



The Crane's Call

Shire of Caer Dun, October 2023 LVIII



Table of Contents

Front Cover – Stonehenge

Pg 2 - (This page!) - Table of Contents

Pg 3 – Regnum

Pg 4 – September Calendar

Pg 5 – Kingdom Calendar

Pg 6 – Spooky Skull

Pg 7 - Chronicler

Pg 8 – More Spooky Skulls

**Pg 9 – 18 – Crossing the Veil: Pre-Christian
Origins of Halloween and Samhain**

Pg 19 – Meeting Places

Pg 20 - Core Values Statement

Pg 21 - End Credits



REGNUM

Seneschal/Knights Marshal: Karsas Sarmatea,
caerdun.seneschal@gleannabhann.net caerdun.marshal@gleannabhann.net

A&S Minister: Bailey Rose Marsh, caerdun.aands@gleannabhann.net

Deputy A&S: Luna Noctem

Interim Chronicler: Devin ODonnabhain, caerdun.chronicler@gleannabhann.net

Exchequer: Ellisif Hallbjarnardottir, caerdun.exchequer@gleannabhann.net

Deputy Exchequer: Maiosara Azparou

Historian: Avarr Helloflagi, caerdun.historian@gleannabhann.net

Webminister: Randall Guillaume, caerdun.webminister@gleannabhann.net

Deputy Webminister: Rebecca Rosol



OCTOBER 2023



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1
Fighter Practice

2

3

4

5

6

7

8
Fighter Practice

9

10

11

12

13

14

15
Fighter Practice

16

17

18

19

20

21

22
Fighter Practice

23

24

25

26

27

28

Business Meeting

29
Fighter Practice

30

31

1

2

3

4

Halloween



October 6 - October 8

Gleann Abhann Fall Coronation

<https://gleannabhann.net/paypal-registration-form/>

October 14 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Something German

Choctaw County Community Center 895 College St, Ackerman, MS

October 27 @ 5:00 pm - October 29 @ 10:00 am

**Gatalop 39: Mongolian Mayhem (
Out of Kingdom)**

October 27 @ 5:00 pm - October 29 @ 5:00 pm

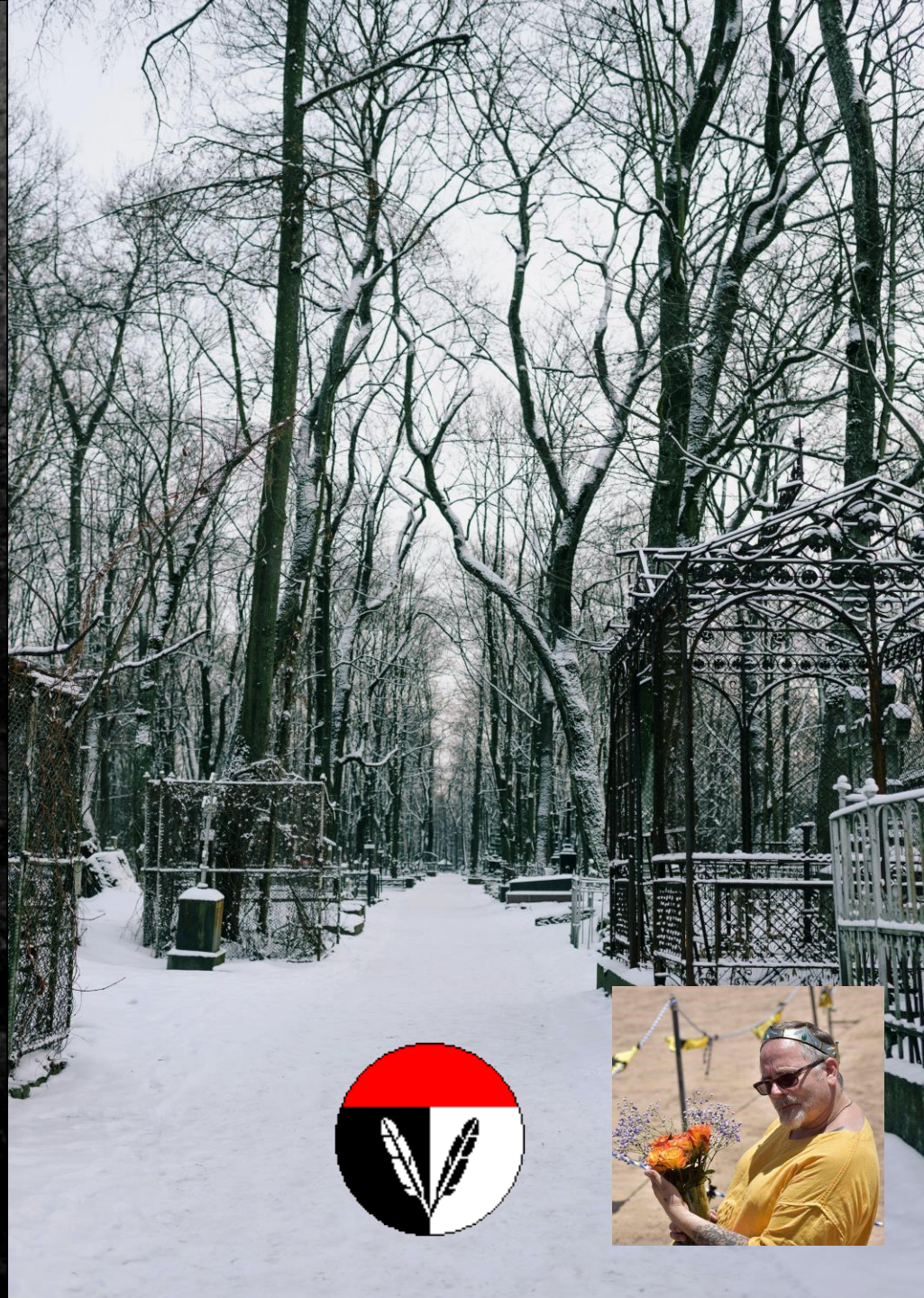
Samhain



CHRONICLER

Samhain is just around the corner and it is always a spooky good time. Be safe out there my fellow Shirlings and send things in for the newsletter!

**In Service to Kingdom and Shire,
Baron Devin ODonnabhain
Interim Chronicler**



A glowing green skeleton is the central focus of the image. The skeleton is positioned in the center, with its hands clasped in front of its chest. It is surrounded by a thick, ethereal green mist or smoke that fills the lower half of the frame. The background is a dark, dense forest with tall, thin trees and a few patches of light filtering through the canopy, creating a moody and atmospheric setting. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, blacks, and vibrant greens.

**Crossing the Veil: The Pre-Christian
Origins of Halloween and Samhain**



Halloween, or the ancient Samhain, is considered the time of year when the veil between our world and the spirit world is at its thinnest. As darkness falls and families light their pumpkin Jack-o'-lanterns, they are, perhaps unknowingly, repeating the ancient traditions of honoring the dead and marking the beginning of the 'dark half' of the year.

Halloween Origins: Celtic Harvest Festivals

Halloween is an annual celebration held largely in the western world on October 31st. Starting in the evening, children, and sometimes adults, dress in masks and costumes, traditionally as ghostly figures, witches, or the undead – vampires, zombies, skeletons. They go knocking door-to-door, requesting treats, or else threatening a mischievous trick upon the household. Typical activities of the modern observance can include costume parties, pumpkin carving, trick-or-treating, lighting bonfires, playing pranks, and more.

Hallowe'en, a shortened form of "All Hallows' Evening" is an echo of Celtic harvest festivals of pre-Christian Europe. Observed now in several countries around the world, it is the evening before 'All Hallows Day', when saints (hallows) and martyrs are remembered by people of many Christian denominations. This ritual, however, coincides with (and some scholars suggest co-opted) the ancient observance of Samhain.

What were Pagan Rituals on Samhain?

Samhain (pronounced *sah-van* or *sow-in*) is the traditional Gaelic festival marking the change of seasons and the approach of winter. There are many important events that begin or happen around the time of Samhain in Irish myth . For example, people would bring their cattle back from the summer pastures and slaughter livestock in preparation for the upcoming winter. They would also light ritual bonfires for protection and cleansing as they wished to mimic the sun and hold back the darkness. It was also a time when people believed that spirits or fairies (the *Aos Sí*) were more likely to pass into our world.

Dead and departed relatives played a central role in the tradition, as the connection between the living and dead was believed to be stronger at Samhain, and there was a chance to communicate. Souls of the deceased were thought to return to their homes. Feasts were held and places were set at tables as a way to welcome them home. Food and drink was offered to the unpredictable spirits and fairies to ensure continued health and good fortune.

Transforming Samhain



The idea that souls return home on a certain day of the year is repeated across many cultures around the world. *Día de Muertos* , or the Day of the Dead, is a similar holiday held around the same time of year in Mexico celebrating and honoring family members who have died.

Samhain saw a metamorphosis due to the early Church. In *The History of Halloween or Samhain* , Jack Santino writes:



“As a result of their efforts to wipe out ‘pagan’ holidays, such as Samhain, the Christians succeeded in effecting major transformations in it. In 601 A.D. Pope Gregory the First issued a now famous edict to his missionaries concerning the native beliefs and customs of the peoples he hoped to convert. Rather than try to obliterate native peoples’ customs and beliefs, the pope instructed his missionaries to use them: if a group of people worshipped a tree, rather than cut it down, he advised them to consecrate it to Christ and allow its continued worship.”



In the 12th century, obligatory holy days across Europe involved town criers dressed all in black, ringing mournful bells and calling on Christians to remember the poor souls of the dead. Special ‘soul cakes’ would be baked and shared. This custom of “souling” was present in England, Germany, Belgium, Austria, and Italy, and this is thought to be the precursor of trick-or-treating. Eventually, mumming and guising (going door-to-door in disguise and performing in exchange for food) was taken up as another variation on these ancient customs. Pranks were thought to be a way of confounding evil spirits. Pranks at Samhain date as far back as 1736 in Scotland and Ireland, and this led to Samhain being dubbed “ Mischief Night ”.

A traditional Irish turnip Jack-o'-lantern from the early 20th century. (Rannpáirtíanaítni/[CC BY SA 3.0](#))

Controversy Surrounding Modern Halloween Practices

Many of the modern practices for Halloween date to 19th century England and North America. Fortune telling and divination have traditionally played a part in celebrations. Games were played with the intention to divine one's future. Nuts and fruit featured in eating and drinking games, and soul cakes were prepared.

Around Halloween, pumpkins are hollowed out, and spooky faces are carved into them, creating Jack-o'-lanterns. Candles are then lit inside the pumpkins, creating eerie lanterns, and serving as signals that a household observes Halloween. Pumpkins are frequently used today as they're easier to carve and a symbol of harvest, but the original lanterns in Ireland and Scotland were carved from turnips. These turnip lanterns were used to frighten off evil spirits by guisers, and were a motif of the Irish Christian folk tale of Jack, a wandering soul who was denied entry into both heaven and hell.

Observing Halloween is not without controversy. Some religions discourage participation, suggesting that it trivializes Samhain, it has satanic associations, or it is an inappropriate tribute to paganism or the occult. However, the modern practices heavily influenced by commercialization and popular culture differ appreciably from the ancient traditions of Samhain and All Hallows' Eve.

Still, the connection exists and the history is clear - when you light a Jack-o'-lantern and brighten the darkening season, you're carrying on an age-old tradition that bridges cultures around the world and reaffirms our connection to our departed loved ones.

By: Liz Leafloor

***Top Image: Halloween has origins in Samhain, a time when the veil between the living and dead is thinnest.
Source: fergregory /Adobe Stock***



Monthly Meetings

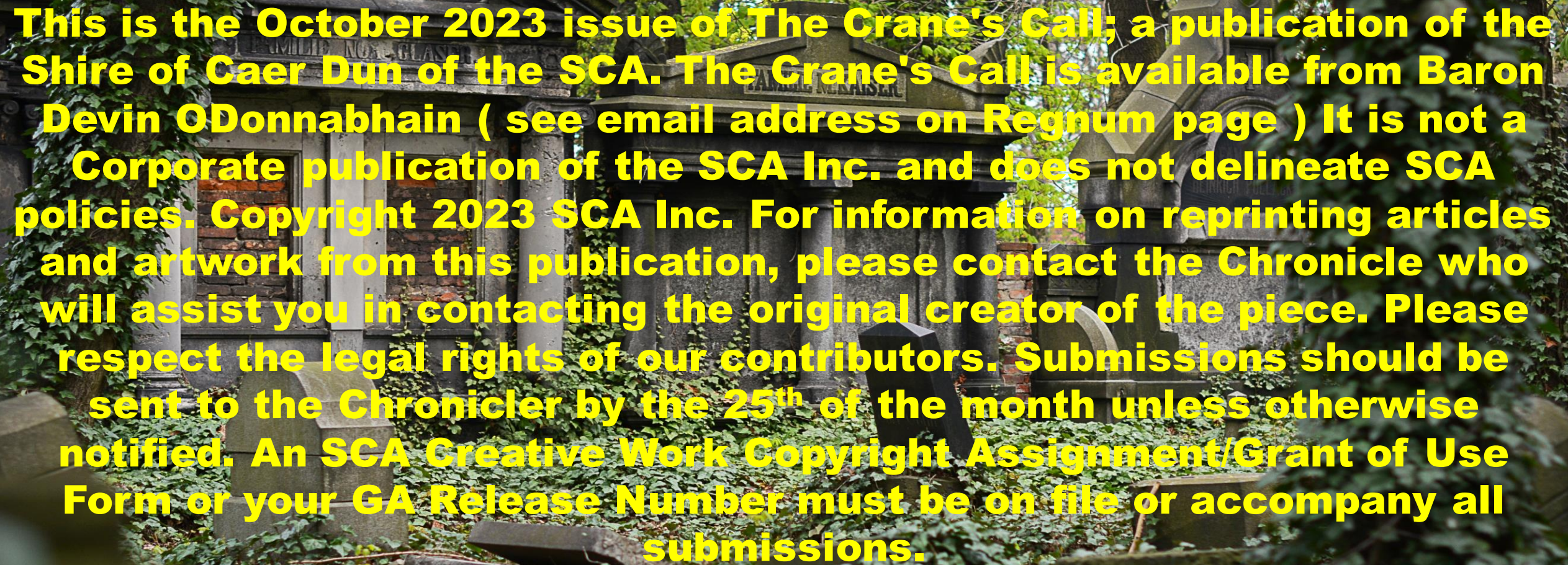
***Please note that the month of October might have changes for Fighter Practice.**

Please see the Calendar on page 4*, and check the Shire Facebook page.

Business Meeting; Held the 4th Wednesday of every month at Aunt Jenny's Catfish Restaurant, 1217 Washington Ave. Ocean Springs, MS. Meeting begins at 6:30 pm.

Fighter Practice; Held every Sunday. Check calendar for dates and the Shire Facebook page for any updates. Fighter Practice is held at Lum Cumbest Park, 18417 MS-613, Moss Point, MS. 39562

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>



This is the October 2023 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 ODonnabhain (see email address on Regnum page) It is not a Corporate publication of the SCA Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies. Copyright 2023 SCA Inc. For information on reprinting articles and artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicle who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. Submissions should be sent to the Chronicler by the 25th of the month unless otherwise notified. An SCA Creative Work Copyright Assignment/Grant of Use Form or your GA Release Number must be on file or accompany all submissions.

Calendar from <https://mondaymandala.com/>. Images from www.pexels.com and www.picryl.com. Clipart from <https://clipart-library.com>

Crossing the Veil: The Pre-Christian Origins of Halloween and Samhain courtesy of ancientorigins.com