

THE **W**ORD

Equality, Democracy, Truth and Courage



Joe Solo

"Liberate me from the shackles of democratic consensus" - see page 8

Use your voice

Be creative, suspend disbelief of the traditional notion of history - see page 10



See Your Horoscopes
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CULTURE REVOLUTION

" To look upon 21st century Britain there are many who would say that we live in a strong cultural society where expressionism is one of our core values...

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TRUMP VS CLINTON

" The Republican and Democratic conventions have finished, far from the scripted affairs they usually are, setting the tone for a vicious presidential campaign...

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PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORD

WE OFFER A NEW VOICE FOR THE UK

A FULLY CROWD FUNDED PROJECT CREATED WITH PASSION



Fortnightly Issue THIS EDITION - 10th August 2016 Until 23rd August 2016



THERESA MAY IS MAKING BIG PROMISES

BUT DO THE TORIES EVER DELIVER FOR THE TAXPAYERS?

MEANWHILE

David has done a runner, along with his chums in the honours list and his broken election promises
Last seen hiding under a bridge somewhere

AT LAST A PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE!
CONTACT US TODAY IF YOU WANT TO SUBSCRIBE AND CONTRIBUTE

This newspaper will be left wing, radical and campaign for justice. We are independent of any political or corporate funding - based on the following principles: **Equality, Democracy, Truth, and Courage**

The Labour party maybe battling it out to decide a new leader - but who is really doing the fighting and who is the target? Surely the PLP and the Membership are on the same team?.. See more on page 3

Great Comics
Start on page 36



LIARS SCHOOL

CHRIS THE CAREERIST

XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD

St. Jeremy of London - The Big Match

THE CROWD WANTS TO

We Stand Together Against The Tories



To secure for the workers, by hand or by mind, the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means to production, distribution and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry or service.

Equality Democracy Truth and Courage



The peoples flag is deepest red,
it shrouded oft our martyred dead.
And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold,
their hearts' blood dyed its every fold.

So raise the scarlet standard high -
beneath its folds we'll live and die,
through cowards flinch and traitors
sneer, we'll keep the red flag flying
here.

Creators of The Word

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	Andrew Middleton
Quiz master	Phil Brown

www.thewordmedia.org

Peterloo Massacre 1819



Peterloo - one of the defining moments of its age.

THE PETERLOO PROJECT

The Peterloo Massacre occurred at St Peter's Field, Manchester, England, on 16 August 1819, when cavalry charged into a crowd of 60,000–80,000 who had gathered to demand the reform of parliamentary representation

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 first editions will be produced weekly starting on July 14th and will be launched at the Tolpuddle

festival. At the same time as this, "THE WORD" will go on to distribute to your local newsagent. We will also begin efforts towards the production of a daily edition.

**“ THE WORD
WILL APPEAR IN ALL
GOOD NEWSAGENTS.
THE PLAN IS TO
EVENTUALLY GO TO
A DAILY EDITION.**

The politics of this project are broadly in line with those of Jeremy Corbyn and believe in justice, equality, truth, courage and that only by sharing as fairly as possible the resources of this planet will we be able to live in harmony with each other. Too many people to mention have contributed their ideas but a special mention for Sean Jones

who came up with the name which was then voted on in the "Together against the Tories" group.

If you feel that you believe in the above principles come and join us as you are most welcome. You can contact us by going to our website www.thewordmedia.org or by going to the "Together against the Tories" facebook page. If you have an interesting story or picture or simply want to find out more about us you can contact us at:

thewordnewspaper@outlook.com

**CONTACT US
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ADVERTISE
IN THE WORD!**

We would like to wish a BIG thank you to all our contributors. We hope you enjoy the articles and feel free to send us any feedback you might have.

WHOS LABOUR PARTY IS IT?



WHOS PARTY IS IT?

“Sit down, shut up, and let the big boys run the party.” This is the message being spread by the Blairite and centrist anti-Corbyn wing of my party - and I couldn't think of a more anti-Labour sentiment if I'd tried

Jamie Lewis
jaime@emailaddress.com

“Sit down, shut up, and let the big boys run the party.”

This is the message being spread by the Blairite and centrist anti-Corbyn wing of my party - and I couldn't think of a more anti-Labour sentiment if I'd tried.

Perhaps this is telling of the ruling class and its treatment of the people who have no option but to attend rallies in order to ensure their voice is heard. Seeing this message spew across the Labour Party forum, in the propagandised guise of a viral video, made me question what it is to be a socialist party.

Like Squealer, who perched on a ladder in the barn and reshaped the commandments of Animal Farm, our enemies in this inner-party war are reshaping the boundaries for the

largest democratically run socialist party in the United Kingdom.

As Owen Smith runs for leadership of this party, surely, the future of his political career rides on the depth of his imminent loss at the polls. The best price you can find for Jeremy Corbyn to lose this election at the bookies, at the time of writing, is 1/6 - a £1 profit on a successful £6 bet. In short: they do not expect him to lose.

“ SMITH IS CLEARLY A PATSY. HE'S BEEN STRUNG UP BY THE BLAIRITES TO BIDE TIME FOR SOMETHING MUCH MORE BOLD.

And whether or not he has a position in this bold new future depends hugely on the public's reaction to his most-recent stint as leader of a spineless group of backstabbers. It is particularly telling of Owen and his supporters when one can find

outrageous propaganda disguised as viral content on their “Saving Labour” and other Blairite pages. These pages, of course, are all backing Smith and his mutineers. In one, the video reminds Labour supporters that no amount of rallying or public support was able to elect the ill-fated Michael Foot. It goes on to say that all of those people, who left their homes (politicised and inspired, I might add), to attend rallies and demonstrations, should instead stay at home.

The sentiment? “Sit down, shut up and let the big boys run the party.”

I am quite unable to consider any suggestion more against Labour values than what they have shared openly.

The country and its media can only pretend our rallies of thousands are, in fact, camera tricks for a limited time. It's already an old and boring (and transparent) tactic to dampen our spirits. How the PLP and its backers can look a working-class voter in the eye,

“ HAVING SPENT DECADES DESPERATELY TRYING TO EMPOWER THE WORKING CLASS, MANY LABOUR MPS ARE NOW DESPERATELY TRYING TO SHUT THEM UP

who has left the comfort of his/her home to show support for a political leader, is a damning indictment of the political climate.

Continue, comrades, to spill onto our streets and demand the democracy we were promised. Attend rallies, educate yourself, learn more about how this ruling class is looking to oppress us and, most importantly, make your support known to everyone around you. They can't silence us.

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION



CULTURAL REVOLUTION

No, this isn't a piece on the Mao Zedong led socio-political movement which took place in China between 1966 and 1976; this is a different cultural revolution

By Jack Cornes

No, this isn't a piece on the Mao Zedong led socio-political movement which took place in China between 1966 and 1976; this is a different cultural revolution, one with peace, harmony and artistic expressionism at its core. To look upon 21st century Britain there are many who would say that we live in a strong cultural society where expressionism is one of our core values and to some extents and purposes this is true. But it is also a valid factor that Artistic expression is just one piece of our society, consigned to mere entertainment and a fine way to spend your evening. As an Actor and Writer I sometimes find myself wondering what our society would be like if the Arts were at the core of our existence and not merely just one aspect of it. Here I will briefly take you through a few possibilities of just what my cultural revolution would look like, allow me to demonstrate...

As you walk out among the streets, your gaze from a clear blue sky descends into a wealth of colour

and urban manifestation as the vibrancy of street art adorns every building creating a landscape of vivid liveliness for this is not some squalid piece of graffiti hidden and ignored under some grim looking viaduct. This is the very skin and coating that we allow our architecture to be marinated in. The sounds of so many different genres of music resonates across the senses as classical, rock, R'n'B, pop and blues blend together in a grand collage of composition that echoes across the land. All manner of sculptures layer the streets as you make your way towards the free carnival in the park. There we see all manner of artists, all manner of dancers, all manner of poets and painters correlating together and combining their unique and original gifts into a haze of pure creative demonstration. Through every stroke of the paint brush, every swirl of the dancer, every dream of the poet and every note of the guitar, time once again reverts back to the mere concept it once was. As the sun begins to set and the carnival continues into the night the theatres are running constantly. Actor, physical

performer and dreamer alike take to the stage and perform from their heart any manner of play, prose or monologue. The lights, the sets, the music entrance the viewer forevermore and soon such drama spills out the doors and soon the streets are full of the

“ ART IS NOT
WHAT YOU SEE,
BUT WHAT YOU
MAKE OTHERS
SEE.

EDGAR DEGAS

circus, the street performers and the stilt walkers. Mime Artists are lost in a maze of invisible obstacles as the buskers are singing from the rooftops.

Ballet Dancers move serenely across the golden lit gardens as an orchestra serenade the audience with a calmly symphony. There are no limits and no boundaries to this expressionism; there is only harmonic co-existence. There is no

need for restraint for we are not aware of the concept of order; there is no need for regulation for we are not aware of the concept of structure. There is only communication and experimentation to reach greater highs of artistic reality. The storytellers sit and beguile the children with tales of far off place and magical possibilities. And what of those who govern us, those often beige, unimaginative, money loving, power seeking and cruel politicians? Well they no longer exist, how can they? We no longer require the idea of government or the notions of greed for our so called law makers are the philosopher's, the dreamers and the poets. They set us on the voyage towards a reality based upon our feelings, our insights and our imaginations. Such would be a society where the artist was the pivotal being. There would be no need for the uninspired, the pragmatist and the sceptic for our society would be the land of the free. Now isn't that a land you would like to live in? I know I would.

SUPER CYBER TROLLS



MILO, TRUMP AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE CYBER TROLL

It's usually quite difficult to feel any modicum of empathy for celebrities as they live out their over privileged, over congratulated and over important lives

By Danny Lavelle

It's usually quite difficult to feel any modicum of empathy for celebrities as they live out their over privileged, over congratulated and over important lives. That is until you enter the infinite labyrinth of verbal excreta that is the Twittersphere. The celebrity experience on Twitter is much akin to standing on a stage under a giant spotlight in an otherwise dark room, where faceless trolls mercilessly hurl shit at you, and if you attempt to throw any back, it's you who will get into trouble, as you're the only one who will be seen to have shit on your fingers.

Except recently the trolls seem to have hatched from their generic egg avatars into something significantly more conspicuous, and yet entirely invisible. Take the paradoxically race bating, Jewish, homosexual homophobe that is the human troll doll Milo Yiannopoulos.

Yiannopoulos came into prominence last week when he was shit canned from Twitter for instigating an avalanche of racial abuse directed at Ghostbusters star Leslie Jones. Yiannopoulos is a man so absurd it's almost unbelievable. His opinions wouldn't be out of place on one of those parody radio broadcasts featured on Grand Theft Auto. I'm convinced he will turn out to be Sacha Baron Cohen's finest performance yet.

Milo has famously said that feminism is cancer, that public buildings shouldn't make concessions for disabled people, and that he would "cure" his homosexuality if he could. Who would've thought the modern face of fascism would be a slightly camp vanilla ice cream cone.

Except he isn't really, Milo is no anonymous troll, but he's a troll all the same. That's why I say the real Milo is invisible to us, as he doesn't really believe what he says, no sentient being with an IQ higher than a turnip possibly could...

Actually they could and they do, there was an abundance of them in attendance at Milo's recent Trump revering speech he gave at the RNC, where he spoke in protest of what he perceives to be a feminazi assault on free speech, which presumably accounts for his permanent ban on Twitter. His speech was met with rapturous enthusiasm from his trailing gaggle of half wits who invariable shouted "cancer!" in approval. There's much to be astonished by Yiannopoulos' rise to prominence, but his contribution to etymology may trump the lot, with the miraculous transformation of a degenerative disease into a term of

“ CYBER
TROLLS GIVE AN
ANONYMOUS
VOICE TO
FRUSTRATION

endearment. speaking of 'Trump', if Yiannopoulos is merely a minion of the school of 'Insidious Incitement' then "the Donald" is surely the master, or the "daddy" as Milo would put it, and it's his hateful seed that has fertilised troll eggs around the world.

Out they have hatched armed with the confidence to finally stand in the light, coupled with a new ability to shroud their hate filled arguments with varying degrees of verbosity and subterfuge. They're very effective too, they just convinced 52% of the British public that fleeing the EU would solve all their problems.

A particularly ridiculous highlight of the referendum campaign was when Nigel Farage declared the UK would need to build a home every seven minutes in order to cater to the current levels of migration. Apparently Farage had made a contingency plan that would've finally realised Gary K. Wolf's vision of a world where humans and cartoons inhabit the same reality. Enabling us to venture into 'Toon Land' to recruit armies of giant animated ant builders who can knock up a block of flats in a nanosecond.

On the more serious horizon is a transatlantic alliance of floppy haired trolldom, what will hopefully be referred to as the Johnson-Trump stink. An alliance of fatuous, and flatulent fuckwittery that doesn't care or even pretend to care about the truth. And why would they care, the truth no longer exists, it retired long ago, all that's left is how you prefer to be lied to.

If we are going to combat this as a society, the last thing we should be doing is censoring people. In evolution, natural selective pressure is what drives change in species. Censorship is natural selection for trolls, it won't stop them, in fact it will only make them stronger. What we need to do is laugh at them, when they direct mass racial hatred at a black woman, laugh, when they build prohibitive walls and deport people based on race and creed, laugh, even during a nuclear holocaust, laugh, go on laugh, we'll win in the end.



The gap in pay between rich & poor is at an all time high in the UK - The real problem is the rules of the game are stacked for the monopolists, the CEOs of corporations

WORKING CLASS TORIES

I grew up in a working class area and was fortunate to have access to higher education like many of my generation

As a child I was an avid reader and thankfully my parents encouraged this pursuit. Thank god we didn't have television but we did have the spectres of The Express and The Mail.

I remember the old Express logo was a crusader in chains and my dad explained to me something about a free press. I was still puzzled as I couldn't understand why did my dad had to pay for the newspaper. He also assured me that this was the best country in the world. God bless him. Sorry I forgot, God save the Queen as well.

Being a trainee democratic citizen I had to attend

school which I hated but was overjoyed one day when our school was closed due to the elections. When I asked my dad what elections were he explained to me about the parties etc and then I asked him who he was going to vote for. I could never understand when I was a bit older why my parents voted Tory but when I examined the media's role then the penny dropped. To my horror, my impoverished grandparents were the same as well. Working class Tory and proud of it. I was assured that these papers were the truth and nothing but the truth.

Then I would hear about how Labour was the party you couldn't trust with the economy.

"They give money away, bloody wasters."

"But doesn't that make people happy dad?"

"No son, you've got to hang on to your money, save it and put it into your bank. You'll learn all about this when you're older."

Work hard, get a good job son and buy your own house like we have. These were all honourable qualities for any democratic citizen but I couldn't understand how working hard didn't stop us from being poor. Also the Labour party were blamed for giving our empire away and a decline in moral standards. Maybe I was missing something as I gazed at the smiling socialites wining and

dining at some sumptuous banquet courtesy of the William Hickey page.

In 1963 the cosy world of honourable chaps serving and protecting people like my parents was shattered; Profumo. This one took a bit of explaining to a kid like me. My parents said that there are some very nasty women out there that lead nice men like Mr. Profumo astray and we shouldn't believe everything that you read in the newspapers.

"But mum, dad, why do"

"That's enough for today son, now go and do your homework."

THE END OF DEMOCRACY IN THE USA



Trumps funds have fizzled out! He has requested meetings with billionaire Koch Brothers - only a year after he mocked his Republican rivals as 'puppets' for doing just that.

THE END OF DEMOCRACY

In his keynote Republican National Convention speech, on 18 July 2016, Multimillionaire Mayor of New York (1993-2001), with well known Totalitarian and Elitist tendencies, and close associate of Donald Trump, Rudy Giuliani hinted: "There's no next Election! This is It!"

Glyn Sparkes

This cannot be dismissed as just a figure of speech, but should be taken as a warning that, if Trump becomes President, the Trump Camp plans to find (or create) a pretext, along the lines of 9/11 perhaps, to suspend the US Constitution and impose Martial Law.

It's obvious that extreme Right-Wing Oligarchs such as the Koch Brothers (whose father reportedly brought them up as neo-Nazis), Rupert Murdoch (who clearly despises ordinary working people and voters), etc., fear that the political tide is beginning to turn against them, with Bernie Sanders' and his

millions of supporters' talk of "Revolution", mounting clamour to get Oligarchs' and Corporate money out of politics and to regulate Corporate Lobbyists, Wealth Taxes being mulled, etc.

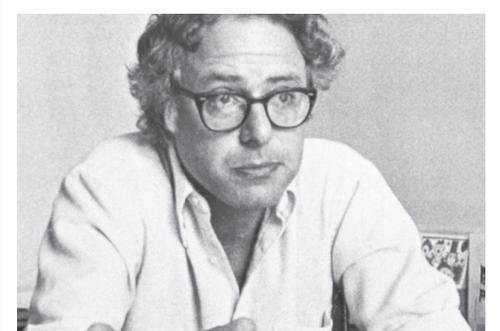
Furthermore, one of the slogans of the Koch Brothers' and Murdoch's "Tea Party" Republicans, who have largely taken over the GOP, has always been: "The US is a Republic, not a Democracy!"

It would be extremely naive, in such political ferment, to discount the possibility that anti-democracy Oligarchs would plan to seize Power, once and for all, before it slips from their grasp.

It's no secret that the Bush/Cheney regime put in place all

the legislation and political and security mechanisms to enable Totalitarian rule in the USA, and Barack Obama, far from dismantling or rolling back that framework, only expanded and strengthened it.

Oligarchs, then, just need someone in the White House to throw the pre-primed Totalitarian lever. Obviously, they would have preferred Geb Bush, the natural successor to Bush/Cheney, but Trump (especially with Koch Brothers' protégé Mike Pence in tow) will no doubt be happy to do the job - for a price.



Bernie Sanders achievements rank far ahead of any of the other candidates.. Compared to Clinton with her own short legislative career, he's actually one of the most effective members of Congress, passing bills, both big and small, that have reshaped American policy on key issues like poverty, the environment and health care.

Sanders has run for president without taking Wall Street or corporate money, run for president against the formidable Clinton machine, run as a Democrat without backing or support from the Democratic Party, run in the context of blatant corporate media bias for Hillary and against him.



Joe Solo

TAMESIDE MOMENTUM



TAMESIDE MOMENTUM LONE MAY IT CONTINUE

The inaugural meeting of Tameside Momentum in the Station pub in Ashton-under-Lyne seen over 40 people listen to various speakers from Bob Pounder (former FBU Rep) to a speaker from Jeremy Campaign for Leader

Derek Fraser

Contributions from the floor focused on the increasing impact of Austerity on the most vulnerable elements of society with the land-lady of the pub helping out with a food bank based at the Station.

The focus also centred around what people could do locally from supporting Jeremy's campaign to be re-elected as leader by helping phone banking across the region to getting out into the community with leaflets, petitions and supporting people sanctioned by the workfare program.

3 Labour Councillors were also present and were fully supportive of the meeting, saying, 'Labour needs to stand together to defeat the Tories, not fighting amongst themselves at this vital moment.' 'The Word', fully supports this sentiment and wants all LP members to unite behind the democratically leader Jeremy Corbyn to take the fight to the Tories.

The atmosphere was one of excitement and determination to make sure Jeremy Corbyn becomes Prime Minister because as one speaker said, 'without him we face the same attacks on working people we have faced for too many years,

they'll all the same except Jeremy who means what he says and says something worth listening to.'

People welcomed the arrival of 'The Word' newspaper, saying such a paper is needed to counter the bias coming out of the mainstream media about Jeremy's campaign.

We wish Tameside Momentum all the best in the future and hope to report on more such meetings of ordinary people getting together and saying 'enough is enough.' Viva Corbynista!!!

DEAR POLITICAL CLASS

I cannot thank you enough. You have liberated me from the shackles of democratic consensus and made my life so much more about me, me, me. Like many people out there I have noticed entire days are wasted doing things other people want to do, things I've been forced to do just because most of the people I was with wanted to do them even when I didn't. Thankfully, by demonstrating such little respect for the outcomes of democracy yourselves, you have shown me the way. After all, if I don't want to do it, why should I, just because lots of other people want to?

Yesterday, when my wife and children decided they wanted to go to the seaside and I considered the journey to be too expensive and laborious for what little fun I would have, I invoked your spirit. Yes, I said, all three of you might want to go, but I say we count again, only this time consider this- I will refuse to do anything you want to do when we get there; I will refuse to have a picnic, or fish and chips; and I definitely will not have a good word to say about any of it all the way there and all the way back. Now who still wants to go?

All three still did, but I refused to drive them because it's my car, well, mine and my wife's, but I hid the keys so she couldn't drive them herself.

Later I explained to my devastated children that democracy only means something if it gives us what we want and I didn't want it.

Thanks as ever for your sage wisdom.

Yours Joe

WHO LEADS THE PARTY?



LIZ, YOU'RE WRONG AND THIS IS WHY

It is very disappointing to see my local MP and fellow member of the Labour Party, Liz McInnes MP stating that the leader of our party Jeremy Corbyn should step aside

Derek Fraser
(Middleton West Ward)

To ask Jeremy to step aside for the current leadership contest seems undemocratic to me, between himself and Owen Smith. Let's remind ourselves here that Jeremy won only 10 months ago with nearly 60% of the Labour Party membership voting for him, many MP's didn't but the membership did.

I would like to take issue with Liz McInnes when she says Jeremy Corbyn is an 'ineffective leader', let's look at the recent Mayoral elections, Sadiq Khan won in London, Joe Anderson reelected in Liverpool, Marvin Rees took the position from an Independent this year with over 68,000 votes. On membership, new members have now taken the Labour Party to nearly 600,000 members from 250,000 under Ed Miliband. The Tories before current unnecessary splits were defeated on Working Tax Credits, PIP and various other vital issues to working class voters up and down the country.

I am also very disappointed in Liz when she claims Jeremy as not

sought to stop any intimidation which might have happened (Unite General Secretary Len McCluskey as recently spoke about security force involvement in dirty tricks social media campaigns against Jeremy Corbyn, and tells us to remember the Miners Strike). Jeremy has always been and is totally against any threats or abuse from any person be they members of the Labour Party or anywhere else and to use the murder of Joe Cox by a bitter and twisted person recently is both unfair and not putting it in context. When I heard him speak at the Lowry on 23rd July with over 2,000 people in attendance (many of them under 40), he unequivocally said so, so sorry Liz you feel this way but perhaps blame the individual who committed this awful act not Jeremy Corbyn.

At a recent Manchester Mayoral Election hustings at Middleton & Heywood CLP I and other members of the CLP asked people if they would sign an open letter supporting Jeremy's leadership, 32 people signed it out of 45 people who attended the hustings; I find it difficult to reconcile Liz's constant criticisms of a leader which as such support within the local

Labour Party. We have not had any Leadership Nomination meeting as yet, but the most recent results show out of 49 CLP's around the country have voted to support Jeremy, whilst 11 have voted for Owen Smith (as of 29th July 2016), I hope we can show we have confidence in Jeremy's leadership.

My last disagreement with Liz is that Owen Smith is the person who can

“ JEREMY WAS ELECTED LEADER JUST 10 MONTHS AGO WITH A MASSIVE SHOW OF PUBLIC SUPPORT

not only unite the party but take us to an election victory in 2020. Let's look at the facts, Jeremy as consistently opposed Austerity, seeking to invest in our infrastructure creating jobs and support our Trade Unions by his vocal support for recent Junior Doctors strikes (he will also make sure NHS privatisation is reversed by scrapping the 2012 Health & Social Care Act) when I look at Owen's

history (not recent conversions) on these issues we see he was once an advisor to Pzifer and said there needs to be 'greater flexibility' in choice of providers of care within the NHS, this is usually doublespeak for private providers taking more of a slice of the public purse rather than keeping the service in-house. It is also plain to see all the major unions are backing Jeremy as he is the only leadership contender who as consistently supported workers in struggle.

I would ask Liz to reconsider and recognize the members of the Labour Party elect a leader, not MP's unless she disagrees, which would mean she thinks MP's are somehow more important?? Jeremy wants to change the way we do politics in this country and that change may be painful for some people, but if we don't change the nature of politics from the top down model to one of more down up, then surely we will see more election results like in 2015 when the very types of policies Owen Smith stands for led us to defeat which had been coming for a while.

USE YOUR VOTE & USE YOUR VOICE



Use your voice to encourage others - The apathy and disconnection most people feel towards politics needs to be unleashed in a positive way to enact real social change

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ

We are looking for Something different, Something Better

Let's be creative, suspend our disbelief of the traditional notion of a time and a history. Lets close our eyes and imagine everything as one synchronised 'now'. Suddenly! a history and a time becomes everything, everywhere, an all time place and nowhere space.

We begin to hear soft notes and war drums, laughter and tears, an orchestra of sound and melody. Through its rhythm and beats we begin to hear voices, words... sovereignty, autonomy, societies, inequalities, rights, responsibilities, ownership, money and debt.

Chitter, chatter, chit chat,

rhythm and blues. So many voices we turn to listen and doing so we strain our eyes to see.

We see faces emerge. A mosaic of peoples faces restricting, resisting and re imposing self and I through reform, revolution, resistance and reform again. Spaces emerge within

These spaces become filled with the banners declaring social value and or corporate worth and in HORROR we realise these sounds stopped resonating but started refracting reflecting and echoing against and within what appears a solid

hall, structural walls, but is in fact a cracked hall of mirrors.

In terror, We open our eyes quickly again and jump outside. By standing outside we notice that all is not really enclosed within solid structures but only within the temporal solidity of that hall and the cracks in their are becoming deeper.

We reel in shock at the presumed reality of the hall and begin to hear 'screams' inside and we shout inside: ' come out of the hall!' 'Come out of the hall!'

One by one people become released. Not all want to become released, yet and but enough do.

Enough to stand outside of the hall in a field together then in many fields together, resonating, together. Through this new melody we hear the sounds of imagination being produced again and this creativity begins to produce something different, something better.



Ps... Use your vote
encourage others

TRUMP OF THE WILL



THE TRUMP OF THE WILL

Months ago, when I was young and foolish, I believed that, in principle, most people could be persuaded by reason, ‘reason’ meaning mainly logic

I believed this partly because I accepted without question the view that logic could not coherently be rejected without tacit appeal to logic, rendering any attempted rejection self-refuting: necessarily, if not-logic, then not-not-logic. Indeed, if to have a belief is to hold a proposition to be true, anyone who has any beliefs relies implicitly upon logic, since one cannot coherently hold a proposition to be true without at least acquiescing in the view that it is not the case that that proposition is not true. And so on. Something like that, anyway.

How ironic that someone so keen to espouse the absolute authority of logic failed utterly to recognise the vicious circularity of such arguments! Logic can prove the absolute authority of logic only if the absolute authority of logic is assumed! Why should someone who does not agree with that assumption care that, by logic’s lights, it is logically incoherent to reject logic?

It might be said that, since logic conditions (or appears to condition) the workings of the world we take ourselves to inhabit, no-one has any real option to reject logic. As our behaviour evinces, all of us ‘know’ that we cannot both

enter the room and not enter the room simultaneously. Surely our unspoken acceptance of logic reveals itself constantly in our successful negotiation of the world.

Fair enough. But where there is no prior commitment to the applicability of logic beyond what we have no option to ignore, a rationalist cannot non-question-beggingly appeal to consistency in order to defend his claim that everyone, when reviewing some or other issue of the day, ought to think logically. He – only he, of course, wedded to logic as he professes to be – has no grounds for legislating in this way.

Neither has he grounds for persuasively redefining thinking as such as thinking logically. Much as he loves to distinguish thoughts from feelings (it makes him feel divine), he has no non-circular argument with which to persuade others to accept the distinction. And indeed the discourse of the majority shows that, ordinarily at any rate, they do not so much as recognise it.

‘If logic counts for nothing, the rationalist doesn’t need grounds upon which to advocate its universality.’ What, then, is left of his rationalism?

One can discover the art of post-

logic discourse in any bar in the land. That’s what’s happened to me, over the last little while. In the practice of conversation, my fellow interlocutors rapidly withdrew any theoretical assent that they might charitably have afforded to my naïve insistence upon logic’s primacy: If Britain leaves the EU everything both will and won’t be much better; all immigrants from a certain

“ WE MUST
BE WARY OF
POLITICIANS WHO
PROMISE THE MOON
BUT DELIVER ONLY
THEIR OWN EGO

country are lazy and dangerous, and some of them aren’t; the right-wing Tories are left-wing.

In such a domain, all opinions are justified and no opinions are justified, in that my opinion is justified just because I hold it, and to the degree of conviction (= feeling) with which I hold it, and so, *mutatis mutandis*, is your opinion, though your opinion is contrary to mine. Truly believing suffices for truth, and my truth is both absolute

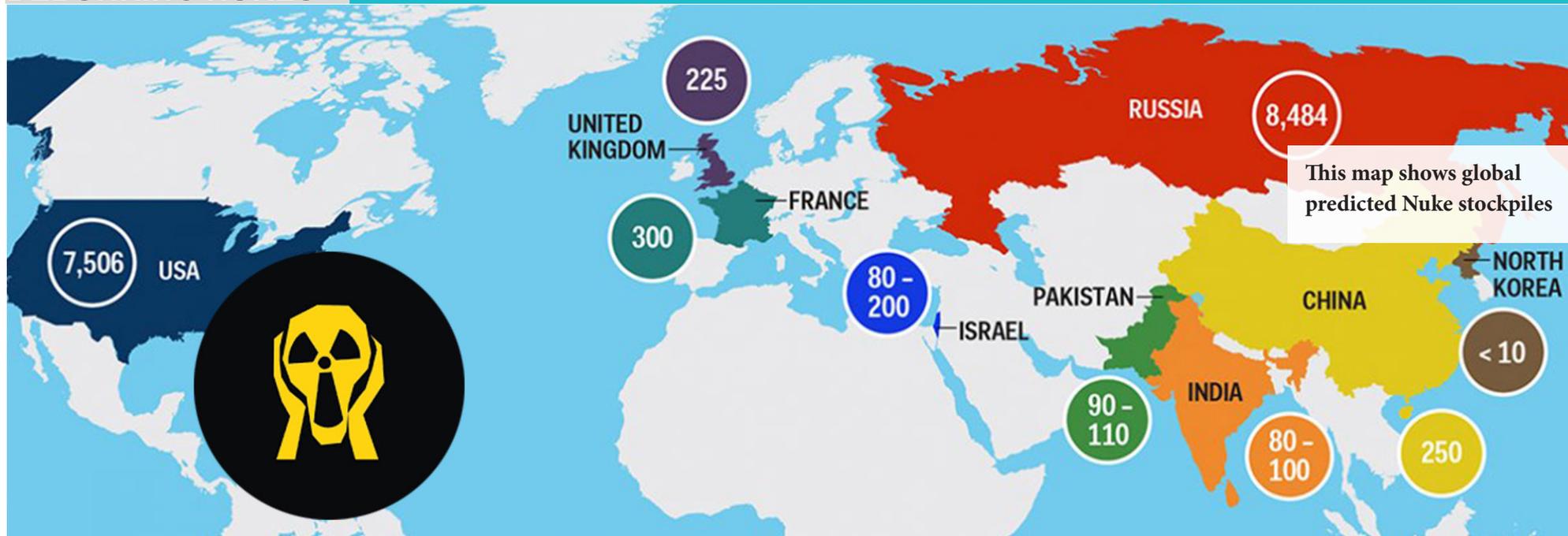
and relative, because I absolutely believe what I believe. And the same goes for you – although, obviously, your belief is false. Thus all of our mutually inconsistent and indeed contradictory beliefs are both justified and true and neither justified nor true.

And yet when we talk together we somehow make sense. Well, we nod and shake our heads as if sense is being made; and what more could there be, to sense? And what we say both really matters - things get heated, we storm out and fall out, there have been fights, people might die - and doesn’t really matter - it’s all just banter after all, mere ‘pub bollocks’.

Feelings trump everything else. (This itself is true because it feels that way.) Show me a Muslim who is not a terrorist and I’ll show you a Muslim who’s a terrorist, if that’s the way I feel about him. ‘But x, but y ...’, you say. Bugger your ‘buts’! If the facts you adduce don’t conduce to my uses, then they are false facts and specious excuses. ‘I think with my blood!’ as Goering said. I think with my blood, and it is good.

This is the trump behind Trump. It is the trump of the will. The last trump.

DEBUNKING NUKES



DEBUNKING NUKES

The date that Parliament decided to keep Trident for decades to come lies close to the date on which the world remembers that nuclear weapons were put to use for first time ever

Alexander Dommerholt

However, the question whether Britain really needs these weapons of mass destruction did not get a great deal of attention.

On the 6th and 9th of August, Japan commemorated the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in which up to 250,000 people perished, as it was exactly 71 years ago when nuclear bombs were dropped on the two cities by the American forces, marking the end of the Second World War.

Many argue that World War II was ended sooner by this sea of fire and therefore saved

many lives. This is disputed by some historians as they argue that Japan was already on the brink of collapse and

“ SOME HAVE ARGUED THAT THE USA USED NUKES ON JAPAN AS A WARNING TO THE USSR - BEGINNING THE COLD WAR

would have soon lost the ability to wage war, especially as the Soviet Union joined the Americans in the fight against them.

Whichever is true, the price Japan had to pay was the complete devastation of two cities, with the vast majority of the victims being regular civilians going about their daily lives as much as the war permitted – the military significance of both cities was small.

The bombs immediately incinerated tens of thousands of people; the only traces of some of those who were evaporated are their shadows which the heat of the explosions had burnt into road surfaces. Radiation poisoning affected scores of others, causing the deaths of thousands up to decades later as a direct result of the bombings. Japan would never

be the same again. The horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki triggered a nuclear arms race in which a handful of countries struggled for world domination by producing vast amounts of nuclear weapons. The USA currently has approximately 7,300 warheads whereas Russia possesses around 8,000. The UK follows at a great distance with an estimated 225 nuclear weapons.

Ever since the British government started its nuclear weapons programme in 1952, it has maintained that Britain needs nuclear warheads as a “deterrent” to protect Britain and “its position as a leading country in the world.” These reasons were also used once

DEBUNKING NUKES



A new global approach to these Armageddon weapons needs to be to scale back stockpiles - This can only be led by those such as the UK who have relative safety, it cannot come in any other way

more by the proponents of the renewal of Trident, only a few weeks ago.

“ THE BEARDED PACIFISTS ARE RIGHT... TRIDENT IS A WASTE OF MONEY

PETER HITCHENS

The validity of these arguments remains to be seen – “deterrents” are meant to prevent war and aggression, yet they have not prevented any of the world’s nuclear powers to become embroiled in armed conflicts. For instance, Pakistan and India, who both possess nuclear weaponry, have been at war with each other for decades over Jammu and Kashmir with neither side being deterred by one another’s nukes. Neither was Argentina deterred by Britain’s nukes when it decided to invade the Falkland Islands.

To make matters worse, the modern reality of global terrorism has the potential to turn nuclear weapons into an Achilles’ heel for any nuclear power; the question is how long it will be before terrorists will attempt to go nuclear. Undoubtedly, it makes the warheads that the British military transports through British cities interesting targets for terrorist attacks.

Furthermore, with Britain being surpassed in economic and military importance by an increasing amount of countries worldwide, the argument that nuclear weapons safeguard Britain’s position as a superpower seems increasingly indefensible; a relevant question to ask is whether Britain is still a superpower at all.

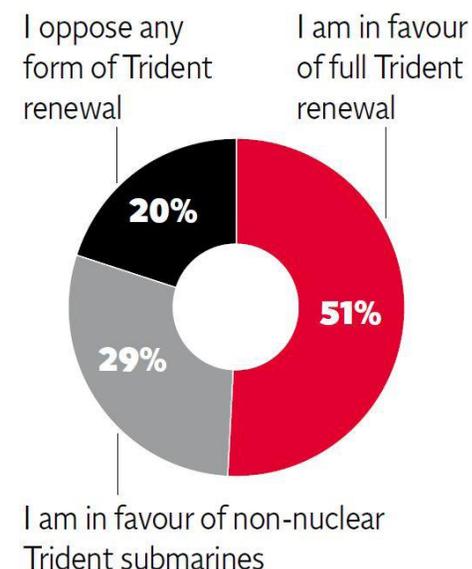
It makes the current British nuclear weapons stockpile little more than a method of revenge in the extremely unlikely event that the UK is attacked with another

nation’s nuclear bombs; an unlikely revenge that costs the taxpayer an estimated £205 billion that could be invested in education, healthcare and other areas that have fallen victim to the austerity cuts of recent years.

Should they ever be used, the British nukes would unleash a much greater disaster than the bombs used in Japan 71 years ago. The increased power and precision of the modern bombs mean that they can claim more victims than ever, which undoubtedly would mostly be regular civilians.

An interesting notion is that Japan never sought revenge for the horrifying events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Instead, it adopted a pacifist constitution which does not allow any nuclear weapons on its soil. Despite not owning any nuclear weaponry, Japan flourished in the years after the war and currently has the 3rd strongest economy in the world.

WHAT THE PUBLIC THINKS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF TRIDENT



SOURCE: ORB/THE INDEPENDENT

Uk opinion for Trident - But do we all know the facts? And the real cost?

The lessons of history make Britain’s case for possessing nuclear weapons a weak one, and it means that Britain missed the chance of becoming a true leading country had it decided to scrap Trident and invested its money where it is so sorely needed: in education, housing, healthcare, job creation and battling poverty.

SELMA MARCH



SELMA – SHADOWS OF A HORROR NOW RESURGENT

Watching Selma – the biopic of legendary Civil Rights Leader Dr Martin Luther King Jr and the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery which took place in 1965 directed by Ava DuVernay – I was struck by two thoughts.

Jack Cornes

The first was what the sub human Governor of Alabama George Wallace would make of the statue of the resplendent Dr King standing tall over the city of Washington DC today. The second thought sent a shiver down my spine. The film's portrayal of a cruel police force inflicting merciless beatings, as well as a cowardly murder, conjured up all too relevant comparisons of the current civil unrest between US police forces and Black Lives. Like you all I have watched helplessly over the last couple of months as ignorant US police servicemen have been gunning down unarmed black people on American streets. A storm which was resuscitated once more when two white police officers appeared to hold down and shoot dead victim Alton Sterling, who police believed was carrying a weapon. This death caused the all too familiar wave of violence between certain black and white communities across the US to spread once more with further acts of bloodshed and murder. The behaviour of the US police forces

here is despicable proof that certain pockets of US Jurisdiction are compromised. It cannot be upheld as affective, impartial, tolerant upholders of the law because of this poisonous cultural prejudice that exists in certain police officers heads. This malicious dogma has plagued Americanism since its very inception – that racial differences are a cause for hatred, not celebration. It is also proof that what Dr King and his followers stood for – a land where all nations, all creeds, all people regardless of race can walk together in peace – is still just the dream King spoke of, in one of the most memorable utterances ever spoken by a human being at the March on Washington in 1963, and not the reality.

Of course there has been progress. Selma depicts King's struggle and eventual victory in influencing LBJ's government to give the Black person the vote. A victory that presents the terrible possibility that King's Assassination, in 1968, was carried out for fear that if he could secure the vote for African American people, who knows what else he

could do. Yet another 'lone gunmen' here it would seem (we've all heard that before haven't we!), it's a funny coincidence isn't it folks – there are a lot of 'lone gunmen' responsible for the deaths of people on the verge of radical and harmonic social change across American history isn't there – just a thought. The unflinching realism of Selma's depiction of the violence dished out by the American Establishment at this time in US history on a community of people who simply wanted to walk in the sunlight of freedom and acceptance constantly reminded me of the hypocrisy of the political establishment in America. This hypocrisy still reigns supreme today with US voters gazing awe struck into the narcissistic eyes of squillionaire Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump, who seems hell bent on offering up a vision of a National Socialist America for the so called leaders of the free world. The US claims to be the land of the free, the land of equality and the transmitter of freedom to the whole world. What I see in reality is that the US is indeed the land of the free; it is the land of the free for the rich white man. I see

a United States that helped conduct the Nuremberg trials where they condemned NAZI leaders for their dogmatic social political ideological crimes while at the same time if you were Black, Gay, Irish or Latin



What is the Selma march?

March 7, 1965. When about 600 people started a planned march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday March 7, 1965, it was called a demonstration. When state troopers met the demonstrators at the edge of the city by the Edmund Pettus Bridge, that day became known as "Bloody Sunday."



Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that..

Martin Luther King

you couldn't walk down a street in Birmingham, Alabama without being lynched. I see an America that helped create the most out of control, violent form of Capitalism which currently holds the world in its vice. Countries that did not uphold these same values were invaded and pillaged in a bid to bring Capitalism, sorry 'freedom', to the world. So my hunch is that the American Dream and American policy are not mutually exclusive.

Please do not read this as a piece of pure contempt for the United States of America. It is a nation of fine, honest, hard working, lovely people. It is a country responsible for giving us some wonderful gifts in the forms of Art and Literature. For every Alexander H. Stephens, J. Edgar Hoover and Donald Trump there is a Harriet Tubman, Eugene O' Neill and Bernie Sanders. Where there is darkness there will always be light, no matter what nation. But it cannot be denied that American Political history shows a greatly broken system at the expense of so many people's lives regardless of colour and creed. In the form of Barack Obama and maybe the first female US president, there has and could be greater social progression and evolution in American society and one hopes it continues.

However one simply can't ignore the chaos on American streets caused by certain US police forces at present on black individuals. A crime is a crime regardless of colour, creed, sex or religion and these police forces must uphold this. The current crazed

behaviour of the police officers in question does nothing but cause civil unrest, anger and hatred to spread across American communities like a virus. This awful preconception of race seems to have seeped into so many crevices of the American Justice System. I do sometimes wonder whether such a system needs re-structuring and re-applying with more measured individuals needed to uphold the law as the current system is not fit for purpose.

But what would Dr King make of these recent events in his America? I am certainly no expert on the man but he seemed a careful, considerate man whose humanity, faith and intelligence informed him that peaceful protest and restraint were far more beneficial means of social progression than plunging hands into the dark well of violence. Maybe he would say that such progression is not an overnight achievement but one that must be worked at and developed if we are to one day co-exist together in peace. British Actor David Oyelowo puts in a towering performance as the iconic reverend and at times you did feel as though you were watching the actual man himself. Oyelowo reminds the viewer of just how powerful an orator Dr King was. His speeches were strong, soulful and raw. Such a soulful voice was what was needed to lead a movement that had to stand tall and not give in to oppressive violence and Oyelowo conjures up this voice with such conviction. Fellow British Actor Tim Roth portrays infamous Governor Wallace and his brilliant

performance is a stark reminder that men of such vile prejudice should not hold seats of power. Hopefully the US voter will bear that in mind at the next Presidential election when deciding between Clinton and a certain bronzed Republican candidate. I am rarely a man to show emotion but

“ FAITH IS
TAKING THE
FIRST STEP
EVEN WHEN
YOU DON'T SEE
THE WHOLE
STAIRCASE

Martin Luther King

Selma was a heartbreakingly brilliant feature, it's importance is a necessary relevance that people must watch in the same way Schindler's List offers an authentic portrayal of the harrowing events of the holocaust in Fascist Europe during the Second World War or The Passion of the Christ shows the barbarous treatment of Jesus at the hands of the Roman Imperials. Watching how these fellow human beings suffered at the hands of a thuggish police force as portrayed in Selma, just made me want to reach out, put my arms around those people and try and take their pain and their anguish away. Selma's relevance to today's current civil unrest in the United

States reminds us that we must stand together, to support and love one another. Colour does not come into it. Colour of any kind is a beautiful gift of our humanity and the fact that we still let colour divide us in the 21st Century is proof that the human race is still in the dark, the light has not shone through fully to show us the path to social Nirvana at this present time in our shared evolution as enlightened beings.

I feel that Selma has not received the acclimation it so deserves. Ava Du Vernay has created a timeless piece of social reflection that must be applauded for its realism and heart. If my memory serves me correctly it came and went without a great deal of publicity. Yes, it was nominated for the Best Picture Oscar, but the fact that Mr Oyelowo's performance was not worthy of an Oscar Nomination is criminal and is a huge insult to the memory of Dr King. I have stated many times in this piece that progress has been made in US society but I do feel that an America built on Harmony, Peace and Spiritualism was ruthlessly betrayed and stamped out along with the Native Americans hundreds of years ago. Such was the importance of Selma as a film that it served as a reminder that I will always stand alongside Dr Martin Luther King Jr, if not physically then certainly spiritually. It served as a reminder that I will always hold hands with my beautiful black brothers and sisters as we walk together across the bridge to harmony. We shall overcome!

THERE IS PEACE IN CORBYN'S POLITICS



CORBYN'S DANGEROUS FRIENDS? DEBUNKING THE MYTHS

I've written this article because I sense that a lot of people are overwhelmed by the number of claims that have been made regarding Corbyn's alleged links to terrorist organisations, antisemitic individuals and despotic regimes. There seems to be a need for the most serious of these to be gathered into one place and answered

Luke Davies

Freelance journalist, academic researcher and theatre maker www.luke-davies.info

I've also written it in order to expose some of the shockingly poor coverage of these issues, and to hint at the lengths journalists have been prepared to go to in order to smear Corbyn.

I'm not the first to notice how sloppy and biased the coverage has been. An LSE survey recently published found that 74% of broadsheet and tabloid newspaper articles 'offered either no or a highly distorted account of Corbyn's views and ideas', that only 9% were 'positive' in tone, and that throughout this coverage he has been 'systematically ridiculed, scorned and the object of personal attacks'.

Some of the strategies used by reputable journalists to imply that Corbyn is a terrorist sympathiser, that he has tolerated antisemitism, or that he is an apologist for dictators are reminiscent of McCarthy-era scare tactics.

The disturbing thing is that it appears to be having an impact on the left. I first became aware of most of the accusations itemised below either in the pub or on social media, being voiced by left-wing friends who were in many cases genuinely disturbed by what they were hearing.

Whatever you might think of Corbyn's politics or his leadership qualities—this article urges serious caution when accepting allegations regarding his links to hateful and violent organisations or individuals.

What is at stake here is not just Corbyn's reputation, but our tolerance of ideologically motivated slander.

In the remainder of this article I'll deal with each of the following accusations in turn. Obviously feel free to read them selectively, depending on which issues bother you most.

1. as a leader he has 'among the most extensive links in Parliament to terrorists'. This includes the IRA.
2. it also includes Hamas.

3. he has been a cheerleader for vicious antisemites.

4. relatedly, he's tolerated the presence of anti-Semitism in the Labour Party.

5. he's sympathetic towards countries with dodgy human rights records, most notably Venezuela.

6. he's been on the payroll of a state-funded Iranian TV channel banned in the UK.

Links to the IRA

Corbyn has repeatedly stated his position on Ireland (outlined in this transcript).

Whilst he condemns 'all bombing' carried out by the IRA, he has also been insistent on acknowledging the joint responsibility of 'the British Army' for the Troubles, not only because of such atrocities as Bloody Sunday but also because he believes that 'the treatment of IRA prisoners' was a key factor in their radicalisation.

Corbyn has never claimed to be neutral on this issue—and there are many who would hotly contest his point of view—but it does not follow from what I have just outlined that he has ever had any sympathy for IRA terrorist tactics.

As he has explained repeatedly—for instance here in an interview on Sunday Politics—his campaigning on this issue in the past was shaped both by a belief 'that Ireland should be reunited' and by a desire for 'a peace process'. He claims to have always been insistent that there would never be 'a military victory for either side in Northern Ireland'.

Evidently some have decided to question this. The incident most commonly referred to by those insinuating IRA links is an interview in which Corbyn failed to answer a question repeatedly put to him: 'Are you refusing to condemn what the IRA did?'

So why did Corbyn refuse to answer?

Was it because he felt he'd answered the question already, having explicitly criticised the IRA's use of terrorism in the same interview? Or because as someone who had campaigned for a peace process from the early 80s he felt the answer to the question was beyond obvious? Or was it that

he is a secret IRA sympathiser?

Evidence of the latter has been put forward with claims that Corbyn stood for a minute's silence in Conway Hall (in London) to commemorate IRA terrorists who had been shot dead in an SAS ambush in 1987. Another claim is that he invited individuals associated with the IRA into parliament for a meeting to discuss prison conditions and the rehabilitation of prisoners that

“ VIOLENT MEANS OF COUNTERING TERRORISM HELP ONLY TO PROPAGATE IT. AS WE HAVE SEEN WITH THE DECLINE OF AL-QAEDA BUT THE FOLLOWING APPEARANCE OF ISIS

took place only a matter of weeks after the Brighton bombings.

Rev. Ian Paisley said of this action that it was one that 'every right-thinking person in Northern Ireland utterly abhorred'.

Some will argue that communicating with terrorists under any circumstances is unforgivable.

And yet it seems clear that though both of these actions are provocative—they were entirely consistent with Corbyn's repeatedly expressed position on the Ireland question: that violent means of countering terrorism help to propagate it.

To be clear: the 1987 Loughgall ambush incurred civilian casualties and a civilian fatality. Poor

prison conditions and an absence of rehabilitation programmes clearly helped to foment existing tensions.

Taking Corbyn's actions out of these contexts, ignoring his repeated condemnation of the IRA's violent tactics and insisting that he met with these individuals (in parliament) as an expression of loyalty to their cause requires a series of staggering imaginative leaps.

The final and supposedly conclusive piece of evidence used to suggest Corbyn's IRA connections is a claim that because Corbyn was on the editorial board of the left wing newsletter London Labour Briefing (along with Tony Benn), he is responsible for an editorial that includes the sentence 'the British only sit up and take notice when they are bombed into it'.

Assuming that this is Corbyn's work—for which, of course, there is no actual evidence—the obvious point to make (as Nathan Akehurst has elsewhere) is that this sentence can only possibly be read as 'an endorsement of bombing' when taken completely out of context, as the author of the Telegraph article exposing this story for some reason felt inclined to do.

The editorial in question begins by facing up to the impossibility of ignoring the IRA's statement (as was the official policy of Thatcher's government) that they were 'determined never to lay down arms until the Irish people as a nation are allowed to determine their own future', before insisting in light of this that 'Sinn Fein's voice, and that of all Irish Republicans, must be heard here and now'. The quote picked out in the Telegraph article is immediately followed in the original text by a clear endorsement of 'Sinn Fein's ballot box strategy' as a necessary alternative to IRA violence.

The sentence 'the British only sit up and take notice when they are bombed into it' when read in context is quite clearly intended as a bitterly ironic reflection on Thatcher's government's refusal to engage in a meaningful dialogue and how this was contributing to a situation in which a handful of wrong-headed individuals were resorting to extreme violence as a perverse means of bringing about the conditions necessary for peace.

THERE IS PEACE IN CORBYN'S POLITICS

The statement is not a defence of violence but a condemnation of the causes of it. As such it is again consistent with Corbyn's expressed views on the Ireland situation: the stance is a pacifist one—the focus is on the need for communication above all other considerations.

The argument can be made that this 1984 editorial could have been more sensitively worded—but seeing as we have no idea what role Corbyn played in its publication (if any) this seems like a moot point.

But the main issue here is that though commentators should feel free to criticise Corbyn's republicanism, they should know better than to suggest that being a republican is the same thing as being an IRA-sympathiser.

And if they're going to argue that Corbyn did in fact have 'close IRA links'—they should come up with better evidence than examples of him taking a stand against state violence and prison conditions that many would argue were responsible for worsening tensions, together with newsletter editorials suggesting (if anything) that he was an advocate of dialogue and non-violent negotiations.

To repeat: there is zero-evidence of Corbyn condoning violent tactics.

On the contrary, examining the cases cited reveals him trying to give exposure to the complaints of those involved and attempting to facilitate some degree of communication in a manner that anticipated the tone of Mo Mowlam's much lauded policy of 'talking to terrorists'.

Links with Hezbollah and Hamas

The major incident from which this controversy arises is Corbyn's decision to host a parliamentary meeting attended by members of Hezbollah, to which Israeli representatives were also invited.

It was David Cameron who first drew widespread attention to this issue at the dispatch box earlier in May.

The day before the event in question Corbyn was recorded saying: 'Tomorrow it will be my pleasure and my honour to host an event in Parliament where our friends from Hezbollah will be speaking.'

To Cameron, this seemed a problematic way of describing Hezbollah (and by association Hamas). And indeed, the latter have been identified by Amnesty international as guilty of war crimes and as deliberately having targeting Israeli civilians in breach of humanitarian law.

Undoubtedly the use of the word 'friends' was inadvisable, and Corbyn has apologised since (as he did during PMQs).

During a select committee meeting following the incident Corbyn explained that, as in the case of insisting on continuing conversations with members of Sinn Fein and the IRA in the late 80s and early 90s, the objective of the meeting in question had been to facilitate dialogue: 'The language I used at that meeting was actually here in parliament and it was about encouraging the meeting to go ahead, encouraging there to be a discussion about the peace process.'

This was not an excuse invented after the fact to justify his actions. The recording of Corbyn that Cameron referred to during PMQs includes him implicitly criticising the British government's refusal to attempt to negotiate peace talks, expressing his belief that they should be 'talking directly to Hamas and Hezbollah'.

He justifies the meetings on the grounds that he considers it 'absolutely the right function of using

parliamentary facilities to invite people from other parts of the world so that we can promote that peace, that understanding and that dialogue'. He has since been forced to make the obvious point that talking with Hezbollah and Hamas does not make him sympathetic towards their views. As he himself put it: 'I absolutely do not approve of those organisations'—adding, 'obviously, anyone who commits racist acts or is antisemitic is not a friend of mine'.

Of course Corbyn remains an outspoken critic of Israel's illegal settlements in Palestinian territory and its blockade of Gaza. But the idea that trying to facilitate peace talks with a group who represent the extreme end of the same side of the debate that you are on, but who you are attempting to win over to a pacifist agenda, means that you should be judged as somehow being in agreement with them is deeply questionable.

And, again—for anyone wishing to make these accusations some proof will need to be provided of Corbyn expressing or condoning any of the views that make Hezbollah or Hamas so controversial.

But what if Corbyn can be seen to have in effect done this by speaking out in defence of antisemitic 'Muslim hate preachers'?

Support for antisemites and Holocaust deniers

Several accusations have been made in this respect, but I want to single out what are probably the two most controversial: one made in an open letter on the blog Left Foot Forward concerning Corbyn's support of the supposed hate preacher Raed Salah; another made in the Jewish Chronicle concerning his alleged funding of the Holocaust denier Paul Eisen.

The Left Foot Forward open letter written by Alan Johnson (not the Labour MP, but a member of the Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre) centres around an objection to Corbyn's defence of Raed Salah, a Palestinian activist and head of the Islamic Movement in Israel. Theresa May attempted to deport Salah in 2011 after Mike Freer MP, of Conservative Friends of Israel, appealed to her to take action on the basis of his 'history of virulent antisemitism'.

In his letter, Johnson points to numerous occasions when Corbyn defended Salah on the grounds that he 'represents his people extremely well' and that 'his is a voice that must be heard'. Johnson then quotes Salah's implicit referencing of the blood libel against Jews, alongside other examples of his antisemitism.

As Ollie Hill has pointed out in a blog post of Left Futures: 'Johnson cites multiple pieces of evidence that were included in an immigration tribunal ruling supporting May's decision to ban Salah from the UK. What Johnson conveniently omits to mention is that Salah successfully appealed that decision after the appeal court found that key pieces of evidence had been mistranslated and/or selectively presented.'

Sarah Colborne, director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, said in response to Salah's successful appeal: 'I trust that there will be a serious attempt by the British government to rely in the future on accurate evidence rather than inaccurate anti-Palestinian propaganda against someone who has a history of opposing Israel's crimes and violations of international law'.

Johnson's article appears to ignore the UK Upper Immigration Tribunal's judgment on the issue. As Hill puts it, Johnson's 'presentation of the tribunal's initial decision as definitive is

deliberately misleading'.

In a Channel 4 interview Corbyn makes it clear that he has never suspected Salah of antisemitism. He explains that during Salah's appeal they 'had quite a long conversation about multi-faith objectives, about the rise of islamophobia and antisemitism and I made my views very clear. He did not at any stage utter any antisemitic remarks to me whatsoever during that conversation'. To be clear: a UK tribunal has cleared Salah 'on all grounds'. Corbyn's initial comments—which weren't a defence of Salah, but were directed against those who felt there were sufficient grounds to deport him—are in accordance with the official judgment of the relevant authority.

In case you're doubtful as to the credibility of this judgment, let's review the report.

It outlines that Theresa May attempted to deport Salah on the basis of 'five areas of evidence': (i) an antisemitic poem alleged to have been written by Salah (ii) an invocation of the blood libel in a speech made by Salah (iii) a speech inciting violence to protect the al-Aqsa mosque (iv) an indictment issued by the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court (v) links to Hamas.

The tribunal found that (i) the antisemitic passage in the poem 'is not a translation of any poem written by the appellant' and that besides this it is 'not anti-Jewish but was simply about oppression' (ii) on the blood libel the tribunal found that Salah 'has never invoked it and would not do so. He was using "holy bread" as a metaphor for those who had exploited religion as a cover for oppression and crime.' (iii) as far as the violence-inciting speech goes, the tribunal found that 'his theme in the sermon was only that worshippers in the mosque should be protected from harm so that they could worship in peace' and that there was no evidence of 'violence or disorder' following it, or at any point (iv) on the subject of the Israeli indictment—this concerns charges relating to the speech apparently inciting violence, which is (no surprises here) 'a matter which has yet to be established, in the proceedings commenced by the indictment' (v) as far as Salah's links to Hamas go, the tribunal seemed content to accept that his 'only activity was to provide funds for genuinely charitable and humanitarian purposes' and that the one occasion that seems to indicate anything more was the result of a plea-bargain in an Israeli court in which Salah pleaded guilty to Hamas links 'in order to avoid a biased or harsh ruling'.

The claims supported by Theresa May, Alan Johnson and others seem here to be comprehensively discredited. Until any other evidence is brought to light that Salah is an antisemite or a hate preacher, such inferences should be considered libellous.

Now for the accusation that Corbyn has links with the Holocaust denier Paul Eisen.

The claims that Corbyn made donations to Deir Yassin Remembered (a charity set up by Eisen) have been made by Eisen himself in a blogpost that has since been made private.

Corbyn explains: 'Deir Yassin was a village that was destroyed on the establishment of the state of Israel and the villagers remember that very much. I think it is reasonable that we should remember all those people, whatever side, who suffered in the Middle East—if we're to bring about a peace process in the long term.'

On the question of whether he attended the event fifteen years ago, Corbyn doesn't deny it. He also says he may have put money into a collection bucket. But as he puts it: 'fifteen years ago, [Paul Eisen] was certainly not a Holocaust denier. Had

he been a Holocaust denier or stated he was I would have had absolutely nothing to do with him. I was however moved by the plight of the people who had lost their village in Deir Yassin'.

In an open letter written by prominent members of the Jewish community to the Jewish Chronicle, this version of events is lent credence:

'You report Paul Eisen as saying that Jeremy Corbyn donated to Deir Yassin Remembered. So did many people before discovering the existence of antisemites and Holocaust-deniers in the organisation. Many people attended the occasional fundraising concert that DYR organised, without either knowing of or sympathising with Mr Eisen's views.'

Its authors go on to reflect:

'As supporters of Israel, perhaps you agree with the racist statements of Israeli government ministers such as Eli Dahan that Jews have higher souls than non-Jews? Or Miri Regev's belief that asylum seekers are a 'cancer'? Or, would this be guilt by association, as in your character assassination of Jeremy Corbyn?'

Antisemitism in the Labour Party

Following on from accusations that Corbyn is sympathetic towards antisemitic groups and individuals, it is of course necessary to address the charge that he has turned a blind eye to the antisemitism within his own party—a claim that really gathered momentum after events in late April, and an article by Guardian columnist Nick Cohen on the subject.

The controversy centered around Ken Livingstone's remarks that Hitler was a Zionist, for which he was suspended from the party (Livingstone, incidentally, has defended the remarks, however disingenuously). Cohen also referred to MP Naz Shah's antisemitic tweet, for which she was also suspended.

Incidents like this make it pretty clear that antisemitism is alive and well on the left.

But is it fair to associate this development with Corbyn? And can it reasonably be said that he was slow to react?

As Shami Chakrabarti wrote in an inquiry report published in June: 'On 29 April 2016, and after considerable concern and controversy leading to high-profile and senior suspensions from the Labour Party, the Leader Jeremy Corbyn MP asked me to conduct this Inquiry into antisemitism and other forms of racism.'

Naz Shah's tweet became a news story on 27th April; Ken Livingstone's Hitler comment was made on the same day; Nick Cohen's article was then published on the 30th April, a day after the report had been commissioned by Corbyn.

There can be little doubt that Corbyn reacted swiftly and decisively by commissioning the country's leading human rights lawyer to conduct an independent inquiry.

But what does the report itself actually say? And does it cast a light in any way on the controversies surrounding Corbyn?

The take-home point of the report is that whilst the Labour Party 'is not overrun by antisemitism' there remains evidence of 'minority hateful or ignorant attitudes'. In the second paragraph of her foreword, Chakrabarti also criticises 'an occasionally toxic atmosphere' that is 'in danger

Continued >

THERE IS PEACE IN CORBYN'S POLITICS

Continued >

of shutting down free speech within the party rather than facilitating it.

What exactly is this second point intended to refer to?

In the report Chakrabarti singles out for attention those who 'build cases of criticism against people on the basis of those with whom they have "shared a platform"'. She objects: 'I think it dangerous to argue guilt by association and in so doing to undermine the kind of dialogue and debate that is the basis of peace, progress, and greater understanding in the world.'

In an article in the Guardian on the Chakrabarti report written by Keith Kahn-Harris this claim is mentioned last in a list of recommendations made by the report. This in spite of the fact that this argument features prominently (it is one of the first things to be mentioned, and a good deal of space is subsequently dedicated to the subject).

This might be considered odd in light of the media fanfare concerning accusations made against the leader of the Labour Party.

And yet Kahn-Harris's article stands out among media coverage of the report for even mentioning this key feature.

Far from condemning Corbyn for tolerating or associating with antisemites, or for dismissing antisemitism within his own party, the Chakrabarti report appears to endorse his approach of engaging in dialogue and to strongly criticise those who have attacked him on this basis.

I'd be grateful if anyone can point to a single piece of media coverage of the report that makes this obvious point.

Defence of Venezuela

The objection here arises from the fact that Corbyn commemorated Hugo Chavez following his death for bringing about a 'redistribution of wealth' and for 'spending oil resources on people rather than returning it to distant multinational companies.'

Ostensibly, this is a reasonable enough claim: according to the World Bank the poverty rate in Venezuela dropped from 50 to 30 per cent under Chavez. Closer analysis of GDP indicates that growth rate over the past few decades hasn't been fantastic (when adjusted to take inflation into account) but there's been a serious redistribution of wealth that has benefitted millions.

And yet Corbyn's praise of Chavez has been the subject of stern criticism (for instance, in articles on Conservative Home and CapX) that have pointed out various human rights abuses—primarily Chavez's assault on press freedoms, his dismissal of US human rights agencies, and his attempts to befriend and defend corrupt regimes in Libya, Iran, North Korea, Syria and elsewhere. Critics of Chavez have also drawn attention to the impact of inflation in Venezuela, which has reached dangerous levels in recent years (due largely to the drop in oil prices).

Commentators have pointed to a real need for the left to speak upon these issues.

So what's going on here? Is Corbyn, as some have argued, carrying on the tradition of those left-wing apologists for Stalin in the 1930s who were so keen to see socialist values succeed that they ignored the evidence of tyranny staring them in the face?

It's worth looking at what Corbyn has actually said.

During an interview on Al Jazeera in 2013 he challenged the viewer to 'think what Venezuela was like before Chavez, and the abuse of human rights, the marginalisation and the poverty of people.'

As a stand-alone argument, the idea that things used to be worse is a pretty weak defence.

But Corbyn then challenges two specific claims: the first, that Chavez's democratic mandate can legitimately be challenged—with Corbyn claiming that no-one could object to his 2012 re-election 'on the basis that it was anything but a fair summary of the views of the people of Venezuela'; the second, that Chavez controlled the media—with Corbyn claiming that 'the media in Venezuela, if he was a dictator, seemed to survive very well and produce the most virulent criticisms of him, that would be libellous in any western society.'

Let's consider Corbyn's efforts to extol Chavez's democratic credentials first.

As Owen Jones has pointed out, there has been a peculiar failure in western media to acknowledge Chavez's achievements in bringing about open and fair elections in Venezuela—opening up 6,000 new polling stations, doubling the registered electorate and incorporating state-of-the-art technology into electoral proceedings. Jimmy Carter—who now runs the world's leading election monitoring organisation, the Carter Center, for which he was awarded the Nobel peace prize—has described elections in Venezuela as no less than 'the best in the world'.

Corbyn's claims about the 2012 election seem in light of this not only fair, but possibly even understated.

So what of this business of Chavez's alleged control of the media?

Again, Corbyn's defence of Chavez appears to have some credibility here.

An independent report published by the Center for Economic and Policy Research found that 'statements about the Venezuelan government "controlling" or "dominating" the media are not only exaggerated, but simply false'. In 2010 the state had a 5.4% audience share of state TV in Venezuela, whilst 'much of the private media is stridently anti-government, in ways that go beyond the boundaries of what is permitted in the United States.'

This analysis again seems to vindicate Corbyn's analysis.

And yet questions still remain.

Fine, Chavez may not have been a dictator in the conventional sense: he seems to have been pretty committed to introducing democracy to Venezuela, and he doesn't seem to have had a media monopoly. But what about his human rights abuses? How could Corbyn defend someone condemned by multiple human rights NGOs?

In truth, I don't think that this question can be answered in an entirely satisfactory way—and of the various criticisms considered in this article, those concerning Corbyn's failure to criticise Chavez are probably the most valid.

And yet, understanding the context within which Chavez's human rights abuses emerged does go some way towards diminishing the hysteria surrounding these remarks—as well as explaining (though not justifying) how a leader ostensibly committed to social justice and democracy could at the same time be guilty of all this.

The key issue to recognise in attempting to understand these contradictions is the nature of Chavez's opposition: those who supported the right-wing forces that led a military coup against him in 2002 in an attempt to implement what Owen Jones describes as a 'Pinochet-style' of politics.

The coup leaders (allegedly supported and guided by the Bush administration) were not exactly committed to democracy. When the businessman Pedro Carmona installed himself in Chavez's place he 'wasted no time dissolving all of the country's democratic institutions'.

The human rights abuses that Chavez is accused of centre around opposition forces loyal to these coup leaders who, during the decade that followed, ran the hostile media campaigns described above, as well as leading the call to protest.

If you look through the selected cases of human rights abuses documented in this report by Human Rights Watch a good many concern people connected with pro-opposition media organisations—for example Guillermo Zuloaga, president of Globovisión, and Nelson Mezerhane, its principal shareholder.

Chavez accused Globovisión of untruthful reporting, of encouraging civil disobedience and of calling for his assassination. He responded with a campaign of 'sanctioning and censorship' that is at the centre of human rights allegations: trying to buy out Globovisión and subjecting it to heavy fines for alleged journalistic bias. At the extreme end, he incarcerated some of its senior executives on trumped up charges and turned a blind eye to civilian-led direct action against the channel.

This is all pretty heavy-handed stuff—challenging Corbyn's suggestion that the media 'seemed to survive pretty well' under Chavez (even if he was referring to Globovisión's continued domination of the media throughout Chavez's presidency).

Nonetheless—this picture that this conveys is very different to that given when Chavez is described (in articles attacking Corbyn) as one of a band of 'sadistic torturers' with his 'police on motorbikes, with shotguns and Nazi style helmets'.

So what of the claims that Chavez went beyond trying to censor opposition media? That he was a fascist who incited violence—and that Corbyn is in turn an apologist for a ruthless dictator? Currently the media is full of reports of 'over-zealous riot police' in Venezuela, with the 'police and national-guard members "routinely" using unlawful force against armed protesters'.

But there are a couple of key caveats for those trying to implicate Corbyn in any of this.

The first thing to note is that police violence claims are not present in human rights reports from the time of Chavez. This is something that has really escalated under Chavez's successor President Maduro.

The second thing to register is that Chavez himself actually made efforts to prevent such a situation from arising.

As the often cited Human Rights Watch report into police violence in Venezuela makes clear: 'In 2008, the government of Venezuela [...] enacted measures to promote non-abusive policing proposed by a commission comprised of government and NGO representatives.'

Some have even argued that Chavez's actions actually had the result of recasting 'officers as weak and impotent, as objects of violence rather

than holding a monopoly over it'.

Corbyn may have defended someone guilty of trying to censor a right-wing press—but to imply that he also turned a blind eye to state violence perpetrated by officers in 'Nazi style helmets' would appear to be a little anachronistic.

And yet—defending Chavez against the worst charges doesn't exonerate him of the rest of his crimes.

To be clear: Chavez's clampdowns on press freedoms were completely indefensible. And this is just one of a series of serious criticisms that can be made of him.

We might also include: detaining individuals such as the judge Maria Afiuni for lengthy periods without trial (whether guilty of corruption or not); wresting control away from the opposition in the Supreme Court (no matter how right wing); blocking funding for opposition parties (no matter how anti-democratic); refusing to cooperate with US-based human rights organisations (however bitterly Chavez resented US support for the coup).

These defences may explain, but they do not excuse.

And there remain serious questions to be answered about Chavez's friendships with Gaddafi and al-Assad.

So where does all of this leave Corbyn?

It seems clear that the specific points on which he has defended Chavez have a legitimate enough basis.

What is troubling, however, is his failure to state clearly that many of Chavez's actions remain inexcusable. I have to say that I think critics are right when they criticise Corbyn on this point.

Still, they go too far when they suggest that Corbyn was defending a tyrannical despot. Chavez had some serious shortcomings, but it is not irrelevant that his greatest crimes came out of his attempts to respond to a very real threat to democratic principles that he had struggled to implement. And he is not responsible for crimes committed after his death that would appear to violate laws that he had implemented.

It also seems reasonable to argue that Corbyn and others were right to point to Chavez's achievements in terms of poverty reduction and securing greater levels of democratic participation. And that they were right to try and correct media coverage that fails to mention these things.

If I was to try and justify Corbyn's failure to take a stronger stance against Chavez's human rights abuses and his dodgy international connections, I'd say that he was reacting to the media whitewashing of Chavez's legacy.

And yet of course it would have been far more satisfactory had he challenged how Chavez was being represented whilst also clearly acknowledging the seriousness of charges against him.

Iranian TV

The controversy here concerns an occasion when Corbyn appeared on the Iranian channel Press TV—accepting a fee of £4,000 per episode to host a five-part current affairs call-in, in which topics such as Israel's attack on international waters of a flotilla of aid traveling into Gaza were discussed.

The story has been widely reported, with many



The peace process was only brought about by the forward thinking of MP's like Corbyn & Mo Mowlam. Let us not forget the IRA & UK army was waging open warfare. Mo was greeted like a hero by kids outside the signing of the treaty in N Ireland.

objecting to the fact that Corbyn received a fee for appearing on a channel that had previously trumpeted holocaust-denial and defended the execution of people for the 'crime' of being gay.

Corbyn appeared on the channel (in 2010) six months after Ofcom banned Press TV from being aired in the UK. The explanation Press TV offered was that it refused to be regulated by what it saw as 'the media tool' of the same government 'that sent troops to Iraq and Afghanistan to participate in the killing of innocent civilians.'

This claim is complicated by the fact that Press TV had recently been given a heavy fine by Ofcom for airing a forced confession by the journalist Maziar Bahari.

So, what was Corbyn doing associating himself with such a channel?

This question carries even more weight when it is taken into account that many UK journalists had, months before Corbyn's appearance on the channel, walked away from Press TV in a show of protest against its alleged bias during its coverage of the 2009 Iranian elections.

Among these were LBC's Nick Ferrari, the Sunday Express's Yvonne Ridley and the Tory blogger Iain Dale.

Corbyn himself allegedly withdrew 'from a forthcoming Press TV programme about Western media coverage of the election.'

Why did Corbyn return when so many had walked away?

One explanation is the nature of the debate that followed the walk-outs of right wing pundits from the channel in July 2009.

For instance, Mehdi Hasan, a senior editor at the New Statesman, challenged those who had walked out and argued that 'engaging with Iran, no matter who is in charge in Tehran, is a prerequisite for peace and progress in the region. The very fact that Press TV is Iranian-owned makes it the ideal English-language platform on which to do so.'

It is of interest that one of Corbyn's earliest appearances on Press TV was alongside Mehdi. Of further interest is the fact that they are discussing democratic procedures in elections (which might be seen as something of a corrective against the TV channel's previous failings on this issue).

Things get even more interesting when it is noted that in this clip, the person leading the debate is Andrew Gilligan—currently a leading journalist in the media campaign against Corbyn (more of which in my conclusion below).

Just what is Gilligan doing on Press TV in May 2010, given that he has recently been quoted in a 2016 interview with Business Insider explaining why he left the channel: the 'tipping point was its terrible coverage of the 2009 Iranian elections'?

Very mysterious. Yet whilst I don't want to exonerate Gilligan for blatantly lying in an attempt to smear Corbyn, I am prepared to defend his decision in 2010 to continue his work as (according to Hasan) 'among the highest-paid, if not the highest-paid, employee' at Press TV.

As the self-identifying Zionist Geoffrey Alderman later argued in a Guardian comment piece: Press TV, for all its shortcomings, helped to expose a large body of viewers in the Middle East 'to opinions and arguments—especially in relation to Israel—that they might otherwise never hear.'

When it was banned by Ofcom in 2012 (on the grounds of a failure to comply with licensing laws, not because of any ethical objection to its content), Alderman noted that the action would 'only serve to increase anti-western sentiment in Iran.'

Of course we can argue that appearing on Press TV is tantamount to being a holocaust denying, homophobic, Iranian state-apologist. But such an argument is to pursue the logic of 'guilt by association' that Shami Chakrabarti condemned in her report on racism and antisemitism in the Labour Party—actively denying us 'the kind of dialogue and debate that is the basis of peace, progress, and greater understanding in the world'. In context, Corbyn's decision to appear on Press TV looks like solidarity with the likes of Mehdi and Alderman for pursuing precisely this kind of objective.

It also seems to be in keeping with the general pattern that this article has observed: suggesting a desire on Corbyn's part to open up dialogue in places where ordinarily it is prohibited, and where the effects of that may be considered damaging.

It's not ludicrous to think of the efforts of British and Iranian politicians and journalists to develop an international conversation as comparable to John Kerry's diplomatic agreement securing a nuclear disarmament deal with Iran.

Of course of the two Kerry's achievement is by far the greater, but still it might be seen that diplomatic negotiation and journalistic cooperation perform a similar function in calming existing tensions between nations.

The idea that journalists and politicians shouldn't appear on or accept payment from media platforms embroiled in controversy would, writ

large, lead to a communication shutdown across of the world.

What about Al Jazeera, who have been accused of providing a platform for Osama Bin Laden? Or Russia Today, accused of being a Kremlin propaganda mouthpiece?

How many prominent MPs and journalists have appeared on these platforms? And what would be the long-term consequences if this kind of activity were to stop?

Conclusion

My reference above to Gilligan provides a convenient segway into something resembling a conclusion on Corbyn's supposed links with terrorists and despotic regimes.

Google Andrew Gilligan's name alongside Jeremy Corbyn's and you will uncover a plethora of articles (really, a frightening number) supposedly digging the dirt on Corbyn, his team and his campaigners.

The majority allege links to some form of extremism. For instance, Gilligan has been instrumental in circulating claims that Corbyn had links to the IRA, Iran and Hamas.

Other accusations range from alleged rumours (amounting to nothing) about a Corbyn plot to deselect MPs, to obscure and ethically dubious exposés, including revelations about the alleged fraud of the father of a Momentum campaigner.

Gilligan's unusual trajectory after being sacked by the BBC for (as it turns out accurately) reporting Blair's sexing-up of the famous WMD dossier has not passed unnoticed. But his role in generating many of the above rumours needs greater public reckoning with.

To be fair to Gilligan, the attacks are not limited to the left. He has Gilligan's unusual trajectory after being sacked by the BBC for (as it turns out accurately) reporting Blair's sexing-up of the famous WMD dossier has not passed unnoticed. But his role in generating many of the above rumours needs greater public reckoning with.

To be fair to Gilligan, the attacks are not limited to the left. He has even accused the Conservative peer Baroness Warsi of having links to Islamist groups. But that doesn't excuse it.

What is alarming about this kind of journalism is the combination of vitriol and an evident lack of concern about actually joining up the dots.

As we have seen in unpacking accusations concerning Corbyn's links to the IRA, Hamas, Chavez and Iran—he has repeatedly been connected with the worst abuses of groups and

individuals he has had a passing connection with, even when this has been in the interest of generating dialogue to help bring about peace, trying to counteract imbalanced media coverage, or attempting to facilitate a cross-cultural conversation.

Of course you can disagree with the fact that he has tried to do these things, just like you can challenge his various stances on Ireland, Israel, Venezuela and elsewhere. But most of those who criticise Corbyn on these issues do not seem to be doing this, to judge by the various news articles linked to above (many of which have been widely shared).

The only accusation that has arisen out of the alleged controversies that I consider to be of any real consequence concerns Corbyn's failure to condemn Hugo Chavez's human rights abuses—though even here, my analysis reveals a tendency to seriously misrepresent the issue. Otherwise, this article has revealed a steady flow of inaccurate and sometimes hysterical claims.

The fact that the ringleader of this media offensive is capable of casually lying about his own appearances on Press TV in order to smear Corbyn says it all really.

We should not be taken in by the unproven allegations of Gilligan and others. And yet apparently we are.

Shami Chakrabarti's discovery of a culture of 'guilt by association' within the Labour Party is strong evidence of a growing willingness to accuse people, without having very much real evidence, of sympathising with extremists or apologising for dictators.

Apparently, we're quite happy to make these claims against people even when it's clear that the actions of the individuals in question are in the interest of encouraging peace processes, challenging media biases or facilitating cross-cultural conversation.

I find it deeply troubling that, of all things, Corbyn should be attacked for supporting violent and hateful organisations and individuals when he has spent so much of his political career fighting for free speech and trying to bring about the conditions necessary for peace in many different parts of the world.

It's hard not to conclude—given how aware most journalists and politicians are of this fact—that those responsible for circulating these accusations are guilty of political point-scoring of the lowest order.

THE WAR IS ON BETWEEN TRUMP AND CLINTON



THE WAR IS ON BETWEEN TRUMP AND CLINTON

The Republican and Democratic national conventions have now finished, having been far from the scripted affairs they usually are, setting the tone for a vicious presidential campaign

Alexander Dommerholt

The national conventions of American political parties normally follow set formulas; politicians and celebrities praise the nominees, the crowds go wild and the nominees are officially elected as the official presidential candidates of their parties. All this is dressed up with flags, bunting, lots of music and lots of noise. But this time the usual predictability has gone out of the window.

The Republican convention was controversial before it even started as countless of prominent Republicans simply refused to show their faces due to their dislike of Donald Trump. Their excuses for their absences were widely publicised; Florida Representative Mario Diaz said he'd forego as "he was getting his hair done" and Arizona Senator Jeff Flake announced "I've got to mow my lawn".

A man who did show up was Ted Cruz, who fought a hard battle with Donald Trump during the presidential primaries as he was dubbed "lying Ted" by Mr Trump. Mr Cruz gave his former rival the political version of a middle finger as he held a speech at the convention in which he refused to endorse Mr Trump for the presidency, to the fury of the assembled Trump supporters.

The situation only further exacerbated when Melania Trump made herself a worldwide laughingstock as she

got Republicans on their feet by plagiarising Michelle Obama's speech from 8 years earlier. Celebrity A-listers stayed away from a potential public relations disaster and Trump found himself endorsed by soap opera actors and other B-listers. It led to the highly unusual situation that the convention made 51% of Americans less likely to vote for Trump, a poll revealed.

The Democratic convention was beset by problems of its own, though completely different in nature. The Democrats had no problems attracting prominent politicians, including incumbent president Barack Obama, and neither were there issues with closing the ranks as Bernie Sanders officially endorsed Hillary Clinton as the presidential candidate for the Democrats.

Despite Mr Sanders choosing Mrs Clinton's side, many of his followers did not – a minority of them even booed Mrs Clinton during her acceptance speech. It aptly illustrates one of the challenges Mrs Clinton faces, as she will need to work hard to secure the essential support of Mr Sanders's followers.

Another highly publicised scandal that plagued the Democrats was a leaked email cable which showed that Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the head of the Democratic National Committee, had attempted to obstruct the campaign of Mr Sanders in favour of Mrs Clinton. Unsurprisingly, Mrs Wasserman Schultz was forced to resign over this embarrassment.

Mrs Clinton faced personal criticism as it transpired that she used her private email address for official government work during her tenure as Secretary of State. The FBI condemned her for being "careless", but decided in July that charges should not be brought against her. However, the Trump campaign uses the email scandal to depict Mrs Clinton as unfit for the presidency, with Trump followers often chanting "lock her up" at campaign rallies.

With a few months' time to regroup, Mr Trump will need to pull more than a few tricks out of the bag if he wants to stand a real chance. His harsh remarks about Hispanics, women's rights, migrants and Muslims have worked in winning over the white, blue-collar male demographic, but in doing so he alienated many other essential groups of voters.

Though Mr Trump will likely win in the Republican heartlands, the real battle will be fought in the states that are neither Republican nor Democrat – the so-called "swing states". A key state is Ohio, which has a Republican governor in John Kasich, but he despises Mr Trump and refuses to endorse him. Republican Representative Richard Hanna has even openly endorsed Hillary Clinton. This puts Mrs Clinton in the driving seat.

Trump therefore will need different tactics if he wants to stand a serious chance, as his strategy of hurling accusations and insults at his opponents, creating divides rather than building bridges and blaming Hispanics and Muslims for a plethora of problems is not going to help him

win the presidency. The fact that senior Republicans refuse to aid his campaign, whereas white supremacy groups as the Ku Klux Klan and Stormfront openly endorse Trump does not help him much either.

We will undoubtedly not have seen the last of all the blunders and controversies that have characterised the battle between Mr Trump and Mrs Clinton – when the official campaign starts in a few weeks' time, we will likely see one of the harshest presidential election campaigns that America has ever witnessed.

Though Mrs Clinton is undoubtedly preferred over Mr Trump when it comes to delivering stability, it does raise the question how Mrs Clinton would have fared against a Republican candidate who does not string blunders together like Mr Trump does; Mrs Clinton has a fair few flaws of her own which do not see much of the limelight due to Mr Trump's buffoonish behaviour.

What we can already conclude is that both Mr Trump and Mrs Clinton do not unite the US population, as Mr Trump alienates many with his divisive rhetoric whereas Mrs Clinton is seen by many as the embodiment of the political elite which is far removed from the problems of the average American.

Meanwhile, the world is confronted with the bleak picture that when the American electorate will cast their votes on the 8th of November, that many of them will not vote for the leader they deem to be the best, but the one they deem to be the least bad.

THE WAR IS ON BETWEEN TRUMP AND CLINTON



The below is related to the article above, but can be printed separately or can be omitted altogether

20 Trump fails

Trump is the perpetrator of so many scandals and blunders that it is hard to keep up with them. Though this list is far from complete, it illustrates perfectly why many Americans – as well as many others worldwide – fear an American government headed by Donald Trump.

1. Trump wants to build a wall between Mexico and the USA – and he wants Mexico to foot the bill
2. The reason Trump wants the wall is to keep Mexicans out, accusing them of being “rapists, drug dealers and criminals”
3. Trump established the “Trump University” – not only did he break the law calling it a university when it wasn’t, but he also swindled its students out of \$40 million while giving them nothing in return
4. Trump University was such a disaster that some of the duped students took him to court. Trump complained about the fact that the judge presiding over the trial is of Hispanic heritage, implying the judge would be biased against him
5. He called 2008 Republican presidential candidate and Arizona senator John McCain “not a war hero” as McCain was held captive by the Vietcong in the Vietnam War in the most horrid of conditions. Donald Trump himself escaped the draft altogether
6. One of Trump’s plans is to make European countries pay for the privilege of “nuclear protection” they get from America
7. Though heavily criticising American and European leaders, Mr Trump has expressed admiration for Russian president Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un
8. In only a matter of hours after the shootings in Orlando, Florida, Trump gave himself a pat on the back on his Twitter account about “being right about radical Islam”
9. Trump ridiculed Serge Kovaleski, a journalist, by performing a hurtful impression of him; Mr Kovaleski suffers from a congenital joint disorder
10. Trump attacks women who do not agree with them – Ariana Huffington was called “unattractive” by Trump, and said he “fully understood” why her husband had left her for a man. Similarly, Trump attacked Rosie O’Donnell on her looks, saying she has a “fat, ugly face”
11. He repeated the urban myth that 1000s of Muslims “cheered” in New Jersey on 9/11, though this story had already been disproven
12. Not only did Trump say he’d bring waterboarding back, he said he’d do “a hell of a lot worse”
13. Trump proudly declared that he could “shoot someone and not lose any voters”
14. Though he prides himself on his business acumen, his mismanagement caused four of his companies to go bankrupt
15. Trump criticised the parents of Humayun Khan, American Muslim soldier who died in Iraq while on duty. Trump said that Mrs Khan remained silent while her husband spoke at the Democratic convention, stating that “she had nothing to say [...] maybe she wasn’t allowed to have anything to say. You tell me”
16. Not only did Trump insult the parents of a killed soldier, he also victimised himself claiming Mr Khan “viciously attacked” him as Mr Khan spoke out against Trump
17. Regarding the situation in Ukraine, Trump announced that Russia “would never make a military move into Ukraine”, apparently unaware that Russia already has done so by invading and annexing Crimea in 2014
18. Instead of challenging Hillary Clinton on her policies, Trump often attacks her on a personal level. One of the things he has said about her is “if Hillary Clinton can’t satisfy her husband, what makes her think she can satisfy America?”
19. He does not believe in the existence of global warming, calling it “a hoax invented by the Chinese”. Although Trump later claimed this was a joke, he had already Tweeted something similar in 2012
20. Trump is already making accusations that the presidential elections will be “rigged” to keep him from winning

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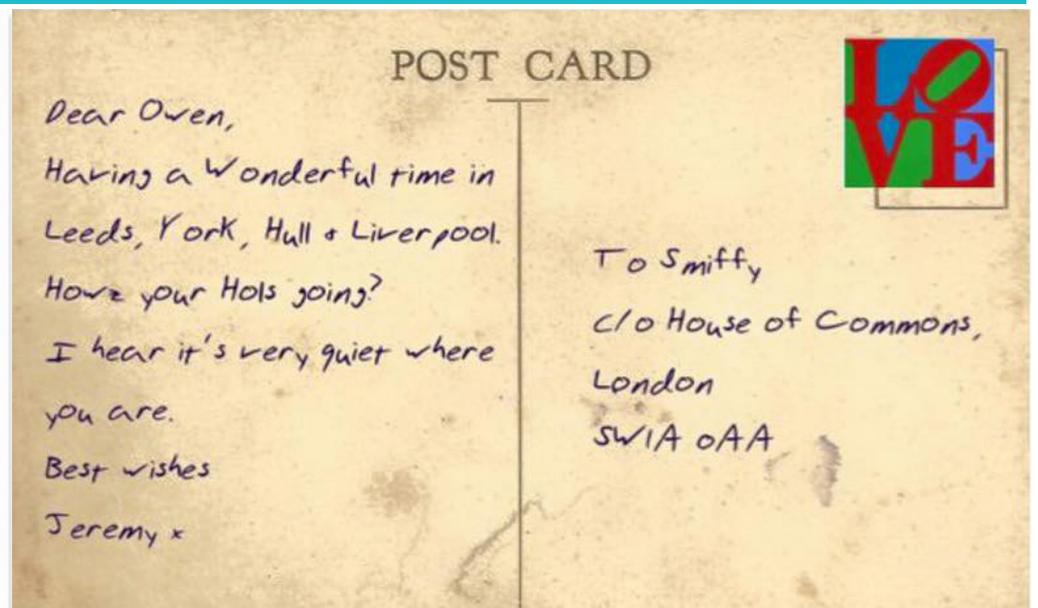
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PENSIONS THREAT



PENSIONS THREAT

Currently pensioners in the UK “enjoy” a triple safety lock on their pensions thanks to the Tory Liberal Democrat coalition government - But for how long?

Eileen Kersey

Now one Baroness Altmann wants that scrapped as Sunday she says she previously urged former PM David Cameron to look at the triple-lock protection.

Baroness Rosalind Miriam Altmann, CBE, joined the House of Lords May 19, 2015, where she is guaranteed at least £300 a day simply for showing up briefly.

That is much more than the weekly state pension in the UK.

According to the Independent “The triple-lock protection for state pensions should be abolished in order to save billions, the former minister responsible for the benefits has urged. Baroness Altmann, who left her post as pensions minister in Theresa May’s reshuffle, warned the cost of keeping the safeguard in place would be “enormous” after 2020.”

The Tory government pledge under David Cameron was to maintain the triple lock until at least 2020.

On Sunday morning TV Altmann tried to spin her words as somehow a positive for pensioners in the UK. But her words ended up a mixture of

spin, lies and drivel.

If it is all about saving money the only possible outcome for pensioners has to be negative.

Lucky Altmann born 1956 is not in the position of WASPI women in the UK; women who paid into the pensions system only to be told at the 11th hour they would have to work longer for a pension and in some case be excluded from the new flat rate pension.

Divisive and discriminatory Tory Britain 2016 even has a two-tier pension system.

“The full new State Pension is £155.65 per week. Your National Insurance record is used to calculate your new State Pension. You’ll usually need 10 qualifying years to get any new State Pension. The amount you get can be higher or lower depending on your National Insurance record.”

But that new pension is not available for existing pensioners.

The rest of us, existing pensioners, receive the old rate which is a maximum of £119.30 per week plus any additional pension earned.

But for the record the so-called triple lock pensions promise has not

improved the value of a pension.

But it has stopped them being slashed by the Tory austerity axe.

Pensioners on average receive £600 a month more or less; many receive much less and some rely on top-ups such as pension credits to make ends meet.

Altmann’s plans would hit poorer pensioners hardest and possibly end pension credit top-ups.

But bear in mind average pensioners receive no top-ups. They simply receive the pension they paid into year after year as they worked the best years of their lives.

The Tories may want to re brand pensions as welfare but they are not. They are paid for social security.

But they realise older citizens tend to vote and often vote Tory

Altmann was at pains Sunday to claim she still wanted to protect pensions but by a different method.

But again we say if it is about saving money that cannot be true.

Altmann has been involved in some worthwhile campaigns but wikipedia describes her business career as follows

“A senior investment management role at Chase Manhattan, running the Bank’s international equity department in London, was followed by directorships at Rothschild International Asset Management and NatWest. Her work included advising on strategy for UK pension funds and funds established under the US ERISA rules, and advice to central banks. A full-time job gave her insufficient time with her young family, so in 1993 she became an independent investment consultant with clients including 3i group, BT, HM Treasury, Standard Life, the BBC, Sky and Channel 4.”

Yes she will easily be able to relate to an average pensioner in the UK; we think not.

Those in the Labour Party looking for real political change with Jeremy Corbyn note “In July 2004 Altmann was appointed by the Labour Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer, to the Strategic Investment Board for a three-year term. The announcement cited Altmann’s work on the Myners Report and her then current position as non-executive policy adviser to the Policy Unit at 10 Downing Street on investment, pensions, savings and annuity policies.”

So-called Charlie Falconer is a member of the Progress wing of the Labour Party and a Blairite. “Charles Falconer, the shadow justice secretary and former close associate of Tony Blair, was an incongruous fit with Corbyn. In September he upset Corbyn supporters by disagreeing with the Labour leader’s plan to strip the Bank of England of its independence. In January he publicly disagreed with the decision to sack the Europe minister, Pat McFadden.”

There goes that tangled web again.

The one which means at times it is difficult to spot where the Tory Party ends and the Labour Party begins.

If you need to enquire about the effects on your pension - You can contact them here:

Department for Work and Pensions,
Caxton House, 4th Floor, 6-12 Tothill
Street, London, SW1H 9NA
Email: minister.pensions@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

IMMIGRANTS VIEW



BAD MEETS EVIL

Hi. I'm Romanian and I've come to sort your shit

I'm aware there are some of the Guardian worshipping crowd who think all is fine in the West except for the lazy - who deserve it anyway. If the DNC leak, surveillance state, corporate tax avoidance/Austerity, etc., don't open your eyes, then... 'the propaganda is strong with this one.'

Have you completed a tax return? It's like being ambushed in a back alley, knife to your throat, but it's an abstract knife and it owns the law, jail and the military. Not if you're Cameron or Google - obviously; then you don't have to pay tax. Only if you're already desperate.

I am not a socialist. I AM PRO CORBYN. It is a matter of survival. If survival of the many rather than the 1% means socialism, then so be it. I don't care. I want to live!

I'll tell you why: I have a disorder that's progressing and making me disabled: TMD (Temporomandibular disorder - a problem affecting the 'chewing' muscles and the joints between the lower jaw and the base of the skull). I've been seeing NHS doctors for 5 years. It's a mechanical disorder. They keep prescribing me strong antidepressants. I am not depressed. Amitriptylin has been linked with suicide, and deep depressive cycles and other side effects.

People died taking it. It's easy to believe the docs that a skeletal disorder can somehow be fixed by messing up my brain; if you're a puppet; which a lot of Western people are.

But please google Joanna Moncrieff. Look up the work of a lifelong, reputable psychiatrist who came out as a whistle-blower of the mental health community. Her well-argued case is that the mental health industry doesn't know much about the brain, but acts as a drug peddler for the pharma industry, to medicate us into unquestioning worker obedience.

THIS WOULD BE CAPITALISM for you. *It's been further proven correct by a recent study published in... The British Medical Journal! As of last week, the news picked up by the Canary (but buried there) is that the psych pharma industry kills more than it heals.*

If that sentence, presented by an official collective of scientists, ignored by the MSM, doesn't give you chills to the bone, then you're sleeping. Hard. On the production line in your own abattoir.

With the NHS on the dismemberment track, we'll have to sell kidneys to afford private treatment of our lifestyle-and-labour induced cancer. Then we retire - at 70, encouraged to die fast so we

don't waste anyone's time. It's sinister, if you take your face out of the shopping trolley into reality.

Now, most like to blame this on the Tories. And bash Corbyn for making Labour "unelectable". The man's got HUGE popular support and woke the interest of millions to politics, but he's... "unelectable". What does that even mean? At an unofficial Labour meeting (because, you know, the Labour party became all dictatorial and banned all official meetings until election), I asked seeming nice MP Graham Stringer: why is his and other MPs' emphasis so much on Labour getting in power, with or without Corbyn? An idea Labour coup MPs try to sell. "We need to oppose the Tories, but Corbyn's unelectable". Bullshit. All policies are not created equal. Red Tories have Tory policies, ARE TORIES. Why would I care they display a Labour rose on the epaulette? I don't care! Maybe you, polite Brits, are so divorced from the natural reality, you're now way above discussing survival. But I'm not. It may well be the International Party of Rhinoceros in power for all I care, as long as they stop the oppression machine. TheyWorkForYou.com tells you how the MPs vote. If they voted pro austerity, pro-war, anti-Iraq war inquiry ...they don't work for you. For corporations, the Italian weapons mafia...not you. Like presentable bland

generic flavour Owen Smith, who's PR job is to superficially blow (read: distract) people with platitudes, while corporations steal money, power & labour from you. That's not benign; that's your whole life there. I don't automatically trust an MP because he says "Labour values" in a soothing tone a lot. Do you? Yes? Surely not!

Asked this, Graham mumbled the answer: "something, something, non-monolith policies Labour, Labour". Disappointing. Different policies are not different like vanilla and chocolate; like good and evil, more like. It's as if you think choosing left or right wing is looking into a posh shop window, choosing the ostrich fascinator or a silk turban. NO. It's SURVIVAL. Pro war means taking our NHS money and putting it into the murder of millions, for somebody to make billions off the weapons industry & war. Haven't you paid attention? Trident, mucho dinero; NHS, cuts, cuts, cuts. What do you think that means? It's basic arithmetic.

Graham Stringer is not a bad guy. He might think that, because some right wing MPs are hardworking, they mean well. Hard working is not necessarily a value. They could be working hard to get rich and subjugate the planet. You think Inquisitors were lazy? No! Evil is motivated. Organised. Resourceful. Pfft! Meanwhile I am ripping my cheeks off in pain because the NHS is busy and the private doctor wants 10K. And my 14hour/day work can only buy immediate survival. IN THE FIRST WORLD!

Things are bad for ALL, not just the poor and disabled. But the worst victim is definitely the language: at least back home, I can call fat, fat. Not BBW. "We bring democracy to Iraq". Don't your circuits explode when you have to use these ridiculous euphemisms? Mine do. But then I'm not a drone.

Listen, Albion, word of advice: careful who you listen to. Do they stand to profit off you believing a certain strain of bullshit? Then switch it off. Pay attention. Don't believe the guy in a shiny suit. It might mean so much to him, that he'll walk over anybody to get it. The whole country.

Yeah, so...#JC4PM, please. We like to live.

FREE ICECREAM



FREE ICECREAM?

I thought it would be good to tell everyone (anyone who's interested anyway!) what really happened at that Owen Smith rally in Liverpool

Some of the pictures have gone quite viral and Val has become quite the Corbyn supporter of the day – and rightly so. I'm not speaking for Val as she's more than capable of doing that for herself, as we all know. However I can tell you about my reasons for being there and the actual events as they happened.

So why did I, a Corbyn supporter, go along to a Smith rally? It might seem an odd choice for a Saturday afternoon. I had an email from his team – as did most Labour supporters – a few days before which outlined the event, to be held at Camp & Furnace. As with most Labour Party members, I like to debate, discuss, find information and facts, and I like to question everything. This can strengthen your beliefs, and it can also improve your debating skills for when you're trying to win people over.

So why not go to the Smith rally?

It's good to listen to all angles and I also wanted to meet people and talk to them to find out why they think Corbyn is such a bad leader that they want to vote him out. I've yet to find a convincing argument beyond the usual line of 'he's a terrible leader and can't win the next election'. I want to know why they think that. Do they know something that I don't, or can they see something blatant that I'm blind to? For me, if Corbyn is such a bad leader, it should be really easy to convince me with facts.

So I signed up and sent in my RSVP. I even emailed his team to ask if I could officially take photographs. I'm a keen photographer and use everything I can as an opportunity to practice. I also share my photographs from public events and

make them freely available for anyone to use as I feel it's part of my duty for the cause.

I wondered if I'd be the only person there who wasn't a Smith supporter, and wondered if I'd stand out. But as we're all members of the same party with the same main aim – to remove the Tories from power and restore rights and equality for everyone – I couldn't see that my being there might be an issue for anyone. I'd already decided to be open and honest about my allegiances, and that's already out there on social media for anyone to see. There's absolutely no point in hiding that.

I asked on a pro-Corbyn Facebook page for questions they'd like to ask if they ever got the chance to ask Owen Smith face to face. Some answers were funny, some

were brilliant. I suspected I wouldn't ever get the opportunity to ask any questions, but had a couple up my sleeve just in case I got the chance. I hadn't realised just how slim those chances were going to be – I needn't have bothered.

So on a gorgeous sunny Liverpool afternoon I drove into town and parked up near the venue – which you should really visit if you ever get the chance. It's a favourite for the locals. As I started to wander over I realised people were walking away from the venue. A woman was standing on a corner holding a Smith sign, chatting to another woman who began to walk away, so I popped over to find out what was going on. "Are you here for the Smith rally?" she asked, and I nodded. "The venue has been cancelled last minute I'm afraid. You can probably guess what's happened



Continued >

there.” I shook my head and asked what she meant. “You can probably surmise from the cancellation. There has been bad publicity on social media – and you can guess the rest. It’s the usual story. I still wasn’t sure what she meant – maybe she was implying that people had made threats? I really don’t know. I’ve not seen a thing on social media myself and when Liverpool people have a campaign on the go, we usually ALL know about it.

So I wandered up towards the green area we’d been directed to. The woman who had just walked away from the Smith woman spotted me and asked me if I was there for Smith. I said “Not really... I’m a Corbyn supporter, here out of curiosity.” She smirked and said she could tell – and this was the theme of the day. Corbyn supporters looking slightly shady, hanging around the edges of the event, and looking at each other with guilty smiles. Sometimes, chatting to each other, laughing a bit and then moving around for a better position.

Val had a Corbyn T shirt in her bag and wondered if she should put it on. Neither of us could see any issue with it. We were there to listen, and who knows – maybe Smith could convert us to his way of thinking. It’s not a crime to think differently. So on the t-shirt went. A few people looked over and pointed in amusement, but it didn’t cause an immediate outcry.

It was announced that Smith would be on in 5 minutes and there was free ice cream and sandwiches for everyone if they came down to the front for them – therefore squeezing the 150 or so (I’m being kind – you can decide yourselves from the photographs) people into a smaller space, which any photographer will tell you looks better. The grassy area is a small square which had been called a park, but is in fact just an area where buildings have been knocked down and replaced with some greenery.

First up was a woman from the Wirral

who said a few words, followed by Smith himself who bounded onto the stage with his familiar pressed white shirt with the sleeves rolled up – and who wouldn’t have their sleeves up on such a nice day? His speech was good. I’m not going to lie and tell you it was awful, because it wasn’t. He comes across very well. He speaks well and looks good. He’s confident and fairly slick (aside from his recent slip of the tongue about being pro-austerity). People who like that sort of politician will love him. His speech was littered with pokes at Corbyn, of course, but was also full of his ideas and policies. Smith’s policies are largely similar to Corbyn’s, and you can’t really tell him his policies are wrong when they’re the same.

I could bring up Smith’s background and previous history, but I’m taking him on what I’ve personally seen. And he’s fine. The speech was fine. Maybe at another time I might have voted for him. He was probably brave to schedule a rally in Liverpool at all, so I’ll give him credit for that. We couldn’t fail to notice that the crowd was stuffed full of MPs, MEPs, officials and his team, as well as photographers. These people probably outnumbered actual members of the party or the public, and I know of at least 20 or so Corbyn supporters who were also there, although we all seemed to have arrived separately.

Apart from hair colour, bottled tans and eye lashes, Liverpool people don’t really do fake. I suspect they’re not that into this type of politician. The slickness, the Cameronesque rolled up sleeves, the ‘one of the people’ humour. We just don’t fall for it and will call you out on it. The team must have known this when they threw the rally open to questions and made sure the microphone was handed only to people they knew and only with prepared questions. Some locals did try to ask questions but found themselves without a microphone and quickly shut up if they did manage to shout loud enough to be heard. That’s to say they were shouting their very good questions to be heard, rather than shouting at

anyone. One guy asked how the massive increase in membership could be considered a failure. Another started to explain how he’d joined the Labour Party because of Corbyn (I know lots of you have) and was drowned out by Smith asking to see his membership card and members of his team laughing at him. It’s a shame he couldn’t have let these people speak and answer their questions. Of course they probably won’t agree, but the debate needs to be had – not shut down.

I’m well aware that most politicians do this – stuff the crowd full of your team and stage manage any questions. It might have impressed me if the conversation hadn’t been shut down though.

So onto the t-shirt which Val had put on. Val can get quite afraid in large crowds so this smaller rally was better for her, but she still decided to stand away from the main crowd, at the back of the stage, by the ice cream van. We suddenly became aware that two women were carefully standing in front of her. This became a game, with Val shuffling sideways to get a better view, and these women following suit. Eventually there were maybe six people joining in this insane shuffle. Nobody was particularly rude to Val, apart from maybe three or four people who did come up to make comments. Smile and wave, Val. Smile and wave! When people asked her why she was there she explained very politely that she was there to listen. Most people accepted that.

I was asked at one stage why I was photographing people, to which I answered “because I can”... Although I did notice that none of the other photographers were asked this, except for me, standing with Val. I made sure I stayed with Val when it seemed like she was being surrounded – not for her safety but so that people knew she wasn’t alone and wouldn’t be an easy target.

The irony of the photograph of Val standing next to the ice cream van while Smith is talking did hit me.... I heard

years ago that during Thatcher’s time as a chemist, she hit upon a chemical which can be put into cream to fluff it up full of air, increasing the volume – Mr Whippy ice cream. At the time I was told this it was said that she had found a way to make the people pay more for something they thought they were getting, but was nothing but air.

And that was it. A venue cancelled, free ice cream and sandwiches (we didn’t partake), a nice speech, some Corbyn supporters looking shifty and us leaving not particularly inspired. It wasn’t a bad speech. He doesn’t have bad policies. He doesn’t strike me as a terrible person. Maybe one day he could actually work with Corbyn and have a positive effect – I don’t know. Stranger things have happened, and most of them quite recently.

But don’t forget, once this leadership contest is all over and we have a democratically elected leader, we will all have to work together in our common aim. I think that most Corbyn supporters are ready to welcome Smith supporters into the campaign, just as I would hope that Smith’s supporters wouldn’t immediately call for all Corbyn supporters to be removed from the party and shunned. This increase in membership and support needs to be galvanised, whoever is the leader. We’re now the largest political party in the UK and the largest Socialist party in Europe. We need to hang onto these members and work with them. We’re in a better position now than we’ve been for years. Let’s do this!

And if you spot a Smith t-shirt amongst the crowd at the Corbyn rally in Liverpool on Monday evening, please show them some courtesy. Give them a hug. Include them in what’s going on. Have discussions with them. We’re all on the same side.

DUTCH NEWS



DUTCH NEWS ROUNDUP

By Alex Dommerholt

RECKLESS DRIVER WHO KILLED TODDLER EXPOSED AS LIAR

Uproar was caused in the Netherlands in April this year, when a 3 year-old toddler became the victim of a hit-and-run in the Dutch city of Breda. The child was dragged along by the car for dozens of yards and died at the scene, while the 18 year-old driver fled.

Only after the police launched a manhunt did the driver turn himself in at a local police station, where he was charged with reckless driving. The death of the young boy sent shockwaves through Dutch society.

During the trial it was revealed that the Dutch Forensics Institute concluded that the car travelled at a speed of at least 80 km/h (50 mph) in a 30 km/h (18 mph) zone when the child was fatally hit. The suspect had declared that he had not gone over the speed limit. The trial continues.

MONEY GRABBING CARE HOME DIRECTORS CRITICIZED

The Dutch Volkskrant newspaper reports that the directors of poorly performing care homes are more likely to earn more money than the Dutch Prime Minister, compared to the directors of care homes that perform well.

Coalition parties Labour and VVD are outraged and call for the directors to lower their salaries. Marith Volp, a Labour MP, comments that “this evidences that directors who receive high salaries do not deliver better services; perhaps even the exact opposite”.

These findings are published as several care homes have been publicly denounced as they are deemed to be exposing their residents to unacceptable risks.

DUTCH COASTAL CLEAN-UP

Hundreds of volunteers are working on cleaning up the Dutch beaches in a push to collect as much rubbish as possible. The volunteers will trek from the south of the country to the north in a 2 week cleaning operation.

Last year, volunteers collected a grand total of nearly 12,000 kg of waste (90% of which were plastics) from the 280 miles of Dutch coastline.

DUTCH MURDER RATE PLUMMETS

The Dutch Statistical Bureau (CBS) reports that the murder rate in the Netherlands has reached a 20 year low, as 120 people were murdered within its borders last year. This means that in the Netherlands 0.7 per 100,000 people were murdered in 2015. Within Europe, only Austria and Switzerland have seen a lower murder rate in 2015.

DUTCH WINDFALL ON WIND FARMS

The Dutch financial newspaper Financieele Dagblad reports that the planned North Sea wind farms will cost the Dutch taxpayer around €10 billion (£9 billion), which is €2 billion (£1.8 billion) less than previously estimated due to lowered production costs.

However, when the project was originally planned the budget was estimated at €18 billion (£16.3 billion), meaning that the

estimated costs have decreased by a staggering 45%. The Dutch government hails the reduced costs as it plans to generate 4450 megawatts of electricity using wind farms at sea by 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION SUES DUTCH GOVERNMENT OVER AIR POLLUTION

Environmental group Milieudefensie is taking the Dutch government to court over the air pollution in the Netherlands. Within 6 months, the air quality needs to meet strict European standards, but Milieudefensie argues that the standards are not met in dozens of locations across the country.

The agricultural sector and car traffic are the main culprits of the pollution, which kills thousands of people annually according to Milieudefensie. The trial is not the first of its kind – in 2015, the Dutch government lost a similar court case when it was challenged over its insufficient measures to battle climate change.

CAR BREAKDOWN SERVICES... DELIVERED BY BICYCLE

Dutch motorist organisation ANWB is about to commence a trial by offering roadside assistance using mechanics who will be given electric bicycles with trailers to reach motorists needing assistance. From the 8th of August, the cycling mechanics will operate in Amsterdam and The Hague during a 3 month trial.

The roads in Amsterdam and The Hague are notoriously congested, which can make it difficult for breakdown services to reach motorists who need their help. ANWB argues that mechanics on bicycles could be able to get to broken down motorists faster than those driving a car.

CONGO FREE STATE FORGOTTEN



CONGO FREE STATE

The Congo - a forgotten tragedy Europe's colonial history has been a stone in the shoe for many a country's national pride, leading to former colonial powers sweeping their history under the rug or polishing it up to make their crimes more palatable

Alexander Dommerholt

This had led to one of the most horrifying chapters in European colonial history to be banished to the kingdom of forgotten suffering: the story of the Congo Free State. What happened in the Congo embodies everything that is wrong with colonialism – and more.

Congo's dreadful fate began as European powers decided to partition the entire African continent between them in the so-called "scramble for Africa" during the late 19th century. Previously, Congo had attracted little interest from colonial powers as it was covered in thick rainforest and was home to many natives hostile to would-be colonialists.

This did not deter King Leopold II of Belgium to have ambitions to colonise Congo, even though his own parliament had no interest in this. Leopold was attracted to the idea of absolute power and having a colony as a personal money maker, and therefore started lobbying to get himself a colony without interference from his own government.

Leopold convinced the other colonial

powers that his primary interest was to end the ongoing slave wars in Africa, and instead promote humanitarian and scientific causes. Also, not unimportant, he promised to share Congo's riches with other European powers. His bid worked, and Leopold was allowed to take Congo as his personal colony in 1885 – Belgian parliament would have no power over it.

However, Leopold's dream of running a colony was soon rudely disturbed by the reality that his colony greatly burdened the royal purse, and his debts started racking up. As Leopold had to make money, his philanthropic lies instantaneously went out of the window in favour of the minerals and ivory trade.

Although the Congolese suffered immediately as Leopold ruled with an iron fist, their plight worsened when it was discovered that Congo Free State was an ideal location for rubber plantations in the 1890s. Rubber was a new, exciting product that took the world by storm. In order to make money for Leopold, every village in Congo had to start producing rubber.

Every village and every worker was given a quota which had to be met, which was monitored by Leopold's private army,

the Force Publique. If a worker did not meet his quota, he was to be killed. As ammunition was expensive, soldiers were required to cut off the hands of their victims to prove that they had not wasted a bullet.

After some time, soldiers started cutting off hands of workers without killing them. Alternatively, they also mutilated workers' wives and children if their husbands and fathers had been "lazy". As the quotas were crippling high, entire villages started attacked neighbouring villages in a quest to collect severed hands in order to save their own limbs.

However, the outbreak of mutilations and killings was not all – many men were lashed, many women were raped. Additionally, exhaustion and diseases claimed the lives of entire villages, turning Leopold's personal project into a human tragedy that is almost unparalleled in history. Although the exact number of victims is unknown, some estimate that 10 million people died in this catastrophe.

Leopold actively tried to keep the atrocities in his private colony under wraps; for this purpose he muzzled the Belgian Catholic Church and created

a fake organisation to look after the welfare of the Congolese. It was only after missionaries raised the alarm about the atrocities they had witnessed that the world found out about what we would now call "genocide".

As international pressure on Leopold mounted, he was forced to relinquish his prized possession in 1908 to the Belgian government. This did not mean an immediate improvement for the natives in Congo as the rubber trade was still rather profitable; it was only on the eve of the outbreak of World War I that the Belgian government realised a change was needed, as so many labourers had died that a shortage of them was on the cards.

Since then, Leopold's crimes against the people of Congo have become no more than a footnote in history, one that most Westerners don't even know about. But we should know. What happened in Congo Free State is a prime example of what the excesses of colonialism, personal power and the desire for money can lead to.

The Congolese victims deserve to be remembered by us.

NOT FOR SALE



WE'RE NOT FOR SALE

Eileen Kersey

It must be plain for all to see by now that the so-called establishment do not want Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party let alone Prime Minister of the UK.

So keep saying Jeremy Corbyn is unelectable and he will be.

But Jeremy Corbyn has shown he has "true grit."

He and his supporters are at times derided, called deluded and verbally attacked. His supporters have been referred to as a rabble, dogs and a bunch of Trots by some in the Parliamentary Labour Party.

With friends, or should that be comrades, like that who needs enemies? But support keeps on increasing.

Take allegations that Jeremy Corbyn took a five-day holiday as the Labour EU referendum campaign for the country to stay as part of the Union entered its final days.

“ THE MAIN STREAM MEDIA HAS BEEN DRIP FED A SERIES OF DAMAGING STORIES AND WHETHER THEY ARE TRUE OR NOT HAS BEEN IMMATERIAL

NEC representative Christine Shawcroft clarified that on social media this week when she said "There seem to be stories going around that Jeremy was on holiday for 5 days during the Referendum campaign. He was quite clear about this at the last NEC - he

stayed the night in Exmouth between engagements. So he was "on holiday" for about 20 hours!"

Will the lie be set right by the mainstream media?

Of course not.

Mind manipulation by the mainstream media and the establishment is nothing new.

But at least now we have social media, a platform that allows us to set the record straight and share on a grand scale.

In my opinion, such as it is, Jeremy Corbyn is only unelectable if that is what we want.

Instead on wasting a year undermining Mr Corbyn Labour Party MPs could have worked toward a Labour government with Corbyn as

party leader and PM.

Jeremy wants a real change in how we do politics and so do his supporters.

The fact some in the PLP chose not to work with him and do not want real change perhaps says it all.

Remember he who pays the piper calls the tune for some but Mr Corbyn is not for sale.



I'm the nasty Mayfly
Who loves austerity
If I had my way
I'd make you work for free

TRANSLATING THE SPIN



TAKING US FOR A SPIN

What is the meaning of spin doctor? A spin doctor is someone who is skilled in public relations and who advises political parties on how to present their policies and actions.
NOUN...two spin doctors in the majority leader's office

Peter Loo

**Peter Loo translates for you.
(What they really mean)**

Labour is heading for an historic split in the party if Jeremy Corbyn wins the leadership election, his challenger Owen Smith has warned.

Jeremy Corbyn is going to win and I have spent a fortune on ice creams for my supporter/s

The former Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary said there was not just a "risk" but "every likelihood" that the party would break up into separate parts if Corbyn wins.

"Well, I for one do not want socialism, it will interfere with my career.

His words are the starkest warning yet that the Opposition could end

up permanently divided, possibly with some MPs peeling off to form their own version of Labour, after the leadership election result is announced on September 24.

"Well, I for one do not want socialism, it will interfere with my career.

Smith also accused Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell of lying about his own stance on a split, and claimed he and Corbyn would pursue mandatory reselection of MPs to establish their own 'version of the Labour party'.

The evil left wing want democracy...I'm frightened.

He suggested the current Labour leader and his allies preferred to "shout through the railings" of Parliament "moaning" about a Tory government in the Commons, rather than actively presenting a programme for power.

I don't understand them; I thought the idea of being a Member of Parliament was making money?

And in a reference to the 1984/5 miners' strike, he suggested that Corbyn and McDonnell were as 'gung-ho' 'egotistical' and 'vain' as Arthur Scargill when he led a divided NUM to defeat at the hands of Margaret Thatcher.

OMG, Corbyn wants to fight AGAINST the system. (At this point Smith quivers with terror.)

Several Labour MPs have talked about setting up an independent grouping in the Commons should Corbyn win, and last week backbencher Jess Phillips said she would 'find it difficult' to keep taking the Labour whip.

We want publicity.

Asked if he believed Corbyn would try to unite the party if he won, or

would go down the reselection route, Smith replied: "I think there is every likelihood that the party will split if Jeremy wins this election. I don't think it's a risk, I think it's a likelihood.

If you won't let me win then I won't play.

Asked if he believed McDonnell would push mandatory reselection, a policy recently approved by Britain's biggest union, Unite, he replied: "I'm absolutely convinced of that."

Look, mate, my career is at stake.

And when asked if Corbyn would give in to such demands, Smith said: "I think Jeremy mentioned reselection in his opening speech in this campaign. At his launch the word reselection came out of his mouth, I think that tells you all you need to know.

How do you expect me to work with an honest man?

THE STRANGE CASE OF THE GOLDFISH IN THE NIGHT



THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE GOLDFISH IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Sebastian Melmouth

“Is there any point to which you would wish to draw my attention?”

“To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time.”

“The dog did nothing in the night-time.”

“That was the curious incident,” remarked Sherlock Holmes.

Apparently someone in the newspaper industry found a spoof horoscope I wrote to be 'Sick'.

It's always interesting when something in a newspaper is described as 'Sick' because racism, warmongering and victimisation of the poor covers the Tabloid front pages every day. For some Tabloids, the demonisation of child refugees to headlines like 'Corbyn must die' and the bugging of the parents of murdered girls are essential to a 'Free Press'.

On the other hand, those of us who opposed the Invasion of Iraq, when those papers were printing pictures of near-naked girls clutching guns, were called 'Terrorist Sympathisers,' just as we've been called 'Rent-A-Mob' for aiding local communities in defending their countryside from pollution and been called 'Scum' because we've protested against political corruption, institutional paedophilia the theft of public property or stood with the Dr's and Nurses against the destruction of the NHS.

But here, we're just talking about a spoof horoscope.

All newspapers publish a 'Horoscope'.

It's "Just a bit of fun".

It would be insane to take Horoscopes seriously ... though the Tabloids do take them seriously enough to charge £1.50 a minute for people to find out more about 'Their Fate'.

Aside from making money for multi-million pound businesses, horoscopes do help divide a newspaper page into handy chunks to fit Sudoku's or comic strips into the page. It was for this Graphic Layout reason I decided 'The Word' needed a Horoscope.

If I'd provided a left-wing newspaper with musings on how job prospects were influenced by a Star Goat, I believe the readers would have felt insulted. They know their employment's affected by Conservative Employment Policy and Corporation's relocating to China. I produced a 'Horoscope' in which the 'creator' is not a "Real Person" like Meg or Russell Brand but a cartoon Goldfish.

“ IN THOSE 'STAR SIGNS' ARE ALLUSIONS TO EVENTS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN THE NEWS. THINGS THAT ARE SO DAMNED MAD THAT YOU WISH TO GOD THEY'D BEEN MADE UP. I APOLOGISE THAT THERE ARE 12 OF THEM:

Trump's fascism and his planned destruction of the Scots countryside.

The mass killings of pedestrians in Nice by a madman with a lorry.

The opposition to the most effective Labour Politician in decades by the

'Left Wing Press'.

The Tory cuts to the NHS which are causing thousands of patient deaths.

The death of a young soldier in the British Isles due to administrative failure to plan for it being hot.

Sports Direct's refusal to pay their workers a living wage – exposed by HMRC.

Theresa May's determination to bring torture and detainment without due process to the UK.

The obsession of Tabloid papers with MP's wives breasts whilst ignoring the policies of those woman's husbands. The Coup in Turkey and the UKIP myth that Turkey was about to join the EU.

Multi-Millionaire Tony Blair's legal defence for Human Rights Abuses being paid for by the Taxpayer.

The growth of Foodbanks and the Tory Party's scrapping of Flood Defences.

And:

The likely extinction of fish in the next 20 years if we lose the EU Fishing Policy.

You'd be deeply sick NOT to find any of these stories offensive – And that's why they are in the 'Horoscope' – to bring those issues to question.

At the end of any Horoscope 'Prediction' there's always an anodyne 'Reassurance'. Which applies to everyone reading it - whether they've lost their job, a child, their life savings or their trust in the News. That format's in my 'Horoscopes' too. Otherwise it wouldn't look like a Horoscope.

If you want to see more of this sort of thing – see 'Viz Comic'. It's on sale in Smiths.

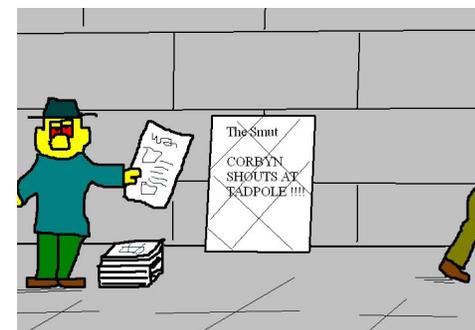
The two items that have been singled out by the Wolverhampton Express and Star (and, have three such inspiring words ever been put together?) as 'Sick Jokes' are the mass killings in Nice and the death of a soldier in the Brecon Beacons.

I categorically disagree with this – ALL of the issues in that Horoscope are sick. Every one.

If anyone thinks there's nothing sick about millionaire's stopping treatment

for elderly patients who've supported the NHS all their lives, or that children in the UK are malnourished because their parents jobs and benefits are stopped to fund tax breaks for the rich, then they have no decency.

Horrifically -the Mainstream Media is NOT upset about this. They support the privatisation of the NHS, the demonization of the poor and the bombing of civilians in any country which has oil.



Owen's moth is soaring
For he is out of reach
He flits from left to right
While making up a speech

The people who donated their pennies to fund 'The Word' view things differently. They regard the destruction of our State as wrong and they've produced a newspaper to point out these crimes.

I don't think the 'Word' is perfect – it still has much to learn. I, myself, have voiced objections to a number of items in it (I've got a few grumbles about the Beano too) but here I have been very lucky because what is being criticised is something I am delighted to defend.

This issue is not to do with a spoof Horoscope. It's the inevitable attack on a newspaper which isn't owned by billionaires. There's so much that could have been chosen to attack 'The Word' but they would have looked like what they were – a put-down of a little crowd-funded campaigning paper.

This 'Moral outrage' against the Left is now the dominant meme of Mainstream Media – Corbyn's 'Contempt For Our 'Heroes' because he didn't bow low enough, his and Milliband's dad's "Hatred for Britain" for not singing the praises of the Queen, the "Outrage" of a brick through a window in a building Angela Eagle has an office near to. It's not like an objection to the Tory calling off the Police investigations into Tory Paedophilia. It's a 'Moral outrage' at

THE STRANGE CASE OF THE GOLDFISH IN THE NIGHT

something out of context. This is 'The Dead Cat Gambit' by which slamming a dead cat onto a table, you cancel out all the real arguments and get everyone talking about something irrelevant – the "Dead Cat".

The brilliant thing is that, on this occasion they – for a reason that quite escapes me –the thing they chose as a "Dead Cat" was something Satirical.

And here I'm quoting from a dictionary definition:

"Satire: The use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues."

I'll skip over the traditional 'Defence of Satire' that goes from Jonathan Swift's 'A Modest Proposal' through to That Was the Week That Was, Steve Bell, The Day Today and Blackadder Goes Fourth. If anyone really doesn't know about this, write in and I'll write a lazy, smug article about it.

Suffice it to say that Britain's always smug to have developed satire to a fine art, and has allied 'Our ability to laugh at those in power' with Free Speech. Most recently Tabloids were stating that Charlie Hebdo's cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad with a penis for a hat and his arse in the air was "The very essence of Free Speech". In the case of Hebdo, I question the sustained racism of the magazine, but I'm with the Tabloids in their rather out-of-character championing of Satire.

Except... The 'Charlie Hebdo' case was unique. Just for once, the Sun and the Mail – always opposed to the BBC or C4 whenever they produce a "Sick spectacle" to satirise the Status Quo – were insistent that a French satirical magazine had every right to offend people. They didn't print the years of racist cartoons of Hebdo but were very insistent that intolerance of Satire is intolerant.

This is because the story fitted nicely into the Tabloid Narrative of Muslim Hatred and fear of Terrorism. In doing this, just for a week or so, Hebdo became a 'Little England' by proxy, just long enough to run some print on how – unlike us - "Muslims are intolerant of free speech".

It wasn't until a friend was trying to guess which of the 'Star Signs' were the two "Sick" ones that I realised both the stories are linked to the dominant 'Our Heroes' and 'Terrorists' narrative

Describing any of the other 12 Star Signs as 'sick' would have drawn attention Tory Policy –not what the mainstream Media needs at all. The Lorry-killings and dead soldier fit into the unthinking jingoism which must NEVER be questioned. That the soldier died due to his officers not planning for heat or that the killer in Nice was NOT a Terrorist is NOT part of the narrative.

So – How do I feel about this artificially generated 'Outrage'?
Absolutely delighted.

Because it allows me to raise those two very big issues. As a cyclist, who's lost three friends due to large vehicles, the Nice mass-killings by Lorry had an especial horror

for me. For years I've been part of the CTC campaign to raise awareness of the high death toll caused by lorries and 4x4's. 84 people were mown down in Nice but every month in the UK, almost twice the number are killed by motorists who – whilst often drunk, with a history of dangerous driving and entirely unrepentant – are rarely given more than a fine.

The view of the Mainstream Press is that any Cyclist 'Deserves to be run off the road'... Unless they can tie it into the 'Terrorism' narrative to support war.

Every year –demonised for failing to find a job, afford college and being invalid for benefits – young people join the Armed Services because they want to be valued. It's commonly said their lives are as cheap as the equipment they're supplied with.

As Kipling said in 'Tommy' in 1890, they deserve support rather than empty ceremonies but still in 2016, if they survive, they're discharged without support. Too often they suffer from PTSD and their lives fall apart. Worse- The oil the soldiers fight for in the Middle East is worsening Climate Change –which made the Brecon Beacons hot enough to kill a soldier.

The ONLY campaign I know of that deals with the reality are 'Veterans for Peace' (<http://vfpuk.org/>) who question the waste of Military and Civilian lives in illegal wars. They aren't mentioned in the Mainstream Media. If ever the Tabloids were to mention them, they'd call them 'Sick Traitors'.

And that's why I'll continue with the Horoscope. I hope it DOES offend those who are responsible for these crimes just as I hope it gives reassurance to those suffering under these sick conditions that they're not forgotten.

In this, I'm glad to have the support and approval of the Editors – NONE of whom had anything to do with that item, but have stood by Britain's tradition of Political Satire.

I DO have an apology That there was a cock-up (I can be more technical, but where's the humour in that?) in the layout so that, instead of being a single column, it was printed as a whole page – making the typeface look appallingly scruffy.

It also meant that a bit of fluff was printed as a whole page (The first issue of Private Eye made mistakes too) so it appeared as less a pastiche item and more like Official Editorial Policy.

It really is NOT Editorial Policy - any more than Mystic Meg edits the Sun.

But, as it is, I'm glad 'Your by Emmanuel Goldfish' was chosen for criticism because – of all things to show the desperation of the Right-Wing Press to find something 'Offensive' about exposing Corruption -

There is nothing better than a cartoon goldfish in a monocle. Thank you, Midlands Express And Star, for all your help.

	ARIES You are drawn to powerful men. You may meet the Republican of your dreams when he comes to your town to build a new golf course on it. March 21 - April 20 Your Lucky Mineral is Bullsh*t
	TAURUS Shopping tip: This week, we are touchy about big vehicles that plough through pedestrians. Get a cycle or motorbike. Watch out for mad motorists. April 21 - May 21 Your Lucky Mineral is Polystyrene
	GEMINI If your birthday's May 26, you may be Jeremy Corbyn and the Guardian & Mirror have made you realise the millions who paid £25.00 to vote for you did it as a practical joke. May 22 - June 20 Your Lucky Mineral is Irony
	CANCER Tory cuts to NHS cancer treatment are a bit of a blow but just remember that Carmeron Osbourne, Gove and Hunt are all in this together - with you. SO reassuring! June 21 - July 22 Your Lucky Mineral is P32
	LEO The star with the most influence over you is the Sun. If you're a soldier planning a trip to the Middle East/Brecon Beacons, a thermos of iced tea may save your life from Climate Change. July 23 - Aug 22 Your Unlucky Mineral is Oil
	CAPRICORN If you work for Sports Direct, there's an air of fear amongst your management as Tax Inspectors ask why you're paid less than minimum wage. A good time to write a letter. Aug 23 - Sept 22 Your Lucky Mineral is Money
	LIBRA This could be your lucky week! Under the influence of Theresa May, oppressive Human Rights may be lifted and you can help Security Personnel without worrying about The Law. Your Lucky Mineral: Sodium Pentathol Sept 23 - Oct 23
	SCORPIO Why not phone the sexy wife of a well known Politician? She may have an Agency deal with 'The Sun' - and that Bolly doesn't buy itself! Oct 24 - Nov 22 Your Lucky Mineral is Cubic Zirconium
	SAGITARIUS There's no better place to go to avoid the EU now than Turkey - even if they put all their bananas in straghtjackets they'll not get in sniffing distance of an Eurocrat. Take a tank. Nov 23 - Dec 21 Your Lucky Mineral is Boron Salt
	VIRGO Been made a scapegoat of an illegal invasion supported by most newspapers and Parties? God being unfair when it was HIS idea? Chillax! You're worth over £25 mill but you'r legal aid's paid by the Taxpayer! Ker-ching! Dec 22 - Jan 20 Your lucky Mineral is Oil
	AQUARIUS One of the growing 554,000 using Foodbanks? You'll know water's a vital part of your healthy diet. So - great news that now EU funding's stopped, Tories have no funds for flood defence. Plastic bottles ready for October! Jan 21 - Feb 19 Your Lucky Mineral is Cake
	PISCES A worrying week for fish - With no EU Fishing regulations, the UK will kill off the recovering fish stocks. Happily the big fishing combines will still be snapping up the snapper and the Chinese won't wrap you in 'The Sun'! Feb 20 - Mar 20 Your Lucky Mineral is Topaz.

Talk like a Leftie

With
EMMANUEL GOLDFISH



The Class Conscious Carp says "Reds, they be all like this ."

TALK LIKE A LEFTIE WITH EMMANUEL GOLDFISH

When most people say 'Class' they mean a big set of iron gates or a particularly skilful fart – depending on your age and social group

Sebastian Melmouth

There's that bunch in the corner of the pub with jackets and shirts Primark don't sell anymore and their own language. One word sounds like it came from that 'War and Peace' on BBC a couple of months back. Maybe it's Russian. It's got nothing to do with Sky Sports.

Except... It's Roman. Those blokes in Gladiator with brushes on their helmets who vote for which slave dies in a fight in a big arena. It means 'People who do as we tell them because we give 'em slaves fighting to the death in big arenas'. 'Proletariat' means 'Breeders' and they supplied the army.

That's us. Watching Sky Sports – or sitting at that table.

The 'Proletariat' grow food, make stuff and move it about whilst the Patricians (also Roman) live off their money, run the country and pay the Proletariat back a tiny share of what they produced.

Although 'Proletariat' (I'll call them 'Proles' now, to save time) is Roman, it was a German – Karl Marx (Father Christmas Lookalike) who defined it as Lefies use it today and used 'Borgeoise' instead of 'Patrician'.

Instead of calling people 'Working or Middle Class and 'The Unemployed', 'Prole' saves Lefties time in describing how the Borgeoise get their work done. The unlucky Proles – what the Mail and Express call "Dole scroungers" – are 'lumpen proletariat'. The time saved allow Lefties to get more rounds in.

But you don't need to talk about that. After Sky Football, there's a chance to vote someone off Big Brother.

DO SAY: "The Proletariat have nothing to lose but their chains"

DON'T SAY: "Madonna is lookin' WELL proletariat in that 'Corbyn hat' babes"

YOUR STARS by EMMANUEL GOLDFISH

SATIRE WARNING! CERTIFICATE 15 *He's forgotten the past but he knows the future*



♈ ARIES
March 21 - April 20
You are standing against the most popular MP in Britain, but have no views except that you'd like to be rich. Identify yourself with someone Welsh like Nye Bevan - and some of their charisma may rub off on you. Quote something like "It's all about achieving and exercising power" - It worked for Jeremy Hunt! Beware those who remember words.
Your Lucky Mineral is Advertising.

♉ TAURUS
April 21 - May 21
The wind is behind you as the UK gets €10.4bn of investment in offshore wind projects. The future could be a breeze if the UK abides by it's promise to invest £20bn in wind energy in the next five years, creating jobs and revitalising coastal areas.
Watch out for Tory Cuts.
Your Lucky Mineral is Neodymium

♊ GEMINI
May 22 - June 20
If you live in Aleppo, it's been one of THOSE weeks. With the invasions, suspension of US Aid, blockading of all transport and the bombing of your food supplies, you're dealing with that 'What do I give the kids for tea' dilemma. Now's a good time to get in contact with old friends and relatives you've not heard from in ages.
Your Lucky Mineral is rice.

♋ CANCER
June 21 - July 22
If you're worried about a Twin in France who's badly ill, having money problems and very unpopular, you're probably Hinkely B Nuclear Reactor. Be positive - the Tories and Chinese Government love the weapons grade Plutonium you will generate. So long as there's a Trident program, you'll have a special place in the hearts and lungs of the British people.
Your Lucky Mineral is Uranium 235

♌ LEO
July 23 - Aug 22
Looking for that dream job? someone is smiling on you! The Golden Arches have announced plans for another 25 franchises in the UK! With estimated 80,000 of its workers on zero-hour contracts, the random work hours could be the perfect way to rekindle that spontaneity your love life has been missing!
Your Lucky Mineral is GM Corn Oil.

♍ CAPRICORN
Aug 23 - Sept 22
So many Capricorns are stuck in a traffic jam this week. It could be somewhere on the North Circular or on It's way to France. Either way, this is a great time to unburden yourself of all that negative energy about how Immigrants are to blame - even though very few Immigrants have cars.
Your Lucky Mineral is Tarmac.

♎ LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23
If you're planning to get famous by killing lots of people in France this weekend, the stars are not in your favour. France has a new policy of not publishing killers names. If you're such a nonentity to want 'credit' for killing people with real lives, move to the USA. OR -this week could be a good time to do some really good graffiti!
Your Lucky Mineral is Newsprint.

♏ SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22
Millionaires with a history of bombing civilians, opposing democratic elections, and with good relationships with Oil Corporations and George Bush will find this is a good time to wear a dress so your election will mean a 'victory for women'. Be glad you weren't born 140 years ago like Eleanor Roosevelt or you'd have to DO something for women, the Deprived or Peace to be taken seriously.
Your Lucky Mineral is Oestrogen.

♐ SAGITARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21
It's a sexy month for alliances of countries in the Irish Sea - You now have something in common with Gorgeous Greece and Passionate Portugal! Only the UK, Greece and Portugal have seen real wages actually FALL over the last 14 years! You're now more competitive in the World Job Market than Korea and may soon export British Brides!
Your Lucky Mineral is Flags.

♑ VIRGO
Dec 22 - Jan 20
If the real world feels too much like a dark computer game. Why not lighten the mood by hunting brightly coloured fictional animals in Cyberspace? It's not hiding from reality - every time you find a Pokemon, Google sends a package of your personal data to a Sales Bot. You may be going nowhere but your Data is travelling the world!
Your Lucky Mineral is Torterra.

♒ AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 19
Fossil Fuel Companies under Aquarius have probably been losing sleep with wondering about how respond to the Commission in the Phillipines that they've been breaching fundamental Human Rights. Use that 45 days deadline to send a special gift to someone in power and - who knows? Maybe they'll have a coup before then? That's so often the way, isn't it..
Your Lucky Mineral is CO2.

♓ PISCES
Feb 20 - Mar 20
You may have found The One but you're not spawning as you should be and may be feeling a sensitivity in your dorsal fin. This is because you're under the influence of higher acidity in the ocean, lowering your sperm quality. Fish all over the world may be having the same problem as you. Now is a time for patience, understanding and avoiding CO2.
Your Lucky Mineral is Ca(OH)2

GAMMON KNUCKLE SUPPER



GAMMON KNUCKLE SUPPER

Treat yourself to a traditional Gammon dish

There's a lot to be said for not getting everything from the supermarket, easy and convenient as it is if you're working/looking after the kids/doing a million things at once.

A detour to a proper butcher can save quite a few quid on the weekly meat bill and gammon knuckle is a really good example of that. Most butchers sell them for a few quid a pop and there's a lot of very flavoursome meat on them. They do have to be slow-cooked, so owning a slow cooker helps but it's not absolutely necessary as there's always the option of putting it in the oven overnight in a pot with a tight lid (or silver foil) on the lowest heat until the meat is falling off the bone. Leaving the knuckle to cool during the day means it will be easy to handle come

INGREDIENTS

- 1 unsmoked gammon knuckle, slow cooked overnight.
- 2 tins tomatoes, whizzed until smooth in a blender or 2 cartons passata mixed with one carton of water or the cooking liquor from the lentils
- 1/3 tube of tomato puree
- 1 tbsp smoked or normal paprika (or to taste), 2tsp dried chilli flakes, salt
- 1 cup green lentils, simmered slowly until soft (about 20 mins*), preferably in the cooking liquor
- 1lb sweet potatoes, peeled, cubed and steamed until tender
- 3 or 4 cloves garlic
- Oil for cooking
- Dried or fresh herbs, according to what's available to you.

METHOD

Using a sharp knife skin the gammon knuckle and strip the meat off it. Cook it, immersed in water, overnight or all day while you're out in a slow cooker set on low – say, 10 – 12 hours. In a large pan cook off your finely chopped garlic. Add some extra oil and cook over a low heat until translucent and aromatic but not browned. Stir in the smoked paprika, the chilli and the tomato puree. Cook through for a few minutes and then add the tinned tomatoes and the dried herbs if you're using some. Add salt to taste and then add the cooked lentils, the gammon, the sweet potato. Cook for about 15 minutes or until the sweet potatoes are soft (it won't take long). Finish with any fresh herbs you have.

*large 2kg bags of lentils are dirt cheap in Indian or Middle Eastern grocers.

CATHY COME HOME REVIEW



CATHY COME HOME

Cathy Come Home is a 1966 BBC television play by Jeremy Sandford, produced by Tony Garnett and directed by Ken Loach, about homelessness. A 1998 Radio Times readers' poll voted it the "best single television drama" and a 2000 industry poll rated it as the second best British television programme ever made. Filmed in a gritty, realistic drama documentary style, it was first broadcast on 16 November 1966 on BBC1. The play was shown in the BBC's The Wednesday Play anthology strand, which often tackled social issues.

Happy Golden Anniversary, Cathy, Our Kid!

To celebrate your Golden, homecoming, ourselves, close family and friends, slept rough for one night in early spring 2016.

Yup! We spent one whole golden, night sleeping rough. Well, Sort of gold guilt, rough.

We slept in a 'venue' where we had a fast food stand, live music, security and a portable loo, a sort of homeless, venue, we guess.

By morning we were freezing, had started a verbal fight with a group playing football, drank loads, got questioned by 'security', had to answer to our history and couldn't wait to 'come home'.

All this guilt in 'just' one night.

Damn! We still didn't win the best 'cardboard box' construction home. Why? Because we had taken a corner spot to set up our cardboard 'home'. We had worked out right angled positioned as well. To keep out the draft. Yet, we had failed in our desperation, to notice the cracked windows above us! Rain poured in, the wind howled and we were wet, cold and miserable, all night long! Hence the fights. We were tired, worn out and just wanted to sleep.

Sleep. Just sleep.

We were with our kids that night. The live music washed over us, the football game enraged us. Yup, we even started an argument on the band as well. The argument was:

why play homeless tunes to the homeless?

Don't they already know that song?

Quote from our kid that night : ' the homeless people I came into contact with, when I was homeless myself, had nothing but we're the most genuine, generous and kind people I ever met...being homeless makes you feel worthless and alone. Most loneliest feeling in the world. Scared and like a grain of sand... unimportant'.

Shelter, was set up in 1966 : "That same year the BBC screened 'Cathy Come Home' ; Ken Loach directed a film, about a young family pulled apart by worsening housing conditions. Watched by over 12 million people, its impact ensured public empathy and

support for Shelter from our very beginning."

Shelter still welcomes 'Our Kids' we support ' Shelter' as they support ' Our Kids'

It is now 2016 and ' homelessness' is still an issue today , for example: 'Being' homeless appears contingent, Shelter continues to state that: ' 117 families in Britain ' Become' homeless every day. Shelter have been campaigning since 1966, and state : "we won't stop until there's a safe, secure, affordable home for everyone."

Read or watch ' Cathy Come Home'

Thank you, Shelter, Jeremy Sandford, Tony Garnett, Ken Loach, we are still with you on this Golden anniversary, our kid

The Nefarious Dr Wobblies'



Bugle Information Network

ENTERTAINMENT LANDFILL

CONTENTS



Chris the careerist

Liars school

Xenophon

Quiz master

Jokes

Poetry

Saint Jeremy

The Wythenshawe LB



BUTTOCK CLENCHING FIRST ISSUE!



Do you have friends, enemies or worse?
Then you need...

Nefarious Dr Wobble's

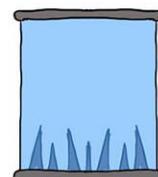
TROLL KERPLUNK!

The Family Fun-Time Liquidation Game!

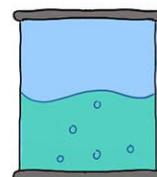


WOBBO-TEC
MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE
TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

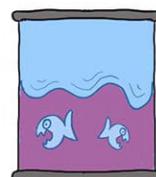
CHOOSE FROM...



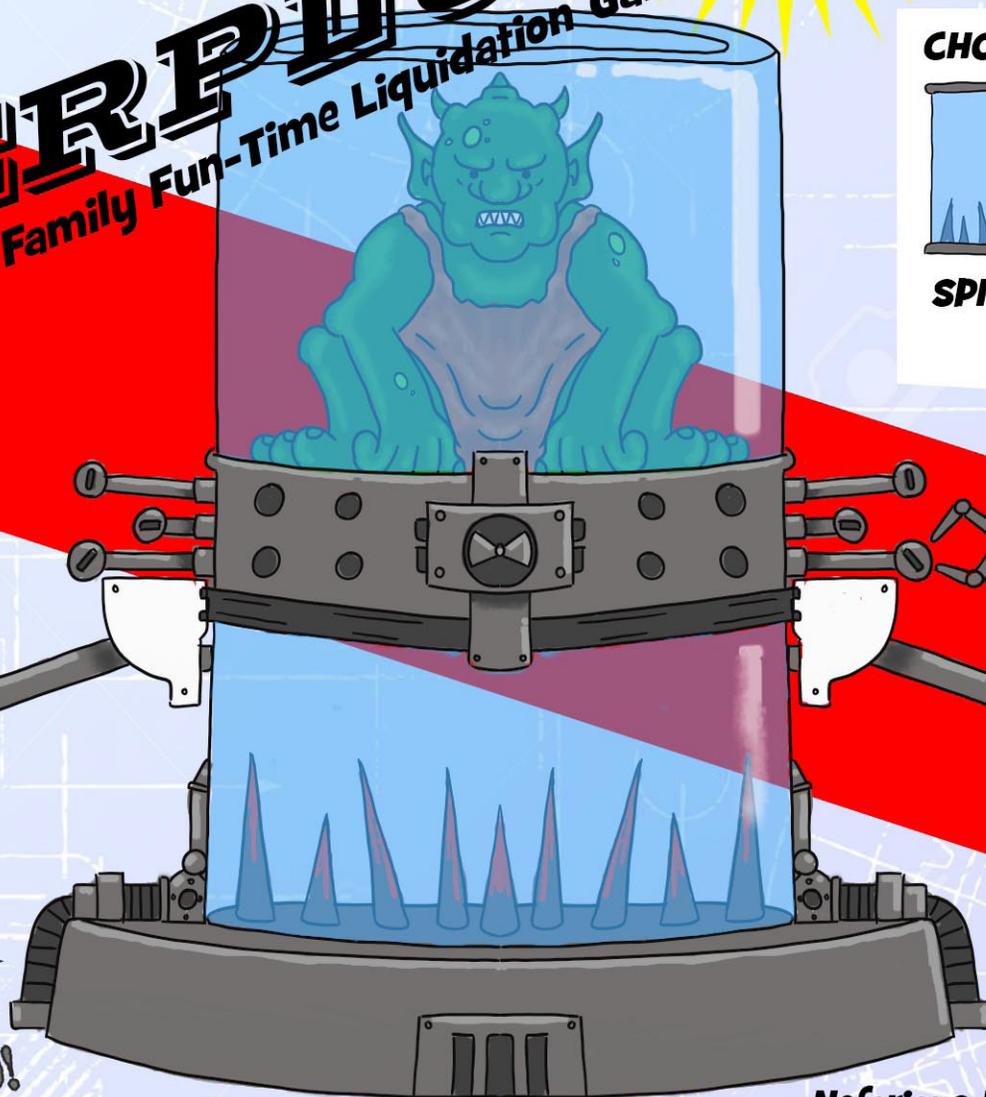
SPIKES!



ACID!

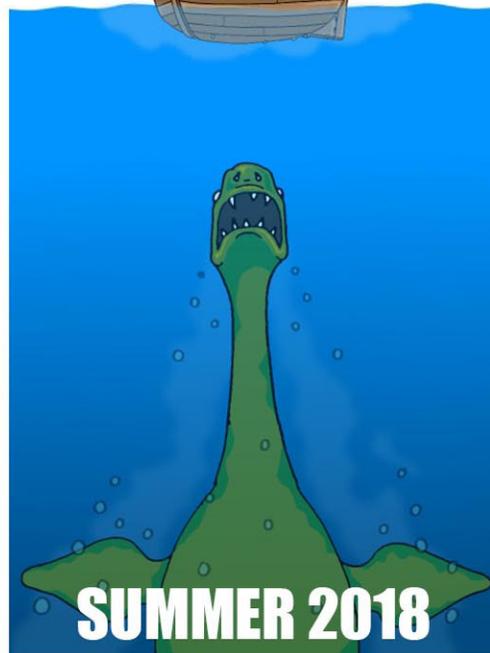


**PIRANHAS
AND
JELLY!**



Nefarious Dr Wobble's **TROLL KERPLUNK!**
GET YOURS TODAY!

NESSIE



SUMMER 2018

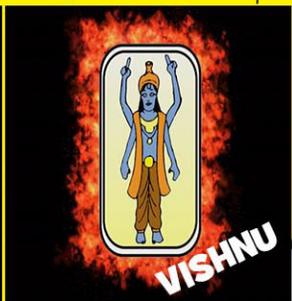
Get ready to loch and load with the latest summer blockbuster! Something is eating the local haggis population, and suddenly the summer community resort of Lochend finds itself terrorised by a famous legend lurking in the deep. Can three unlikely allies save the summer season and the livelihoods of the local haggis farmers, or are they going to close the beaches? Find out in the new thriller from the makers of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Sporrin. There's something loose, about this hoose - and it ain't no moose...

GODS OF WAR!

DEITY ACTION FIGURES...



JESUS



VISHNU



MOHAMMAD



**FATHER
CHRISTMAS**

Storm your way into the **Promised Land** with these fully articulated action figures!

Now **you** can decide which is the one true faith!

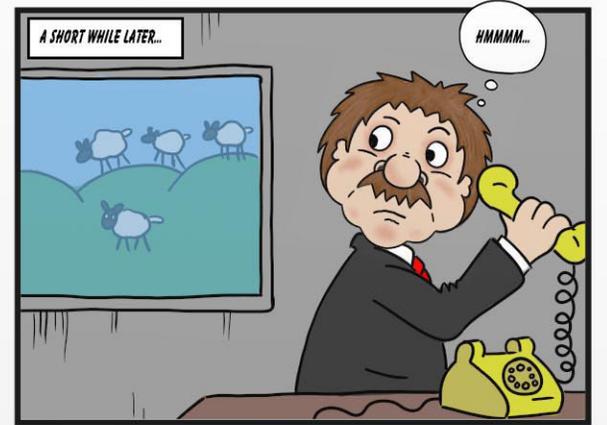
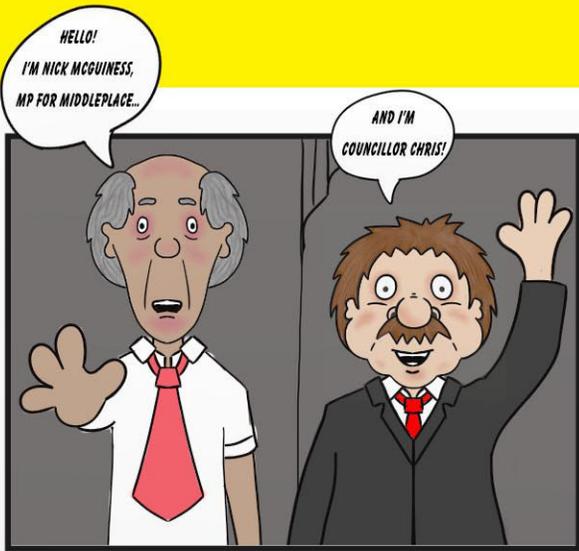


Each figure comes with free eternal damnation. Immortal soul accessories and heavenly salvation sold separately.

Playtime just got Biblical!

Collect 'em all!

CHRIS THE CAREERIST



The world's richest 62 people are now as wealthy as half of the world's population. That's 62 people as rich as the poorest 3.5 billion.

Source: Oxfam International, 2016

But if you talk about it you're "divisive" and if you want to fix it you're a "socialist."



LIARS SCHOOL

PART 3

My first day on the job...

Solicitors

Accountants

Can't wait to me the team and start conniving!

Welcome to Liars School Mr. T. I'm Fiona Bush...

Got a nice little job to start ya off...

...on our very own home shopping network!

Today on Quality Black Market Contraband...

Idiot proof mode on

We have a couple of great products that I'm sure you'll love!

recording

First up. How would you like a portable oxygen delivery system?

Fresh air on the go!

Call now and get yourself some A.R.S.E!

ONLY 42.59 PER BREATH!

Air Release System Energizer

Next we have something saucy for all you dads out there!

Introducing FIONA 'CANYONS' In POWER SHOWER 2: Oops, I've Dropped My Towel

Power shower 2. Three hours of hot, wet, jiggling. You know you want it!

So there you have it. Two quality products at a price that's right...

Tune in next week for more hookey goods, on QBC TV!

LIARS SCHOOL

JOKES

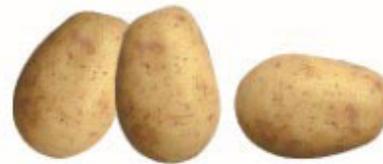


Three guys go to a ski lodge, and there aren't enough rooms, so they have to share a bed. In the middle of the night, the guy on the right wakes up and says, "I had this wild, vivid dream of getting a hand job!"

The guy on the left wakes up, and unbelievably, he's had the same dream, too. Then the guy in the middle wakes up and says, "That's funny, I dreamed I was skiing!"



A man asks, "God, why did you make woman so beautiful?" God responded, "So you would love her." The man asks, "But God, why did you make her so dumb?" God replied, "So she would love you."

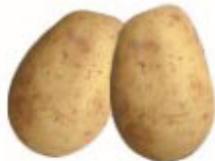


Q: What is white at the top and black at the bottom?

A: Society!



"Three guys are drinking in a bar when a drunk comes in, staggers up to the counter, and points at the guy in the middle, shouting, "Your mum's the best sex in town!" Everyone expects a fight, but the guy ignores him, so the drunk wanders off and bellies up to the bar at the far end. Ten minutes later, the drunk comes back, points at the same guy, and says, "I just did your mum, and it was sw-eeeeet!" Again, the guy refuses to take the bait, and the drunk goes back to the far end of the bar. Ten minutes later, he comes back and announces, "Your mum liked it!" Finally, the guy interrupts. "Go home, dad, you're drunk."



If you think there's no difference between the way men and women think, consider this exercise in which a college professor asked his class to punctuate the following sentence:

"Woman without her man is nothing."

The men said: "Woman, without her man, is nothing."

The women said: "Woman, without her, man is nothing."

"People always say: 'You're a comedian, tell us a joke.' They don't say: 'You're an MP, tell us a lie.'"

"Doc, I can't stop singing 'The green, green grass of home!'"
"That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome."

"Is it common?"

"Well.....It's not unusual....."

POETRY CORNER

The Mask of Anarchy
Written on the occasion of the massacre at Manchester.
by Percy Bysshe Shelley

As I lay asleep in Italy
There came a voice from over the Sea,
And with great power it forth led me
To walk in the visions of Poesy.

I met Murder on the way—
He had a mask like Castlereagh—
Very smooth he looked, yet grim ;
Seven blood-hounds followed him :

All were fat ; and well they might
Be in admirable plight,
For one by one, and two by two,
He tossed them human hearts to chew
Which from his wide cloak he drew.

Next came Fraud, and he had on,
Like Lord Eldon, an ermined gown ;
His big tears, for he wept well,
Turned to mill-stones as they fell.

And the little children, who
Round his feet played to and fro,
Thinking every tear a gem,
Had their brains knocked out by them.

Clothed with the Bible, as with light,
And the shadows of the night,
Like Sidmouth, next, Hypocrisy
On a crocodile rode by.

And many more Destructions played
In this ghastly masquerade,
All disguised, even to the eyes,
Like Bishops, lawyers, peers, and spies.

Last came Anarchy : he rode
On a white horse, splashed with blood ;
He was pale even to the lips,
Like Death in the Apocalypse.

And he wore a kingly crown ;
And in his grasp a sceptre shone ;
On his brow this mark I saw—
'I AM GOD, AND KING, AND LAW!'

Then all cried with one accord,
'Thou art King, and God, and Lord ;
Anarchy, to thee we bow,
Be thy name made holy now!'

And Anarchy, the Skeleton,
Bowed and grinned to every one,
As well as if his education
Had cost ten millions to the nation.

For he knew the Palaces
Of our Kings were rightly his ;
His the sceptre, crown, and globe,
And the gold-inwoven robe.

So he sent his slaves before
To seize upon the Bank and Tower,
And was proceeding with intent
To meet his pensioned Parliament

When one fled past, a maniac maid,
And her name was Hope, she said :
But she looked more like Despair,
And she cried out in the air :

'My father Time is weak and gray
With waiting for a better day ;
See how idiot-like he stands,
Fumbling with his palsied hands!

'He has had child after child,
And the dust of death is piled
Over every one but me—
Misery, oh, Misery!'

Then she lay down in the street,
Right before the horses feet,
Expecting, with a patient eye,
Murder, Fraud, and Anarchy.

When between her and her foes
A mist, a light, an image rose.
Small at first, and weak, and frail
Like the vapour of a vale :

Till as clouds grow on the blast,
Like tower-crowned giants striding fast,
And glare with lightnings as they fly,
And speak in thunder to the sky.

It grew—a Shape arrayed in mail
Brighter than the viper's scale,
And upborne on wings whose grain
Was as the light of sunny rain.

'Then they will return with shame
To the place from which they came,
And the blood thus shed will speak
In hot blushes on their cheek.

'Every woman in the land
Will point at them as they stand—
They will hardly dare to greet
Their acquaintance in the street.

'And the bold, true warriors
Who have hugged Danger in wars
Will turn to those who would be free,
Ashamed of such base company.

'And that slaughter to the Nation
Shall steam up like inspiration,
Eloquent, oracular ;
A volcano heard afar.

'And these words shall then become
Like Oppression's thundered doom
Ringing through each heart and brain.
Heard again—again—again—

'Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number—
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you—
Ye are many—they are few.'

Extracts from the poem that Shelley wrote about the
Peterloo massacre in Manchester in 1819.

If you only read one line then remember
that **WE ARE MANY**
THEY ARE FEW.

QUIZ



1. WHO IS MARRIED TO BARRISTER AND AUTHOR MARINA WHEELER?
2. FROM WHICH BRIDGE DO YOU GET THE FINEST VIEW FROM ANY SPOT IN LONDON AT GROUND LEVEL?
3. WHAT COLOUR IS THE BAKERLOO LINE ON THE TUBE MAP?
4. WHICH LONDON PARK IS FAMOUS FOR ITS SPEAKERS' CORNER?
5. NAME THE LARGE AREA OFF WHITEHALL WHICH IS THE SITE OF THE ANNUAL TROOPING THE COLOUR?
6. THE TOWER OF LONDON LIES WITHIN WHICH LONDON BOROUGH?
7. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL SITS AT THE TOP OF WHICH HILL, THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE CITY OF LONDON?
8. WHO WROTE, 'WHEN A MAN IS TIRED OF LONDON, HE IS TIRED OF LIFE'?
9. WHAT NAME WAS GIVEN TO A SEVERE AIR-POLLUTION EVENT THAT AFFECTED LONDON DURING DECEMBER 1952?
10. WHAT TOOK PLACE IN HYDE PARK FROM 1 MAY TO 11 OCTOBER 1851?

FOOTBALL QUIZ

1. WHICH FOOTBALL TEAM PLAYS ITS HOME GAMES AT WEMBLEY?
2. WHERE DO YOU USUALLY FIND FOOTBALL NEWS IN A NEWSPAPER?
3. WHICH COUNTRY HAS WON THE WORLD CUP THE MOST TIMES?
4. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE WHITE DOT RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOOTBALL PITCH?
5. WHICH OF THESE IS NOT A POPULAR CHILDREN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE?
(A) MATCH (B) GOAL (C) KICK
6. WHO WAS ENGLAND'S MANAGER AT THE 2010 WORLD CUP?
7. IN WHAT YEAR DID ENGLAND WIN THEIR FIRST AND ONLY WORLD CUP?
8. AT WHICH TEAM DID WAYNE ROONEY START HIS PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CAREER?
9. WHICH FOOTBALLER HAS 'WRITTEN' THE MOST BOOKS?
10. WHICH TEAM HAS BEEN IN THE TOP ENGLISH LEAGUE FOR LONGER THAN ANY OTHER?
11. WHAT DOES THE TITLE OF THE MAGAZINE CALLED FOURFOUR TWO MEAN?
12. WHICH COUNTRY CALLS FOOTBALL 'CALCIO'?
13. WHICH FOOTBALLER'S WIFE HAS NOT WRITTEN A BOOK?
(A) BECKHAM (B) GERRARD (C) ROONEY
14. BEFORE SOUTH AFRICA, HOW MANY WORLD CUPS HAD BEEN PLAYED IN AFRICA?
15. WHAT FOOTBALL TEAM DOES THE AUTHOR OF THE FOUL PLAY BOOKS, TOM PALMER, SUPPORT?
16. WHERE WAS THE FIRST EVER WORLD CUP HELD IN 1930?
17. WHERE DOES THE WORD 'SOCCER' COME FROM?
18. WHICH WAS THE LAST TEAM TO WIN THE ENGLISH LEAGUE BEFORE THE PREMIER LEAGUE WAS BORN?
19. WHICH AFRICAN COUNTRY IS FEATURED IN TOM PALMER'S BOOK, OFF SIDE?
20. WHAT TEAM DOES PRINCE WILLIAM SUPPORT?

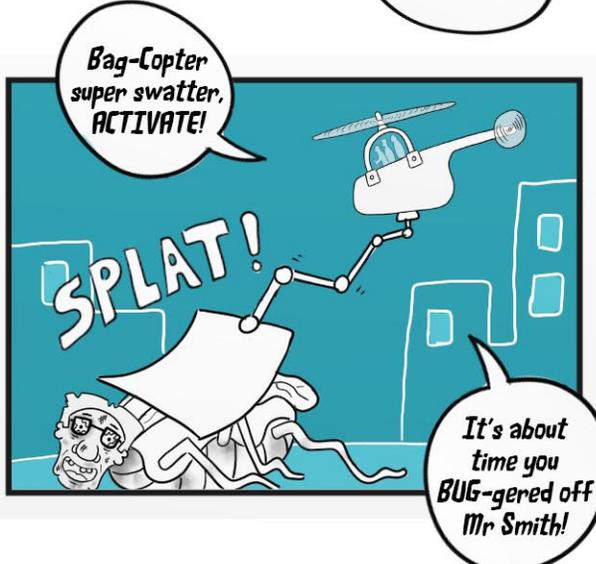
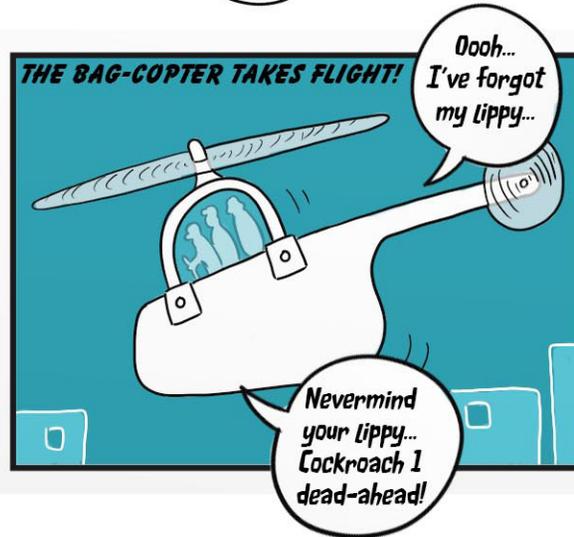
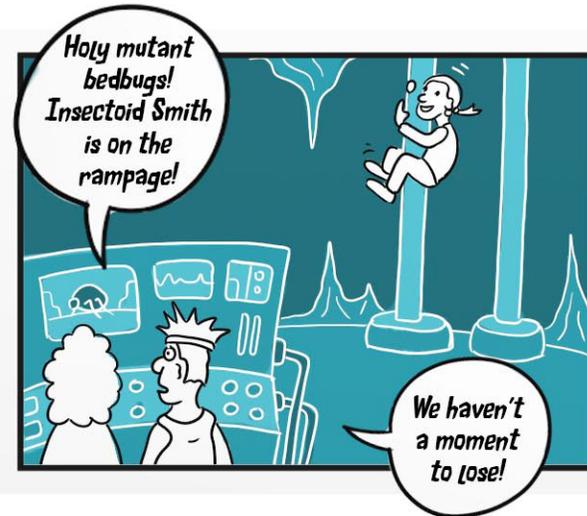
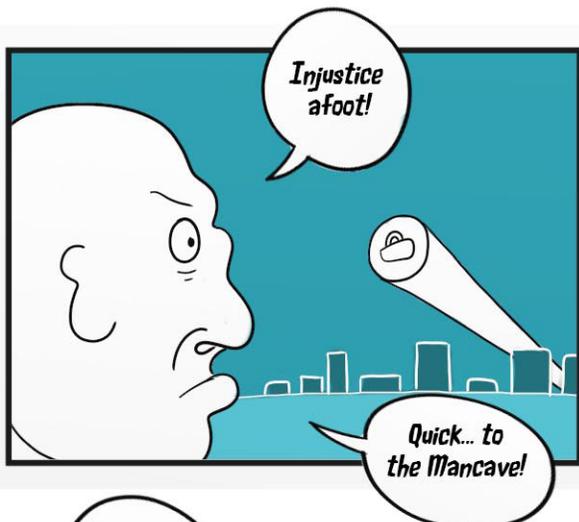
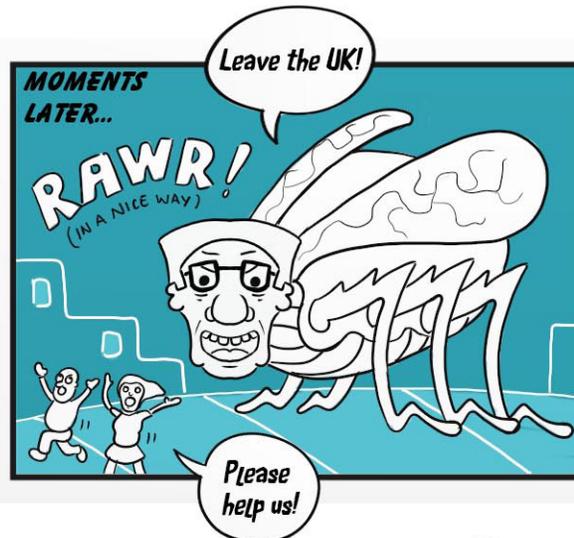
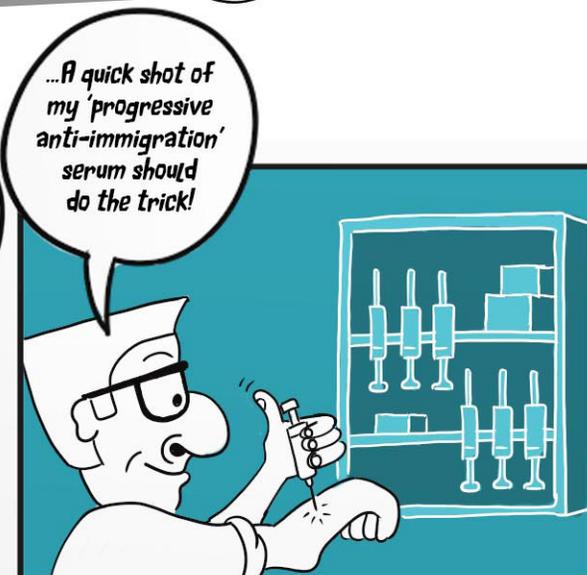
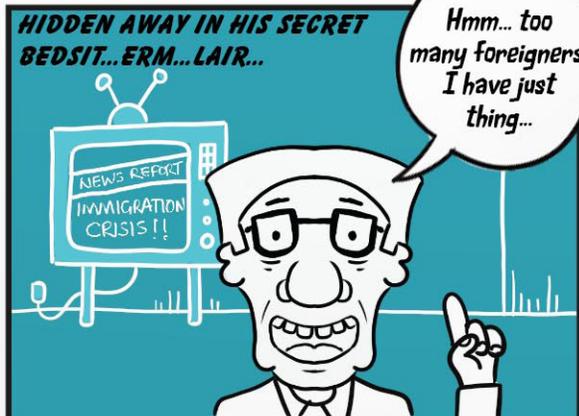
1. BORRIS JOHNSON
2. WATERLOO BRIDGE
3. BROWN
4. HYDE PARK
5. HORSE GUARDS PARADE
6. TOWER HAMLETS
7. LUDGATE HILL
8. SAMUEL JOHNSON
9. THE GREAT SMOG
10. THE GREAT EXHIBITION

1. ENGLAND
2. THE BACK PAGE
3. BRAZIL
4. CENTRE SPOT/ID
5. (B) GOAL
6. FABIO CAPELLI
7. 1966
8. EVERTON
9. DAVID BECKHAM
10. ARSENAL
11. A TEAM FORMATION
12. ITALY
13. (B) GERRARD
14. NONE
15. LEEDS UNITED
16. URUGUAY IN SOUTH AMERICA
17. ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
18. LEEDS UNITED
19. GHANA
20. ASTON VILLA



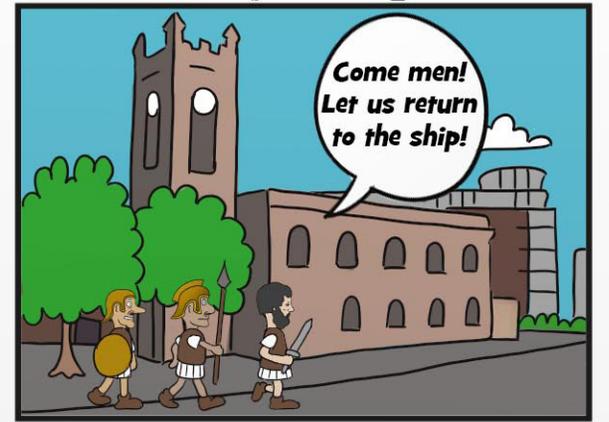
St. Jeremy of London - The Big Match

By Alan Davies & Andrew Keir



XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD

After a hard day scouting...



Come men!
Let us return
to the ship!

And so a new quest begins...



By Heracles beard!

Some scallywag has stolen our oars!

We must find them at once!



Hmm... the Gorgon Medusa's handy work no doubt...

We must be cautious...

But then!



The red cowls!

A Spartan patrol!

PM, 14:32 - The Battle of Salford Quays



Scouse immigrants!

Gonna spark you out mate!

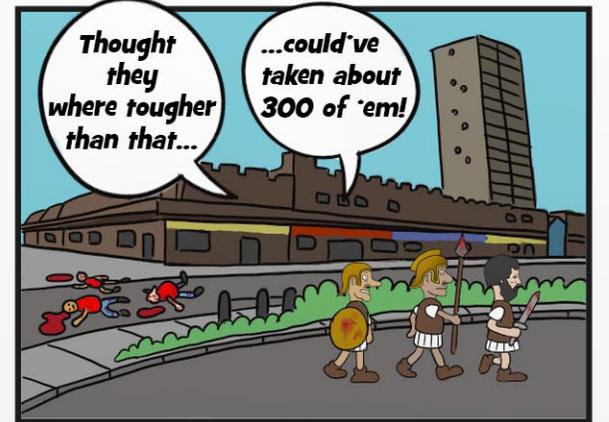
Pendleton Ultras Rule!



You fight like a girl, Spartan!

You callin' me a sissy?

The day is won!



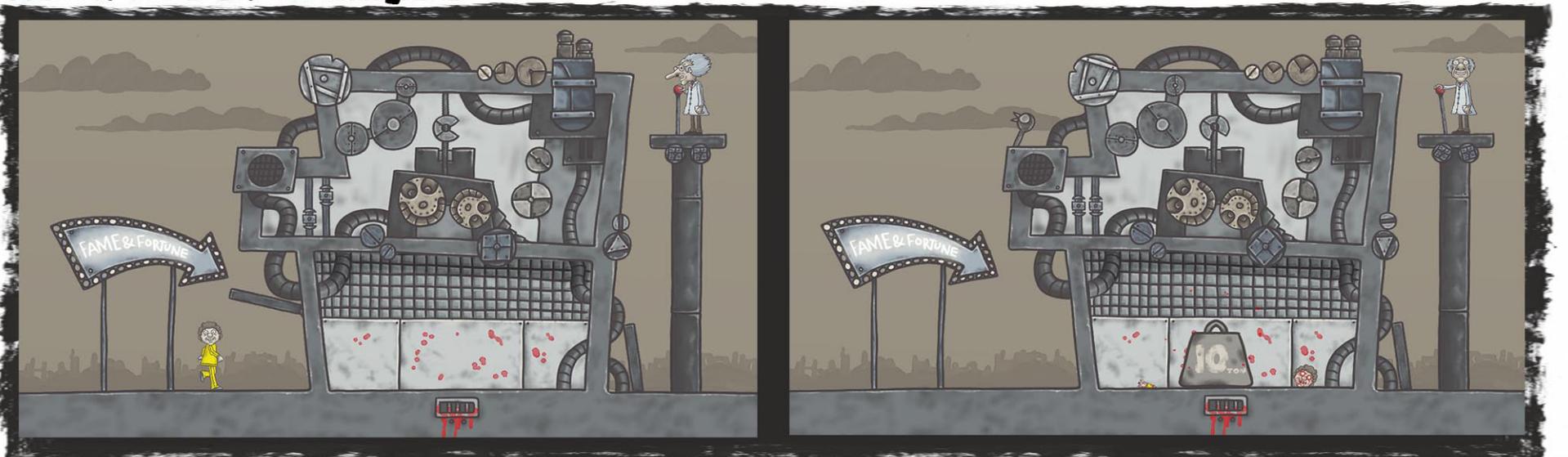
Thought they were tougher than that...

...could've taken about 300 of 'em!

The search continues...

Nefarious Dr Wobble's HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS #01:

FAME OR SLAIN?



CASH COW SEASON



A SEASON OF CASH COWS, BRILLIANCE & UNCERTAINTY

The recent arrival of Pep Guardiola to Manchester City - But what will it bring?

By Derek Fraser

(A Manchester City fan who always expects the worse!!!)

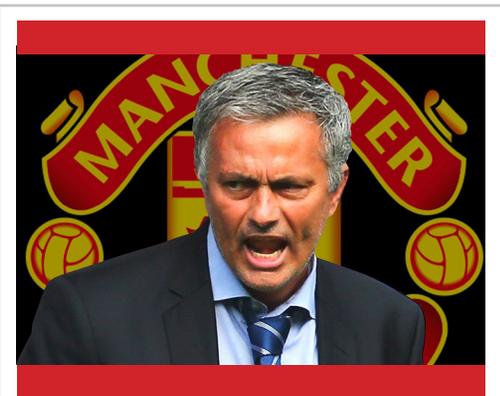
The recent arrival of Pep Guardiola to Manchester City and Jose Mourinho to Manchester United has brought both more inflated salaries to the Premiership but also great tactical managerial skills which have won the Champions League 4 times between them. Guardiola is looking at signing John Stones for around £40 million and the likes of Pogba (possibly £70 million) and even Messi (estimated £80 million +) show how far football signing fees have just continued their upwards trend.

Manchester City vastly under performed in the Premiership and cup competitions except maybe for the Champions League, where going out to Barcelona in the Semi-Final was no disgrace, whereas United won the FA Cup but went out the Champions League very early, and ended up 5th in the Premiership; both seasons were ones forget to show for over £200 million spent on star players on both sides.

The target for both managers must be the top 3 in the Premiership and United will seek to progress much more in the Champions League, with Mourinho looking at the style of

play which seen United playing football which resembled a crab in going back and sideways. City face their own issues with Vincent Kompany looking injury prone and some star players like Toure, Zabaletta and others looking past their best.

Can both managers live up to past and recent forms which puts massive expectations on both their shoulders or will a Hull United or Crystal Palace do a Leicester and show that there is still some hope for the smaller clubs in the richest league in the world?



New signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic grabbed the late debut goal to take a 2-1 victory for Manchester United against Premier League champions Leicester City in the Community Shield.

Jesse Lingard followed up his well placed FA Cup final winner with a well won solo effort to put United ahead, only for a defensive error from Marouane Fellaini to allow Jamie Vardy to equalise.

SEASON STARTS!!

SEASON STARTS

The 2016 FA Community Shield, for many, marks the start of the season.

Colin Jones

Friday 5th August

Fulham v Newcastle

Friday night's opening Championship match looks an exciting one, with both teams aiming to be tighter at the back than previous seasons, and shutting out Newcastle's attacking threats will be key to Fulham's chances.

Despite finishing a lowly 20th last season, Fulham's attacking options were the envy of most Championship clubs. However, the departures Moussa Dembele to Celtic and the likelihood (at the time of writing) of Ross McCormack leaving will be hard to replace, having scored 40 goals between them last term. Sone Aluko comes in to try and help plug that gap, but he only managed 3 goals in Hull's promotion campaign. Even Greek flop Konstantinos Mitroglou can't be given a chance to prove himself as the player has been shipped to Benfica for nearly £6 million. That money, and the likely £12 million required to prize McCormack away, would presumably allow funds for Fulham to replace, but the sheer amount of goals lost is daunting.

Instead, Slavisa Jokanovic may do better to try to plug the leaky defence that conceded 79 goals last season in the Championship. The permanent signing of Michael Madl alongside new recruits Scott Malone, Denis Odoi, Chelsea loanee Thomas Kalas and new shot stopper David Button acknowledge that, and Newcastle will be a solid acid test for the new backline.

Last time the Magpies were in the Championship, they accrued 102 points and scored 90 goals. This time the goalscoring burden will fall on the shoulders of Aleksandar Mitrovic, Ayoze Perez and Dwight Gayle, but goals should also fly from other positions with Matt Richie hoping to emulate Kevin Nolan's decision to leave the premier league to join Newcastle in the aforementioned successful Championship season, and

if Euro 2016 star Moussa Sissoko brings his international form to the domestic campaign then Newcastle do look the team to beat. Not to mention creative forces such as Jonjo Shelvey and Siem De Jong who are also capable of chipping in with a few. Perhaps, Newcastle's main weakness in the past has been their defensive fragility, but in Rafa Benitez, the club have a tactically acute manager who puts results over style and the signing of Grant Hanley will reinforce that solid foundation. There have been big names through the exit door, most notably Georginio Wijnaldum, Andros Townsend and Fabricio Coloccini, but on paper the squad is very strong and with Benitez sticking on Tyneside, the black and white army must be favourites for the title.

Sat 6th

Birmingham v Cardiff

Last season both these sides challenged for a play-off position until the end of the season, where both fell short. Neither side have pulled up trees in the transfer market this summer and both managers will be hoping for steady progress with their new additions. However, the old adage that by staying still you go backwards in football will be a worry. Gary Rowett has worked wonders with his limited resources and needs to continue to do so, whilst Paul Trollope enters his first manager job in six years at the Cardiff helm and will work similar wonders for Cardiff to progress. Both clubs may be overtaken by richer clubs this season.

Bristol City v Wigan

Lee Johnson appears to have recruited wisely this summer. Lee Tomlin has clear talent, Gary O'Neil adds experience and Hordur Magnusson is a young Icelandic international defender recruited from Juventus, Callum O'Dowda also has the opportunity to step up from Oxford United. On paper the squad looks stronger so the team will hope to improve on their 18th placed finish

last season. Wigan are fresh from their League One title winning journey where they've retained Adam Bogdan on loan from Liverpool, they've also recruited experienced Derby duo Stephen Warnock and Jake Buxton. They have also added youth with Nick Powell joining from Manchester United and Colchester's 21 year old player of the season Alex Gilbrey joining the ranks. That blend may lead to Wigan being stronger than two seasons ago where they finished 23rd.

Derby v Brighton

This match will be an interesting one as both sides will want a positive start to set a marker on their promotion credentials for this year.

Derby have earned a reputation for falling at the business end of the season, first under Steve McLaren, then under the tutelage of Paul Clement and Darren Wassall, losing to eventual play-off winners Hull in the semi's. New Manager Nigel Pearson is expected to add some steel and toughness to the squad in an effort to tip it over the final hurdle. Yet despite Pearson's remit, he has two Championship play-off experiences to his name, both ending in failure. One suspects Pearson's title winning campaign with Leicester in 2014 is the basis that he can guide Derby to success.

In the past Derby have been free spending but Pearson appears to be trying to get the most of his current squad, Derby are the only Championship club not to have brought anybody in, but having invested £25 million in signings over the last couple of seasons perhaps a new tact is required. Have no doubt that the expectation levels will be high at The iPro.

Expectations at Brighton may be a little less clear. It's hard to argue that Brighton were the surprise package last season in the division, and Chris Hughton will now have higher expectations placed upon his shoulders as a result of last season's third placed finish. Brighton went on to

lose the other semi-final play-off match to Derby last season so this fixture is an interesting curtain raiser.

Hughton has made few signings, but he has added by retaining last season's loan players Glenn Murray and Steve Sidwell, Murray again on loan. Brighton made some excellent signings last season and Hughton is keeping faith with those that served him well then. Pacey striker James Wilson may be the club's biggest loss but main goalscoring threat Tomer Hemed remains.

Huddersfield v Brentford

Huddersfield are heading into their fifth consecutive season in the Championship, yet they're yet to finish higher than 16th during that run. David Wagner has strengthened his defence using his knowledge of the German market and it will be interesting to see how Christopher Schindler, Jon Gorenc-Stankovic, Michael Hefele and Chris Lowe, all defenders signed from German clubs, settle in England. Wagner has also dipped into the loan market with Danny Ward, Kasey Palmer and Aaron Mooy joining from Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester City respectively. Rajiv van La Parra arrives to add some Championship experience but Huddersfield need their new recruits to step up to the challenge ahead of them.

Brentford finished 9th last season with an exceptional run of form, winning seven of their final nine matches under Dean Smith. But they've lost captain Jake Bidwell, and have had to replace outgoing David Button with Daniel Bentley. Brentford's approach appears to be to snap up bargains from the lower leagues on frees, rather than the international market former manager Mark Warburton was expected to delve into. That project failed under Marinus Dijkhuizen and perhaps Huddersfield may learn the same lesson. Romaine Sawyers will have to step up to Championship level in order for Brentford to repeat last season's finishing position.

Blackburn v Norwich

Blackburn appear to have strengthened with experienced players such as Anthony Stokes, Liam Feeney and signing Danny Graham joining on a permanent basis, they have also utilized the loan market with left back Stephen Hendrie and midfielder Jack Byrne adding youthful potential. But replacing Grant Hanley will be essential before the end of the transfer window. Whether new manager Owen Coyle is offered the

SEASON STARTS!!

funds to do this remains to be seen. Norwich have kept together most of their squad from last season's Premier League relegation, and many of the squad won promotion the season before that. With Nathan Redmond being the main departure, Alex Neil will hope to repeat that success he originally brought to the club. Sergi Canos and Michael McGovern come in, but with misfiring Cameron Jerome and out of favour Kyle Lafferty the only recognised strikers at the club, that area will be targeted as an area to improve before the season starts. Ross McCormack has been heavily linked with a move to East Anglia.

Ipswich v Barnsley

As Ipswich prepare for their 15th consecutive season in the second tier of English football, there appears to be an air of stagnation amongst fans of the club. Their outlay has been modest in recent seasons and this appears to continue with only Adam Webster commanding a fee this summer. On the plus side they have not had to sell any of their players like in previous transfer windows and manager Mick McCarthy is a seasoned head in this division who regularly gets the best out of his players, therefore, despite the lack of investment, Ipswich will probably be there or thereabouts challenging for the play-off spot this season.

Barnsley begin the season buoyed by their amazing turnaround in form for 2016, where they jumped up the League One table to achieve a play-off victory and to win again at Wembley in the EFL Trophy. Paul Heckingbottom took over as caretaker manager towards the beginning of that run, in February, so it is no surprise that he was offered the position permanently. Barnsley's transfer policy is clear, to sign players from lower leagues, in comes solid signings such as Tom Bradshaw and George Moncur. Most strikingly though, is the age of the signings made, and indeed the squad itself. None of the new additions are older than 24, and in the squad in total only Adam Hamill, Lewin Nyatanga and Marc Roberts are over 25; Hamill is the veteran at 28. Ipswich will be a good test for the youthful Tykes with wily McCarthy hoping to use his experience to get his side off with a win.

Rotherham v Wolves

Neil Warnock worked wonders at Rotherham last season for them to avoid relegation, but in comes Alan Stubbs who had two seasons with Hibs in the Scottish Championship, finishing

2nd then 3rd and tasting success in the Scottish Cup and losing in the final of the Scottish League Cup. Out goes a host of experienced players, the likes of Matt Derbyshire, Frazer Richardson, Leon Best, Danny Collins, Lewis Buxton, Jerome Thomas, Luciano Becchio, Lloyd Doyley and Emmanuel Ledesma all leave, reducing the wage bill and average squad age as they go. Of the new players in, Anthony Forde from Walsall seems the most exciting addition.

New Wolves manager Walter Zenga will have had a week in his new role come the start of the season, with the club's new Chinese owners, Fosun International, in place less than two weeks prior to that. Perhaps, the new owner's links to so-called super agent Jorge Mendes - who will be instrumental in player recruitment - gives the fans hope that new players can come in before the window slams shut, to improve on Wolves disappointing 14th placed finish last season.

So far, Mendes has acquired two of his compatriots in Silvio and Helder Costa to join him at the Midlands club and a flurry of activity is expected in the coming weeks as Wolves seek to build a promotion winning squad. How quickly the new manager can get to grips with the demands of the Championship, and how patient the new owners are, will decide the route this transitional season goes for Wolves.

Reading v Preston

Reading, with their new manager, have been recruiting from far and wide, mainly with French and Dutch players not known to most English fans. Former Manchester United defender Stam has been assistant manager at a host of Dutch clubs, with his last, and only, management role at FC Zwolle, a post he left in 2011 to step back as assistant. The loss of Aaron Tshibola might hit the club hard and the new players and manager will have to settle quickly to the rigours of the Championship.

Preston on the other hand have a much more British feel to their recruitment. Simon Grayson has kept mainly the same squad as last year which ended up in 11th place. Tommy Spurr and Anders Lindgaard come in, both with plenty of English football experience and that consistency should bode well for the upcoming season.

Nottingham Forest v Burton

Since the lifting of the club's transfer

embargo, Forest have only spent money on Greek forward Apostolos Vellios, who has a point to prove after an unsuccessful stint at Everton earlier in his career. The other new faces are mainly defensive players picked up on frees from foreign leagues. Philippe Montanier would perhaps have expected more opportunity to add to his squad, especially as he will have to find his feet quickly in the notoriously competitive league that is the Championship.

Nigel Clough returns to the division with more English football experience, on the back of a successful promotion campaign, of which he masterminded as from December, following on from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's foundations. Experienced Championship players such as Lloyd Dyer, Lee Williamson, Kyle McFadzean and Ben Turner come in, as does Chris O-Grady on loan from Brighton. Clough will hope that his experience, along with his players, will stand them in good stead in their aim, which must be simply to stay in the division.

Sun 7th**QPR v Leeds**

Both QPR and Leeds have made astute signings in the summer and both will eye progress compared to last season.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink made a steady in unspectacular start to his tenure at QPR after joining midway through last season. He has trimmed the squad and adopted a quality over quantity approach to his summer transfer business. Despite signing three players for over a million each, he has made a healthy transfer surplus through the sales of Matt Phillips and Leroy Fer. Players like Robert Green, Samba Diakite, Alejandro Faurin, Clint Hill, Armand Traore, Yun Suk-Young and Junior Hoilett are also off the wage bill. Players with championship experience join in the forms of Jordan Cousins, Joel Lynch and Jake Bidwell, as does former Legia Warsaw midedefer Ariel Borysiuk.

Leeds have also made some astute signings. Swapping clubs is experienced goalkeeper Robert Green, and highly rated Oxford United winger Kemar Roofe makes the step up to the Championship. Marcus Antonsson also commanded a decent outlay, joining from Kalmar FF of Swede for £2 million.

New manager Gary Monk's spending comes from the loss of Lewis Cook to Bournemouth for nearly £6 million and

Monk returns to his old club Swansea to loan in Kyle Bartley and Matt Grimes from the Swans. Leeds may be seen as dark horses this season but Monk's ability to work with the United hierarchy will determine his successes at Elland Road.

Sheff Wed v Villa

The final two teams to play their inaugural matches of the 2016/17 season are Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa. Wednesday will be a big test for Roberto Di Matteo's Villa, to see whether last season's disaster will result in a football hangover this term.

Carlos Carvalhal managed to guide his team one match away from promotion last season, so Wednesday can be considered a force this time around too. Two Watford signings give the club extra promotion winning experience in the forms of Almen Abdi and Daniel Prudl. Stephen Fletcher also is a mark of intent from the Owls and with no real departures of note, Wednesday look set to be strong candidates for at least a play-off berth this campaign.

Villa on the other hand are an unknown quantity. Seasons of struggle, especially last season, means that the Villains aren't that strongly fancied to be in the promotion mix. Of course, last year was beyond poor, but out goes the maligned Randy Lerner, in comes new ownership with Dr Tony Xia. Out goes the beleaguered Remi Garde, in comes former Champions League winner Roberto Di Matteo (before this season no Champions League winning manager had ever managed a Championship club, this year Di Matteo and Rafa Benitez both hold that honour on their CV's). In comes some good signings in Tommy Elphick, Pierluigi Gollini and Aaron Tshibola, but whether it will be enough to weather the storm remains to be seen. Some may have expected a mass exodus of the failing players from last season, but that hasn't happened. The club will hope the new positives will be enough to wash away the disappointments of last season, a win at Wednesday would definitely go some way towards doing that.

SEASON STARTS AT WEMBLEY



SEASON STARTS AT WEMBLEY

The 2016 FA Community Shield, for many, marks the start of the season. For Premier League clubs it's the curtain raiser giving a week's notice to the season proper beginning

Every season the FA Cup winners and Premier League champions battle it out at Wembley in the English Super Cup, with match proceeds going to good causes. This year Leicester City and Manchester United will do battle for the first silverware of the domestic 2016/17 calendar. Manchester United have won the competition a record 20 times (four of which were shared titles, before penalty shoot-outs were decided to find an outright winner), surprisingly Leicester have also lifted the trophy on a solitary occasion in 1971.

Jose Mourinho would love to get some official silverware under his belt in his first competitive match for the Red Devils and to continue Manchester United's proud tradition of winning the competition, a win for Claudio Ranieri's men however, would signal to the football world that last season may not have been a fluke for the Premier League champions.

“ IRONICALLY, MOURINHO'S LAST MATCH AS MANAGER OF CHELSEA WAS AGAINST RANIERI'S LEICESTER, THE PORTUGUESE SUCCUMBED TO A 2-1 DEFEAT IN MID-DECEMBER WHICH COST HIM HIS JOB

goals from the deadly duo of Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez decided the tie. That result was the final nail in Mourinho's Chelsea coffin and also made a few more fans (although admittedly not that many at that point) sit up and believe Leicester were a real force.

Manchester United have made three big name signings since Luis Van Gaal

left the club. Zlatan Ibrahimovich comes in on a free, Henrikh Mkhitaryan comes in from Borussia Dortmund for £35 million and Eric Bailly joins from Villarreal for £32 million. They become the 4th and 6th most expensive signings the club have made in their history, on top of that Ibra's wages are reported to be £250,000 a week. Whereas Van Gaal often spent big, he often recouped much of the outlay on departures, so far Mourinho has failed to do that, although he has told some players they are welcome to find new suitors.

Leicester's aim meanwhile, is to keep their successful squad together, so far, only N'golo Kante has headed through the exit door, joining up with Mourinho's former club Chelsea for £30 million. Ranieri has reinvested every penny of that in bringing in new striker Ahmed Musa from CSKA Moscow for a club record £16.5 million, Nampalys Mendy joins as a direct replacement for Kante from Nice for £13.5

million, and Ron-Robert Ziegler comes in for a modest £3 million to add goalkeeping competition from Hannover. Although, with the permanent departure of Andrej Kramaric to Hoffenheim for £8.5 million, the club are actually running a transfer surplus this summer, with a Champions League campaign likely to stretch the squad to its limits this season further additions would be expected, but of course Ranieri is mindful of upsetting a unique team spirit and seems wary of disrupting his winning formula.

Come four PM Sunday, the match will kick off and the first silverware of the season will be up for grabs, football fans may have been treated to the Euros to whet their appetite during Summer, but the long hard season begins in earnest for these two clubs this weekend, and the rest of us know that starts the countdown for the Premier League the following weekend.