



# Official Information Packet

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# BRITAIN & IRELAND 2014 PARTY – SPRINGHILL FARM SEAHOUSES, NORTHUMBRIA, UNITED KINGDOM

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Please read this document in full. There is a considerable amount of information here that you will need for reference in regards to the party.

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## INTRODUCTION

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Britain & Ireland's Party is taking place in Seahouses, a charming sea side village in Northumbria – Northern England. This part of England is rich in history and covered in ancient castles that are open for public visits and tourism; if you have the time definitely stop by one of the nearby Castles (Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick Castle, Lindisfarne Castle, Warkworth Castle). Our site for the weekend is at Springhill Farm's bunkhouse.

The team has worked hard to pull together an amazing weekend. We hope that everyone, first timers or old hats, will have a great time this weekend and at this site.

For those joining us for the first time, and those veterans of Tower events, we hope you have a great time! This pack does include further information on what to expect and also a reminder that there will be frictions and/or unthought-of situations, but we will always get through it together.

## LOCATION INFORMATION & DIRECTIONS

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### **Bunkhouse, Springhill Farm**

Seahouses, Northumberland NE68 7UR

### BY CAR

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#### *TRAVELLING SOUTH*

*From the A1, take the B1342. Within 5 miles join the B1340 (Bamburgh). Continue 2.5 miles. Before entering Seahouses, turn right to North Sunderland (large white house on corner). Take the first right turn (0.75 miles), within 0.5 miles you will come to a T-junction (Springhill Farm).*

#### *TRAVELLING NORTH*

*From the A1, take the B1340 (Denwick), continue 14 miles until you reach Seahouses. Enter Seahouses past the Golf Club and turn left at the first mini roundabout. Continue 0.5 miles and turn right into Broad Road at the Longstone House Hotel. Within 100 yards, turn left. Within 0.5 miles you will come to a T-junction (Springhill Farm).*

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## BY TRANSIT

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*If travelling by public transport, the closest railway stop with easy bus transfers is Berwick upon Tweed. Buses run daily to Seahouses with the nearest bus stop being in North Sunderland which is the top end of Seahouses half a mile from Springhill.*

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## AIRPORT AND STATION PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

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You are responsible for your transportation to and from the site. Please ensure you have planned your pick up and drop offs before you arrive at the event. Be sure to exchange phone numbers with your travel partners in advance and remember that probably most of the attendees have mobile numbers from different countries.

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## TAXI HELP

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Here are a few suggestions for taxi companies operating in the Seahouses area; though we do not have any indication of costs.

**Dean Taxis:** +44 (0) 191 4444444 (<http://deantaxisnewcastle.co.uk/>)

**JL Taxis:** +44 (0) 1665 713800

**Hunters Taxis:** +44 (0) 1665 720400

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## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

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### ARRIVAL AND CHECK-IN

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The check-in for the event is on Friday. As there is a lot to go through please aim to arrive at the appointed time. Be prepared to follow the outlined procedure and have any materials you may need to assist in your check in (eg. ID).

***Check-in time is between 5pm and 6pm.***

Please do not arrive before 5pm as we will **not** be available to check you in earlier than 5pm.

If you are going to arrive after 6pm on Friday you must contact Loreniel Killan to let her know what your estimate time of arrival will be. If circumstances arise that unexpectedly prevent you from arriving before 6pm please contact Loreniel Killan.

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### CHECK-IN WILL INCLUDE:

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- Confirming your arrival at the site
- Obtaining your name badge for the event
- Signing liability and photo release forms
- Receive welcome package
- Checking your name, address and additional confirmation information for emergency purposes

## DEPARTURE AND CHECK OUT

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We must be completely checked out of the site at 12pm on Sunday; however are *aiming* to be clear by 11:30am. This includes cleaning the space and returning everything to how we found it. You must check out with Loreniel Killan, Shariyan Sedai or Alyssa Sedai.

**Please note:** Leaving before the site is deemed clean by the owners is not acceptable unless we have prior notice. There will be no getting out of the clean-up work. If for any reason you do need to leave early we will task you separately. The event management team will not stay late to clean up after you as we have long drives home too, and clean-up is ultimately *everyone's* responsibility.

## ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

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Room #1	Room #2	Room #3	Room #4	Room #5	Room #6	Room #7
Camulus	Loreniel	Enelya	Elin	Loraella	Alwyn	Sa'areah
Belgareth	Alyssa	Ealandrelle	Isarma	Marivea	Vivianna	Chiyuki
	Shariyan	Sabriane		Aduivas		Prewan

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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Please be aware that there is the need for the events team to be on-site before you arrive, as there will be preparation tasks required. If you do arrive early please consider spending time in town or, if you have come directly to the venue, we will request that you stay in a specific area until we are ready to welcome you properly. **Do not aim to be early!**

All timings are *approximate* but if we want to fit everything in please make sure you are where you need to be if you are tasked with cooking, cleaning, etc.

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### FRIDAY, 4 APRIL 2014

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#### *Evening*

17:00 -	18:00	Arrival & Check-in
18:00 -	18:30	Welcome, Health & Safety Briefing, Outreach Information
19:00 -	19:30	Dinner Preparation
19:30 -	20:30	Dinner
20:30 -	21:00	Clean Up
21:15	22:00	Official Toast & Awards
22:00 -		Northumbrian Tournament: Round 1

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### SATURDAY, 5 APRIL 2014

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#### *Morning*

08:45 -	09:30	Breakfast Preparation
09:30 -	10:15	Breakfast
10:15 -	10:45	Clean Up / Tournament Setup
11:00 -	12:15	Northumbrian Tournament: Round 2
12:00 -	12:30	Lunch Preparation
12:30 -	13:15	Lunch
13:15 -	13:45	Clean Up

#### *Afternoon*

13:15 -	14:30	Northumbrian Tournament: Round 3
14:30 -	14:50	Travel to Bamburgh Castle
15:00 -	16:45	Tour Bamburgh Castle (£9.95 entry)
16:45 -	17:00	Travel to Springhill Farm
14:30 -	17:00	<i>Alternative Activities at Springhill Farm</i>

### ***Evening***

17:00 -	18:00	Northumbrian Tournament: Round 4
18:00 -	19:00	Costume Change / Freshen Up
18:30 -	19:30	Dinner Preparation
19:45 -	20:30	Dinner
21:00 -	21:45	Official Ceremonies & Costume Contest
21:45 -	22:15	Clean Up
22:15		Entertainment (TBD)

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SUNDAY, 6 APRIL 2014

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### ***Morning***

08:45 -	09:30	Breakfast Preparation
09:30 -	10:15	Breakfast
10:30 -	11:30	Clean Up
12:00		Official Departure

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## MENU INFORMATION

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### DINING & ALLERGIES

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We have tried to accommodate all the food allergies that we have been made aware of, but clearly we cannot please everyone all the time. If you feel you need to bring any personal or specific perishable food to supplement the meals provided, please bring it in a bag that you can clearly mark with your name.

Vegetarian options are available at each meal and obviously the vegetarians will get priority for these!

Please be sure to let everyone eat before getting seconds – there will be plenty!

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### MENU SUMMARY

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It's always a challenge to provide enough food for a large group and we've worked hard to ensure that there is plenty of good food and drinks to go around. We have pulled together a menu that suits a variety of tastes and should meet the specific needs you mentioned in your registration.

#### ***Friday Dinner – Sleepover Night***

Pizza, Chicken Goujons, Chips, Salad & Ice Scream Sundaes

#### ***Saturday Breakfast – Full English***

Baked Beans, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausages, Toast, Hash Browns, Cereal, Yoghurt

### ***Saturday Lunch – Cold Meat Lunch***

Ham, Turkey, Egg Mayo, Coronation Chicken, Crisps

### ***Saturday Dinner – Pasta Night***

Spaghetti Bolognese, Salad, French Bread & Cake Dessert

### ***Sunday Breakfast – Continental Style***

Assorted cold meats, Toast, Yoghurt, Cereal, Scrambled Eggs, Left Overs

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## ALCOHOL

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Alcohol is not provided, with the exception of the Goldschlager for the official toast and ceremony purposes. Also only those of legal age to drink in the United Kingdom (18+ years) will be allowed to consume alcohol at the party. If you wish to drink – bring your own!

We have had issues in previous years where members have assumed that everything is fair game, and alcohol belonging to others was consumed. Make sure that you mark your belongings if necessary. We will bring tags so you can mark them if you want to.

There will be a limited supply of soft drinks for the whole group so if you are a fan please bring extra for your own use; the same for morning juices and other drinks provided.

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## DELEGATION OF ROLES

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There will be a pre-planned schedule for who has been delegated to which roles in terms of catering and cleanup for each meal. Everyone will be participating in either or both areas throughout the weekend, with a fair rotation of duties. What you will find is that even the event management team will be doing just as much as everyone else, including their roles throughout the weekend. Please keep that in mind when we ask you to do something at a specific time – and we will chase you if you're not there!

The list of tasks will be available on the day of arrival.

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY

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While every member and guest is expected to be responsible for themselves and their own well-being we do have members in place to help in this regard. Some of them include:

Loreniel Killan (Mistress of Revels) – The main event coordinator. She can be contacted for information regarding schedule, activities, general questions, and can be sought out in case of emergency.

In addition to Loreniel you can reach out to:

Vivianna Sedai (Amyrlin), Shariyan Sedai (Welcome Committee Leader), Alyssa Sedai (Decoration Committee Leader), or Loraella Melodie (Catering Committee Leader).



Please be aware of the following safety concerns:

Be careful when handling recreation equipment. Please read the rules for each game prior to participating. You are responsible for your own safety, although all events will have allocated safety staff.

If at any point you damage or find any damaged items on site then please inform Loreniel so she can report it back to the venue manager. Damages will be charged to the individual if they are not accidental.

In case of bad weather there is a foul weather plan.

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## SECURITY

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As much as we would like to believe that everyone is honest and trustworthy, unfortunately that is not always the case. All items are brought at your own risk. Remember that Springhill Farm contains more than just the bunkhouse where we're staying. This means that there are likely to be other guests visiting at the same time as us. Please try to avoid bringing valuables – drunken accidents happen all too easily.

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## RESTRICTIONS

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### *Noise Levels*

As mentioned before we will unlikely be the only guests at Springhill Farm when we are visiting. We ask that all members be courteous of fellow members who may be sleeping. Especially between the hours of **midnight** and **9am**. The Administration reserves the right to ask members to quiet things down if it is getting unreasonably disruptive. Loreniel Killan will be serving as the Event Leader and as such she is there to help you with any minor issues that come from co-habitation, and we ask that you listen to her if she ask for activities to be moved elsewhere, or try to quiet down. We have separated both people and activities so that the noisy activities are outside and the quiet room is the most remote from the living room. However the way that the bunk house is situated the bedrooms are all next to the living room.

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## CLOSE QUARTERS LIVING

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Living in close quarters with a lot of people can be challenging. There are several things you can do that will help keep things running smoothly.

- Keep your items tidy, don't throw things on the floor or allow it to accumulate in piles; remember you are sharing with others. This makes packing and clean up much easier, plus it drastically cuts down on the amount of lost items.
- Respect other's sleeping spaces. Don't sit on their beds without asking (or put your feet up on them). Avoid using your room as a place to socialize where possible. If any of your roommates are sleepy then please respectfully continue your conversation elsewhere.

- Please be aware of your behavior. Make sure you aren't engaging in any behavior which you or others might be uncomfortable to walk in on, etc.
- Room rubbish bins will be emptied by the room occupants. If you have any particular gross (or personal) rubbish, please be polite and remove it yourself.

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## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT

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TarValon.Net events can be daunting when attended for the first time. It can be especially challenging for people who have never met friends off of the Internet before, or for people who are generally not accustomed to being around a lot of people for a few very intensely social days! Our events usually last for an extended weekend, which is a lot of time to spend around people you may or may not have met before.

Our members are usually a very friendly group. Many people are initially surprised by how many people recognize them on sight and how warmly they are greeted. Many of us view our friendships here as being just as valuable as our friendships elsewhere. We do a lot of hugging and snuggling, particularly on the first day when we are just seeing a lot of our friends for the first time in weeks or months. However, please keep in mind that everyone has their limits, and some of us are more physically affectionate than others.

Because we have been a community with real life gatherings for so long, many of us have met in person several times. As such, we are comfortable around each other. We have each other in our homes, our family members have met community members, we talk on the phone with each other—we are involved with each other both online and off. At events, we spend a lot of time snuggling, laughing, telling stories, and hanging out in groups.

If this is your first event, you may feel a little uncomfortable jumping into what appears to be a close-knit group. Be assured, we welcome seeing new faces! We have an incredibly diverse membership, and one of the great things about our events is getting to know all the different people. If you're a first-timer, jump right in! If this is your tenth event, reach out to someone you don't see much or have just met. We're a stronger community because of our real life interactions, and that includes meeting new people.

Members attending an official function are expected to behave in full accordance with the Code of Conduct. Members who fail to comply may be asked to leave the event and will not be granted a refund. If disciplinary action is needed at a real life event, it may result in suspension or termination of membership. Everyone should be a responsible guest, which means respecting personal property and space, as well as helping with set-up, clean-up, and costs. Underage drinking is not allowed, and illegal drugs will not be tolerated. Either will result in disciplinary action, up to and including your dismissal from the community.

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## LIABILITY

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TarValon.Net does not take responsibility for anyone; including his/her actions, safety, and possessions, when attending a function. All who attend take full responsibility for themselves and agree to hold TarValon.Net Inc and its Administration, Officers, and Board of Directors harmless in the event of unforeseen occurrence.

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## HOW TO SURVIVE TOWER FUNCTIONS

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Our Official Events and Conferences usually involve large crowds and lots of people, new experiences, and stressful situations. This is a guide to surviving those times.

1. People at events tend to hang out in groups. With the number of people we have attending events now, sometimes those groups are larger, particularly during opening ceremonies and such, and sometimes those groups are smaller, particularly during the day when people drift off to play games, chat, be crafty, or other things. Please realize that you will not be able to talk to everyone or get to know everyone personally. It's very easy to become overwhelmed by everything and feel very alone, even when surrounded by friends. If this occurs, find a quiet spot to rest for a little while, or grab one person for some one-on-one time. After a bit, you'll find that you're ready to jump back into the social fray. A lot of us are computer geeks and, as such, are used to more private time. Expect that you might feel this way, and don't worry if it happens.
2. To go along with the above point, living in close proximity with close to 100 people for several days can cause tension. Someone will invariably annoy or piss off someone else. We have a lot of different personalities (many of them quite strong) and not all of them are going to click. Do your best to remember what you like about that person, give yourself some distance, and be generous with your forgiveness.
3. Living in close proximity with close to 100 people for several can also cause other issues. Please remember to take care of personal hygiene. Your roommates, and everyone else, will thank you for it!
4. Our events are, for the most part, adult parties. We are doing our best to make it slightly more family friendly, but it is at its heart a bunch of adults staying together. People will undoubtedly drink too much, people will hook up, and people will do or say stupid things. What happens at an event stays at the event. We don't gossip about who slept in whose room, or who had a hangover in the morning.
5. Many of the members at this site tend to joke a lot and enjoy making fun of ourselves (which may include self-depreciating comments about us being a cult, or desires to take over the world). It is vitally important to understand that this is all said in jest. We are not a religion. We are not trying to take over the government. We are not going to all go live in a commune. It is quite safe to drink the Goldschlager (if you are of age and are not allergic). We cannot channel, despite how much we wish we could. And no, we do not think we are better than anyone else. If you hear someone say something that you find alarming, and you are not certain if it is in jest, please ask them.

6. At events we tend to refer to each other by a mix of our Tower and our real life names (though Tower names are more common at larger events). It is perfectly acceptable to use either. Titles are generally not used.
7. Yes, novices do dishes and recruits take out the trash. But so does everyone else. Everyone will be expected to pitch in and help throughout the weekend. Remember that everyone wants to enjoy the event, and cleaning up after yourself will help ensure that this happens!
8. Have one or two "buddies" that you keep track of over the weekend. A lot of people use their Aes Sedai/Warder, roommates, members of their Ajah/Company, etc. for this purpose. It's good to have someone know where you are and how you're doing, particularly at our events that are hosted in larger cities.
9. Try to say "hello" to everyone at least once at the event. You will surely not be able to have a long meaningful conversation with everyone in the span of three days, but do try to meet and greet everyone. A good way to do this is to eat with a different group of people at each meal.
10. Get involved in the activities. There is usually a wide variety of activities to choose from, so pick one that suits your mood and spend time with everyone.
11. Sleep, and water, can get pretty scarce at our events. Both of these things are extremely important and can have a drastic impact on your mood and how much you enjoy the event. Please get enough sleep, and stay hydrated!
12. Have a means to access money. Even at our events that seem to be pretty all-inclusive, unexpected expenses pop up. You want someone to buy you a particular kind of liquor, or you need to give someone gas money for giving you a lift to the airport. Having a couple of checks or a little bit of cash on hand is always a good idea, even if you don't think you need it!

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## COSTUMES

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Costumes are not required, but they are a fun part of our events and are highly encouraged! Feel free to wear your costume at any time, or even just at our main events. If you have more than one, we suggest you use your more common traveling costumes for Friday night, and your more noble costume for the Saturday night festivities. There will be a little costume contest held on Saturday night, after the official ceremonies. The most wonderful and creative costume will receive the honor of being awesome! Have fun!

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## SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

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- Bed Linens & Pillowcase
  - Sleeping Bag
  - Wash Kit
  - Towel
  - Comfortable Shoes & Clothing for Variable Weather and Costuming
  - Cold/wet weather gear
  - Walking Boots (if desired)
  - Toiletries
  - Public friendly pajamas
  - Flashlight
  - Necessary medications
  - Camera & Film/Memory/Battery
  - Mobile Phone Charger
  - Cash (for just in case and charity activities)
  - Anything you promised to bring to the event
  - Passport / copies of your travel papers / details of your insurance
  - Items for Outreach
  - Costume
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