

## The Bearsden Bears – a Legend begins.

In the spring of the Year of the Clear Vision, it is said, there flew into the Northlands an unknown pestilence from the East, which afflicted many even unto the loss of life. Alarmed at the spread of this severe and unexpected scourge, both 'Mad King' Boris and 'Good Queen' Nicola decreed to their respective subjects that none should leave the confines of their homes without good cause until the pestilence should subside (unless they were government officials who thought decrees did not apply to them!). Compelled in this way to engage more with their people, the Bears of Bearsden aroused themselves from their customary somnolence and presented visibly at many house windows their faces of fun, encouragement, and comfort to those people taking their permitted exercise. And so it continued for many months until it transpired that the pestilence began to subside. 'Good Queen' Nicola condescended to allow her subjects, little by little by little, to engage again in more usual social interaction, at which time the Bears of Bearsden sighed and resumed their customary state until they might be called into action again.

1. The threat of the pestilence arrives. The Bearsden Bears arise and assemble. Bears of all sizes and colours join in politically correct array.
2. The Dancing Bears, entering in ones and twos until the whole company of Bears is dancing. However the lead bear seems to have some difficulty with the rhythm.
3. Growly Highland Bears. The biggest brown bears to be seen give an impression of being fierce and grumpy but in truth are very playful.
4. Squabbly Wee Bears. Arguing and niggling are the small bears who really wanted to be doing something else.
5. The Bear Who's Always There When You Want Him – Christopher Toffee. Christopher Toffee arrives and calms down the wee bears.
6. Laid Back Bears in the Sun. Despite Queen Nicola's express advice, some bears seek the sun as a proxy for their people.
7. The Pestilence subsides, but does not disappear. The Bears' work is done for now and they return to their former states.
8. Epilogue. The memory of the Bearsden Bears lingers. They will be ready again if needed.

