

Dark Times

Volume 12, Issue 10

October 2011

A Recipe for Horror

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART.
In the face of the brutal Ripper murders, it would have been reasonable to assume the Glasgow public would be difficult to shock. Yet a story emerged this month which has troubled even the most hardened of an already stoic city's population. The events of Saughs Drive in Robroyston may go down as the bloodiest in Scotland's history.

Police were called to a house at the end of the cul de sac after neighbours grew concerned, having not seen the resident family for a week since their return a vacation over the September weekend. The family's car was still in the drive, the curtains were drawn and a number of undelivered parcels collected with their neighbours. Eventually, police forced entry to the house.

The scene which awaited them within was something beyond the imaginations of most people; something straight from a horror film. The walls were daubed from floor to ceiling with all manner of sigils and markings, drawn in blood. The stench of decomposition filled the building, yet no bodies were found initially.



It was only upon opening up a door to the basement that the tomb of the young family was found – the final resting place of the young couple, Richard and Agnes Whittaker and their son and daughter, Clarissa and Thomas. The smell emanating from down the stairs caused a number of the forensic team to vomit and few were able to even enter, battling through the flies which swarmed.

The scene within was one of carnage – a stove had been set up, with pans which were encrusted with burned flesh. Discarded bones, stripped of flesh, some even covered in bite marks told more of the horrid tale. The casually discarded fingers of children, blood soaked tourniquets and wine glasses marked with dried blood completed the spine-chilling scene. Over the course of four days, every section of the room and the wider building

In This Issue

- **A Recipe for Horror**
- **Jack replies**
- **Rip van Watkins**
- **Cash for Soul**
- **A Glasgow response**
- **Editor's reply**
- **Eastern Promise**
- **Great Britain by night**

was documented, photographed and tested, with the story gradually coming to light.

It is believed the attackers forced entry into the house in the early hours of Friday morning, restraining the family and dragging them downstairs. All four members were tortured and mutilated, being cut apart piece by piece and their flesh cooked before them, before being devoured. One by one, they were forced to watch as their siblings, parents, children and spouses were murdered.

First to die was Richard (39) shortly followed by Thomas (12). Agnes (37) lasted a day longer, and her daughter Clarissa (5) was the last to perish. The terror she must have felt is indescribable. Experts who have worked with Glasgow's darkest crimes for decades have said that they will never truly come to grips with what they have seen. A number of resignations from the Forensic team have already been tendered.

The last step of the attackers was to paint the symbols around the house using blood they had collected in large containers which were found at the scene. However, police believe they may have used overalls of some kind and likely used a van to transport themselves and the equipment used, and have asked any members of the public who saw anything suspicious at all in the area to come forward.

In the meantime, forensic tests are still being carried out, while those remains which were recovered are being housed at the Royal Infirmary. The press have latched upon this story as an opportunity to denounce the widespread portrayal of violence in computer games and metal music, but most sentiments remain those of shock and horror.

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

Jack replies

Jack

Turpie.

If you've got anything to say to me you can say it to my fucking face. Maybe you should try giving me some facts instead of verbal attacks and clumsy sidesteps.

Jack

Rip van Watkins

Dark Times Staff writers (Duncan)

In stark contrast to the events which inspired his actions, it seems the police have now identified the person responsible for the series of brutal prostitute murders which has filled the tabloids over recent months. While the police are not confirming the exact details, it seems the focus of their investigation has switched to a single individual.

In a display of impressive competence, the police have managed to identify a 4th year medical student, whose DNA was found at the scene of each crime. Initial delays were caused by the DNA not being on file, however a retest of the samples uncovered a suspect who had been arrested just a month ago for a road traffic offence.

Police have now released images of their suspect – Martin Watkins – after he was not seen returning to his family home and not attending university for a number of weeks. Members of the public have been asked to call Crimestoppers if they observe the man, but not to approach him.

Meanwhile, the police continue to attempt to prevent the murders happening on a regular basis – with some limited success. More recently, the deaths have been every 10 days or so, rather than weekly, however this is likely to be of little comfort to Glasgow's terrified female population.

Dark Times Staff writers (Duncan)

Cash for Soul

Dark Times Staff Writer (Richard)

As European economies crumble, and the world teeters on the brink of financial disaster, Glasgow City Council's latest financial dealings have caused outrage among the population of the city.

Following a period of strife, with cuts in funding from the Scottish Government, council tax freezes and the difficulties in collecting local taxes, the Council has turned its mind to selling assets to raise capital. The newest of these though, the proposal to sell the City

Chambers buildings themselves, has shocked residents.

The Chambers have served as a home for the council and its predecessors since 1889, and are considered to be one of the most impressive buildings in Glasgow, maintaining the tradition of keeping fine architecture available for the public. It was reported this month though that the Council has begun negotiations to sell the building to a private firm, and relocating its headquarters to a standard office building in the Merchant City.

While the decision to consider selling the Chambers is alarming to many, it seems the prospective purchaser is even more disturbing. NovaCorpus Inc. are a pharmaceuticals company based in America, dealing largely in cosmetic sciences, and infamous for their mistreatment of animals in the course of testing new treatments. Numerous countries have expelled NovaCorpus after rumours of their cruelty emerged, but a reputed offer of over £500 million seems to have earned them a warmer reception from the Glasgow officials.

At present, the offer states the NovaCorpus would establish their first set of commercial offices in the UK using half the building, while the other half would be devoted to "unspecified research facilities." However attractive the offer though, the step has still to gain the approval of all members of the Council, and the backlash from a typically outspoken and willing to protest population has still to be seen.

Dark Times Staff Writer (Richard)

A Glasgow response

William Chauncey, Seneschal of Glasgow

In addition to the Prince's article this month, please note this response to some of the matters raised in last month's Dark Times.

- The ancilla Alexander was told to present himself to the Prince for acceptance. He did not do so. He was summoned to the meeting. He arrived, took offence at the Prince's standard protection measures and yet again failed to present himself. Alexander had no reason to doubt the Prince's word and instead

chose to break the second and fifth Traditions. For those reasons, he was blood hunted.

- The Prince's style of management differs from Rothschild in that he prefers to welcome Kindred to his domain, and allow them to be judged upon the merits of their conduct, rather than barring the gates to them. Those who do not wish to be so judged are not obliged to come to Glasgow. As for the leniency of Murillo, there has not before or since been such a period of systemic Masquerade breaching as under Murillo, who invited all manner of creatures to this city.
- The umbrella of Elysium has only been removed to educate Kindred as to the importance of their own conduct at all time, and the respect they should show to their Prince. Where the etiquette of Court has been breached, as it has recently, this will be punished.
- Duc deBourbon left Court of his own volition, after failing to provide a simple answer to the Prince. He will be welcome to return upon providing that answer.
- Margery Houndsorth-Stone's concerns are misplaced. I conduct my role as required and observe the Traditions – I have no doubts as to the security of my position.

Regards

William Chauncey, Seneschal of Glasgow

Editor's reply

Editor-in-chief

Dear Seneschal Chauncey,
please allow me to critique some points in your submission.

Point 1) The ancilla Alexander was told to present himself to the Prince for acceptance. He did not do so.

Incorrect, the ancilla Alexander attempted to take up Prince Aldworth's alleged promise of amnesty and appeared before him and his court. During his discussions with the Prince a second meeting was arranged but then Prince Aldworth made him an

outlaw. He removed any and all protection of the Camarilla from him. What possible reason could there be apart from allowing members of his court to destroy him without fear of the Traditions? If you wish explain that point to our readers feel free.

Point 2) He was summoned to the meeting. He arrived, took offence at the Prince's standard protection measures and yet again failed to present himself.

If they standard protection measures include stating to your sheriff that the person you are meeting with should definitely be destroyed then I agree with you. I would also like to point out that the meetings my people had with the prince all took place without the Sheriff's presence.

Point 3) Alexander had no reason to doubt the Prince's word and instead chose to break the second and fifth Traditions.

Incorrect, Alexander had every reason to doubt the Prince's word. He made him an outlaw on their first meeting and thereby declared open season on him. He was then forced against his will to a meeting with the Prince and his sheriff who was told to definitely destroy him. What more reason can there be?

Point 4) For those reasons, he was blood hunted.

Those reasons are excuses and I pity anyone who believes them. Alexander was blood hunted for simply not allowing himself to be executed. Prince Aldworth talks a good talk but when it comes down to it the amnesty was a thinly veiled attempt at luring out those he wished to see wiped out.

Point 5) The Prince's style of management differs from Rothschild in that he prefers to welcome Kindred to his domain, and allow them to be judged upon the merits of their conduct, rather than barring the gates to them.

Which failing of merits were it that made Alexander an outlaw? Upon their first meeting? Less than 5 minutes after they began talking? Wouldn't it be kinder to bar the gates rather than spread words of welcome and then almost instantly deny it?

Point 6) The umbrella of Elysium has only been

removed to educate Kindred as to the importance of their own conduct at all time.

Might it be due to the fact that every other court in Britain is filled with Kindred ignorant to the importance of their conduct or might it be so that the Prince's hangers on can violate anyone attending court to their hearts content or does Prince Aldworth simply enjoy the beatings, stakings and violations of the mind that have occurred in his court since the changes. One of those is almost certainly correct maybe even two.

In short Seneschal, do you believe to fool anyone with these blatant lies?

I await your reply on these questions.

Editor-in-chief

Eastern Promise

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

Reports and rumours are emerging that the grip of Glasgow's newest crime may be slipping a little. Diotr, the emerging power in the East of the city has attracted a great deal of hostility and bloodshed thanks to his bold grasp for power.

Remnants of Glasgow's surviving major crime family, together with other rival gangs, have been attacking Diotr's men, usually well armed and in numbers on both sides. While not approaching the intensity of the violence of the earlier conflicts, gunfire has once again become a familiar sound in the East End.

In the meantime, while Diotr's forces have been stretched thin fending off such violent attentions, the police have been cracking down on the drug trade which funds Diotr's criminal enterprise. Numerous arrests were made over the month, and drugs with a total street value of £3 million were confiscated.

For now, Diotr's empire remains intact, but in the face of pressure from all sides it must be questioned if he has the resources – in both money and character – to maintain his newfound control. In the meantime, his is the only serious claim to stick, while other scrap over the remainder of the city.

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

Great Britain By Night

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

My darling readers, oh how I enjoy the autumn. The tension in the air and in the courts is growing and this feeling of growing excitement is indeed catching. There are though also just as many things still niggling me. First of all I have not been able to find out what happened to my grand childe, Damien Thompson. Anyone who has reliable information on this matter for trade to get in touch with me and I am sure we can come to some form of arrangement.

Next we have this year's social obligations. The Winterball in Edinburgh will no doubt be the highlight once more and I expect the invitations to go out before the end of the month. There has been no further information about the ball planned to take place in Glasgow and I feel that more than likely in light of the recent and ongoing troubles and the renewed negative attention Glasgow has been receiving the organisers have given up on it.

The editor of the Dark times has forwarded the following tidbit, a section from Glasgow's Senschal William Chauncey, and brought it to my attention.

Margery Houndsorth-Stone's concerns are misplaced. I conduct my role as required and observe the Traditions.

Yes Mister Chauncey, you are a good little puppy. I am sure Prince Aldworth will pat your head and give you a bone. All the scraps from the table you could ever want.

On a slightly more serious note though I was wondering whether visitors to Glasgow can still meet the Prince or other residents at one of the cities Elysium site or do they also have to be taught the harsh lessons for proper conduct? Not that I am suggesting I would wish to attend Glasgow in person, of course.

The enterprising ancilla David Stone of York has launched another gambling enterprise. This time against the backdrop of the London 2012 Olympics. The rules are simple. Pick on the sporting events of his list. Each event has a certain price. If you can match the price you can bet on a winner for that event. In the end all prices accumulated, minus a small cut for the house, will be divided between those who chose the correct winner. Some of the lesser events allow entry for money, others for blood, ghouls or even favours with the most elite events requiring multiple debts over important kindred. What makes this event so thrilling is that there are no rules against influencing the outcomes to the events, in fact that is encouraged. Also nobody apart from the house will know who has placed their bets on whom. So you and your rival might be trying to get the same person to win. For more details contact the man himself.

Closer to home I had the pleasure to meet with William DeMontford, the elder formerly from Severn who lost his life Lucien, the ancient Gangrel. While he has happy to confirm the fact that Lucien held the debt of his existence I was unable to learn what reason had brought William to London. I think William will be an asset to courtly life and I await the first of London's more social occasions to observe him in action.

Let it be known that Niall Ferguson, Primogen of Manchester & Liverpool, elder of the Camarilla has repaid one of his debts to Ritchie, Seneschal to Cruithni, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that William DeMontford, of London, elder of the Camarilla is indebted to Margery Houndsorth-Stone, Harpy of London, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Aaron Johnson, of Glasgow, neonate of the Camarilla has traded his substantial debt for Colman Rashleigh, Seneschal of London to William Chauncey, Seneschal of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Please send your submission to:
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