

Dark Times

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Dying in High Society

Dark Times Staff Writer (Duncan)

The Aldworth family has made the headlines again this month, after another tragic event rocked the city of Glasgow. This latest massacre is unconnected to recent violence though, instead taking place in one of the city's most upmarket venues.

The private dining room at One Devonshire Gardens was turned into a veritable bloodbath, as a high society dinner was transformed into a scene of chaos and slaughter. Initial confused reports came from the hotel, as terrified residents called emergency services after hearing screams and sounds of violent disturbance from the dining room.

Police arrived to find a scene of butchery, with dozens of guests of Viscount Gordon Aldworth hacked to pieces, apparently by a single individual. The Viscount himself survived, albeit with some injuries, but his personal security operatives were slaughtered along with every other attendee at the party. Gordon Aldworth was found at the scene by police, but in the confused aftermath he

disappeared before police could get his details or a statement.

It was only upon his return to the police, some three days after that night, that they were able to gain a full picture of what had happened. With the Viscount's help, they pieced together the scene where a single man, armed with artificial Freddy Kruger style claws, forced his way into the party and brutally tore apart everyone present. The Viscount's security staff gave their lives to drive the attacker away from their employer. Police have since commended their heroism.



With Viscount Gordon Aldworth's description of the man, police were able to track him down and the culprit was arrested within two days. Paul Jackson, 37, a former corporal with the Scots Guards, was one of the soldiers made redundant as part of the coalition government's defence cuts and has been out of work since. He is believed to have drawn his inspiration from

In This Issue

- **Dying in High Society**
- **Murder Most Unholy**
- **Princely Paradox**
- **Great Britain by night**

the recent Glasgow Ripper attacks. Jackson is currently being held for trial pending completion of a psychiatric assessment.

At midday following the arrest, the Viscount appeared on the steps of Glasgow's High Court, where he was praised as an essential and effective witness by senior police officials. The Viscount thanked Strathclyde Police for their efforts, and pledged that one of his charitable foundations would be taking up the cause of promoting mental health among returning military personnel, to ensure that such tragic events were not repeated.

This attempt to salvage some positive publicity from the week's turmoil could have been successful, were it not for the discovery of the scene of a ritual murder in a house in Newtongrange Avenue in the Mount Vernon area of Glasgow, which bears striking similarities to that which was found in October last year. This story overshadowed the arrest of the culprit of the attack at One Devonshire Gardens, and has dominated the headlines since.

Dark Times Staff Writer (Duncan)

Murder Most Unholy

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

October of 2011 saw an event which has been described as the most violent and horrific in Glasgow's history, when a family were ritually butchered and eaten over the course of days. Strathclyde Police examined the scene tirelessly, but as of yet they do not appear to have identified any suspects.

It was hoped by mortals that scenes like those found at Saugh's Drive in Robroyston would never be seen again. However, mere months after that horrifying discovery, Police have been alerted to another multiple murder, with an almost identical modus operandi.

Police are refusing to release specific details of how the murders happened, fearing the potential of inspiring copycats, but the details which have already emerged have painted a picture which is equally as gut wrenching as those of Saugh's Drive. This time, the

murders took place in a semi detached home in Newtongrange Avenue, Mount Vernon.

Similar arcane symbols to Saugh's Drive were found adorning the walls of the property, daubed in the blood of the victims. Again, police are refusing to release details of these sigils, but it is understood that they appear to represent the handiwork of the same perpetrators as those responsible for the previous murders.

Although these murders happened over the course of a number of days, they only came to light on the 14th of December, around the same time as Viscount Charles Aldworth was giving a press conference commending the police for their swift arrest of the man responsible for the murders at One Devonshire Gardens. Altogether, this incident will only increase the pressure on Strathclyde Police and Graham Meldrum, after they had thought they were finally getting a handle on the violence in Glasgow.

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

Princely Paradox

Editor-in-chief

Recently, Viscount Charles Augustus Aldworth came under pressure from various sources to deal with the Glasgow Ripper. This individual was responsibly for the deaths of a number of prostitutes in Glasgow, in a manner which was reminiscent of those attributed to Jack the Ripper, despite the fact that those murders took place over a hundred ago.

This led to speculation that the murderer could be a mortal who had studied the historical records of Jack the Ripper's crimes, or alternatively, for those familiar with the truth of the world we inhabit, that a Kindred may have been responsible for both the first spate of deaths and the second a century later.

The Glasgow Ripper posed all manner of problems for Glasgow's Kindred though, drawing more attention than the city was comfortable with, and the Prince had put into place measures to deal with this threat. After a time, the murders stopped, and it appeared Aldworth had been successful.

This appearance was completed when a mortal was found to have been responsible for the murders and was conveniently killed in the course of his arrest. That appeared to be the end of the matter, and the Viscount had seen off another threat to the Kindred of the city.

Now however, certain details have come to light which call into question the Prince's role in the whole process. A source close to the Prince has informed us that Aldworth was well aware of the specifics of the crimes before they happened, and may very well have been responsible for them.

It seems the Viscount dominated a mortal to hire a van, which was then observed at the scene of one of the prostitute murders. Whoever was in the van was either responsible for the murders, or else had a perfect view of the whole thing. And if this had been part of the Prince's drive to find the Ripper, how did the Prince know exactly where to wait, why didn't he capture the Ripper there, and why not share the information with those he was setting the task of finding this individual?

All together, this raises all manner of questions about Aldworth's involvement, and his commitment to preserving the Masquerade, one of the most pressing duties of a Camarilla Prince. It was in part due to repeated failures of this sort which led to Prince Murillo being removed from power; something Aldworth should be very familiar with, given his role in that transition. It will be interesting to see how Aldworth defends his role in the damage that has been done to the Masquerade under his reign.

Editor-in-chief

Great Britain By Night

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

Darling readers,
how can I start this article in any other way but talk about prince Carlisle's marvellous Winterball. Over the years this event, hosted as always in the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and the ruined Abbey, on the eve of the new year, has become a staple in most sociable kindred in the country and even further afield. Each

year has a strong theme and for many of us attempting to discover the theme and then dressing accordingly has become a game in its own right.

To me it appears as if Prince Carlisle has in recent years worked with someone with a grander sense of style and flare as the last few years certainly have marked a distinct improvement to usually more staid theme of such gatherings. After last years Feudal Japanese theme, with its meticulous attention to detail and the spectacle of the traditionally attired servants running errands, or even fighting the occasional duel and the final performance of "The Love Suicides at Sonezaki," which ended in the tragic and heart breaking demise of both the primary characters, and the actors themselves, it was hard to see how this year could compete. One also has to take into account the political situation at the event with both Houblon and Anne shoring up support for the events to come acting like the proverbial warring warlords of Japanese histories.

This years theme was a Venetian masquerade ball. Once more no expense had been spared and somehow even a small circuit a canals, complete with the traditional gondolas had been crafted. There was a recreation of the Ponte dei Sospiri, the "bridge of sighs", balconies, nooks and crannies a plenty as well as the spectacularly decorated ballrooms. Each guest was offered a mask and cloak upon his arrival. The style of masks varied wildly and many a statement where made about the guest by the material and craftsmanship of these masks. Mixed through the usual crowd were little groups of actors which in different areas playing out scenes from various sources in literature including the likes of Romeo and Juliet's balcony scene as well as a mission impossible esque drug exchange on the canal complete with gondola chase. It would have been impossible to catch all the little entertainments provided, specially with so many interesting people to catch up with.

As usual the event drew many important kindred, princes from London, Norfolk, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow as well as three archons and dignitaries from many other places attended as well as many other interesting people. Far be it from me to share everything I learned with you but some titbits of information are just too precious not to be shared.

A lot of rumours are surrounding the domain of Birmingham, not least because prince Wallace, who

does not usually attend functions outside his own domain was in attendance. Some claim Lady Anne, formerly the prince of London, is attempting to take the domain of Birmingham from prince Wallace, who thus far has been Anne's most staunch supporter. One stands to wonder why Dominik Wallace does not simply expel Lady Anne from his domain should these rumours have an element of truth to them like he has done with Donald Bassingthwaite. In any case though prince Wallace did spend his evening calling on old friends and attempting to make new ones.

Then we have the domain of Glasgow which never fails to provide amusement. This time I learned that Nathan Kyte had been executed for the destruction of my grand childe, Damien Thompson. Apparently Nathan Kyte had flaunted his exile from London and returned during the nights of the conclave where Lady Anne lost her throne to the domain of London to settle things with Damien once and for all. With both sides of the alleged confrontation having been destroyed there is little that can be done to verify the veracity of those claims. On a slightly less openly violent note it appears the ancilla Chauncey, of Glasgow, still acting as seneschal to Prince Aldworth had not been invited to this gathering, yet Prince Aldworth was attempting to explain to people that he was simply too busy to attend. I heard it mentioned that ancilla Chauncey has become a pariah in polite company. Should this be indeed correct one has to wonder how long prince

Aldworth will suffer being closely associated with him.

Looking backwards the political landscape of Britain has changed dramatically. In one month in 2011 Anne's camp lost London but gained Glasgow. Norfolk once more has slipped off from London. The previous year Cruithni carved a new fiefdom out for himself. What will 2012 hold for Britain?

Let it be known that from the first day of January 2012 onwards the elder Donald Bassingthwaite has been expelled from the domain of Birmingham. Should he be discovered from that date forward in the domain he is considered in breach of the traditions of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Carter Branch, Prince of Norfolk, elder of the Camarilla has repaid a debt to Dominik Wallace, Prince of Birmingham, elder of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Dominik Wallace, Prince of Birmingham, elder of the Camarilla is indebted to David Stone, of York, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Marcus Leavenholme, of London, ancilla of the Camarilla has repaid a serious debt to Dominik Wallace, Prince of Birmingham, elder of the Camarilla

Dark Times is accepting submissions.

**All submissions will be printed with the author name provided.
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