

The Brighthelm Babblers

24/01/1313 - The news you never knew since 1302.

Sussex Up in The Arms!

Local drinking establishment and hall of disrepute "The Sussex Arms" is to open again, despite being neatly flattened six-months previously by a magical explosion caused by its raucous patrons. During this time the honest, hard-working folk of Brighthelm have been able to sleep easy, not worrying about whether someone off-duty watchman is going to start a bar-brawl that spirals into a full on guild-war, or some dithering mage is going to forget to close the ritual circle overnight and leave open the pathway for the demonic hordes. Yet, despite this peace and quiet, the City Council has seen fit to renovate the place and turn the blasted ritual circle back on. When Babblers reporter Noleen Hayward enquired whether the council had considered it likely that we would soon see a repeat of the recent explosion, it was

explained that the building had been redesigned with a detachable roof which should lead to less structural damage should future events arise. Hardly a vote of confidence.

Mayor Richard Pegason, along with key city officials, are to preside over the official reopening of this deathtrap at "8 O' Clock. Roughly." (*mayor's office*). However it is understood that knaves of all kinds may begin to gather in the premises before this time. Doubtless too many young and naive but otherwise upstanding citizens will end up swept along in the excitement of it all, putting themselves at considerable risk for a cheap pint. We caution you, dear reader, to avoid the place – our skilled reporters are highly trained in both negotiation

and escape tactics and will be on the scene to bring you tales of the debauchery that is surely occurring within.

The noble enquirers at the Gossip have to ask – why are the Warlocks putting more people in danger from magical accidents when they could be spending their time stopping student mages from setting each other alight? Why are the Temple of Aten not doing more to prevent the innocent from getting sucked into this dicey world of corruption? Are the alchemists' guild the only ones who stand to gain from increased injury-related potion sales? The answer to all these questions and more in the next issue of the Babblers.

The Alchemists' Guild

Revised price list for

1313

Healing potion – 10Sh.

Healing Lotion – 20Sh.

Poison cure – 10Sh.

Stronger Poison cure – 20Sh.

Bleach – 20Sh.

Hair Dye – 20Sh.

Hunting Venom – 10Sh.

Smoke-bomb – 10Sh.

Many other potions in the 10-20Sh. Range. Larger potions may be available by request.

Raw Lyrium may be bought at a rate of 25Sh. per dose.

Necromancer escapes Portsmouth City Watch!

The trail has gone cold in the hunt from a man from Portsmouth who had been reportedly murdering farmers as they returned from the fields and raising them in service of his unholy and unlawful god. Reports say that a substantial squadron of decaying corpses mounted an assault on the city walls with the alleged Sidric Steele commanding them onward from the back. It seems that Sidric didn't count on the Portsmouth Watch having the help of local stone mages in

shoring up their defences and ultimately delaying the oncoming horde for long enough for the city's righteous paladins to be alerted and destroy the monstrosities before they entered the city. Sidric however escaped, seeming to have realised his mistake and shouting something about "Next Time!" Local priest of Azrael Jeffrey Strike reminded the populace of the importance of funerary rites and of reporting missing persons promptly.

Star Killed Lovers?

Following the tragic death of the newly wed couple Lord Darius and Lady Lucinda Rivendere we have been informed by local "Astrologer" Syrus

Blackwing that the accident was not due to an act of arsonous alchemy as first suspected but a deliberate act of the Gods.

A many of you know just two weeks ago today the Rivendere Estate (just a few miles North of town) was almost completely obliterated by what appeared to be several explosions which destroyed the Manor House as well as many of the servants quarters and stables. This resulted in the deaths of Lord and Lady Rivendere as well as about twenty of the household servants. The funeral procession was lead quietly through town without hinderence last week.

The remnants of the Estate have been controlled by the City Watch and are under investigation for Arson. What remains of the incident are several large almost crater like ditches in the ground filled with rubble from the surrounding buildings. There is strangely no sign of any fires or the normal signs of an alchemic explosion and the authorities seem baffled. The one surviving Rivendere; Lucinda's grandfather Demetris has only commented that there was no warning and of his sorrow for all who died. Other surviving servants also commented that they saw no signs of strange activity and had no idea why anyone would want to harm the Rivendere family.

Syrus Blackwing claims to have a better explanation stating that he had seen an event of these proportions coming and had watched the stars

begin to fall the night before. He claims he will be able to prove this if allowed to inspect the fragments of the stars which are likely still amongst the rubble.

Syrus has since been taken into custody for questioning. Our reporter Fredderick Bailey was on scene outside the Watch office where a small group are protesting his arrest. According to the group's leader the Rivendere family were being punished by Aten for acts of depravity and cruelty. More on this story in the next issue!

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