

DARK TIMES

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HOGMANAY STORM CALL-OFFS DEFENDED

Organisers of Scotland's biggest Hogmanay celebrations have insisted they were right to cancel them amid safety concerns due to bad weather.

Glasgow called off its event on Sunday afternoon while Edinburgh's festivities were cancelled at the eleventh hour.

The party at Stirling Castle was also affected by high winds which battered the central belt.

However, events in cities including Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness were not disrupted.

The spectacular Stonehaven Fireballs Ceremony also went ahead in Aberdeenshire but a party at the Renfrew Ferry on the Clyde had to be abandoned when a gangplank collapsed.

Driving rain, with gusts of more than 70mph, forced the organisers of the Glasgow event to announce the cancellation of festivities in George Square, which had been scheduled to attract 25,000 people.

Police urged revellers to stay away and following the cancellation of the event at 1630 GMT, council staff were evacuated after debris from adjacent buildings surrounding the square was dislodged and blown into the event area.

Stirling Council announced that its celebrations at the castle had fallen victim to the weather but proceeded with a small fireworks display to see in the New Year.

For the organisers of the Edinburgh event, which draws in 100,000 international revellers every year, it was a bitter repeat of events three years ago when atrocious weather led to the cancellation of celebrations.

Despite earlier voicing confidence that the 2006 event would go ahead, the plug was pulled at 2030 GMT.

Andrew Holmes, director of city development for Edinburgh City Council said: "Although we were confident throughout the day that Edinburgh's Hogmanay could take place, the weather conditions and forecast deteriorated significantly in the course of the evening, leaving us no option but to cancel the Royal Bank Street Party.

"This decision was not taken lightly. However, public safety concerns were the most important factor in coming to this conclusion.

"I recognise the disappointment that this will cause for many people, particularly those who enjoyed other Hogmanay events over the past two days."

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *News*
- *Sudoku*
- *Submission Guidelines*
- *Rumours*
- *Storyteller notices*

FIRE AT GLASGOW UNIVERSITY

Police are investigating a blaze that took place in one of the older sections of Glasgow University. The fire is suspected to be arson as there is sign of accelerants being used. However, there is no apparent

motive for the attack and no one was harmed in the fire. Security staff onsite noticed the smoke and quickly put out the fire using a nearby extinguisher.

ODE TO BLAZES EYEBROWS

Oh that i did fail to see the beauty near to lobe.
 Thou art the nicest eyebrow, in the entire globe!
 How i do long to stroke thee, when the moon doth rise.
 The glitter shone so suddenly and took me by surprise.
 Diamonds encrusted on your face.
 You filled the ball with style and grace.

OH eyebrows how i love thee, oh let me

count the ways!
 You dance upon that face, the lovely face of Blaze.
 So Shiny and so dazzling.
 And just above above the eye.
 they will entrance me now and ever.
 Your faithful friend, magpie.

Squalk, BIG HUGS

POLICE PROBE AFTER MURDER ATTEMPT

Police in Glasgow have said they are treating an attack on a 21-year-old man as attempted murder.

The man was assaulted in the Gorbals on Friday near a tower block at Norfolk court.

The man is said to be in a critical condition at the city's Victoria Infirmary.

Strathclyde Police officers are keen to hear

from anyone who was in the area at about 2330 GMT and may have witnessed the attack.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Gorbals CID or Crimestoppers.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Obviously we are massively disappointed," said Pete Irvine, Director of Unique Events.

"It would be hard to describe how much work goes into this event and there is a huge team of people feeling very sad and deflated, but we will live to fight and entertain the world another day."

Organisers said they would learn lessons from the event and there was a mixture of good-natured resignation, frustration and disappointment among revellers.

Many had registered for a police text messaging service which was designed to relay important safety information.

Alan Jackson, from Edinburgh, said: "Yet another cancellation for Edinburgh. What a fiasco. Surely they could have followed Glasgow and given more warning."

Revellers in Glasgow missed out on seeing The Fratellis and Sandi Thom, while Neil Tennant of Edinburgh headliners the Pet Shop Boys expressed his sadness at the can-

cellation in the capital.

He said: "The Pet Shop Boys are very disappointed that the Edinburgh New Year's celebrations have been cancelled because of high winds and the danger of people getting injured.

"We are sorry for everyone who has travelled to see us and also for the organisers who have spent months putting together what should have been one amazing night."

Officials in Glasgow and Edinburgh said it would take some time to count the cost of the cancellations.

However, there were celebrations elsewhere. Revellers in Aberdeen enjoyed pop veterans Wet Wet Wet, Dundee hosted a series of events organised by voluntary groups and children were treated to the annual Family Fireworks display in Inverness.

Further events did go ahead in the capital on Monday, including outdoor activities at Holyrood Park.

URBAN MYTHS – THE SUPERNATURAL WORD ON THE STREET...OR A BIG FAT RED HERRING?

STOLEN PAINTING –

It seems a rumour is circulating amongst certain shadier mortal individuals about the fire a few months ago at St Mungo's museum wherein rare works of art were damaged. It seems there is speculation that it was a ruse to cover the theft of rare and expensive works of art. The rumour that dead bodies were found outside lacking internal organs and no signs of surgical removal also seem somehow odd to this writer. Call me paranoid if you will.

INKY BLACKNESS –

The recent mysterious darkness that obscured a football match in impenetrable shadow seems to have had an effect. Some among the mortal kine are calling it a sign of the end times, some are calling it a freak natural occurrence, some are ascribing it to a governmental or military experiment... still others ascribe its cause to other, more esoteric entities. Whatever the cause it has people thinking, and some seem to be thinking very, very hard indeed as they wait and watch. This makes me nervous.

MISCELLANEOUS UNVERIFIED RUMOURS:

Stories are circulating of a man seducing women and then eating their brains: Perhaps

some reversed-sex mantis practice?

A woman claims to have seen a superhero-esque masked cross dresser and his rubber clad sidekick exposing themselves in the dead of night in Maryhill before they disappeared. Other witnesses were strangely vague as to what they could remember seeing.

Partygoers at a location hosting a "gothic" tea party seem to be claiming they experienced a series of minor earth tremors. Witnesses claim tea cup and glasses rattled of their own volition. No seismic records can verify any such tremors.

A strange shadowy figure has been said to stalk the night, granting wishes some say. Whatever the deal truly is people are said to get exactly what they want and then pay a horrific price for wording it incorrectly.

By

Eye Spy

DARK TIMES SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Here are a few notes on how to get the best out of your Dark Times Submissions: -

1. Put them in a separate email from your Orders.
2. Don't use unusual fonts or tabbing or anything. Everything will get reformatting.
3. Try not to put in fake news articles unless it is about you or another character. Only the Storytellers can define what happens in the setting (i.e. the city). Join the ST team if you want to make up plots.
4. Please proofread before you send. We
5. You can submit in-character stories, advertisements, poems, quizzes, slanderous articles, jokes, announcements (e.g. Clan Head notifications) or anything your character wants to tell everyone.
6. Please do not make submissions that offend or hurt a *player*. This is an in-character newsletter only.

will not fix your spelling or grammar mistakes.

Thanks

The Storytellers



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GLASGOW VAMPIRE LIVE ACTION
ROLE-PLAYING

DARK TIMES SUDOKU (HARD)

	9	8						
						4	1	7
			6	2	5			
	3	7						6
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5						2	9	
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More Storyteller Notices

We would also like to clarify a few issues related to Orders but before I begin, I'd like to applaud people for the high standard of orders we get! Unfortunately, we seem to be victims of our own success. The sheer volume of Orders we now receive means that we are having to be very strict.

- **The deadline for Orders is 6pm on the date given.** We will return any emails received after this time and you will need to resend the next month. Please don't wait until the last minute to do your orders as sometimes they can take a while to turn up in our inbox

- **Please try to keep your orders down to 6 points.** That's all we promise to do. We try to do everything we get sent but do you really want the Storytellers cursing your name when it's 1am and we still have loads to go?
- **Explicitly state what you want.** If you are frustrated by all those "Okays" then try explaining what you wanted to accomplish as well as what your character did. If you want a ghoul to be a Retainer or you want those clubbers as Herd then you have to tell us.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the above points.

Submissions Accepted

Is there something you want to advertise or let everyone know about? If so, then Dark Times is willing to accept *your* submissions, articles and adverts.

Features:

- **Guaranteed acceptance of articles**
- **City-wide distribution**
- **Anonymous submissions accepted**

GVLARP



Email: admin@gvlarp.org.uk

January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Court	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Orders	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 DT			