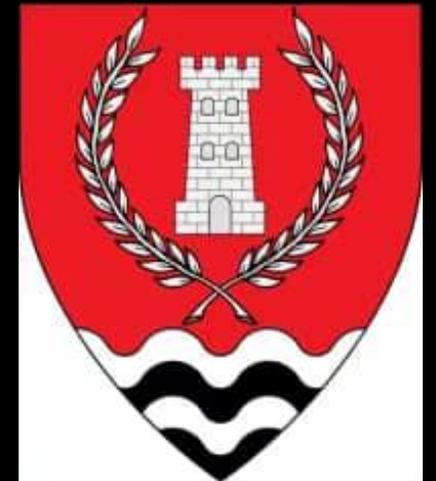


The Crane's Call

Newsletter for the Shire of Caer Dun
October A.S. LVI



Regnum



SENESCHAL: Bailey Rose Marsh seneschal.caerdun@gmail.com



A&S MINISTER: Bailey Rose Marsh caerdunaands@gmail.com

CHATELAINE: Karsas Sarmetae chatelainecaerdun@gmail.com



CHRONICLER: Devin Phelan ODonnabhain caerdunchronicler@gmail.com



EXCHEQUER: Ellisif Hallbjarnardottir caerdunexchequer@gmail.com

DEPUTY EXCHEQUER: Maiosara Azparou



HERALD: OPEN

HISTORIAN: Avarr Heiloflagi historian.caerdun@gmail.com



KNIGHTS MARSHALL: Karsas Sarmetae knightsmarshall.caerdun@gmail.com



WEBMINISTER: Randal Guillaume webminister@caerdun.net

DEPUTY WEBMINISTER: Rebecca Clements



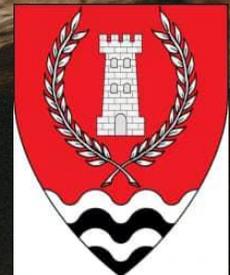
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Fighter practice 3 pm George Martin Park Gautier, MS.
3	4 National Taco Day	5 Get Funky Day	6	7	8	9 Leif Erikson Day
10 World Mental Health Day	11 Indigenous Peoples' Day	12	13 No Bra Day!	14	15	16 Fighter practice 3 pm Georger Martin Park Gautier, MS.
17	18 National Chocolate Cupcake Day!!!	19 LGBT Center Awareness Day	20	21 Back to the Future Day	22	23 Fall Coronation.
24	25 Biz Mtg: Jalapenos @ 6:30	26	27 National American Beer Day	28	29	30 

From the Seneschal

Greetings one & all. Congratulations to James the Holy and Joan of Ooc on becoming the next heirs to the Gleann Abhann Crown. Please consult the Gleann Abhann website, the Ambassador newsletter and The Crane's Call newsletter for updates on their upcoming Coronation.

Lord Karsas Sarmetea will be assuming the position of Shire Seneschal in October. I feel the Shire will be in good & capable hands. I encourage you all to give him your full support.

**In Service to the Dream,
THL Bailey Rose Marsh
Seneschal of Caer Dun**



From the Knight Marshal & Chatelaine

Dear Populace, I hope this letter finds you well. As I write you this letter, my hopes are high & I see great futures for us! Crown Lyst has passed and we have new Heirs! Prince Holy & Princess Joan! May their Majesties live forever and we never have need of them assuming the Crown! But if they do! We have been chosen to organize the event to choose our new Heirs! I hope we can all step up to help make it an incredible event! In the meantime, we will still be holding Fighter Practices every other weekend on Sat at 3pm at George H Martin Park in Gautier MS. The dates for October will be the 2nd (that's this weekend) the 16th, and the 30th. The 30th will most likely be cancelled so that I may go raid for candy! Also, I will be stepping up as Seneschal at the first of the month. I would love to have a candidate to step up as KM. You would be required to have a SCA membership, be authorized for heavy fighting, and not be a dick to do so... (see the laws of chivalry for more info). Anyone interested please contact me. Love to you all and look forward to seeing you at practices!

YIS Ld Karsas Sarmatae called Talan
Knight Marshal of Caer Dun
Chatelain of Caer Dun



From the Chronicler

Greetings fair Shire. The weather is turning cooler and soon Halloween will be here. I love this time of year. Still need art, articles and whatnots from you all! Now is a perfect time to look for demo opportunities. If you know of one contact either our Seneschal or Chatelaine. We are also gearing up for Crown Lyst in 2022 and need all hands on deck. This is a chance for our Shire to SHINE! Keep it Spooky!

In Service to Crown and Kingdom,
HE Devin Phelan ODonnabhain



Halloween, Medieval Style

by Lady Muireann ni Riordain, MOAS Ponte Alto,
Silver Nautilus

Actually, the title of this article is something of a misnomer. Many of our modern Halloween customs have continued from the Middle Ages virtually unchanged. Activities that were practiced then are still carried on today, though the spiritual emphasis is no longer as important to us. All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, the two days following Halloween, are not as widely celebrated now, while in the Middle Ages they were just as or more important. In fact, during the Reformation, the feast of All Souls was removed from the Church calendar, since many of its activities were considered distinctly unChristian. It was placed back on the calendar in 1928; by that time the general feeling was that it was no longer a superstitious danger. Halloween has its origins in ancient Celtic culture. It was the end of the Celtic year, the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

It was believed that on this night demons, witches and evil spirits roamed about, playing tricks on unsuspecting humans. One could avoid being the victim of such pranks by either offering sweets or other foods, or by disguising oneself as a demon and roaming the night alongside them.

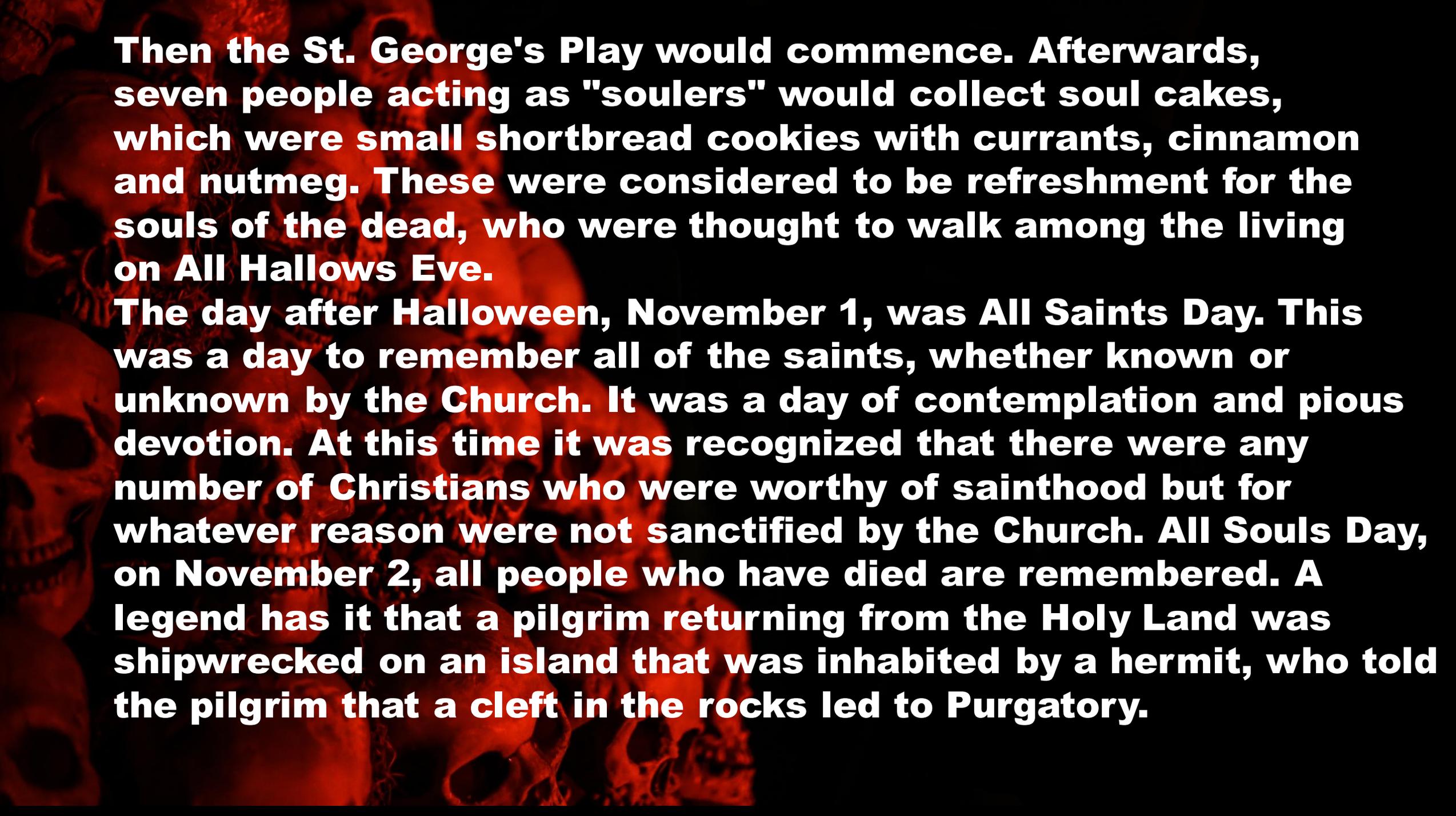
Hence, our modern custom of trick-or-treating in costume. The theory was that the demons would take the human for one of their own and not disturb him.

There is also a Roman influence on the holiday. The custom of eating apples, or giving them away, or bobbing for them stems from a celebration of the Roman goddess Pomona. Children still bob for apples by floating them in a large tub of water and attempting to grasp one with their teeth and pull it out. In the Middle Ages, it was a divination game. **Each apple would be given the name of a potential lover, and the **number of tries** it took to bite the apple foretold how long the love would last. There is another, somewhat alarming in my opinion, tradition that did not survive, or at least not as widely, in which an apple was placed on one end of a stick, and a lighted candle on the other. The stick was spun about at the end of a string, and children standing in a circle had to try to grab the apple with their teeth as it went past. They were often splattered with flying wax and grease from the candle.**



Other divination games were played on Halloween night. Nutcracking was very popular for this purpose. A couple soon to be married would place two whole walnuts or hazelnuts in the embers of a fire. When the nuts burst, if they make a loud crackling noise, it was considered a sign that the love between the couple would be strong. If the nuts only burned, that meant the love would soon fade and die. Guests at Halloween revels would crack walnuts to foretell their future. If the shells cracked cleanly and the halves remained whole, the person would have good luck in love. If the shells shattered into pieces, so would the love. Another interesting medieval tradition was a type of mummer's play that was performed at night. One person dressed as King Crispin, who was actually Saint Crispin, the patron of Cordwainers, or shoemakers who used Cordovan leather from Spain. He wore regal robes and a gold chain, and carried a scepter. After the feast, a person acting as the Surveyor asked King Crispin whether the mummers were allowed in.



The background of the image is a dark, textured surface covered with numerous human skulls. The skulls are illuminated with a strong red light, creating a somber and macabre atmosphere. The lighting is uneven, with some skulls appearing more brightly lit than others, and the overall effect is one of horror and death.

Then the St. George's Play would commence. Afterwards, seven people acting as "soulers" would collect soul cakes, which were small shortbread cookies with currants, cinnamon and nutmeg. These were considered to be refreshment for the souls of the dead, who were thought to walk among the living on All Hallows Eve.

The day after Halloween, November 1, was All Saints Day. This was a day to remember all of the saints, whether known or unknown by the Church. It was a day of contemplation and pious devotion. At this time it was recognized that there were any number of Christians who were worthy of sainthood but for whatever reason were not sanctified by the Church. All Souls Day, on November 2, all people who have died are remembered. A legend has it that a pilgrim returning from the Holy Land was shipwrecked on an island that was inhabited by a hermit, who told the pilgrim that a cleft in the rocks led to Purgatory.

The monk said that he could hear voices of the souls claiming that Christians did not pray hard enough for them to make a quicker journey to heaven. Apparently they particularly wanted the monks of Cluny to pray for them. So the pilgrim went to Cluny and told his tale to Abbot Odilo, who immediately declared All Souls Day as a day of prayer and commemoration of those who have passed before us.

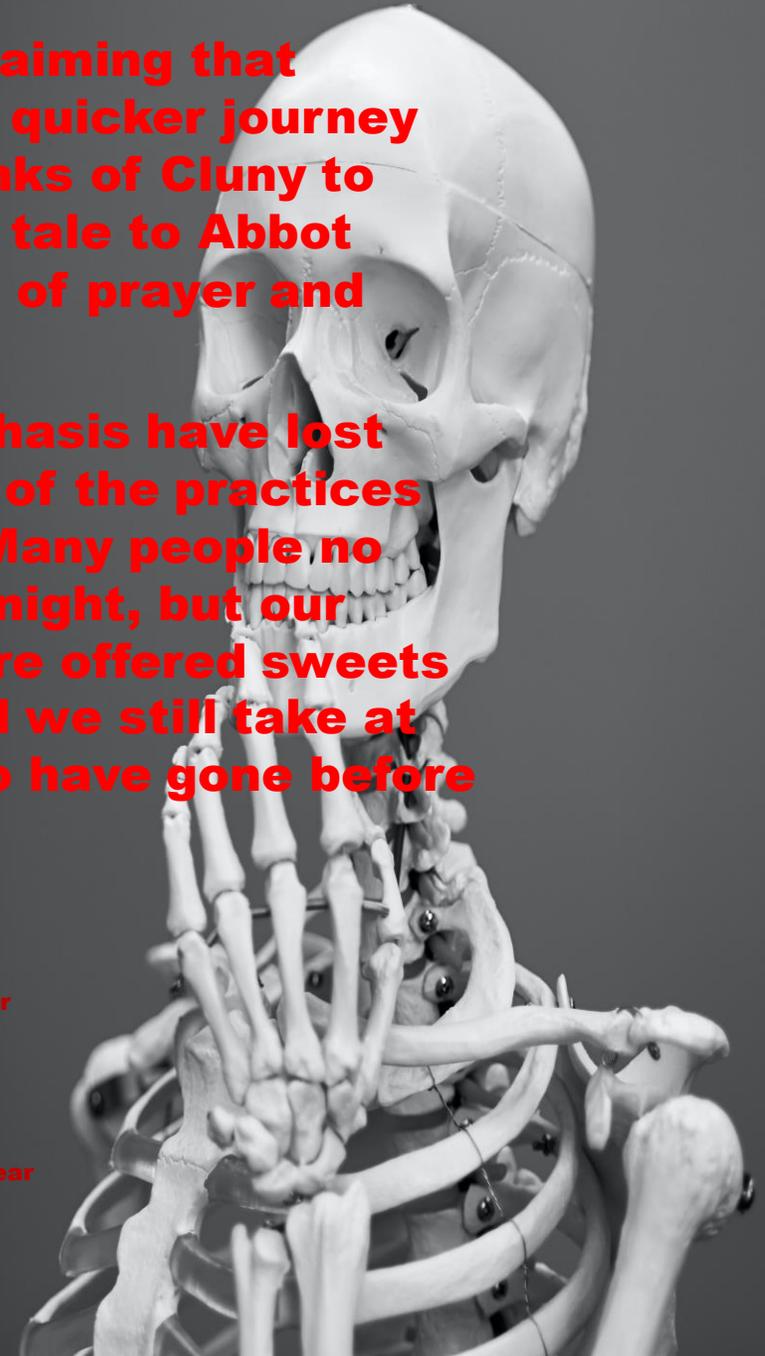
So while the origins of Halloween and its religious emphasis have lost some of their significance in our modern society, many of the practices and customs have continued on in unbroken tradition. Many people no longer believe in demons and evil spirits who roam the night, but our school children still disguise themselves as such and are offered sweets and candy in exchange for exemption from pranks. And we still take at least a moment or two to remember our loved ones who have gone before us, in silent commemoration.

Bibliography:

Cosner, Madeleine Pelner, *Medieval Holidays and Festivals: A Calendar of Celebrations*. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York; 1981. ISBN: 0684171724.

Green, Victor J., *Festivals and Saints Days: A Calendar of Festivals for School and Home*. Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset; 1978. ISBN: 0713708891.

Weiser, Francis X., *Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs: The Year of the Lord in Liturgy and Folklore*. Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., New York; 1958.





Updated Statement of Core Values At the Board of Directors July 2018 meeting, the following policy was approved and is to be considered effective immediately: SCA Statement of Core Values In pursuing its mission, the SCA is committed to excellence in its programs, communications and activities and to · act in accordance with the chivalric virtues of honor and service; · value and respect the worth and dignity of all individuals; · practice inclusiveness and respect pluralism and diversity; · promote a safe and respectful environment for all SCA events; · act with transparency, fairness, integrity and honesty; · be a responsible steward of SCA resources; and, · be committed to maintaining the trust of its members and participants. It is the expectation of the SCA that its members and participants, in all events and activities of the SCA, will conduct themselves in accordance with these tenets. Comments are strongly encouraged and can be sent to: SCA Inc. Box 360789 Milpitas, CA 95036 You may also email comments@lists.sca.org. This announcement is an official informational release by the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. Permission is granted to reproduce this announcement in its entirety in newsletters, websites and electronic mailing lists. Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion <https://www.sca.org/dei-office/> <https://www.sca.org/dei-office/dei-resources/> <https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/DEI-handbook.pdf> <https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/DEIMissionVision.pdf>



This is the October 2021 issue of The Crane's Call; a publication of the Shire of Caer Dun of the SCA. The Crane's Call is available from Baron Devin Phelan ODonnabhain at: caerdunchronicler@gmail.com. It is not a corporate publication of the SCA Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies. Copyright 2021 SCA, Inc. For information on reprinting articles and artwork from this publication please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. Submissions must be sent to the Chronicler by the 25th of the month. An SCA Creative Work Copyright Assignment/Grant of Use Form must be on file or accompany all submissions.



All images are from www.unsplash.com and used via their open copyright agreement.