

Dark Times

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Arson about

Dark Times staff writers

As the worst of the riots which have plagued Glasgow seem to have died down, a new threat has sprung up in the city, one which threatens to disturb again the fragile peace before it has been secured.

In what may be the isolated actions of a small group, or the signs of a deeper social unrest boiling just beneath the surface, a number of buildings have been set ablaze around the Glasgow area. For now, these attacks have been limited to derelict and empty buildings, but with Glasgow's growing homeless population, it seems simply a matter of time before someone is killed in these fires.

Police have issued a statement that they believe 7 fires were set by the same individual or group, and they are concerned that the perpetrators are practising for a much larger attack in the future. The methods used are high tech, with advanced accelerants being used on strategic points in the buildings so as to cause the most possible damage. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, which has already fallen far in public opinion, has struggled to cope with the conflagrations.

As this article is being published, firefighters are still putting out the embers of two of these attacks; all seven buildings have been left in ruins by these apparently skilled arsonists, and police have been left with few leads to follow. With little hope of catching whoever is responsible, it seems the attacks are likely to continue next month.

Domain and Hospitality

Hercule Bastian Rothschild
Prince of Glasgow

Over the last few months this year I have been troubled by what seems to be a growing mis-conception amongst the neonates who come to beg entry to my domain. It appears that my carefully tended image as a friendly favoured uncle or perhaps Santa Claus has left some of the young confused as to what coming to my city entails.

I thought perhaps some further explanation is required, Glasgow is not a hostel, Glasgow is not a refuge of troubled little neonates, and is no “dumping ground” for other cities mistakes that they

would rather forget. I do not suffer fools, and I am unwilling to harbour the inept and the weak-blooded.



In This Issue

- Arson about
- Domain and Hospitality
- Bribes of Bluffs?
- Alexander Drummond
- Meldrum's Moment
- Great Britain by Night

The Kindred of Glasgow have brought their skills to the table, they have offered tribute, they have accepted a place within my domain with grace. They have earned and will continue to earn their place by the warmth of the hearth. The Princedoms of the Camarilla are feudal in nature, a system through which we have survived millennia and will continue to survive.

Bribes or bluffs?

Dark Times Staff Writers

Lord Anderson of Westhill, the presiding judge of the original suit against Strathclyde Fire and Rescue filed by ScotWear Ltd., called notable members of the news media to his Bearsden home on the morning of 27 September to deliver a statement. Judge Anderson sombrely admitted to corruption and accepting bribes in order to decide the case in ScotWear's favour, a fact that seems unsurprising, considering how damaging the case has been to the city's finances. Over the course of the next two days, the four judges that also heard Glasgow Fire and Rescue's appeals on the case also admitted to the same charges, one after the other.

Strangely, none of the judges were able to substantiate their claims when questioned by reporters. They all proved unwilling, or perhaps unable, to name who had bribed them, and refused to describe the sums, the frequency of the bribes, or when exactly the dealings took place, leading many to believe that the judges' admission was simply a wave of conscience trying to undo the harm that their collective verdicts have caused. Regardless, the seemingly heartfelt confessions have re-opened the suit, and should the judges' testimonies stand up to cross examination the original ruling will likely be overturned, leading to a whole new bout of legal wrangling.

It may all be for the best, though, as the case not only sets a dangerous precedent for the limits within which the public services like fire and police departments can carry out their duties, but the looming bankruptcy of Glasgow City Council has caused widespread riots in the city, causing over 100 million pounds in damage over the past months, and costing the lives of 164 Scots, including at least 50 police.

Of course one has to wonder about the timing involved here. Clearly someone or something has

timed these admissions of bribery with the end of the large scale violence that has plagued Glasgow over the past half year. The Glasgow we see now is much more run down, dangerous and the differences between rich and poor areas are larger than ever. It will certainly be something to continue to watch in future.

Alexander Drummond

Dark Times Staff Writers

After an absence of almost 500 years, Alexander Drummond is to return to the land of his birth and Embrace. The Elder Toreador is holding a party to commemorate 500 years since he became a Kindred.

Alexander was born in the 15th century in Scotland, and is believed to have been raised as a staunch supporter of the Scottish monarchy. Even after his Embrace, he continued to work to secure the ascendancy of King James IV. After the Battle of Flodden Field, the decimation of Scottish nobility, and the death of James, his heart was no longer in the activities of his home country, and he left for Europe.

Little is known of his movements during that period, although it is known that Drummond's particular talent began to earn him renown as a carpenter of the highest order, his speciality being ships. After all his work on the great Michael had been noticed by many. Eventually, Drummond settled in Sweden, where he continued to craft vessels prized throughout Northern Europe.

Following the Battle of Copenhagen, where the fleet commanded by Lord Nelson decimated many of his ships, Drummond abandoned his craft to participate in the second Toreador love; politics. Entrenching himself in Swedish politics over the next hundred and fifty years, he is believed to have been behind Sweden's neutral stance during World War II.

It seems that his input into the Swedish political scene prevented him having the time to impose his standards of carpentry on the country, IKEA must cause him physical pain with its cheap and cheerful philosophy!

Now Drummond is returning to Scotland, for what is bound to be an interesting party. Having spoken to David Stone, the ancilla who showed a lot of promise over the last 2 years in York and who is acting on

Drummond's behalf in the forefront of this party I can confirm that this will not be another gathering from the Leavenholme school of thought. Instead of ostentatious displays of wealth and standing the gathering seems to be open to all kindred of Glasgow. Where at other similar affairs the finest kine and kindred artists have been gathered to perform to entertain the guests here it appears that a lot of the entertainment will come in form of challenges and prizes. We'll see how well it turns out.

Meldrum's moment

Dark Times staff writers

At long last, after months of dedicated police work, and flying in the face of critics who claimed the matter would be the end of him, Graham Meldrum and his unit have arrested the individuals they claim were responsible for the murders of police officers across the city in recent times.

The group, a domestic born terror cell with suspected links to Al Qaeda, were apprehended in a well orchestrated series of dawn raids, involving more than fifty officers and occurring almost simultaneously. The individual teams operated like a well oiled machine, with a small fire during one the only collateral damage from the morning's work.

The suspects arrested, 8 men between 17 and 40, are being held in an unspecified high security facility, awaiting their trial and to isolate them from any potential vigilantism. The police are also examining a cache of weaponry, bomb-making equipment and plans of police stations and public buildings which were seized along with the suspects.

The timing of these arrests is highly convenient, with Meldrum becoming something of a scapegoat for those in power, but with this month's impressive results, his standing in

Glasgow will be set to rise steeply. Securing convictions is now the order of the day if Meldrum is to make this new-found popularity stick.

Great Britain by Night

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

Darling readers. October was interesting but not nearly as interesting as November is going to be. Sure we have had an exciting series of murders across London and the South West. The victims, all seemingly unrelated, only shared that in their own sphere they were rather influential. This kind of precursor limiting the opposing side's influences is, after all, quite common when Elders squabble. Of course it does mean I had to withdraw some people lest they get caught up in the cross fire.

November though promises to be more eventful with the highly esteemed Marcus Leavenholme holding a gathering in London on the same night as Alexander Drummond is holding his affair in Glasgow. Whilst some might suggest that this second party has been instigated to undermine Drummond's celebrations, I feel it might be more accurately have be described as giving those people not fortunate enough to have received an invite, or to wary to travel to a Scottish domain, a legitimate place to be. In fact, of all the people I have spoken to in the capital only Alvaro Vera de Ponferrada, one of Queen Anne's trusted advisers from the time when she still stood in Mithras' shadow, has mentioned to me that he would be attending Drummond's celebrations.

Let it be known that Alexander Jones, of Birmingham, ancilla of the Camarilla is indebted to Edward Bulwer-Lytton, of Cambridge, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Mark Sawyer-Sim, sheriff of York, ancilla of the Camarilla has repaid his debt to the Duke of York.