

# THE WORD

Issue #13, January 2017.

£  
1.00

Equality Democracy Truth Courage **THE PEOPLE'S PAPER** [www.thewordmedia.org.uk](http://www.thewordmedia.org.uk)

# END HOMELESSNESS NOW!

- Exclusive Article On Homelessness **P14-15**
- Exclusive Interview Rebecca Long-Bailey **P29**

## THE PETERLOO PROJECT

Starting in September of 2015 the project was put together on the Peter Loo Facebook page and then in the "Together against the Tories" Facebook group. The idea is to create a popular and entertaining socialist hub with the involvement of as many people as possible from the left of the socialist movement in Britain.

As the project has proceeded it has become increasingly clear that the media in the UK is run for and by big business and as such will always need to oppose socialist values to keep such a position. The project was then crowdfunded to raise the money to be able to print and distribute this newspaper as a prelude to a whole cross-platform media fight-back.

THE  
WORD

### Editor

Peter Loo

### News Editor

Jamie Lewis  
Guido Paine

### Cartoonists

Smuzz

### Website

George Christophorou

### Advertising sales manager

Mike Christian

### Advertising sales

John Ball

### Overseas news

Roxanne Checkley

### Cartoon strips

Andy Keir  
Alan Davies

### Sub editor

Julie Stephens  
Alex Taylor

### Reporters

Jason Hughes, Adam Douglas, Danny Josephs, Andrew Middleton, George Galloway, Ian Cockerham, Alex dommerholt, John Wilkins, Maddie Wallace, W Stephen Gilbert, Julie Ward MEP, Peter Stevanovic

### Quiz master

Phil Brown

### Key points

7,580 people were recorded as rough sleeping in London in 2014/15. This number has increased every year since 2007 and is now more than double the numbers in the mid-2000s.

Most rough sleepers in 2014/15 were aged between 26 and 55 (79%). The vast majority were men (86%). 43% were born in the UK and 36% were from Central and Eastern European countries.

17,500 households were accepted as statutory homeless by a council in London in 2014/15. This has risen each year since 2009/10 but remains below the 2003/04 peak of 30,000. The increase has been driven by a rise in those becoming homeless at the end of a short-term tenancy which, at nearly 7,000 is seven times higher than in 2009/10.

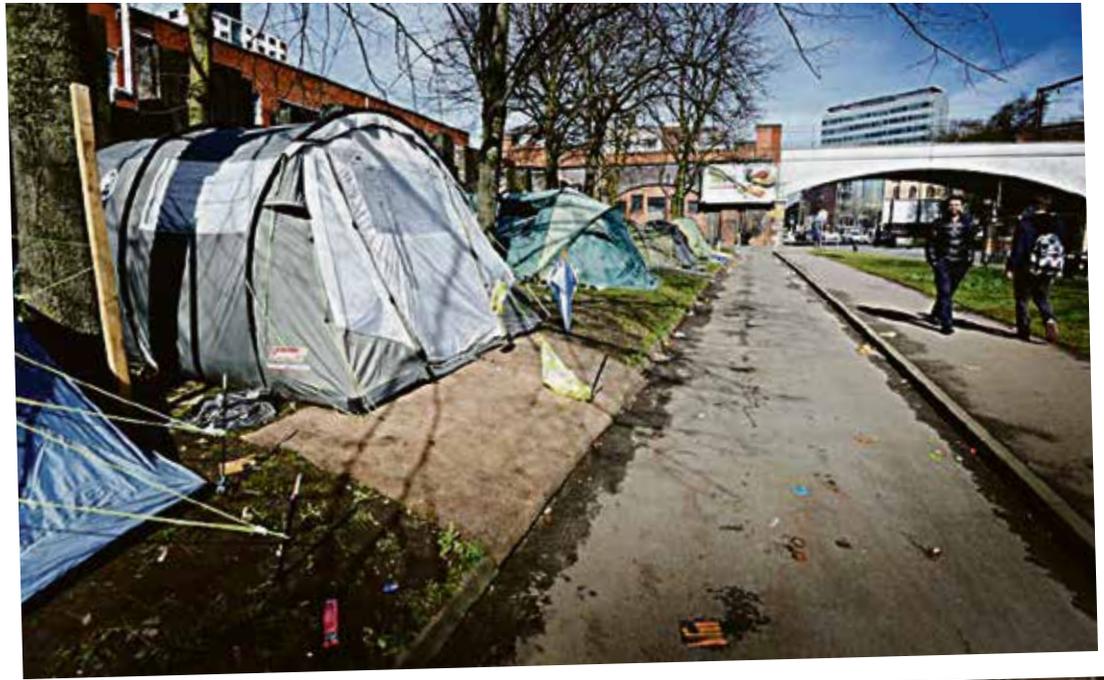
5.1 households were accepted as homeless in London for every 1,000 households in 2014/15; in the rest of England the figure was 1.9. The rate was highest in Barking & Dagenham at 9.9.

48,000 London households were living in temporary accommodation at the end of 2014/15, three times higher than the rest of England put together. 38,000 of them contained children (amounting to 74,000 children).

At the end of 2014/15 15,600 households were living in temporary accommodation outside their home borough. Four boroughs had more than half of their temporary accommodation placements outside of their area: Kensington & Chelsea, Haringey, Barnet and Merton.

In 2014 12,000 households in London stopped being classified as homeless and under the council's statutory duty: 60% had moved on to a long-term tenancy agreement with a registered social landlord and 9% moved into a shorthold private rented tenancy. The remaining 32% became ineligible for help.

In 2014/15, 4,000 cases of homelessness in London were relieved by councils outside of their statutory duty. In another 9,000 cases households were prevented from becoming homeless by moving home and in 18,000 cases homelessness was avoided by enabling people to remain in the same home.



As a percentage of all housing built in London, affordable housing has fallen to 25%, down from 39% four years ago. In some London boroughs the number of affordable homes has shrivelled to just a handful. Richmond upon Thames, with a population of 194,000, built just five affordable homes in 2014-15 and the City of London managed zero, while Bromley lost affordable homes after the number of affordable properties was cut when a council estate was refurbished.

# HOMELESS

In 1929 the stock market in the USA crashed. As the Great Depression worsened and millions of urban and rural families lost their jobs and depleted their savings, they also lost their homes. Desperate for shelter, homeless citizens built shantytowns in and around cities across the nation. These camps came to be called Hoovervilles, after the president.

Herbert Hoover who took office in March 1929, believed that self-reliance and self-help, not government intervention, were the best means to meet citizens' needs. (Remind you of anyone?)

Hooverville shanties were constructed of cardboard, tar paper, glass, lumber, tin and whatever other materials people could salvage. Unemployed masons used cast-off stone and bricks and in some cases built structures that stood 20 feet high. Most shanties, however, were distinctly less glamorous: Cardboard-box homes did not last long, and



most dwellings were in a constant state of being rebuilt. Some homes were not buildings at all, but deep holes dug in the ground with makeshift roofs laid over them to keep out the weather. The stock market did not fully recover until the 1950s but our rich and heartless rulers did find a way to stimulate the manufacturing industry...it was called World War 2.

## What it's like to sleep rough

By Anonymous

Sleeping rough is not like camping or spending a few nights on a friend's settee. The first thing you find out is how cruel people can be. Let's p...on the tramp, let's kick away his cardboard. Then there is the cold. The aching, debilitating cold around the top of your legs and your belly. The stiffness in your limbs from it is always with you. Beware rain. If you are rough sleeping for any length of time your shoes will quickly wear thin from the increased level of walking. Wet socks, always wet socks. They become hard like cardboard and smell.

Everyone sees you yet at the same moment you are all but invisible. The very meaning of time and sleep patterns change. You know that sick feeling when you awake after only a few minutes sleep? Well, you will always have that with you. You are easier to hurt and prone to having your head kicked in as the pubs empty. Basic human rights such as being clean and visiting a toilet become searchable quests. Of course, it's your own fault. It must be because if you are not an alcoholic or drug user and you are in that position...Then it is society's problem and we can't have that, can we?

## Labour Mp Jamie Reed Has Quit Politics And This Time It Is For Real



On September 12, 2015, Mr Reed sent a letter congratulating Jeremy Corbyn on winning the Labour leadership election but handing in his resignation.

He resigned from the front bench shadow cabinet but of course tootled off to the backbenches where he continued to bad mouth Corbyn and be a thorn in his side.

He has spent the last year antagonising Labour Party and Corbyn supporters on social media.

Jamieson Ronald Reed who has been the Labour Member of Parliament for Copeland since 2005 announced on December 21 2016 that he would be resigning his seat at the end of January 2017, forcing a by-election.

Picture

That resignation is a mixed bag. Triggering a by-election in that particular constituency could be bad news for the Labour Party. It is an area financially reliant on the nuclear industry and therefore in some ways at odds with Corbyn's Labour Party policies though not official Labour Party policy at this time.

But at least Reed has finally realised what we all suspected that he was in the wrong job and wrong party as a Labour Party MP.

So where is dear Jamieson moving on to?

Why he is going to work for the nuclear industry.

Yes I hear you saying "I thought he already did?"

He has shown himself to be a self-servative in so many ways;

I imagine I speak for many when I say good riddance Jamie boy.

It is just a shame you ever went into politics.

On 12 September 2015, one minute into Jeremy Corbyn's acceptance speech as leader of the Labour Party, he publicly resigned as shadow Health Minister giving as his reason Corbyn's opposition to nuclear energy. On 21 December 2016, he announced his resignation as an MP from the end of January 2017, in order to take up a new role as Head of Development and Community Relations for Sellafield Ltd.

# ESSNES

# Co-operation

I tried to join the Labour Party over a year ago after last year's leadership election, when it had swallowed my £3 and told me hard cheese I couldn't be a registered supporter as I didn't share the aims and values of the party. I emailed them back and agreed that this was correct as I was and am a democratic socialist. Then they let me join anyway because in September 2015 *Everything*\* changed and party membership went from about 150,000 to over 500,000 very quickly; suddenly they wanted me, but didn't tell me I was a member until March 2016.

I went to a meeting of the local Constituency Labour Party and introduced myself. I thought I saw someone I recognised sitting in the front row - a chap I'd known from a long time back, and I resolved to find out if it was indeed he. After the meeting I looked for him but he'd gone.

We met again next time and began to catch up. Then the NEC closed the Party down for the summer and he and I went off to campaign meetings; I joined the Co-operative Party, sister party of Labour. Charlie was a Co-operative Party member too, I found, and we attend those meetings together. I asked him to send me a text to help me remember something he'd said.

This is what he emailed:

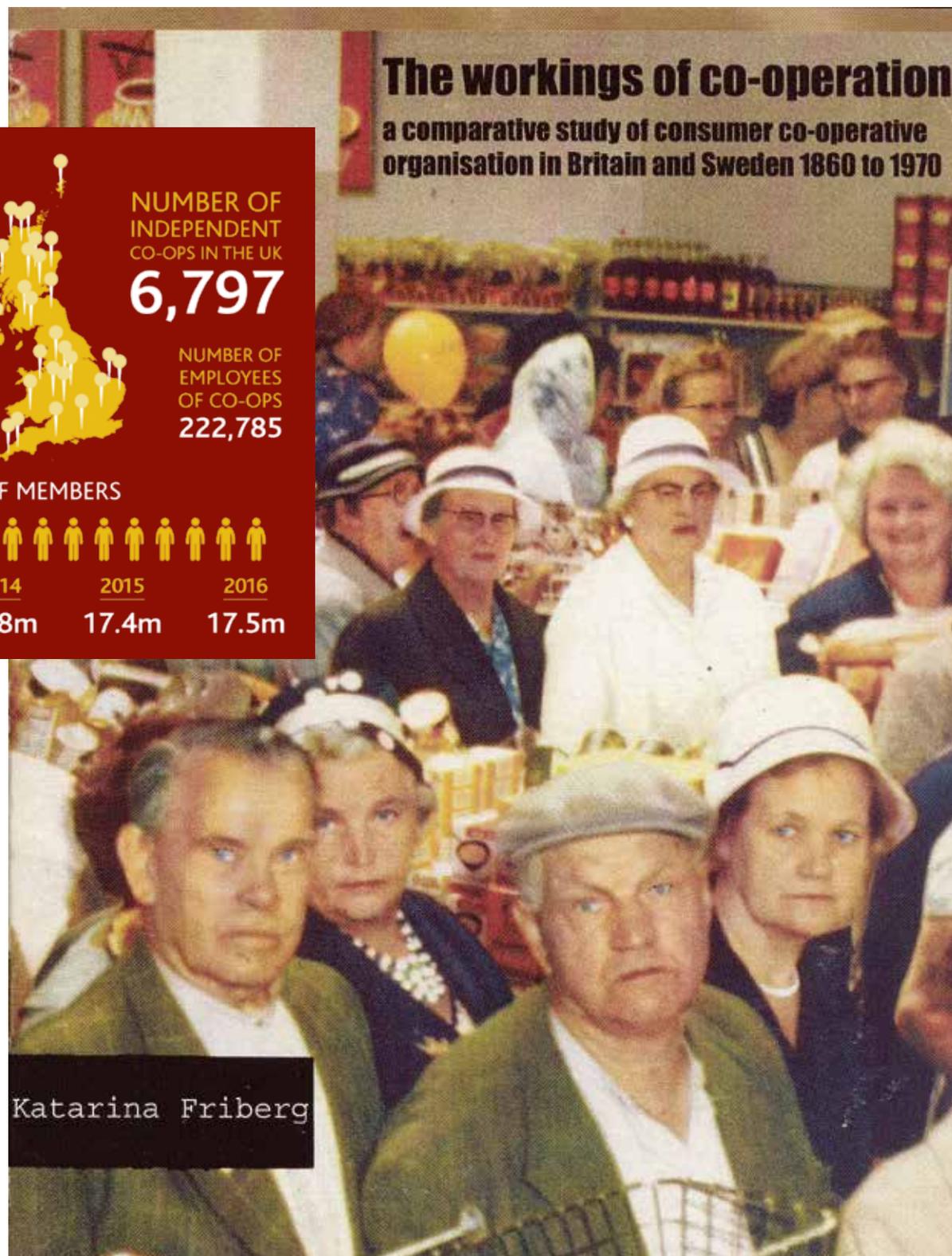
*There is a need for the Co-operative Movement in today's world just as much as there was in the past. Wherever we see economic and social inequality, the movement offers a way to tackle these problems. The Co-operative Party is grounded on the idea of mutuality: of people working together for the benefit of all, where resources are collectively owned and utilised for the greater good.*

The current economic model prevalent in our society promotes private ownership of capital, plac-



ing resources in the hands of an elite at the expense of the needs and wellbeing of the majority. Market forces dictate the basis of what is profitable, whether or not things can happen, e.g. whether houses are built in a given area, or where there is public transport service. All this is at the expense of society as a whole. Needs get catered for only when those who own the resources can make a profit out of an enterprise.

The methodology and philosophy of the Cooperative movement works entirely in the reverse direction by putting human need first and foremost; combining the skills and abilities of people, it tackles the diverse needs of society. Further, by establishing mutually linked worker cooperatives it facilitates efficiencies of scale and integration of services that benefit society as a whole, leading to greater economic integration and prosperity, and consequent social harmony. It doesn't deny individuals the right to develop their talents or accrue personal benefits provided



they don't harm the wellbeing of the greater society. Exceptionally talented individuals who achieve recognition and financial benefits can have reciprocal relationships

with collective and cooperative 'mutual' enterprises. The function of the Cooperative Party seems to be to facilitate or guide society towards a more harmonious, socially

just model where no-one is excluded, and gives everyone the chance to achieve his or her full potential.

Kind regards, Charlie.

## Is "True Grit" worth as much as Wealthy Parents?



By Alex Taylor

In recent years the concept of "true grit" - the capacity to persevere - as an indicator of future success has entered the discussion about academic and life success.

It should be clear to anyone that true grit is certainly a necessary ingredient for any kind of success in life but it's an interesting thing for capitalist philosophers of socio-economic success to focus on because it fulfils the role perfectly of appealing to intuitive common sense but at the same time shifting the emphasis so that the outcomes become ridiculously distorted and

- importantly- blame for lack of success can be laid firmly on the shoulders of those who fail.

I've seen few articles that discuss openly the numbers of people involved in these surveys but the Institute of Fiscal Studies published the following findings based on a study of 260,000 students up to ten years after graduation.

The findings tell a very different story of who will succeed in terms of income t any rate:

Graduates from richer family backgrounds earn significantly more after graduation than their poorer counterparts, even after completing the same degrees from the same universities.

Those from richer backgrounds

(defined as being from approximately the top 20% of households of those applying to higher education in terms of family income) did better in the labour market than the other 80% of students:

The average gap in earnings between students from higher- and lower-income backgrounds is £8,000 a year for men and £5,300 a year for women, ten years after graduation in 2012/13.

The 10% highest-earning male graduates from richer backgrounds earned about 20% more than the 10% highest earners from relatively poorer backgrounds even after taking account of subject and the characteristics of the university attended. The equivalent premium for the 10%

highest-earning female graduates from richer backgrounds was 14%.

The study also showed that graduates are much more likely to be in work, and earn much more than non-graduates:

Non-graduates are twice as likely to have no earnings as are graduates ten years on (30% against 15% in 2011/12).

Partly as a result of this, half of non-graduate women had earnings below £8,000 a year at around age 30. Only a quarter of female graduates were earning less than this. Half were earning more than £21,000 a year.

Earnings for male graduates ten years after graduation were £30,000. For non-graduates of the same age, median earnings were

£22,000.

The equivalent figures for women with significant earnings were £27,000 and £18,000.

Jack Britton, a research economist at the IFS and an author of the paper, said: "This work shows that the advantages of coming from a high-income family persist for graduates right into the labour market at age 30. While this finding doesn't necessarily implicate either universities or firms, it is of crucial importance for policymakers trying to tackle social immobility."

With thanks to the Institute of Fiscal Studies. Full findings available at: [https://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/pr/graduate\\_earnings\\_130416.pdf](https://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/pr/graduate_earnings_130416.pdf)



# The patients eye

I'm back to see my oncologist; there has been a range of tests, scans and bloods taken.

One blood test hasn't returned yet, but it seems that the periodic injections I receive are beginning to have less effect than previously. On the bright side, the various scans show that many tumours are in a kind of recession; there is no cancer now in my bladder or on the bones. My prostate has been subjected to the shock and awe of radiotherapy, and is in the same condition that a country might be if Theresa May /May Not had been unleashed upon it with her favoured indiscriminate killing button, ie a sterile wasteland. But secondaries in my lungs are growing and need to be controlled, so we discuss cancer drugs.

It's down to funding; there are two 'clever' drugs that I might be given. If I have one then the other becomes unavailable. Both work well, but which is more suitable? We decide on a strategy; I will try Enzalutamide, and if I become intolerant of it I might switch, but I'd have to do it quickly, because otherwise I'd lose the other one, Abiraterone, for ever. This is a shame because generally all drugs cost ninepence a bushel to make, but the patent holders want their money back for all the research they've done.

The makers of drugs contribute to the creation of wealth, in real terms. They do research, compare their results, send the drugs out for clinical trials, and ultimately expect to be able to make enough money to

TREATMENTS THEY'RE MISSING OUT ON				
Drug	Cancer type	Available in...		English patients missing out
		Scotland	Wales	
Zaltrap	Bowel	Yes	No	801
Abraxane	Pancreatic	Yes	Yes	549
Avastin	Ovarian	Yes	No	608
Bosulif	Leukaemia	Yes	No	55
Afinitor	Kidney/pancreatic	Yes	Yes	506
Revlimid	Multiple myeloma	Yes	No	793
Imnovid	Multiple myeloma	Yes	Yes	680
Iclusig	Leukaemia	No	Yes	76
				<b>TOTAL</b>
				<b>4,068</b>

Some patients in England may get the drugs if they received a prescription before the Cancer Drugs Fund was cut back. They are no longer available for new patients. SOURCE: Rarer Cancers Foundation.

pay themselves, continue further research into life prolonging products, and pay dividends to shareholders. I want drugs companies to reward themselves and invest in research but I have reservations about dividends and shareholders, which belong to an outdated model of money representing unearned income. I have no trouble defending the salaries that a scientist can earn, but as the clinical trials I've been part of have been administered and delivered by NHS staff in partnership with universities, I wonder if there might be a different model that misses out 'shareholders.'

I'm told that my socialist model of money, social investment, cooperatives and not for profit organisations apparently harms *Pension Funds* that place the savings of ordinary people into stocks and shares. These it seems are the 'shareholders' I despise as freeloaders! Well I don't believe

it; too many people of non-pensionable age and non-working class occupations are *Living It Large*, with \*Hedge Funds\* and \*Futures\* and \*Derivatives\* - all part of *Casino Finance* - for this to be about chaps in cloth caps and old ladies in headscarves waiting for their weekly pittances to spend on heating the flat and feeding the cat. I think it could be done differently and better; I believe others know this too.

Meanwhile, I tell my oncologist that I have not met a single person involved with me, from the surgeon to the healthcare assistants on the ward, from the research nurses to the people who work for the drugs companies, from the hospital booking service staff to the oncologist herself, who do not appear to be on my side.

"It's just a pity that the Secretary of State for Health isn't on the same page," she exclaims, before clapping her hand over her mouth.

## The David Lindsay Column

The American Democratic Party has been defeated in the person of the most economically neoliberal and internationally neoconservative nominee imaginable. From the victory of Donald Trump, to the Durham Teaching Assistants' dispute, the lesson needs to be learned. The workers are not the easily ignored and routinely betrayed base, with the liberal bourgeoisie as the swing voters to whom tribute must be paid. The reality is the other way round. The EU referendum ought already to have placed that beyond doubt.

There is a need to move, as a matter of the utmost urgency, away from the excessive focus on identity issues, and towards the recognition that those existed only within the overarching and undergirding context of the struggle against economic inequality and in favour of international peace, including co-operation with Russia, not a new Cold War.

It is worth noting that working-class white areas that voted for Barack Obama did not vote for Hillary Clinton, that African-American turnout went down while the Republican share of that vote did not, and that Trump took 30 per cent of the Hispanic vote. Black Lives Matter meant remembering Libya, while Latino Lives Matter meant remembering Honduras.

The defeat of the Clintons by a purported opponent of neoliberal economic policy and of neoconservative foreign policy, although time will tell, has secured the position of Jeremy Corbyn, who is undoubtedly such an opponent. It is also a challenge to Theresa May, to make good her rhetoric about One Nation, about

a country that works for everyone, and about being a voice for working people.

But what of fake news? Fake news is of very real concern. There have been seven recessions in the United Kingdom since the Second World War. Five of them have been under Conservative Governments. That party has also presided over all four separate periods of Quarter on Quarter fall in growth during the 2010s. By contrast, there was no recession on the day of the 2010 General Election. And now, the Conservatives have more than doubled the National Debt. The Major Government also doubled the National Debt. Yet the Conservatives' undeserved reputation for economic competence endures. They are subjected to absolutely no scrutiny by the fake news detractors of their opponents.

Other examples of fake news include the official versions of events in relation to Orgreave, Westland, and Hillsborough. All manner of claims made by, or in support of, the Clintons. The alleged murder of 100,000 military age males in Kosovo. The existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and their capacity for deployment within 45 minutes. Saddam Hussein's feeding of people into a giant paper shredder, and his attempt to obtain uranium from Niger. An imminent genocide in Benghazi, Gaddafi's feeding of Viagra to his soldiers in order to encourage mass rape, and his intention to flee to Venezuela. An Iranian nuclear weapons programme. And Assad's gassing of Ghouta, as if that were an undisputed fact. In every case, that was fake news. Or, in plain English, lies.

# Tameside

Sunday, 10 July 2016

## The Flight of the Black Necked Swans:

### The story of a Chilean surgeon who escaped fascism

#### Milton Pena Vásquez - ukbook publishing.com

Review: By Derek Pattison

In February 2013, the Prime Minister, David Cameron, announced in Parliament that Tameside Hospital Foundation Trust was to be one of five failing hospital Trusts that was to be investigated by a review team led by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS Medical Director for England. The other four Trusts, were - Blackpool, Basildon, Colchester and Burnley. What all these Trusts had in common, was a higher than expected average mortality ratio - death rate. The number of NHS Trusts that were investigated for the quality of care and treatment they were providing, was later increased to fourteen.

The findings of the Keogh review team which were published in a report in July 2013, led to the resignation of Christine Green, the Chief Executive of Tameside Hospital and Tariq Mahmood, the hospital Medical Director. Among its findings, the report stated that Tameside Hospital had the 7th highest rate of infection for MRSA of 141 Trusts nationally over the three years from 2010-2012 and had the second highest infection rate in the country for Clostridium difficile, over the same period. It also found that:

"The Trust's clinical negligence payments have significantly exceeded contributions to the 'risk sharing scheme' over the last three-years, by a total of £21m over this period."

Yet, in spite of its appalling record for mortality, cleanliness and safety, Tameside Hospital managed to obtain foundation trust status in February 2008 ("supposedly the benchmark of excellence") when death rates were 19% above the average and safety was the "sixth-worst in England" (Daily Mail 30/11/2009). Mrs Green

also managed to secure a 17% pay rise which took her salary from £120,000 to £140,000 a year.

The Keogh report may well have delivered the coup de grâce that led to the fall of Tameside Hospital CEO, Christine Green and much of her hospital regime, but it also vindicated the painstaking efforts, of one man in particular, who for over a decade, strove to improve care for his patients at Tameside Hospital against considerable threats and opposition from hospital management. That man, was Milton Pena, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon who spent seventeen years working at Tameside Hospital before retiring in October 2014.

Milton Pena became an NHS whistle-blower in 2005, after speaking out publicly to Rebecca Camber of the Manchester Evening News about the lack of patient safety at Tameside Hospital. In his recently published account of his life as a refugee who fled Chile with his wife and children, following the CIA-backed military coup of the Chilean dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, on 9/11/1973, he says that what led him to become a whistle-blower and to risk his career as an NHS consultant, was "dangerous nursing staffing levels" at the hospital that had put one of his patients at great risk.

Part autobiography, travelogue and detailed diary of his life, working as a doctor at Tameside Hospital, "The Flight of the Black Necked Swans" is a fascinating account of how one young man, more than forty years ago, arrived in England as an asylum seeker and speaking very little English, managed with much difficulty, to obtain a position as a hospital doctor to do a 'Clinical Attachment' and eventually to work his way up to becoming a consultant orthopaedic surgeon in the NHS, where he worked for 40 years.

In 1966, aged 18-years old, Milton Pena joined a left-wing university student group called the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left), while studying to become a doctor in the City of Concepción, Chile. A supporter of Dr Salvador Allende, a founder of the Chilean Socialist Party, he participated in protest marches and wrote ar-

ticles in support of Allende and the Socialist Party and worked as an activist in the coal mining and fishing town of Coronel. His political activities didn't go unnoticed by the military junta and following the coup, he was detained in the Regional Football Stadium which was serving as a jail and then transported to the infamous Quiriquina Island in the bay of Concepcion, where like many others, he was beaten and tortured and accused of being part of a plan to run clandestine field hospitals, but was eventually released so he could continue working as a doctor. It was while working as a doctor in the town of Mulchén that he was tipped-off that he was about to be arrested and was wanted by the DINA, the National Intelligence Agency. Fearing for his life, he left Chile with his family and fled over the Andes into Argentina. After being interviewed at the UK Embassy in Buenos Aires, the family were granted asylum and entered England at Heathrow airport on 11 July 1974.

Official reports suggest that over 3,000 Chilean citizens were murdered during the Pinochet regime and over one thousand are classified as having disappeared. Some 36,948 were tortured for political reasons during the seventeen-years long dictatorship and over 200,000 fled into exile.

During his forty-year career in the NHS, Milton Pena worked at various hospital's - Ascot, Kent, Bedford, Epsom, London, Rochdale and Tameside. But the bulk of this book, deals with his experiences of working at Tameside Hospital in Greater Manchester, which he joined in 1997, after leaving Rochdale Hospital in March 1997.

He started to write to hospital management about understaffing in January 2002. At the time, some nurses were looking after 14 patients or more, which he believed, put patients at risk. He also highlighted the problem of understaffing at a coroner's inquest in 2002. In September 2003, he wrote to the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI), about low medical and nurse staffing levels at the hospital and the high mortality rates that were one of the worst in the country. In May 2004, the CHI informed him that they had received the Trusts 'Action Plan'

and would not be launching an investigation.

Although nurses were complaining at the time that observations were not being done on time or being done late, or medication, were not being monitored properly, hospital management denied that there was any link between quality of care and patients dying at Tameside Hospital. Hospital mortality rates were dismissed as misleading - a consequence of how data was recorded, or it was put down to the high level of social and economic deprivation in the area, which ignored the fact that standardization of the figures, factored this in. It was even suggested that something called the "Shipman Factor", might be the reason for the high death rate at Tameside Hospital as more people were being sent to die in hospital from care homes, following the conviction of the serial killer, Dr Harold Shipman, who practised in Hyde, Cheshire. Indeed, in February 2013, Mr Pena met with the Chairman of the Trust, Paul Connellan, to discuss high mortality rates at Tameside Hospital. The Chairman referred him to an investigation by an external professor in 2012 who he said, had found no links, between the quality of care and patients dying at Tameside Hospital. Mr Pena noted in his diary:

"I mentioned the case of a 70-year-old patient, critically ill with a life threatening condition, who was inappropriately sent from A&E to the Trauma Ward, where he died within six hours. He asked for more information which I will send tomorrow."

In March 2010, Milton Pena appeared on the BBC Panorama programme to discuss failing hospital Trusts. He stated on the programme that Tameside Hospital did not have enough staff or beds to provide the necessary level of care for vulnerable patients and that one or two per cent of deaths at the hospital, were avoidable. He believed the hospital was in danger of becoming another Mid Staffs. Brian Jarman, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at Imperial College, London, told the programme that hospitals had been self-assessing for years and many of them had done so inac-

curately. He also added, "Mortality rates should be considered a potential indicator of poor care, with the caveat that statistical errors can occur..."

The CEO of Tameside Hospital, Christine Green, was an ardent believer in "managing people's perceptions". Under her leadership which lasted fifteen years, she held to the view that propaganda techniques, vacuous platitudes, and crude publicity stunts such as the "Everyone Matters" campaign and "energising for excellence", and "I'm writing to thank you", could persuade people that all was well at 'her' hospital. But no matter how many photos appeared on the walls of Tameside Hospital, of happy smiling employees, she couldn't bluff her way out of everything. One postgraduate medical student, described the hospital in a 'Deanery Report', as a "dangerous place" in terms of patient safety, because some locums were perceived as having "significant and clinical language barriers." When the hospital Medical Director, Tariq Mahmood, claimed that a recent improvement in the mortality rate at the hospital was due to improvements in care, a hospital 'Team Brief' report, claimed that documentation and coding, had played the largest part in the reduction seen. But if propaganda techniques and slick

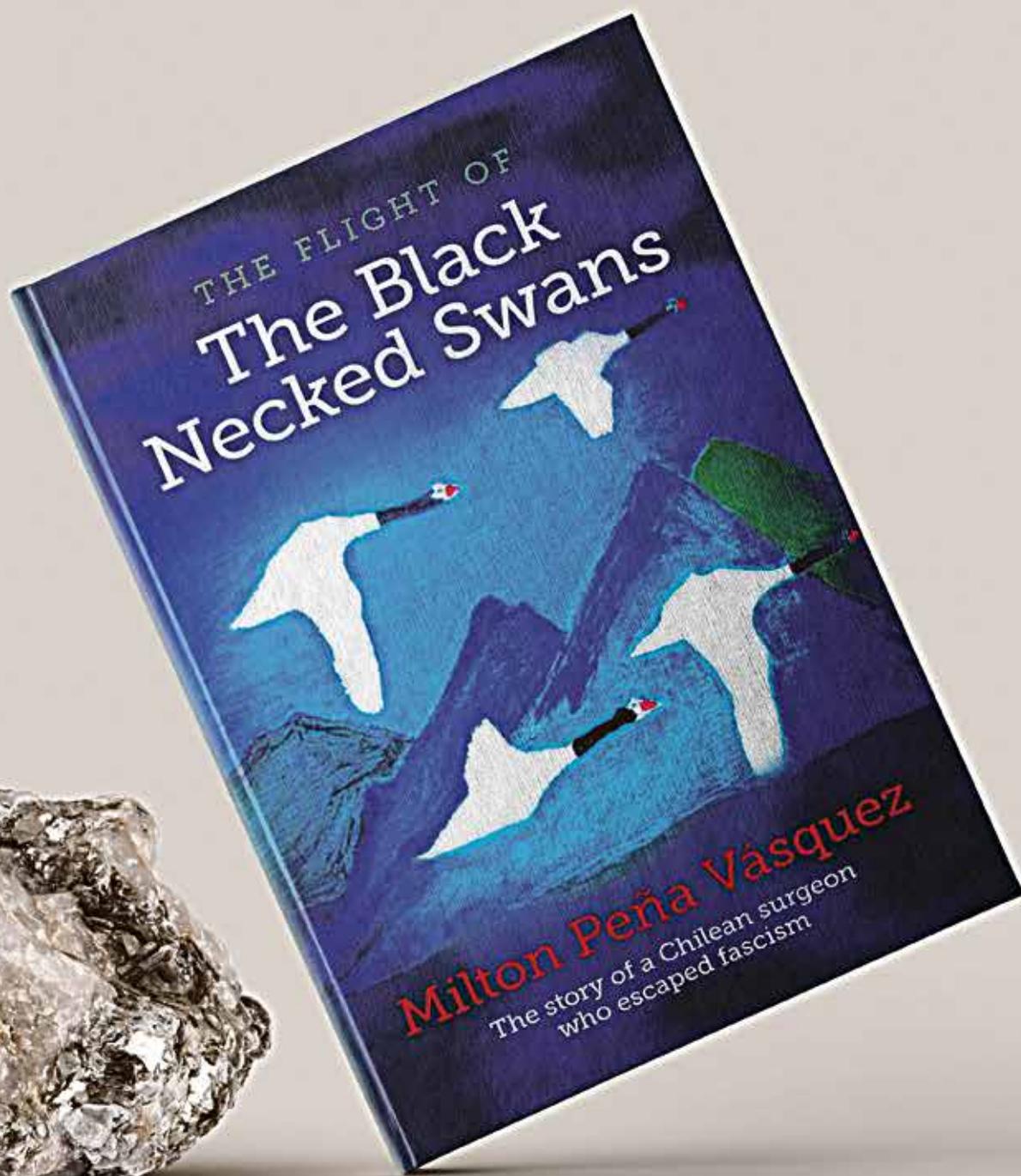
PR stunts, didn't do the trick, management could always resort to threats and intimidation.

When the local coroner described care at Tameside Hospital as "despicable and chaotic", the top brass complained to the Office of Judicial Standards, who dis-



# enFOCUS

## Confessions of an NHS whistle-blower!



missed the complaint. When the local health watchdog the 'LINK', wrote a critical report, the hospital threatened to take legal action against them.

It is clear from reading this book that many nurses and doc-

tors at Tameside Hospital, were afraid to speak out because they feared they could lose their jobs or damage their medical careers, if they went off message or stepped out of line. And this fear of raising concerns and reprisals, wasn't something confined to just Tame-

side Hospital.

Dr Stephen Bolsin, (who is referred to in the book), a consultant anaesthetist and whistle-blower, who raised concerns about the high mortality rate of children undergoing cardiac surgery at Bris-

tol Royal Infirmary in the 1990s, maintains that he, "was virtually driven out of the UK by the reaction of some of his colleagues." Although he knew that he risked being struck off for criticizing medical colleagues, he said:

"In the end, I just couldn't go on putting those children to sleep, with their parents present in the anaesthetic room, knowing that it was almost certain to be the last time they would see their sons and daughters alive."

A subsequent investigation found that 29 infants had died unnecessarily at Bristol and two surgeons were found guilty of serious professional misconduct. The hospital's chief executive, Dr John Roylance, was struck off the medical register for covering up the surgeon's inadequacies. After resigning his post at Bristol, Dr. Bolsin, applied for other jobs in Oxford, Nottingham and Southampton. After one interview, he was told by a panel member that he was probably not employable in England because people knew that he had raised concerns about mortality rates for paediatric cardiac surgery. Unable to work in the UK, he sought employment in Australia.

Although Milton Peña did not resign his post or lose his job, he certainly came close to it. After speaking to the Manchester Evening News in 2005, he was disciplined and told not to speak out publicly. Later, an investigation was launched into his personal conduct, which came to a sudden and abrupt end - without explanation - after 22 months, following the resignation of CEO, Christine Green, in June 2013. The external investigator, brought in to carry out the investigation, was paid by the hospital, £800 per day, plus expenses and VAT for his work. During this time, his marriage broke down and to cope with the stress and pressure, he took up mountaineering and trekking which is covered in the book.

Although this book is not without its faults, mainly in the editing, it ought to be compulsory reading for any young person intent on embarking on a career in the medical profession. Not only does it give a revealing and honest insight into the internal workings of an hospital and the interaction

that takes place amongst the actors who work within it - from the point of view of a senior medical professional and a participant observer - but it is also rare for any medical professional to speak out as Milton Peña has done in this book. Those people, working in the NHS, who have spoken out in the public interest, at some risk to themselves, deserve our praise. I know that Milton Peña never liked being called a 'whistle-blower' because he always felt that he was just doing his duty as a doctor to his patients. Moreover, while he was aware that understaffing of doctors and nurses on medical wards, put patients at risk, he also knew that this arose largely, because financial priorities, such as balancing the books, were put before the interest of patients. As he says of the NHS generally:

"Cost improvement programmes had to be implemented - which were invariably accompanied by only very perfunctory quality assessments. The internal market led to an increase of employees at every administrative level: business managers, purchasers and procurers as well as accountancy firms, trouble shooters, turn around directors, management consultants and advisers..."

And all this, and the army of senior managers and bureaucrats brought into the NHS by Margaret Thatcher's reforms of the health service and the Blair, 'New Labour' government, had to be paid for by cutting nurses, doctors, salaries, and beds on the wards. The consequences of this, are that patients don't get cared for properly. They lie in bed in their own urine and faeces, and post-operative observations are not done on time and they don't get their medication. Likewise, a wrong patient might be put on an insulin drip or given amitriptyline by mistake, simply because of the pressure that medical staff are put under to cope.

Many hospital trusts are now in financial trouble because of PFI schemes and Tameside Hospital is one of them. After the Keogh review in 2014, the hospital was given a government cash injection of £14.3m to the balance the books. The regulator, MONITOR, also pronounced the hospital, "clinically and financially unsustainable."

## Best facebook groups

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/519949641500248/>

{We support Jeremy Corbyn}

This is one of the best forums for lively debate by democratic socialist Labour members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/770925089714393/>

{THE WORD - supporters group}

Come and discuss the paper. Voice your opinion. Volunteer to write articles, proof read, draw graphics and generally promote the paper.

<https://www.facebook.com/WatMedMedia/>

This is an NHS social media broadcast by doctors for patients. The doctors provide honest balanced reporting. They educate, entertain & inform via content designed to promote discussion.

## Best blogs

<http://breakingdownthnews.blogspot.co.uk/>

Blog by Ste Matthew Murray. He specialises in dissecting the news and political programs and presenting an alternative view of the same news.

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/>

This is a blog by a prolific writer Thomas G. Clark, with an independent and forthright Yorkshire voice who speaks about political, economic and philosophical issues.

<http://voxpolygonalonline.com/>

Mike Sivier has been a newspaper reporter for the best part of 20 years now. he switched to freelance work in 2007 in order to become a carer for his disabled girlfriend He is interested in politics, with an emphasis on people rather than the movement of money.

<https://skwawkbox.org/>

Written by a mature man with grown-up kids, who is politically-engaged socialist (member of the Labour and Co-operative Parties). He writes about some of the political big issues of the day.

He hopes to provide some revolutionary truth to counteract the double-speak that politicians, 'leaders' and the media use to try to fool us.

He says the best antidote for bad or deliberately misleading information is good information, which he provides.

## Isn't it about time for Tory voters to admit their culpability?

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/2017/01/isnt-it-about-time-for-tory-voters-to.html>

The NHS is in such serious chaos in England and Wales that the Red Cross have described it as a "humanitarian crisis". It's absolutely clear that the To-

ries are to blame for creating this appalling situation where hospitals are so overcrowded that people are actually dying.

## Collapse: Red Cross called into NHS England because #Tories would rather pay private firms – for nothing

<http://voxpolygonalonline.com/2017/01/07/collapse-red-cross-called-into-nhs-england-because-tories-would-rather-pay-private-firms-for-nothing/>

**The National Health Service in England has suffered the ultimate humiliation as the Red Cross - a charity - has had to be called in to help**

**save lives - because the grossly-underfunded service simply cannot cope any more.**

## Military Expert: Mohammed Yassar Yaqub Shooters 'Not Police'

<https://skwawkbox.org/2017/01/07/military-expert-mohammed-yassar-yaqub-shooters-not-police/>

07/01/2017 · by SKWAWKBOX · Bookmark the permalink ·

Earlier this week, a Huddersfield Muslim man, Mohammed Yassar Yaqub, was shot dead - according to a senior local officer - by a police officer in the performance of his duty. Mr Yaqub was killed during a 'hard stop' operation on the Ainley Top slip road off the westbound M62.

The SKWAWKBOX has been contacted by a senior military officer, who suggested that the 'shooters' in the operation were **not** police officers.

The officer, known on this blog as 'Major X' has provided evidence to this blog previously about the activities of military personnel masquerading as police

officers - and he speaks with considerable expertise on the subject, as he has been responsible for placing those military personnel with police units and reporting on their operations to at least two serving Prime Ministers.

According to Major X:

The "police" shooters who killed Yassar Yaqub were described as not wearing identifying numbers or squad details [see here and here for other instances] on their uniforms...and they shot a (roughly) 3-inch group of 3 shots through the windscreen from 6-8 feet while running/jumping onto the bonnet of a car that may have still been moving.

That's not likely to be actual "police".

## Up where the air isn't clear

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/climate/where-air-is-not-clear-20170106>

By Emily Randall

Children's hero Mary Poppins is back. But the air isn't clear as she makes her descent - she has to wear an air pollution mask to cut through the toxic fumes.

Air pollution should be a thing of the past. Instead for the third year in a row, the UK has breached its air

pollution annual limit in less than a week. 2017 is already too polluted, the breach happened only 5 days into the year, and 3 days earlier than last year!

The air is not clear but Mary Poppins' message is, the darling politicians need to clean up the UK's air. Thousands of children's health is under threat because of politicians' failure to act.

# Best of

## Families left with just FIFTY PENCE for rent after merciless Tory cuts

<http://www.thecanary.co/2017/01/06/families-left-just-fifty-pence-rent-merciless-tory-cuts/>

By Steve Topple

Many families have just 50p to pay their rent, thanks to government cuts. The shocking statistics come as rental prices are forecast to rise above inflation in 2017. And families with children will be hit hardest, as more Conservative austerity bites.

### Hitting families the hardest

The government introduced the new benefit cap

in November 2016. It meant that the most money families could claim in welfare payments went down, from £26,000 to £20,000 a year (outside London). And in Grimsby, this has left at least 62 families with just 50p, or nothing at all, in Housing Benefit. Prior to the new cap, these families had already seen their housing benefit cut. Also, the benefit cap affects families' Child Benefit, many on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefit.

## Obama: Free Chelsea Manning Now

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/>

President Obama has just weeks left to free Chelsea Manning before he leaves office. Chelsea's mental health has worsened and she has made two suicide attempts this year. But prison officials have only punished her as a result, including sentencing her to two weeks in solitary confinement.

Chelsea is serving a 35-year sentence in military prison for blowing the whistle on human rights abuses by coalition forces in Iraq. She was oversentenced as an example to others, and has already served time for her actions. Before he leaves office, ask Obama to grant Chelsea clemency and free her.

## The Meaning of Home

<http://novaramedia.com/2017/01/07/the-meaning-of-home/>

But what does having a 'home' even mean? And, what's more, what does it mean in the midst of a housing crisis? To recap: this year, the number of affordable houses being built fell to a 24-year low; the number of households living in temporary accommodation increased by 45% over the last six years (a figure which includes 114,930 children); last year more than 100 households were evicted each day, and the four biggest house building firms made more than £2bn gross in profits. The meaning of 'home', however, is

what the homelessness charity Shelter, in partnership with Ipsos Mori and British Gas, attempted to define this October on a scale that hadn't been attempted before. Hoping to create something akin to the living wage, they introduced the 'living home standard' along with a report which compiled people's responses into categories of affordability, space, stability, decent conditions and neighbourhood. In England, 43% of homes fell below the standard. In London 73% of houses were deemed inadequate.

## Russian Spies Behind Every Christmas Tree

<https://off-guardian.org/2017/01/06/34553/>

By David William Pear

The main stream propaganda media has been on an anti-Putin, anti-Russian propaganda binge for years, and the Guardian is one of the leaders of the pack.

One has to wonder if it has anything to do with the Guardian's shady dealings with George Soros' secretive Open Society Foundation. Soros makes a fortune from U.S. sponsored regime changes and financial disasters. A regime change in Russia could make him Billions of dollars.

For years the Guardian was a captain of journalism in a sea of corporate monopoly media. No longer and many of its renowned journalists have abandoned ship or been thrown overboard. Their alleged crimes

were mutiny against the establishment?

The first storm at the Guardian came when award winning editor in chief Janine Gibson was forced to walk the plank (May 2015). Gibson was widely expected to become the Guardian's Senior Editor. Instead Gibson was deep sixed after she navigated the Guardian through the treacherous course of revealing the Edward Snowden leaks.

The Guardian was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the Snowden story, but the U.S. and British spy agencies were not amused. They had been caught red-handed hacking everybody's computers, spying on US citizens and even listening in on the private phone conversations of heads of state (here). The polish on their crimes was lying to Congress.

## Best Websites

<http://www.thecanary.co/>

A formidable left wing news website with fresh and well written articles it is funded by online donations.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/>

The website of Amnesty International working to defend people's human rights all over the world. Promoting and protecting freedom of speech and working to stop torture and inhumane treatment of people.

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/>

Greenpeace fights to defend the natural world and promote peace by investigating, exposing and confronting environmental abuse, and championing environmentally responsible solutions.

<http://novaramedia.com/>

Novara Media examines the social and economic issues of the 21st century.

They provide political commentary and stories that you won't find in the mainstream media.

The pluralist discussion can feed back into political action.

<http://www.democracynow.org/>

Democracy Now! is a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S., Democracy Now!

<https://off-guardian.org/>

Critical look at our allegedly liberal and free press.

<http://evolvepolitics.com/>

Evolve Politics is a truly independent, shared equity media outlet, providing incisive news reporting and investigative journalism that highlights and exposes injustice, inequality and unfairness within UK politics, and throughout society in general. It has come into existence to provide an alternative to the pro-establishment dominated media.

<http://thejusticegap.com/>

The site is run by Jon Robins (jon@thejusticegap.com; @JusticeGap). Jon is a journalist and has written about the law and justice for the national papers and specialist press for 15 years. Jon launched "thejusticegap" on October 6th 2011.



## George Galloway speaks

Interestingly, the last edition of "The Word" came out with the headline, "World War3" which predicted what would have happened had Clinton won.

As one of the very few people who predicted Donald Trump's victory, first back in May, and then again at the beginning of November, and on the night of the election itself just as the exit polls closed, to the widespread derision of the commentariat home and abroad, I repeatedly described this campaign as a choice between Satan and Beelzebub.

But I have come to the conclusion, and many of you will not like it, that a Clinton Presidency would have been the greater danger to the world. To put it crudely, when they say "better the devil you know", I answer, "it depends just how devilish they are". Clinton's Presidency was a mushroom cloud waiting to happen. She has a proven track record as a warmonger and a cold, calculating killer, the architect of the disasters in Libya and Syria, and as a hard-line anti-Russia hawk. Under her, the world situation could only continue to deteriorate, with us here in Europe caught in the middle, an American nuclear base.

It is true that Donald Trump has assembled around him some of the most right-wing forces in America, including the Heritage Foundation and Breitbart. It is true his Presidency could be even worse for the world than Obama's, or even as bad as a Clinton one would have been. But it may be better than Obama's, and almost certainly better than Clinton's would have been. The early signs offer some room for cautious optimism. The President Elect's acceptance speech was surprisingly statesmanlike, conciliatory even. And mysteriously gone from his page is his promise to ban all Muslims from entering America.

Most important is his apparent willingness to build bridges with Russia over Syria, to step back from the brink of disaster and the mad rush for regime change, from Clinton's "No Fly Zone" which would have almost certainly meant war with Russia if implemented as she repeatedly declared it should be. Such a change of tack can only be good

for the world, sparing us the World War III which a Clinton Presidency made a serious possibility, and for Europe, where millions are out of work and whole regions impoverished by the insane policy of sanctions of Russia.

Likewise, the new President owes nothing to, and is in fact almost certainly hostile to, the satrapies of the Persian Gulf region, who funded Clinton's campaign, and let's not forget Foundation, to the tune of untold millions, even as she knew, we now know, that they were arming ISIS and Al Qaeda. Let's hope he repays them no inexistent favours in Syria and elsewhere.

I do not expect any changes on Palestine, though neither do I expect a Trump government to follow through on its promise to recognise Jerusalem as the Zionist capital. It should be noted the Israel lobby - mostly Christians, in fact - heavily supported Clinton, so while Trump does have ties with the Breitbart crowd, he actually owes Israel and its supporters very little. My prediction is he will be as pro-Israel as Obama, but less so than Clinton would have been.

Will Trump follow through on this or will pressure from the Deep State force him to keep up a policy of confrontation with Russia? Time will tell, but with Clinton we knew nothing would get better, and in fact things would get a whole lot worse, with Trump we don't know how bad things could be, but there's a possibility they may actually get better.

So let's hope that Trump indeed proves to be a transactional President who can get things done, and that he follows through on his message to the American electorate, however vague, to prioritise domestic problems, even protectionism and public spending - policies straight out of the socialist playbook - and worry less about promoting "freedom and democracy" around the world. Certainly if the reactions, public and private, of America's "friends and allies" the global Foreign Policy establishment, are anything to go by, there is at least a plausible chance of this. I would welcome that, and so should you.



By Derek Pattison  
November 2015

It may surprise some people to learn that there is a person and a tragic event that links both the American city of Chicago; the annual holiday International Workers' Day (May Day); and the little mill town of Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

On Tuesday 4th May 1886, a rally took place in Haymarket Square, in Chicago's West Side, in support of an eight-hour working day. According to reports at the time, some 1,300 people attended the rally that had also been called to protest at the shooting, the previous day, of strikers from the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company by police and Pinkerton detectives, which had left seven dead. The Pinkerton men and the police had been present to escort strikebreakers through the factory gates who had been heckled and jostled by strikers. After listening to speeches, most people had begun to disperse when it started to rain. However, around 300 people remained in the square when 200-armed police officers turned up and demanded that they disperse. At that moment, a dynamite bomb was hurled into a group of police officers. The explosion killed seven police officers, including Chicago police officer, Mathias Degan and fifty other police officers were badly injured. The police immediately opened fire into the crowd resulting in more deaths and serious injuries.

Among those who were, speak-

ing that day was Samuel Fielden, a former Lancashire cotton worker, who had been born in Todmorden in 1847 and had emigrated to America in July 1868. According to an article that had appeared in a Chicago newspaper, which was reproduced in the 'Todmorden Advertiser' at the time, Sam had first been employed in a woollen mill in New Jersey and afterwards worked on a farm at 'Summit, Illinois'. He had then worked as a teamster in Chicago, owning a team of his own, and had been working for the 'Ermschaw - Nodenschaw' stone company. Although the article referred to Sam as being "one of the most intemperate of the anarchist orators", he had at various times, been described as a 'professional agitator', a socialist, and a former Methodist revivalist. Sam was the last person to address the crowd. Remembering the men who had been shot at the McCormick works, he told them:

"The law is framed for your enslavers. Throttle it, kill it, do everything you can to impede its progress. He, who has to obey the will of another, is a slave. Can we do anything except by the strong arm of resistance? War has been declared on us. People have been shot. Defend yourselves."

It is also known that at the first sign of trouble Sam had shouted: "This is a peaceful demonstration."

Although the bomb-thrower was never found, Sam was among thirty-one men who were initially charged with being accessories to murder and with injuring others.

Eight were eventually chosen to stand trial for Degan's murder, including Sam. The others were Albert Parsons, an ex-colonel in the Texas militia and one of Chicago's leading socialists, August Spies (editor of the anarchist German language paper, 'Arbeiter Zeitung'), Oscar Neebe, Louis Lingg, George Engel, Adolf Fischer and Michael Schwab.

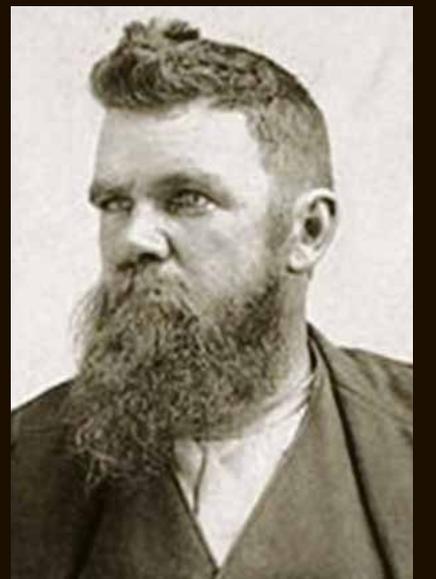
The Grand Jury trial presided over by Judge Joseph Gary, in June 1886, was described at the time as a farce. Despite the fact that there was no sound evidence to connect any of the accused with the actual bomb throwing, (Parsons had been five blocks away with his wife when the bomb went off and only Fielden and Spies, were present at the meeting), the prosecuting state attorney stated that the men had been selected because they were the leaders. The Judge did not even maintain the pretence that the eight defendants were on trial for Degan's murder. The state prosecutor made it clear that "Anarchy is on Trial" and the defendants were charged with producing anarchist literature in languages they could neither speak nor read. Seven of the men were sentenced to death including Sam Fielden.

Eleanor (Tussy) Marx, the youngest daughter of Karl Marx, campaigned on behalf of the condemned men in prison and later addressed a meeting of 3,000 people who were there to protest against the persecution of the Haymarket martyrs. While in the U.S., she and her companions, Edward Aveling and Wilhelm Lieb-



Execution of the four defendants

# SAM FIELDEN Todmorden's Forgotten Hero



Sam Fielden - anarchist orator

knecht, visited the condemned men in Cook County gaol.

On her return to England, she reported the belief common among the working-men of Chicago that the true guilt for the bomb throwing, lay with a police agent. In an interview with the Pall Mall Gazette, Eleanor said:

"There really was not enough evidence to hang a dog upon... the sentence is a class sentence; the execution will be a class execution." She later described the hangings of the martyred Chicago anarchists as 'legal murder'. The famous Russian writer Leo Tolstoy also wrote to the authorities asking for a reprieve.

It is known that Pinkerton detectives had infiltrated anarchist meetings and had a stake in

exaggerating the threat posed by radical groups for their own commercial benefit and in provoking incidents of violence.

On 11th November 1886, four of the men - Parsons, Spies, Fischer and Engel were hanged at Cook County Jail. Louis Lingg evaded the hangman by committing suicide in his prison cell the previous day. He had put a blasting cap in his mouth - which had been smuggled in - and had ignited it. Before dying, he had written "Hurrah for Anarchy" on his cell wall in his own blood. Sam's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment after he wrote to the Illinois governor, Richard Symes Oglesby, asking for clemency. He then joined Oscar Neebe and Michael Schwab in Joliet prison.

Although there were a number of bomb-throwing suspects, Ru-

dolph Schnaubelt, the brother-in-law of Michael Schwab, was identified by a prosecution witness as the bomber and was indicted. He later fled the country.

In 1893, after spending seven years in prison, Illinois governor, John Peter Altgeld, pardoned Sam Fielden, Oscar Neebe and Michael Schwab. The pardon came following intervention by the 'Amnesty Association' who had taken up the case of the prisoners. Among those involved with the campaign, was the Chicago lawyer, General Matthew Mark Trumbull, a former bricklayer's labourer and chartist, from Deptford, who had left England in 1846. As a friend of Samuel Fielden, Trumbull believed the "law was being strangled in the Chicago courts in order that the accused anarchists might be strangled on the gallows." The pardon

stated that all the men were:

"Innocent of the crime for which they had been tried and they and the hanged men had been victims of hysteria, packed juries and a biased judge."

After being released from prison, Sam Fielden bought a ranch in Colorado. He died there in 1922 and lies buried with his wife Sarah (1845-1911), his son Samuel Henry (1886-1972) and daughter Alice (1884-1975), at Le Veta (Pioneer) Cemetery, Huerfano County, Colorado. Sam's father Abraham Fielden, a chartist, died in 1886 and his buried with his wife in the church at Walsden under the hill, Todmorden. Sam became a well-known socialist agitator in the U.S. and was active in organizing what became known as the Teamsters' Union.

The so-called 'Haymarket Affair', is generally considered to have led to the founding of the international May Day observances for workers. The site of the incident was designated a Chicago landmark in 1992 and a public sculpture was dedicated in 2004. The Chicago Martyrs monument can also be found at their burial site in Forest Park. This was designated a national historic landmark in 1997.

Samuel Fielden appears to have been a remarkable personality. However, although the Chicago Martyrs are remembered in the United States and throughout the labour and trade union movement, the official authorities in Todmorden have yet to honour Sam - a true labour stalwart - who with his comrades suffered a mockery of justice. You might say that Sam is Todmorden's forgotten hero.

STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

## CHRIS THE CAREERIST #12



## ARCHBISHOP and QUEEN give SIMILAR XMAS SPEECHES

Yes, bit of a coincidence that.

Both the Archbishop (Justin "Wonga" Welby) and The Queen (Queen) blamed "globalisation" and consequent low wages for the woes of Britain's skip rummager's and foodbank users.

Ah, so poverty is not caused by a deliberately imposed "austerity" at home that serves the rich, and the Tory penchant of fining the desperate or those on benefits.

That word "austerity" was not mentioned once. Not once.

Continually slapping our sense in the face both of these aristocratic yes-men (sorry Ma'am) also blamed rotten moral values for us Brits putting up with the existence of an under-class.

Ah, so maybe its globalisation, AND public stinginess and poorly performing charities that are to blame.

As the Archbishop said "That uncertainty of our world, our feelings tells us that our values are in the wrong place." Hard to grasp the grammar of that Justin, but we get the message al-right.

## PETER PAN GOES WRONG

J.M. BARRIE'S CLASSIC PLAY LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE



## And Now For Something Completely Different – Mischief Theatre

By Jack Cornes

I was howling with laughter at the brilliant Mischief Theatre's televised stage production of Peter Pan Goes Wrong which was on BBC One over Christmas. Olivier Award winning Theatre Company - Mischief Theatre are steadily on the rise, with three productions currently running on the West End and with tours across Europe and on Broadway, they have made brilliant progress since they began at the Old

Red Lion pub in 2012. Their production of Peter Pan Goes Wrong shows a theatre troupe desperately trying to tell the story of Peter and his adventures in Neverland but with disastrous consequences. There are hazardous flying techniques, set's falling apart and cast and crew hilariously ending up in harm's way as they struggle on to the end of their production. One of the elements of their comedy which definitely struck me was the Pythonesque disruption of continuity which fea-

tured throughout the production. Whether it was the side-splitting wrong audio cues not meant for the production ending up in the production or Captain Hook's ship crashing through the theatre wall into the BBC Newsroom during a news bulletin the influence of Monty Python was certainly present. Mischief Theatre provides fantastic entertainment and their success is both inspiring and well deserved. I wish them every success in their continued progress.



# SELECTIVE EDUCATION

By Karl Trevor

This is my mums take on it after a career as a Teacher.

She worked with Sallie Thornberry, Emily Thornberry MP's mum and Bill Bellerby the 99 year old Veteran and Labour stalwart.

See where I get it from. Her dad was encouraged by Tony Benn to get his Umpire license when he retired. He Umpired 2 seasons of County Cricket before he died.

## Selective Education

For years past politicians have tinkered about with our education system with some good ideas and some not so good. Might I suggest that a serious study of the system as a whole would produce a better result.

All people are not alike so why do politicians insist on providing the same education for everyone? The same STANDARD of education . yes. The same quality of teaching should be offered to those who wish to pursue a career in gardening, sciences, painting, singing, ancient Greek etc.. There is a place for an elite academic education. The chosen path should not be paved according to the politicians perceptions of the subject matter.

Selective education thus far has only benefitted the few because the selection has been made by the schools not the pupils. We don't want a return to that situation. May I suggest that there should be a non selective intermediary phase taking the child from 11 to 14 years when the selection of a secondary school should be made by the child

in consultation with their teachers and parents. I believe that at 14yrs a child has a much better understanding of what they want to do and of what would be required for that particular course of action. In order for this to be meaningful there would need to be a range of secondary schools available specialising in Art/ Music, Maths/Sciences, Social Sciences, Languages, Technology/ Engineering etc.. The move to University/College/Apprenticeship/ Work could then follow at the choice of the pupil - also in discussion with teachers and parents.

I know what a huge change this would be but it would be beneficial for all pupils, for everyone. I haven't thought through the logistics. I merely offer my thoughts with a view of the future.

We need to dream!  
Dilys M Trevor

# SNUFF BOX

By Joe Solo

Yesterday afternoon a customer came through from her living room and made small talk in passing.

"I've just seen a bloke on the telly who bought a Snuff Box for £2 from a car boot sale and guess how much he got for it.....£300!! What do you think about that?"

I was in a hurry so I didn't re-

spond beyond the polite feigned awe, but here's what I think about that.

I would rather have the Snuff Box.

If one minute I had a tiny piece of history in my palm and the next three hundred tawdry quid, I would feel like I had just sold out history itself. Nothing I could have spent that money on would fill the gap its ghosts

left in its wake. If I had closed my eyes I could have soaked up every last man, woman and child who ever picked up that Snuff Box; I could have visualised the rooms they sat in; the mood they were in and why; I could have seen that box pass from father to son; I could have watched it being left behind in a drawer during a house move; a young woman who used it to keep an engagement ring in from a first and lost lover; a guitarist who used it for plectrums.....

In two months I could have written you an entire album about

# Harold Pinter: The Caretaker

A 'Just So' tale.

Davis: "Is this your house?"

Aston replies: "I'm in charge"

Davis asks: "You the land lord are you?"

Aston enquires: "What?"

In this ' Just So' tale, Pinter, asks us to listen and join in on a conversation, a conversation in a degenerated house. Join in a conversation in some room, a room in a UK place. Listen and join in on a dialogue of three ordinary, 'just so' tales.

Pinter: focuses on the conversations of three 'ordinary' beings and in doing so invites the rest of us to listen in and in doing so , implicitly questions us to ask ; Do we accept the 'Just So' narrative ? as just SO?

The 'Care Taker' is a play that asks the listener/ participant to think about and question : What really is existential and individual existence?

Pinter, poses for example, the question: do ordinary people have a formidable capacity to create illusions and self delusion, in an overarching socio - political environment, that may destroy and create personality and self realisation, simultaneously?

The play; ' The Caretaker' appears to achieve qualification of this question by posing the idea of : 'If and Why?' and if so How ?

'How?' Pinter asks, may an individual experience an ordinary homelessness, no shoes, dripping roof, banal pub fight, electro shock therapy, existence and still hold together some mental capacity to question the existence of 'I' ?

A : 'JUST SO' sort of existence?

Just, SO, Happens...? It appears?

A 'JUST SO' ... existence is both a denial and a self realisation simultaneously. A dialectical conversation , yet one that is not easily talked about.

The 'Care Taker' is a historical take of a tale of yesterday, the yesterday where Davis argues he had a place to sit (somewhere) at the dinner table, before the: 'Greeks, Poles and Blacks were : "doing me out of a seat". A tale of a 'yesterday'. A yesterday when "The Sun' shone in a place called Sidcup and identity was fixed and seated in place. When every existence was ' JUST SO '

In: ' The Caretaker' Pinter, attempts to make sense of late modern reconfiguration of time in space and in doing so appears take the position that the form of apparent properties such as identity, only offer an illusion of the self as a product and a production of things in time. The notion of Identity, in Pinter's, 'The Care Taker,' seems to mean that dialogue is constructed through a messy complexity of narrative, spin and self serving 'Just So' , justification that is entwined within a conditioned socio political, personality. Through the illusion of the; 'Care Taker' Pinter, argues that, we as a nation, as a global peoples and individuals appear, to be entwined in a ' Just So ' story.

For all the controversy surrounding Pinters' observations and his Nobel Laureate Prize 2005, he was a socialist that listened in on three conversations and asked three questions:

Who are we ? Who is the 'Care Taker? And How did we get to : Just So?



that Snuff Box because it had a story to tell and I would have longed to tell it.

And I realised I want to write songs like that Snuff Box. I don't want three hundred empty quid, I want to leave something behind that tells a story someone somewhere will understand. Money can't buy that, and anyone who thinks it can will never get it.

That's what I should have told her.

Buried treasure. That's what we leave behind us.

Or we should.

Otherwise what was the point?

14 January at 14.00-15.30  
Next Week - 1-4" Rain Showers  
Central Methodist Hall  
Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, M1 1 Manc  
**NO TO RACISM**  
**NO TO TRUMP**  
**BLACK LIVES MATTER**  
In the US, Britain everywhere...  
JAN 14 Manchester Stand Up To Racism - January Meeting

16 January at 19.00-21.00  
2-5" Partly Cloudy  
Isabel Blackman Centre  
TN34 3AT Hastings, East Sussex  
JAN 16 Momentum Hastings 1st Birthday Quiz.

15 January at 15.00-17.00  
Next Week - 0-6" Rain  
SOAS University of London  
Thornhaugh Street, WC1H 0XG London,  
JAN 15 Syria Solidarity Campaign monthly meeting Campaign

19 January at 19.00-22.00  
St Pancras Church  
Euston Road, NW1 2 London,  
Tickets Available  
pqjen2017.eventbrite.co.uk  
JAN 19 People's Question Time: Brexit, What are our demands?  
CHURCH, EUSTON ROAD, NW1 2PA PEOPLES



20 January at 17:00-20:00  
 U.S. Embassy London  
 24 Grosvenor Square, W1K 6 London

**JAN 20** No to Trump's racism: protest his inauguration

21 January at 12:00-15:00  
 Prince of Wales Feathers  
 8 Warren Street, w11 5ld London.

**JAN 21** Zeitgeist Movement London Chapter Meeting

25 January at 19:00-21:00  
 Mandela Room, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon

**JAN 25** A More Dangerous World? War and Foreign Policy Under Trump

Psychologists Against Austerity London Group.  
 18:30 - 12:00  
 Venue - TBC

**JAN 31** PAA London Meeting - Basic income discussion

13:00 - 15:00  
 Glasgow Autonomous Space, G5 8JD.

**FEB 4** Psychologists Against Austerity

Coinciding with UN World Day of Social Justice. We invite EU & Non-EU immigrants to take part in a nationwide boycott.

<https://www.facebook.com/1DayWithoutUs/>

**FEB 20** One Day Without Us: UK National Protest

# Orgreave poem

The 18<sup>th</sup> June Nineteen Eighty Four  
A date that The State had been long planning for  
Revenge on it's mind, heart filled with hate  
No chance that Orgreave would be Saltley Gate

No diversions or road blocks for pickets that day  
Just escorting of miners along their way  
For those men their fate was already sealed  
As the bobbies led them down to the corn field

Battle lines drawn, plans hidden from sight  
Horses and dogs to the left and the right  
Five thousand coppers armed up to the teeth  
Community policing this wasn't to be

The order was given, mounted police charged  
Then short shield units commenced the barrage  
Blows rained down to the head and the back  
As the pickets they fled from the brutal attack

The beatings were savage, injuries many  
Broken limbs, gashes, bruises ten a penny  
Policemen delivered what their masters had yearned  
Expenses and overtime dutifully earned

That paragon of virtue, the BBC  
Doctored the film that the public would see  
Footage reversed, truth bent like a bow  
Government and broadcaster had their ducks in a row

Shamefully, ninety five miners charged with riot and affray  
Their crime it appeared was just running away  
A potential life sentence for these men of coal  
The State had bloodied body but still desired soul

Ninety five acquittals eventually served  
Collusion and perjury exposed by lawyers  
No officer prosecuted, nor yet disciplined  
For the lies that were peddled about "the enemy within"

The "enemy within" who works deep underground  
In the damp and the dark with no natural sound  
Who with each breath of dust reduce their life term  
As in retirement they wait for the dreaded "e" word

And now a public inquiry denied by the Home Secretary  
A stockbroker's daughter, a Cheltenham College lady  
No need then for justice, no search then for truth  
That's a privilege reserved for a more genteel group

A word for you Amber, it doesn't end so  
Politicians will come and politicians will go  
Working men and women no longer bend at the knee  
The truth we will have it, whenever that be!

Copyright: Fishylyrics - November 2016

Visit: [fishylyrics.wordpress.com](http://fishylyrics.wordpress.com)  
Twitter: @poetfish2

# The itchy finger

Theresa says she'll press the button  
That got a mighty cheer  
The thought of an apocalypse  
Didn't seem to hold much fear

She blurted out the affirmative  
With clarity and speed  
Such sharp decision making  
Is surely what we need

What strength of character she shows  
A lady made of steel  
No messing with this English rose  
No doubting what she feels

No pussy footing with our foes  
No dither and no qualms  
She lets them know just where we stand  
When it comes to using arms

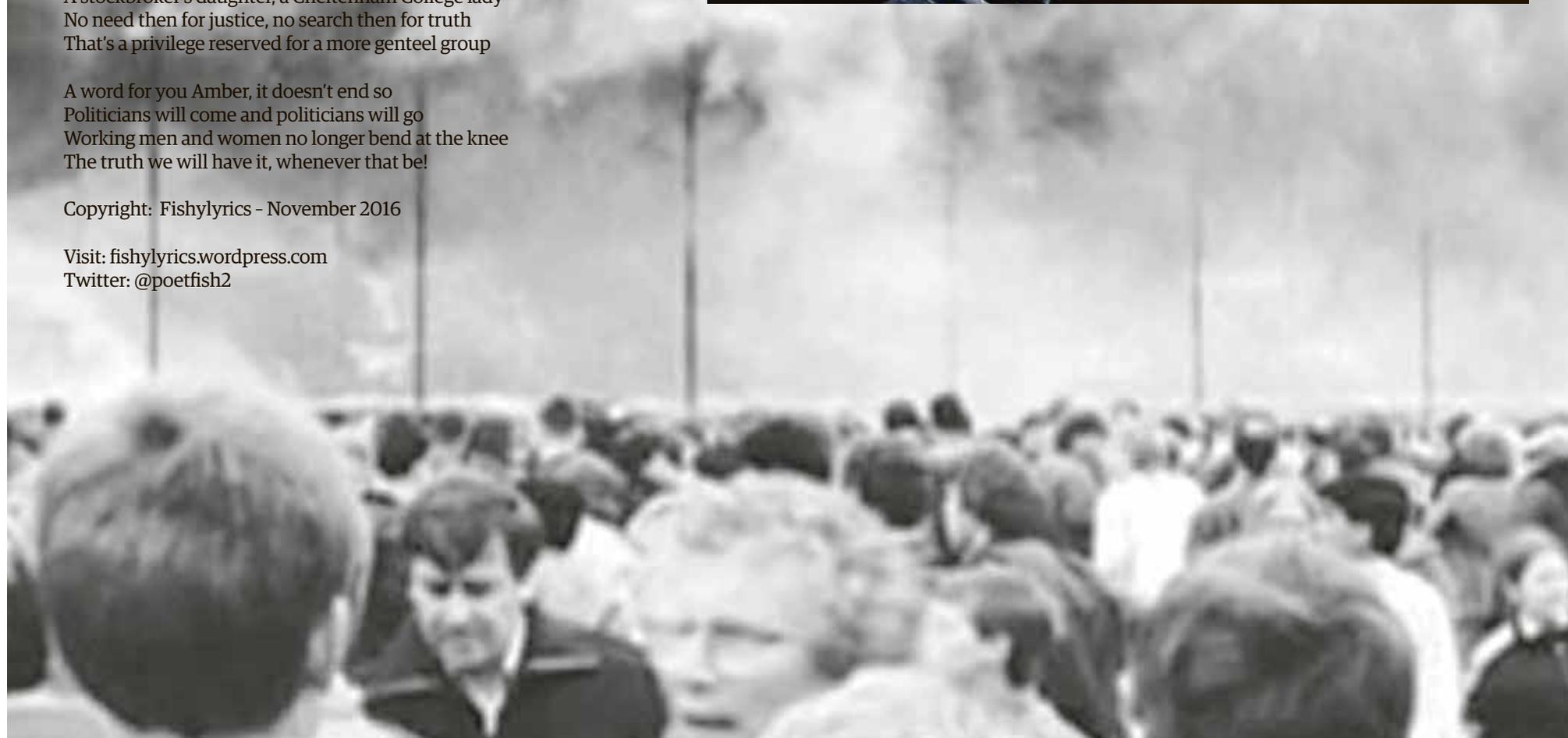
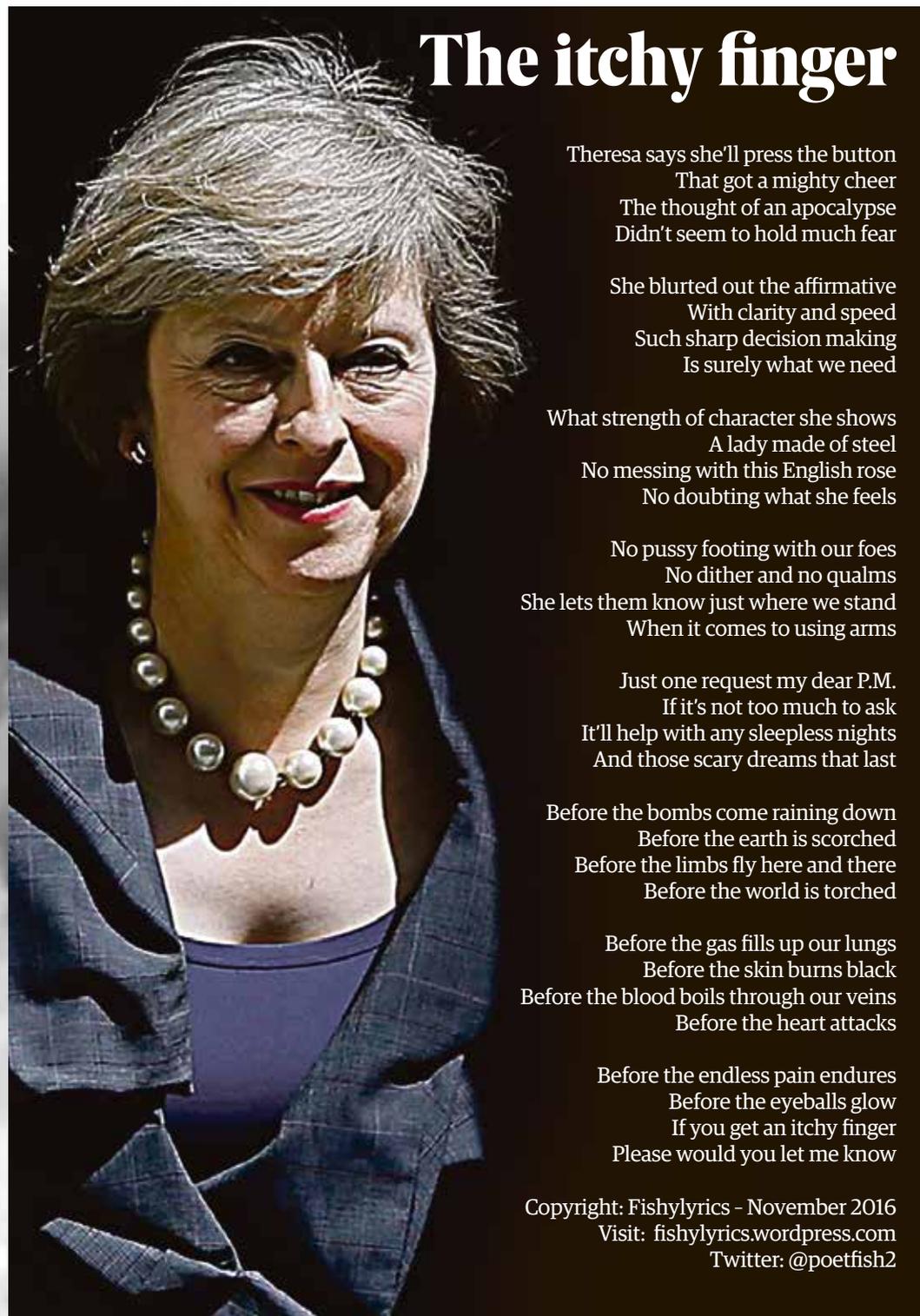
Just one request my dear P.M.  
If it's not too much to ask  
It'll help with any sleepless nights  
And those scary dreams that last

Before the bombs come raining down  
Before the earth is scorched  
Before the limbs fly here and there  
Before the world is torched

Before the gas fills up our lungs  
Before the skin burns black  
Before the blood boils through our veins  
Before the heart attacks

Before the endless pain endures  
Before the eyeballs glow  
If you get an itchy finger  
Please would you let me know

Copyright: Fishylyrics - November 2016  
Visit: [fishylyrics.wordpress.com](http://fishylyrics.wordpress.com)  
Twitter: @poetfish2





# Farewell Peter Vaughan

By Jack Cornes

It was sad news to hear that Actor Peter Vaughan had passed away on Tuesday December 6th. Mr Vaughan was a performer of brilliant diversity and proliferation. Mainly appearing in supporting roles Peter Vaughan appeared in many well-known pieces over the years. These pieces included butler William Stevens in the Merchant Ivory film *The Remains of the Day* (1993), the menacing Har-

ry Grout in classic comedy *Porridge* (1974 - 1977) and, most recently, Maester Aemon Targaryen in the hugely popular series *Game of Thrones* (2011 - present) among so much more. Vaughan once said of playing supporting roles "If you're a character actor, you don't need to wait for the next leading role ... But if you are a leading man you have to wait for the next part. Sometimes that means long periods without work." As an Actor myself I value this viewpoint.

With regards to Acting it is looked upon as a ticket to 'stardom' and 'celebrity'. Of course in some cases this can be true, but Mr Vaughan is an example of those performers who simply take on the work and bring all their brilliance to their performance regardless of what the project is. This is a hugely inspiring approach for me as a fellow performer. And Mr Peter Vaughan - you are certainly an inspiration to me as well. Rest in Peace Sir.

# So Long Princess

By Jack Cornes

Star Wars was and is a huge passion in my life. They are, most certainly, my favourite films of all time. The story, imagination and richness of this galaxy far far away still continue to beguile me. Carrie Fisher was part of that power trio of heroes alongside Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker) and Harrison Ford (Han Solo) from those original films which helped make those stories so timeless. Ms Fisher's portrayal of the beautiful, strong and intelligent Princess Leia created one of the most iconic characters in film history and was most definitely a pioneering role in creating strong leading female characters on the big screen. It was such a familiar and warm feeling seeing Ms Fisher return to the role in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) alongside Hamill and Ford. And, of course, the fan in me is both intrigued and, now,



melancholy to see what General Leia Organa's story will be in the upcoming Episode VIII of the Star Wars saga released later this year. Of course the role of Princess Leia was her most famous but Carrie Fisher featured in many other films including *The Burbs* (1989), *When Harry Met Sally* (1989) and *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle* (2003). She was also a bestselling author writing such works as *Postcards From the Edge* (1987), *Wishful Drinking* (2008) and *The Princess Diarist* (2016), which she was on the way back from promoting in the UK, when she suffered a cardiac arrest which caused her passing on December 27th 2016. Tragically Ms Fisher's mother, the legendary actress, Debbie Reynolds passed away the day after losing her daughter. Her last words were 'I want to be with Carrie'. May the Force Be With You Ms Fisher and Ms Reynolds...always.

## Deaths in 2016 up to and including December 24<sup>th</sup>

Compiled by Kate Dalziel, source: Wikipedia

- |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Caroline Aherne</b> , 52, English comedian, actress and writer ( <i>The Royle Family</i> , <i>The Mrs Merton Show</i> , <i>The Fast Show</i> )         | <b>Ronnie Corbett</b> , 85, British comedian and actor ( <i>The Two Ronnies</i> , <i>The Frost Report</i> , <i>Casino Royale</i> )    | <b>Carla Lane</b> , 87, English television writer ( <i>The Liver Birds</i> , <i>Butterflies</i> , <i>Bread</i> )  | <b>Shimon Peres</b> , 93, Polish-born Israeli statesman, President (2007-2014), Prime Minister (1977, 1984-1986, 1995-1996), Nobel Laureate (1994)          | <b>Bobby Vee</b> , 73, American pop singer ("Rubber Ball", "Take Good Care of My Baby", "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes") and actor                                     |
| <b>Jean Alexander</b> , 90, English actress ( <i>Coronation Street</i> , <i>Last of the Summer Wine</i> )   | <b>Jo Cox</b> , 41, British politician, MP for Batley and Spen (since 2015)   | <b>Harper Lee</b> , 89, American author ( <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> )  | <b>Jimmy Perry</b> , 93, English actor and screenwriter ( <i>Dad's Army</i> , <i>It Ain't Half Hot Mum</i> , <i>Hi-de-Hi!</i> )                             | <b>Bobby Wellins</b> , 80, Scottish jazz saxophonist   |
| <b>Muhammad Ali</b> , 74, American boxer, Olympic gold medalist (1960), three-time WBC world heavyweight champion (1964, 1974, 1978)                      | <b>Johan Cruyff</b> , 68, Dutch football player and manager (AFC Ajax, FC Barcelona, Feyenoord, national team)                        | <b>John Mansfield</b> , 108, British centenarian, oldest man in the United Kingdom  | <b>Prince</b> , 57, American musician, songwriter ("Purple Rain", "Little Red Corvette") and actor, Oscar (1984) and Grammy (1984, 1986, 2004, 2007) winner | <b>Sir Arnold Wesker</b> , 83, British playwright  |
| <b>Pierre Boulez</b> , 90, French composer and conductor  | <b>Paul Daniels</b> , 77, British magician ( <i>The Paul Daniels Magic Show</i> )   | <b>Sir Neville Marriner</b> , 92, British conductor ( <i>Amadeus</i> ), founder of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields                                 | <b>Alan Rickman</b> , 69, English actor ( <i>Harry Potter</i> , <i>Die Hard</i> , <i>Love Actually</i> )  | <b>Gene Wilder</b> , 83, American actor ( <i>The Producers</i> , <i>Willy Wonka &amp; the Chocolate Factory</i> , <i>Young Frankenstein</i> ), screenwriter and author |
| <b>David Bowie</b> , 69, English singer-songwriter, musician ("Space Oddity", "Heroes", "Starman"), and actor ( <i>Labyrinth</i> , <i>Zoolander</i> )     | <b>Keith Emerson</b> , 71, English progressive rock and rock keyboardist ( <i>The Nice</i> , <i>Emerson, Lake &amp; Palmer</i> )      | <b>Sir George Martin</b> , 90, British Hall of Fame record producer ( <i>The Beatles</i> ), composer, arranger and engineer, six-time Grammy Award winner | <b>Brian Rix, Baron Rix</b> , 92, British actor ( <i>And the Same to You</i> ) and activist ( <i>Mencap</i> )   | <b>Brian Wildsmith</b> , 86, English painter and children's book illustrator   |
| <b>Pete Burns</b> , 57, English singer-songwriter ( <i>Dead or Alive</i> )  | <b>Frank Finlay</b> , 89, English actor ( <i>Othello</i> , <i>The Pianist</i> , <i>Bouquet of Barbed Wire</i> )                       | <b>Sir Peter Maxwell Davies</b> , 81, English composer and conductor, Master of the Queen's Music (2004-2014)   | <b>Andrew Sachs</b> , 86, German-born British actor ( <i>Fawlty Towers</i> , <i>Coronation Street</i> , <i>Hitler: The Last Ten Days</i> )                  | <b>Sir Terry Wogan</b> , 77, Irish-British broadcaster (BBC)   |
| <b>Fidel Castro</b> , 90, Cuban politician, Prime Minister (1959-1976), President (1976-2008)   | <b>Glenn Frey</b> , 67, American songwriter, musician ( <i>Eagles</i> ) and actor ( <i>Jerry Maguire</i> )                            | <b>Ian McCaskill</b> , 78, British meteorologist and weatherman   | <b>Ed Stewart</b> , 74, British TV and radio broadcaster ( <i>Top of the Pops</i> , <i>Crackerjack</i> )  | <b>Guy Woolfenden</b> , 78, English composer and conductor   |
| <b>Chapecoense</b> , most members of the Brazilian football team died in a plane crash  | <b>Zsa Zsa Gabor</b> , 99, Hungarian-born American actress ( <i>Moulin Rouge</i> , <i>Touch of Evil</i> , <i>Lili</i> ) and socialite | <b>Cliff Michellmore</b> , 96, British television presenter and producer <i>March 17th</i>  | <b>Peter Vaughan</b> , 93, British actor ( <i>Game of Thrones</i> , <i>Brazil</i> , <i>Porridge</i> )   | <b>Peter Wood</b> , 90, English theatre director   |
| <b>Leonard Cohen</b> , 82, Canadian singer-songwriter ("Hallelujah", "Suzanne", "First We Take Manhattan"), poet and novelist ( <i>Beautiful Losers</i> ) | <b>A. A. Gill</b> , 62, British writer and restaurant critic ( <i>The Sunday Times</i> )  | <b>Rick Parfitt</b> , 68, British musician and songwriter ( <i>Status Quo</i> )   | <b>Robert Vaughn</b> , 83, American actor ( <i>The Man from U.N.C.L.E.</i> , <i>The Magnificent Seven</i> , <i>Hustle</i> )                                 | <b>Victoria Wood</b> , 62, British comedian and actress ( <i>New Faces</i> , <i>Victoria Wood As Seen on TV</i> , <i>Dinnerladies</i> )                                |
|   | <b>Greg Lake</b> , 69, English singer and musician ( <i>King Crimson</i> , <i>Emerson, Lake &amp; Palmer</i> )                        | <b>Arnold Palmer</b> , 87, American Hall of Fame professional golfer  |   | <b>Sir Jimmy Young</b> , 95, British radio personality ( <i>Radio 2</i> ) and singer ("Unchained Melody", "The Man from Laramie")                                      |

# Only by standing together will we achieve the change this country is crying out for



By Ian Hodson,  
National President, BFAWU.

As we enter 2017, it would appear that the battle lines are ever clearer. Here in the UK, wages have fallen by more than 10.4% over the last six years; men's have dropped by a staggering 12%, with women's falling by 7%. However, it is young workers who have seen the biggest decline, with those between 18 and 24 years of age suffering a whopping 16% drop in pay.

To put this in perspective, the collapse in UK wages is equalled only by Greece. The only reason that family income hasn't felt the full impact is mainly due to in-work benefits and some slight tax alterations, which have gone some way towards softening the blow to a drop of around 7%. In the meantime, real wages paid by employers grew by 23% in Poland, by 14% in Germany and by 11% in France. Across the OECD, real wages increased by an average of 6.7%.

Not all of us have taken the pain though. The average UK wage is now £26,500, but the top CEO wage is a massive £4.3 million,

making the UK the most unequal society in the developed world. This gross inequality has seen tax breaks for the richest in our society, whilst our public services and NHS are stripped to the bone.

#### Articles

Only by standing together will we achieve the change this country is crying out for

Stand up for fairness, or be divided for good

#### Press Releases

Statement from Ronnie Draper, General Secretary of BFAWU

Union responds to suspension of general secretary by Labour

#### Opinion Former Video

Serving up Change: The Fight for Workers' Ri ...

The film explores the exploitative reality of zero hours contracts <>

#### More videos

This is not by accident but by pure design, and although the Conservatives have always been the standard-bearers of greed and flag-wavers for the wealthy, politicians from all three main political parties have played a part in the detrimental change in fortunes for

the working classes since 1977. Despite this, we still allow ourselves to accept the narrative perpetuated by right-wing media and millionaires that somehow, the 1970s were bad for us and that as long as we continue to work hard for rich people, the wealth generated will 'trickle down'.

The NHS is creaking and there are increasing links with private companies. This is underpinned by sections of the media and political classes who continue to make the case for private finance and corporate involvement, leading to a US health insurance-style model.

There are beacons of hope though; look at the inspiring work of the 'Save Chorley Hospital' campaign and realise what happens when people and communities unite and stand together. If we value our NHS, we are now faced with a stark choice; fight for it, or lose it.

UK society is in decay. Look around any town and city up and down the country and you'll see homeless people, closed libraries, foodbanks, boarded-up shops and NHS hospitals at breaking point. Job insecurity is rife, people

are struggling financially and our children face an uncertain future. However, rather than turn our fire against those directly responsible and challenge our political representatives, we are conditioned by our media and so-called free press to blame immigrants, Muslims, disabled people and the unemployed for all of society's ills.

We can continue to accept this status quo and continue to achieve precisely nothing, or we can join together to build a fairer more equal society that works for all and not just the few.



Democracy isn't a spectator sport and politics is everywhere, whether we like it or not. Read the history books and look at the lengths ordinary people have had to go to in order to gain anything. The powers-that-be have never simply handed over grace and favour to the working classes out of the goodness of their hearts. They've had to fight for every crust and everything they have won, they have done so, as a collective.

Apathy will win nothing; allowing ourselves to be divided will win nothing; sticking our heads in the sand will win nothing. Only by standing together will we secure higher pay and better conditions in the workplace. Only by standing together will we save our NHS. Only by standing together will we make our political classes fully accountable and only by standing together will we achieve the real change that this country is crying out for.

This has gone on for long enough. It's time to press the reset button. Let 2017 be the year when we finally get on with it.

# Crosswords puzzles

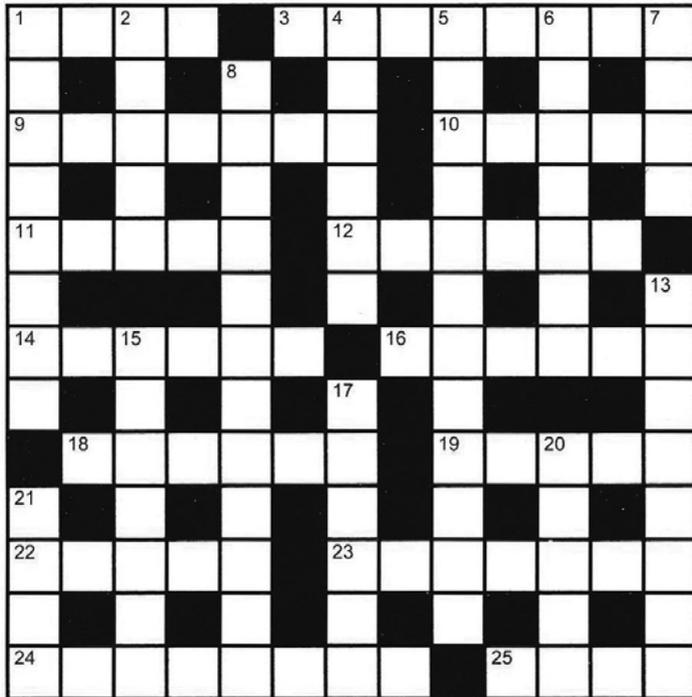
1

**Across**

- 1 Uttered aloud (4)
- 3 Example (8)
- 9 Taste experience (7)
- 10 Small, open pies (5)
- 11 Country, capital Cairo (5)
- 12 Violent effort (6)
- 14 Extend in one or more directions (6)
- 16 Less tame (6)
- 18 Turn into (6)
- 19 Telling fibs (5)
- 22 Natives of Kuwait, for example (5)
- 23 Family appellation (7)
- 24 All people (8)
- 25 Sleeping places (4)

**Down**

- 1 Experienced pain (8)
- 2 Country, capital Rome (5)
- 4 Small group of words expressing a single concept (6)
- 5 Butterfly or moth larvae (12)
- 6 Wed (7)



- 7 Bird's construction (4)
- 8 Without ceasing (12)
- 13 Advance (8)
- 15 Make ready (7)
- 17 Human being (6)
- 20 Mental representation (5)
- 21 Cook in an oven (4)

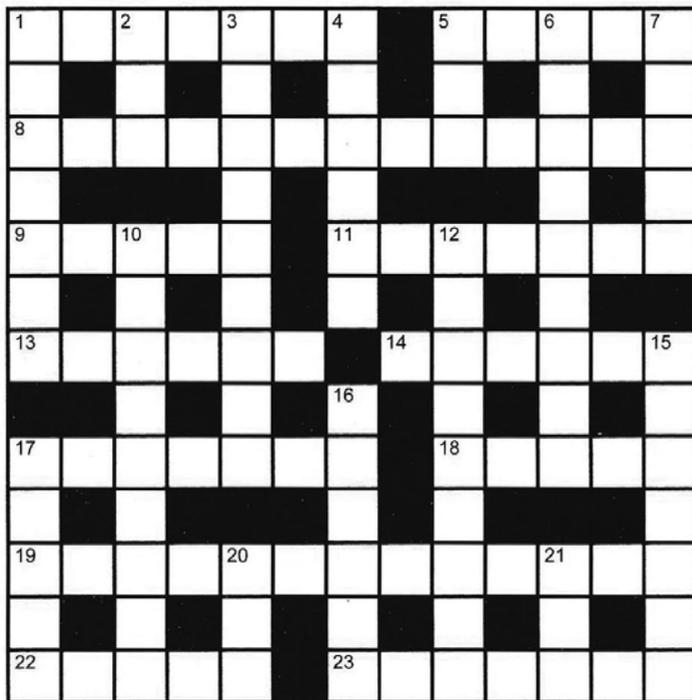
2

**Across**

- 1 Fetched (7)
- 5 Savoury jelly (5)
- 8 Experimenting until a solution is found (5,3,5)
- 9 Compère (coll) (5)
- 11 Breathe (7)
- 13 Frightened (6)
- 14 Assorted, diverse (6)
- 17 Colourless liquid obtained from coal (7)
- 18 Aladdin's spirit (5)
- 19 Set of automatic signals for controlling vehicles (7,6)
- 22 Craggy, mountainous (5)
- 23 Cul-de-sac (4,3)

**Down**

- 1 Takes the trouble (7)
- 2 Kimono sash (3)
- 3 First James Bond film in which Pierce Brosnan starred (9)
- 4 Period of occupancy (6)
- 5 Playing card (3)
- 6 Vertical structure that divides or separates (9)
- 7 Cut into slices (5)
- 10 Flexible armour made of interlinked metal rings (5,4)

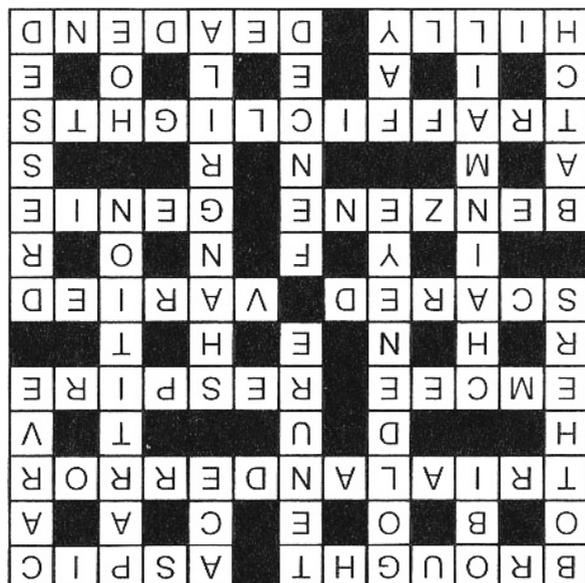


- 12 Place of complete bliss (7-2)
- 15 Clothed (7)
- 16 Fought with épées (6)
- 17 Collection of cakes, for instance (5)
- 20 English actress and recipe author, \_\_\_ Ripley (3)
- 21 Garden tool (3)

**Crossword 1 puzzle answers**



**Crossword 2 puzzle answers**



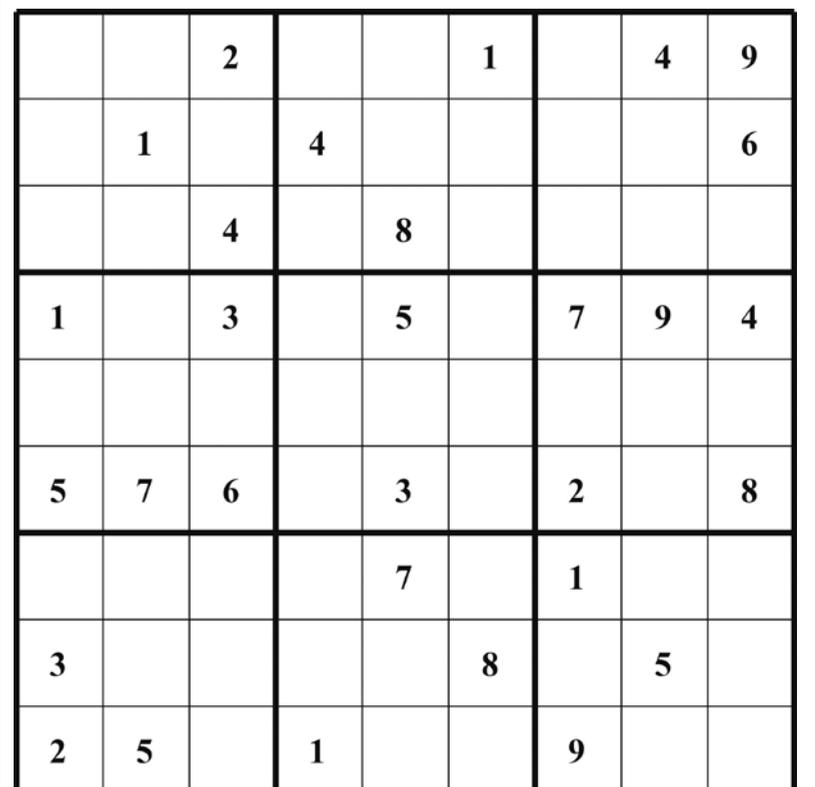
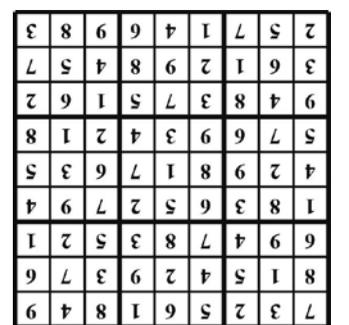
# Word Search Puzzle

## BRITISH POLITICAL FIGURES



- ANTHONYEDEN
- ENOCHEWELL
- JAMESCALLAGHAN
- ASQUITH
- ERNESTBEVIN
- RAMSAYMACDONALD
- CHAMBERLAIN
- GLADSTONE
- STANLEYBALDWIN
- CHURCHILL
- GORDONBROWN
- TONYBENN
- CLEMENTATLEE
- HAROLDWILSON
- TONYBLAIR

# Sudoku



# Jokes

Why did I get divorced? Well, last week was my birthday. My wife didn't wish me a happy birthday. My parents forgot and so did my kids. I went to work and even my colleagues didn't wish me a happy birthday. As I entered my office, my secretary said, "Happy birthday, boss!" I felt so special. She asked me out for lunch. After lunch, she invited me to her apartment. We went there and she said, "Do you mind if I go into the bedroom for a minute?" "Okay," I said. She came out 5 minutes later with a birthday cake, my wife, my parents, my kids, my friends, & my colleagues all yelling, "SURPRISE!!!" while I was waiting on the sofa... naked.

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mum was talking about her side of the family"

Teacher: "Kids, what does the chicken give you?"  
Student: "Meat!"  
Teacher: "Very good! Now what does the pig give you?"  
Student: "Bacon!"  
Teacher: "Great! And what does the fat cow give you?"  
Student: "Homework"

A man hasn't been feeling well, so he goes to his doctor for a complete checkup. Afterward, the doctor comes out with the results. "I'm afraid I have some very bad news," the doctor says. "You're dying, and you don't have much time left." "Oh, that's terrible!" says the man. "How long have I got?" "Ten," the doctor says sadly. "Ten?" the man asks. "Ten what? Months? Weeks? What?!" "Nine..."

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"  
Johnny: "Seven."  
Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"  
Johnny: "Seven."  
Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"  
Johnny: "Six."  
Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"  
Johnny: "Seven!"  
Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"  
Johnny: "Because I've already got a f...ing cat"

Q: What starts with E, ends with E,  
and has only 1 letter in it?  
A: Envelope

Q: Did you hear about the kidnap-  
ping at school?  
A: It's okay. He woke up

A boy with a monkey on his shoulder was walking down the road when he passed a policeman who said, "Now, now young lad, I think you had better take that monkey the zoo." The next day, the boy was walking down the road with the monkey on his shoulder again, when he passed the same policeman. The policeman said, "Hey there, I thought I told you to take that monkey to the zoo!" The boy answered, "I did! Today I'm taking him to the cinema"

# QUIZZ!

- ANSWERS**
1. Willow
  2. The Last Supper (it's the location of the 15th-century mural painting by Leonardo da Vinci)
  3. Tunisia
  4. Four
  5. Links
  6. Jellyfish
  7. Tequila
  8. Every 20 years
  9. Nickel
  10. Dinosaur
  11. Sheepshank
  12. Winchester
  13. Iran, God is greater/greatest
  14. Sunflowers
  15. A cartel

1. Aspirin was originally derived from the bark of which tree?
2. What is the refectory of the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, in Milan, best known for?
3. In which modern day country is Carthage?
4. How many Trident submarines does the UK possess?
5. What name is given to a golf course on coastal terrain, usually with sand dunes and very few trees?
6. What sea creatures collect in a smuck?
7. Which spirit is used to make a margarita?
8. How often does a vicennial event occur?
9. What name is given to a five cent coin in the U.S.?
10. What word was created in 1841 by English scientist Richard Owen?
11. Name the most famous type of knot that is used to shorten a rope or take up slack?
12. Before the 12th century which city was the capital of England?
13. The words 'Allahu Akbar' is repeated 22 times on which country's flag? And what is the literal meaning of Allahu Akbar'?
14. What are the helianthus genus of plants better known as?
15. In economics, what name is given to an agreement between competing firms to control prices or exclude entry of a new competitor in a market?



# Roast January King Cabbage

Have you ever roasted a cabbage? I started to do so a couple of years ago and have since experimented with different varieties. I've found that a naturally sweeter cabbage works best and of those the January King is, well .... king. There are people who might perhaps say "Roast cabbage? You can't roast cabbage!" But of course, you can. You can roast anything you like - you can roast the curtains if you feel like it but I wouldn't advise it.

Roasting this vegetable which is more commonly cooked by steaming, boiling or sauteeing gives it a really interesting, nutty flavour. I suppose the effect is in some ways akin to the 'seaweed' often served in Chinese restaurants which we all know is in fact deep fried cabbage or spring greens. Only this dish is far less oily and visually very pleasing on the plate. It is an usual way to serve a vegetable that can be quite difficult to present (if you're going for aesthetic pleasure as well as culinary). Cabbage is not often served in restaurants or at dinner parties perhaps for that very reason but this technique results in a vegetable dish that I would be very happy to serve to guests.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 or 2 January King cabbages - depending on how many people you're cooking for
- Oil
- Salt

#### Method:

Making this dish could not be easier; cut each cabbage into 8 equal wedges. Pop them in a bag with a few tablespoons of oil and some good salt and give them a gentle swoosh (technical term). The aim is to get them all evenly coated with oil and salt but to avoid breaking them up. Lay the quarters, core side up, in a roasting tin. Leave the core in whilst roasting them and then slice it out to serve them. The core will hold the wedges together during the cooking process. Cook them on gas mark 4 for about 30 - 40 mins, keeping a close eye on them. If you do dutch white cabbage instead, for example, you will a) need to cook them for longer and b) turn the wedges on one side first and then the other for the latter half of the cooking process. This is because the cabbage is more dense in texture than a January King.



By George Christoforou

Many campaigns have come and gone attacking the SUN with letter writing to MPs, letter writing to the editor, complaints to the Independent Press Standards Organisation which has only had the effect of allowing angry members of the public to let off steam.

This has moved on with petitions to parliament and even on-line petitions. Rupert Murdoch on receipt of these complaints has always filed these complaints in the dust bin. He then quickly checks his profit and loss accounts to see if these petitions have had any effect. Once he has satisfied himself that underlying profits are unscathed he moves onto the next item of business.

Now a new tactic has come along which might prove much more effective. One that could actually hit Rupert Murdoch where it hurts - in the profit and loss account. Instead of targeting the buyers of the paper who only marginally add to his underlying profitability, a new tactic has arisen where a campaign is underway to put the spot light on firms that advertise in The Sun.

This tactic works by persuading enough people to boycott any firm that advertises in The Sun. In effect this makes advertising in The Sun counter productive. They lose sales from advertising rather than gaining. So they pull advertising campaigns from the Sun. Advertising is the predominant source of income for newspapers.

A petition accused The Sun of "demonising of immigrants". Virgin founder Richard Branson has

# Why are we still using 20<sup>th</sup> Century political tactics in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain

## BOYCOTT MURDOCH



spoken out against anti-refugee and anti-immigrant rhetoric in the media. So the petition specifically asked Virgin Media to stop advertising in The Sun.

All those who signed the petition are being made aware of Virgin Media's advertising and if it does not pull its advertising then the firm will lose customers who are aware of the petition.

Another place to attack the government which has ignored teachers and educators in our state schools is through parents. Most parents are up to now unaware of this governments attack on our schools and our teachers, many of whom are emigrating to teach in different countries. Staff shortages and a funding crisis largely go unnoticed by parents who enter the lottery of trying to find a good

school to send their children and crossing their fingers in the hope their children are accepted in their first choice of school. In fact all schools are in a crisis. So no matter where their children end up they will be disappointed.

These parents could be invited to join the NUT even before there is any potential for strike action as part of a political educa-

tion process. When cut backs and forced academisation is forced on a school, the parents will be more aware of the issues and who to blame for poor education and join in the protest. Parents are voters. Many of them will vote against Conservative cutbacks when they are made aware.

Society has become more consumer orientated. Consumers have a vast power that has never been used to benefit society. Another area of potential protest is setting up of targeted boycotts against the largest tax avoiders such as Apple, Google, Amazon, Starbucks, Macdonalds and the like. Many of the same firms pay below minimum wage. This has already been partially effective against Starbucks who has seen a fall in revenue in the UK.

Other potential direct action could be taken against specific banks. If all depositors withdraw from a particularly bad bank that facilitates tax avoidance such as the HSBC and deposited their money into a more socially beneficial bank such as the Cooperative bank, then it would hurt the HSBC financially. This will force the HSBC to amend its actions to try and appease the general public.

## 38 Degrees

**38 Degrees** is the angle at which one snowflake can start an avalanche. That's where the name comes from and the idea is, one person can be that snowflake to start an avalanche of feelings to start a campaign, start a petition, to motivate people to take some easy actions which gets politicians to think and better serve this city, town, county or country.

Some campaigns have got government to change their thoughts. The success could be seen by the fact that MPs, especially Tory MPs, don't like 38 Degrees and say so in debates within the "House of Commons". 38 Degrees get under their skins.

**38 Degrees Manchester** is part of the national 38 Degrees campaigning group. The local group was started by Rashid & Joe and has grown to be the largest of the local groups within England.

At the last check it showed 641 members. However, this is just the number that have joined the Man-

chester group directly. It's thought that there are more than 2,000 members across Greater Manchester who joined via the national 38 Degrees website.

The Manchester group covers all of Greater Manchester and beyond. Due to data protection we are unable to know all of our members.

**38 Degrees Manchester** is non-political. It doesn't take political sides, but it does get involved in political issues like, the NHS. Its members come from all walks of life and all parties. When 38 Degrees does a survey, the NHS is the top issue every time. Other issues are International Agreements like TTIP, CETA and TiSA, but the media don't like to promote these. If they do print or transmit anything, it's usually done as a "trade deal", which is misleading because these are not just any old ordinary trade deals.

38 Degrees and other groups

are NOT against any fair, free trade deal, but, CETA & TTIP are not. What 38 Degrees is against is, all the other inclusions within these agreements, the secrecy and lack of democracy and transparency.

On the NHS, the latest local campaign is to keep the Walk-in-Centres open in Bury and Prestwich. We already know and campaigned to try and keep the Middleton Walk-in-Centre open. The problem is, the CCGs don't take any notice and they don't have to, they're not accountable to anyone. Which raises the question of what sort of NHS has this government been creating? Just in case you think that Labour is innocent, it's not. What we're seeing today was started when Labour was the government. It's just that the Tory government has taken it much, much further.

38 Degrees campaigns can be started by any member, and are.

Everyone is welcome to attend meetings which are free, no cost. Just don't bring your extreme views and start preaching or you'll



be asked to leave.

38 Degrees members also join with other groups to campaign and work together.

Tony E member of 38 Degrees Manchester, Stop TTIP Manchester and BOLD Middleton, with connections to other groups like Global

Justice Now and War on Want.

Various members, from various groups have come together to try and deal with DevoManc. This new group is called People's Plan. It's aimed at democracy for all Greater Manchester residents. To put forward it's ideas to the politicians, and to try and change this imposed DevoManc. In reality, DevoManc can't be stopped because it's law now. What can happen is, to change the direction and get more transparency and a better DevoManc for all residents.

38 Degrees Manchester website can be found at:

[https://you.38degrees.org.uk/local\\_chapters/38-degrees-manchester](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/local_chapters/38-degrees-manchester)

We also have our own local website with more local info at

<http://38degreesmanchester.org.uk/>

Emails to [@gmail.com](mailto:@gmail.com)

The People's Plan website can be found at

<http://www.peoplesplangm.org.uk/>

By Daniel Powell

For an unacquainted visitor to the City of Westminster, the streets of the capital's riverside borough are an imperial museum of historical icons and locations; Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade, the Cenotaph, Whitehall and others draw thousands of visitors every day. The Houses of Parliament and Big Ben's clock tower loom over an endless whirlpool of traffic as bustles of backpacked tourists wandering and besuited civil servants clutching cases marching the pavements by the afternoon sun. By night, the throng dissipates, and in the relative calm of dawn, another scene unfolds.

A walk down into the Underground station's subway where sightseers and bureaucrats have descended to depart for slumber hours ago in hotel and home reveals another aspect: in the underpass are the homeless, laid wrapped in dusty blankets and sleeping bags, a sea of bodies strewn across cardboard in an eerie collective silence. Here lies a blight upon Westminster's aesthetic sheen of historical pomp and gravitas, a most visible reminder of gross inequality for those who rule and represent from its towers. Perhaps nowhere else in Britain does the stark reality of social inequality jar the eye as here in one of its wealthiest boroughs.

Above ground over at Parliament Square: a lone, uniformed, capped and walkie-talkied security guard with no tourists to assist on the early morning Sunday shift patrols a circuit of the green with languid, world-weary steps, hands clasped behind his back. The statues of eleven deceased statesmen, Churchill, Lloyd George, Disraeli, Gandhi, Mandela, Lincoln and others overlook his dedicated slow patrol in sombre regard. He is the son of a former Gurkha. "It will be busier later today. Queen's birthday, ninetieth," he smiles. - What of those laying in the underpass? He responds with a non-committal turn of the mouth and mini-Atlas shrug - a resigned expression replying with a rhetorical 'Well, what can we do?'

The same mantra is given by many who walk past the unsheltered laying in the city's streets daily, perhaps not always through absolute indifference to the desperate plight in their pathway, but more from a personal feeling of desensitised apathy that terminates in a consensus of 'therapeutic nihilism' - a political tenet that concludes nothing can be done to cure social problems. This disavowal of social duty as a political philosophy was proposed by the eighteenth century Whig MP Edmund Burke, and eventually became a central principle of modern conservatism.

The sight of the homeless at



# "YOU CAN'T MAKE HOUSES OUT OF SANDWICHES"

Westminster draws some curious reactions from some. - "Is it a political statement?" asks a bystander. Well, it would be highly crass to describe sleeping rough in the subway as a choice made in the vein of some muses leaning on a matter of politics. The homeless do not lean here - they are strewn horizontally and silent upon concrete, prostrate as corpses in the underpass below the beating heart of constitutional power where the well-heeled walk, averting themselves from the cadavers of social responsibility with a sigh, as they let sleeping bags lie.

The matter is not just one of politics; it is one of life and death. In the neighbouring borough of Camden,

homeless former carpenter Edna Murray's died on the street aged 46 after failed attempts at re-

suscitation in September 2015; in January 2016 a homeless man was discovered collapsed by Morning-

ton Crescent's Koko nightclub. In February, off-duty doctors resuscitated a homeless man several metres from the spot where Edna Murray died. In July, the body of Big Issue seller Steven Percival - known as 'Geordie Steve' - was found on a side street close to the underground station, slumped against the wall of the National Westminster Bank. This is just one of a significant number of similar incidents recorded by Police and Social Services who are seeing a rise in rough sleeping in the area.

In Manchester, there has been a tenfold increase in street homelessness since 2010. Clusters of mini tent-cities sprouted across Albert Square, Castlefield, St Pe-





ter's Square, King Street, St Ann's Square, Market Street, Oxford Road and the University campuses, resulting in court rulings and the arrival of police and bailiffs to make evictions, at a site on London road opposite the MacDonald hotel.

Local organisations have mobilised to intervene with practical solutions. Michael Thompson is founder of Manchester's Community Awareness Network (CAN) Coalition Of Relief (COR) and the Big Change Campaign, who are dedicated to making progress on the matter. He sees the major issues facing the city to be lack of funding and accessible housing for homeless in Manchester. The battle against the effects of govern-

ment austerity policies is not only one taking place in parliament and at local authority level; the private sector needs to be held to account also.

"Corporate sponsorship is definitely needed," Michael explains. "There should be more corporates taking responsibility for funding that doesn't seem to be available in the public sector whatsoever."

"We recently received a £50,000 donation from Allied London Spinningfields Manchester, and I think that was a good example of the way things should be going in the form of corporate responsibilities for homelessness. We should be creating partnerships

with private investors."

"The cuts are having a massive effect on people getting access to services seem to be overworked and underfunded. If we were to create partnerships between these services and private investors we could then start to channel the funding in the right direction, because in the public sector there is just no funding at all."

"One of the major issues I have to deal with in my role as the manager of the big change campaign is members of the general public giving responsibly to homeless people, giving money or giving out sandwiches. There are over twenty-five different organisations that



go out and give food to homeless people in Manchester. That is fundamentally not making the problem disappear, these people need housing - you can't make houses out of sandwiches."

"Giving an individual on the street is probably just going to make the situation a lot worse. There is a big difference between the rough sleepers, the homeless, and beggars. A high percentage of beggars do have housing, they just do it to fund a habit, 90% of the time it's to fund alcohol or drug use. I think a massive way forward would be to change the way people could change the way they give - what we do need is new innovative ideas rather than just giving someone a couple of quid or making someone a sandwich, it's just not good enough unfortunately."

Michael began working with the homeless in a street kitchen in Piccadilly Gardens.

"It did give me a sense that I was making a difference, we did go away feeling we were helping individuals and for a very short period of time we probably was. It's very short lived, a sandwich or a bowl of soup, whereas what people need is long term, sustainable innovative new ideas that essentially aren't happening at the moment, from what I can see."

From Michael's perspective, some acts of benevolence towards the homeless from the public and small organisations are well-meaning but not pragmatic.

"I've seen things like beer delivery services driving round the city centre, delivering cans of alcohol to individuals on the street, I know they thought they were doing a good thing - it was over Christmas when they were doing it - but half of these people are in drug or alcohol services or are being rehabilitated from drug and alcohol abuse, so to go up to them and wave a crate of alcohol in their face is not making it easy for our services that have to engage with them on a daily basis."

Another problem encountered by Michael and his colleagues on the streets of Manchester and other northern towns is spice, a now banned synthetic cannabinoid drug sold in legal high shops that has produced seizures, collapses and other dangerous symptoms. "There has recently been a blanket ban on spice, which has been quite positive as all the shops in Manchester that were previously allowed to sell the drug.

Since the ban there has been a lot less people visibly unconscious on the streets, I think it's a massive step forward in sorting out the homeless problem."

However, the ban appears to have shifted the spice trade to the black market instead. The combination of the spice epidemic with mental health issues has had a devastating effect on young homeless people in the region.

"There has been a massive cut in mental health services. In Manchester we don't have anywhere for low or mid-range mental health problems for a drop-in, because these people aren't getting the correct advice they need, they're just taking to the streets, turning to drugs, alcohol and prostitution."

"One of the things I do disagree with is giving homeless people tents. We shouldn't need to give them tents, essentially. They tend to exacerbate the situation, they tend to rub up against each other the wrong way, leading each other astray and I've heard stories of people being sexually and physically assaulted on the homeless camps. So we've got to take a step away from that traditional grassroots thinking, and try to get as much co-operation between as many different people as we can, we should be a city standing united against homelessness, we should have the public and private sector all on side ready to tackle these issues to prevent it and not just deal with as they happen, it's all well and good putting in these preventive steps but if we could eradicate this we wouldn't need to run around for funding."

# POETRY CORNER

**Racism sits fat and satisfied  
 On this throne  
 They say he's retired  
 When in reality  
 His son and daughter  
 Bigotry and Xenophobia  
 Run the family firm  
 And guess what?  
 It's not just surviving  
 It's thriving  
 He slurps on a succulent morsel of hu-  
 manity  
 And awaits their return  
 On arrival  
 Racism responds with "Pray tell what  
 news?"  
 "A successful day father," says Xeno-  
 phobia  
 "We have become mainstream views."  
 "And employee Trump?"  
 "How does he fair?"  
 "Excellent!!!" says Bigotry  
 "He's now president elect  
 And reeks havoc over there"  
 "Are the lists of foreign workers under-  
 way?"  
 "Almost dear father  
 Shall I send a memo to Theresa May?"  
 "Do the people still follow the Hopkins  
 diet?"  
 "With great discipline."  
 "My children I say with much cheer  
 2016 has been an excellent year."  
 "But wait what of Austria though?"  
 "Oh!"  
 IBBY**

**. I spit upon the laws that thieves  
 have made  
 To give the crooked the strength  
 to rob the straight.  
 I spit upon a country so full of  
 wealth  
 Yet millions wallow in squalor  
 and in want.  
 I spit upon the flag that flaps like  
 a rag  
 On an iron pole planted on the  
 vision of pregnant generals.  
 I spit upon rabid religions that  
 defend a hell on earth  
 and preach a heaven beyond this  
 mire  
 I spit upon the education that  
 turns into stenographers  
 A generation that could have  
 been philosophers  
 visionaries and revolutionaries.  
 Upon this whole damned  
 nation of mine do I spit. And  
 while I spit, I weep.**

**Esiaba Irobi's "Kingdom Of The  
 Mad"**

**Hindsight  
 If "hindsight" could be bottled  
 List the things you wouldn't do  
 Take a sip of bottled "hindsight"  
 To release that curse on you  
 But "hindsight" can't be bottled  
 As every human knows  
 The mistakes you made along  
 The way will go on haunting you  
 But a hindsight lesson you must always  
 learn  
 Is not to love or be loved in return.  
 Peter Wicks..hold onto love like super  
 glue  
 If it comes your way..**

**Peter Wicks**

# FACE OF THE FUTURE

## Computing

by John Jones

Computing is quietly approaching a crisis point and there's not a lot on the shelf to meet it.

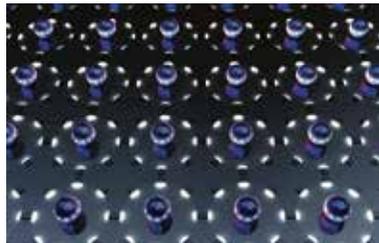
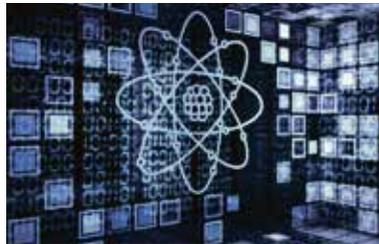
According to Moore's law, the number of transistors per square inch of circuitry doubles every year. This meets the needs of industry and the ever-increasing complexity of programs. Moore's law held for many years, but the increase has now slowed to 18 months and will probably freeze altogether by about 2025 unless something new comes along.

The problem has quietly crept up upon us - the dissipation of heat. Silicon-based transistor circuits are simply becoming too packed and too hot to operate. This puts a ceiling on computing power.

### Nano Nano

The nearest useful development is the production of the three-dimensional Tri-Gate Transistor. Successful test models work a little faster and use less energy than standard, flat transistors and can be more densely packed.

More than 6 million 22 nanometre Tri-Gate transistors could fit in the full-stop at the end of this sentence. A nanometre is one-billionth of a metre - small.



### Silicon is dead, long live Carbon!

Other ideas are also being explored. Carbon will likely replace silicon as the basis for transistors later this century. Basic circuitry using carbon "nanotubes" has been constructed and pioneers remain very optimistic.

Another ceiling is transistor



## Driverless Cars

Introducing the "Devbot" - a driverless or "autonomous" car that was shown at the Formula E pre-season test at Donington Park. The Devbot will take part in a series of "Roboraces" next year.

It's promoter, Justin Cooke CMO of Kinetik - an investment company founded and funded by Russian businessman Denis Sverdlov, says

"It's the first time we've run the Devbot in driverless mode..." "... what we are doing is at the forefront of technology."

The Devbot is battery powered but it's no slow-coach, achieving speeds in test-runs of 215 mph. Driverless cars can be powered by any fuel of course, such as petrol, methanol, or hydrogen.

### How does it work?

To avoid obstacles Devbot navigates by GPS (ground-positioning satellite) which locates the car. Radar (low frequency light) and ultra-

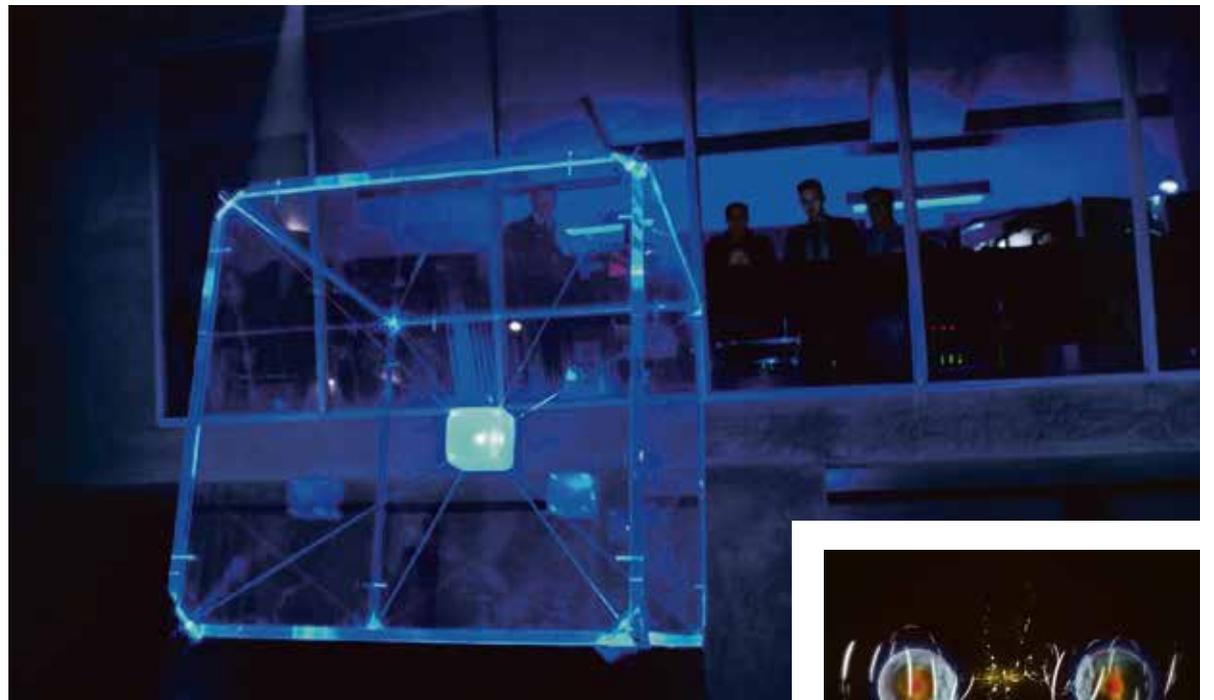
sonics (high-pitched sound waves) are continuously emitted by the car and reflected back by obstacles.

Reflections are picked up by microphones and radar sensors which send the data to a computer program. The program decides what is an obstacle, and drives or stops the car. The man sitting in the back with bulging eyes is me.

Public versions of driverless cars might use a low-powered laser beam which rapidly switches on and off while scanning. Reflections are built up into an image of the surroundings and used by the program.

A driverless car program can be run from inside the car, but to co-ordinate traffic flow of many driverless cars manufacturers will want to use a single external program to juggle the data.

It might sound scary, but we'll get used to it. And it's no scarier than putting your life in the hands of members of the public ...



size. Currently the smallest transistor ever made (as a test model) is a single phosphorus atom in a silicon matrix. Can't get any smaller than that? Enter the quantum computer.

### A Quantum of Snowden

"Penetrating Hard Targets" is the name of an \$80 million NSA program to crack our passwords using quantum computers. It was revealed by Edward Snowden. Only the most basic quantum circuitry has ever been built, so the NSA has some work to do.

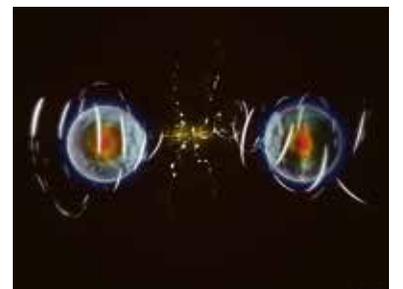
Quantum computers are, theoretically, extraordinarily good at such complex tasks but not so good at the simple, such as streaming movies.

Ordinary transistors use only

particles - electrons or electricity. Quantum computers are fundamentally different because they also work with the wave ("quantum") form of matter. Matter has two forms - wave and particle.

Crucial for quantum computational speed is the fact that waveforms can merge or "entangle". So, if you measure the entangled wave-form it includes information from all the waveforms that contributed to it - multi-tasking.

Quantum processors and their waveforms are very sensitive to electrical or temperature interference. One device uses diamond impregnated with nitrogen and empty spaces. These holes trap electrons whose spin presents a common



waveform in the crystal. A laser is shone into the diamond to measure that wave-form. The emerging light holds information from all the entangled electrons at once.

Other test-models for quantum processors include supercooled materials such as aluminium and niobium and devices for spinning the nuclei of atoms, such as nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), and measuring their entangled wave-state.

What more can I say, except, Good luck guys!, except you NSA. Now for my daily walk.



### ... Sports bus?

Devbot is a great promo for the driverless car, but the promoter's choice of using street-racing "sport" to sell it might seem a little odd.

After all, who would get in a "racing taxi" or a "sports bus"? How about going to work in a driverless "sports train" that takes corners at death-defying speeds? Crikey, not me.

Nevertheless, Roborace's head of PR Victoria Tomlinson thinks that the public will be more likely to accept the travel option offered by driverless cars if they were "doing some cool stuff" like racing on city streets.

### Death of the sports car

The irony in using street racing to promote Devbot is that driverless

cars spell the end of the sports car. The legal nod-and-a-wink that allows "sporty" driving on our public roads will become redundant.

But maybe the "sports car" is long past its sell-by date anyway, and is more suited to a time when privileged country gentlemen could "sport" their three-wheeled Morgan's on empty country roads in presumptively patriotic displays called (and an ageing Jeremy Clarkson still calls) "freedom of the road."

Sports fans watch out for the Devbot in 2017 when Cooke plans to have 10 autonomous (driverless) cars entered in the Roborace series, planned as part of Formula E race weekends.

### Other developments

Google says that it will offer driverless cars by 2020, though its promised dates are continually pushed forward. A Google driverless car has been around for a few years and has a good accident record, though it can only navigate selected roads.

A problem facing all driverless cars is obstacle selection. Snow, paper on the road, signals to stop - all present problems of interpretation for the car's computer program. Google is working on it.

Another problem is legal restriction. Some states in the US want driverless cars to have brakes, steering wheels, and a driver present as passenger.

The variety of problems met with on the road are currently too great for completely driverless vehicles. Problems are minimised on public transport through fixed route scheduling and fixed vehicle positioning on rails.

Driverless cars: the idea is intriguing - and possible, but don't hold your breath. Maybe the roads need to change as well as the cars.

# Israeli interference in our democracy?

An undercover reporter and hidden cameras tracked Israeli diplomat, and intelligence expert Shai Masot travelling across Britain as he held secret talks with figures from the Conservative Friends of Israel (CFI) and its Labour counterpart (LFI)."

The disclosures are in a film made by the investigative unit of the Qatari-based Al Jazeera TV company, which claims to show how the Israeli Government has 'infiltrated' the Conservative and Labour parties.

Further footage shows Masot, telling senior Labour MP Joan Ryan that he has obtained 'more than £1 million' to pay for sympathetic Labour MPs to visit Israel. Mr Masot also mocks 'crazy' Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and his 'weirdo' supporters.

"It now seems clear people in the Conservative and Labour Parties have been working with the Israeli embassy which has used them to demonise and trash MPs who criticise Israel; an army of Israel's useful idiots in Parliament.

The film claims to expose the way that the Israeli government has 'infiltrated' both the Conservative and Labour parties via its embassy in the UK, using secret cash and covert support. Shai Masot, describes himself as an officer in the Israel Defence Forces and is serving as a senior political officer at the London embassy.



## Mark Regev Has History

Mark Regev is Israel's Ambassador to London and of course was the Israeli government spokesman who justified the massacre of more than 600 women and children in Gaza, and the murder of peace activists aboard the Mavi Marmara.



## Edited transcript of meeting between Shai Masot (M), senior political officer, Israeli Embassy, London, Maria Strizzolo (S), leading pro-Israel Tory activist and an aide to Conservative Minister Robert Halfon, and an undercover reporter (R)

M: Can I give you names of MPs I suggest you take down?

S: If you look hard enough I'm sure there's something they're trying to hide.

M: Yeah. I have some MPs.

S: Let's talk about it.

R: Yeah.

M: She knows which MPs I want to take down.

S: Yeah, it's good to remind me.

M: The Deputy Foreign Minister [Duncan].

S: You still want to go for it?

M: ...He's doing a lot of problems.

S: Really?

M: Really. It sounds like a conspiracy.

S: I thought you had neutralised it a little bit?

M: No. Boris. He's basically good.

S: He's solid on Israel.

M: Yeah. He just doesn't care. He is an idiot but has become Minister of Foreign Affairs without any responsibilities. If something real happened it won't be his fault... it will be Alan Duncan.

Duncan is impossible to rebuff... he has a lot of friends.

S: Years ago, Rob [Halfon] was asking questions in Parliament



about terrorist salaries...

M: When he [Duncan] was a DFID minister?

S: Yeah. He [Duncan] told him [Halfon]: if you don't stop this I'm

going to destroy you and all of that s\*\*\*. Rob told the Whips and they told him to calm down. So never say never.

M: Never say never, yeah but...

S: A little scandal maybe? Don't tell anyone about this meeting.

M: Who would we tell? Masot and Strizzolo on 'horrible anti-Israel' Tory MPs.

M: Crispin Blunt [chairman of Commons Foreign Affairs committee]. Those are people you...

S: ...On the hit list? Yeah!

M: I don't have any problems with them.

S: Some super pro-Arabist [Tory MPs]... I can't stand [them], They're horrible people - the two go together.

M: Yeah...



• **INTERVIEW** • Rebecca **Long Bailey**

# The shadow treasury spokesperson talks to the Word About homelessness.

Q "What is the core feeling among the Corbyn side of the shadow cabinet about homelessness?"

A "Obviously I am a shadow treasury Minister so for me everything comes back to the economy so it's a case of building more homes, more social homes. We haven't had proper funding for

council housing and social homes for I don't know how long. So we need to put more money into that. Obviously people are homeless for a reason so we need to make sure we have an economy that works for everyone which means investing more money into people, into industry, into infrastructure. Mak-

ing sure that people have access to higher skilled quality employment. Making sure that those who can't work receive help from our welfare state which is supposed to be a safety net for people. We should deal with the horrific sanctions regime that we have got. No one should be pushed to the point

of destitution and nobody should be pushed to the point of losing their home or where they live. That is not the sign of a civilised society to me. We need to crack down on rogue landlords to make sure it's not easy to evict people for getting into arrears, we need to crack down on the mortgage

companies. I am not saying that they shouldn't have the right to do that if it's a very serious situation but you need to give support to those who might lose their home and make sure that they have got somewhere else to go to. At the moment we do not have that network.

## PETER LOO TRANSLATES FOR YOU

As the language is changed into newspeak we give you a guide to what our rulers really mean.

Fake news: The news that makes the establishment look silly.

Populism: Is what democracy is called when we vote against what they want.

Elevator: The time the Americans take to say this word you could have gotten to the top floor in the lift.

Collateral damage: Murdered civilians.

Terrorists: Those fighting against USA interests.

Freedom fighters: Those fighting for USA interests.

Unelectable: People our rulers are terrified we will elect.

Conspiracy theory: It used to be called paranoia. Rough translation is "Oh...no...they have found out

what we have been up to."

Anti-Semitism: Mentioning that Israel is not perfect.

Leaders of the free world: With military bases in over 200 countries of the world it means "The USA Empire."

Austerity: Taking from the poor to give to the rich.

Constitutional Monarchy: You do not get to vote on your head of state.

To Regev: To improperly influence.

Hard left: politically moderate left of centre

Regime: Next country on the US's attack list.

Dictator: Leader of a country that is on US's attack list

Manifesto: Jackanory for the electorate

Spin: Propaganda

Privatisation: Selling public organisation to friends

Free press: Billionaire owned press

quantitative easing: Socialism for the rich

Restructuring: Job losses

Brexit: Anything but Brexit

War on Terror: War over oil

News: Propaganda

Immigrant/Refugee: Scapegoat

Moderate: Right wing

New Labour: Not Labour

Hardworking families: Working class.

# Women who made a difference Series

## LE SOURIS BLANCHE (NANCY WAKE)

Part 6.

Having had my arm twisted to do another article in the series I remembered a very brave woman, Nancy Wake. I found out about her returning from a trip in the Gran Massif in France with my daughter and French son-in law. I saw a museum signposted about the French Resistance where her contribution to helping the Resistance was documented. Her exploits and others of the Special Operations Executive inspired the film 'Charlotte Grey'.

She was born in Wellington, New Zealand in 1912, but grew up from the age of two in Australia. After training as a nurse she used an inheritance, when aged 19, to travel to Paris, New York and then study journalism in London. She then landed a job as correspondent for the Chicago Tribune in Paris. In 1933 she was sent to interview the German Chancellor, Hitler, in Vienna and as a result she was filled with fear of the Nazis then on.

Having married a French industrialist, Henri Fiocca she was living in Marseilles when WW II broke out. Together they helped British Servicemen and Jews escape the occupation before Henri was killed by the Gestapo. Nancy then helped

the evacuation of troops from Belgium before returning to France to join the Resistance forces and was such a 'thorn in the side' of the Germans they put a price of 5million francs on her head. She evaded capture on numerous occasions leading to her nickname, 'Le Souris Blanche' (white mouse). Her network was betrayed in 1940 but Nancy managed to travel through Spain to reach England despite being captured and tortured at one point.

She joined the Special Operations Executive (now the SAS) and was quickly trained up and parachuted back into France. Nancy helped to train and arm forces fighting the Germans in the lead up to the D Day landings. From April 1944 until the liberation of France, she fought alongside 7,000+ resistance forces against 22,000 German soldiers, causing 1,400 casualties, while suffering only 100 themselves. She was a fearless fighter, even killing a SS sentry with a judo chop. When the group she was with were compromised by German intelligence she cycled 300 miles in 72 hours to find another group with a radio operator to obtain new codes to get information back to Britain. Captain Henri Tardivat, one of her comrades in the Resistance, later described her as



'the most feminine woman I know, until the fighting starts. Then, she is like five men.'

After the war Nancy continued to work for British intelligence until 1957. Having married again

to John Melvin Forward, a former RAF fighter pilot, she returned to live in Australia, making unsuccessful attempts to get elected to parliament. She felt unappreciated by the country of her childhood. This led her to refuse decorations from the Australian government, with characteristic bluntness, she said they could "stick their medals where the monkey stuck his nuts". In February 2004, she relented and was made a Companion of the Order of Australia. This was along with the George Medal from Britain and ten other honours from France, USA, Britain, Australia and New Zealand, making her the most decorated woman of the war.

"Freedom is the only thing worth living for. While I was doing that work,

I used to think it didn't matter if I died, because without freedom there was no point in living"

Her husband died in 1997 and Wake settled for a final time in London. There was little she enjoyed better than "a bloody good drink", and to fund her lifestyle she had sold her war medals. "There was no point in keeping them," she explained, "I'll probably go to hell and they'd melt anyway." In spite of this she did not die until August 2011, just short of her 99th birthday!

January 31, 1950, U.S. President Truman announces that he has ordered development of the hydrogen bomb

January 30, 1649, England's King Charles I is beheaded

January 29, 1996, French President Jacques Chirac announces the "definitive end" to nuclear testing

January 28, 1980, six Americans who had fled the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran, on November 4, 1979, left Iran using false Canadian diplomatic passports, after being hidden at the Canadian embassy in Tehran

January 27, 1606, the trial of Guy Fawkes and his fellow conspirators began in the UK. They were executed on January 31 of the same year

January 26 1998, U.S. President Clinton denies having an affair with a former White House intern, saying "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky"

January 24, 1965, Winston Churchill dies at the age of 90

January 23, 1924, the first Labour government was formed, in the UK, under Ramsay MacDonald

January 22, 1979, in the UK tens of thousands of public sector workers take part in a day of

## THESE DAYS IN HISTORY



action over pay - the biggest mass stoppage since 1926 The country is paralysed

January 21, 1997, Newt Gingrich is fined as the U.S. House of Representatives votes for first time in history to discipline its leader for ethical misconduct

January 20, 1961, John F Kennedy is sworn in as US President

January 19, 1995, Russian forces overwhelm resistance forces in Chechnya

January 18, 1964, plans for the World Trade Center in New York are disclosed

January 17, 1991, Coalition



airstrikes begin against Iraq after negotiations to get Iraq to retreat from Kuwait fail

January 16, 1991, the White House announces the start of Operation Desert Storm designed to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait

January 15, 1973, President Nixon orders a halt to American bombing in North Vietnam

January 14, 1975, UK heiress Lesley Whittle kidnapped

January 13, 1964, Hindu-Muslim rioting breaks out in the Indian city of Calcutta resulting in the deaths of more than 100 people



January 12, 1991, The United States Congress votes to authorise the use of military force against Iraq

January 11, 1861, Alabama seceded from the United States of America

January 10 / 11, 2016, David Bowie dies aged 69

January 10 2003, North Korea announces that it is withdrawing from the global nuclear arms control treaty and that it has no plans to develop nuclear weapons

January 9, 1997, Tamil rebels attack a military base in Sri Lanka, killing 200 soldiers and 140

rebels

January 8, 1996, France mourns its longest serving president Francois Mitterrand who died today

January 7 1942 The World War II siege of Bataan begins

January 6, 1900, in India, it is reported that millions of people are dying from starvation

On this day Amy Johnson went to a watery grave

Local 'lass' and world famous aviator Amy Johnson died January 5, 1941. ...more

January 5, 1981: Man arrested for Ripper murders

A 35-year-old lorry driver from Bradford, suspected of carrying out 13 murders across West Yorkshire over the past five years, is appearing in court.

January 4, 1884, the socialist Fabian Society was founded in London

January 3, 1925, Mussolini announced that he would take dictatorial powers in Italy

January 2, 1872, Brigham Young, the 71-year-old leader of the Mormon Church, arrested for bigamy, having 25 wives

January 1, 1900, Nigeria became a British protectorate with Frederick Lagard as the high commissioner

By Mara Leverkuhn

I just saw this clip on Infowars by British sardonic machine Paul Joseph Watson and have to comment on it immediately. I'd like to insert a link but this is a goddam paper paper so you'll have to just go to the library, put a written request to the librarian, wait for her to walk 2 km to the relevant row and deliver it to you by magic pigeon. The title is: Why does popular culture glorify being a wuss. As if any of you research anything I say.

Initially I was all elated and clapping along to the funnyman's expressive sneer of retards who confuse coming out as whiners with depression with any meaning of the word strength. I'm with Paul here that many words like strength, empowered etc. have been distorted and reversed as it were, to mean acts of actual wussification or more sinisterly, internalised censorship, eg. female empowerment. Which is a hollow carcass of what it initially meant, now carried by fat b\*\*hes who want you to censor your speech to spare their mentally unstable feelings; in complete disregard of real women out there who suffer in the flesh, not in the feelings... like women in war, or those Yazidi women who died at the hands of ISIS in terrible tortures. I noticed if you bring up war s\*\*t to these b\*\*hes they lose interest, but they'll wear the cloak of righteousness over hurt feelings for hours if you let them. Don't let them.

I was musing on the above in my head while Paul boy was being all charming and s\*\*t, when I stop laughing and realise there comes a point where his argument collapses. "Even the poorest today have a comfortable life so shouldn't be so depressed, it's because they're wusses". Now, with this, I disagree. It may well be that privileged douche bags uploading "empowering" YouTube coming out with depression are actual retards with no real problems in their lives and the odious crime here is committed against language, as it takes the noble concept of power to apply it to an exact opposite of. But it's definitely not true that we should all be happy in the West nowadays. NO F\*\*KING WAY.

A hamster in a cage, even a gilded cage, isn't happy. It isn't free. I'm going to tell you my hamster story. Many moons ago, when I didn't know better, my eyes were caught by hamsters in a pet shop window so I impulse bought one of the little creatures to bring home. His name was Napoleon. He never understood or recognised me. Why should he?

All the little guy ever wanted to do was escape. See, I think he was a f\*\*king genius for hamsters. He was a little passive, and depressed, so I put a wheel in his little cage and waited for him to jog, to feel good. He jumped on, ran a bit, climbed down, looked left, right, was puzzled.. jumped back on

the wheel, ran, ran, jumped back down.. he looked left, right,... and again... he realised he was being duped. The little man knew the damn wheel didn't lead anywhere. He never used it again. He was trapped, and miserable. He put all his damn energy in trying to escape, at which he was a Houdini.

You see, hamsters in the wild run many miles a day, with purpose, hoarding large amounts of stuff in elaborate underground galleries. They're industrious, active fellas. To put them in a cage is horrible. Who cares the cage is pretty with sugar on top if they can't run and be free and hoard and dig?

What do humans do in the wild? Anybody remembers? Are you meant to sit in a cubicle, pretending to be enthusiastic about roof solutions and working to buy to make others rich? Are you meant to eat vapid plastic western food? You guys don't even know what it is to eat real food. Authentic, as god made it, pre industrial agriculture, meat and veg. You haven't even tasted a real tomato, and what an inebriating scent the meat used to have. You don't know the rich perfume food filled a room with, and the joys of just wandering outdoors in the sun, doing nothing, but talking to the universe, and using your legs, and bracing nature. To do that now is a luxury sold to the bourgeois by shrewd companies, and it's an imitation of life, like everything else. How easy to confuse shopping with happiness; they're nothing like each other. You can't even do anything here that doesn't cost money and doesn't give you a tepid simulation of life that leaves you frustrated and empty; go out, means go and spend £10 on a cocktail with a little story attached to it and a syrupy taste and 10ml of alcohol that you're supposed to muse pompously about the layers of flavour of, knowing deep inside it's just another random mix of s\*\*t with sprinkles on top. Living, is being thieved at every turn, in all ways. And told what to do, and how you're allowed to enjoy yourself. Some have to wait until their seventies to have a proper vacation. Tell me how much are you going to enjoy life at 70 after they've worked you like a workhorse?

No, depression and misery ARE A NECESSARY INBUILT PART OF NEOLIBERAL CAPITALISM. They're not individual quirks. They're your natural body screaming at you things doesn't f\*\*king work. This isn't f\*\*king okay. But your overlords control your brain so you say no, this is awesome lets have another latte darling while your body is screaming and you don't listen to it. And I have to mention for the communist dupes, capitalism itself wouldn't do this, Neoliberal capitalism does. Since being anti capitalist can put me on an official government extremist list, I feel I have to make this mention. Capitalism is life. Neoliberalism is death. So if you want to put me on an extremist list, you have to refine your thinking, government drones.

If you're puzzled by the above and need clarification, hit me up and I'll explain: @maraleverkuhn on twitter.

GovernmentUK Politics Democracy Self Improvement Capitalism



# NAPOLEON, KING OF THE HAMSTERS

# FACEBOOK POLICED BY FAR-RIGHT UKRAINIANS

By John Jones

Facebook CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, has appointed the American Poynter Institute to police news, groups and posts through its selected range of US-backed news agencies from selected countries. China and Russia, notably absent.

Two of those selected agencies are far-right Ukrainian - Factcheck-Ukraine and VoxUkraine. Under the proposed rules, it will take only two such agencies to flag a news post as "fake."

This means that, effectively, Facebook is being policed by the far-right.

Ukraine is currently under the sway of ultra-nationalist, far-right politicians and oligarchs following the CIA-backed coup there in 2014. Torchlight parades, replete with racist symbolism, are a regular feature of Ukrainian society, held in honour of Stepan Bandera, a Nazi collaborator and Ukraine's nationalist movement leader during World War II.

These marches go unchallenged in Ukraine, the EU and the US.

## The politicisation of Facebook

Groups and posts that have vanished by falling under Zuckerberg's home-made banner "anti-racism- a la Zuckerberg", include those supporting Kurdish and Palestinian objectives, and alternatives to established EU immigration policy in the wake of catastrophic western interven-

tions in the Middle East.

Before the US election result Zuckerberg asked his Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg to get advice from the Clinton circus about getting his political hand in.

For those who don't know, Clinton politics is called "the left" in America which translates to "the right" over here, certainly as regards foreign policy which is as bloody as they come.

Zuckerberg constantly solicits politicians, both in the US and abroad, to further his political agenda. No bad thing if that agenda serves the people - but the devil is in the detail.

"None of our business anyway" many might say, "Zuckerberg can do what he likes - Facebook is his."

Bad argument. If Zuckerberg unilaterally declares Facebook to be independent of society to a certain degree then, to that same degree, he and Facebook's shareholders should not use society's resources.

## Dangerous trend

Zuckerberg's foray into censorship and politics has helped butter the scones of the US Democratic party in the wake of their laughable, histrionic Russo-phobic reaction to losing the election and control of Congress and House of Representatives.

Facebook's far-right censorship promo marks a trend that all America's allies will follow in some

form: the signs are here.

At about the same time as Zuckerberg's censorship push, Labour MP Ben Bradshaw, dangerously and deliberately ape-ing Democrat tantrums, declared that Moscow "probably" influenced the UK vote to leave the EU. Oh! catch us, Mr. Bradshaw, we are swooning.

And a national security meeting to be chaired

by Theresa May is planned to "assess and formulate options"

- options that crack down on "fake" news, among other topics. The phrase "fake news" is being pushed by western media as a new, and sufficient reason for applying censorship.

## Attack on journalism

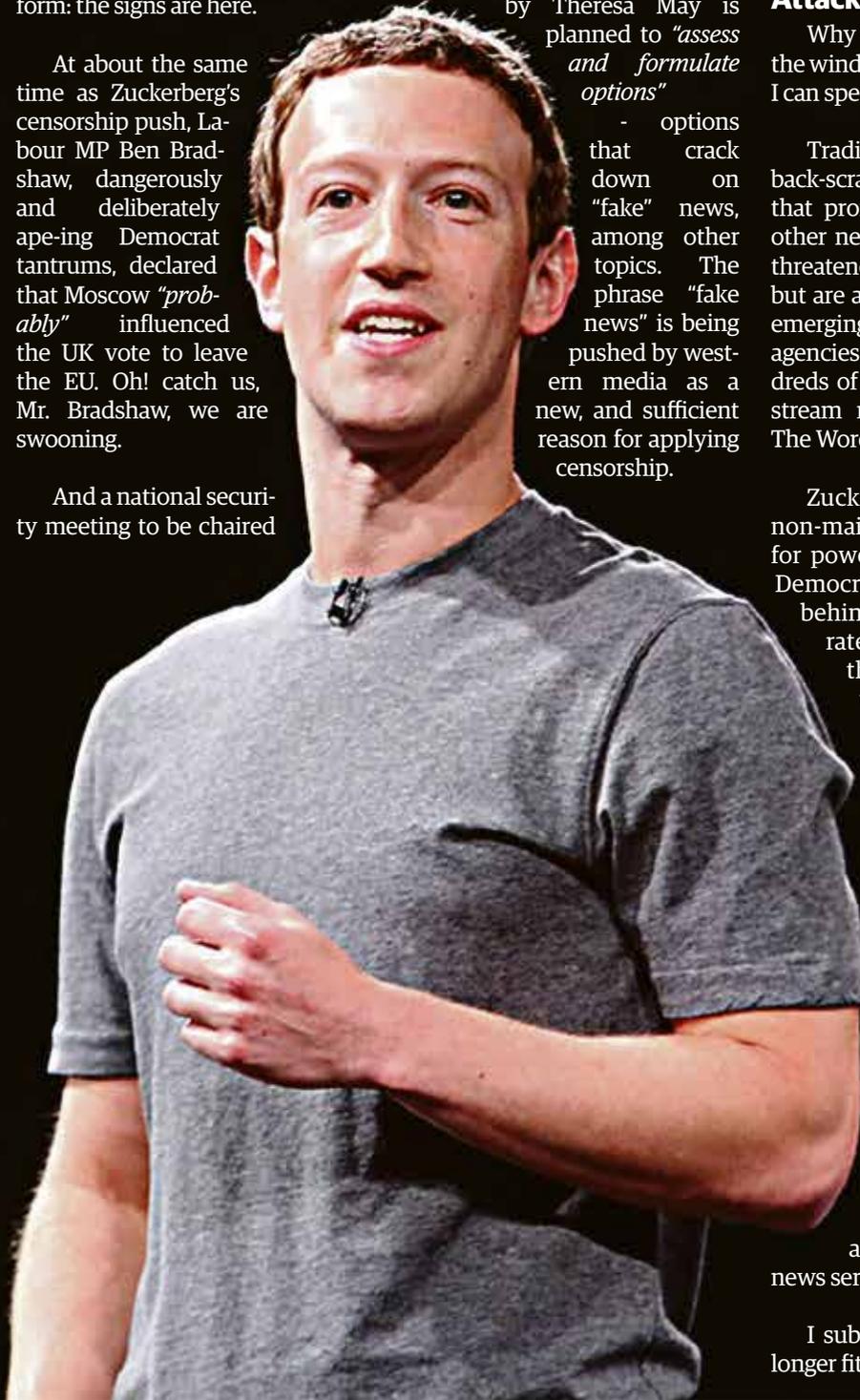
Why this sudden change in the wind, this attack on our news? I can speculate.

Traditional Democratic party back-scratching corporate circles that promote lucrative war and other neo-colonial ambitions are threatened by Trump's success, but are also threatened by newly emerging internet-based news agencies such as RT and hundreds of independent non-mainstream news outlets, including The Word.

Zuckerberg has sold out non-mainstream journalism for power and influence in the Democratic party. He trots behind their hidden corporate players who are, at this very moment, with their allies abroad, promoting the party's long-term attack on journalism and whistle-blowing.

The west's attack on journalism has all the hall-marks of an emerging pan-western totalitarianism, where new money barons promote a social austerity that can only be secured by force, the invention of a scapegoat ... currently Russia, but China's turn will come again, and a heavily censored news service.

I submit that Facebook is no longer fit for purpose.



## Hope and Good News.

A New Year and we must cast off the gloom of 2016. Before we do I have some positive thoughts from the campaigning website AVAAZ.

"In 2016, hate was given hope -- but now we take it back!

From terrorism to Trump to Syria, it was a rough year. But hidden by all the darkness filling our screens, there's a simple, beautiful, truth:

The world has never been in a better place."

Avaaz gave 99 positives to take from 2016. I quote ten below, for the others see:

<https://medium.com/@angushervy/99-reasons-why-2016-has-been-a-great-year-for-humanity-8420debc2823#...>

- New research showed that acid pollution in the atmosphere is now almost back to the level that it was before it started with industrialisation in the 1930s. Science Bulletin
- The World Health Organisation released a report showing that, since the year 2000, global malaria deaths have declined by 60%. WHO

- Uruguay won a major case against Philip Morris in a World Bank ruling, setting a precedent for other small countries that want to deter tobacco use. CS Monitor
- Malawi achieved a 67% reduction in the number of children acquiring HIV, the biggest success story across all sub-Saharan nations. Since 2006, they've saved 260,000 lives. Al Jazeera
- Liberia was officially cleared of Ebola, meaning there are now no known cases of the deadly

tropical virus left in West Africa. Vanguard

- Black incarceration rates fell in the United States. Not fast enough, but certainly something worth celebrating. Washington Post
- In June, after years of wrangling, the drive to end female genital mutilation in Africa made a major breakthrough, when the Pan African Parliament endorsed a continent-wide ban. The Wire
- The Chinese government placed a ban on new coal mines,

created new rules for grid access and doubled its renewables targets for 2020. WRI

- In 2016 Costa Rica ran solely on renewable energy for over 100 days. Now it's aiming for an entire year with no fossil fuels. The Independent
- In June, a new survey showed that the ozone hole has shrunk by more than 3.9 million square kilometres since 2006. Scientists now think it will now be fully healed by 2050. Sydney Morning Herald

Our Street Life project aims to re-instate neglected and disused pathways on the estate in order to bring our community together by providing a peaceful and calming space for them to be able to enjoy a safe and relaxing location to meet.

The project has been divided into two stages, the first being the construction works needed to remove the old and damaged paving and replace it with a tarmac surface that is easily maintained. The second stage will involve all of our local residents (young and old) to ask them to help with the planting and general maintenance going forward.

#### What we'll do:

- Dig up and replace the existing four pathways
- Add suitable drainage
- Apply Tarmac coating to provide safe and accessible pathways
- Add seating
- Add raised beds and planters with flowers and herbs
- Add security lighting

#### Why it's a great idea:

The pathways are vitally important to the local community. East Moor Estate was officially opened in 1924 and nicknamed Wembley due to its opening date being the same as that of the old Wembley stadium. The estate comprises of 5 streets (about 200 homes) set apart from the village of Murton, meaning it is often overlooked for any regeneration work or council spending. A lot of the residents on the estate are young families, disabled and elderly. Roads on the estate are busy with narrow pavements making it difficult and unsafe for some residents to get around.

If the pathways can once again be made usable this will encourage community cohesion, provide safe access routes around the estate, give children somewhere to play and provide the opportunity for all members of our community to

# PRESS RELEASE Murton based Resident's Association launch a crowdfunding campaign to raise £34,000



come together.

As our estate is approaching its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday we would love to be able to hold street parties and the pathways would be the ideal safe and pleasant locations for these.

#### How we'll get it done:

We plan to contact local construction companies and quarries for donations of time, equipment, expertise and materials to carry out the first stage of the project (the construction work). Contacting local agencies (like Groundwork) to help us with the planning of the planting and seating will be vital to achieving the best use of the space available although it will be the local residents that will be really involved in the decision making, planting and maintenance of the living streets we are hoping to create.

Any pledges, however small, will be very gratefully received and payments will only be taken if the crowdfunding campaign is successful.

#### Photo of the current state of one of the pathways

For further details about the project or the crowdfunding campaign please contact: Trish Howett, info.emera@gmail.com

To view the details of the campaign or to make a pledge: <https://www.spacehive.com/emera-street-life>

## How to be an Inmate?

Michael Burke must prepare his own narrative for cell-mates

by Brian Bamford - a former inmate at Strangeways HMP

If Michael Burke, who was yesterday sentenced to 15-years jail having been found guilty of raping his own sister 'Selfie Queen' Karen Danczuk as a child, and sexually assaulting two other girls, is to avoid himself being brutalised and possibly raped in the British prison system, he must now be carefully preparing his own narrative to relate to the prison community on the wings.

Only yesterday the Manchester Evening News (MEN) carried a story by a prison officer at Strangeways notorious Victorian prison in Manchester in which the unnamed source said 'staff are living in fear of violence and nothing is being done to stop inmates using drugs and mobile phones'.

'Out of Sight, Out of Mind'

English people tend to adopt the view of 'Out of sight, out of mind!' with regard to their own prison system, and the anonymous source told the MEN that 'It is clear the home secretary does not understand the issues staff face daily'.

The prison officer is reported to have said in a letter that 'prisoners have no respect for authority, are violent to fellow inmates and staff and take drugs such as spice'.

Furthermore, he wrote: "There have been several incidents at HMP Manchester where staff have been threatened by prisoners and governors have done nothing to protect the staff'.

'Notoriety' of Defendant and 'Fame' of Complainant

Defending Burke, Nicholas Walker QC said Burke had suffered a downfall of a 'very public nature'. And Mr. Walker added.

By Paul Dawson

There is no evidence of frequent, widespread electoral fraud of the sort that the appalling Eric Pickles says he wants to clamp down upon. Here's Matt Singer, of Number-Crunching Politics, speaking on Radio 4's The World at One just now: "Based on the numbers in the report it doesn't appear that voting fraud in person at polling stations has been a particularly big problem thus far. In 2015, out of over 50 million votes cast in all of the elections across the UK, there was a total of thirty-seven alleged cases of voter fraud ... Thus far there doesn't seem to be a great deal of evidence that it's a significant problem. ... Thirty-seven votes, if they were all in the same constituency and all in the same direction, would only have been enough to change the result in one constit-

## Electoral Fraud Fraud

ency in the whole of the UK." Nevertheless, the Conservatives will, doubtless, push ahead with their plan to make it mandatory for voters to present ID at polling stations. Given that the problem they say they're trying to solve does not exist, it's clear that the Tories cannot be trusted on this. (Surprise, surprise.) Most obviously, they're once again attempting to reduce non-Tory votes, particularly Labour ones, by effectively disenfranchising people. Here's Ken Livingstone, on the same programme: "the people most likely not to have a passport or a driving licence are the poorest, and that, I suspect, will basically hit the Labour Party." I guess that's what you do, when you consider yourself to be the natural party of government, ruling,

by dint of birth, wealth, and privilege, with something akin to a divine right: shut down the opposition, by fair means or foul. But is there something else going on also - something in keeping with the right-wing's general strategy, which we've seen succeeding in the USA as well as here? Namely, accusing your opponents of doing what (it might well seem that) you yourself are guilty of? (The BBC's coverage of this story on this particular programme was appropriately even-handed - unlike on TV, where the newsreader declared that 'the government hopes that this measure will reduce voting fraud', or some such. It is NOT the role of BBC news to report what the government CLAIMS that it hopes, as if what the government claims is TRUE!)

By Dr. Aida Alayarian

## Background

The Refugee Therapy Centre (RTC) is a registered charity established in 1999 in response to the growing need for a therapeutic service in the community which can respect and work with the cultural and linguistic differences. The work of the Centre aims to relieve the need of refugees, asylum seekers and other minority by the provision of psychotherapy, counselling and associated treatment, providing the opportunity for people to feel heard. We deliver a culturally and linguistically appropriate intercultural therapeutic service addressing the gap in service provision currently we are providing services in 17 languages, with the hope of helping our clients to regain a sense of meaning and improvement in the quality of life, after the considerable trauma they have endured.

Our central purpose is to help people to feel empowered to deal with their psychological difficulties through our specialist service. The majority of the Centre's staff have a refugee or immigrant background and bring with them a wealth of linguistic, cultural knowledge and experiences. Patients have the choice of receiving support in English or in their own language. Some people prefer not to see a therapist from their own cultural background because of feelings of mistrust, guilt, shame or embarrassment about what has happened to them, but also due to the intensity of feelings of pain when talking in their own language.

We offer individual, couple, family and group therapy based on an assessment of need, giving priority to children, young people and their families and to those who have been in the UK for less than 10 years. Our approach based on resilience and our main focus is on the trauma related issues presented by the people we serve. Understanding the range of effects of trauma from an intercultural perspective is important. It is also vital to take care with the level of interpretation and the pacing of the treatment to ensure better outcomes.

## Prioritising Children and Young People

There are numerous reasons why we might consider refugee and asylum-seeking children and youths to be more disadvantaged than the average young person in the UK. In addition to experiencing displacement and/or persecution in their countries of origin, refugee and asylum-seeking young people may encounter a range of new difficulties upon entering a host country, including adjusting to a new environment, language barriers, uncertain citizenship and material poverty. As a result of such



# THE WORK OF THE REFUGEE THERAPY CENTRE



trauma, the inner worlds of many young refugees are populated by experiences of abuse and horror that often bear little or no resemblance to their present situations here in the host country. This can prevent young people from settling and integrating into their new environment, which then leads to new anxiety, depression and stress. Some act out their distress with parents and teachers in the form of aggressive and violent behaviour, whilst others become withdrawn or may develop eating disorders. Poor concentration and memory impairment are also common reactions. These difficulties can impair the young persons' social and psychological develop-

ment and therefore impact their educational achievements, sometimes leading to behavioural difficulties in the classroom. If left unresolved, such difficulties can lead to serious mental health problems in later life. As a result of our experience providing services to this population, we have learned that much emotional suffering and difficulty can be ameliorated or prevented through early recognition, be this by the parents or teachers, and early intervention.

## Child and adolescent psychotherapy

As a result of what they have been through, the internal land-

scape of some young refugees and asylum seekers may be overwhelmed by fearful recollections of traumatic experiences. These are often expressed in a variety of unconscious, non-verbal ways. These can evoke strong negative feelings in the people around them, particularly those charged with their educational and social care. Sometimes the trauma in young children can "incubate" until finding expression in the teenage years. Parents and teachers have identified and reported significant changes in behaviour following war experiences, for example, some children find themselves becoming targets for school bullies as another regular manifestation of

distress in children who have been exposed to violence. Poor concentration and memory impairment are common reactions, and children can suffer loss of developmental skills which threatens their educational achievements. When left unattended, these difficulties can progress to serious and complex problems later in life. Many emotional and behavioural problems among refugee children are consistently associated with the effects of war and other atrocities. Some children act out their distress rather than talking about it. When referred, a child is seen either alone or with a parent in the first session, according to what is most appropriate for his/her age

and development, and the reason for referral.

### Working with adult refugees and asylum seekers

One of the objectives of the Centre is to provide a safe space in which people can rediscover their abilities and rebuild their confidence to be active members of their new society.

In addition to individual psychotherapy and counselling we offer:

#### Group therapy

Nadia - member of a women's group at the Centre wrote in her feedback form: *"Therapy is like a mother feeding the child. Initially when I joined the group, it was strange, but now it feels like going to a loving family home. Therapy has been a strong source of support for me, which has also helped me to even talk about my jealousy and envy."*

While each refugee's experience is unique, there are some which may be common to particular groups of women or men. For example, those coming from the same environment who speak the same language but there are also commonalities for people who experienced identical persecution, imprisonment, torture, domestic, family abuse or rape in different countries. In a mixed language/ethnicity group this can be a positive unifying factor.

#### Couples therapy

The process of becoming a refugee or seeking asylum can contribute to the development of marital or relationship difficulties. Some partners blame each other and project their stress onto the other person through feeling uncontained and mentally ill-equipped to deal with trauma they endured. Sometimes the couple relationship suffers because one partner is better able to deal with the adjustment issues and moves on and this may jeopardise their marriage or partnership.

#### Family therapy

Parents may want to talk to someone about concerns they have about their child; as parenthood in a strange environment may be quite challenging. They might want to bring their child to meet one of our therapists and arrange help for their child - we provide help for the family as a whole. Unresolved marital difficulties can overflow into family life or can rumble on without being discussed, leading to difficulties in other family members which is not voiced because of their status as children. We receive referrals for children experiencing problems of adjustment at school, or at home. In their struggle to cope with their past experiences children often exhibit feelings of anger, what is

usually called 'challenging behaviour'. The resilience focus therapeutic approach we use can help all the members of the family to see how and why they may project their feelings of persecution on to those around them and find their strength, while dealing with the emotions that lie beneath their behaviour and with the reactions it provokes in other people, and to cope with their experiences.

#### Bi-lingual Support Outreach / Community Development Work

For those therapy is not useful, our Community Development Workers (CDWs) for over ten years provided a more active style of support for practical issues related to the processes of resettlement, in 12 languages. This project is sadly lost due to the lack of funding. The main funding was from Primary Care Trust, commissioning the work. We are hoping to gain funding to restart this project as soon as possible as people are asking for it.

Our Bi-lingual Support Outreach / Community Development Workers The CDWs offered confidential help and support with understanding and knowing services available in the new environment; accessing services such as health, education for children, and English or computer courses for adults, as well as finding courses, work or a volunteering opportunities. They can also provide a "listening ear" to people who feel isolated and would like to talk to someone in private and in their own language, or are not happy with their present circumstances and are worried about the future. The CDWs therefore acted as a filter for people who need some supportive therapy but first need to resolve some of practical issues such as health, homelessness and many other problems. Sometimes people can make use of both services simultaneously. This service currently is not available.

#### Parenting Workshop

Following requests from parents, since 2009, we developed the Parenting Workshop, helping parents to think about the wellbeing of their children, the challenge of adolescence, and to think about the understanding of parenting expectations in UK. The CDWs was part of this much needed Workshop since 2010, working with refugee and asylum seeker parents who are finding the parenting role challenging in their new society and benefit from support and guidance with their parenting skills. After a successful pilot, the Community Development Workers has now set up a series of monthly workshops for parents. These sessions help parents to think about the well-being and psychological needs of themselves, their children, the challenge of adolescence, the role of the statutory sector (social servic-

es) in child care and to think about the understanding of parenting expectations in different cultures.

#### Open Surgery with local MP

In addition to the Parenting Workshop, the CDWs have initiated an Open Surgery with our local MP and patron Jeremy Corbyn, MP. The Open Surgeries are held at the Centre to assist refugees and asylum seekers living in Islington who need to raise issues with their MP, but are unable to speak English. A pilot took place in May 2010 and bi-monthly Surgeries have been set up was extremely useful for people. After end of the CDW Projects, we are guiding people to Jeremy Corbyn constituency office and he keep supporting people as strongly as he always have done.

#### Mentoring Project

Language support is provided to help people improve their English and to help children with their school work and to ease the process of integration. Volunteers recruited are medical students; thereby increasing future health professionals' understanding of refugees' and asylum seekers' mental health needs.

#### Support for refugee volunteers

One of our main aims is to provide initial training and support for refugees working as volunteers for the Centre, in areas like office administration, IT, translation, support work and counselling, build their confidence and gain experience in a work environment. Volunteers are offered therapeutic help away from the Centre, if they would like it.

#### Supervision at the Refugee Therapy Centre

Even fully qualified and experienced professional psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists and counsellors come for supervision. However wide their general experience, working with people who have been refugees and asylum seekers requires understanding of life events which may be painfully difficult to tolerate, seem strange, unfamiliar, and unbearable. The Centre provides clinical supervision for other professionals who are working in the NHS or voluntary organisations.

#### Training

The foundation Course on Counselling Refugee is a one year training opportunity for people who would like to learn about working with refugees and asylum seekers in the community. After eight years of successive running of the course, we developed this to a four years qualifying training course. Candidates who successfully complete the one year Foundation may be accepted for MA Qualifying Course, which will enable them to work towards being

## My experience at the Refugee Therapy Centre



By Emmy

"There is a path, a path which leads to a range of different buildings. Buildings whose identity and purpose of existence is hidden in the inside of it. A heart that has suffered hardly realises that the impossible can actually become possible. At that moment my own story started. The resolution to fight for my happiness. I was lost, lost in feelings. Feelings whose causation was my past. Feelings which isolated me. Feelings which were destroying every single piece of me. My expectation wasn't either to be saved or my feelings to be forgotten and healed. I stepped in the building where I was supposed to. The walls were full of figures displaying refugees from all over the world. "Miss ..." an assistant called. I stood up and followed her. At

that moment, I met Doctor Aida Alayarian for the first time. A wise woman whose intelligence can be the reason to survive your soul from the dark it has been caged in. The time took me back to when it all started and ended on the last minute my speech was concluded. Reflecting on the past did not let me illustrate the future. Taking out the unwanted and undesirable feelings from the inside gave me assistance to yearn for feelings. Feelings whose reason would be my happiness. The support I got and I am getting from the Refugee Therapy precisely from Doctor Aida built who I am today and who I will be tomorrow. Today, my fears are wiped out, my heart is ready to love and be loved and hoping. Hoping for a better future, future where me, myself and I will matter more than anything else."

registered with UKCP, CPJAC. This was in collaboration with the UEL and we further developed the Professional Clinical Doctorate Training with another with Queen Mary University of London. This exciting and innovative programme is aimed at clinicians and senior professionals working within health and social care settings. The programme has been developed as a partnership between Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and the Refugee Therapy Centre (RTC). Completion of the course will lead to a QMUL degree, and registration with the RTC as a fully qualified Intercultural therapist. RTC is an organisation member of the UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) and the Council for Psychoanalysis and Jungian Analysis (CPJA).

The four major areas of need

identified for this programme are:

- strengthening the training of health professionals;
- strengthening the provision of intercultural psychoanalytic psychotherapy;
- developing a network of professionals specialising in the field;
- strengthening research capacity in this area.

PS: it is important to note that all local government commissioning for the RTC services, expect a small commissioning from CAMHS is cut during the last five years. The Charitable Trusts and Foundation cannot take total financial responsibility, so, that funding also become more limited. The DoH do not have budget to fund the work of the centre although consider the need of such service vital.

# IS WATER AID ENOUGH?

By Matt Clifton

Access to water, sanitation and proper hygiene is something millions of people don't have around the world and whilst charities such as Water Aid are working hard to ensure communities don't get left behind. But why is there a large section of the global population that lack these basic facilities?

Humans are fast becoming an urban species with 54% of us living in towns and cities. This population growth can cause issues for access to facilities such as toilets, especially for the poorest countries around the world. Overpopulation is a serious issue because people who search for a better life are contributing to the issues, whether it is the poor countries or some of the richer nations, it is the poorest that are getting left behind. The difficulties that people and communities face every day, where they live in overcrowded slums with no access to a decent toilet or clean water.

A report by Water Aid shows that the worst place

for access to a toilet is South Sudan, where only one in six of the urban population has access to a toilet. It is not just the poorest, where in fast growing economies such as Russia, China, and Brazil; millions of people struggle to access a decent toilet.

Some of the poorest countries lack these basic facilities because of corruption and greed by the government, but there are places where the government are trying to give their population these basic facilities but cannot because they simply can't afford it. In some cases, it is the major

towns and cities that don't have access to basic facilities such as clean water, decent toilets, and facilities to provide better hygiene.

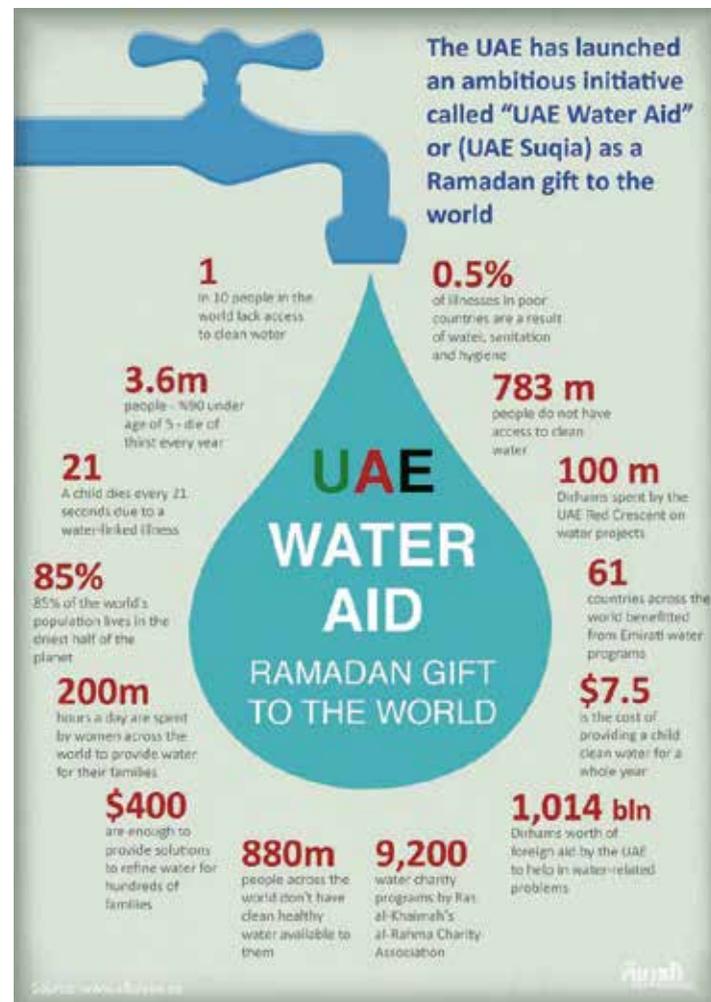
Corruption can be blamed for the lack of facilities, but that removes the focus from the reality of the issue. Undoubtedly the governments in Russia, China, and Brazil are failing their population by not acting and choosing to not help those who need it the most. But the vast amount of countries who don't have access to these basic facilities are the poorest in the world, and it is the lack of money that simply stops them from being able to install decent toilets and water taps.

The parts used are simple mechanisms that don't need expert knowledge or specialist materials that they cannot afford. They are often simple designs to give them access to clean water and decent toilets, and this makes a significant impact on hygiene, health and increases opportunities for everyone within those communities. There is also a lack of education on decent hygiene practices that causes many diseases and infections that are easily preventable.

A gift of as little as £2 a month from you today can help bring a family a lasting supply of safe, clean water. Your regular gift could be the difference between life and death for many families for years to come.

**Give water. Give life. Give £2 a month.**

WaterAid



## Theresa May has swept to power on a tide of popular support within the Tory Party rank and file. But the affection of her colleagues is not enough for Theresa and there is there is still one more heart she wishes she could win. If anyone finds out though, she'll be ruined!



Cameron sat on an NHS ticking time bomb for more than six years

Op-ed; NHS reform appears here to stay. This wonderful British health service of ours has had to meet many challenges in recent years. An increasing elderly population, an increase in drug and alcohol abuse in the UK, new treatments and diagnostics have all added an extra burden on already stretched services.

The Tory Party in coalition government with the Lib Dems did not have a clear mandate to govern the UK but that did not stop them bringing in radical policies and reforms, notably of the NHS.

Unelected PM Theresa May is carrying on with Cameron's crippling NHS reforms and now the NHS is in crisis.

Staff and patients witnessed the NHS changed, changed and changed again.

Some who instigated changes may have had improvements at heart.

The Tories have not, never have and never will.

They have long had their eyes on the NHS.

They would like to dismantle it or ruin it beyond repair so that people are happy to embrace an alternative private health care system.

# NHS ticking time bomb ABOUT TO EXPLODE

If you need a bed on an oncology ward, one on a general medicine ward will not suffice.

NHS funding was reverting back to GPs but that has not worked out well has it?

Some patients now have to wait a month to get a GP appointment.

More unnecessary changes which cost a heap of money and rarely have positive results.

Those who work in PCTs, primary care trusts, may find that they do the same work as previously but for a GP run commission and for less money.

And even in 2013 "Houston we have a problem"

"The Mid-Essex Clinical Commissioning Group which is set to take over the running of NHS services will not be ready in time. It has a deadline of April 2013 but announced that it is experiencing recruitment problems and an overspend."

In order to get out of a hole the group wanted to employ a director to get the scheme back on track.

Doesn't that take the biscuit? Less and less Indians and more and more Chiefs?

At one time the government promised that front line staff would not take a hit. More Tory lies.

Money is being wasted on project managers and the like to enforce job cuts and manage a leaner work force. A farce.

The idea is that less people will need inpatient care in a hospital. Fine if an alternative at home service is in place but we predicted it would not be and sure enough it is not.

Look closely at who is running or has a vested interest in this new scheme before you pass judgement.

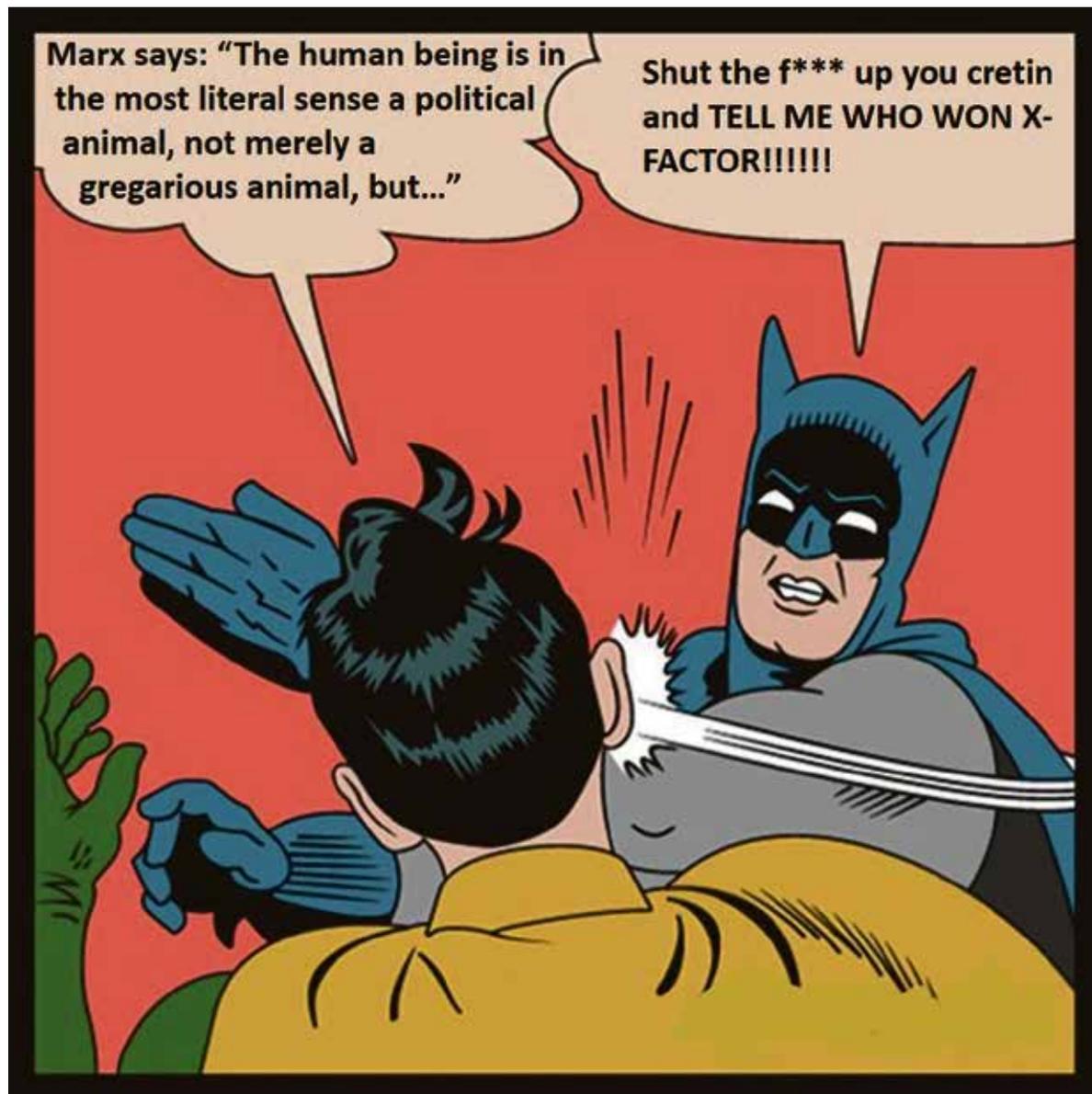
OPINION: Remember all those Tory posters showing Cameron saying the NHS was safe in their hands? If you believed the ads you were very foolish. The NHS was only at the start of major changes. Nursing staff experiencing down grades as far as money goes is just one other issue. Insufficient beds before there was even a hint of Winter and its associated health pressures is another.

Millions of pounds will be thrown at what will not work.

And if the Tory Party is still in power in a few years time, the NHS will be scrapped.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jan/07/theresa-may-cannot-ignore-nhs-crisis>

<http://www.onewomansomanyblogs.com/news/dismantling-the-nhs-led-to-the-current-crisis>



You may think that would not be a bad thing but trust me it will be.

If you are part of that privileged 1% of the population you have nothing to fear.

If you, for example, live on a benefit which is already being cut or reduced you could be in deep trouble.

Talk to very elderly relatives who were alive before the NHS was created if you know little of British economic and social History.

Before 1948 British health care depended on your direct income. Little wonder people died so much younger and women in childbirth.

It was not only that technology and science needed to move on but more that money bought good health.

In 2013 the NHS faced a tough year mainstream media reported but as an NHS worker I thought it was already experiencing tough times.

Ward closures, staff cuts, vacant posts not filled, budget cuts, pay freezes and more. As some hospital trusts made a commitment to reduce beds, that is close wards and shed staff, many patients began receiving inappropriate care.

# XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD: PART 19



**PREVIOUSLY:** Xenophon couldn't believe, in the early years of the 20th century, that human affairs were being run by the cult of greed and celebrity. And yet, across the gulf of society, minds immeasurably more avaricious than ours regarded our paychecks with envious eyes, and slowly, and surely Xenophon drew his plans against them...



CREATED BY ALAN DAVIES. ART BY ANDREW KEIR

## Shipbuilding

(written by Elvis Costello and Clive Langer)

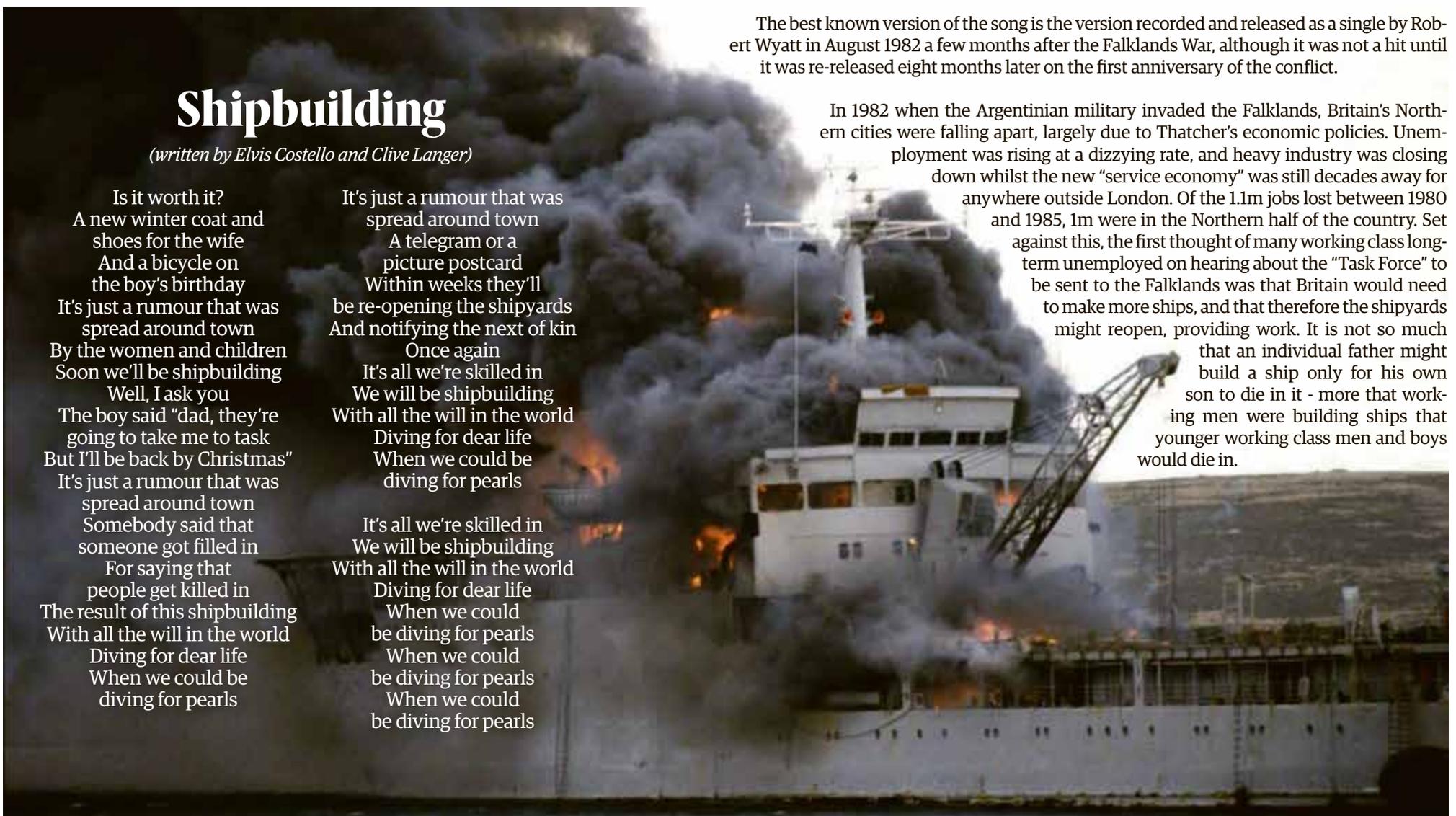
Is it worth it?  
A new winter coat and  
shoes for the wife  
And a bicycle on  
the boy's birthday  
It's just a rumour that was  
spread around town  
By the women and children  
Soon we'll be shipbuilding  
Well, I ask you  
The boy said "dad, they're  
going to take me to task  
But I'll be back by Christmas"  
It's just a rumour that was  
spread around town  
Somebody said that  
someone got filled in  
For saying that  
people get killed in  
The result of this shipbuilding  
With all the will in the world  
Diving for dear life  
When we could be  
diving for pearls

It's just a rumour that was  
spread around town  
A telegram or a  
picture postcard  
Within weeks they'll  
be re-opening the shipyards  
And notifying the next of kin  
Once again  
It's all we're skilled in  
We will be shipbuilding  
With all the will in the world  
Diving for dear life  
When we could be  
diving for pearls

It's all we're skilled in  
We will be shipbuilding  
With all the will in the world  
Diving for dear life  
When we could  
be diving for pearls  
When we could  
be diving for pearls  
When we could  
be diving for pearls

The best known version of the song is the version recorded and released as a single by Robert Wyatt in August 1982 a few months after the Falklands War, although it was not a hit until it was re-released eight months later on the first anniversary of the conflict.

In 1982 when the Argentinian military invaded the Falklands, Britain's Northern cities were falling apart, largely due to Thatcher's economic policies. Unemployment was rising at a dizzying rate, and heavy industry was closing down whilst the new "service economy" was still decades away for anywhere outside London. Of the 1.1m jobs lost between 1980 and 1985, 1m were in the Northern half of the country. Set against this, the first thought of many working class long-term unemployed on hearing about the "Task Force" to be sent to the Falklands was that Britain would need to make more ships, and that therefore the shipyards might reopen, providing work. It is not so much that an individual father might build a ship only for his own son to die in it - more that working men were building ships that younger working class men and boys would die in.



# Ian Charles Reports On The Third Round Of The Fa Cup:



Let it be thought that I was at all the games last weekend I should state here that I have a network of spies observing the games and filtering the news back to me. Also I watch TV.

We'll begin with Wayne Rooney (oh, do we have to? - Ed) who seems to have equalled Sir Bobby of Charlton's record for scoring goals for Manchester Black Sox. He seems hell bent on bettering everything the great man ever did, whether it's the goals, appearances, the comb over or pay check. Rooney overtook Charlton's English Record for eating pasties a year or two back. But well done Wayne. When we've finished giving you stick for being a 'Sox we need to remember all the solid work you've done for England since you were a small child. Man Utd 4; Preston 0.

I wouldn't put money on Leicester's apparently 'poor season' finishing with nothing on the table, even if it's only a comprehensive selection of Walker's Crisps, courtesy of Gary Lineker. They went off to Everton and impact substitute Ahmed Musa (24) bagged a couple of goals to win the game. (Why do football writers use archaic terms like 'bagged'? - Ed) Everton 1; Leicester City 2.

Preston must be disappointed after leading (ahem)Arsenal! at half-time. Arsène

Wenger didn't see the goal that put them behind but he spoke sensibly and calmly to his team in the dressing room and they emerged no better than they had been in the first half. But then Aaron Ramsay scored quickly, and just when it was all looking a bit like Theresa May's endless fruitless EU negotiations, Frenchman Olivier Giroud showed why these chappies from over the water are so dangereux by completing Preston's Brexit for them. Preston 1; Arsenal 2. (ahem) ARSENAL!

Stoke goalkeeper Lee Grant will possibly have had an early night rather than painting the town red, having been beaten by a long range effort from visitors Wolverhampton Wanderers in the first half and a late free kick which went into the top corner. Both shots were kicked very hard and it is a well-known fact that goalies don't like that sort of thing. You can see the kind of kick they do like to save when they're warming up before the game.

Mind you, it isn't always the keeper's fault. There were ten team mates between him and the chap kicking it, and you'd have hoped one of them could have got his big soft head in the way.

The difficulty comes when each of the Stoke defenders has his arms all the way round an opponent and thus there is no opportunity to deal with any ball coming in.

Stoke 0; Wolves 2.

And West Brom lost. The 'Baggies' just didn't 'bag' enough goals, losing to Derby County 2-1.

(Derby County? - Ed)

The FA Cup is always enriched by teams referred to as 'minnows' and who from time to time beat teams placed higher than them in the League system. It is often referred to as 'The Magic of the Cup.' Well let me tell you that this paper will never refer to non-league teams as 'minnows', 'sticklebacks', 'trout' or anything like that, as these are fish. Fish I tell you. And as for Magic, if you've ever gone out there on a cold Saturday in January and had your knees kicked by a bunch of chaps who may not get another chance this season to physically maim someone from the Football League, then you'll resent the word 'Magic', particularly if you've lost. (Isn't this getting a bit strong? - Ed)

Lincoln City will certainly get another chance to best Ipswich, drawing with them 2-2 but if you talk about Magic to them you might well get your knees kicked for your troubles; they went ahead twice and must have thought they could win it. And still they might, as Ipswich now must travel to theirs for another spot of knee kicking. Ipswich 2; Lincoln City 2.

(ahem) ARSENAL!

The term Roundball Foot-Up™ is a trademark of the SPORTS!™ Section of The WORD™ tabloid Newspaper, and leaves the door open for future Rugby League reports which we might decide to call Squareball™ Short-Pants™.

#### Other results:

Accrington Stanley 2-0 Luton Town - not sure if this was acrimonious or whether anyone called Stanley was playing, but I don't think we saw the eventual winners of the FA Cup on show here...

Barrow 0-2 Rochdale - a foggy day but only the visitors could find the goal; sad for the small fish!

Birmingham 1-1 Newcastle - two big city clubs, two famous managers, and a replay to come.

Blackpool 0-0 Barnsley - bet that was a cracker!

Bolton 0-0 Crystal Palace - bettered only by this one!

Brentford 5-1 Eastleigh - sorry lads, the 'Magic' didn't work for you now did it?

Brighton 2-0 MK Dons - I'm unsure, is this the 'real' Wimbledon then? I think they were unsure too.

Bristol City 0-0 Fleetwood Town - so all back to Fleetwood for the replay? Well *you* do any road up.

Huddersfield 4-0 Port Vale - I knew a cow from 'Uddersfield, who liked to 'ave 'er udders feeded...

Hull 2-0 Swansea - Hull are still on course for two cups and relegation; Swansea to focus on survival?

Millwall 3-0 Bournemouth - Lions shall lie down with Lambs, but only the Lions will get any peace.

Norwich 2-2 Southampton - it's all 2-2 draws in East Anglia, are they related to each other?

QPR 1-2 Blackburn - Blackburn always beat QPR in the FA Cup. Just sayin'.

Rotherham 2-3 Oxford United - at least Rotherham can now focus on getting relegated.

Sunderland 0-0 Burnley - another goal fest featuring a Lancashire team...

Sutton United 0-0 AFC Wimbledon - the eventual winners weren't on show here, methinks.

Watford 2-0 Burton Albion - BACK to Burton on Toast without your supper!

West Ham 0 - 2 Manchester City 5 - Gary Lineker and his star-studded team spent most of the time available to them on MoTD analysing the fairness of the penalty kick award that could have limited West Ham's misery to 0 - 4.

Wigan 2-0 Nottingham Forest - English back-to-back winners of the European Cup add to their glory.

Wycombe 2-1 Stourbridge - I sometimes think the FA Cup is all about games like this one. But then I often come out with some really stupid stuff like that. (*You said it - Ed*)

#### Played Sunday:

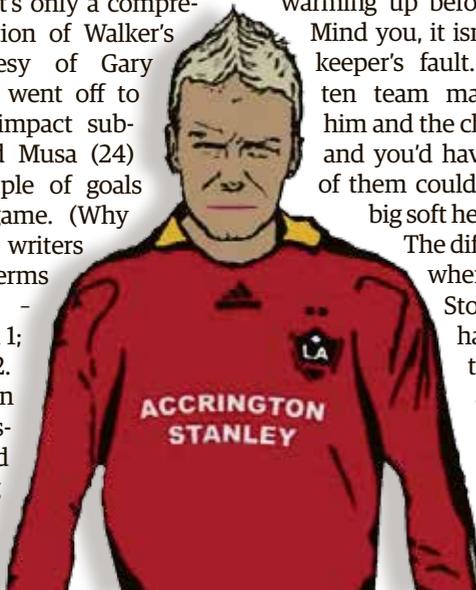
Cardiff 1-2 Fulham - 5,000 fans watched a game in which the home side took the lead with a goal scored by a sixteen year old boy and the visitors had 75% possession; no Welsh teams left in now?

Chelski 4-1 Peterborough - the return of Club Captain John Terry saw another return - to the dressing room - when he was sent off for impeding an opponent. How unfortunate for him.

Liverpool 0-0 Plymouth Argyle - this was meant to be my featured match report but you have to wonder whether it was worth the effort; Jürgen clearly thought not, playing his youngsters for much of the game, then bringing on three big names who couldn't take advantage of 80% possession!

Middlesbrough 3-0 Sheffield Wednesday - It took only ten men to send Wednesday home empty handed. I think 'Boro could win the Cup this season; you read it here first.

Tottenham 2-0 Aston Villa - Spurs go rolling on. Might be Cup finalists against the mighty 'Boro...



England All-time leading scorers		
	Caps	Goals
Wayne Rooney	107	50
Sir Bobby Charlton	106	49
Gary Lineker	80	48
Jimmy Greaves	57	44
Michael Owen	89	40

# THE END OF THE FA CUP

WORD 110117  
9 772398 570236  
02

Only 5,199 watched Cardiff lose 2-1 at home in a third-round televised tie which kicked off at 11:30 am. Compare this with the 2008 FA cup final where Cardiff lost to Portsmouth in front of a crowd of 89,874. Why the apathy about the World's oldest cup competition?

Where the competition used to show clubs what they had in common it now just emphasises the differences. In 2013 Luton Town became the first non-league club to beat a Premier League team and yet no one really cared. Premier league clubs now field their reserves in the cup and show the sort of hubris that lower league supporters want to punch them.

Ticket prices are held at high and unaffordable levels to watch the prancing arrogance and gloved hands of a third rate Ferrari owning nobody. Note to, Arsene Wenger and co, you do not have an FA cup goalkeeper, you have a first team and a reserve goalkeeper. Stop taking the P...out of us supporters. Play your best team.

You get to Wembley. You pay a fortune to go up three escalators to skyscraper heights and a view of ants. A faded pop star sings "Abide with me." The loud speakers system blasts out songs that seem to have all been recorded by a deaf drummer. At the end the famous Wembley steps are gone and fireworks replace atmosphere as real supporters are replaced by the "footy" brigade. All money and no spirit.

Penalty shoot outs, reserve teams, Sky television, and lack of empathy with supporters...The Cup is dying. The question is, is this murder? From inside knowledge we confidently predict that the evil behind Sky television, Rupert Murdoch, the murderer of Hillsborough is the one behind the crime.

With the FA cup withered or gone it will leave space in the football calendar for a new global competition that will be controlled by the Murdoch Empire. It will be named the "Soccer world cup." You have been warned!

