

THE SHIRE-POST



FOREYULE S.R. 1

*"For the Good
Order and Peace of
the Shire"*

Issue 1

THE FIRST MOOT OF SÛZA

On the 17th of Foreyule, there was a momentous occurrence in the history of our small Shire.

Presided over by the Thain, The Free Shire of Sûza's first Autumn Moot convened to discuss the Rules, the Constitution and other matters of state.

Present at this initial Moot were Thain Wilcome Greenhand, Ithil Starfoot (Warden of Westmarch) and Gaffer Daggins (Master of Buckland). Together, the three citizens reviewed the Constitution, an activity led mainly by the Thain himself, to ensure all citizens understood their rights, duties, privileges as well as how proceedings such as elections and Moots were to be conducted going forwards.

In just thirty-six focused minutes, this first Moot was instrumental in the establishment of our Free Shire. While largely an informal gathering, this was still the first session of Governance in the five months since the Shire's founding on the 12th of Afterlithe earlier this year.

Going forwards we hope to welcome many new citizens into the Shire and we hope that they will attend the Moot and help to build on the foundation laid this month.

Following the Constitutional review, the Moot turned towards matters of legislation and proper governance.

Thain Greenhand proposed Four Legal Acts this session, each one aimed to enhance life within the Shire and support the goodwill of all Free Folk.

All motions here were passed by a unanimous vote and, by definition, with the agreement of all citizens.

Following the passing of motions, business would have concluded with the Review of Petitions and Appointments to the Watch, but since in both cases there was nothing to address, the company moved swiftly on.

The naming of the Folklands yielded a great success, with Gaffer Daggins selecting the name of Zingham (swapping the letter "W" for a "Z" in the name of nearby village Wingham). Ithil Starfoot opted for Belerion, the ancient Greek name for the county of Cornwall.

Meanwhile Thain Greenhand went with Cantium, the Roman term for his home county, Kent.

THE FOUR ACTS

The Reckoning of the Seasons Act

This first act established the Shire's seasonal calendar, codifying the dates of the Seasons according to the Solstices and Equinoxes, but maintaining them in an orderly fashion at the ends of set months.

These four seasons are Winter (1st Yule to 30th Rethe), Spring (1st Astron to Midyear's Day), Summer (2nd Lithe to 30th Halimath) and Autumn (1st Winterfilth to 30th Foreyule).

The National Sport Act

In recognition of the quiet, rural traditions that inspired the founding of Sûza, Croquet was officially named to be Sûza's national sport.

"It reflects the gentle pastoral charm of the rural areas of England that so inspired the creation of our great nation," the act states.

Sûzan Croquet rules are to be drafted over the Winter months and presented at the Winter Moot for approval. They are planned to preserve the sport in its traditional form, with versions tailored to both Casual and Competitive play.

The Folkland's Declaration Act

The third act formalized the structure of Folklands - family units that serve as the basic territorial divisions within the Farthings.

Each Folkland must designate a Hearth, the administrative centre where all relevant ceremonies are conducted.

Citizens declared their Folklands at the Moot's conclusion, establishing Cantium (Eastfarthing), Belerion (Westmarch), and Zingham (Buckland) as the Shire's first three territories.

The Treasury and Budget Act

The final act established the Shire Treasury with a starting balance of £0 and crucially determined that no mandatory taxes or contributions would be levied upon citizens.

All contributions remain voluntary, with full transparency required - all Treasury transactions must be recorded and reported at each Moot session.

TREASURY REPORT

In the month's Autumn Moot, the Treasury of the Free Shire of Sûza was established with a starting balance of £0, as per the new **Treasury and Budget Act**.

However towards the closing of the Moot session, Gaffer Daggins fortuitously happened across a ten-pence piece in his quarter, and when combined with a voluntary £5 contribution from the Thain, the Autumn Budget was set at £5.10, in keeping with the Act's decree that no mandatory taxes or contributions shall be levied from our citizens.

As the Shire grows, the Treasury will fund community projects, Grants of Merit and other initiatives approved by the Moot.

In the interests of fairness and security, the transactions and contributions made by and for the Treasury will be reviewed at each Moot, to ensure all citizens know how the Shire is progressing and what it has invested in.

Proposals for Treasury expenditure may be submitted by any citizen and will be debated at future Moot sessions.

Current Balance: **£5.10**

Next Report: **Winter Moot, S.R. 2**

OFFICIAL NOTICES

WANTED

Opinionated Citizens for Livelier Moot Debates.

While the first Autumn Moot was without doubt an astounding success, however one point to note was that very few citizens actually had any issues with the Motions brought up by their fellows.

And though this is wonderful for a simple, harmonious government, it can leave the sessions feeling a little lacklustre, so by all means if you feel you could spark more life in our meetings then join us at the Winter Moot!

SEEKING

Shirriffs & Bounders to join the Watch.

Joining The Watch is a wonderful opportunity to see more of the Shire and to connect more with the citizens of our fine country.

By becoming a Shirriff, you would be responsible for reporting any Rule-breaking you see from other Citizens in your Farthing to the Moot.

If Bounding is more your cup of tea, you can enlist to walk the Bounds of your Folkland, keeping an eye on proceedings and reporting anything notably out of place to the Moot.

For more information on these Notices, email the Thain at henleywilliam01@gmail.com

DATES AND TIMES IN SÛZA

As some of our citizens may have seen, **Article VIII** of the Constitution of the Free Shire of Sûza declares that we follow our own Calendar and abide by our own time zone.

So, what is **Sûza Standard Time** then, and why on Earth does it exist?

In the simplest of terms, Sûza Standard Time is the especial time zone that was created for our Shire.

It is set to be fifteen minutes later than Greenwich Mean Time (the time zone which the United Kingdom abides by), so if it were 10:30 AM in the UK, it would be 10:45 AM in the Free Shire.

This was created to be a small but meaningful distinction to set the Shire apart from all other nations, signifying our cultural independence and distinct identity.

The other part of this Constitution article covers the Sûzan Reckoning.

The Sûzan Reckoning is the official calendar of the Free Shire, it is drawn from the Shire Reckoning calendar used in the J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and work as follows...

There are 365 days in a Shire Year, just as in the Gregorian calendar we use in our day to day lives, however the divisions of these days are slightly different.

There are twelve months in a Shire Year, and each one has exactly thirty days.

The way this is achieved is by taking the remaining 5 days and assigning them their own names outside of the months - these being: 1 Yule, 2 Yule, 1 Lithe, *Midyear's Day* and 2 Lithe.

These 5 days are designated festival days, typically aligning with the Summer and Winter Solstices. The two Yule days mark the last day of one year and the beginning of the next.

In leap years, *Overlithe* is also observed, an additional day between *Midyear's Day* and 2 Lithe.

If you would like to know the current day in the Sûzan Reckoning, you can use any number of online Shire Reckoning calendars, the Thain's personal favourite being:

<https://www.time-meddler.co.uk/shire-calendar.html>

FROM THE THAIN'S DESK

I think there's a certain thrill that comes with starting a new project, or having a new idea (perhaps that's why I have so many unfinished documents scattered around) but with the Free Shire of Sûza, that feeling is greater than ever.

That may have something to do with the nature of the Shire as a project. Sûza is not merely a micronation for micronationalism's sake, it is an experiment in voluntary governance and a vessel for change.

In the digital age, our lives are filled with constant stimulation and input from our social media accounts, emails, messages and more.

Even sites such as Youtube, which have such potential as educational platforms and alternatives to traditional streaming services, are becoming more and more addictive (at least that's what I've experienced, it may be that I'm just falling into their trap more often).

Regardless of the reason, I've found myself spending more time on screens than ever before. As a home-educated student attending a myriad of online classes, I understand that some of this is necessary, understandable even.

But a lot of my screen time, perhaps even the majority of it, surely could be better spent.

So I've set myself a challenge. For the next month, I have resolved not to touch Youtube in my free time unless I have a reason that is justified by a second opinion.

I suppose the big question you may be asking is 'Why?'

Why are you doing this?

And I think it's because, in my experience at least, being online destroys creativity. Of course, this may not be true for everyone but I know it applies to me.

So I'm doing this to spare myself from the barrage of passive consumption that I know I'm about to fall into if I don't do something about it.

Doomscrolling (I'm glad to say) has not become a fixture of my free time usage yet, but I fear it will do soon.

This leads us into another question - why Sûza? How could a *micronation* of all things help to get away from excessive screen use?

To answer this, we need to look at why Sûza was designed the way it was, and what it stands for...

FROM THE THAIN'S DESK

Sûza began as an attempt to convert the Shire (from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*) into a micronational form.

Yet it's more than a group of people pretending to be Hobbits on a sunny afternoon, Sûza represents a desire to move forward, to build a better future through small, everyday actions.

The Free Shire draws from the wisdom of generations past, valuing handcrafts and imaginations over production lines and pure efficiency.

But we don't want a return to the past, we want to bring forward elements of historical traditions that we feel enhance our lives while also letting us make the most of what the modern world has to offer.

That is the essence of Sûza.

And I, Thain Wilcome Greenhand, invite you to help me build it.

After all, ***it is no bad thing to celebrate a simple life.***

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

The Shire-Post, a bi-monthly newsletter (published every other month), is put together by the Thain himself, but as this is the official national Newsletter for Sûza, contributions from all citizens and even outsiders are incredibly welcome!

We'd love to hear from you so ***please do share poems, artworks, photos, stories, or just interesting views and thoughts you have!***

To get in touch, you can email the Thain at henleywilliam01@gmail.com.

The deadline for the *Solmath Edition* is the 20th of Afteryule S.R. 2. (10th of January 2026).

As this is also the final edition of the year, here at the Shire-Post we wish you all a Blessed Yuletide, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!