

Dark Times

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Missing presumed dead

Dark Times staff writers

Nicola Anstruther, the 6 year old girl at the heart of the shocking child murder revelations in Bearsden two months ago has been abducted from the police safe house where she and her family had been secluded for the past three weeks.

Following the death of James Smith, who had abducted Anstruther to his home in Bearsden and subsequently died from falling down the stairs, Anstruther has been subject to a number of attempts to either kidnap or murder her.

The first such attempt resulted in a firearm being discharged into the bed the young girl usually slept in, only for her to have been fortunately sleeping with her parents that evening, due to her difficulty in dealing with the trauma she had endured. Two further attempts were made, one to run her down outside her primary school, the other where two police officers were found having been immobilized using tazers.

Finally, on the 24th of August, Nicola's parents were alerted when their daughter failed to return from the bathroom in the police safe house they were staying in. Police were called and broke down the door to gain access into the room, only to find it empty, with no sign of the girl, or how she could have left or been taken. The exterior of the house was also under surveillance, and detectives are at a loss as to how she could have been taken. Again, it must be questioned what the girl saw, to inspire someone to go to such lengths to prevent her being able to speak out.

Knock off Nigel

Dark Times staff writers

In a shocking turn of events, Nigel Haversham Aldworth

died on the evening of the 29th of August, after his limousine was attacked in a spectacular and deadly show of force. While traveling to a scheduled appointment in the [north] of the city, an explosive device concealed

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beneath a manhole cover was detonated, igniting the car, and flipping it onto its roof. Immediately after, four armed men stepped from an empty building they had been sheltering in, and fired upon the flaming car with automatic weapons.

Police have uncovered a collection of anti-Catholic literature in the building the gunmen emerged from, along with signs of several hours' occupation. Meanwhile, a total of twenty-three people were treated either at the scene or in Glasgow Royal Infirmary for injuries received; ranging from cuts and bruises, to shock, and three people injured after crashing their cars in the panic following the explosion and gunfire.

Such a degree of violence may cause the reader to question who the intended target of this brutal attack was, although if the details were obtained from Nigel's schedule, then there should have been no doubt as to who was within. Either way, this will no doubt be a blow to Viscount Aldworth, and we await his search for the killers.

Opera Singer Opens Her Big Mouth

Anonymous submission

Surprise news was delivered in Glasgow this month to ancilla Christine, previously of Glasgow and sometime resident of Paris.

At Glasgow's Court last month it was announced, by Baron Eve Harrington-Mitford on behalf of Prince Rotheschilde, that Christine must undertake a number of humiliating tasks should she wish to return to the Fief of Glasgow. First amongst these is that she must prostrate herself and kiss the feet of respected court member John Scordia, of the clan Nosferatu. What has Mr Scordia done to bring about such a severe punishment, I hear you ask? Nothing that I know of, he is merely a tool in Christine's punishment. I have had the opportunity to inspect Mr Scordia's footwear, from which I conclude that Mr Scordia might be fulfilling the stereotype of his clan and spending some time trekking through the sewers of the city.

The second task given to Christine is to approach Marcus, the unintroducted childe currently being educated by Sheriff Angus McDonald and beg for tuition in how to conduct herself in a Camarilla Court. Should he agree to teach her, once she has received his tuition, she may then approach Prince Rotheschilde to explain herself.

What has Christine done to warrant such humiliating punishment? Those with their ear to the ground like myself may have heard certain rumours spread maliciously to undermine Glasgow and the rule of Prince Rotheschilde. How could a kindred of Christine's age and with her contacts and patrons make such a shocking breach of etiquette? A breach of traditions too, as we all know *'all others owe thee respect'* while in your fief. What strikes me is what a monumentally stupid action this was, from a kindred who clearly underestimated Prince Rotheschilde's contacts and political sway.

The root of Christine's ire is clearly her failure to be appointed a Baron in Glasgow, a role she commonly stated she was the obvious choice for, although she failed to succeed in any plan to impress Prince Rotheschilde. Perhaps she found it galling that I, a relative newcomer to Scotland's politics, was appointed instead? Rumours clearly spread by Christine suggest this was a sign of Prince Rotheschilde's weakness, I would suggest it shows my own competence and her total incompetence in equal measure.

Perhaps this incident will teach Christine an important lesson about respect for one's betters and about making enemies with the wrong people. Perhaps it may also serve to demonstrate to Glasgow's critics that Prince Rotheschilde is not a man to play games with, that he is more intelligent and powerful than any mere ancilla could comprehend.

Fear and Loathing in Glasgow

Dark Times staff writers

While an escalation of the recent violence in

Glasgow would be difficult to imagine, there does seem to have been a focusing of the war which has raged in the city's criminal underworld. Where previously the conflict had ranged across the borders of the territories of Glasgow's two major criminal families, the last month has seen a focusing of that violence on the areas of Govan and Ibrox.

The intensity has also risen though, with arsons, punishment beatings, drive-by shootings and executions almost commonplace. The police seem to have abandoned the area after dark, only emerging with the dawn to collect the corpses. The only certainty about the whole matter is that the body count, both criminal and innocent, continues to rise.

It seems that the preoccupation of each family with the other has also created room for other opportunists to capitalise. Russian gangs, smaller local groups and even organised crime syndicates have taken advantage of the leeway to establish operations and territories in greater numbers and scale than they have been able to hold previously.

Meanwhile, even unlikely elements have been drawn into violence. This has been reflected in Milngavie, where groups of young, middle class men have banded together to drive out undesirable elements. Their approach is violent and indiscriminate; drug dealers, football supporters, tramps, even those suspected of being poor, all have been driven out of the area and often savagely attacked. The edges of these zones are now being seen to be marked with spray painted black circles and becoming known as "safe zones". All things considered, there seems nothing safe about the situation in Glasgow tonight.

Travel News – September 2010

Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni

Despite losing millions from the ash cloud, Spanish airline Iberia has posted net profits of over 31 million euros this month. The attribute

the result to extensively cutting costs after passenger numbers tumbled. This success contrasts with the collapse of Kiss flights that disrupted travel plans of over 70,000 customers.

Figures released at the end of August report that SAS was the most punctual airline last year whereas only 48% of EasyJet's flights arrived on time which was worse than performance by Air Zimbabwe at 50%.

And finally, pilots were put on alert after a vulture escaped from a bird show at Cumbernauld. Gandalf is 4ft high with a 10ft wingspan and has a fondness for cruising at over 30,000ft. In January last year, geese brought down an Airbus which landed without human fatalities on the Hudson in New York.

By Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni

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Broken Heartland

Dark Times staff writers

Heartland Security, a relatively small Glasgow based security, which has recently gained a number of private contracts, has come under fire this month following a raft of accusations leveled at both it and its staff.

Members of the press have uncovered allegations of drug dealing, racketeering and rape, many of which have been made against members of the company's workforce while employed by Heartland. The stories were reported in a number of national newspapers, and have attracted a significant amount of negative publicity.

Responding to the articles, a Heartland Security spokesperson issued a press statement refuting any and all accusations of impropriety on the company's part. "Following allegations of a serious nature made against Heartland Security, the company would like to reassure the public that Heartland takes all possible measures to identify and prevent crimes of those nature taking place on the premises we supervise. Any suspects are

detained and handed to the police.

"Heartland will continue its policy of cooperating fully with any police investigation into allegations made against members of our staff, and should any employee be convicted of a crime, their employment will be terminated immediately, and they will not be considered for reemployment at any time in the future.

"We at Heartland pride ourselves upon the integrity of our employees and quality of the service we provide, much of which is done on a charitable basis. We believe that any attempt to sully our name can only originate from our competitors in a transparent attempt to regain lost business. We will continue to vigorously defend our reputation against any further libelous action, and believe our customers will recognise our commitment to providing the best service we can."

Poetry Corner

Anatos & Dr Hume

Mirrored

I against I,
Me to myself – now I'm pupilled. Dry
Eye glares upon wide eye.
Silent screaming white lies
Stare back into one-another, paralyzed.
We begin by scanning for sties;
Outward imperfections that belie
Countermands: commands that eclipse the cortex.
Soon I'm behind,
Relaxing wide-eyed
As me, my opponent – I;
Without parachute, we drop into the dream. I sigh,
With many moves ahead lined
Up. Feinting we find
Illusions illustrated, iodined,
With watercolour worries as backing slides,
Bombarding the battlefield – mined is the mind.
Yet death is denied
By me because we've scryed
One another's inhibitions until dyed,

Our flags are white like those white, wild eyes...

Meanwhile the observer shuffles,
Noting an absence of breath, like a grave.
The witness only catches the aftermath.
Whilst the combatant struggles still.

Just so you know

So you know what?
They're the big boys now!
They're playing with the big toys now!
They're playing in the big game now!
So you know who?
Thinks they're on the level now!
Thinks they're being clever now!
Thinks they've got a clear run now!
So you know where?
It's gonna be a riot now!
It's gonna end in tears now!
It's gotta be a nightmare now!
so find out the what and find out the who
And put two and two together
And you'll get the where
But what do I care?

Both by Anatos

To the stars

The arts are not a battleground,
Let no artist be deterred.
A theatre for free voice to sound,
Opportunity to be heard.
Leave politics by the door, dear sir,
Let Art tell its own tale.
Do not allow pettiness to stir,
Let courage here prevail.

Those who shoot for stars and miss,
May settle for the sky.
But Earth-bound mocking is remiss,
From those who dare not try.
My kind regards to those brave few,
Who run the gauntlet; here's to you.

By Dr Robert Hume

Great Britain By Night

Margery Houndsworth-Stone, Clan Toreador, Ancilla, Harpy of London

Dear readers the month of August is now behind us. During August we heard little from Severn, still recovering from the shocking events that took place last month. The ease of pressure on London was noticeable with live returning almost to normal. Whilst there still have been no confirmed sightings of our illustrious leader the tone of rumours seems to be shifting slightly. There are less stories of her being destroyed and more of her having ducked out of sight to orchestrate the weakening of Severn. Other rumours about the Severn situation mention that Elder Reilly held significant interests in the transport sector and the fact that he removed himself from the scene and only weeks later BAA workers extremely surprisingly vote against strike action and accept the 1% pay increase.

Outside of London I have the pleasure and privilege to announce Simon Rubin, formerly an ancilla of the Camarilla, has made the step up and will from now on be considered an elder of Camarilla. While I have to admit he wasn't top of my list of individuals to make their way into the big boys club it appears a good head for playing cards does from time to time get you a long way.

Looking up to Glasgow I have to comment on the

all but official exile of Christine, of clan Toreador, from the city. How far must you have fallen when even Glasgow no longer welcomes you? But that is not all that is afoot in Glasgow. Rumours even down here have reached me that Clan Malkav is rising in Glasgow. Since having handed over Norfolk to Queen Anne there has not been a Malkavian domain in Britain and it appears that this might be changing soon. If rumours are to be believed William of York has sent his child there, 1st Baron Edward Bulwer-Lytton has sent his child Nathan Kyte. Combine those with veterans from the war in America and the illustrious clan head Mary Jezabelle and most serious factions of the clan are combined in one domain. I wonder what will come of all that?

Let it be known that Marcus Leavenholme, of London, ancilla of the Camarilla has traded his debt over Nathan Kyte, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla with David Stone, of York, ancilla of the Camarilla in return for a debt over Alan Gibbons, Scourge of York, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Nathan Kyte, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla is indebted to Augustus Trenchard, of Glasgow, neonate of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Laurance Redwood, sheriff of Edinburgh, primogen to Prince Carlisle has been granted the right of progeny.

Dark Times is accepting submissions.
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