

DARK TIMES

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CATHEDRAL DISTURBANCES

Glasgow Cathedral's turbulent period is certainly not yet at an end, to judge by the events of this month. Repairs had been ongoing to the building since the Cathedral was badly damaged by vandalism; a mark of the ongoing deterioration of relations between large parts of the Glasgow public and the church.

The company which was brought in to carry out the work was believed to be a legitimate operation, but this belief unravelled quickly, after police were alerted to unusual sounds coming from the building and entered to find a scene of destruction. The workers had fled before officers arrived, but their handiwork was plain to see. Pews had been splintered, flagstones pried up, pneumatic drills taken to stone pillars and stained glass windows smashed.

The damage amounts to hundreds of thousands, possibly millions of pounds worth, to one of the most prominent buildings belonging to the Church of Scotland. Some of the destroyed elements are irreplaceable; others will require funding which is more and more difficult for the Church to obtain.

In the midst of this chaos and at the worst possible time, the Church is looking to appoint a new minister for the Cathedral, at least on an interim basis. Given the fates of other recent appointees and the ongoing turmoil, candidates are reluctant to step forward, but the Church will hope to locate a suitable person before the Christmas service.



The walls were stripped

From all the negativity around the religious groups and the conflict which threatens to boil over any week now, at least one positive has arisen with the establishment of a new police taskforce – which has been set the difficult task of trying to calm the tension and return religious relations to their usual position. While progress is likely to be slow, at least now the authorities are throwing their support behind this measure.

BIRMINGHAM POLITICS - HENRY NEWBOLT

So, many of the residents of these Isles have wondered at the current political situation in Birmingham, and most of all at its two illustrious inhabitants and their current disposition. As the singularly most appropriate individual to address these concerns, far be it from me to deny the many that which they seek.

A summary first, for those who may have been absent, un-Sired or simply unob-

servant during the preceding events, and to explain how it was that Lady Anne Bowesley came to reside in the domain of Birmingham. It must be borne in mind that at the outset, Lady Anne was Queen Anne, the most prominent leader in the country, ruler of London and with designs upon the rest of the land. And those designs were far from without fruit.

Queen Anne held sway over the domains

BOON TRADING:

- *Minor Boon owed by Angus Macdonald to Levi Tius*
- *Minor Boon owed by Angus Macdonald to Levi Tius*
- *Minor Boon repaid by Simon Rubin to Ian Smith*

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BIRMINGHAM POLITICS CONT...



John Houblon

“ANNE, THE
PRINCE OF
SEVERN AND
JOHN HOUBLON
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of Manchester and Liverpool, Birmingham (through her loyal ally – Prince Wallace), York and Norfolk (after the disappearance of Prince Branch). This was an astounding achievement, one which looked set to rival the days of Mithras, whom Queen Anne had served until his destruction. Severn took a predictable opposition to Anne though (whispers of a duel filled the Isles at one time), Glasgow stood defiant under Prince Rothschild, while Edinburgh stayed quiet and watched. It seemed the country rested on a knife edge, ready to fall into Anne’s grasp, when John Houblon entered the scene.

The vagaries of Ventrue politics are not a topic I have the room or the inclination to address in this short piece, but suffice to say that of the three most senior of my Clan present in the city at that time, Anne, the Prince of Severn and John Houblon stood at opposite points of a triangle. It was all but inconceivable that one would bend to join another, and a standoff developed. Houblon established himself in opposition against Anne, but her grip on London was too strong to be easily removed.

And so, after at least a year of preparation, intrigue, politicking, alliances and investigations, a Conclave was called to address the small matter of Praxis over London, the most powerful domain in the country. Houblon laid down his formal challenge, to succeed or to fail in that one night, and it was for all attending Kindred to provide the answer.

Viscount Aldworth almost won that night, arriving the newly crowned Prince of Glasgow as he did. But just when it seemed that he would carry the day, in spite of the Prince of Manchester’s rebellion, in walked Prince Jonathan Carter. With his tale of abduction by Queen Anne so she could an-

nex Norfolk, and his bloody wound visible to all, his intervention was the final straw and so Houblon took London and was confirmed as Prince by the Justicar.

Since then, Anne has taken up residence in Birmingham, with her still-loyal supporter, Prince Dominik Wallace, who stood beside her through thick and thin. It has not been an easy residence though. The strain of two such prominent Elders in the one domain has tested the allegiances of the other residents, and in some way seems to have led to the exile of Donald Bassingthwaite – who had been Queen Anne’s right hand.

Those who are willing to whisper on such things fall into one of a number of camps, with no group holding the dominant opinion. Some believe that Prince Wallace should step aside, make way for his Queen; though he seems to be in no rush to do so having fought for and held his domain. Others believe that the former Queen should accept her fall and settle into a position to support Wallace. Still more Kindred feel that the Queen’s attentions should be turned to gaining a new domain for herself, with many touting the apparent weakness of Norfolk, or the prospect of carving out a new domain entirely, much as Cruithni has achieved.

And finally, there are those who believe that all other possibilities are a distraction from the only fight that matters, the one to restore Anne as the ruler of London and to oust Houblon permanently. There are many, even still in London, who view him as a usurper; without the prestige and connections to maintain the might of that vast domain and that the Camarilla is worsened without Anne in control of the city. Fulfilment of their desires does not seem imminent – but then again, when have we Kindred lacked for patience?

PARK CRIMES

After the unexpected postponement of the Park Light initiative last month, Council officials were sent to perform a full survey of crime in Glasgow's parks at night which would be used to determine if the scheme to install cameras and lighting throughout the parks would be the most effective way to increase safety, particularly for the young people of the city.

From the very first day of the survey, officials were confronted with a wide array of offences. Vandalism and arson were widespread, with many park facilities damaged or destroyed. Dozens of youths were assaulted during the period, most of them reporting that they were attacked and severely beaten by a well built man, in his thirties, with a dark mop of hair and a dry laugh.

The crimes were most prevalent in the darker and more remote areas of the parks, but they stretched even to those parts beside major roads and beside houses. In some cases, the survey team and their police escort were mere moments ahead of the culprits and witnessed the aftermath for themselves.

Given the strength of the initial findings by the officials, expectations are high among concerned citizens that the committee will recommend the reinstatement of the Park Light initiative. This news would come as a particular relief to the families of three teenagers who were brutally murdered in a Glasgow park a few months ago. But given the variability in the short life of the proposed scheme, nothing can be considered certain in this matter.



Cars were vandalised

GLASGOW IN SEPTEMBER - SIMON HAILE

Let me begin by apologising for my insinuations that some, any or all members of the harpies of Britain actually ever supported Chauncey in his challenge to Prince Aldworth's edicts. Some of my prior statements can easily be seen as tautological and misleading. It had not been my intent to suggest the above but merely to invite comment from anyone who did support him. Neonate Chauncey has been judged, found wanting and been disposed of by Prince Aldworth and his officers of the court and the matter should finally rest. With the disgraced neonate all favours owned or owed by him were also disposed. There is nothing more that requires discussion.

With that out of the way let me focus on the Blood Hunt called by Prince Aldworth on the kindred known as Mickey Finigan. The bloodhunt — the Lextalionis — is the Princely decree that declares another vampire persona non grata. More than simply removing their word of acceptance and the associated protection from a kindred this right of Princes (or "elders," depending upon the interpretation of the Tradition) to call the Blood Hunt effectively forfeits the hunted Kindred's unlife; it is the ultimate punish-

ment levied for the most grievous of crimes.

While I have heard it said that it is used so sparing and so severely in most domains that many Princes will even pardon those Kindred who perform diablerie on a vampire under the Lextalionis. Also known as Amaranth, diablerie is the greatest crime a Kindred can commit against another. While a Prince who declares a Blood Hunt often decrees that those who diablerize the outcast will be pardoned let me assure you that Prince Aldworth has made no such declaration.

Hunters may drink a victim's blood, even to the last drop, but may not continue the process of diablerie once the victim is drained. Indeed, by decree of the Inner Circle, only a sire is permitted to diablerize her childe, and then only during a blood hunt of said childe.

If Mickey's sire managed to reclaim all of his blood and soul then it might alleviate some of the stigma of having sired and released a kindred who ended up a blood hunted anathema.

"PRINCE
ALDWORTH HAS
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DECLARATION"



Caption describing picture or graphic.

GLASGOW IN SEPTEMBER CONT...

Mickey has been found guilty of the high crime of committing an egregious breach of the Masquerade. Swift and forthright intervention by the Seneschal and Keeper of Elysium was required to contain the problem, expunge the physical evidence and change the minds of the witnesses. No discernable efforts were made by Mickey to even attempt to cover up his actions, either on the

night in question or subsequently.

Let me remind you that any who hear the call of the blood hunt must participate in the hunt and should Mickey not have been caught yet likely at this court plans will be made to use the talents of every member of the domain to destroy the anathema.

ANARCH ELECTIONS

Word reached the mainland this month that Belfast is preparing to hold elections to determine who will take the place of Baron, leading the Anarchs of the city in years to come. Details remain sketchy – no two such elections are ever identical. Anarchs often disagree not only on the best candidate but also the method of choosing them. There can also be variations depending on whether other officials are elected or if the Baron has free reign over such things.

In any case, it is guaranteed to be a lively event. If one thing can be said of the Anarch movement, it is that it fosters free voices and open discussions without some of the conservativeness that dominates Camarilla politics. Candidates tend to be blunt, as do their critics and at least nominally it is an open forum.

While the election details are still to emerge, two primary candidates have come to the fore. The first, predictably, is Peter Fraser; the man responsible for establishing the Belfast Anarch domain and the firm favourite to become its first Baron. Despite participating in conflicts around the world and being as notorious a warrior as any of this country's Brujah, he has built his reputation on his ability to sway people to his cause, be it among mortals or Kindred.

He does face opposition though, in a rising star of the Nosferatu clan. Pippa Beckett was a suffragette as a mortal, and makes no effort to hide her turbulent past. She stood firm

against the oppression of her time, and when political means yielded no fruit she took the only option left to many women. Violent protests hit many parts of the country and it was at one of these, in an arson attack gone wrong, that Beckett's face and hands were badly burned. Medical attention was delayed by authorities with no urge to support the most disruptive element of society and Beckett barely survived the night.

From that night her charred face became a chilling reminder of the lengths both sides were willing to go to and the level of danger faced by those pioneering women. Beckett continued her fight for years after, her painful burns became a rallying point for many outraged women. Her fight (and perhaps her injuries) brought her to the attention of a member of Clan Nosferatu, although details of her lineage are not widely known.

Since her Embrace, Beckett has proven a surprisingly calm head among the Anarchs – an obvious destination for her political stance. Her ability to achieve solutions when other methods have reached an impasse has earned her considerable respect in North America, and she was one of the first to return to Britain when the new Anarch domain came about, quickly establishing a support base in Belfast. Whether she can combat the strength and leadership of Fraser remains to be seen, but she does appear to have an outside chance of success. The other British Courts will no doubt look on with some interest (while never being seen to do

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The Dark Times accepts submissions, and any Kindred should forward their contribution to the address to the left. We look forward to your efforts.

Yours,

Editor in Chief of the Dark Times

DARK TIMES - BRINGING LIGHT TO
THE SHADOWS

HARPY HOUR

Another month, another squabble elevated to a breach of the Traditions and another death warrant issued. Not quite so successful as Chauncey's execution, but the hounding of the chief Anarch in Glasgow from the city shows that the Prince is far from backward about ridding himself of undesirable elements. And that would be a matter of no great concern for residents...were it not for the substantial and growing list of Aldworth's dislikes!

But no doubt Glasgow will continue to attract those who thrive on danger and I am certain all the members of the Court are confident of their security. It does seem the domain should come with a health warning though: "If you cross the Prince (or those who...have the Prince's ear), best leg it before the pretext for your death appears!"

In other news, the Anarch elections in Belfast are hotting up, with a new Baron expected there by New Year. Many Kindred seem to take the view that this is a matter of little concern to them - wiser heads see beyond the Anarch name to the real interest. A domain has been established, with Anarchs returning from a long war in the Americas to a new base of power. And the draw of strength will encourage those who harbour Anarch sympathies to express them with those of a like mind.

So in the light of this growing well of Anarch power, it would be extremely useful to know the person responsible for giving them direction. The warrior and leader of men, Fraser, or the mild mannered and principled Beckett; who is successful will mean very different

things to the Anarchs of Belfast, and likely to the rest of the country.

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I had desperately hoped that I hadn't missed any news after last month's unfortunate last-minute cancellation of our court in Manchester but it seems I was wrong! It has taken me weeks to hear about one of those awful Mulligan brothers, or whatever they are called, getting blood hunted out of Glasgow. It is only a matter of time before the other one follows. For a group that professes to be based on a meritocracy, it's amazing how many idiots the Anarchs harbour. Of course, now the Anarchs are making some kind of pretence at having elections. How utterly ridiculous! I mean, can you visualise what their house of commons debates would be like? Oh, I wouldn't want to stop them... it's the single best way to reduce the Anarch drastically in one fell swoop! - Lucretia Reflection, Harpy of Manchester

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A respected member of the court in York is looking for kindred with skills in 12th Century architecture to assist with repairs after the severe flooding in North Yorkshire. Please contact me if you can help. - Anne Jacques, Harpy of York

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Best Regards,

Editor in Chief



A monthly summary of
British Camarilla news,
politics, gossip and rumour,
straight from the Harpy's
mouth.