



## VERSAILLES SUMMER BALL REVIEW

*By Rosalie Gypsy, Dark Times Entertainment Correspondent*

The dresses were dazzling, the art was divine, and the gossip was sizzling. What was destined to be the party of the year certainly lived up to the hype and then some and not just because of the astounding and brilliant artwork on display in the magnificent gardens of Versailles.

Prince Villon himself rather stole the whole show by making a surprise announcement that he would be stepping down as Prince of Paris to 'focus on his art'. This was closely followed by an appearance from one of the great Toreador Elders of the clan, Rafael De Corazon who harped on that old string The Masquerade and made sure we were all aware that the Justicars would be turning their attention to this in the coming months. It was hard to tell which one of these two Toreador Elders triumphed in the shocked faces but either way points were made and jaws were dropped.

With Villon stepping down who will be next to sit in the elegant throne of Paris? Will they be able to hold it as long as its predecessor? And will they have the same

aversion to the rise of 'Lords' that Villon did? As for the Masquerade, we wonder what it was that prompted one of the great elders out into the public to make such a statement. Who has been on the edge of the line? Who do they have their eye on...?

These were not the only events to take place that night however, after all when surrounded by such artistic temperaments more dramatics are soon to follow. There was Villon's surprise guest, Former Justicar Madam Guile which caused a stir, there was the Duke of York and his new paramour sharing what they believed to be a secret sweet moment by the lake, and the Gangrel Beau of the hostess herself nearly losing it altogether after a few well placed statements made by the harpy of Glasgow.

Speaking of Glasgow what a charming bunch they are, and for once I mean that genuinely. I was utterly charmed by what I heard about them and the art produced from that 'Wild West' city was some of the best that was on display. From the wonderfully enter-

taining mirror that showed the ugly self, to the hauntingly beautiful song of Ren the Ghoul, to the stunning metal sculpture on fire with whose subject sparked some debate amongst those that viewed it, to a statue of Viola herself that had pride of place in the VIP room. Truly adversity does breed talent and given what Glasgow has been through this past decade truly the most talented are to be found there.

Prince Barker himself who stepped up to take on the reins of the city was lauded as a Gentleman of culture and standing by others who attended, and despite being Prince of city of chaos exuded a calm and stability not often found amongst the rulers of such places. There has of course been rumblings that Glasgow is changing, casting off its past and looking towards the future. Time will tell if this is achievable.

Either way we commend the Court of Glasgow for being that which we prize above all else; not dull.

All in all the evening was a great success!

## BREAKING NEWS: FIRE AT HATFIELD HOUSE

*By Sif, Dark Times Correspondent*

The Dark Times received word before going to print that a large fire was started at Hatfield House just before dusk. The residence is currently used by Justicar Edelstein for public meetings with

Princes and residents within the United Kingdom. Sources at the scene have reported that measures have been taken to limit the spread of the fire and have noted that some of the staff on site have re-

quired medical treatment. It is unclear whether the Justicar was in residence at the time of the fire.

Further information will be provided via our online edition throughout the evening.

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## A ROYAL INVITATION: BARCELONA CASINO PARTY

*By Levi Tius, Prince of Barcelona*

Residents of Glasgow,

You are all cordially invited to a party at Cardona Castle in Barcelona. Now the world begins to open up we should celebrate the return to normalcy. Transport and accommodation can be provided for those who need or want it, no boons required or expected.

Dust off your best gangster outfits and be prepared to gamble and dance the night away. A space for normal gambling will be provided along with a space where people are allowed to use their gifts. \*cough\* cheat \*cough\*. Still if everyone has the right expectations then it all should just be a bit of fun, just pick the right room for you.

There will be mortals present so faces on please, we'll have some esteemed visitors from Paris as well so best behaviour would be appreciated. As with my prior party the rules of hospitality are in force, I will be your guardian and assure you of your safety so long as you abide by the duties as guests. The venue isn't Elysium and there will be an after party of sorts where those who want to show off can do so.

Any questions please approach me or my seneschal while I'm in Glasgow. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Kind regards,

Levi Tius, Prince of Barcelona

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## WANTED

*Skilled metallurgist and/or materials scientist for a joint project. Contact 08081788XXX for more details. Skills in similar/related fields will be considered.*

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## FROM THE KING OF SPAIN

*By King Angus of Spain*

Kindred of Glasgow,

The recent Thing I called in Helsinki was both extremely enjoyable and extremely productive. Firstly, I would like to thank Prince Grendel for allowing the Thing to be held within his Domain. I was massively impressed by the venue and the hospitality shown by our host. More than two hundred Gangrel made their way to the Thing and I would thank each and every single one of them for answering my call. I am truly honoured. And to my Sabbat cousins who attended, I look forward to meeting you on the field without the protections of our Clan's hospitality.

Secondly, I must give thanks to Prince Gustav of Malmo for his constant heckling and counterpoints. Our arguments are honed by criticism and are only valid if they stand up to the fiercest scrutiny. Prince Gustav was instrumental in my various proposals being accepted by the Clan as his questioning allowed me to elaborate on, and expand, my points to the several hundred Gangrel present. The robustness of my proposals was amply demonstrated as evidenced by the overwhelming support they found in the body of the Clan. I would also like to thank him for the duel! Better luck in our rematch Prince Gustav!

It is my pleasure to announce that the Princes of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, have agreed to select one of their number to rule a united Scandinavia under a Lord. I certainly can't wait to see my friends in the north competing for the position, and I am sure that

the Domains of Scandinavia and Iberia will have very close links and friendly relations going forward.

It was also agreed that the Domains of Aberdeen and Inverness, ruled by my close friends Prince Leslie and Prince Von Pitt, will formalise closer links to Scandinavia in an alliance that will only strengthen all of the Domains involved. Along with my good friend Guillaume, the newly crowned Lord of Switzerland, I would like to host the Lord of Scandinavia and the Princes of Aberdeen and Inverness in my palace in Madrid to discuss closer ties in regards to trade, security, and the like. I will make arrangements for a summit towards the end of the year.

I have recently discovered a group of Kindred in the jungles of South America known as the Jaguar Tribe. While I represent the Camarilla under the instruction of the Justicariat in talks with the Tribe currently, I must warn all Kindred to avoid the tribal lands of these Kindred on pain of death. The Jaguar Tribe, and others like them, are extremely territorial and extremely competent in terms of violence. Matters are delicate as I seek to avoid a three-way war between the Tribe, the Camarilla, and the Sabbat, and I don't believe The Butcher will take much notice of any Kindred who disappear in the jungle.

Victor, congratulations on winning your duel at the Thing! Well fought my Childe. I will find you in Glasgow when I return from Australia and we can visit our new friends in Malmo after the Court.

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## GIOVANNI 'SERVANTS' GOING MISSING IN THE UK

By Leo DiVenezia Dark Times Correspondent

Members of the family Giovanni have noted that many of their family 'servants' have been going missing over the last few months, as well as further structural damage to many of their properties. Last month we reported that Giovanni Villas along the east coast of Italy had collapsed and it is suspected that the two things may be related.

The Dark Times was told in confidence from a family member that wished to remain anonymous that, "we heard something coming up out of the ground, the whole damn house was shaking, we got out as quick as we can

before the whole place came down on top of us. We didn't have time to bring the hoard with us and let's face it, they're easily replaceable, but when we went down to pick up the pieces later...there was nothing left...I swear, something just rose out of the ground and swallowed them whole."

We asked the elder members of the Giovanni family in the UK to comment and they responded with, "This is a family matter and will be handled by the family."

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## MESSAGES

*The package will arrive in the claws of mutual friend on the 22nd September. SvG.*

*A Major Boon to anyone that can provide me with the inspiration for the sculpture Untitled. Contact Ms Daisy at the Florence Court.*

*Good move, Black Jack was a favourite, I shall have to think of my next move carefully. Ms S.*

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## ELYSIUM BREACH IN MANCHESTER

By Jean-Paul Eclair

Prince Kane was forced to come down hard on one of her residents this month, a Toreador by the name of Sandra Lawson. This was following an incident where Ms Lawson began tearing the artworks from the wall in the Gallery and ripping them to pieces. Onlookers describe her as having a wild and distraught look in her eye and one witness commented that they heard her saying 'it's not enough, it's not enough' over and over again.

The pieces Ms Lawson destroyed were her own but given that they were in Elysium Prince Kane had no choice but to punish Ms Lawson. She is currently being

contained in a secure location and starved for the next month. If she survives without falling to the beast then she will be allowed to leave the city and never return.

Ms Lawson is described as being a shy and demure type and many did not believe her capable of such an outburst. It was noted that in the weeks leading up to her attack on her own art she had been working tirelessly on a single artwork depicting the Archangel Michael. Some have suspected that this focus on a holy icon may have affected her in some way and caused the sudden violent outburst.

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## WANTED

*Architect looking to leave their mark on the world. Prior examples of work preferable but not required. Contact me on 07794354XXX to discuss requirements and payment.*

## Harpy Quotes



Glasgow – Raphael Ortega - Darling, we all love a bit of rough, but couldn't you find a pet that's a little better behaved? Almost frenzying in elysium? With fangs bared? Sweetie, you can do better!

Edinburgh – Farr – Such a surprise to see the Wicked Witch of the West out on her broomstick again, we all thought you had melted. We hope you enjoyed old town more than you seemed to be enjoying the company of that young man.

Aberdeen – Dougal Douglas – Damn son, she's a hottie but a psycho, get your claws as far away from that viper as possible, one cousin to another, you'll thank me in the long run.

Inverness – David Griene – Apologies for my absence last month, I am now returned and much, MUCH better thanks to the efforts of Prince Tius and his friend. I owe each of you a very, VERY great debt indeed. I will be in touch soon.

London – Lady Salisbury – Do you hear that? That's change coming, change with a capital M. Run little rabbits, run.

Severn – Benedict & Algernon – We, the charming harpies of Severn being of sound mind, do declare that Mr Isaac Heron of clan Gangrel is a rogue and a scoundrel. His sweet countenance hides a treacherous heart and we have categorical proof that he has links with the most unsavoury of savoury types. As such his standing and stock in the ranks of Severn is reduced forthwith and I urge you all to turn him away from your doors lest you have your own secrets spilled.

Manchester – Lucrezia Reflection – He's baaaaaack, well, almost, Father says he's almost there. He's back, he's back, he's coming back and the boot is going to come down hard. It has too, it needs too. There's a snake in the grass and it's stomping time. Don't you think so? Can you even hear me? Or are you completely lost?

Birmingham – Bethany Trimble – Um, sort of letting the side down here Miss Viola. Like I'm sure he's sweet and all but dating your ex's adopted childe? Damn, that's just desperate honey.

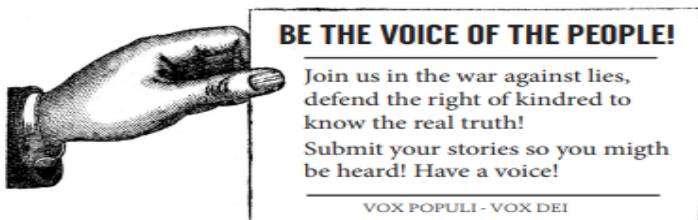
York – Anne Jacques – so...I heard a rumour about a fox. A lovely little fox who I have always had time for, I hear he might not be a fox at all but a rose. Not only that but that this little foxy rose likes to snuggle up under the piano...

Norfolk – Carl – I'm not lost, I'm in love, I don't know why I never saw it before, of course I am, she's everything to me. My heart aches to be apart from her and now I hear she is looking for another. My heart is breaking...but you are right, he's coming, and she better move fast because he will not be happy.

Carlisle – Vanessa Norton – Major Boon to anyone that can give me a decent, valid reason as to why we should allow a Caitiff to sit as Prince in Carlisle. Go on. Anyone?

Derry – Hilda Bern – Right, you had your chance to hit us first, since you haven't taken us up on it we'll just clean up the rest of Ireland shall we? We can't wait around for you lot forever you know.

Paris – Viola DuBois – You're busted birdie, but now that we can see each other we can play a real game. I hope she's trained you well, you're going to need it.



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