

Dark Times

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Wolves in Glasgow

Dark Times Staff Writers

Mystery surrounds a series of discoveries throughout the Possil Marsh nature reserve. On four separate occasions in March, employees at the reserve came across the torn and shredded remains of what were initially believed to be large dogs. Alexander Gilmore, a resident keeper, described the scene of carnage he came across: "There was just fur and blood everywhere, it made me feel sick to my stomach. I don't know who or what could do such a thing."



The remains were gathered at the scene by police forensic officers, and were taken to Glasgow University, where they were analysed by the Glasgow University Zoology Department. Contrary to initial beliefs, and to the shock of everyone involved, the remains were found to be those of wolves, believed to be extinct in the wild in Scotland since the last known wolf was shot on Mackintosh land in Inverness-shire in 1743.

Police made immediate calls to wildlife parks and animal protection agencies, and confirmed that there were no missing registered captive wolves in the UK. Police currently suspect that a group may be importing the animals for the purposes of holding brutal and illegal animal fighting contests. A large task force has begun combing

Possil Marsh and the adjacent expansive woodland for further evidence, while the Serious Crime Unit is liaising with Customs officials to consider how the animals could have been brought to the UK. In the meantime, close supervision will be kept over the Marsh to ensure there are no further lupine casualties.

ScotWear Appeal

Dark Times Staff Writers

The ScotWear saga rumbled on this month, as legal representatives for Glasgow City Council began preparations to lodge an appeal with the Court of Session. Despite the verdict against the Council last month, a spokesperson for the Council stated that they were confident the decision would be reversed on appeal.

By appealing the decision swiftly, the Council clearly hopes to prevent, or at least delay any payment it will be required to make to ScotWear. Furthermore, dozens of similar actions have been

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begun over the last month. These actions are currently on hold, pending determination of the ScotWear case.

The appeal is expected to be heard over the next month, with both sides incurring substantial legal expenses preparing. Meanwhile, dozens of projects which were scheduled to be commenced around Glasgow have been put on hold, as the Council begins to consolidate its finances to prepare for the potential costs if their appeal is unsuccessful.

Blood, Sweat & Slavery

Dark Times staff writers

A reporter for the Scottish Sun caused a considerable uproar this month, as he threw light upon a vast slavery ring, operating within and around Glasgow. The extent of the group's activities were wider than anything witnessed since the Slave Trade Act 1807 made slavery illegal in the British Empire, and incriminated a large private company as a co-conspirator.

The reporter, who writes under the name of (Voice in the Night), published a story setting out full details of the group's practices; how they would snatch their victims from across Asia, transporting them by ship to the UK, where they would be distributed to others who would put them to work. The working conditions of the slaves were documented in detail, long hours without recompense, barely adequate nutrition, cramped, squalid living quarters and unmarked graves for those who were unable to continue working.

Perhaps the most shocking revelation of an entirely startling exposé was the complicity of AtlasRoads UK Ltd, a principal contractor which acquired the contract for road maintenance in Glasgow when it was put to tender. With most of their work taking place at night, in tightly

controlled areas, AtlasRoads were able to utilise their indentured work force, and easily outbid rival contractors. The firm were in the process of tendering for further contracts throughout the UK, now most of the company's board are in police custody, and the firm's contract with Glasgow City Council has been cancelled.

(Voice in the Night's) story was published mere hours after the police moved on the slavery gang in their base of operations, a large warehouse near the Clyde river in Glasgow. A police spokesperson stated that a dossier from a source named only as Voice in the Night was delivered to Strathclyde Police Headquarters at Pitt Street in Blythswood Hill, Glasgow, with full details of the slavery ring's operations, photographs of its members and locations of four different warehouses. Upon investigating the warehouses, police discovered a total of over 200 men, women and children, all currently with immigration services until their situation can be assessed. The spokesperson offered guarded thanks to the reporter, while warning that delaying for the same length of time in future could put lives in danger and risked a prosecution for obstructing the course of justice.

Back to Nature

Dark Times staff writers

Job opportunities are being created in a new wildlife and conservation area north of Glasgow, being sponsored by businessman Robin McLean. The project, due to be opened as Campsie Fells Nature Reserve in 2010, covers a substantial area centred on the Campsie Fells, which stretch from south Stirling to Dumgoyne in East Dunbartonshire.

McLean, 32, enjoyed a meteoric rise to fame during 2003, as he made an approximate fortune of £200 million trading on the Stock Exchange. The following year, his vast fortune was put to use invested in companies providing and

promoting carbon neutral working practices. In 2006, he was named as Ernst & Young's Scottish Entrepreneur of the Year, for his work promoting the Kyoto Protocol and its achievement in Europe. Today, McLean owns 17 manufacturing firms, all of which operate green policies, as well as being a major investor in and promoter of renewable energy.

In a statement delivered at a press conference, McLean stated that he hoped the Reserve would be able to promote environmental awareness among young people in Glasgow, while also providing much needed employment. Most of the workers who will be required to prepare the Reserve will be drawn from individuals with a troubled school history. McLean hopes that by teaching the young people skills and allowing them to have a degree of responsibility, he can reverse the downwards spiral which might lead them into unemployment or crime.

McLean closed the press conference by stating: "In the current climate, people might be of the opinion that their futures and the environment have to take a back seat. I think the exact opposite though, and that's why I am putting such faith into the Campsie Fells Nature Reserve. I hope it provides an example to the business world and hope to everyone suffering from the economic situation."

Great Britain by Night

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

Good evening faithful readers. The month of March has held a few shocks in its grasp and I can attest that I was genuinely surprised a number of times.

On the Ides of March, Londinium had its own celebration and whilst no military parade was held and no dictator murdered by his senate, we

nevertheless enjoyed the tributes sent to London by Prince Wallace, Prince Carter and the Duke of York.

To be fair, I wasn't sure what I expected, but what we were presented with in London was interesting to say the least. York had sent a collection of Viking artifacts, not the kind you see in a museum, more the kind someone might have kept in their attic for the last twelve hundred years. There were also three leather-bound manuscripts, the contents of which I am not certain. The books had no writing on the spine and were not opened in my presence, but they looked old.

Prince Wallace went a different way and he sent London a cage full of kindred. Yes, you read that right; 5 kindred, each in a bad state, none of them members of the Camarilla. I am not sure whether he tried to kill two birds with one stone and have London execute his strays for him. Rumours have 3 of those 5 as members of the anarch movement and the other 2 are unknown elements. As far as I know, Queen Anne has not yet decided what to do with that particular gift.

Last but by no means least we have the tribute from Manchester. Carter had delivered Harrison Birtwhistle's first clarinet, Maxwell Davies' piano on which he wrote his famous 5th Symphony, the original transcript of Alexander Goehr's Eisenstein cantata "The Deluge", the master recordings of Rachmaninov's piano works by John Ogdon and Elgar Howarth's trumpet, which he played in the 50s. Not the tribute I had expected from him but definitely better thought out than a signed Manchester United shirt.

Apart from this momentous evening I got a cryptic invitation to a private meeting with the childe of the Prince of Inverness in Manchester. There aren't many people that send messages by pigeons anymore and even less of them who know

where I live. Having one waiting on my window sill when I arise in the evening alone piqued my interest enough so I would made the meeting, and the fact the Prince Carter had guaranteed the safety of both parties made it doubly interesting.

Manchester, which many call the second city of England, was worth the travel and I met with the strange Gangrel, who never told me his name. I had arrived the night before, one would not rush as important an engagement, and when the person I had come to meet arrived I was quite glad that Carter had guaranteed my safety. He was wearing torn clothes, was covered in blood and had three large and deep looking gashes in his chest. That, together with the quite frankly huge claws and slightly manic aura he gave off was enough to make me cautious. He only stayed for about a minute in which he told me that his sire, Prince Carl of Inverness has officially declared himself against Queen Anne's expansionist agenda, something which quite frankly he could have told me over the phone. Once I had assured him that I understood his message, instead of leaving through the door he had come, he jumped out the window of our meeting room, which just for the record was on the 4th floor.

Not another 30 seconds passed by when the door burst open and a rather annoyed looking, unnamed, one armed Brujah, burst in and looked around. Needless to say, I simply pointed at the window and retreated into the corner and watched as the young man, his stump still healing over at the time, checked the window, cursed and then ran back out of the room.

Prince Carter assured me that this was a misunderstanding and that everything had been under control but quite frankly, I was glad that I was departing the very same night.

Elsewhere in the Isles we have a continued silence from Severn, another official statement of defiance of Queen Anne's plan to reunite Britain from Glasgow, although much less dramatically delivered than Inverness', and no further news from the rest of Scotland.

It remains now to be seen what Queen Anne will do with the likes of Glasgow and Inverness who have openly spoken out against her plan to unite Britain as well as Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Severn who remain quiet on the matter.

**Dark Times is accepting submissions.
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