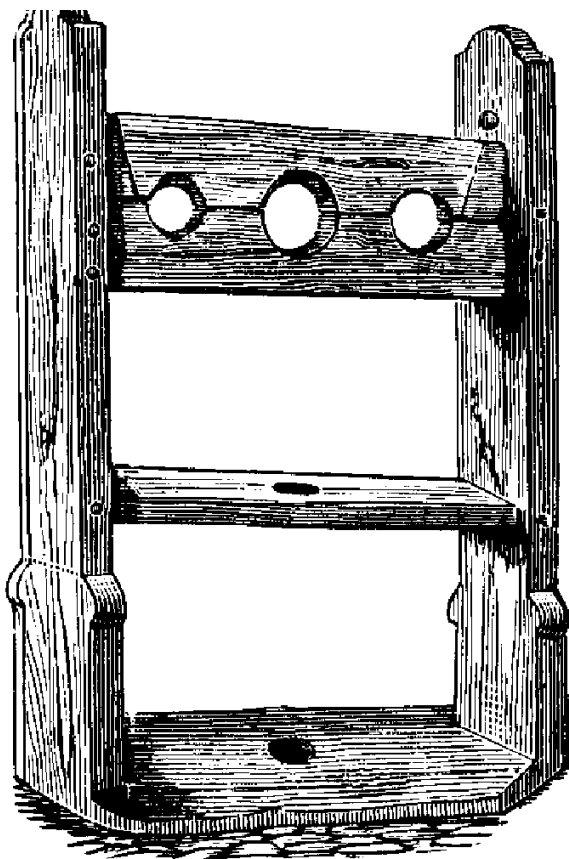


# The Tawsingham Handbook



***Sir Guy***  
***Masterleigh***

***BGM07***

# Foreword

Welcome to the first draft. No pictures yet, I just took the words in the draft website, etc. put them in a single document, that hopefully makes some kind of sense. Many words used will be unfamiliar to readers, and some familiar words are used in a specialist meaning, so every subsection within this handbook tries to define terms as we go.

I see the central concept as simple, to balance the needs and desires, resources, skills, talents, etc. of every gender, orientation and inclination of scene people who may wish to attend. Some comprehend the implications immediately, others need the detailed expansion that this document will finally be. I include some worked examples from a simulation, which may get the ideas across more easily; but please accept them as what perhaps may be, not what happened, or will happen.

Much detail comes others' input; I have discussed it widely. I hope that as many people as possible will contribute further ideas, so that Tawsingham will develop a rich tradition as it goes forward, and hopefully becomes an event that people will attend time and time again.

*Albert Einstein: "Creating a new theory is not like destroying an old barn and erecting a skyscraper in its place. It is rather like climbing a mountain, gaining new and wider views, discovering unexpected connections between our starting point and its rich environment."*

In building *The Tawsingham Society* concept and events from a base in *The Other Pony Club*, etc. I find new connections, synergies and links between apparently different aspects of BDSM and even economics, politics, industry and society in general.

I hope that the events bring together many people who may otherwise never have met who will come to understand and appreciate far better what they share, and how they may complement one another.

# Introduction

I am a thoroughly liberal, understanding sort of person, tolerant of every point of view, who appreciates freedom of speech and assembly, fairness and justice for all, equality under the law and generally, life in a modern 21st century British liberal democracy.

In Tawsingham I want to create a society more typical of human history, where few enjoy any freedom, and the rules are skewed to favour the rich and powerful, and the lower orders must suffer and obey.

But I want to make it optional for all whether they be man or woman, free, slave, somewhere in between, so that all in this deliberately unequal society lives a life as close as possible to what they want.

It is a novel answer to a problem that challenges BDSM event organisers; how to get a balance of men and women, dominants and submissives, and a framework so they all get what they want.

Most people (male and female) in the BDSM scene are submissive, men outnumber women. So if all pay the same, it's likely there'll not be enough eg dominant women. It won't feel balanced, many present won't be able to play with the sort of partner they'd like to.

Conventional answers include charging singleton men way over the odds, making it 'couples only' or saying eg a man can only attend if a woman brings him .... But many singleton men have much to offer; and many of these can't pay over the odds.

But if I were to make a list of those I want along and those I don't, it would be subjective; others would come up with a different list. So I want to use a market mechanism, a market in people.

Those whose presence is widely valued will be rewarded financially, and so encouraged to return. Those whose contribution is less appreciated will find themselves transfer-funding more widely desired participants; but paying no more to the organiser than others. Hopefully they will still have a good time and consider that extra cost worthwhile and come again. If not, then we're sorry they did not enjoy themselves, but their absence will help maintain a good balance.

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# **What is Tawsingham?**

## **(General Overview)**

We hope the scheme will create a community of friends, with a good mix of all kinds of people deliberately brought together to form a balanced community. Where there are none who think themselves above the law, and those who want it are truly owned.

Not just neighbours, but the barmaid in the pub, waitresses in the restaurant, assistants in the shop. You can be whoever and whatever you want, man or woman, free or owned, beast of burden or pet. Where if you want to, you can hire a dungeon, play your scene; then enjoy the post-scene glow in the pub, where your partner can proudly show off the marks you inflicted to friends, without shame or embarrassment.

Or your (human) puppy can drink from a bowl on the floor; or if you were the puppy you could be obliged to eat your dinner that way in the restaurant, with no embarrassment. Where you can hire a maid as easily as buying the groceries, or be hired as routinely.

Where you can wear openly take pride in wearing the clothes and symbols that go with your preferred role, in the streets. It may be a maid's dress, the collar of an owned slave, the harness of a pony, but you can know that everybody you meet will understand and appreciate what they mean. You can know too, that they too are delighted that you are proud to be whoever and whatever you have chosen to be?

Up to now few places could offer anything approaching that. Some offer a lot, but they are a long way from my ideal—and I suspect from that many others would hope for. This is now real, for everybody.

The Tawsingham Society is dedicated to making such events happen, up to a week long, where people can be owned eg as bondmaids, slaves or ponies; or free as independent householders, their dependants, adult children or servants, and it is organising real events. It is a community based very loosely on a semi-feudal English village, where everybody knows their place, because they chose it!

It is an old-fashioned structured society; everyone has a place and knows it—because they chose it! Where every submissive is smart, polite and respectful - because if they're not they'll be casually beaten, sentenced to sit in the stocks, stand in the pillory, or be whipped the post or locked in a scold's bridle!

Tawsingham is not a single or particular place, it is as an idea. You can be whatever you want to be there – if you can take the consequences! Master, Mistress, boy, girl, maid, servant, slave, even possibly human pony or puppy; if you can imagine it and we can accommodate it, you can live the role! It is a pastiche of a semi-feudal society; where your station in life and role within the community is set by your own choice, (or that of people you choose to make the choice for you); not by an accident of birth!

Cross-dressing and role-play clothes will be normal and freely accepted in public, whether they be an period from Vikings to modern day, though the period of The English Civil War (1640s) is recommended, with Elizabethan/Shakespearean a close second.

Corporal punishment, bondage, domination, fetish clothes in private, often in public too are all accepted. But you won't have to wear anything outlandish or take part in anything unpleasant unless you want to, (or to be forced to)! The simple dress code is that each person dresses smartly and in a manner that reflects their station within Tawsingham society, but that need not be elaborate or expensive.

Uniformed maids, collared slaves, submissive wives (and submissive husbands) everyone can be the age, role, gender and species they choose. Even ponygirls, puppyboys, too, either on or off site.

It is run by The Tawsingham Corporation: the Portreeve (Sir Guy the self-appointed Mayor) and Burgesses (Aldermen and Councillors) of Tawsingham; ie leaders of groups who bring parties to Tawsingham and other key people. The Portreeve appoints key officers who'll often be well known scene figures with an established organisational record.

Whilst it exists there will be entertainment of many kinds organised by groups present, that will be open to anyone who wishes to come, (and is allowed to do so by their Master or Mistress).

# **The Social Order**

## **(Status, Rank and Privilege)**

It is a closed community, organised by its residents, almost feudal with a formal hierarchy plus a dash of democracy—but only for Heads of Households—as was the case until the 20th century.

The model is a generic English village, a kind of 15th-19th century that might have been in a parallel universe, with features hanging on from earlier centuries and others from the late 20th century.

Everyone has someone above them to whom they are answerable. Any person may choose the gender and station in life they are to have before they enter Tawsingham. Then accept the obligations, duties and responsibilities that go with it and carry that role right through the event. Their station may change, but only in defined ways and not usually by their sole choice.

Even the Portreeve, though necessarily enjoying wide delegated powers, still has to answer to the Burgesses of The Tawsingham Corporation. The only truly free men and women are the Heads of their Households, Yeomen if Male, Ladies if not.

Within their household they have Villeins, who held the legal status of free men and women in their dealings with all people except their Master. (Their Master may, of course be a man or a woman!)

These may include Goodwives/Goodmen (the ‘submissive wife’ role), grown-up sons or daughters (much as the ‘submissive wife’ role but without sleeping with the Head of Household), Lodgers (Spinsters or Bachelors), Wards (adult children), or Maid– or Manservants. Each of these have free will, free time, and may have their own property and money, though are expected to obey and respect their Master.

Other Tawsingham people are serfs, Men and Women in bond to a Master. These may include Apprentices, Bondservants and Slaves. Serfs must obey their Masters and respect the Yeomen and Ladies in their household.

In general the community expects the Master of each Household to ensure that all members of their households comply with the rules, conventions, etc. governing life within Tawsingham, and their authority is supported, enhanced and upheld in many ways.

There are only a few reasons that would justify disobedience to the instruction of your Master. Anything that seems unsafe, outside the agreed contract or may have permanent consequences outside the Tawsingham event.

There is a safe word for such instances, which will initiate a 'time out' period to try to resolve things. If that does not work the Portreeve or other Officer of Tawsingham may be involved as 'referee'.

Otherwise subjects of Tawsingham may include livestock eg ponies, puppies, piggies, cats, etc.

Masters may allow or require livestock to sleep as 'human' at night, if allowed in their 'bill of sale'.

Livestock must endeavour to stay within role as much as possible, and do what they are forced to do.

Unowned bonded servants or slaves, ponies, pets are all given a chance to find Masters or Parents at the Hiring Fair that begins the week.

If it is clear there are many potential Masters seeking their services and they give consent, there may be an impromptu auction.

Those who do not find a Master or Mistress at the Hiring Fair will be housed in the Workhouse or similar institution until such time as they find other owners.

Villeins may only enter Tawsingham as dependants of a Head Of Household. There is no mechanism for them to enter alone, except by invitation of a Householder.

# **The Tawsingham Currency**

## **(Groats, Half-Groats, Halfpennies)**

We have our own currency on site, to keep things simple, otherwise everybody has to keep full accounts for all transactions. We expect you to change some 21st century money into our currency on arrival. You can also deposit money to set against a 'slate' at The Green Dragon.

You then buy drinks, snacks, etc. with your currency or 'on the slate', even a trip out to De Ferre Pony Farm, use of the on-site dungeon. At Tawsingham SW, the sauna, etc. will cost the commercial rates charged by our hosts, payable in Tawsingham currency.

At the end of the week I change any money you have earned or that remains unspent back into 21st century money. In the age in which Tawsingham is set one could hire a housemaid for only a pound or two a year, or a few pennies a week

I am setting the exchange rate at one Tawsingham penny per real pound. I have chosen to have it made as silver (actually lead-free pewter) Groats, half-Groats and Halfpennies.

There will be no commission changing 21st century cash into Groats. Cheques will cost £1 each per cheque. If you present a card it will cost 10%, due to the punitive rates and other conditions banks conditions banks apply in these circumstances.

Larger sums could theoretically be measured in gold Ducats, a Ducat was any one of several kinds of gold coin circulating in Europe, and was generally worth 9s 4d, (or 28 Groats), or £112 in real money.

However, as was often the custom of the time these will be left at the Goldsmith's Guild (bank) and transactions recorded in a ledger and by note of hand. (But we may sell Tawsingham Ducats as souvenirs!)

A Groat was originally a silver coin worth fourpence, or £4 in C21 money. A halfpenny was half a penny, so there are 8 halfpennies to a Groat, so it is worth 50p in 21st century money

# Costs To Attend Events

It won't be "one size fits all". Each of us is different, each of us will put in different things to the experience, each of us will have different experiences. The general principle is that prices will vary with your role; if others want you to attend, you take responsibility, feed, house yourself, you pay less: if you need supervision, etc. you pay more!

We expect everyone to pay—and if you take responsibility and make good things happen, you get something back. (Or earn a profit!)

We aim to make events open to the widest range of people possible, so will try to ensure costs are comparable with holidays elsewhere.

In our questionnaire the consensus was that people were prepared to pay up to £400 for a week for this kind of holiday. We think that we have found a formula where nobody need pay more than that, (unless they really take full advantage of every opportunity!), most pay less.

The draft charging scheme, was in part inspired by the De Ferre Pony Farm where they charge more for a singleton colt, as they do for a couple; on the very reasonable grounds that they expect to spend four times as much time with the former, as the latter..

Prices will be set so that given the demand out there from the various groups, the supply of people from each group meets the demand.

Everybody pays a similar sum for similar service; but the more you put in by way of taking responsibility and making things happen, the bigger the refund you will get at the end of the week.

There will be a fixed sum per Head of Household to come into Tawsingham, their dependants come in for £50 each, regardless of status; their Master takes responsibility for them and so they are little extra trouble for the organisers. It will also be a fixed sum per singleton submissive. Either way, we require a deposit in advance from each singleton and each Head of Household.

The Householder pays for the accommodation their household occupies, when necessary. Singleton submissives do not have to pay for their accommodation as it is to be provided by their new Master.

Coming as a singleton you deposit money against what you may pay your Master. This does not go to the organisers, many submissives may receive some back at the end of the event, a few may get more back.

When you attend the Hiring Fair you negotiate directly with potential Masters (which includes Mistresses!) as to how much you will pay; in Groats, per day for your care, supervision, training, etc.

You can ask that they pay you; but it is unlikely to be accepted unless you were born a girl or have very valuable skills to offer.

If you do not come to an agreement with a Master you go to the Workhouse, for which you pay 10 Groats (£40) a day, which sets a comparison level for other deals—if what is offered is much better than the Workhouse then you may accept an offer to pay more; if you're not so enthusiastic, then you may bargain to pay less.

A potential Master or Mistress may ask for more, up to 20 Groats (£80) a day, (or even more but that will require topping up your funds on deposit before your Indenture is signed).

Until hired at the Hiring Fair you are still a free person and can choose to accept or decline the offer, or try to haggle or bargain. If it will help the Beadle or Portreeve may arrange an impromptu auction.

We've run a simulation which suggests that an attractive Mistress may get 20 Groats; but a Master only 5, some may even have to pay.

If the slave on offer was born a girl, is attractive and skilled, she can probably command a very good price from potential Masters, which means she may make a profit overall!

So any Mistress hiring two or more slaves can hope for a cheap holiday at worst, or make a profit at best.

A Master hiring several submissives could have a cheap holiday too.

Someone just coming for the atmosphere, without hiring anybody will have a good holiday too but gets less back.

It may seem unfair to those new to the scene or poor, but its based on sound free market principals. We are simply matching supply to demand.

The number of submissives who want to come vastly outnumber the Dominants, and are mostly men or transvestites (TVs).

If, as a singleton submissive, you feel that it is poor value for you to pay several hundred pounds for a week spent working for others with little or no say in what you're doing, even what you wear, etc. then that is fine by us; it evens up the proportions.

The number of Heads Of Household with all the right skills and background who want to come is very much more limited. This is particularly true for Ladies. Few who do not do it professionally can afford to spend much on holidays. Ladies who do it professionally know how much their services are worth, and expect to get it.

So we charge everybody about the same per person, and give some of that back to the key people who make the event work. The Taw-ingham currency is held on their behalf in the bank, and an agreed sum is paid out each morning to their host for the previous night to train and supervise them from that money.

This structure, quite deliberately, gives a financial incentive for Heads Of Households to recruit from the Hiring Fair after entry, and thus avoid paying the fees to bring in their own villeins or serfs.

This should maximise the numbers to be hired there, and the number of potential hirers.

See the "Worked Examples" that follow. We should stress that these are just guesses based on the kinds of people who have put down deposits or otherwise expressed an interest in coming.

Things may turn out very differently, we are expecting to be surprised, because our simulation even very minor differences in the balance of people coming can make a major difference in the prices paid.

In turn as experience helps us begin to predict what people will pay, that will itself change the mix of people attending and thus it will take many events before a stable pattern emerges.

This scheme will be modified in the light of experience!

# Site-Specific Charges

## Tawsingham SW

Householders and submissives both pay £150, each of the limited number of 3 star standard cottage costs £100, with £50 returnable key deposit. A pitch for a caravan or motor-home costs £50. Submissives put down £250 for their indenture (£50/day).

## Tawsingham Denmark

There is no self-contained accommodation, so to encourage Householders who seem to be dislike this we'll initially charge them only £150, which includes a bed in the dormitory for as many as need it.

There are a limited number of private bedrooms in the farmhouse and we'll charge an extra £50 each for them, giving priority to those Householders bringing in a dependant..

Most singleton submissives pay £250 to join, or £350 if they want a role taking more of the organisers' attention, eg a convict, full-time pony or puppy, (These are not we can offer at Tawsingham SW).

Submissives put down £350 for their indenture ( again £50/day).

*It's generally cheaper, but very different to the Other World Kingdom, very different to Pet Week, cheaper for some, dearer for others! Hopefully better than either for most who attend!*

## Other venues

I am talking to people about Tawsingham SE near London, Tawsingham France and Tawsingham Germany. They probably won't all come off and each will be different, but they will be done in a similar style.

## Worked Examples

**Take Mistress A.** She young, good-looking, and is coming to Tawsingham SW in June with her wife, planning to take on one older skilled bondmaid to do the cooking and cleaning and a younger slave-girl to play with. At the Hiring Fair she is the one almost all slave-girls and bondmaids want to work for. So she gets exactly what she wants at 20 Groats a day each. So she pays £150 for herself, £50 for her wife, £100 for the cottage, plus say food and drink for 4 for a week, say £100, £400 in total. She gets back  $2 \times 3 \times £80 = £480$ . So even taking her travel expenses into account she has had a fantastic free holiday.

**Master B.** He is bring his slave-girl and planning to hire a bondmaid to do the cooking and cleaning, etc. Like Mistress A he pays £150 for himself, £50 for his slave, £100 for the cottage, plus say food and drink for 3 for a week, but he drinks more so say £100, £400 total. He finds a Bondmaid, but only gets a deal for 10 Groats a day, so he gets £120 back; it has cost him only £280 for the holiday of a lifetime.

**Master C.** He is coming alone, expecting to hire a bondmaid to do the domestic stuff, two sluts (slave-girls or -boys he does not mind) to have fun with and if there is a girl born that way he wants her for his bitch all week. He pays £150 for himself, £100 for the cottage, plus say food and drink for 5 for a week, and he loves his food, so say £150. Again it is £400 spent. He gets a bondmaid for 10 Groats, two slaves for 5 Groats apiece, that is £240 in total. But he outbids Master B for the only slave-girl born that way who'll accept him and pays 20 Groats a day for her. So in total he has paid only £400 for a truly wild week

**Mistress D.** She is bringing two wives, and is looking for three bondmaids or slavegirls. So she pays £150 for herself, £50 for each of her wives, £100 for the cottage, plus say food and drink for 6 for a week, say £150, £500 in total. She hires two for 15 Groats each, plus a real girl for herself who'll only accept a Mistress, so she has to pay the Mistress 5 Groats—because there are no other bidders. So she gets back  $3 \times £140 = £420$ . So again, even taking her travel expenses into account she has had a fantastic almost-free holiday.

**Master E.** He is an older man, single and only plans to hire a slave-girl at the hiring fair if they were born a woman. He comes in his motor-caravan, as Sir Guy will not let him rent one of the cottages. There is a mature woman, who flirts with Master C to raise her price and manages to settle, with him paying her 30 Groats a day. He pays £150 to come on site, plus £50 for the pitch, plus £360 to the slave-girl; which with his food and drink, etc. comes to more than £600. He saves £50 by acting as Town Clerk. But he is pleased with the deal, as is the girl, who goes home with a profit, after having had a fantastic time.

**Mistresses F and G.** They are two young FemDom lady friends, one with a submissive boyfriend, the other with a submissive husband. They take a cottage together, and feel no need to take on staff as their men-folk will do the domestic work. (There is one cottage where it is a little difficult to accommodate anyone looking at all unconventional so I will let that to such people—the cooking facilities are limited—but in this case so are the skills of the cooks!) They pay £400 in total, plus their food, say £250 per couple.

**Mistress H.** She has come by special invitation of Sir Guy to act as manageress of The Green Dragon. She pays her £150 to get on site and £50 to her hosts as a Spinster; but as she works much of the day, running the tavern, she is paid, so the net sum she pays is much less.

**Mistress J.** Again she is coming by special invitation of Sir Guy, but in her case to be his grown up daughter and help him run the Workhouse. Again she nominally pays £150 and £50 to her host; but as she is working some time most days, the amount she actually pays is less.

**Mistress K** brings her big Winnebago motor-home and a full staff of 3 maids. She takes a full part in the social life, but does not hire anyone. She pays £150 + 3 X £50 + £50 = £350 + food. But she acts as Beadle for Sir Guy and actually pays rather less than that, and her maids have chipped in too, so she gets an inexpensive holiday.

*I have neglected any costs associated with eg a trip to De Ferre, the on-site dungeon, use of the special facilities of the site, eg sauna, etc. which are let at normal commercial rates, paid direct to our hosts, albeit paid in Groats*

## Other Transactions

In doing the simulation we noticed that it was possible for some interesting and quirky things to happen:

**Mistress A** takes on a young and inexperienced bondmaid or slave-girl, and assisted by her wife shows them how to make the best of themselves with skilled make-up and body language, shows them off and sells them on at a good profit.

**Master B** takes on a girl who really looked the part, at a high rate, but finds her useless; she just does not listen to instructions. He trades her in for another girl from the Workhouse instead and the first girl saves a little as she pays only the Workhouse price for the rest of the week and lives and works there, the second girl gets the plum job, but only at Workhouse rates.

**Master C** volunteers to be Churchwarden, the person who actually whips miscreants at the whipping post—but since he clearly enjoys it, he does it for nothing!

**Mistress D** volunteers to be Village Constable, to identify miscreants to bring before the magistrates. As with Mistress K, Sir Guy pays her something back to cover the parts of the job when she'd rather be playing with her household.

**Master C**, despite having taken his pick of slaves, fondles one too many of other Masters' bondmaids, despite a prior private warning about such behaviour and a public warning too. So he is summonsed to appear before the Magistrate—but leaves early to avoid it. Sir Guy interviews those left in the household; to save taking them into the Workhouse or selling them, and picks the bondmaid as most responsible and manumits (frees her from serfdom) her to become the Householder for the day remaining. She takes the fees from the others, making an unexpected bonus!

# Sources Of Inspiration

## (Inside and outside the scene!)

Tawsingham will have all we pick out as most fun and best practise from events attended, or heard about, in the decades we've been active in the scene. There are ideas from outside the scene too; historical re-enactment, theme parks and some memorable customs of Old England.

Literary inspirations include anything from Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*, etc., John Norman's *Gor* novels, the *Beauty Trilogy*, *The Marketplace* trilogy, *Story of O*, Terry Pratchett's *Diskworld* Books, Tom Sharpe, the books of Sharon Green and literally thousands of other books of greater or lesser significance ..

It may last a day, weekend, days, a week or longer, because as Miss Prim's Muir Academies I find that long-running events are by far the most interesting. However Muir Academy involves a dozen or so, and every aspect is managed by Miss Prim in some detail.

Tawsingham may have hundreds taking part, eventually, and what happens is very much up to the participants. Many of the ideas are mine, but I've never been too proud to adopt other ideas if they seem to have merit. Most paragraphs in this book have been modified in the light of others' comments.

It will certainly include domestic service and slavery, dungeons, prisons, every kind of BDSM imaginable, indoors and out. The layout and facilities of some venues may limit eg age-play, that is adult babies, toddlers, adult schoolchildren in and out of school, some forms of ponyplay, etc. But where possible, they will be included.

With so many people, Tawsingham cannot be as tightly organised as Miss Prim's events, but it does need to have a focus, a reason to exist, some kind of structure and narrative; though those attending can choose to take an active or passive part in such activities, or not. That is why we searched around for a suitable model to base the community on and chose the English Village.

# **Who to be in Tawsingham**

## **(See later for details)**

In Tawsingham you can choose to be either male or female, a free person or owned as a person or as livestock.

There is a Master who takes responsibility for everyone within a unit of accommodation and they are responsible to him or her.

Every submissive will have a Master (who may be a Mistress), whether they had one on entry or not.

There will be many fine gradations and subdivisions within categories; most will have distinctive dress or accessories that make the wearer's status obvious to all.

If there is no category to suit you, we'll see if we can create or adapt one: what won't be feasible is to have the benefits of any particular role, without the responsibilities that go with it.

Tawsingham should appeal to dominants and submissives of every gender and orientation, even those who just want to watch—provided they accept the rules, (but no lurkers, jerkers, gropers or predators!

It is designed to accommodate every taste, variation, orientation we have come across in nearly 20 years of deep involvement in role play—at least every one that is safe, sane and consensual!

Some won't fit well in such a community; eg dominants unable to act responsibly, submissives who can't accept control, any intolerant of differing views or orientation or without good manners.

We'll discourage such tendencies, help them realise that such behaviour is unwelcome and exclude any who persist, in their interests and that of everyone else.

If you'd like to eg be on the bench of Magistrates, Beadle, Supervisor of the Workhouse or Pound, then Sir Guy would particularly like to hear from you.

# Gender Implications

On entry to Tawsingham you can choose to be male or female, whatever your station and function within Tawsingham. Most opportunities will be open to you in equal measure, whichever you opt to be.

You cannot look ambiguous, androgynous, inconsistent in manners, behaviour or dress or change from one gender to another. You must consistently act, dress and behave as what you chose to be within the limits of your station and role, to help others accept you in that gender.

It is expected than women will wear skirts or dresses, men trousers, breeches, shorts or a kilt. However, in the spirit of Tawsingham a lady householder who wears eg leather trousers is unlikely to be penalised, it has always been true that wealth and position permit eccentricity.

Similarly if eg a Goodwife wears eg culottes, hot pants, etc, a girl groom wears jodhpurs or a girl slave wears harem trousers, then that is fine and only a matter between them and their Master.

Blatant disregard of this rule by a Serf or Villein should be brought to the attention of their Master and to the Magistrates if the behaviour persists, as it may otherwise encourage others to emulate them.

Women should wear the hair long and in a feminine style. For 'special girls' (TVs) etc. who wear a hairpiece to comply with this they must never be seen in public without it, and must not show any hint of facial hair, or other body hair that may otherwise look unfeminine.

Men may wear their hair at any length and in any style, as they have all been fashionable at one time or another, though ideally if they do wear their hair long they should wear clothes of a period appropriate to the hairstyle. They may sport facial hair but it is not obligatory.

Women may wear cosmetics of any kind. Any man who seen obviously wearing cosmetics may be liable for punishment, though eg a Yeoman or Goodman who does so may be indulged as an eccentric.

Shoes are difficult for some girls, and it is permissible for anyone, especially servants, maids or slaves to go barefoot.

# **How To Choose Your Role**

## **(Gender first, station and office)**

After gender, do you want to be Free or have a Master? If free, then whether you bring in dependants; a Goodwife or Goodman, Lodger, Ward, Servant, Bondman, Bondmaid, Slave or Livestock? Then if you want to hire a Bondmaid, -man or slave at the Hiring Fair?

If hiring two or more at the Fair, then at Tawsingham SW you get priority for one of the self-catering cottages and maybe even a free or cheap holiday.

If you are not hiring staff at Tawsingham South West, you'd best arrange to bring a motor-home, caravan or tent as accommodation .

At Tawsingham Denmark you'll get priority on the private bedrooms, but there is no self-contained private accommodation, or you can create a household in the dormitory, by eg hanging blankets or curtains to create your private area.

If you want to have a Master then consider which role suits you best. If you want to be a Goodwife, -man, Lodger, Ward or Servant then best to find a Master first and come in with them. (Though if you feel you have something special to offer contact Sir Guy to discuss it.)

It will cost them a fairly nominal amount, and they may appreciate your help in paying that or even more toward travel, food, or just to get you the treatment you want, etc.

If you feel yourself to be a serf; (Bondmaid, -man or slave) or Livestock (Pony, Pet or whatever) you can still come in with your Master, or put yourself up for hire at the Fair.

If so you must put money down on deposit, from which your Master will be paid as you agree with them at the Hiring Fair. That money does not go to the organisers!.

If you put yourself up at the Hiring Fair, then there is a real chance you'll end up in the Workhouse, details later. Prepare yourself for that!

# **Where did the Tawsingham concept come from?**

## **(Background to show we can do it!)**

It's now eighteen years since Miss Prim and I founded The Muir Academy for naughty adult boys, girls and special girls.

It is a dozen years since I created The Other Pony Club to play with human ponies myself, with like-minded people. Since then I've run scores of events, taken ponies to scores more, introduced hundreds to the sport, and done almost every kind of ponyplay I ever imagined: in the surf, up the mountains, in woods, meadows, quarries, with pony boys, pony girls, in the sunshine and the dark.

I have also, with Miss Prim, run the office for The Muir Academy and Muir Academy For Maids, the mail-order operation and web site, etc.

The last couple of years have been difficult for us, stalling many new ideas, initiatives and changes. Hopefully we're past that now. I feel it's time for me to open a new chapter and I'll return to the novel I wrote in 1990, Tawsingham 2017.

Since then, many key concepts; the 'net, reality TV, BDSM in mainstream culture, etc. have arrived. What was fantasy then, looks more feasible by the day. The Tawsingham Society will make something like it happen, as we did with ponyplay., but initially, just for a few days at a time, not 365 days a year as the novel!

# **Fairness and Democracy**

## **(Not much of either in Tawsingham!)**

Tawsingham is by nature and design unfair, the scales of justice are deliberately tilted and there is little or no democracy. It is that way because it is intended to reflect a society when these conditions were not widely accepted as being necessary or even desirable.

By volunteering to accept a role within Tawsingham you are accepting that fact and should not complain if it seems unreasonable later. As you go down the social order from Householder to slave, the more closely you must observe all the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and orders of your Master.

The justice system of Tawsingham will bring to justice anybody in authority who violates the terms of a Villein's Contract, Serf's Indenture, Pony or Pet's Bill Of Sale, or hazards their health, wealth, public reputation (outside Tawsingham) or other key welfare issue.

However that leaves plenty of scope for the exercise of arbitrary, capricious, cruel, unfair, apparently undesirable or unreasonable behaviour, on the part of those in authority, which the Villein, Serf or Livestock must simply accept as a part of their lot.

There is a universal safe word, "Pax", which if uttered by a Serf or Villein will allow 'time out' to resolve a problem. Any Villein or Serf may go to the Workhouse if remaining in their current role is impossible. Once in the Workhouse you may (but are not obliged to do so) lay a complaint against your former Master, which will be investigated by the Tawsingham authorities. If the complaint is upheld your Master may be fined. If your allegation found to be groundless, you may be punished for making false accusations.

Anybody on site may leave at any time; but only on the understanding that they will not return to the site during that event in a similar role, and no refund will be offered. They may return in a different role, if they come to an arrangement with the Portreeve, etc.

## **Manners Are Essential!**

It is sometimes said that manners derive from the traditions of courtly love and are therefore outdated nowadays. More frequently it is accepted that they arise from times when life was particularly nasty, brutish and short. When those in power were arrogant, short-tempered, insecure, and often carried sharp steel and were not afraid to use it. So everybody else learned to show, through their body language and speech, that they were not challenging the social order.

We take the latter view and in Tawsingham women will curtsy when the subject of any kind of attention from their social betters, men will bow, doff their headwear, or if bare-headed touch their forelock.

One should never interrupt one's social superiors, argue or raise one's voice. A maid or servant who learns to make the full pre English Civil War reverence may find many Masters appreciate such deference.

It is acceptable for a householder to fondle members of their own Household in a familiar way, but not those of other Masters.

It may be acceptable to fondle a Workhouse slave, eg if serving as waitress, once—and again if they seem to enjoy it; but they may reject your advance. You should never touch a bondmaid or bondman ever, unless they're your own.

Proper forms of address should always be used, especially when addressing those of higher station in life. A Master should instruct those in their household in what he or she considers proper manners, and will be expected to punish any who are not sufficiently respectful.

Men should open doors for women of social rank one step below, equal or higher, etc. A Master's manners matter particularly, a bad-mannered Master will not be respected by his Household or his peers.

Whatever your station in Tawsingham it is expected that you will take pains to show pride in your appearance and station in life by ensuring your clothes are always clean, smart, and if a woman pretty too, in order their Master may best enjoy your company..

# Names

We ask that everybody at events adopts a pseudonym, appropriate to their gender and station in life; it may be a scene identity established elsewhere, or one invented especially for these events.

This is mostly to help protect us all from the worst results from the inevitable gossip that will occur in pubs, clubs and other gatherings.

If you do not appreciate the need for it, if you carry on an involvement with the scene for several years you will eventually, so for now please accept our word for it!

Within Tawsingham please be discreet about what you do outside the scene, be absolutely silent about what anybody else does, and do not press enquiries about what work others do, details of their outside relationships, etc.

If asked such questions, even by your Master, you are under no obligation to answer, though you must answer any question concerning activities at the event truthfully.

Anyone badgering a participant, particularly girls or ladies, for their real name, address or phone number with a view to pestering them after the event will be warned, and if they persist they will be obliged to leave. (Though if you wish to volunteer such details that is OK.)

If you join a household in any capacity other than as a lodger, i.e. a bachelor or spinster, you take your Master's surname within Tawsingham anyway.

If you have ticked the relevant box on your Indenture your Master may have you accept a different forename too.

Any Householder may award themselves or anybody in their own household any rank of nobility that they want to, but they should not expect it to gain any privilege or advantage outside their own household, nor can they demand that such rank be acknowledged by others, unless the Portreeve and Corporation award such titles by formal charter - which they may do for outstanding services to Tawsingham!

# Hiring Fair

## (Matches Serfs to Households)

The Beadle is the Tawsingham Official tasked with running the Hiring Fair in an orderly manner. Complete households move in on the first part-day, eg the Sunday evening. The first evening, any unowned servants, wards, bondservants, etc. on site sleep in the Workhouse and will work helping set up under the control of the Workhouse Master.

Early on the first full day of the week, a Monday, the rest of the singleton would-be bondservants, slaves, ponies and pets, etc. will arrive, put on their best uniform (or harness, etc.) and line up in their allotted place, for prospective Masters to inspect them. Bondmaids in demure ankle or calf-length dresses, slave-girls in something shorter, etc., with maids in Gapemouth Lane, ponies in The Lines etc.

We expect a 'buyers market' so if you want a position it will be best to ensure that you are there early, look your absolute best, can offer favourable testimonials and make the best possible first impression.

Masters seeking staff may inspect each one on offer, their Indentures, etc.. They may ask parlourmaids to 'show a leg' to prove they're pretty, check teeth of ponies or otherwise check their suitability.

An initial half-hour period will allow Masters to inspect all those on offer and make first and second choices. If a slave wants a particular type of service, eg to be used for pony- or puppyplay they may ask if it will be offered. If it becomes clear that any one on offer is sought by several Masters, than an auction may be arranged.

Masters can then make offers for the week, and negotiate as needed. If accepted the Master leads his new acquisition to the Town Hall, (in practise it may be the same place as the Workhouse!), in order that a note may be made of the rate agreed and terms of the contract. Then they join the household of their new Master.

At the end of the period any who have not accepted a position will be led off to the workhouse as paupers, or to the pound as strays.

# **Passport/Contract/ Indenture/Bill Of Sale**

## **Defines/records relation between Community, Master and subject**

The Yeoman's (or Lady's) Passport, Villein's Contract, Serf's Indenture and Livestock's Bill Of Sale defines and records the relation between their Master and themselves whatever their role

They are essentially ticklists filled out on entry to Tawsingham that defines their hard limits, duties, obligations, talents, achievements, etc. everything a potential Master needs to know, eg at the Hiring Fair.

Physically they will be passport-sized booklets, similar to those used by maids at Muir Academy or girls at Muir College. It will list everything they have brought into Tawsingham and things like whether they:

1. have skills; such as cookery, cleaning, ironing, sewing, massage
2. smoke or drink and any dietary limitations or allergies.
3. have served other Masters and Mistresses in the past
4. have testimonials or certificates demonstrating their competence.
5. will let their Master changes their name. (They take the Master's surname anyway; this refers to a new forename.)
6. will accept a Master of any gender, female-only, wholly-female-household-only ...
7. accept transfer of Master, by eg gift, sale, etc.
8. what degree of Corporal Punishment may be used.
9. what bondage may be applied; handcuffs, leg-irons, neck collar.
10. if a Master may have them wear a restrainer or chastity belt, etc.
11. they'd accept penetrative sex; to what degree, active or passive and with whom, etc.

12. a Master may unilaterally change their station in life
13. a Master may change their role to be a pony, dog, Other, etc.
14. have problems with other forms of BDSM play, eg electrical play, hot wax, nipple clips, etc. (see below)

*Notes:*

1. Just because (s)he can does not mean (s)he has to! Unless something is agreed at the Hiring Fair and written into the Indenture a serf cannot demand or expect any particular form of service.
2. The more restrictive the Indenture, the more likely it is they'll end up in the Workhouse. In particular most Masters will be wary of taking on a stranger they cannot get rid of, or have to pay off.
3. If they have anything that they'd quite like to be used on them, or wear they bring them, e.g. a favourite whip, blindfold, pair of handcuffs, restrainer or chastity belt.
4. ***Limits in the Indenture are hard limits. If ruled out the Master may not even ask for it by word or gesture; they have so much power that one cannot find out if consent was freely given.***
5. ***Nothing illegal, unsafe or permanent is ever permitted, so no exchange of body fluids, CP beyond trivial and transient, no branding, breathing restriction, play with solid wastes, etc.***
6. ***No cameras (including camera-phones); except photos taken BY THE ORGANISERS to publicise the event, with consent. There may also be a place set aside for taking souvenir photos on the last day of the event.***
7. When filling in Indenture there will be a list available, as exhaustive as we can make it, of the more unusual forms of BDSM play.
8. ***If you end up in the Workhouse you must accept the authority of the Workhouse Master, and of villeins in their household, and their right to impose moderate corporal punishment and other discipline, over-riding any restrictions in the Indenture that would otherwise limit their power, (those applying to sex acts or role play as a pony or pet will be respected).***

# **Officials and Officers**

## **(How Tawsingham is run)**

The Tawsingham Corporation; its Portreeve and Burgesses run things. They are the principal Householders and other key people. The Portreeve appoints key officers who will often be well known scene figures with an established organisational record.

Historically the Portreeve was a community leaders appointed to run the town by the Sheriff, who ran the County for the sovereign.

We use this term, rather than Mayor, as it is not an elected office! Similarly we use the term Burgess, who were appointed, not elected.

Most decisions will actually be taken on the spot by the Portreeve, consulting with those most closely affected; but his decisions may be discussed in a formal meeting, which more normally take place to discuss how things are going and make plans, etc.

Officers of Tawsingham and Traders may be the Head Of The Household, a Spinster, Bachelor, or even a Goodman or Goodwife if agreed by their Master, even servants with permission, but not serfs.

Principal Officers may include the Workhouse Master, Beadle, Churchwarden, Village Constable, Goldsmith (Bank Manager), Town Clerk, Magistrates Clerk, Vicar, and Magistrates serving in rotation

Other Officers/Optional Roles may include the Court Usher, District Nurse, Local Reporter, Master Of The Almshouse, Master Of The Pound, Macebearer, Town Crier.

There may be Tradesmen or Traders, eg a Blacksmith, Cobbler, Doctor, Dressmaker (who sews, i.e. not a Seamstress), Landlord, Photographer, Publican, Seamstress, Shopkeeper, Village Idiot

Nominally serving the Almighty we may have a Vicar or Priest, or any Householder may set themselves up as an Abbott and recruit Monks, or as a Mother Superior to recruit Nuns

Officers will be paid in the Tawsingham currency, Groats.

Traders, Tradesmen and servants of The Almighty pay their way and earn what they can, subject to Tawsingham taxes.

Traders may sell anything that it is legal to sell, except anything that the Corporation rules inappropriate generally, or to a particular event.

That may include food, drink, refreshments, disciplinary requisites, clothes, hire of dungeon facilities, etc.

It may include any kind of training, massage, beauty therapy, washing, ironing, discipline services for disobedient Villeins, etc.

The Workhouse Master is authorised to trade on their own account and to use the inmates to do so.

It may be that in some locations the traders may come together to form a High Street as happens at many Historical re-enactment events. Traders will trade in the Tawsingham currency, Groats, Half-Groats and Halfpennies.

A Landlord is a trader too, a Householder taking in Spinsters or Bachelors as lodgers, who privately agree a rent with their Landlord and they should defer to the Landlord within the accommodation. If it comes to an open dispute they should leave to find other accommodation. The Landlord is obliged only to provide a bed for their lodger; or perhaps even just a place to put a camping mat and sleeping bag if so agreed. (though in Tawsingham SW, by agreement with our hosts, we may only accommodate people within the buildings in beds.) They may agree arrangements with their Lodgers over meals, whether the Landlord provides meals, the Lodgers eat out or self-cater, etc.

# **Master**

## **(Includes Mistresses!)**

Master, like Householder is not a gender-specific term in Tawsingham - it only denotes a role in the social order. They may be male or female, etc. regardless of whether their gender in Tawsingham reflects their birth gender or one assumed later. Your Master is the person to whom you are responsible, whatever your station in in life, whatever your gender or theirs.

The Master of a particular household may also be referred to as Head Of Household, Householder, Ratepayer, etc. They are Master to every person, pet or pony, etc. in their household.

If anybody in the Household has a servant, eg a Goodwife has a Lady's maid, and the Goodwife's instructions conflict with those of the Householder then the Householder's instructions take priority. Any authority others have in the household is in his power to give or deny.

The power or authority a Master has is defined in this book, as modified by their individual Contract or Indenture. Any person of a lower station within Tawsingham may address their superiors as Master; but this is only a form of showing respect, you have no authority over them unless they be in your Household.

Similarly you may address any person of a higher station within Tawsingham as Master; but this is only a form of showing respect, they have no authority over you unless you are of their Household.

If not a Householder you cannot be a Master of anyone, though people of a lower station may address you as such, as an honorific.

We expect Householders may demonstrate their position in life by wearing a bunch of keys at their belt or eg on a watch-chain to demonstrate their ownership of property, or a whip or other implement.

To be formally addressed as Master X or Mistress X, less formally and those of lesser station as Sir or Madam

# **Spinster (Bachelor)**

## **(Free person, lodger in a Household)**

If a Lady they're a Spinster, if a Yeoman a Bachelor. Their Master, within the Household, is the Head of their Household in which they live and they address them as Sir or Madam as appropriate.

They retain general control and autonomy over what they do, within any guidelines, or specific instructions, etc. their Master may impose regarding their activities actually within the physical confine of their household.

In that respect they should defer top the Head of their Household; and if it comes to an open dispute they should leave to find other accommodation. This power or authority (s)he has over them may be modified or constrained by their individual Contract.

If they leave their accommodation they must find accommodation with another household, as Goodwife, Goodman, Maidservant or Manservant, by nightfall. Otherwise they must seek refuge in the Workhouse with no more rights or privileges than any other inmate.

In particular, they will be obliged to pay their way for food, accommodation, etc. to spend at their discretion.

It is expected that Spinsters will wear dresses or skirts and other feminine apparel, a Bachelor trousers or breeches, etc., they may choose the style, colours, etc.

We expect that if a Spinster or Batchelor wants to demonstrate their position in life they will ostentatiously not wear anything resembling a uniform (unless fulfilling a particular role where a suitable uniform or form of dress is appropriate), nor a collar or a ring on the third finger of their left hand, where a wedding ring would normally be worn. Or wear keys or a whip, etc. as a Head of Household may.

To be formally addressed as Master X or Miss X, less formally and those of lesser station as Sir or Madam.

# **Goodwife (Goodman)**

## **(Free consort of a Householder)**

If a Lady they're a Goodwife, if a Yeoman a Goodman. A Householder may have as many as they can provide beds for.

Their Master is the Head of their Household and they should use that term of address to them.

They retain general control and autonomy over what they do, within any general guidelines, or specific instructions, etc. their Master may impose.

This power or authority (s)he has over them may be modified or constrained by their individual Contract.

The role essentially is that of an old-fashioned wife; eg homemaker, lover, 'trophy wife' all these or not, as they choose.

In particular, unlike bonded servants, their Master should give them a generous allowance of pocket money to spend at their discretion.

It is expected that Goodwives will wear dresses or skirts and other feminine apparel, a Goodman trousers or breeches, etc., though they may choose the style, colours, etc. so long as it is acceptable to their Master.

We expect that if a Goodwife wants to demonstrate their position in life they may ostentatiously not wear anything resembling a uniform and a ring on the third finger of their left hand, where a wedding ring would normally be worn.

Or they could comply with North African custom and wear a ring or chain about both ankles. Could be handy if it was strong enough for their Master to link with a chain as a hobble!

To be formally addressed as Goodwife X or Goodman X, less formally and to those of lesser station as Sir or Madam

# Levels Of Service

## (Hierarchy within domestic service)

To pick your level—or that of your servants or serfs.

1. at the top you have the Housekeeper (female) or Butler (male)
2. next is the Cook, again often a Maidservant or Manservant.
3. somewhere up there, but not really in the chain of command, is a Governess (female) or Tutor (male)

These are "upper servants", i.e. free and not bonded, usually promoted on merit. A "lower servant's" status is measured by the time they spend with their Master, normally bondmaids or slaves. Those in public view may be promoted more on looks than talent. From the top:

1. Ladies Maid or Valet
2. Parlour-Maid, Page or Footman, who are on show to guests
3. Chambermaid
4. General Maid or Tweenie (In between Maid) who is at anybody's beck and call
5. Kitchen Maid or Skivvy (female) or Porter (male), who is effectively servant to a servant and almost as far down as it gets

Then there are the outdoors servants, generally looked down on by the indoor servants, but they consider themselves better because they do 'a proper job', and are not simply at the beck and call of others.

They may include:

1. Laundrymaid
2. Gardener
3. Groom
4. Kennel-maid

# **Maidservant (Manservant)**

## **(A Villein servant)**

If female a Maidservant, if male a Manservant. Usually they come into Tawsingham as part of a Household.

They are a free man or woman who accepts a domestic position, in return for their keep and some payment.

They are free to leave to seek service, or even a life as goodwife or spinster elsewhere if they wish.

Distinctive clothing is a uniform reflecting the role they occupy, though this is not obligatory.

As they come in with a household there is no set specification or limit on their wardrobe.

We expect that a maidservant will ostentatiously not wear anything remotely resembling a collar or choker, to indicate that they are free.

Similarly a manservant may wear a tie, but nothing resembling a stock or collar.

Generally addressed by their own forename possibly qualified by their Master's surname.

## Serfs

### (Bondmaids, -men, slaves)

If female a Bondmaid or slave, if male a Bondman or slaveboy. Usually they come into Tawsingham unowned and must 'stand for hire' at the Hiring Fair. Their Master is the Head of their Household and formally they use that term of address to them, and to any Goodman or Manservant in the Household, and address any Goodwife or Maidservant as Mistress.

The Householder will set their precise duties, general guidelines, etc. or may delegate aspects of that authority to their Goodwife, Goodman, Maidservant or Manservant. This power or authority (s)he has over them may be modified or constrained by their Indenture.

A bondmaid or bondman differs from a slave in that they shall not be allowed to give any sexual favours. They may be used as eg ponies or puppies if it is so stated in their Indenture. They will not be allowed free time or money by their Master until the final evening. If their Master cannot ensure close supervision for an extended period they may be entrusted to the care of another household or to the workhouse.

Bondmaids will wear a uniform including dresses or skirts, Bondsmen trousers or breeches. Slaves wear whatever they are told to. See *Entering As A Serf*. Either should strive to be pretty too, but their Master may wish to limit this tendency, less they outshine his Goodwife. They should wear whichever uniform they have that is appropriate to the task; but their Master may override their choice.

A bondmaid will wear a pretty choker to indicate that they are a bonded servant, but not a slave who will often wear a plain leather collar. Slavegirls may wear a chain on the left ankle, as worn by Parisian whores to show they have a pimp. Bondmaids may wear one on the right ankle to show they are not a slavegirl. Bondmen and slave-boys may adopt a similar convention, or a bondsman may wear a fancy stock or tie in the style of a collar; but not the plain leather collar of a slave.

# Pauper (Workhouse Inmate)

The Oxford Dictionary's first record of the word 'Workhouse' dates back to 1652 - in Exeter, as it happens. *'The said house to bee converted for a workhouse for the poore of this cittye and also a house of correction for the vagrant and disorderly people within this cittye.'*

Serfs not hired at the Hiring Fair, any later unwanted, or anybody unable to find a place elsewhere in Tawsingham, which could include a divorcee, discharged servant, evicted Spinster or Bachelor, etc.

On entry to the Workhouse, a pauper keeps only their Workhouse uniform, night-wear, outdoor footwear, a set of underwear, wash-bag (cosmetics for women) sleeping bag, etc.. Women (and definitely not men) will not be allowed tights or stockings or indoor shoes. Slaves will continue to wear their collar, bondmaids their choker, etc.

All will be obliged to wear an apron of cheap unbleached calico cotton, (as the craft apron on our site), which they bring with them. Women will also bring a headscarf square of the same material, to wear. There will be material available to make a spare apron, and/or headscarf too, in any spare time. They will live in crowded quarters, so minimal possessions makes it easier to keep the place clean and tidy, and the distinctive uniform makes their status plain to all.

For bondmaids in the workhouse uniform will be a plain and modest blue cotton dress, or period clothes in light blue, worn with the head-square and apron. Slave-girls may bring a somewhat shorter, but not indecently short dress. Men wear a plain blue shirt and blue jeans, (or eg blue jerkin and breeches), worn with the apron.

All inmates will be expected to keep clean and neat at all times, washing their apron and underwear daily and the rest as often as necessary, even if doing messy work, and punished if they fail. Indoors inmates go barefoot, wearing clogs or wellies outdoors.

Most paupers will work in The Green Dragon as bar staff, waitresses, cooks, etc. They may provide other services, such as washing or ironing clothes, or anything for which there is a demand. Any monies they earn will be retained by the publican of The Green Dragon.

# **Workhouse Life**

## **(If Sir Guy Is Master)**

Sir Guy believes that ideally one should not delegate a job until you know how to do it yourself. So for the first event, maybe the first few, he will do it. If you think you'd like to too, contact him.

It does mean we can be more specific about what will happen. (Another Master would be allowed to do things differently.)

He sees it as a "Boot Camp for Domestic Service". Workhouse inmates were not offered service elsewhere, so the aim is to learn skills and where necessary help them change their attitudes and to develop their potential, and thereby be more successful next time.

The hours will be long, from early breakfast to the early hours, working in shifts, with just enough time off to keep yourself and your clothes clean, eat and drink the basic fare we provide.

The better a domestic can manage that, the more useful they will be. The Publican may be assisted by a Manager or Manageress who will instruct, encourage and supervise, with Sir Guy ready to offer praise or apply the strap; as necessary.

We hope inmates will help each other and become a team. They will constantly be on public view, expected to look cheerful, be polite, respectful and attentive, in long quiet spells or in frantic busy periods.

Our customers will not be slow to bring failings to our attention!

We hope inmates who impress with the service they provide may find a place in a household, even if they did not at the Hiring Fair.

If your Indenture allows use as a pony or puppy, Sir Guy will try to ensure that will occur, dependant on other demands on his time and those on the staff of The Green Dragon.

Bedrooms will be shared, girls may even be asked to share a double bed. Food will be basic, but there will be plenty of it!

# **Pony (Pet)**

## **(Bestial role within Tawsingham)**

They may come into Tawsingham unowned and 'stand for hire' at the Horse Fair, (next to the Hiring Fair), or come in with their Master.

If hired their Bill Of Sale will be registered and they will be taken home by their Master. If at the end of the Hiring Fair they have no Master, then they are automatically taken to the Pound, or if only part-time 'beasts, to the Workhouse.

Where 24 hour a day role play as a pony is not possible, such as at Tawsingham SW, it may be possible for ponies to 'stand for hire' with the option that their Masters shall have them as eg a bondmaid or slave when they cannot be in pony role.

Their Master is the Head of their Household, but as a beast they cannot speak. They should strive at all times to adopt the character of the species of which they are an example. The Householder will use them as they wish or may delegate aspects of that authority to another in their household This power or authority (s)he has over them may be modified or constrained by their individual Bill Of Sale.

The Bill of Sale may eg limit any sexual favours required by their Master, changes of role to another species, or specify specific maximum or minimum time 'out of role' (as a slave) each day, etc.

Ponies should bring in a full set of harness, bridle, reins; (we may be able to arrange hire, subject to a suitable deposit and hire fee). Puppies a collar, lead, mitts, etc., though their Master may use other items.

See *Entering Tawsingham as A Serf* for what to bring, etc. Come prepared to spend some part of the event as human, as it may not be possible to live the whole period in bestial role.

We expect that a pony or puppy will wear a simple collar as worn by a dog, adorned by their Master's ownership tag. Mitts or paws for the hands and feet, pads for the knees, etc. are optional, at the discretion of their Master.

# **Entry As Serf, Pony Or Pet**

## **(What to bring)**

Bring two bags; one small holdall, day rucksack or similar and one big holdall, rucksack or suitcase. Arrive in everyday street clothes

On arrival you put your street clothes, mobile phone, wallet, money, credit cards, any electronic equipment, camera and anything else you will not need within Tawsingham into the smaller one. You will be given a mail-sack to put it into, which you can secure with a padlock you bring with you, so nobody else can tamper with it. We will also seal it with a cable tie so you cannot access anything in it for the duration, and store them all in a locked room.

Put on your 'Sunday Best' uniform. A bondmaid may wear period clothes in any colour other than black, (before C19 black was very expensive and thus not for maids), or blue, or a black dress as on the Muir maid pages, apron and cap, best hairpiece if you need one and/or have more than one, best underwear, etc., stockings or tights and court shoes. A female slave may wear similar, but with shorter skirts.

A bondman or male slave will normally wear a uniform of some sort; perhaps the formal tailcoat, etc. of a butler, or a page-boy or hotel porter, or the period costume of a footman.

Other outfits are allowed, such as 'sissie' uniforms, and especially if your preferred role is other than as a domestic servant; but it is unlikely to improve your chances of being hired!

On arrival you take your Indenture, which will normally be supplied with the joining instructions to the Town Hall (it may be the same place as the Workhouse!), in order that a note may be made of the terms of the contract on offer. Have any testimonials, etc. to hand.

Pack everything else you need in Tawsingham in the big bag. It will include what you will need as a Pauper in the Workhouse; a workhouse uniform, etc. as defined in the relevant page. (Essentially a blue outfit, underwear, outdoor shoes, etc.)

One or more other uniforms of their choice, (which may include for girls eg short-skirted 'sissy' or 'French maid' outfits).

I have no idea what Masters looking for in bondmen or male slaves, and will want them to wear, but I guess a dress code will emerge.

Any underwear they may need (including eg bra fillers, etc.), night-wear (pyjamas, tee shirt, night-dress or night-shirt).

Indoor shoes, eg court shoes for women, smart shoes for men, perhaps a pair of indoor slippers.

Sleeping bag. A camping mat may be needed, as there may be no bed to sleep in, but this does not apply in Tawsingham SW or Denmark

An alarm clock (she may have to be the first up in the morning).

A bag with her cosmetics (if any), soap, flannel, razor, etc.

If in their chosen gender they wear a hairpiece, prosthetics, etc. they should bring those too.

If you play a musical instrument (or two) you may bring them, but only if they are acoustic.

Bring a symbol of your intended status, eg a simple leather or synthetic collar if you are to be a slave.

Or a prettier version in satin, velvet or silk ribbon, perhaps with lace if you are to be a bondmaid or bondman

If your Indenture allows your Master to have your wear a restrainer and you have one you'd accept being obliged to wear, bring that.

If your Indenture allows your Master to have you as a pony or pet and you have harness, etc. bring that.

Once in service your Master may inspect your Indenture which will list all your personal belongings and instruct you which to wear or use. You may not keep anything private.

They should not bring into Tawsingham any money, mobile phone, other valuables, clothing inappropriate to their gender or role whilst within Tawsingham.

# **Tawsingham Courts**

## **(Magistrates and Crown Court)**

Probably held every evening. Most defendants will probably be Serfs, perhaps with some Villeins. Defendants may be arrested by the Constable and held in the lock-up, or arrested and then bailed to their Master to turn up on time.

Charges may include things such as: ‘appearing slovenly in public’, ‘insufficient respect to one’s betters’, ‘wasting their Master’s time’. The village Constable and others will be encouraged to be creative in order to ensure sufficient defendants for a regular public spectacle.

The Beadle will read out the charge, the Constable or other prosecution witness will make their statement, then the accused’s Master will make a plea of mitigation, (or not), then the accused will be questioned.

The Magistrate will pronounce the verdict and the sentence. (There may have been prior discussions between the miscreant’s Master and the Magistrate, but the defendant will not usually be consulted!)

Penalties that may once have been used in a British village may be imposed; stocks, pillory, whipping post, ducking stool, scold’s bridle, whipping at the cart’s tail, prison with or without hard labour, etc.

In exceptional circumstances (usually by prior arrangement) individuals may be sentenced to a change of station within Tawsingham, eg Servant to Bondservant, Slave to Pony. Sentence will then be carried out either immediately or when convenient.

A Crown Court may be held only if necessary and for serious offences. It is anticipated most defendants will be Yeomen. Somewhat similar to the Tawsingham Magistrates Court, but a lot more formal and the verdict will be decided by a jury.

Charges may include those serious enough to include ‘return to their home village’ – i.e. to be expelled from Tawsingham as a possible penalty. Other possible penalties may be a withdrawal of the right to be Master to Villeins or Serfs, or a fine.

# **Tawsingham Law**

## **(Rules, Regulations and Ordinances)**

These come in a hierarchy; the general Law of the country, Bylaws applicable to all Tawsingham events, Rules for a particular Event or Location, regulations and Ordinances.

*At the top is the general law of the country concerned, which must be respected and observed at all time.*

Aspects of the law that are of particular concern are those concerning assault, sexual offences, public decency and offences involving drugs or alcohol.

Everyone should know the limits of these laws and we will not paraphrase them here to avoid misleading anyone.

Note however that consent is not a valid defence against an assault charge, unless the results of the assault are both trivial and transient.

*Tawsingham Bylaws concern behaviour which is unacceptable for anybody attending a Tawsingham event.*

These are defined in the following pages. In particular they govern :

1. anything that may bring Tawsingham events, or any person associated with them into disrepute
2. the observation of the limits set out in personal Contracts, Indentures, and Bills Of Sale, etc.
3. the freedom from being ogled, pestered, groped, etc. by those with no right to do so
4. the right of everyone to maintain privacy about their life outside the scene
5. There can be no overt sexual act in public, eg on the village green or Green Dragon, such things must be private.

*Breaching the Law or Bylaws of Tawsingham may lead to be immediate expulsion from site, without refunds, or a substantial fine.*

An appeal following expulsion will only concern admission to subsequent events and will be heard by a bench of three Magistrates.

Tawsingham Rules are drafted to encourage the proper functioning of a Tawsingham event.

Anything defined within the Tawsingham website and/or Tawsingham Handbook may be considered a Tawsingham Regulation.

The Magistrates may interpret the Regulations as they see fit. Some regulations, particularly specific points which are found to be contentious at the Magistrates' Court will later be written up within the rules as explicit Byelaws.

Ordinances comprise specific instructions displayed publicly at Tawsingham events or otherwise advised or announced.

The Magistrates may impose a fine, order that a Householder must surrender a Villein or Serf to a Master the Court determines, or withdraw the right of a Householder to keep Villeins or own Serfs.

Failure to observe any instruction from a Master to their Villein or Serf may be brought to the attention of the Magistrates for action.

The Magistrates may also manumit a Villein or Serf to a more elevated station in life or award compensation from a former Master.

If a private verbal warning is served on a Householder or Villein, they (or their Master) will deposit a sum of £100 to be held against a fine later. Failure to do so implies an inability to accept the authority of the Tawsingham Corporation, and so they will be obliged to leave.

If a second, and this time public, warning is necessary, a further sum of £200 shall be deposited. Failure to do so means they will leave.

If a Householder or Villein offends a third time, despite a private and a public warning, they will be summonsed for trial before a jury of five of their peers. If found guilty then all or part of the £300 they have deposited may be forfeit. If they leave before the trial, it will be presumed they are guilty and the whole £300 will be forfeit.

If found innocent the monies on deposit will be refunded.

# Tawsingham Byelaws

Be discreet in the locality of the event. Only wear fetish or scene clothing or accessories indoors or on the village green. Don't go outside those areas cross-dressed, wearing a slave collar, etc. Period clothing may be acceptable in areas the public may overlook, if not too outlandish. If in doubt, ask the organisers.

If you visit the local village pub, shop, church or tea shop, etc. do not volunteer where you are staying or if it is guessed do not try to explain what we're doing. If really hard-pressed say, we're 'Living History' re-enactors. Leave it at that, do not volunteer any reason why, etc.

Afterwards please be vague about the location. Do not give out the address of the place, its name, or the name of the village. By all means praise the event and facilities if you will, but be vague over details, as they are unusual and a detailed description could embarrass our hosts.

Be as careful of others' confidences as you would like others to be careful of your own. Talk only of the action at the event, not the background of the participants. Use pseudonyms not real names.

Limits in an individual's Contract, Indenture or Bill Of Sale are hard limits. They are not subsequently negotiable within that Tawsingham event. If any activity, etc. is ruled out then that individual's Master may not even ask for it by word or gesture; they have so much power that it cannot be determined if consent was freely given. If a Master flouts this provision, their right to have others in their house will be forfeit.

Anyone intrusively ogling, pestering, groping, etc. others, without the right to do so will be brought before the Magistrates. (But feel free to molest Workhouse slave-girls in The Green Dragon, especially if they are wearing short skirts.)

Anyone pestering or pressuring others, eg for their real name, address, phone number, etc. is a sufficient reason to withdraw their right to have others in their house, and to be obliged to leave, if they persist.

Public displays of overt sexual activity cannot be allowed as they may lead to, 'bringing the event into disrepute'.

# **Social Mobility**

## **(How one may change station)**

Amongst Villeins this is relatively easy. A Goodwife or -man may be divorced by their Master, a Maid- or Manservant may give notice, or be sacked. They can take up a position as a Goodwife (Goodman), a Maid or Manservant, or Spinster or Bachelor elsewhere.

Their Master must however deposit a sum equal to the daily rate at the Workhouse for any days remaining, by way of a divorce settlement or severance pay, etc. After that all it needs is to inform the Town Clerk and get their Contract annotated changed.

A Bachelor or Spinster can similarly give notice or be given notice and leave to take up a position as a Goodwife (Goodman), a Maid or Manservant, or Spinster or Bachelor elsewhere.

If they cannot find such a position, then they too must enter the Workhouse.

It is more difficult for Serfs. Wards may write into their contracts that they 'come of age' on a particular day and can then eg move out to be tenants. Similarly Apprentices may complete their apprenticeship and become free, if they pass the competency test set by their Master and taking their craft.

In general Bondservants or Slaves can only be discharged from their bond by their Master, through an Act Of Manumission.

If a Master finds they no longer want a Ward, Apprentice, Bondservant or Slave they may consign them to the Workhouse, etc.

Or less formally just lead them by a halter to the village green, for anybody to take home if they wish. They may be bought and sold there, or anywhere else, like any other possession

Similarly livestock may be freed by their Master, traded at the village green or consigned to the Pound.

# **Tawsingham South West**

## **(Our events in South West England)**

The event will be held at a former farmhouse, etc. in a village in North Devon. The facilities are superb, several self-contained English Tourist Board certified 3\* cottages, plus B&B accommodation, a camping field for motor or towed caravans with sanitary facilities. (With no shared toilet block so we cannot really accommodate tents.)

There is a sauna, pool, and much else to enjoy and we will set up a fully equipped dungeon; all these may be used at commercial rates.

There is a washing machine and the Green Dragon will offer basic food and drink.

It is a long way to the nearest supermarket so best stock up en route. There is a village shop for those allowed off site, i.e. Heads of Households and anybody they allow to go out; (which will not include serfs).

The nearest town is Barnstaple and we can get you picked up from the railway or bus station there if you are coming on public transport. Or we may be able to arrange a lift with someone attending.

The event will run from Sunday evening, (for Householders and their Households), or Monday noon (for singletons) until Friday morning. The Hiring Fair will be held on Monday afternoon. Tuesday (and possibly Thursday) we'll have a trip out to De Ferre Pony Farm.

On Wednesday evening the Portreeve will host a dinner party for selected Householders and their partners.

Thursday evening we will have a party to celebrate the week, at which discipline may be relaxed. It is desirable that the formal structure is dissolved, to prepare people for the end of the event the next morning. Otherwise we find from experience that it is hard for some to readjust to the drab world.

There is a hared deadline to leave by 10 am on Friday morning. This is not negotiable under any circumstances!

# Tawsingham Denmark

The event will be held at the SISC camp in Denmark. The nearest town is Aarhus and we can get you picked up from the airport, railway or bus station there if you are coming on public transport. We will organise a group to fly Ryanair over from Stansted airport.

Sleeping accommodation is a large dormitory with beds downstairs and mattresses on the floor upstairs, which may be subdivided. There are also a number of private rooms, which will be let to the first households of two or more people who ask for them.

There is a sauna that can take a dozen, showers, etc. a big dungeon, wet room, cells, leather workshop, schoolroom, clinic for medical scenes; all these are either free or at nominal cost if we find that they would otherwise be monopolised by an individual or small group.

There is a coin-operated washing machine and the Green Dragon will offer basic food and drink. There is a supermarket in a nearby town, and a village shop in walking distance for eg Heads of Households and anybody they allow to go out; which will not include serfs.

It runs from Sunday evening, (for Householders and their Households), or Monday noon (for singletons) until Sunday morning. The Hiring Fair is on Monday afternoon. Tuesday we'll probably have an introductory ponyplay session. Wednesday an introductory human dog and petplay. On Wednesday evening the Portreeve will host a dinner party for selected Householders and their partners. Thursday we'll probably have a pet show and dog obedience trial. Friday we'll probably have a ponyplay gymkhana.

Saturday we'll probably have the week's highlight, the Tawsingham Mid-Summer Games - competitive corporal punishment! Saturday evening we will have a party to celebrate the week, at which discipline may be relaxed. It is desirable that the formal structure is relaxed, to prepare people for the end of the event the next morning. Otherwise we find from experience that it is hard for some to readjust to the drab world. Sunday we clear up the camp to leave it in good order for the next week's activities.

# Period Costume

The most popular period is English Civil War, (1640s). If you already have kit from another period, or would just prefer something different for whatever reason, almost anything goes. There will be Vikings and Edwardian, anything from Roman to modern is fine, if smart and clean. Cod-period; ‘Zena the Warrior’, ‘Conan The Barbarian’ or ‘Gorean’ type outfits may be OK if carried off with sufficient panache, though some authenticrats may sniff. “Grunge” or “Chav” do not fit in!

An ‘authenticrat’ would probably be horrified by the following over-simplified guide; in those days:

Men generally wore a doublet (jacket with sleeves) or a jerkin (otherwise known as a singlet, a jacket with no sleeves) over a shirt, with a pair of breeches. Posh men wore a wide-brimmed flat-topped felt hat, separate neck collar, woollen stockings and latchet shoes or bucket-top boots, peasants didn’t, but did cover their head with a cap of some kind, often a Montero, a kind of bonnet or beret. Underneath apparently they wore Braies about which I know nothing.

Women wore either a ankle length tie-waisted skirt with a bodice, laced under the bust, and boned or a kirtle or dress in a similar style, over a shift, which was similar to a shirt, but tie-gathered at the neck and knee length. Bodices and dresses were long or short-sleeved. Posh women wore lace-trimmed collars, finer stockings and latchet shoes. All women covered their hair, with a coif, (lace-trimmed for posh ladies) outdoors perhaps with a straw hat. We’re introducing headscarves as an inexpensive alternative. Peasants went barefoot.

Shifts and shirts, etc. were linen, though cotton is a more common and acceptable substitute nowadays, and probably not pure white except for really posh people, hence calico aprons and head-squares for workhouse inmates. Outer garments, stockings, etc. were wool; subdued colours, red, yellow, green, blue (cheap, often worn by the poor and servants—why we chose it for paupers), brown, lilac, grey, etc. Black and any dark or deep colours were hideously expensive until chemical dyes were developed in the nineteenth century.

I'd recommend paying extra for pockets, particularly in male garments, it is hard to look macho or dashing with a handbag!

## Sources For Period Costume

1. **Ishmael Skyes** is a scene-aware source who knows all about our event and can include any special kinky features you want, or use if you just want to avoid potential embarrassment from vanilla suppliers, cheap prices and adequate quality: [www.the-firm.org](http://www.the-firm.org) PO Box 10937, London, N15 6PE
2. **Jane Hugget** 5 Briants Avenue, Caversham, Reading, RG24 5AZ, 44 0118 9474891 [jane.huggett@amservice.com](mailto:jane.huggett@amservice.com) makes fantastically authentic, fine-quality clothes, reasonable prices
3. **Sally Green** 1 Lyng Lane, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2HR [www.calltoarms.com/sallygrn.htm](http://www.calltoarms.com/sallygrn.htm) {44} (01953-681676) is good and reasonably priced
4. **The Medieval Tailors Assistant** Sarah Thursfield, Ashgrove, Overton Road, St Martins, Oswestry, SY11 3DG 01691 778019 [sarah.thursfield@btopenworld.com](mailto:sarah.thursfield@btopenworld.com) does patterns and instructions
5. **Chatelaine** 01992 553162 [Chatelaine@tesco.net](mailto:Chatelaine@tesco.net) Suzanne Cornthwaite & Ian Skipper, 173 Ware Road, Hertford, SG13 7EQ do kits with patterns and material

There are many pages more, far too many to list, in **Call to Arms** the world's best directory for this kind of thing, full outfits, patterns, fabrics, accessories like hats, shoes, weapons, tools, etc.

Get your own copy for £15 on 0870 789 8778 or [www.calltoarms.com](http://www.calltoarms.com) [cta@calltoarms.com](mailto:cta@calltoarms.com) or by post as Sally Green.

Remember that these are struggling small businesses! If writing, send a big, stamped SAE for any brochure they may have. **Do not waste their time!**

Tell only Ishmael where you got their details, tell others it was from *Call To Arms* as they may not understand what we are about and be embarrassed to hear they are mentioned here.

# Sources For Other Kit

## Wig or Hairpiece

Try to avoid places specialising in supplying TVs, they are often over-priced and poor quality. Best find a place that provides hairpieces for eg women undergoing chemotherapy and make a discreet enquiry.

Few shops will turn away any customer who asks politely and spends real money! That way you may be able to talk to a woman who can help you pick an appropriate style to suit your age and facial features, cut and style it to suit you and give you instructions on how to put it on and look after it. Scary, but exciting!

Try Mary at GlamourWigs, [curling@ukgateway.net](mailto:curling@ukgateway.net), 108 Stratford Hill, South London, SW2 4RD, 0208 674 5855

## Bondmaid Choker or Collar

Buy a metre (to allow for mistakes) of pretty ribbon, in satin, silk, velvet or similar, maybe some elastic, and means to link the ends; self-adhesive Velcro, hooks and eyes (as on a bra), buttons or a suitable buckle. Measure your neck, add a few cm, cut to length. Stick on an inch of each sort of Velcro onto the free ends, or sew on the hooks and eyes or buttons or buckle, etc. Hey Presto, a fancy bondmaid collar.

Ideally sew the Velcro on too. If you can tie it neatly enough then just a longer ribbon tied neatly at the throat, either in a pretty bow or even a knot like a man's tie would be fine. Or make up a pretty bow on the front and use other means to attach the ends at the back. If you're happy with it, make a spare, and bring any spare ribbon and Velcro along too, to make a collar for someone else, if need be.

Be creative: with your Master able to otherwise tell you exactly what to wear, this may be the only touch of individuality you are allowed. So take full advantage! Tawsingham is about encouraging diversity, not enforcing conformity, and I don't really want to see two identical chokers, unless we get two identical twins!

## When and What Events?

The original book envisaged four high points in the year.

The biggest was the Midsummer Games, with a whole week of competitive corporal punishment, bondage, pony and puppy-play.

I envisage that the Denmark venue is best suited for that.

Then there were the traditional Hiring Fairs in the Spring and Autumn. The customs still sort-of survive where I lived in Sherborne.

They still have ‘Pack Monday Fair’, on the first Monday after 10th October - old Michaelmas Day. The name is probably a corruption of "pact" meaning agreement as Michaelmas was the time of year when new agreements were made between farmers and farm labourers, and between domestic servants and their Masters and Mistresses, taken on for casual employment.

The workers would enjoy a street market the morning before in what is not called Cheap Street. (Originally Cheapjack Street after the kinds of goods on offer at the fair there.)

In the afternoon they would *Stand For Hire* in the customary garb of their trade; maids with mops (hence the term ‘Mop Fair’, used in some towns for similar events), a field worker with a scythe, etc.

Off the main square in Newport, Isle of Wight, the housemaids used to stand in line in ‘Gapemouth Lane’ where they’d smile at everyone passing in the hope of being taken on. Sadly, the prudish Victorians renamed it, so I want to revive the name at our Hiring Fair.

Sherborne’s is no longer an agricultural fair, but it is still a major event in Sherborne with four of the town’s main streets becoming full of street traders and food stalls for the day, and a funfair is usually held on the edge of town on the Monday and the days preceding it.

At midnight on the night before Pack Monday Fair “Teddy Roe’s Band” meets up outside the town’s Chinese restaurant (a former coaching inn) and then processes through the streets of Sherborne blowing horns and whistles and banging saucepans.

This dates from the 15th century when repairs to the Abbey were carried out by workmen under their foreman Teddy Roe after fire severely damaged the building.

Once the repair work had been completed, the workers packed up their tools and celebrated by marching through the town blowing on cows' horns.

Nowadays it is all the assembled youth in the town, (and some older ones like me when I lived there who 'ought to know better'), and they have air-horns, hooters, bang saucepans and generally make as much noise as they can.

The police illegally banned it in the 1960s, after a few windows were broken by drunken revellers, and a friend, Robin, successfully challenged that ban in the 1970s and it continues to this day.

It makes sense to me, that long after Teddy Roe was gone, this was continued as something of a party the night before, when the newly paid-off workers spent their money.

We do it the other way around, Hiring Fair at the start of our weeks, party at the end, but the principle is still the same.

The other high point in the Tawsingham calendar is the Midwinter revels, incorporating bits of the best traditions of the Roman Saturnalia, Christian Christmas, Jewish Hanukkah and other such festivals.

Events will for a weekend, part-week, week-long, according to the availability of venues and demand.

There may be smaller events, eg The Tawsingham Corporation may meet up to plan events, etc. and these may require support from maids and others too.

Maids may find that training with Miss Prim helps them find a Mistress and take their place in Tawsingham more effectively.

There may be other kinds of smaller/shorter events, perhaps in co-operation with other groups, as trial, ancillary and preparatory events too.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **(Feedback from consultation)**

*Q Why all the fancy stuff, why not just do our own thing?*

A Heads Of Household can. They run your own household any way they wish within the overall structure of Tawsingham society, there is no obligation to take any active part or office. If you take part at a lesser station in life then you have to accept a degree of control from your Master, as you have given up some responsibility. Experience elsewhere suggests that a structure adds depth and richness that can makes the whole experience far more than just a ‘scene holiday’.

*Q Do I have to dress up in any silly costume?*

A Ordinary 21st century clothes are fine; but if you want to dress in any kind of period clothes, from Roman to the present day that is even better. It need not be historically authentic, though it is better if it is, particularly if all members of a household dress in the clothes of a similar period. Feel free to interpret it in whatever way you feel appropriate, Tawsingham is generally about encouraging diversity, not enforcing conformity. You must however be unambiguous about the gender of choice by clothes, hairstyle, etc. Not because we are unduly prescriptive – androgyny just makes things difficult for others to judge what gender you are and therefore they should address or otherwise react to you.

*Q I want to be a submissive in Tawsingham, do I have to go through this Hiring Fair stuff?*

A No, you may contract with a Master and enter Tawsingham as their dependant. We hope many Masters may be recruited to Tawsingham by people who want to come with them as a Household. We will try, to facilitate such arrangements. The Hiring Fair is only for those who cannot come to such an arrangement; or those who want to accept risk by not even trying to do so. However if you avoid both the responsibilities of being free, you must accept an obligation to obey your Master, who is taking that responsibility for you.

*Q I want to be used as a pony or a puppy, how can I arrange that?*

A Best to find a Master to take you into Tawsingham with them, promising to do so. Or ‘stand for hire’ at the Hiring Fair as a pony or puppy. If you don’t want to live that 24 hour a day, or site limitations don’t permit it, you spend the rest of the time as bondmaid or slave. Or raise it in negotiation whilst in line at The Hiring Fair.

*Q What limits may I write into my Indenture?*

A Almost anything; but if its too restrictive most Masters will reject you out of hand; or it will cost you much more. In the Workhouse most restrictions will be ignored anyway; it will be presumed you accept the authority of the Workhouse Master and anybody to whom (s)he delegates authority, that you consent to their discipline, etc. The Master will respect the implications of your choice to be a bondmaid or –man, and any dietary limits or allergies, etc.

*Q Will I be kept in chains?*

A That is up to your Master. I suspect many Masters share my view that it only slow your work down and that the rattling and chinking irritates everyone else. But if it is what you want, bring a set of chains and ask your Master to secure you in them, at the Hiring Fair. Or, if you let us keep them, we’ll lock you in them for the week.

*Q If I hire a bondmaid or slave, what can I do with them?*

A They are provided just for your comfort, convenience or amusement. They chose to give up all rights in return for giving up all responsibilities the rights bring with them. You have no obligation to provide anything they want, beyond ensuring they have enough wholesome food to eat, clean water to drink and somewhere warm and dry to sleep. However, we advise you to quiz them to find out what makes them tick, positive encouragement can be more effective than the stick—though you may eg spank them if it helps. What they actually do is entirely up to you, so long as it does not contravene their Indenture or the general rules. Cooking, cleaning, washing up, ironing, sewing, waiting on you, massaging you, shaving your legs, embroidering their name on their clothes, even just ‘standing in the corner until we want you to do something’ are all perfectly permissible.

*Q How can I guess how much it will cost me as a serf?*

A You've made the first step, it can only be a guess! If you are determined to limit what it costs you may refuse to accept any offer that will cost you more than the Workhouse. The better bargain you seem to a Master, the better the price you get. (i.e. usually the less you pay.) From conversations with Masters, as regards bondmaids and bondmen, age and looks are not vital; domestic skills, motivation and attitude are. So if you want to improve your chances look smart and business-like, attentive and docile, learn to cook, clean, do the ironing. You may find attending Miss Prim's maid training sessions helps. For slaves, most Masters are chauvinistically looking for youth, good looks, girls born that way, etc. So choose a pretty uniform, learn to use make-up to best effect, get yourself slim and fit. Interestingly, experience seems not to matter much. Most Masters looking for puppies are looking for slave-puppies, but most Masters looking for ponies are happy to accept maid-ponies.

*Q How can I guess how much it will cost me as a Head Of Household?*

A That depends on your own choices. Think about what you want from the holiday, read the relevant sections, set yourself a budget, try to stick to it and don't complain if through your own choices you don't! It is much like life really, where if you go for everything you may ever want it can cost a packet—or be canny about it and you can everything you really need for much less!

*Q What do I do, as a serf, if things seem to be going too far?*

A You should tell your Master of any concerns at the first opportunity, in a respectful way. Unless urgent, wait until they are free to give you their attention. Ask respectfully if you may speak freely. If given permission, voice your concern, avoiding direct criticism. Hopefully that will result in action satisfactory to you both. If not, then you have the right to use the safe word; "Pax" - at which everything should stop, all parties involved will discuss things and not resume until the problem is resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. You may involve the Portreeve or other Officers to try to help broker an outcome satisfactory to all. If all else fails you have the right to leave a Master at any time and move into the Workhouse.

*Q How do I speak to my Master*

A Speaking only when spoken to is a good way to start, only venturing to do otherwise if your Master instructs you to do so. Never be sarcastic, ironic, raise your voice, interrupt him or her, finish their sentences for them, always be respectful, to their face and behind their back—it should be obvious, but for too many it is not! Do not venture an opinion on anything, unless invited to do so. Do not criticise, it is always wise that if you can say nothing good, say nothing. Show respect, even if you do not feel it inside. You must maintain this, even if he or she insults you, is sarcastic, ironic, shouts, etc. They have a right to do that, and you have no right to retaliate in kind. ***(Though we'd never recommend they exercise it—it will lose them the respect of others inside and outside their household.)***

*Q How will my Master treat me?*

A Differently from the last one! Each will have their own style. Some will expect you to be almost telepathic, seeming to think that you should know what to do without bothering them. Others will expect to direct your every move, to a basic level. Some will work by encouragement, resorting to punishment only if all other avenues fail, others will be quick to punish mistakes and oblivious of anything done right. Some will be consistent, others may appear to contradict themselves. It is up to you to adapt to their ways, not vice versa.

*Q I enjoy submission, but not humiliation, can my Master do that?*

A Yes, they can, and you may not object whilst in their service. However reputation will be important in Tawsingham and if a Master does treat their serfs that way, it is likely that he or she will lose the respect of other Householders, etc. and may find it very much more difficult or expensive to hire serfs the next time, unless they are seeking that kind of experience.

*Q Travel Timetables, etc. mean it is awkward for me arrive on Monday, though I am a singleton submissive. Can I come Sunday?*

A Yes, but either pitch in and make yourself useful or keep out of the way. Do not expect anybody to offer you any kind of BDSM attention that evening.

*Q My mate and I want to come in our motor-caravan, is that OK?*

A If you agree who is to be Head of Household and the status of the other, that may be OK, if we have room. But co-equal Householders in any unit of accommodation is unacceptable; the ethos of Tawsingham is to support the authority of the Householder in any dispute with anybody else in their household, and that the junior Members of that Household will accept the authority of the Head of Household, so there must explicitly be a Head in each Household. Please accept also that you will be ‘on probation’. Do take care over what you wear and how you behave and ideally get fully involved. Most women coming to an event like this, and many of the men too, are concerned about the (almost always scruffy and male) lurkers, jerkers, gropers and predators who make a nuisance of themselves at club events. I realise nobody will accept they are one; but do see the provisions about warnings of such behaviour, and the consequences. I shall not hesitate to act on behalf of the ladies, etc. to discourage unwanted behaviour, and if necessary fine culprits and or require them to leave immediately if they cannot accept and obey the rules.

*Q I want to be able to choose be a free person or a cat, is this OK?*

A It is not possible if you are a Householder, as you need to be available to respond to any demands on or from your household. It may be possible as eg a lodger, goodwife or ‘grown-up-child’ if your Master is agreeable to your doing that.

*Q I want to bring my friend as my Goodwife, can she be a pony too?*

A No problem at all, but normally it will be your decision, not hers, which she should be, though see the answer above.

*Q Can my Master used handcuffs I brought on his other slave?*

A Yes, the things you bring in with you are theirs for the duration of your service. You are property and therefore cannot own anything.

*Q I am a smoker, does my Master have to let me smoke?*

A Only if you write it into your Indenture. In the Workhouse, (and being a smoker makes that more likely), you will only be allowed to smoke in a specified place, when given permission to do so.

*Q I have some food allergies and intolerances, what do I do.*

A Write it into the Indenture. If it makes catering for you awkward, eg if you are a vegan, or cannot eat staples like cereals or potatoes, it may adversely affect the price you fetch, as providing food for you may add extra cost or time.

*Q I want to be sure there's a slave who will suit me, can you send a letter from me to those coming?*

A You may use the Academy Personals list-server to advertise yourself, but I believe the face to face negotiation and eye to eye contact is absolutely essential, having seen so many distance relationships fall apart on meeting.

*Q I have never had a maid before, how do I treat them?*

A Briefly; find out what you have just acquired, show them who's boss, give them their instructions, monitor what they do, give help or punishment to help them do things better. Exactly how you do that is up to you. I first instruct them to undress; (only to underclothes for TVs), order them to kneel in front of me. I ask enough questions to find out what makes them tick. Then show me what they have brought, in detail. Without comment, taking notes. When I've heard enough, I tell them I am going to beat them-not because they have done anything wrong; just because I can and so they know I will, if I feel it necessary. A light spanking for a 'virgin', a heavy whipping if needed. Then instruct them as to what their duties are, how to address me and others in the household, etc. Perhaps have them note those instructions in their Indenture for later reference. Tell them to ask politely if they don't know what to do; but that you only expect to tell them once. Tell them what to dress in, let them dress and set them off. Watch and listen to what they do. If they disobey your instructions, point out their error, punish if necessary-but be aware some will err to incur punishment! Best give your reasons, CP works best if the recipient accepts you've a right to do it and that the punishment is reasonable for the offence. If they keep repeating an error then try to find an incentive or deterrent that does work. If you cannot, and the error is significant and irritating, be ruthless and trade them in to the Workhouse or sell them on.

*Q I cannot get away for a week, can I come just for a few days?*

A If you are someone very special, a person I would really like to attract to the next event, I may let you come for eg the party on the final evening, but otherwise the disruption it inevitably causes to the rhythm of the week is something I do not want to encourage.

*Q I want a Master or Mistress on a longer term basis, can you help?*

A I suspect some arrangements may be continued in some way after the end of our events, as it is a very good way for a Master or Mistress to assess the suitability of a potential slave or maid. But there is no way I can guarantee it will happen!





# Academy Incorporated



**Miss Prim's Muir  
Academy and Muir  
Academy For Maids**



**The Academy  
Club**



**Sir Guy's Tawsingham  
Society (including The  
Other Pony Club)**



Does the idea of a re-  
form school where  
adult boys, girls and  
special girls relive or  
rewrite their school-  
days appeal? Or  
formal maid train-  
ing for work with us  
at Muir Academy or in  
the context of a medie-  
val village, or else-  
where? Or would you like to be a  
Master, Mistress, slave, human  
pony or puppy in that village?

Or do you want mail-order  
books, magazines, implements,  
audio and video tapes, adult-size  
school or maid uniform?



We help anyone and  
everyone to do such  
things, men and  
women, 18 to 80s,  
married, couple or  
single; cross-  
dressers, trans-  
sexuals, hetero-  
sexuals, bisexuals,  
homosexuals, Domi-  
nants, switches, sub-  
missives, the short,  
tall, fat or thin, beginner  
or those who've done it  
all, able- bodied or other-  
wise, any race or relig-  
ion. Discreetly too, and in  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

District/village \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_

County/State/District \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature confirms that you accept that these clubs are adult orientated and that their events are adults-only, that you are legally an adult and that you undertake that any order is for use by yourself and/or other consenting adults only and that you are not associated with any customs, law enforcement or regulatory agency.

