

Citizens' Information Newsletter

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A word from the acting mayor

People of Brighthelm,

I have been inspired to see the resilience and unity of the city has not dimmed since the days when I first acted as ruler. At that time, peoples' lives were very hard – they did not enjoy many of the amenities available today. The alchemists' guild was much smaller, and alchemical healing itself was a rarity. Most of the other guilds which give hierarchy and structure to the various professions did not yet exist. Yet your forebearers strove to make Brighthelm great with all their strength and fibre. It is no falsehood that many emerging cities at the time I was alive have floundered and been reduced to little more than a few cottages, or disappeared entirely.

I am perhaps more aware than anyone that some things never change, and that history has a way of repeating itself. Once again we face difficult times, and are faced with the very real prospect of losing our city and the many fine guilds and institutions which give it life. Those which stand together and give of their all will survive, and thrive in times to come. The lazy or those with woolly leadership will fall by the wayside like the failed townships of old. Things will become more uncomfortable before they start to get better, and we will face challenges that can only be overcome by approaching them with a single purpose and unselfish adherence to the processes put in place for the sake of Brighthelm's tomorrow. I have no doubt that there will be casualties – losses which cannot be reclaimed. I time, these losses too will make us stronger, as those people and organisations who are unable to stand no longer acting as an obstacle to those who would carry the weight of our survival on their shoulders. I urge – nae demand – every citizen of this city to strive in unity for the recovery of Brighthelm with their every breath. To do otherwise is to stumble into a fall from which there is no rising.

Eric the Dreadful.

Curfew Success as Two Cultists are Executed in Late-Night Raid

The curfew put in place for the safety of the citizens of Brighthelm is already paying dividends, as last week priests of both the Mad King of the Red Moon and Sordan were apprehended breaking curfew in an attempt to perform their perverse rites. Aply assisted by Warlock Eustathis Schult, a patrol of King's reserve and enforcement support units tried and executed one priest of Vivamort in the vicinity of the Sussex Arms, before raiding the aforementioned tavern and finding Holy Symbols of Sordan on the person of what appeared to be a Kender but upon further investigation emerged to be a True Elf in elaborate disguise. The reason for this disguise nor what malign rites the cultist was attempting to work on the Holy Ground is not known, but the reasoning is likely outside the rational sensibilities of all upstanding citizens.

These events serve as a reminder that even though the former corrupt regime has been vanquished, other dangers still lurk within the city. Craven sects may seek to take advantage of the problems created by the drow rulership to forward their own agenda. It remains to individual citizens to maintain vigilance and to comply with the security forces in all matters. Brighthelm will not be defeated by the forces of evil as long as we stand united under the leadership of the King and the the tested and proven leadership of the city.

Seen Something Suspicious?

Worship of illegal gods is more common than you might think. If you suspect a neighbour or coworker of following a forbidden deity, report it to an officer of the army or the Militia – In all likelihood, nothing is going on, but you could be saving a many lives. Information will be treated in strictest confidence and a full investigation will follow all reports.



Deliberate wasting of security forces time is a serious offence.

State of the Treasury

The former regime did much to line their pockets at the expense of the citizens of Brighthelm, and to obfuscate the details of their thievery by falsifying and destroying important documents. While it will take a long time for the last detail to be known, if ever, the auditors of the Mallanite Militia have taken stock of the city treasury and provided a full report.

Unfortunately, the condition of the treasury is somewhat worse than initially feared, and may result in serious deficits if left unchecked. The auditors, in collaboration with the acting mayor, have devised a strategy to counter this deficit, building upon the unity and dedication of the citizens of Brighthelm. It emerged that a revised taxation strategy will be necessary to keep the city afloat. The new tax scheme is scheduled to be rolled out in the new year and will take a tiered approach:

- * Citizens in the lowest income bracket will be taxed at a rate of 1 extra shilling per fortnight.
- * Citizens in the second-lowest income bracket will be taxed at a rate of an additional 2 shillings per fortnight.
- * Citizens in the penultimate income bracket will be taxed at a rate of an additional 3 shillings per fortnight.
- * Citizens in the highest income bracket will be taxed at a rate of an additional 4 shillings per fortnight.

This taxation scheme will be implemented as a temporary measure, and rates should return to normal at such times as it is deemed that the treasury has once more reached a sustainable level. It is difficult at the moment to project when this will be, but the austerity period is likely to last several months to a year.

Watch your supplies

With the recent barbarian incursion being allowed to continue unchecked for so long, the city is beginning to suffer from scarcity of many substances transported by land as caravans are unable to reach the city. Citizens are advised not to panic, but to take care not to be wasteful when making use of any of the following:

- * Alchemicals and the ingredients from which they are produced.
- * Linen
- * Brick
- * All foodstuffs.
- * Lumber
- * Medical dressings and equipment
- * Scrollmaking materials
- * Coal and Firewood

Remember – travel by road is currently more dangerous than usual, and you are advised not to make trips or send valuable items and materials by caravan unless absolutely essential.

Recognition of Lesser Crimes

Now that there has been time to look in more detail at the legal necessities and requirements to deal with them, the list of crimes that the army reserves and Mallanite Militia officers are authorised to try and punish have been expanded to include the following:

- * Petty Theft
- * Assault
- * Wasting security forces time
- * Being out after curfew (without a permit)
- * Public Indecency
- * Carrying a weapon in public without a permit
- * Sedition
- * Vandalism
- * Hooliganism
- * Smuggling
- * Creating a public disturbance
- * Production, distribution, or possession of an unauthorised journal or newsletter
- * Interfering with a security patrol
- * Desertion
- * Profiteering
- * Practising a guild trade without guild membership
- * Violation of guild rules
- * Piracy
- * Price Fixing
- * Fraud
- * Arson
- * Burglary
- * Trespassing on private property
- * Production, possession, or possession of conditioned alchemical materials
- * Refusal to obtain gainful employment
- * Conspiracy
- * Failure to pay taxes
- * Failure to offer reasonable assistance the security services when requested
- * Plagiarism
- * Sacrilege
- * Blasphemy (if reasonable / appropriate)

War in Gaul: Bi-annual Report

It has been almost six long months since war on Gaul was declared by King Samuel. The war has raged on successfully ever since, every day the heroic acts of our troops and their leaders bring us closer to liberating every Gaulish person from the iron grip of their Sordanite overlords.

The battle weary and hungry troops rejoiced as the generous gift aid from Brighthelm arrived with them last week and much celebration was had with the news that their homeland was now also safe in the hands of Mallanite leadership.

We are pleased to report of a recent ingenious tactical withdrawal from the Gaulish town Blois by our most Southern troops. This activity allowed the troops to re-join reinforcements and at this very moment they will be completely surrounding the main military base of the district, Forte Redoubt. The fort is home to a large gathering of noblemen and soldiers of Sordan and is a site renowned for its horrific crimes towards innocent villagers. May our prayers be with the soldiers as they rid the world of such filth.

We are further pleased to report that due to excellent relations between our troops and the freed people of many Northern villages; that we shall now be benefiting from next year's crops from their numerous beautiful and fertile fields.

Could YOU be the hero Gaul needs?

The common people of Gaul have long suffered under the depravities of their dandified appointed rulers. The King's Army has fought valiantly to liberate these beautiful and friendly people from the weight of their oppressive leaders, and the end is now in sight. This is the last chance for the young men and women of Albion to earn their place in history alongside the greatest military strategists the world has ever known. Where will you be when victory is won?

Enlist Now. Speak to a local enlistment officer TODAY.

The King's Army. We Will Prevail.

Barbarian plot foiled

Last week, a number of "scouts" attempting to gain access to an officer's room at the militia headquarters were taken under investigation for suspicious behaviour. It emerged that the would-be infiltrators were rather part of the clan of barbarians who launched the recent unprovoked attack against the scouts' guild and whose presence in the local area threatens trade and supply. Before sentencing the barbarians revealed that they were part of the "Black Claw" clan, and they showed no remorse for the cowardly tactics of their warband. They were sentenced immediately to death and were hanged at the newly constructed city gallows, along with a Gaulish spy who was caught attempting to intercept communication from the front. Their heads are on display at the city gates as a reminder to all external forces that Brighthelm shall show no mercy to those who employ underhand tactics in the way of war.

Appeal for Information and test-subjects relating to the Homunculus Infection

We are seeking information on the "Homunculus" infection, in the interests of developing a cure or preventative measures to secure against a widespread outbreak within Albion. The Kings' Reserves medical team is currently pursuing a range of potential cures – however we are in need of trial patients. If you have any information about the disease, or if you or someone you know are infected, please get in touch with a Militia or Army officer as soon as possible. The earlier this infection is caught, the more chance there is that we will be able to cure it.