

Customs of the Shire of Abhainn Ciach Ghlais

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Intro

The Shire of Abhainn Ciach Ghlais, a regional group comprised of the following counties: Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union within the Sylvan Kingdom of Aethelmearc and a subsidiary of the Society for Creative Anachronism, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the recreation and advancement of the arts, crafts, scholarship, and martial activities of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Shire Customs

These are The Customs of the Shire of Abhainn Ciach Ghlais. This is a written record of how we, the members, strive to conduct Shire business. This document reflects the traditions of our group, or in modern terms, day-to-day operational policy.

This is not The Rule of the Shire of A.C.G., not the law of the land, not set in stone: This is The Shire's guidebook.

Changing Shire Customs

Shire members may request a review of, or propose a change to, Shire Customs at any time. At least once during the Seneschal's term, the Seneschal will ask shire members to bring suggestions for changes to the following business meeting. At that meeting, changes will be discussed and, if needed, accepted by consensus.

Shire Members

A shire member is someone who actively participates in shire activities, demos, and events.

The Seneschal – or a designee – will maintain a listing of shire members' contact information and awards received. This Domesday will be available at Shire Twelfth Night.

Shire Activities

Participation in any shire activity -- including events, revels, demos, meetings, practices, workshops and other scheduled shire activities - is open to all.

Official shire activities are announced at Shire Business Meetings and then are listed on the shire website. To update an activity listed on the shire's calendar, contact the Seneschal and Web Minister.

Meetings

Shire business meetings are generally held on the third Sunday of the month. Adjustments are made as needed. Officers are expected to attend; if they cannot, they contact the Seneschal before the meeting to send a report.

The Seneschal publishes the agenda for the Shire meeting a week prior to the meeting. Those wishing to add items to the agenda should contact the Seneschal. Items from the floor are called for at the appropriate time.

General Voting

Voting on general or day-to-day matters is open to all shire members, as described above. A simple majority by show of hands is sufficient.

Sponsoring and Scheduling Events

All events which use the Shire name, lands, possessions, or finances are shire events.

At least one week prior to the business meeting at which an event will be proposed, the autocrat(s) will give the Seneschal and the Exchequer a completed copy of the Shire Event Proposal form, which can be found on the shire website under "Articles."

Proposals should be submitted with sufficient time for consideration by the populace, and must allow for planning and publication of the event. A minimum of 6 months is recommended.

Events should be listed on the Kingdom calendar within one month after receiving Shire approval. If this does not happen, the Seneschal will nag the autocrat mercilessly until it is done.

It is required that the autocrat – or a co-autocrat -- be a resident of the shire.

To keep shire members informed about the event's status, the autocrat provides updates at shire meetings.

Autocrats who encounter unexpected, dramatic increases in event costs should contact the Seneschal and Exchequer immediately.

All receipts from the event shall be submitted to the Exchequer within two weeks of the event. Any costs incurred but not resolved with the Exchequer by that time will be considered donations.

The feastocrat – or a designee -- is responsible for shire kitchen supplies used during the event. This includes picking-up the supplies and taking to the site, inventorying supplies for restocking/replacement, and returning them to proper storage. The shire will not store perishable goods.

Offices

In addition to those offices required or suggested by Kingdom and Society Law, we create offices as needed. A roster of current shire officers and their deputies is listed on the shire website.

Deputies

Officers are strongly encouraged to select deputies to assist them, to maintain a general knowledge of the workings of the office, and to take over the office if the officer must step down.

Deputies are considered officers and therefore should be SCA paid members.

Terms of Office

Officers serve two-year terms, from Twelfth Night to Twelfth Night. Officers can serve consecutive terms if re-elected. We strive to stagger the rotation of officer terms as noted below:

Currently, offices to be filled in odd years are the Seneschal, Knight Marshal, Archery Captain, Minister of The List, Chancellor Minor, Chronicler, and Web Minister.

Currently, offices to be filled on even numbered years are the Chatelaine, Arts and Sciences Minister, Exchequer, Herald, and Chamberlain.

Offices are filled on a local level by an election process, as outlined below.

Election of Officers

If a current officer does not intend to serve another term, he should inform The Shire as soon as possible. Current or impending office vacancies are published, announced at meetings, or both.

Interested candidates should contact the outgoing officer to discuss the job's duties and responsibilities. Candidates for an office submit their names to the Shire at a Shire Business meeting.

Officer elections are held at the November Shire meeting. All shire members, fourteen years of age and older, are eligible to vote.

Paper ballots are used at the November Shire meeting. Absentee Ballots are placed in a sealed envelope with the voter's name on the outside. The shire officers, on a case-by-case basis, may review the vote's acceptability. Absentee Ballots are to be delivered to the Herald of the shire, or a designated deputy. E-mail votes are not acceptable for officer elections. There are no proxy votes in this shire.

The chosen officer will then contact Kingdom within a month of the election, for their official instatement.

Advancement of Deputies

If an officer must step down before his term has expired, the deputy will take over until an election can be held. At the next business meeting, the Seneschal will call for objections to the deputy's filling that office. If there is a vote of "no confidence," the Seneschal will hold the office until an election can be held, within the following three months. The chosen officer will then contact Kingdom within a month of the election, for their official instatement.

Shire Funds

Expenses should be brought before the shire before they are incurred. No expenses are reimbursed without a receipt.

A minimum balance of \$500.00 is maintained in the shire's bank account. The exchequer announces current balance and expenditures at the shire business meeting.

Property

Anyone who maintains Shire property must update the list of Shire possessions in their care and submit this list to the Exchequer by Twelfth Night.

Shire property may be loaned out at the discretion of the officer responsible for that item. Replacement of items damaged or lost while on loan is the responsibility of the borrower -- normal wear and tear excluded.

Miscellaneous

Lost and Found from an event is the responsibility of the autocrat. Items not claimed more than a year after the event may be disposed of as the shire sees fit.

Recognition

Officers, and shire members through the appropriate officers, recognize outstanding members with shire tokens. The Seneschal is in charge of gathering a consensus for these tokens. At the Shire's Twelfth

Night party, the Seneschal may present a maximum of two of each token type. The tokens are as follows:

- The Oak Leaf - skill in the martial arts
- The Feather - artistic skill
- The Acorn - service to the shire

The Seneschal may, if desired, bestow upon one shire member per year The Oak Tree, a rare gift for unwavering service above and beyond the norm, unusual excellence, or courtesy within the Shire.