As expected in Cripplegate, Peter Ryman won with a clear majority. He received 97 votes to Janice Travers' 44 votes and Irving Grendle's 44 votes. The emerging Ryman group's latest member Rose Cheping also had an astonishing victory in Dowgate where her 104 votes crushed incumbent Graeme Porter and apparent challenger Audrey Wirstan, who received 88 votes and 30 votes respectively. The other major upset came in Temple where independent Dominic Horner's lavishly funded campaign resulted in a massive turnout and a defeat for David Northropp by 143 votes to 133.

# A Map of Salvoyn



## The Chronicle

### of the month of Skelern in the year 156

Petro Cutario's farewell party to the Witanmoot has dominated social events this month. The newly ennobled Count hired the Brynette Temple's demonstration chamber (the largest domed space in the city), and also arranged for its under-floor heating to be well-stoked throughout. The dress code for the occasion was extravagant, but those turning up in velvets and thick furs were quickly forced to abandon several layers in the heat. The chamber had been turned into a tropical paradise with scores of imported exotic plants, fine pelts, caged birds and bejewelled butterflies. The redecorated dome with its new night-sky mosaic drew much applause (it is not known if the Brynettes will choose to retain the images of Miros, Baccelos, Hippone, etc. depicted thereon). The Kerunians in light silks were very much at ease, although lifelong Tinrodeth citizens were highly scandalised at the lack of garments. The laden tables of mysterious foreign food also proved a hazard to the unadventurous, and many confined themselves to sampling the fountains of wine. Noticeably at ease was Her Highness the Princess Selina, resplendent in glittering costume as the Great Moon Goddess. The event culminated at Midnight with a spectacular aerial display of rope dancing by Kerunian artistes, flimsily clad, which Cutario cheerfully referred to as the "heavenly bodies". Shortly thereafter most of the great and good bid farewell and departed in horse-drawn sleighs, leaving the dance floor to the young and lively. At this point it seems that the interior temperature rose yet again, and much of the remaining guests' costumes, along with their restraint, were discarded. The revels continued until the late winter dawn, and the temple is even yet cleaning up and making repairs.

Once hangovers had subsided, the Witanmoot was treated to a major showdown between the old establishment and the new factions over the Witanmoot Investigation Agency. After Alderman Alan Monterey made a number of failed attempts to establish the control of the Law and Order Committee over the agency, a clearly frustrated Eva Capel has thrown down the following motion: "That the Witanmoot Investigation Agency be brought formally under the control of the Committee for Law and Order." The motion was immediately seconded by Jim Bottler and opposed by an incandescently angry Peter Ryman and a more thoughtful Jessamine Scathlocke. The latter pointed out that, "The criminal elements in this city do not play by the rule book and therefore I perceive no problem with the Agency using similarly unorthodox means". So far the Trueman and Davy factions have reserved their positions, but much lobbying has been going on in the corridors of power ahead of next month's vote on the motion.

Residents of Dowgate have been spooked by tales that some of the more grotesque ice sculptures come alive overnight. The City Guard have dismissed reports as "tales for the gullible", but the wardmoot has approved an official letter of complaint to the Bards College. The worthy citizens request that students desist from playing such practical jokes, as it is highly disturbing to the local children.

The Citadel Infantry has been perplexed, and somewhat irritated, by attempts from local citizens to inspect and audit their grain stores. Citizens are reminded that the Outer Ward is run under military law and, while access is permitted to the Court, the sentries' tolerance for sightseers is not unlimited. Future trespassers may be shot first and questioned later.



Normal business at the Witanmoot resumed with nominations for the committee elections. The full nominations are as follows:

Treasury: Mary Hastings, Melanie Romanie.

Trade: Dominic Horner; Alan Monterey, Marc Bergeren.

Law and Order: Peter Ryman, Eva Capel, Hugo Merewell.

Shipping: Thomas Osbert

Welfare and Education: Richard Saunders, Marie Cripstead

Lands and Agriculture: Gilbert de Clare

Envoy to Kerun: Gemma Downe

Envoy to Orissa: Bartholomew Hyde

Envoy to Eresan: Tilly Falgar, Gillian Howe

Envoy to Cascorach: Samuel Rucche, Joanna Russell

Envoy to the Western Isles: Jasmine Scathlocke, Samuel Rucche, Gregory Benton

New councillor Jessamine Scathlocke appears less than flattered by Jim Bottler's nomination of her to the Western Isles. Describing Bottler as, "A rich bully boy swaggering about the corridors of power, buying votes and thinking he can do what he wants!" Her indignation greatly moved Alderman Saunders, who announced his support for her faction. Scathlocke added that the nomination was a malicious and mischievous attempt to get a faction leader, who came close to upsetting the status quo, out of the way. "I will not be going to the Western Isles under any circumstances" she announced. Support for Bottler has however come from the unexpected direction of Lady Davy who declared that, "some of these newcomers need to learn that with election come obligation. Whilst I think Samuel Rucche would do a much better job, if the Witanmoot decides Jessamine Scathlocke is the right person for the Western Isles then she is going whether she likes it or not."

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 156

Lady Jenny Davy has astounded the Monterey, Bottler and Trueman factions by vetoing the Witanmoot's decision to bring the Witanmoot Investigation Agency under the control of the Law and Order committee. Only some members of Lady Davy's faction and the minor groups spoke against the motion. Not even Cllr Peter Ryman's impassioned belief that the Agency was the only group actually tackling crime, nor Cllr Jessamine Scathlocke's reminder that "the criminal elements in this city do not play by the rule book", prevented the Common Council from firmly supporting the motion. Lady Davy then caused both offence and outrage by declaring that "Given the recent trend towards putting political and personal gain above the benefit of the city, I am not willing to see the Agency lose its ability to investigate whomsoever and whatever it wishes."

Concern is growing across the city about the Citadel's near complete control of the grain supply. With the assistance of the recently ennobled Petro Cutario, the Citadel has acquired the vast majority of last year's grain. Although this is being currently being sold at market rates to the Cornmongers, many people have pointed out that come Springtide much of what is left could be shipped south to feed the navy. Concerned citizens have been predicting that shortages and unaffordable price rises will result. So far the Citadel has not seen fit to offer any reassurances.

Cllr Maud Blessop has been forced to apologise to the citizens of Faringdon following her outrageous behaviour during a recent football tournament at Ye Oval. The Faringdon apprentices were doing well until a decision by one of the Referees disallowed their winning goal. Cllr Blessop, still a formidable matron despite advanced years, personally invaded the pitch to give the unfortunate man a piece of her mind. The match was postponed and later the umpires (from the safety of a bunker) declared it to be a win for the Temple team.

The murder of wealthy Goldsmith Arthur Brakeman has sent shock waves through the Guilds of Linrodeth. Mr Brakeman, who is well known for his extensive investments in Zedigal, is thought to have run up significant losses recently. There was no sign of a break in or of any obvious burglary, and the City Guard suspects that the killing was the work of a professional assassin.

Cllr Jessamine Scathlocke has proposed that "The Witanmoot hereby orders that the nomination papers for Lord Chief Magistrate, Sheriffs, Committee Chairs and Envoys be signed by two proposers and by the candidate him or herself in order to be valid. "I take the envoy post very seriously indeed, as I do my duties within my ward; working directly for those who elected me and those who did not. It may be, at some future time, when I have gained more experience that I will be fitted to be an envoy for our city. I should then be only too proud to serve. But to be forced into it before I am ready is folly for both me and the Witanmoot." she declared.

Cllr Julia Delmarsh of Shambles has had her voting rights suspended because of tax arrears. The bankruptcy checks that prevent a councillor voting if they are more than two months in arrears with their poll tax payments is rarely used. However Alderman Marie Cripstead has taken the extreme measure because "Cllr Delmarsh is a persistent offender who could easily pay the tax if she cut back on her extravagant lifestyle".

In contrast to the heady atmosphere created by Lady Davy's use of the veto, the elections to the committees was a lacklustre affair. Alderman Gilbert de Clare took Lands and Agriculture in an uncontested vote, with all the other of committee chairs retaining their places. Although Marie Cripstead's bid to take Welfare and Education from Richard Saunders was only defeated by Lady Davy's casting vote. The potentially contentious Western Isles vote provided the one point of entertainment with rumours circulating that Lady Davy was prepared to use her veto yet. In the end this became unnecessary with Gregory Benton replacing Samuel Rucche who moves to look after Cascorach. All other Envoys remained in post. The final result were:

Chairman of the committee for the Treasury:	Melanie Romanie
Chairman of the committee for Trade:	Alan Monterey
Chairman of the committee for Law and Order:	Eva Capel
Chairman of the committee for Shipping:	Thomas Osbert
Chairman of the committee for Welfare and Education:	Richard Saunders
Chairman of the committee for Lands and Agriculture:	Gilbert de Clare
Envoy to Kerun;	Gemma Downe
Envoy to Orissa:	Bartholomew Hyde
Envoy to Eresan;	Gillian Howe
Envoy to Cascorach:	Samuel Rucche
Envoy to the Western Isles:	Gregory Benton

## The Chronicle of the month of Pipetal in the year 156

Spring flooding has isolated the city following the thaw of an especially icy winter. The newly thriving North bank of the Ishtan has survived the experience better than previous years, possibly due to the improved drainage but more likely because its vast garbage heaps have finally raised its streets above water level. At the port a small number of coastal vessels have begun to arrive, but there is no sign yet of the large trading cogs from other cities. The merchant guilds are nervously awaiting news of developments around the blockade of Salvoyn.

The Witanmoot dealt with business in an uncharacteristically efficient session this month. Lady Jenny Davy was elected with an overwhelming majority, with only the Monterey faction opposing. Cllr Scathlocke's motion to have the option to refuse office on whim was summarily defeated by 202 votes to 43. Alderman Bottler proposes to move both the funding and reporting of the notorious Witanmoot Investigation Agency over to the Lord's Office. Alderman Monterey proposes the addition of a funded post of Envoy to Aadaqua. All parties seem to be keen to get their teeth into the latest budget figures amid widely varied rumours of big tax cuts or big tax increases.

Alderman William Trueman is apparently not feeling the pinch as he has embarked on a major rebuilding and expansion of his Faringdon estate. Interestingly, he has acquired a consortium of builders not aligned to the Bottler faction, a considerable feat as such were considered an extinct species within this city. Rumours that his family is also expanding have not yet been confirmed or denied.

Local watchdog Mrs Chant has been campaigning in Temple Ward to bring about the closure of the King's Theatre. Its recent productions of drama have not generated as much profit as previous runs, and management has begun to resort to dancing girls with predictable changes in clientele. What particularly worries Mrs Chant, however, is what allegedly goes on in the back of the dress circle. She may have a point. The theatre's increasing notoriety was further helped last week when an elderly Brynette, Artificer Jeremiah Hock, stabbed to death his mistress Martha Ray, as she emerged from the theatre on the arms of the Earl of Lockwood. The Artificer was arrested immediately and his trial will take place next month.

Two of Linrodeth's most notoriously bribable jockeys met their match at Ye Oval yesterday. Punters have been lodging a growing number of complaints over fixed races, and Count Cutario responded with something other than the expected ban. The promise of a lucrative two horse race attracted the skills of Messrs Smirke and Breary, each of whom had staked a considerable sum of money on the other to win. After two circuits both were proceeding at a cautious trot. Coming into the final straight Breary slowed his horse to a walk. Smirke retaliated by stopping his horse altogether. So Breary fell off. An irate audience of punters and owners were in an unforgiving mood as the two jockeys escaped from the arena.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Jasmarill in the year 156

The sudden Rubbish Riots in Northshore took everyone by surprise this month. Colonel Aldridge has deployed City Guard throughout the area in order to protect the official scavengers at dawn tipping and to keep the peace among the irate and rapidly growing population there. The dumping of city waste is continuing normally after a brief and unpleasant disruption to services last week. Disputes over the siting of the actual tips are at their most violent between neighbouring residents of this shanty town (households being too strong a term for these constructions). The subsidence of the spring floods left much noisome wreckage but also a surprising number of claimants to the infilled land spreading out into the marshes. Locals now express strong opinions that they have either had enough of the city's smelly waste or that they need a lot more of it to secure their plots of land. Either way, almost all the local residents agree that the official scavengers are wrong and corrupt in almost every aspect of their dumping duties. However this labyrinthine dispute resolves, it seems certain that tax-paying citizens within the city proper will not tolerate any more delays in overnight waste being removed from their doorstops and shop fronts.

The port has re-opened and is trading briskly this month. While not perhaps seeing the same quantity of merchant ships as other years, the quality of long distance goods has, if anything, improved. Of greatest impact locally is the absence of many Navy vessels on blockade duty down in Salvoyn. The Narwhal and Isebrevind have docked from the Western Isles, and unexpectedly a handful of battered cogs have bought ale and furs down from Nyskilde. There is no news of any recent "political developments". The crews appear to be genuinely puzzled by their reception in Linrodeth, especially with the appearance of several Aldermen attempting to speak cryptically with them.

This is clearly bizarre budget proposal week. Having spent many years running an austere budget regime, the councillors appear to have gone mad this month proposing that we create an envoyship to Nyskilde (where there is almost no-one to talk to), and that we create an envoyship to Adaquia (but without a budget), and that we fund a massive infrastructure on the Northshore (where few tax payers live). However the most unbelievable and hence most heavily supported proposal is to spend £50 doing up the Berwick Memorial. This at a time when many of our most necessary facilities are falling into disrepair. Perhaps Lady Davy, with her new found powers of decree, will save us from this lunacy.

Senior elements within the Witanmoot are expressing grave concern over the new "gypsy look" which has become high fashion this spring. The flouncy fashion was previously only seen within certain elements of allegedly Reshite faction members and sympathisers. This year the "ethnic couture" has been enthusiastically taken up and promoted by the House of Cyarçon to the Citadel. Mutterings about a ban on certain occult accessories have perforce been muted in light of the powerful patronage of ladies of the court.

The Witanmoot Investigation Agency issue simply won't go quiet. Like a dog with a bone, councillors keep worrying at it. Alderman Trueman view that, "It is clear that the Witanmoot Investigation Agency reports solely to the Lord and Sheriffs so we transfer their budget to the Sheriffs Office who are a more suitable place for investigations gained much support until he added that prevented concentrating control in a single person's hands and pro Davy groups immediately weighed in to defend her from this sideways attack.

Jim Bottler's expedition to the south is growing momentum. The theoretically secret plan to move most of the cities construction capability south in order to build an attack causeway to Salvoyn has occupied most of his time this month. Some concern is being raised over the likelihood that some guild members may be pressed into service and also over the risk that the city will not itself retain enough skill to deal with its own construction needs.

## The Chronicle of the month of Heliora in the year 156

The docks and warehouses of Linrodeth are still running below capacity, according to reports from the Mercers and Grossers Guilds. Nonetheless, shipping remains brisk, possibly due to rumours of more Naval action this summer. The *Iremia*, the *Festinatio*, and *Gorosneh Mår* have all made the long journey from the City States, and the exotic cargo of the *Half-Chance* is rumoured to be due in port anytime. Less favourably the *Trident*, skippered by Captain Eagleview, has returned from Nyskilde with confirmation that the Noordic settlement remains encamped within the city ruins, and that no trace of the Nyskilde Venture Company can be seen. However, stories of new shipwrecks along the Mulleister coast give some indication of the fate of its supporting fleet.

The North Shore has required firm intervention from the City Guard this month, as restless crowds continue to form and disperse throughout the settlements. Generally the mood remains watchful, and a heavy presence of the military along the main streets has ensured that the scavenger carts and rubbish tips operate without interruption. Count Cutario, clearly concerned about business to Ye Oval, has ensured that its access roads are especially well patrolled. In the Witanmoot Alderman William Trueman commented, "I call on the Alderman for Bridge and the chair of Welfare and Education to sort out the situation on Northshore. Surely, it is not beyond his wit to arrange the efficient distribution of rubbish to where it is wanted rather than not wanted? I have supported the call for funds to provide the infrastructure to support the dockyards in Northshore. Northshore has great potential and the situation there should be formalised, so that the residents can become proper citizens."

The Witanmoot annual budgets went through on the nod yet again, with only a minor scrap over the insane proposal to waste funds by rebuilding the Berewic Memorial. The intervention of Phillipe Grayson's Independents finally enabled this to be defeated by 4 votes.

Following the execution of Artificer Jeremiah Hock last week, the redoubtable Mrs Chant continues her campaign against the King's Theatre with a petition to the wardmoot. The request, backed by many local residents, cites the theatre as the cause of "much lewde and disorderly behaviours", with the consequent loss of business to neighbouring "honest and conscientious households". The petition then presses local councillors to remove the theatre's license to perform. Alderman Dominic Horner has confirmed that he will be holding a hearing into the matter, but has refused to comment further on the matter.

Alderman Jim Bottler, O.M., hosted a sumptuous dinner party at his mansion prior to his departure for Salvoyn. The private party, for a mere 100 guests, culminated in Princess Selina unveiling a massive round stained glass window in there to commemorate Linrodeth's great Naval victory last year. The lower half of the window shows the city of Linrodeth, with Jim Bottler positioning the final stones in the rebuilt Citadel, assisted by his wife and representatives of the construction guilds and cheering citizens. At the centre of the window Princess Selina stands in a Citadel tower, where she looks out over the sea into the distance. There she sees the fleets of Linrodeth vanquishing enemy ships which are splintered and sinking. Three pennants fly from the Citadel with the words: Selina, Linrodeth, Victorious. The following morning a large and mostly supportive crowd cheered the departure of Bottler and his entourage onto the *Trident* for its journey south.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 156

Diplomatic relations between the High King Kieran in Eresan and Her Highness Princess Selina have become sudden icy as reports of the Nyskilde Venture Company reach other courts. No formal response has been sought but it is understood that His Majesty's ambassador to Tinrodeth, the notorious Sir Eridan Portinari, has called in a number of significant military supply contracts for review. The Tinrodeth Guilds under closest scrutiny, notably the Bowyers, Saddlers and Brewers Companies, are scrambling to demonstrate their patriotism to all parties concerned.

The Brynette Temple has begun to rebuild a number of its older furnaces and a range of tall chimneys is to be added to Tinrodeth's skyline. The project is understood to be financed largely from Count Cutario's generous compensation payments, and it will serve to keep the city's remaining masons busy during Alderman Bottler's extended absence. The Chronicle has in the past been critical of Jim Bottler but on this occasion we must praise him for putting the war effort before his political ambitions and for not staying to assist Alderman de Clare in this lucrative rebuild.

Also under new projects we must include the birth of a daughter to Alderman William Trueman and Lady Maria at half two of the afternoon on Firstday Secondweek. The Alderman later interrupted his tour of congratulation at the Witanmoot to give a speech demanding action on Northshore, "Can the Alderman of Bridge and Northshore please assure this house that the situation in Northshore is under control? If not what does he propose to do about it?" Alderman Saunders robustly returned, "These people are not citizens as they do not pay household taxes nor register their land. It is many years since the wards looked after their own watches, so perhaps the Chairman of Law and Order should stop trying to put the blame for his failings upon others." Not to be left out Alderman Peter Ryman made a surprising speech supporting the city guard adding, "they at least seem to understand the real situation on the North Shore; namely that it is one (but only one) of the centres of crime in the city and must be dealt with."

The Witanmoot eventually worked through the agenda to reach the Sheriffs' Elections with the following result: Bowden 16, Warin 11, Hastings 10, Horner 1. Of note are the tactics of Cllr Scathlocke who only used one vote for Warin, knowing that if she also voted for Hastings then Lady Davy would use her casting vote to replace Warin with Hastings. Abstaining throughout was Alderman Ryman. His early departure for home caused some disgust amongst his fellow ward members who vented steam later, "he never puts our point of view into these contests, opts out of almost everything. He's no use as an alderman at all."

Alderman Dominic Horner's sudden increase in commissions has been keeping him very busy, to the point of postponing a number of ward matters including the hearing into the matter of the King's Theatre. The choice may prove a mistake. Mrs Chant and her redoubtable team of local matrons have taken to picketing the Alderman's workshops until such time as the hearing takes place. The noise level of the line of picketers is undeniably distracting to anyone trying to concentrate on artistic masterpieces. Or, as the Alderman himself put it, "a sharp intake of breath is a really bad idea when you are blowing glass".

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Setheran in the year 156

The Nyskilde Venture Company continues to be the topic of vigorous debate between Sir Eridan Portinari, the Citadel, and the Guildhalls of Tinrodeth. Increasingly the officers of Princess Selina's court are distancing themselves from the whole initiative, and various merchant guilds are being questioned as to their exact role. The King's ambassador, Sir Eridan, is clearly frustrated by the lack of straight answers, but the Witanmoot has become perturbed enough to despatch a special envoy to the court of King Kieran in Eresan. Alderman Alan Monterey, tasked with restoring the peace, commented, "This misunderstanding is most unfortunate. Both the King and Tinrodeth want to see Nyskilde recover as a vibrant part of the kingdom. We should be able to work together to achieve this." The Alderman has set out with a sizeable entourage of guards and a considerable shipment of His Majesty's favourite wines.

The arrival in port this month of the Undine, the Drakenkopf and the Sophia has been overshadowed by the appearance of the overdue Half-Chance. The old Cog is now captained by one Brendan Liang, the subject of endless speculation along the docks, and crewed by a most curious mix of Kezriakor, Babel and Humans. A large company of marines has been set to guard the Empire ship and her luxury cargo while the young captain opens negotiations with the Citadel and attempts to contact the remaining owners.

A lot of early campaigning has begun this month, showing the continuing shift as new factions vie to take control of the Witanmoot. A big fight appears to be brewing in Castle Bard, with Cllr Scathlocke attacking and Gilbert de Clare active in defence despite his commitments at the Brynette Temple. A hard battle is also being fought in Dowgate as the newcomers take full advantage of the absence of Monterey, Bottler and Trueman from the Witanmoot. Local householders, however, may be less keen on the unseasonal appearance of electioneers. "Bunch of identical grey tunics", was the sour comment from one old gentleman "In my day we saw real duels afore they candidates ever got near election date."

Count Cutario has expressed disgust at the new patrol roster drawn up for the City Guards. Changes to the north shore patrols mean that guards now spend longer around the tanneries and warehouses upriver of the bridge, than near the shipyards, theatres and bearpits downriver. Petro sourly predicted an increase in crime at these wealthy spots, and vowed to ensure a well-guarded approach to Ye Oval from the riverboats.

The recent wardmoot of Temple descended into farce after the chamber was hijacked by Mrs Chant and her colleagues demanding action against the King's Theatre. Alderman Horner was forced to adjourn the meeting while the chamber was cleared, but declined to press charges of disorderly conduct against the local matrons.

Lady Davy is pleased to announce the opening of the Berewic Memorial Gardens. The site around the old stone never entirely recovered from the events of last Dragonfeast and the subsequent sightseers and diggers. Now that a major replanting has been completed, Lady Davy expressed her hope that the site will now regain some of its former tranquillity.



## The Chronicle of the month of Arvinoth in the year 156

The problems between the Citadel and the King's Envoy have worsened this month. Adding to the issues with the Nyskilde Venture Company, what the Citadel described as a "misunderstanding about troop deployments" has upset the King's Envoy enough that he has left the city to seek guidance directly from the King. A grim Sir Eridan Portinari rode off from the Citadel with a small entourage of his favoured staff. The exact cause of the dispute is still unclear but rumours from the south suggest that Tinrodeth's attempts to establish a base for the Navy to overwinter have not been well received by the King's forces. It is only hoped that Alderman Monterey's mission to see King Kieran has already been successful in calming down what is beginning to be a serious disagreement between Tinrodeth and the High King.

It would seem that both Alderman Monterey and Sir Eridan will be chasing King Kieran across the countryside. Shortly after Sir Eridan's departure, news reached Tinrodeth that the King has gone to the Temple of Daleth in the Gavelkinden. This move which was first thought to be associated with a desire to get closer to the battle front for winter appears to be more social; the King is understood to be planning to meet up with his heir whom he has not seen for many years. It has been confirmed that Princess Alexis, following in the traditions established by her mother, is spending time at all of the temples.

Furious campaigning is continuing across the city as all of the factions swing into a much earlier election frenzy than has happened in previous years. It is clear that the disruptions of recent times have finally reached a point where the old factions are about to lose control to the new, and bitter contests are developing across the city for many Aldermanic seats. The only people whose positions are considered safe are Melanie Romanie in Cadene, Marie Cripstead in Shambles, Rose Cheping in Dowgate plus faction leaders Trueman, Monterey, Bottler and Ryman.

Count Cutario has expressed satisfaction that his guards at Ye Oval have managed to prevent a number of recent robbery attempts. However, never one to miss a political opportunity, he has lodged a formal complaint with the Chairman of Law and Order claiming that the city is giving preference to protecting the property of guild members over that of the ordinary citizens of Northshore.

Alderman Dominic Horner has made a valiant attempt to resolve the dispute over the King's Theatre this month. The Alderman, who has recently been stung by accusations that he was taking bribes from the theatre to prevent the matter coming to a hearing, made every attempt to treat the matter fairly. But with tempers running high he was always going to be in for a rough ride. Whilst it is within the powers of an Alderman to shut down any business which is causing detriment to a ward, it is a rarely exercised power with little precedent for the conditions under which it can be used. In the end the Alderman was reluctant to close what is "clearly an important city institution" based on the disapproval of a "vocal minority". Mrs Chant has declared her self to be "disgusted that the upstanding and decent citizens of Temple must be subjected to vile behaviour which is no better than that which goes on in Northshore". Further, she has vowed to replace Dominic Horner with a more law abiding Alderman even if she has to do it herself. Given the large group of supporters she has built up over the last few month this may be no idle threat.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Lorinfall in the year 156

Cllr Jessamine Scathlocke's faction has taken a decisive lead this month with a number of major breakthroughs for her campaign. The month started with the defection of Kyle Makeland. Ms Makeland was, until recently, the most active member of the Horner faction and is widely credited with the superbly run campaign that got him elected as Alderman. Ms Makeland declared that she was "deeply impressed with the way the Scathlocke faction was focusing on the big issues facing Tinrodeth" and she felt that by joining it she would be "able to make change happen". Another equally impressed person is Alderman Adam Povre who has spent the month explaining to the members of his ward why he has now joined the Scathlocke grouping. Other factions have been focusing on local campaigns to shore up favoured Alderman and there is still, thankfully, a lack of the cross city hunting which has been such a feature of earlier elections.

The Theatre Royale has been attempting to clean up its image this month with the presentation of a number of favourite children's tales. The shows, which have been sponsored by Alderman Horner, have gone a long way towards defusing the tensions in the ward. However Ms Felicity Mint's depiction of the Faerie Queen has also been appealing to a more adult audience.

A surprise early frost has given many people concern that this winter will be particularly harsh. Whilst grain supplies are not seriously low a particularly hard winter could put a strain on the city. Ice has begun to form on the Ishtan and there is concern for a number of ships that were trading with the Western Isles are late to port.

The city guard has been struggling this week to cope with a new crime wave. Apprentices throughout the city have taken, for reasons not entirely clear, to stealing peoples washing and arranging it in interesting poses. The problem appears to have originated in Castle Bard where some very creative arrangements supported by sticks are still being done. However throughout the rest of the city rather crude displays, often just lying on the ground seem to be the norm. There has already been one death. Young Tony Bakehouse was shot by an elderly citizen who saw "a figure stealing my jerkin" as he was returning from archery practice.

News has just reached the city that High King Kieran is to be married. His bride is the almost unknown Lady Serena Allen who has lands near the Dalethian Temple and whom it can be supposed he has recently met whilst staying in the area. The news was announced by Princess Selina after it was brought to her by a member of Alderman Monterey's entourage who had made a record breaking dash across country. The wedding is due to take place on the 20th of Kryll leaving little time for anyone to reach the Temple. It is understood that a major celebration will be held next year. Princess Selina declared herself "Delighted that my royal brother has found a bride" and wished her "new sister a long and happy life". Hasty preparations are being made for celebrations at many of the city's hostels although as yet no Civic or Citadel events have been announced.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 156

The occasion of the Royal Wedding has rekindled animosity between the Kerunian and Athionic citizens. The largely Kerunian high society was set to ignore the event almost entirely, with nothing being done either by the Citadel or the Witanmoot to mark the event. By contrast the majority of Tinrodeth's workers were keen to wish their High-King and his mysterious bride well, and set about organising street parties and temple celebrations with dogged enthusiasm. In the absence of official funding, the streets flowed with good Athionic beer rather than wine, and many a passing Kerunian was forced to quaff the King and Queen's Health. Witanmoot honour was saved by the redoubtable Mrs Bottler, who organised a lavish entertainment at short notice. In attendance were famous names such as Andrews, Cox, Cutario, Cyarçon, Davy, Tasker, Portinari, Trueman and Warin. It is unclear whether they wished to celebrate the royal marriage, or merely know better than to miss a quasi-political meeting at the Bottler mansion. Out on the streets Cllr Jessamine Scathlocke did a brisk business with her sale of commemorative plates, based allegedly on a true likeness of the High King's obscure bride. And it was the Scathlocke faction which tried to get into the spirit of celebration by organising a number of ward level events. Rumours persist that Cllr Scathlocke attempted to organise a formal Witanmoot event but was rebuffed by Lady Davy. Explanations from the Office of the Lord about a real celebration being planned for next year have done little to heal the renewed divisions within Tinrodeth society.

Sleet and continued high winds have forced work to stop on the new chimneys for the Brynette temple. Master De Clare abandoned the work after losing two labourers. The scaffolding was roped off and guarded, but this did not prevent the planking from being stolen during the blizzard. It is now thought that the work is unlikely now to be completed before Midwinter. The Bards' College has controversially added a new course to the syllabus of its young students. The intriguingly named "Practicalities" appears only to be an attempt to teach Kerunian building principles to the artistes, and its relevance to future minstrels seems small.

A riot was narrowly avoided when City Guard stepped in to resolve a dispute at the new frost fair. Many people had been bemused to see Bottler's faction casting sawdust into the forming ice last month. When it transpired that the faction intended to charge people for access to the "new improved ice", tempers flared. Traders who had traditionally used that area objected vigorously. One butcher demanded, "Doesn't Bottler own enough of this city already? I've been pitching here for 16 years and I'm dammed if I'm going to pay him a penny". However many of the apprentices who had seen this as a way of earning a few extra pennies were equally adamant that they be recompensed. The ensuing fight was large and bloody, and if the ice had been its normal strength the whole thing could have come to a very bad end. Fortunately the ice held just long enough and the guard were able to forcibly separate the two groups. The area has been cordoned off as unsafe and several traders have expressed their intention to sue the Bottler household for loss of business.

Following the wedding celebrations last week, when a number of beer barrels were accidentally smashed at the top of Levestone Hill, citizens are reminded to use alternatives to reach the Witanmoot from the docks or the bridge. Levestone Wardmoot would also like to remind youngsters that, although the brown ice down the Hill is indeed excellent for sledding, the stone gatehouse at the bottom is especially unforgiving.

The harried City Guard patrols along Northshore have been trying to deal with many complaints from the slum quarters who are tired of the tinker encampment strung out along the Pennine Road. The tinkers would normally have been heading south by now, but have been trapped at the city by the sudden turn of bad weather. Allegations of theft, brawling and child abduction abound, which citizens of the more sedate wards of the city proper might find ironic. Cutario's investments have also come under attack, but clearly the Count is no longer relying on the guard, preferring instead to hire a ruthless mercenary patrol to protect Ye Oval.

Householders in the ward of Bassishaw have been terrorised by a gaggle of geese nominally belonging to Mrs Malley. Trade through this previously well-ordered quarter of the city has been unexpectedly disrupted by vicious ambushes and random attacks by these bad-tempered birds. The wardmoot has issued Mrs Malley with a deadline for penning up her property, otherwise the fowl will be declared a public nuisance and be available to any hunter brave enough to tackle them.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 156

Sectarian hostility between Athionic and Kerunian citizens continues to simmer this month. Tavern brawls between class factions have become more common than those between political rivals, and several twilight muggings have been blamed on Athionic revivalists. As well as campaign bunting, flags of the Principality of Tinrodeth are being flown by many households, but in the royal blue colours of the old King. So far established politicians and hopeful candidates alike have steered away from this issue, but it will inevitably become a factor at the midwinter elections.

Next month's elections are turning out to be hard fought, although in most wards clear leaders for the aldermanships are emerging. Close contests are occurring in Arpent ward where Hugo Merewell and Judi Spich are inseparable; in Berwick where Mary Hastings, Aldric Houghton and Emma Chireton are locked in a three way fight; in Cartage where Brunstan Blackbeard and Alice Barbiter look set to draw; and also in Oldgate where Duncan Barnett is being closed on by Joanna Russell. Upsets look most likely in Avigon ward where Samuel Rucche has been campaigning hard, and in Temple where David Northropp may recover his seat. Perhaps the most startling events are in Levestone (home of the infamous beer slick) where local activist Vernon Stripe and the entire Ryman faction have launched a huge campaign focusing on the needs of the ward. This is clearly taking advantage, somewhat unfairly the Chronicle feels, of the absent Alderman Alan Monterey who (like Jim Bottler) is loyally serving Tinrodeth elsewhere.

After the blizzards of last month, a deep cold has settled over the city causing a great many deaths among the poor, sick and elderly. The Torians are trying to organise alms for the poor in many wards, and have criticised many wealthy households for hoarding excessive quantities of fuel and food. In these unusually low temperatures very few people are venturing outside unnecessarily, even to visit the Frost Fair on the river. The Bottler Building Company has settled a dispute over 'their' ice market following the advice of the Temple of Hahn. Master De Clare demonstrate that in ancient statute the river constituted a 'King's Highway' and hence people who claimed that they had a right to use a certain area of it were incorrect. Master De Clare also asserted that pitches on the Frost Fair have traditionally been obtained on a first come basis and as his apprentices were first onto the ice they were sub-letting an area they had a right to. So far this assertion stands, as the various apprentices seem to be far too cold to fight over the ice.

Patrons of the Dancing Bear in Welland are reeling at the introduction of the new menu and the sudden lack of decent beer. The owner of the inn has upset many of the more traditional clients with her "high prices", "poncy menu", and "fussy attitude". A local veteran Guzzler Gimshaw told the Chronicle, "The Bear used to be a great mercenaries pub, but now it just wants to cater to the rich guildmembers who live hereabouts. It's ages since we had a decent tussle and there never be no musicians to heckle". In reply Ms Susie explained, "The Bear is a major business. We have to pay our taxes to the wardmoot like everyone else. This year Alderman Bottler set a very high rate for us, so we had to make changes to bring in more money. The mercenary crowd will still be welcome at Erik's other place, the Falcon on Dracas docks.

With the Brynette Temple work halted, Alderman De Clare has thrown himself at political business this month. He launched a vociferous attack on young Jessamine Scathlocke whom he described as an "opportunistic, self serving, troublemaker". He was sure that people would prefer thriving business, the greatness of Tinrodeth, and the wealth of all rather than for a return to the bad old days of endless diatribes in Witanmoot council, the decline of Tinrodeth's economy, and widespread poverty. The Archimandrite of the Temple of Hahn has bestirred himself to the Citadel this month to formally protest at the status and condition of gaols and gaolers throughout the Principality. The minimal upkeep of these institutions has become notorious throughout the lands, and has brought the justice system into great difficulties. The massive death rate of prisoners in the cold this month merely highlights an ongoing problem of high mortality, even amongst prisoners merely awaiting trial. The Archimandrite emphasised the difficulty facing judges in civic cases, where fines and compensation could not be reclaimed from a defendant who had already paid with his life. Her Highness is understood to have

encountered similar difficulties with tax arrears, and was sympathetic to the call for change. The Citadel has sent official notice to the Witanmoot that the incoming administration will be expected to tackle this problem as a matter of priority.

The girl students and other young ladies of Castle Bard have been keeping themselves warm lately over the activities of a minstrel band with the unlikely name of Brass Monkeys. Arriving in hordes (possibly for warmth) at any venue where the band is said to be playing, the massed females have been curdling ale with their wild, high-pitched screaming. Local wags have designated them the nazgirls, and have advised neighbours to steer well clear.

The Temple of Esprayenna is holding lively discussions with its most senior navigators over the design and remit of the next Ship of the Dawn. This regular offering to the sea goddess is traditionally built with the finest resources available, manned with the most seasoned volunteers, and launched into the West with absolutely no expectation that it will ever be seen again. The new designs of Tinrodeth's ships, especially combined with the massive tonnages recently built by the Consortium, imply that the next Ship of the Dawn will be suitable for ocean travel for a very long time indeed. The Chronicle is given to understand that much of the present debate in the depths of the temple is over what to do if the Ship of the Dawn eventually returns. This thorny theological issue shows no sign of being resolved anytime soon.

The long-suffering Northshore patrol of the City Guards has closed off access to the tinker encampment along the Pennine Road after a number of pitched battles with innkeepers and slum-dwellers nearby. The guards admit that this effectively closes off the Pennine Road to all travellers, but since the city is thoroughly snowed in they are confident that "honest tradesmen" will remain untroubled by this measure. It is unclear whether they expect the problem to continue past the thaw, but undoubtedly any surviving tinkers will be encouraged to leave in a Northeasterly direction away from the city.

Our readers will be pleased to hear that the foul problem of Bassishaw was entirely self-correcting, much to Mrs Malley's distress. A number of battered but well-fed urchins and guttersnipes have been noted in the vicinity.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kruthos in the year 156

This year's Frost Fair has at last picked up in popularity despite a very determined attempt to burn through the ice last week. A large bonfire was assembled and lit late one night, and despite spirited attempts by the carpenters apprentices to pull it apart, burned long enough to seriously weaken the surrounding ice. The Guards have declared the usual area unsafe, and traders have removed most of the fair further upriver. The usual fairings of skating, sledding, trinkets, hot snacks and steaming drinks are on offer and the college students are again competing in ice sculpting. Tediously, the masters appear to have set curriculum subject matter, and the displays are of architectural elegance rather than fantastic creatures of imagination. The Orissian brothel may yet prove interesting, and the group reconstructing the Dalethian High Temple may soon find themselves in political deep water.

Sectarian muggings have subsided, thanks mostly to a determined effort by many Witanmoot campaigners to keep city residents as sozzled as possible. The late Sgt Muggie would have approved. Donations kicked off with Cllr Scathlocke's donation of light "Old Athion" ale to anyone assisting with the big public mural in Castle Bard depicting Alderman Bottler (with the O.M. medal prominent) scaring off the competition with a big guard dog who bears a definite resemblance to Alderman de Clare. Very colourful it is too. The following days saw the appearance of many casks of dark "Unity" beer from the much larger supplies of Alderman de Clare and Alderman Trueman, culminating in a large party on Midwinter to celebrate the Naming of Trueman's new baby daughter, Grace. The proud father announced, "Fellow citizens and other dignitaries; it is with great pride and joy that I introduce to you my daughter Grace. Midwinter festival is a time of celebration and we wanted to share our celebration with the people of the city. By that I mean all the people of Tinrodeth, both those of Athionic and Kerunian descent. I believe that our cultural diversity and richness is an important part of our success as a city. Compare us to the other cities of Athion, which would you rather live in? Despite being involved in a long, ongoing war our economy is doing well. Can any of the other cities say the same? In some ways Grace symbolizes all that has happened. She was born in a war but is thriving; she is half Athionic and half Kerunian, but all Tinrodeth! So as a proud father I ask you to drink to her health. To make this easier I have provided barrels of good Tinrodeth beer in many locations around the city. If you prefer Kerunian wine you are very welcome to toast her with that fine beverage. But either way join together and raise your glasses in a spirit of unity to wish Grace; Health, Wealth and Beauty, Long Life and Happiness." The good Alderman was helped off the Mootstone to much cheering.

Also looking flushed this month is Alderman Dominic Horner who has spent most of the month campaigning with Miss Felicity Mint upon his arm, much to the disapproval of Mrs Chant and other senior matrons of Temple. The charming Miss Mint, who clearly believes in mixing business with pleasure, set about enlivening the traditional hustings and is said to be looking forward to "knocking up" the local voters. Alas, her grasp of proper boundaries is still rather loose as she strayed into neighbouring wards several times in her enthusiasm for canvassing. An attempt to campaign within the Hahnite Law School, despite its lack of electors, was firmly prevented by the Knights Templars.

## The Chronicle of Midwinter of the year 157

Her Highness Princess Selina's Midwinter Feast was a lively and informal affair this year, with Citadel entertainment provided by many of Tinrodeth's own street performers and buskers. Blind Kane, Biddy Vox and Trugger Stubbs proved to be star musicians in front of a discerning audience, and the horde of jugglers and tumblers were also popular despite their tendency to pick up unconsidered trifles. No-one quite knows where the aged palm-reader usually resides, but she had reams of forthright advice for young lovers. Also making an appearance (apparently on the recommendation of Mrs Bottler) was the costumed figure of Grandfather Frost. A traditional Athionic icon, the Kerunian youngsters were delighted to learn about the toys and sweetmeats he distributed, the coal and holly goad having been diplomatically omitted. Proudly displayed above the high table was Princess Selina's Tinrodeth Standard, which had been re-dyed dark Athionic blue for the occasion.

As is usual, the election results were announced at the end of the feast. In what was otherwise an uneventful night the loss of Alan Monterey's Aldermanic seat to Vernon Stripe in Levestone was a massive shock. It will undoubtedly be a blow to the good vintner when he returns to the city. The other changes of Alderman were in Arpent where Judi Spich recovered the seat she lost last year to Hugo Merewell and in Avigon where, after 3 recounts, the victory was awarded to Samuel Rucche by one vote.

Aside from his own ward, support across the city suggests a recovery for Alan Monterey whose efforts are clearly appreciated. If his faction had considered Stripe a threat, it is likely that Alan would have retained the seat. Supporters of William Trueman also did well across the city, with his faction commanding the broadest base of support. The Bottler faction suffered badly with the events of the budget and the frost fair clearly being held against them. Benefiting from this was the Scathlocke Faction which campaigned directly against Bottler. However her faction did less well in wards where there was no Bottler vote to take. Support for the Ryman and Horner factions, with their bias away from the Witanmoot, was very low outside of the wards in which they are active.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 157

High winds and heavy snowfall have driven everyone inside this month. Only the most stubborn apprentices remain out on the Frost Fair, especially after some urchins enlarged the "fishing holes" to a size hazardous in this poor visibility. The blizzards have also collapsed a row of rickety shops in Cripplegate, and have forced a large number of sick and elderly to seek help from the Torians. With regret, the Temple has announced that it has closed its doors to further patients for the time being.

A large fire has destroyed Brown's tannery warehouse on Stoney Lane. The initial cause of the blaze is not known, but neighbours report that the high winds quickly fanned the flames out of control. A number of nearby slums were pulled down and the warehouse left to burn itself out. Luckily most members of the household are accounted for, and only three journeymen are said to be missing.

Parents in and near Temple Ward have been very grateful to discover that the Kings Theatre is now operating a cheap crèche on Tenthday mornings. In a radical departure from its usual clientele, junior members of the troupe are encouraging youngsters to try out a number of "short, fun activities", interspersed with some improving storytelling. So far the troupe has run three exhausting sessions. The format has proved enormously popular with kids and parents alike, despite the obvious absence of the theatre's star names.

Agents for Capel Shipping Lines, or possibly for the Consortium, are canvassing senior opinions on the desirability of a deep water dock just below the bridge. Since Portwall already defines the south quays quite definitively, the proposal discusses excavating away a large section of the Northshore bank. Written comments on the proposed re-development are invited to be submitted to the Shipping Office of the Witanmoot within the next few months.

Princess Selina has been hosting a series of musical evenings at the Citadel. The soirées, featuring some of the elite minstrels produced by the Bards College in recent years, has drawn a select audience of nobility and enthusiasts to the Great Hall each evening. This patronage may soothe some feathers ruffled by Her Highnesses' recent choice of Midwinter revels.

Within the Witanmoot veteran Duncan Barnett has joined the Trueman faction, making it the strongest in the Aldermanic court. Alderman Barnett said he was pleased to be aligning himself with a faction "which understood that serving Inrodeth was the primary duty of all councillors". Controversially Alderman Richard Saunders has defected to newcomer Dominic Horner amid rumours that he was going to lose his committee chairmanship because of the opposition to Councillor Jessamine Scathlocke held by a number of faction leaders. The Bottler/De Clare faction, attempting a whitewash of recent artwork, was prevented by the householder but have continued to pursue the matter through the local wardmoot.

### Committee Nominations:

Treasury	Melanie Romanie
Trade	Thomas Osbert
Law and Order	Eva Capel, Peter Ryman
Shipping	Eva Capel
Welfare and Education	Richard Saunders, Rose Cheping, Dominic Horner
Lands and Agriculture	Marie Cripstead, Gilbert de Clare
Envoy to Kerun	Jemma Downe, Graeme Porter
Envoy to Orissa	Hugo Merewell
Envoy to Eresan	Alan Monterey
Envoy to Cascorach	Godwin Green, Gregory Benton
Envoy to Western Isles	Gillian Howe

Elections for the posts of Law & Order, Welfare & Education, Lands & Agriculture, Kerun and Cascorach will therefore take place next month.



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Galemir in the year 157

This month's committee elections resulted in a startling tied vote for all of the contested committee chairmanships. It was therefore left to Lady Davy to resolve the situation, which she did with her usual decisiveness. Witanmoot watchers have tried to determine a pattern in the voting, but it would appear that the shifts of Alderman last month have resulted in a wider distribution of votes and a reduction in the coherence of some of the old power blocks. Much positioning is going on, but for the first time in many years no clear alliances exist. In fact the Witanmoot is more defined by its divisions with Scathlocke & Bottler and Monterey & Ryman clearly avoiding voting for the same candidate. The final results were as follows

Treasury	Melanie Romanie
Trade	Thomas Osbert
Law and Order	Peter Ryman
Shipping	Eva Capel
Welfare and Education	Rose Cheping
Lands and Agriculture	Marie Cripstead
Envoy to Kerun	Jemma Downe
Envoy to Orissa	Hugo Merewell
Envoy to Eresan	Alan Monterey
Envoy to Cascorach	Godwin Green
Envoy to Western Isles	Gillian Howe

The cold weather and heavy snows continue without much abatement this month, leading to concerns over flooding when the thaw comes. Nonetheless, the Brynette Temple is pushing for an early resumption of its delayed building work, and Alderman de Clare has begun to repair the abandoned scaffolding along the side of the furnaces.

Last month's fire in Brown's tannery has been followed this month by another major fire in the same area. This time Humbles leather workshop was the focus of the events. Suspicions have been raised that the most recent fire was arson, bringing into question whether the Brown's fire was also not an accident.

The King's Theatre has been forced to suspend its childminding service after being swamped by customers from all over the city. The crush on the final day was such that several youngsters and not a few parents were hurt. Alderman Horner is in negotiations with the Theatre owners to see if alternative arrangements can be made.

Her Highness Princess Selina has conducted a surprise inspection of Kingsport, no mean feat considering the inclement weather. Her Highness departed by sleigh down the river, and transferred to the causeway near the estuary. Some unusual exertion was required by her noble entourage, but almost the entire court had returned safely by sunset.

The Chronicles would like to congratulate the Arch-divide Recorder on this most auspicious landmark publication.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Pipetal in the year 157

The long awaited thaw has arrived slowly during the past month, thankfully limiting the feared flooding to the usual inconsequential areas of Northshore. Ships newly arrived in port bring news from Salvoyn of a harsh winter with much depravation amongst the marines due to the inadequate land base. Luckily, the evil fevers that plagued the army in previous years have been little in evidence and the siege has been tightly maintained. The Linrodeth fleet continues its highly effective blockade and Royal troops have used the winter to secure the lands to the south of Salvoyn, preventing a reopening of land trade with the city states. Preparations are now underway to tighten the stranglehold upon the city.

Witanmoot budget proposals this year yet again include increases in taxes and an increase in funding for the Law and Order committee in order to enable it to reopen the gaols. Surprisingly, given the defeat of the Salvoynian Navy and the absurd overcrowding of Linrodeth's docks, funding for the Consortium ship building programme has been continued. Cllr Tilly Falgar has decided to make an issue of this, complaining vociferously at the budget proposal meeting, that once again merchants are lining their own pockets to subsidise the importing of foreign goods whilst the honest craftsmen of Linrodeth struggle to get by.

Her Highness Princess Selina has underlined her concern for prisoner welfare by conducting a surprise inspection of Marshgate and Kingsgate gatehouses. The warden of Kingsgate took the opportunity to show her around some of the refurbished gentlemen's cells on the upper floor. She seemed very impressed, he commented afterwards, I don't think she'd even been in a prison cell before.

Citizens of Castle Bard have been treated to yet another example of public art. Locals were amused to note recent modifications to Gilbert de Clare's house. A gargoyle bearing a striking resemblance to Cllr Jessamine Scathlocke has taken pride of place adorning Guild Master de Clare's new garderobes. Although there has been some artistic criticism that the mouth is somewhat large, apparently Master Gilbert claims that anything smaller would have been prone to blockages.

Overland news from the court of High King Kieran is still awaited, as is the return of the many adventurers which set out weeks ago in the race to tell Alan Monterey about this year's elections. Meanwhile Princess Selina has decreed Alan Monterey to be her ambassador to the Court of the High King. The appointment has caused consternation in the Witanmoot as has Lord Monterey's elevation to the rank of Baron. Some questions have been raised in the Witanmoot as to the validity of someone being both a citizen envoy and baronial ambassador, however the general mood is one of celebration. Perhaps the greatest debate has been over the sheer scope of the empowerment, which effectively gives Cllr Monterey the ability to express opinions as if they were those of Princess Selina herself. Commenting on the appointment, Lady Davy described her delight that Her Highness has once again reaffirmed her trust in the people of the city and shown that she sees the city and the principality as having completely shared objectives.

The number of corpses floating downriver (and returning again at high tide) is causing problems for the city's port and unfavourable comment amongst foreign shippers. Citizens are reminded to do their duty and dispose of frozen beggars tidily out in the marshes and not clutter up the River Ishtan.

Cpl Jack Tucker of the City Guard is being hailed as a hero by locals in Bassishaw. Cpl Tucker was attempting to rescue the Wortley family whose house was ablaze, but had to be pulled from the debris when the shop collapsed. Neighbours quickly contained the fire with the loss of only a handful of nearby shops, but the corporal was taken to the Torian temple with severe injuries, along with several colleagues suffering from the smoke.

Grossers from a number of towns upriver have been complaining about the state of Newbridge on the main Eresan road. The double span stone bridge has been unrepaired for nearly a decade, and the latest floods off of the Great Fens have left it looking decidedly worn. Petitions to the Citadel and to Countess Derwent have gone unanswered. Traders are hoping that an appeal to the Witanmoot might produce more action.

Count Cutario is looking decidedly put out this month after it emerged that Alan Monterey has been granted large tracts of land in Northshore as part of his title of Baron Denmark. Also annoyed are civic-minded denizens of the slums themselves, who had hoped to organise local families into self-governing manors along the lines of the old style ward watches. Despite this sudden outbreak of democracy amongst the voteless, and the more hazardous humour of the owner of Ye Oval, Monterey's dubious holdings are entirely feudal. Wags at court have even begun to refer to the absent landlord as Baron de Tasher.

Officials from the Citadel have asked the Brynette temple to remove a large metallic structure from the horizon to the south of the city. The construction, described as a warding glyph by its enthusiastic builder Artificer Langerick, is apparently intended to fend off evil influences aimed at Linrodeth by the witches of Salvoy. The outspoken artificer convinced a good number of concerned citizens to assist him in its erection out at Botmoor after the temple itself declined to provide funding. A spokesperson for Her Highnesses court described the structure as deeply worrying for ordinary citizens, highly unsafe for passing merchants, and drawing undue attention to the group of burial mounds on the moors.

City Guardsmen are investigating a burglary at the home of Jestin Snedcroft in Dracas. Lord Jester is a flamboyant and well known bookie, in great demand at sporting occasions all around the city. The burglar is understood to have made off with most of the gentleman's takings for the past month. Guardsmen are asking for any witnesses to events last Feastnight to come forward and assist the enquiry.

## The Chronicle of the month of Jasmarrill in the year 157

As had been widely predicted the Lordship election went unanimously to Olivia Warin. Lady Davy appears to have anticipated this result, and spent the early part of the session signing off a number of "decreettes". Of prime interest was the creation of a "compulsory jurisdiction order", an intriguing legal precedent applying to Baron Denmarsh's new domain, which claims land "from the North Bridge boundary, along the line of Wharf Land and Dock head as far as the marsh opposite the Citadel, down to the Ishtan shore, and back upriver to the boundary marker. Said land to be secured by and for the military for the safety of the Principality." Chroniclers note that this could acquire most of the shipyards of importance to the Consortium, without in any way satisfying the rumbles of discontent from the disenfranchised inhabitants of Northshore. The finest Hahnite minds are already conferring with much interest, but hopefully Her Highness will intervene before too much temple income is generated.

Of less novelty was the assignment of £100 to Midsummer Fayre development, although more novelties might well result. A further £50 was put by for the brief homecoming of the peripatetic Gillian Howe, envoy to wherever Aldermen fear to tread. The rest of this year's city budget has been thrashed out behind closed doors. Full details will be provided later, we are assured. Such details as are leaking out of the wood-panelled rooms suggest that the serious money has followed Thomas Osbert from Shipping to Trade coffers.

The Bards College is investigating the conduct of its lay staff, and especially one Terrence Higgs Esq. (butler) after a number of rare and valuable wine casks went missing from its famously well-stocked cellars. The alert was raised by local Cllr Scathlocke after she observed Higgs loading casks onto a cart in the early hours of the morning. The college, which is famed for the quality of its dining and entertainment, raises funds for its cellar stock by subscription from all its members.

Householders along Cornhill are watching with concern the growth of a large dent in the main road which is threatening both traffic and shop foundations. The appearance of the dip after the spring flooding might be due to a new underground stream. Local residents are already expressing concern at the impact of the Bottler mansion on the local green, and point to the prodigious use of water in the Bottler baths as the most likely cause of subsidence. Mrs Bottler has made a robust defence of her household and suggested that "if their ward wells were as robustly constructed and maintained as our own private borehole then I have no doubt that those shopkeepers would not be facing their present problem."

The Watermens Guild is calling for more patrols along the riverbanks after several members suffered muggings by gangs of youths loitering around the shores. Complaints have been made of heavy objects thrown at vessels making their way under the bridge, and some old folk have been thrown into the water as a jest.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Heliora in the year 157

Free soup and lively oration have drawn large crowds to Bever Edge's "Citizenship Classes" in North Bridge. The debates were originally held at the Wainers' Rest Inn, but gatherings quickly became too large for an indoor venue and have recently moved to the fields around Pedlars Lane, lately vacated by the Tinker Camp. The popular topics are the nature of "commons" and whether the marshes north of the river by tradition and use qualify as "city commons". Amongst the quotable sentences from the more educated debaters:

"He who is permitted by law to have no property of his own can only with difficulty conceive that property is founded in anything but force."

"Nothing is ours, which another may deprive us of."

"The commons tell a story of co-operation in human society and with the land (and of the gradual imposition of private interests), as fragments of the old economy in a present beset by totalitarian market forces and where the majority are outsiders in their own city."

"Let them not take in their commons, neither make parks nor pastures nor pools, for the gods gave this land for free men to inhabit."

Comments by the majority of the population present are much less quotable, but convey a certain sense of restlessness which combines ill with the annual discussions over garbage disposal in the immediate area.

Her Royal Highness Princess Selina, having professed to enjoy the prison visits so much, found time this week to inspect the famous orphanage founded by Gax. Accompanied by her son and young daughter Her Highness found time to tour the orphanage property, view a play put on by the youngsters, and sit in on a class to test the erudition of the city's wardlings. The orphan children themselves were finely turned out in feast day best, and showed great interest in their august visitors. A mischievous attempt to quote Reg Marc as part of their legal history lesson was firmly suppressed by the governors present.

Representatives from the town of Newbridge along the Eresan road have expressed outrage that the Witanmoot propose to divide their township by a toll bridge on the King's road. The local mayor described the proposals as "an outrageous and extravagant solution to simple repair problem. This investment, which is such a minor matter for a great city, would undoubtedly benefit the city's own trade directly."

Mandatiens and acolytes at the Hahnite temple were roused in the early hours of Firstday morning to help put out a fire burning dangerously high in the vicinity of the library of the law school. The fire is thought to have been started by vandals and the Knights Templar are keen to question anyone seen in the area that night.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Menderal in the year 157

An almighty row has broken out in the Witanmoot over the use of child slave labour in its lead mines. Whether the scandal is over the defrauding of public funds, the misuse of children, or the taking of someone else's serfs depends on who you speak to. The whole miserable mess only came to light this past week when a gang of the sorry wretches escaped and returned to the city. One returned home to Cripplegate and is now under the protective custody of Alderman Peter Ryman. The others all appear to be street urchins and have vanished back into the worst slums of Northshore, but not before speaking at length to Gax the Heretic. A fact which does nothing for the peace of mind of the city's Aldermen. Many of the ordinary councillors of the city are, to be fair, concerned at the use of children in this way. The scandal has not helped the already simmering unrest amongst the Northshore scum and, when the news broke, a large mob of the unwashed was set to storm across the bridge. The situation was only kept under control by the sterling efforts of Councillor Bever Edge and by the threat of Her Highness' light cavalry waiting at the far side. The use of child slavery seems to have occurred during this last year under the stewardship of the then Chair of Lands, Alderman Gilbert de Clare. Alderman de Clare is rumoured to be thinking of falling, if not on his sword, at least back on his monetary reserves. His hand has apparently only been stayed by the urgent intervention of his Hahnite advisors. The situation remains tense.

The repair of Newbridge has finally been agreed after Alderman Thomas Osbert drew up a multi-claused contract to the liking of the town's elders. The Mayor and his entourage have now returned home in the company of one of the Witanmoot's junior masons. The young man appeared to be relieved to be leaving the city for a while.

The Midsummer Fair is being set up on the Journey Fields complete with multiple raised stages, several livestock display arenas and some alarmingly extensive latrine trenches. A few hardy itinerant traders have already begun camping there ready for the big event, encouraged by the recent run of hot, sunny weather. Princess Selina has readily volunteered the services of the cavalry display team, possibly with an eye to rapid deployment around the city. The Sheriffs have also begun training the traditional rally of the full Marching Watch, presumably with the blessing of Her Highness given the absence of carnage by the aforementioned cavalry.

Another small fire has had to be put out at the Hahnite Temple, this time on the roof where various suspicious materials were discovered after the blaze was successfully dowsed. The Knights Templar have increased their patrols and are now discouraging "general malingering" within the temple precincts. So far the Archimandrite has refused to comment.

Amongst the general uproar in the Witanmoot, everyone appears to be trying to ignore the fact that the annual budget has not yet been approved. It appears to be waiting on a decision as to whether Her Highness receives £10,000 for her special war chest, or only £9,750 with £250 diverted to prison repair. The city's Aldermen have so far studiously avoided proposing or seconding either option, let alone voting for an outcome.

## The Chronicle of the month of Setheran in the year 157

A rather belated manhunt has started for Godrick Multun, the manager of the city's Bramblecoombe lead mine. The crisis appears to have blown over with a convenient agreement amongst all the political groups that Godrick was solely responsible for the slave labour which "the city could not reasonably have been expected to spot". One person not keen to let chairman for Lands and Agriculture Gilbert de Clare off so lightly is Gax the Heretic, who has been pursuing his legal challenge against the city and Alderman de Clare in a number of protracted sessions in the courts. Surprising support for de Clare has come from Alderman William Trueman who announced that he was dropping the matter because, "While Gilbert should have done better it is clear that he was not personally involved and uncertain that any normal scrutiny would have uncovered the wrongdoing. It is appropriate that the public are aware about this lapse but inappropriate to waste the tax payer's money on a court case that will not succeed".

In a quiet and uneventful Witanmoot session the budget has finally been passed. The main argument was avoided by the simple expedient of giving Her Highness £10,000 for the special war chest and providing the extra £250 for prison repair. The only argument was over the intention to create a mines inspectorate, which Cllr Ian Hobsley of Oldgate Ward described as "a stupid over reaction which simply adds to the ludicrous level of tax that the citizens are already paying". Also uneventfully Mary Hastings was elected as Sheriff to work with Nicholas Bowden in a classically stitched up Witanmoot lack of contest.

Alderman Peter Ryman will be summoned before the Lord of the City to answer a motion of censure raised by Cllr Alan Monterey accusing him of misconduct over the handling of the Northshore riots. Alderman Ryman is clearly outraged by this so much so that his comments are unprintable.

The Midsummer Fair was a major success despite the rain. Much to everyone's surprise the practice by the Marching Watch was the highlight of the event. Stirling work by the city's Aldermen and Colonel Aldridge's deployment of his soldiers over the last few weeks to provide training has clearly paid off. The city, it would appear, now has finally converted its fighting farce into a fighting force. Perhaps just in time if rumours leaking out of the citadel about Alan Monterey's reports of King Kieran's belligerence towards this fair city are to be believed.

Alderman William Trueman has hired a political assistant to help him with his campaign to become the next Lord of the City. This bold move shows the confidence of the Trueman Faction whose almost continuous campaigning this year is already swaying many wards towards their policies.

There have been no more arson attempts either in Northshore or upon the Hahnite temple this month. However there is still much unrest in Northshore and also much debate between the new Steward of Northshore Rodger Highdale and Sheriff Nicholas Bowden over the rights of the City and indeed where the City's boundary ends. It would appear that Steward Highdale is not too convinced about the legality of the city's annexation of the docks and until someone proves to him otherwise his bully boys intend to enforce the Stewards control over the area. A confrontation with the City Guard seems inevitable.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Arvinoth in the year 157

Councillor Monterey's proposed motion of censure against Alderman Ryman was defeated in a most classic display of Witanmoot procedural shenanigans. In a carefully written piece of play-acting, all of the participants carefully engineered the desired conclusion that Alderman Ryman was innocent because he had merely requested that a city guard member make the arrest not ordered it. Poor Officer Harry Fieldsman, clearly distressed to suddenly have the attention of so many powerful people is said have spent the entire previous day rehearsing his lines.

A special detachment of the City Guard has captured the missing mine supervisor Godrick Multun. Master Multun is allegedly the perpetrator of the child slavery outrages at the Bramble Coombe mine. The unit despatched secretly by Lady Warin returned to the city with the injured Multun on Third-day Firstweek, having detained him in a village not far from the original mine.

Shortly after being acquitted of misconduct Alderman Ryman issued a major contract for the rebuilding of the prisons to a consortium led by William Trueman. This will be a further blow for the beleaguered Alderman Gilbert de Clare. Although the good alderman appears finally to be sorting out his problems with the Brynette Temple, he is clearly still under a lot of financial pressure.

The continuing rains are beginning to cause concern. There has been minor flooding in some of the less well drained areas of the city and the high river flow is beginning to be a problem for shipping. The harvest is not yet at serious risk however the Dalethian temple has warned that if the rains do not abate the situation could become very serious. More rain has fallen further upriver and Fenny Bridges is reported impassable with merchants having to take the high road round the area.

Tensions between the city and the Barony of Denmarsh are rising along with the water level after Steward Highdale started a taxation survey of the entire North bank of the river. Alderman Richard Saunders has asked Sheriff Bowden for stronger patrols of the border and pointed out in no uncertain terms that should attempts be made to tax residents of Tinrodeth then he will see this as banditry.

Both Aldric Houghton and Emma Chireton have been nominated to take the post of Aldermen of Berewic. There were only three votes between them at Midwinter, but holding the post is likely be a major boost come next Midwinter so a hard contest is expected between the Trueman and Bottler factions for the uncommitted Aldermanic votes. Trueman commended her as the choice of the people and as someone who has already got the experience to do the job.

Further military practice sessions have taken place this month building upon the success of the Midsummer muster. The Wards of Dowgate and Ishtan both fielded excellent shows of Archery skill in support of a detachment of Her Highnesses infantry. However more practice is clearly needed as the "how to defend against a cavalry charge" exercise resulted in several injuries and one death as the citizens scattered in disorder.

The Scathlocke Faction descended en mass into Bassishaw Ward this month for a massive and somewhat overwhelming campaigning event. A bemused Alderman Bergeren finally caught on to the fact that even though Gemma Downe was not in the city she was still doing his job. He eventually regained control, but not before nearly every problem in the ward had been solved several times over.



## The Chronicle of the month of Lorinfall in the year 157

Celebrations of the Harvestide feast were subdued this year following the very poor harvest. Water levels continue to rise as the unrelenting rains pour onto the city and the areas upriver. The marshes are at their most extensive ever and the causeways remain treacherous and in need of constant repair. A special session of the Witanmoot has been called to discuss the crisis amid concern that the port may have to be closed. Debate is likely to rage over the proposals for the construction of extensive dams and drainage brought forward by Gilbert de Clare. Petro Cutario is apparently active in opposing these plans. His views probably have less to do with concerns over cost and more to do with the fact that the waters are providing such effective slum clearing for him.

Extensive flooding has caused much of Denmarsh to be abandoned causing serious overcrowding of the rest of Northshore. Conflict is also growing between the City and Northshore following a fight between a large group of guild journeymen and some Northshore traders. The journeymen were angry at the increasing impact of the cheap non-guild products being produced in Northshore upon their livelihoods. The spokesman for the journeymen, Alice Shoreland, told the Chronicle. How can we ever be expected to make a living in the city if these fraudsters are allowed to undercut our prices. The incident was sparked when Gary Drayton, a chandler from Northshore, paid for a crier to advertise his low prices through the city. Mr Drayton, who recently finished his apprenticeship, told the Chronicle. I've set up my business in Northshore because I can't afford city taxes. The city's high taxes are its problem not mine.

The contest for Alderman of Berewic was hard fought with much back room negotiation and debate. In the end it was the votes of Peter Ryman's votes that made the difference giving the victory to Emma Chireton by 12 votes to 11. Denying that he was going against the wishes of the people of the ward Alderman Ryman explained that he had asked the other members of the Wardmoot whom they would support.

Citizens have been startled by the reappearance of some Babel in the City. They bring news of the abandonment of Fenny Bridges. These rumours have been confirmed by her highnesses forces who remain vigilant against any incursion from the displaced forces of Countess Derwent.

Two Consortium ships recently returned from the city states have struggled into port to bring news of a deadly attack on a marine camp at the Salvoyne estuary. All those serving within the Falcone Company are confirmed dead, although the actual cause of death is unclear. The Triton is to return with further troops before the start of winter.

Building work at the Brynette Temple has been completed this month. The weather has further added to Alderman De Clare's problems but it would appear that he can finally put this disaster behind him. The project for the ornate chimneys and upgraded furnaces has run considerably over budget and behind schedule this past year. Workmen were particularly keen to clear away surplus material and scaffolding before the weather deteriorated and serious scavenging got underway. Subsequent celebrations within the temple were marred by the sudden appearance of large painted letters down the side of the central chimney. Reshite Scum has now been partially washed off by a combination of the rain and unwilling acolytes dangling from ropes. Investigations are underway, according to the temple.

The influx of people into the city from Denmarsh and the surrounding lands is beginning to cause problem for law and order. A squad of city guard have been injured, and one killed, while attempting to prevent looting of shops in Cripplegate. Neighbours had complained about a number of petty thefts earlier in the week, and had been threatened with reprisals. Blessop's Bakery, that great institution of Faringdon, is to be closed for a month after a fire broke out in one of the kitchens. Much of the back hall has been destroyed or damaged, and will need to be rebuilt before the eatery can re-open. How long this will take given the other demands upon carpenters and masons is anybody's guess.

The city guard regret to have to confirm the recent death of supervisor Godrick Multun during routine interrogation.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Kryll in the year 157

The birth of King Kieran's son Prince Bernard Caralingas has been announced leading to jubilation throughout the city. The Queen's pregnancy had been kept a secret in order to protect from curses by the Reshite witches. Both the young prince and his mother are reported to be in good health. The auguries for the birth, which took place in the early evening on 10th day third week Arvinoth at the exact time when Senemora stood in front of Sisamora, are being hotly debated by many priests and scholars. The temple of Daleth is unusually silent on the matter however Master Olivier Highdale of the Bards College, pointing out that it is difficult to see Senemora during the conjunction, described the signs as showing that good is greater than evil and that the young prince will be the salvation of Athion.

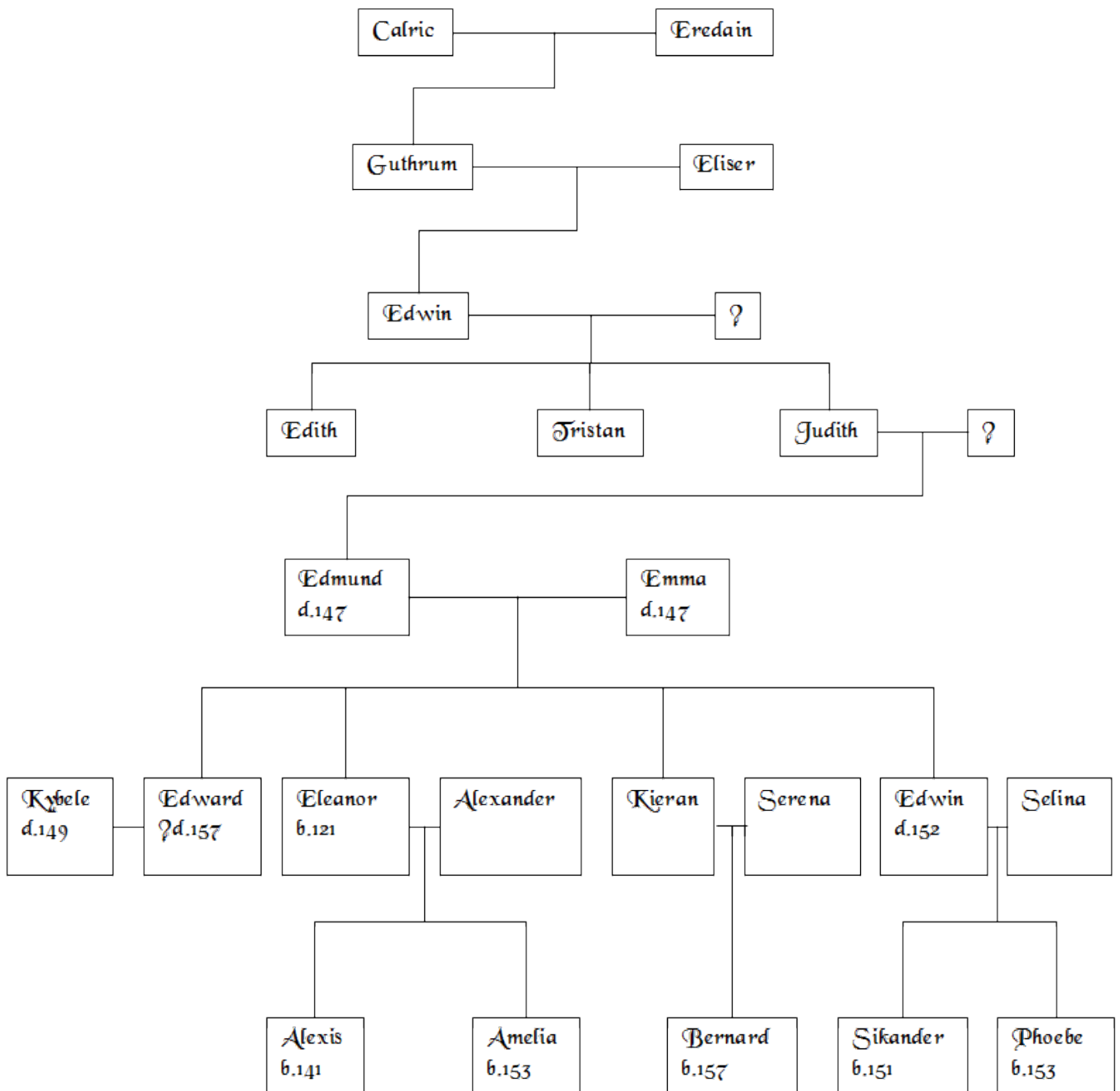
The murder of Petro Cutario has shocked the city. Cutario was slain by a group of workmen from the Brynette Temple project who are believed to have fled south shortly thereafter. A fast consortium ship has been dispatched in pursuit but it is unclear if it will be able to overtake them. Cutario was slain whilst on the marshes with two Brynette acolytes in what appears to have been a carefully planned attack. The Count's purse and some valuable Brynette survey equipment was stolen but that does not explain the attack. Suspicion that it was an assassination is growing. The obvious suspect Gilbert de Clare has denied any involvement and a spokesman for the Lord of the city has told the Chronicle that no evidence has been found linking Gilbert de Clare to the crime. Perhaps Lady Warin should talk to her own Witanmoot investigation agency who have been seen asking questions at the Calm Seas Inn. An Inn frequented by the de Clare employees who committed the crime. It is also where Gilbert, a man not normally noted for visiting dockside pubs if, was seen with them on the day of the crime.

Sailors disembarking from the Inflexible following its recent trading mission to Nyskilde have described how the ship engaged with Nordic raiders who were preying on the local population. However the Cllr Lucy Boater who lead the trade mission has been at pains to maintain the mission's non-military status and merely described an incident where the ship was required to protect its legitimate right to trade. It has been confirmed that the citizens of Nyskilde have regained control of their own city and that Huscarls are no longer in control of the castle. Hadrim Thorold the elected mayor of the city has thanked Tinrodeth for its support during the difficulties and expressed a desire for continuing trade between our two cities. Given King Kieran's obvious inability to protect Nyskilde it is hoped that Princess Selina will ask permission from the High King to place Nyskilde and its trade routes under the protection of the Tinrodeth Navy.

Aralan Derwent has established a new base for her forces at East Hagga on the Eresan Road. With Fenny Bridges impassable from Hagga she can now effectively control the trade between the two cities. The base which is on the boundary of the Duchy is also much closer to Tinrodeth than Fenny Bridges. Forces from the Citadel are monitoring the situation and have made it clear that any attempt to enter the Duchy, even by scouts will be seen as a severe provocation.

Last week's bright weather has allowed many crops to ripen and allayed fears of a major food shortage. The small reduction in the rains this month has at Northshore in particular has shown a dramatic reduction in its flooding. Despite this and the questions surrounding Gilbert de Clare the city has agreed to establish an emergency flood fund of £3000. Debate now rages over whether this fund should be funded from a reduction in expenditure or by an exceptional tax upon the guilds.

# Caralingas Lineage



# The Chronicle

## of the month of Ternost in the year 157

Our forces in Salvoyrn have celebrated the firing of the great trebuchet built by the Temple of Brynette to enable the bombardment of the city. Captain Natalia Marlon, who is in command of the weapon described herself as being elated by its accuracy and the surprising ease with which the great machine can be adjusted. Within a day of its first firing the weapon was able to find the range of the great temple of Resh and begin its destruction. "We can fire six times an hour without any difficulty and I don't intend to stop until there is not a stone of that monstrosity left standing," she told the Chronicle. With the work to create the foundations for the weapon complete Jim Bottler OM has returned to the city for the winter. Princess Selina personally welcomed him back at small reception and commended him for his continuing efforts to assist with the war.

Salvoyrn's willingness to keep fighting will have been further weakened by the absence of Prince Edward. According to refugees from the city, the prince and key members of his council have not been seen in public for some time and rumours are beginning to circulate that they have abandoned the city. An alternative story comes from rumours from the court of King Kieran which suggest that the Prince is in fact dead. The most bizarre version of this rumour even suggests that he was killed in a duel with Princess Alexis. The absence of any official information gives credence to the view that something has certainly happened but what is currently unclear.

A number of election campaigns have charged into full fury this month. Buoyed by the return of their leader the Bottler factions jumped ahead of the others with the publication of what they have called their "manifesto for growth and prosperity." William Trueman responded a few days later with his own statement which was cheekily posted on top of the Bottler ones. By the time Peter Ryman came out with his statement small fights were already breaking out between rival posters placing teams. Scriveners Guildmaster David Northropp is believed to have been delighted by the new literate approach to politics and is reported to have hired a number of jobbing scribes. No doubt he will soon be encouraging his own faction members to join in.

Alan Monterey has briefly returned to the city. He rode in two days ago and went straight to the Citadel. The usually forthcoming politician has been tight lipped about the reasons for his visit and sources in his households suggest that he is planning to return to the court of King Kieran within a few days. Inevitably this secret mission has further encouraged the rumours that something is going on with Salvoyrn.

Floodwaters have continued to recede this month. Northshore in particular is clearing quickly and as the watery scum has subsided it has been replaced by the more usual sort of detritus. This has been something of a relief to the citizens of Cripplegate who have been most enthusiastic in their plans to expel the unwanted from their streets.

Cllrs Joanne Buckley and Angela Freeman had surprised the Cadene ward moot by withdrawing their long-standing support from Melanie Romanie and switching to Gregory Benton. Both councillors have denied that their move has anything to do with the rumours circulating the ward that some of the recent questionable allocation of market stalls is the result of Alderman Romanie taking bribes. Cllr Ingrid Galton of Marshgate has joined the Trueman Faction declaring herself fed up with the stagnation of her Wardmoot.

Cllr Lucy Boater has been seeking investors a return trip to Nyskilde pointing out the advantages of early establishment of trade relationships with the recovering city she plans to undertake a very rapid trip before the winter ice closes in. The Navy has confirmed that it will not be calling the Inflexible to service until the New Year although the ship will retain its full complement of marines given the difficulties of the proposed trading trip.

Little further information has been forthcoming about the death of Petro Cutario OM. The Witanmoot has been at pains to point out that the obvious suspect, Gilbert de Clare is not under investigation despite the mountain of evidence which clearly points to his involvement. The Citadel and the Brynette Temple also seem rather quiet on the matter. Cllr Adrian Green, who has taken a personal interest in the case, made a

recent speech from the Mootstone decrying the obvious cover up and blatant lack of interest. "I never agreed with Cutario's politics but that doesn't stop me being outraged by what has happened," he declared. "If this wasn't personally organised by Gilbert de Clare then it was clearly done with someone very close to him with access to a lot of his resources. However, with thousands of pounds at stake, it would seem that our corrupt government does not want anyone to know what really happened." He went on to announce that he was leaving the Bottler Faction with the intention of standing for the Welland Aldermanship.

Initial views of the forthcoming Midwinter elections suggest that Arpent will be a close run contest between Hugo Merewell and Judi Spich. In Avignon the normal two way split between Phillip Candever and Samuel Rucche looks likely to be disrupted by the up and coming Kyle Makeland. In Bassishaw, Marc Bergeren and Gemma Downe will once again be contesting matters. Emma Chireton appears unassailable in Berewic as do Peter Ryman in Cripplegate, Brunstan Blackbeard in Cartage, William Trueman in Faringdon, Marie Cripstead in Shambles, Duncan Barnett in Oldgate, Rose Cheping in Dowgate, Dominic Horner in Temple, Eva Capel in Ishtan Stephanie Exton in Portsoken, Adam Povre in Kingsgate and Richard Saunders in Bridge although Andrea Beablet and Cuthbert Slipton both looking promising for next year. In Cadene Melanie Romanie is being closed on by Tiffany Durnegate and Gregory Benton. A similarly close contest is expected between Thomas Osbert and Fanny Drake in Dracas. In Castle Bard ex Sheriff Alison Shefford looks set to wipe out the unpopular Gilbert de Clare and Jessamine Scathlocke. In Tevestone Alan Monterey has some chance of recovering his seat from Vernon Stripe, but not if he rushes off out of the city again. In Marshgate Ingrid Galton is launching a late challenge to Samuel Kutler and it yet to be seen if Adrian Green can make any impact on the Bottler stranglehold on Welland.

## The Chronicle of the month of Kruthos in the year 157

The late winter snows have finally closed in this month cutting off the city from outside news. The last ship in from Salvoyn reported that the great trebuchet has ceased firing amid rumours that Salvoyn has offered terms for surrender. Kingsport is crowded with our own returning ships and Colonel Elsbeth de Vere has confirmed that they will travel south as soon as the weather permits with a strong force of ground troops. Asked about the likely reaction of King Kieran to this troop movement Princess Selina is reported to have said "King Kieran's forces have been besieging Salvoyn to little effect for years. He and I are both tired of this long war. It is Tinrodeth's navy that has closed the trade routes, Tinrodeth's engineers have made it possible to bombard the city and it will be Tinrodeth's troops that bring about the defeat of Salvoyn. There are factions within King Kieran's advisers whose small mindedness has held our forces back for too long. He now recognises that this was a mistake. We intend to finish off Salvoyn quickly and we intend to do it together."

Under the banner of "sweeping away the past" the clothing guilds have launched a major bid to change the shape of politics in Tinrodeth. Members of the Broiderers, Dyers, Clothworkers & Weavers, Skinners & Leathersellers and Drapers & Tailors guilds have received significant funding for their midwinter campaigns and some have moved faction or declared their independence. Randolph Flambourd, Guildmaster of the Skinners and Leathersellers told the Chronicle, "For too long the construction and trade guilds have held a stranglehold on this city's politics. Even William Trueman has turned from being a Goldsmith into one of these bung builders. The scandalous way the funding for the prisons, the roads and the flood relief has been used has just gone too far. We stand on an agenda of reducing corruption and taxes and we plan to make a difference. The campaign appears to have caught the public mood. Serious challenges to the existing order are being launched in Bridge by Mandy Turner, in Berewic by Carol Hall, in Cadene by Gregory Benton, in Cartage by Hilda Marcham, in Castle Bard by Wendy Bradshaw, in Dracas by Fanny Drake, in Temple by Melissa Chant. Welland may however become the most confused contest with Dyer Gillian Furbank making a bid for the Aldermanship and an obviously amused Eddie Englefield also throwing his cap into the ring already crowded with Jim Bottler and Adrian Green.

A heavily armed gang has raided the house of Goldsmith Abbey Muddiman. The raiders struck on Third day Tenthweek in broad daylight and are believed to have got away with several pounds worth of goods. The guard is appealing for witnesses and the Goldsmiths guild has posted a £10 reward to anyone who can identify the robbers.

One Alderman who is no longer putting much time into his election campaign is Richard Saunders. The Chairman for Welfare and Education was caught by his wife looking into the welfare of the ladies in the Open Port Inn in Dowgate. A house not noted for its high reputation. The circumstances in which he was found were apparently highly educational.

Investigations are continuing into the body found last week in Ishtan. Whilst it is not unusual to find bodies on the streets of the city the guards were disconcerted by the man's fine clothes and intact purse. Attempts to ascertain his identity have failed. Coronel Aldridge commended the discipline of the guards. "Not that many years ago this body would have been found missing its purse", he commented.

## The Chronicle of Midwinter of the year 158

The Midwinter elections resulted in a dramatic change of power with a third of the Aldermen including committee chairs Melanie Romanie and Thomas Osbert losing their seats. Jim Bottler was the only Alderman in his faction to retain their seat, despite a general rise in support for his faction across the city. The "Fabricators" faction (as the Broiderers, Dyers, Clothworkers & Weavers, Skimmers & Leathersellers and Drapers & Tailors guild grouping has become to be known) did well with Gregory Benton taking Cadene and Fanny Drake taking Dracas. The other new Alderman are Kyle Makeland in Avigon, Emma Chireton in Berewic, Cuthbert Slipton in Bridge, Alison Shefford in Castle Bard, Martin Key in Levestone and the previously unknown Ingrid Galton in Marshgate.

The changes seriously weaken the Bottler Faction and give William Trueman a commanding lead in the Aldermanic court. Alan Monterey is still strong and both Peter Ryman and Jessamine Scathlocke remain relevant. Given the way the votes have split Dominic Horner's one vote still mean that he has some opportunity to discuss participation in a coalition.

# The Chronicle

## of the month of Skelern in the year 158

The main excitement in the Witanmoot this month has been the decision to re-establish the post of envoy to Nyskilde. Nervousness over the Citadel reaction has been allayed by Princess Selina's statement that she is delighted to see the City taking a lead in helping Nyskilde recover from its abandonment by the rest of Athion.

Audiences at The King's Theatre have been astonished by the most recent presentation from the Theatre's main troop. *Innocence Lost* is a compelling tale of deception, intrigue and disastrous love. It tells the story of a young Hahnite priest Benjamin, who strays from his vows for the love of Alessandria, a woman he meets in an apparent accident. Alessandria is in fact a witch who has used magic's to corrupt him. However she falls in love with his purity and, unable to bear her guilt, confesses all to him. The acting is superb and the scene in which Benjamin now a senior plenipotentiary orders the execution of his love for witchcraft is heartrending. But it is the final scene of the burning itself which stunned audiences. Those who have claimed that Miss Mint's primary skill has been a predilection for thin or very loose clothing will not be able to deny that in this scene she is astonishingly powerful in her portrayal of evil redeemed by the purity of Hahn and accepting of its fate. The Archimandrite himself has attended the play and the Temple has described it as a truly masterful portrayal of the evil and destruction that involvement in magic inevitably brings.

An embarrassed Alan Monterey has been forced to return to the city following his failure to break through to the court of King Kieran. Members of his guard have carried on to deliver the vital messages but it would appear that owning a large wine cellar and participating in midwinter forced marches are incompatible activities.

Prior to the intervention of the Fabricators nominations for the committee chairs were showing the almost inevitable stitch up with only one nomination for each post. However declaring that he and his colleagues wish to see the best people doing the jobs, Randolph Flambourd has proposed a number of nomination which open the contest up. The grouping, showing its determination not to become a faction, has even proposed multiple people for the same role. "We now wait to see which of our Aldermen will vote for the right people and which will follow orders and vote for the grubby deal we were first presented with" he announced from the Mootstone. The final nominations, which the Chronicle notes could now be described as mischievous, are:

Treasury	Alison Shefford, Kyle Makeland
Trade	Duncan Barnett, Gregory Benton
Law and Order	Peter Ryman, Emma Chireton
Shipping	Eva Capel
Welfare and Education	Rose Cheping
Lands and Agriculture	Marie Cripstead Martin Key
Envoy to Kerun	Tilly Falgar, Godwin Green
Envoy to Orissa	Hugo Merewell, Bever Edge
Envoy to Eresan	Alan Monterey, Jim Bottler
Envoy to Cascorach	Samuel Kutler, Godwin Green
Envoy to Western Isles	Gillian Howe, Adam Povre
Envoy to Nyskilde	Thomas Osbert, Jessamine Scathlocke

The gang responsible for the raid upon the Goldsmith Abbey Muddiman has been destroyed by a detachment of the city guard. Responding to a tip off the guard cornered the gang in its Ishtan hideout and after a brief fight despatched them. Most of the stolen funds have also been recovered.



## Personage Count

There are many people that have been mentioned throughout the Chronicle. Those mentioned more than 20 times include:

Alan Monterey	343	Tiliniel Falgar	53
Matthew Dixon	296	Thomas Castlemaine	52
William Trueman	288	Barnard Hubold	51
Marcus Lambourne	267	Gillian Howe	50
Princess Selina	235	Marc 'the Thatcher' Bergeren	50
Jim Bottler	233	King Edmund	45
Beatrice Perignon	218	Alan Griffiths	44
Aralan Derwent	196	Maud Blessop	44
Miranda Andrews	190	Judi Spich	42
Prince Kieran	185	Elliot Anderson	42
Petro Cutario	160	Gibian Horl	41
Ann Tasker	141	Jessamine Scathlocke	41
Jenny Davy	140	Richard Firethorn	41
Alison Shefford	138	Gilbert de Clare	40
Adam Avery	130	Nicholas Worton	40
Crown Prince Edward	115	Thomas Osbert	39
Malcolm Mowbray	113	Maureen Quiller	37
Samantha Cox	109	Samuel Rucche	37
Olivia Warin	102	James Isenbard	36
Richard Saunders	98	Peter Ryman	36
Gax the Heretic	96	Roland Dixon	34
Paston Courtney	80	Harry Truestaff	30
Nicholas Bowden	79	Leonard Tholin	29
Melanie Romanie	69	Kennet Maxil	27
General Olvini	69	Alice Barbiter	26
Duke Alexander Calverin	68	Colonel Aldridge	26
Gemma Downe	64	Alice Fytton	24
Queen Emma	59	Ellis Devon	24
Iarken Drumm	58	Goodgulf	24
Mary Hastings	55	Marie Cripstead	24
George Rimon	55	Martin Key	24
Princess Eleanor	54	Alan Carter	23
Bert Belcher	53	Irving Grendle	23
Armundus Septer	53	Lilith Lansdowne	23
Olnorth Dexter	53	Prince Edwin	23
Eva Capel	52	Emily Martel	22
Duncan Barnett	52	Julia Perignon	22
		Raphael Fitz-Simmons	22
		Dominic Horner	21
		Reg Marc	21

