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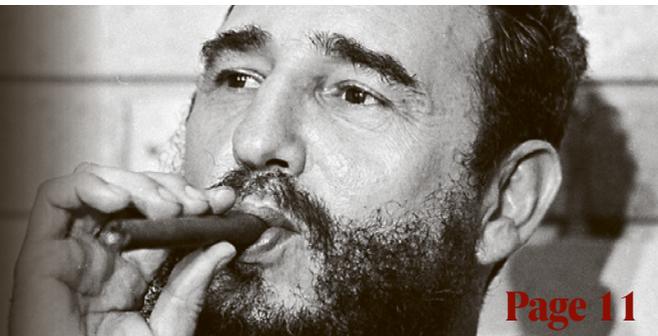
Issue 10, December 2016.

WORD

£1



Tribute to Fidel Castro



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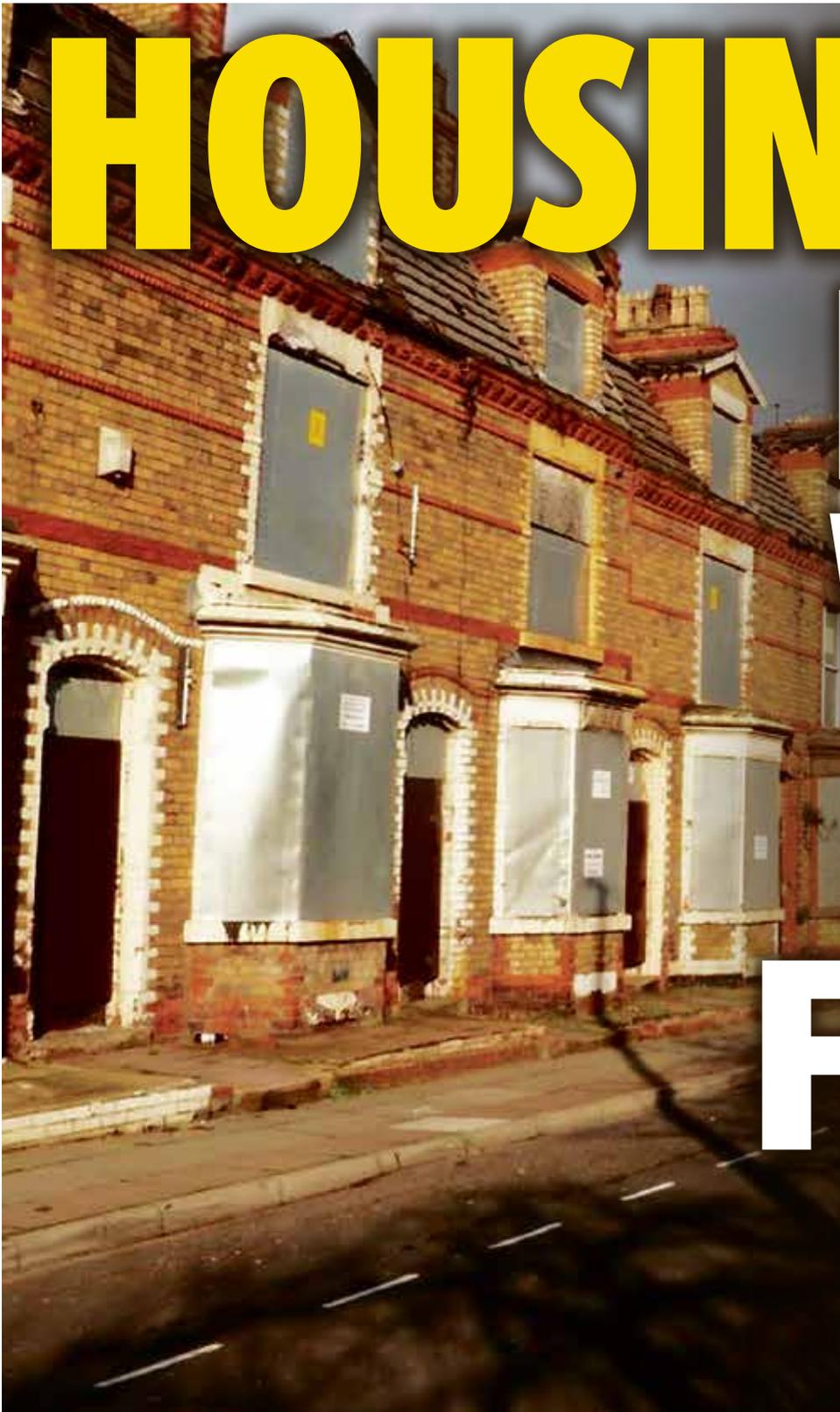
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Equality Democracy Truth Courage **THE PEOPLE'S PAPER** www.thewordmedia.org.uk

HOUSING CRISIS

HOW THE WEALTHY PROFIT FROM THE POOR?



THE PETERLOO PROJECT

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

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

THE
WORD

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HOUSING CRISIS: HOW THE WEALTHY PROFIT FROM THE POOR

If housing is a part of the capitalist system then why do we not see greater efficiencies over the years leading to a fall in housebuilding costs? In every other industry, industrial innovation leads to a fall in the price of mass produced goods, but we do not see it in housing.

If house prices are at record levels why aren't the builders cashing in on high prices by ramping up production to sell more new houses? Why are the housebuilders hoarding acres and acres of building land?

Is it because the banks, the housebuilders and property developers have manufactured a housing shortage.

The Barker Review of Housing Supply in 2003 looked at just seven housebuilders. These builders held landbanks in reserve that could result in 732,000 new houses being built. But they won't. The total new house completions in England in 2013 was just 109,370. Such a low house building figure has just one goal in mind - propping up the house price bubble.

In contrast, France built 342,000 houses in 2013 short of its target of building 500,000 per year, yet 3 times the level of house building in the UK. France has a similar sized population and housing need. This has resulted in modest house price falls in France. Meanwhile in the UK houseprices

have continued to rise out of people's reach despite the fall in wages of UK citizens.

Britain has a smaller land area. Is that a reason why it is not possible to increase the housing stock? Let's look at Britain in the past, in the 1930s.

In 1932 housebuilding levels were much the same as they are now about 130,000 per year. But in 1933-1936, housebuilding was ramped up to over 280,000 per year. The main driver of the housebuilding boom of the late 1930s was the availability of cheap land brought about by the depression in the agriculture sector coupled with easy planning permission.

A low house purchase price allowed liquidity in the housing market. 85% of houses in the 1930s were £750 (or £45,000 in today's prices) and were in the reach of many workers whose wages were £165 per year at the time.

A target of 4% inflation and an interest rate of 2% also helped keep the momentum of housebuilding during this time. The depression of the early 1930s gave way to excellent economic growth of over 4% in the late 1930s.

Today, barriers to housebuilding is in the form of restrictive planning permission, mortgage equity prices and high rents. Many properties in the UK bought on

The move to France? Is now the best

By Shareen Ashraf

With the decision to leave the European Union we would expect the move abroad to be a financially heavy one. However, records have shown mortgage rates to hit record lows in French property sales.

The initial decision to leave the European Union generated negativity amongst many of us but it is time to start considering the way forward. The pound has certainly weakened against the euro - dropping significantly from a summer

peak of €1.43 to €1.28. Nevertheless, due to a fall in mortgage rates, many brokers have reported an increased interest in purchasing property in France.

Low mortgage rates are available

'Low mortgage rates are available to non-French residents, with fixed rate mortgages available at 1.85%'

to non-French residents, with fixed rate mortgages available at 1.85% (with resident's rates going even lower) for an 80% loan-to-value mortgage, on a 20-year term.

Looking back at the mortgage rates in 2014, the rates were averaging around 3.10%. Today's rate of 1.85% means that the interest payable, over a 20-year term, has dropped by 42%. With such an

attractive financial package, it is evident why so many Brits are investing in property in France!

Property interest seems to

be centred on expensive regions such as the Alps, the Cote d'Azur and Paris, suggesting it is not just holiday homes being purchased, but also property for investment opportunities.

French property specialists have stated that the decision to leave the EU, has not impacted the way in which non-residents can purchase property. Whether individuals have already brought a property or are planning to purchase a property, the regulations remain unchanged.



buy-to-let mortgages rely on high rents brought about by the housing shortage to make the mortgage payments.

Rent controls and a mass house-building program would bring house prices down and rent pressures down and most importantly solve the housing crisis in the UK. It would boost the economy, boost employment and productivity.

At present, only 10% of house purchases involves new house builds the rest is based on second hand property.

The losers to this scheme would be the property renting class and the financiers. The winners will be the renters, the poor, the young

first time buyers and the economy in general. Modest house price falls and falls in rents would be the price to pay to rehouse our population.

If the UK chose the path of house-building to fuel an economic recovery such as that of the 1930s where economic growth was 4% a year it might lead to an influx of economic migrants from the EU nullifying some of the benefits of extra housing. So either we chose border controls or have a Europe wide building program.

There is an availability of land outside the South East but with economic prospects being poor in the regions the housebuilding program must be coupled with economic investment in those regions.

Homelessness in the UK

By Kimberley M Griffin

Since Mrs Thatcher pledged to increase home ownership it has fallen to its lowest level for 29 years. Simultaneously the number of social homes has fallen by approximately 26%. This precipitated the crisis that the nation faces today. The young have been hit particularly hard by changes in the housing market. ONS housing survey data shows that 67% of those aged 25-34 were homeowners in 1991, by 2014 this had declined to 36%.

Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday reiterated the miserly view of the 'nasty party' that hard-working taxpayers are rightly reluctant to pay for social services. 'Tough love' is the solution she proposes, withdrawing benefits as an incentive to work harder and earn more money. This solution can only fall on deaf ears for those concerned with the humanitarian crisis of widespread homelessness in Britain.

Buy-to-let schemes, offering substantial tax breaks to landlords, were designed to stimulate the supply of affordable housing in the private rental market. As it turned out there was steep price inflation in the private rental sector as the supply of social housing

fell. In a Seller's market landlords can pick and choose their tenants. Many will only offer a short-term lease, while 82% say they won't rent to housing-benefit tenants. Escalating rents, alongside stagnant or falling wages and benefit levels meant that for many households housing became totally unaffordable, precipitating a crisis of homelessness. This was the subject of a recent inquiry by the Government's Communities and Local Government Committee.

The government's response has been little more than the announcement a ban on charging new tenants upfront letting fees, something that The Labour Party has long been calling for. Letting fees impose heavy costs on tenants and deter them from asserting their rights. The ban, however, will do little to tackle the broader issues in the housing market.

At one extreme, 'homelessness' takes the form of sleeping rough. Homeless Link summarises figures released by the Department for Communities and Local Government earlier this year to show that rough sleeping has increased by 30% in the last year and has more than doubled since 2010. All regions of the UK show an increase in the numbers sleeping rough. London has the largest number, 26%, and a further 23%

of the total are in the South East. Tent cities in major cities across the nation have raised the level of public awareness of the problem.

Local Authorities face huge increases in the cost of dealing with the housing crisis. Eight London councils reportedly moved people into accommodation as far away as the Midlands and the North of England. The all too realistic case of a single mother moved from London to housing in Glasgow is depicted in Ken Loach's moving film I, Daniel Blake

Hidden or invisible homelessness is at least as large as problem as recorded homelessness. A large number seeking help are turned away by Local Authorities for not meeting the 'priority cases' criteria. They tend to be singles without children. Singles may stay in 'concealed housing', in hostels, in squats, on floors, in shared rooms, or with friends and families.

Those sleeping rough are more likely to suffer from mental illness than the population in general, more likely to be victims of violence and much more likely to die young. The NHS reported that the life expectancy of people sleeping rough is thirty years less than average life expectancy for the population as a whole. The housing market is in total disarray. The human cost is very real.

Housing Houses and Housebuilding

Our next General Election is likely to be in June 2017 and will be won by Labour on Housing. Brexit will break *Theresa May / May Not*; but she will lose on her dismal record as Prime Minister and Home Secretary. She will be unable to justify the growing gap between ordinary people and her pals. If someone works a full week yet requires housing benefit, is it the Employer who's paying too little or the Landlord who's charging too much? Who's screwing the government and taxpayers, then?

Wealth is created in three ways: you make something others want to buy; catch or grow food for people to cook and eat; supply something essential, usually by digging it up or collecting it where it gathers. Three wealth creators might be: a person who makes girders out of hot steel; a trawlerman; a miner. Hedge fund management, currency speculation and trading in derivatives aren't wealth creation whatever they might say on the BBC. Somehow money ends up in the hands of those who took

no part in its making; the Money Industry parasitizes wealth created by working class people.

By building dwellings for rent or sale we create the ultimate desirable human product. Employment results for bricklayers, joiners, electricians, plumbers, plasterers, decorators, kitchen fitters, carpet showrooms, Homebase and IKEA; for people who make and sell knives and forks, cups and plates, TVs, lampshades and potted plants; people who supply water, gas, electricity, collect the bins, trim hedges, cut lawns, make and sell lawnmowers. Thus everyone has somewhere to live, but landlords do very well too; indeed hundreds of landlords have seats in Parliament. For there are two distinct 'classes' of people who reside in the UK; there's **us** and there are the people who own everything most of *us* use, travel on, or live in. They are in reality an 'Upper' class. They govern us; it is they who judge us and send us to jail; they decide whether or not we leave the EU.

They own and control the Money Industry; they live in the nicest houses.

Their children go to the best schools and universities and follow friends and family into 'public life' as parliamentarians, leaders of governments, or in the House of Lords. Like fools we elect them; we buy overpriced commodities from them. We obediently blame one another, secretly admiring rich and famous nobodies whom we call 'celebs' as though uselessness should be *celebrated*.

If *'hard work and taking risks'* deserved reward, then steelworkers, trawlermen and miners would live in big houses at the top of the hill. We have been fools too long; we must build our way out of this Austerity fixated recession. We must begin by electing a Labour Government.

We will do that not by babbling endlessly about Trident, Zionism, or Strictly Come Back Mr Blair, but by explaining and supporting Jeremy Corbyn's ten pledges, the most pressing of which is Housing.

t time financially?





Xmas single

by Joe Solo

On September 9th 2016 I was contacted by Les Moore of 'UK Miners Pension Scheme for Justice and Fair Play Association' to write a song which would help pay back a 'Debt of Honour' he felt they owed the thousands of people around the world who clubbed together during the darkest days of the 1984-85 Strike to give them a Christmas they have never forgotten.

Les had seen the poverty austerity was inflicting upon his community first hand. He had friends using the local food bank as they simply couldn't make ends meet, and decided enough was enough it was time to repay that debt.

I'd met Les and the Hatfield Brigade after I'd sung at the 30th Anniversary commemorations, and I'd soaked up all their stories via conversations, emails, phone calls and loans of archive footage which had resulted in me releasing an album 'NEVER BE DEFEATED', the story of the Miner's Strike through their eyes. The whole thing was an absolute joy start to finish, so I was only too happy to rise to this new challenge.

I sent him the lyric two days later. And the recorded backing track the following weekend.

Encouraged by the enthusiasm and energy of lawyer and campaigner Peter Stefanovic whose absolute belief that this should be No.1 for Christmas spurred us to new levels of mischief, we got to work.

On Sunday October 30th we assembled an ad hoc choir of former miners and their families at Stainforth Central Club, right in the heart of the South Yorkshire pit villages. I set up a mic, handed out some lyric sheets, and pressed record. The whole day was filmed by Michael Lee Toas of MLT Productions who created the music video, and a crew from BBC Midlands. It was a fantastic day of community spirit and solidarity and I think that is captured on both film and record.

The single is released on download, via all the usual suspects (Amazon, I-Tunes, Spotify etc) from Monday November 28th and we plan to take it to the top. All money raised will go to those struggling to make ends meet in Food Bank Britain.

This is one mining community, but it could have come from any of them. The spirit of togetherness, of determination, of brother and sisterhood, remains as strong today as it did before Thatcher wreaked her havoc; and if the Tories think they have the miners beaten, then they really don't know them at all.

"Beaten?" said one. "We're only just rolling our sleeves up!"

That is the spirit of this song, and that is the spirit the rest of

us need as we face down a new generation of Tories intent on waging war on our communities.

Please join in with this little bit of history. Download the song, share the links to videos. Be a part of our community and march on with your banner held high.

The fight has only just begun. 'Merry Christmas From Hatfield Main' by Joe Solo & The Hatfield Brigade is released on Monday 28th November. Support it.

Have to say I have been amazed and inspired by the response to 'Merry Christmas From Hatfield Main', it has been absolutely unbelievable.

I am used to releasing a record being a never-ending banging of head on brick wall and I guess I've just grown used to it. The same amazing people support me every time for which I am eternally grateful, but the same doors have been slammed in my face year on year on year. It has never put me off because I'm just not built that way. It has become a battle of wills, and I will never give up.

Maybe that's why me and The Hatfield Brigade clicked. In them I see people still burning with passion, still angry about the way they have been treated, and still determined to see justice done. They remember the Christmas of 1984 when thousands of people around the world clubbed together in the darkest days of The Strike to make sure no-one went without, and through our song they want to repay that debt of honour by helping folks today enduring the same hardships. Never defeated, they represent the true spirit of this country like nothing else I know and I am proud to call them my friends.

Over this last week or two I have witnessed something incredible as behind the scenes The Brigade has mobilized and turned into the kind of PR office political parties could only dream of. They have had to fight their whole lives, and that has made them tough cookies; but it isn't just that, the story of the miners and how they were there at the very start fighting neo-liberalism before any of the rest of us knew what it was; how they were warning us three decades ago of what would happen if we didn't stand in its way; how they were lied to and lied about, abused by police, politicians and media alike; denied justice, all that has been remembered. The phone calls, the emails they are being ANSWERED, and they are being answered because there is RESPECT for what they have endured and how they are still standing there, back and ready for another round.

This is more than a song. This is a battle for the future.

Which side are you on?



Op-ed: Labour's Deputy was part of Remember UK earlier this week b

BY EILEEN KERSEY

On Facebook Mr Watson says: This week I led a delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territories with some of my parliamentary colleagues. We met with the leader of our sister party, Isaac Herzog, to build on our friendships and renew our determination to work for peace in the Middle East.

I spent time in East Jerusalem and met inspiring young people from the Israeli and Palestinian communities who are studying together. I wanted to come back to Israel to pay respects on behalf of the UK Labour Party at Yad Vashem. We remembered those who died in the Holocaust and renewed our determination to fight racism and antisemitism - whatever form it takes and wherever it exists.

That should make me want to say well done, yes we must fight racism and more but it does not.

Why?

Tuesday the Guardian reported "The delegation, which also includes Ruth Smeeth, Gloria De Piero, [Rosie Winterton] and Michael Dugher, toured the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum on Tuesday, and will also visit the Palestinian territories."

Those four politicians were part of an organised and orchestrated

coup to remove Jeremy Corbyn as Labour Party leader; a plot which began as soon as Mr Corbyn was elected in September 2015. They all occupy the right-wing of the Labour Party though prefer to call themselves soft-left or moderates.

Dame Rosie Winterton was

sacked as Labour's chief whip recently. Her replacement appears to be doing the job he was hired to do. Ms Winterton failed time and time again to get to grips with "plotters" and there were claims that one man in the whip's office, Conor McGinn, was orchestrating events.

In reply to @lovesewing
Luke Akehurst @lukeakehurst · 1d
 Replying to @lovesewing
 @epicsewing @WeBelieveIsrael it's funded by my employer @britainisrael which is funded by donors from the UK

Luke Akehurst @lukeakehurst · 1d
 Just driving back to Tel Aviv from Gaza border having met kibbutz residents who live with threat of Hamas attack through terror tunnels.

Luke Akehurst @lukeakehurst · 1d
 Having visited Yad Vashem Holocaust museum this week I would urge Jeremy to go there, it's a remarkable place.

Kevin Schofield @PolHomeEditor

NEW: Israeli Labour leader Isaac Herzog makes fresh plea for Jeremy Corbyn to visit Holocaust memorial bit.ly/2gIj8Kn





Party Leader Tom Watson Announces Day events in the before visiting Israel

Ms De Peiro a former TV personality took to writing in the Sun in the Summer of 2016 about Saving Labour as plotters tried to ignore the majority of Labour Party voters still supporting Mr Corbyn.

Mr Dugher ran Owen Smith's leadership challenge.

Ms Smeeth played her part too.

According to WikiLeaks "Ruth Smeeth, Labour MP that attacked #Corbyn, listed as "strictly protect" US informant https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/O9LONDON956_a.html#efmBIZB_h."

When wikileaks tweeted that July 2 Ms Smeeth denied knowledge.

But take a look back to 2005:

Starting in 2005, Smeeth did a stint as director of public affairs and campaigns as BICOM, the British Israel Communications and Research Centre. There she was reportedly charged with strengthening the group's relations with the "Foreign Office, party leaders, think-tanks and academia."

Formed in 2000, BICOM's links have historically included some in the right-wing of the Labour party, including former CEO Lorna Fitzsimons.

The group arranges for influential figures such as journalists

to take trips to Israel. These have included trips to the Herzliya conference, a major "security" event at which powerful business and political figures discuss how to reinforce Israeli occupation and apartheid.

Smeeth herself is listed on the conference's website as having attended in January 2007, apparently in her BICOM capacity. Speaking that year was current prime minister, then leader of the opposition, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Smeeth helped stage an attack on Corbyn as he, joined by Shami Chakrabarty, released the results of an investigation into allegations of anti-semitism in the Labour Party.

The final link in Tom Watson's visit to Israel as far as this story goes is Luke Akehurst.

Mr Akehurst has been an active opponent of Jeremy Corbyn from day one.

He has tweeted a series of vile tweets in relation to Mr Corbyn, made it plain that he is working to get elected on Labour's NEC in the future and remove Corbyn, having failed miserably in 2016, and has long standing links to Israel, BICOM and the weapons industry.

Over to you Mr Akehurst: BEING appointed director of BICOM's We Believe in Israel department was a dream job for Luke Akehurst.

Luke, who has just stood down after 12 years as a Labour councillor in Hackney, spent 11 years as a lobbyist for a PR company and worked with Weber Shandwick, largely for the defence industry, as well as for property companies and local authorities.

"As a PR consultant, you don't get a lot of choice about your clients," he said. "It was almost my dream job to run a pro-Israel campaigning organisation.

"To focus on one campaign, in which I really believe, was extremely attractive."

Opinion: If I share my opinion I could face attack, suspension from the Labour Party and more.

But the truth is Akehurst has obvious unsavoury links.

Recent Labour Party shenanigans have pushed some things out of sight but not out of mind as free speech is curbed and sharing opinions goes underground.

Still those in the Parliamentary Labour Party who staged the coup know all about that having previously cooked up a plot that spectacularly backfired.

What is Watson's visit to Israel really about?

His choice of travelling companions is telling, so is the funding of the visit:

HOPE



I was diagnosed in 2013, after months of being in denial (my GP not me.) My cancer is incurable, inoperable and of the most aggressive sort. But my urologist says he can keep men going until they are much older than I am. Can he work the trick for me?

After a flurry of tests, scans, radiotherapy and consultations, I looked round for something to deal with *'the inside of my head.'* A good pal (now dead) told me that everyone wanted to know how his bones, his bladder, his glands felt but nobody ever said how do YOU feel? A Macmillan volunteer held his hand while talking to him and he burst into tears. It seems he needed to reach out to others to ask or offer support. The *HOPE* course that I facilitate does that in a six-session programme of self-help management.

A group meets once a week for a few hours to go through the course. Every topic is relevant; every issue shared. Some people continue to meet on a regular basis, going to each others' houses for lunch, to each others' funerals. Some become trained as facilitators; I've taken part in eleven courses, and get a lot of invites out with people living for the moment. John Lennon said "Life is what happens while you're making plans for the future."

The *HOPE* course helps to deal with feelings, fears, worries, perceived loss of a future, of relationships with others, of things

which keep human beings cheerful and positive.

I think this impressive course needs designing more specifically for four groups in particular: males, young people with life changing conditions, black and minority ethnic patients, any who are culturally or linguistically less likely to feel included, and what I call people from South of the River... perhaps other cities have that phenomenon where people who live away from facilities aren't there when the firework display goes off or *Tour De Yorkshire* cycle race goes past the end of my street but not theirs. Am I talking here about social class? Whether or not, I see the effect (or rather, don't see it, or them.)

It's an inclusion concern. Many exclude themselves for different reasons; what can we do about it? It might be an advertising thing. Rather than someone in boxing gloves on the telly *'kicking cancer's backside'* perhaps the ads could show them going into a Macmillan centre for a *HOPE* course; the lost guy wearing his hospital nightie in an alien landscape being approached by a volunteer, taken into a room with ten other sufferers, and smiled at a bit (I'd be there on camera too!)

But when we get these young people/ reluctant blokes/ culturally excluded people, I'd like to think we have a programme that's just right for them.



The Queen is Worse than Mickey Mouse

They are both icons and nominated figureheads and live in 'fairystorylands' of palaces and artificially clean and shiny environments. They both attract tourists who buy overpriced tacky shit, made in god knows where by exploited workers, in a free market, unregulated way. The tourists also generate wealth for overpriced hotel chains - enormous profiteers but they employ people and could well pay some tax.

Now the differences:

Mickey Mouse is paid a normal salary as he's a bloke in a big costume which hasn't changed for decades.

She is the last nationalised industry in the UK.

The Queen is paid a massive amount by taxpayers and wears the same design of outfit for decades but in a slightly different shade for every day of her record-breaking run of not dying. And a mediaeval metal hat for Posh.

The Disney Corporation employs a large number of ordinary taxpayers who are not called Disney.

The Queen employs her family who don't pay tax and a few staff to manage her inherited assets. Also the illegitimate offspring of her ancestors.

Disney's assets are subject to taxation.

The Queen's assets aren't.

Disney runs as a business and reinvests profit into maintaining it, maintaining their brand and reinvesting in new ventures, art, mu-

seums, film and music that add to modern culture and entertain people from the poor to the wealthy, most of whom have happy childhood memories connected to it. The Queen's family is a national institution. She endorses products and companies with her logo of her metal hat.

Customers choose how much of their post-tax money to spend on the Disney brand.

British taxpayers fund the Queen and the maintenance of her assets and brand.

Disney has competitors and is subject to free market choices from their consumers.

The Queen is constitutionally the head of state and church until death. She has never competed for anything. She is the last nationalised industry in the UK.

Mickey Mouse was created for the amusement of the masses by an anti-Semite and Hitler associate, who had his head cryogenically frozen. Mickey's girlfriend is a vacuous rodent with a squeaky American accent.

The Queen was created from a narrow gene pool by the stammering younger brother of the rightful heir, Teddy, who was an anti-Semite and Hitler associate. He abdicated because he fell in love with a vacuous rodent with a squeaky American accent and a villa on Lake Como. His legacy is an innovated tie knot, named after his castle not his family name of Saxe-Coburg Gotha / Battenburg or some such.

In short, Queeny can 'Donald Duck Off' her crowdfunding makeover.

And Mickey is running for president in 2020 unless Minnie does a Mouse on Duck flick with Daisy on Pornhub.



INSTEAD OF HELPING THE BRITISH WELFARE SOCIETY IT'S WASTED ON SO-CALLED BUCKINGHAM PALACE

By Kwame P. Aboagye

The British society has suffered enough cuts whether its with the National Health Service, the Royal Mail, the libraries, the community centres etc. You just name it.

It is so shameful that the money is waste by refurbishing Buckingham Palace, because it is seen as a so-called national treasure of this society.

Now, there are those that will support the Royal Family and that's their justified right, but not all of us think that way and rightly so.

In London whether its Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Camden. These three boroughs are pure example of having enough deprivation as it is such as homelessness, the closures of libraries and joblessness that's so rampant to the core, but they wouldn't heistate to use the money on nonsense which they claim is a so-called national institution.

In other UK cities such as Not-

tingham, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Bristol and Newcastle they are suffering the same crises against their welfare system; but these unjustly mafias in power are so uncaring as well as disgusting that they don't want to know and you and I shouldn't be that surprised.

Now, these mafias in power that claim that this society hasn't got any money in its system, is so inexcusable to me and so deceptively ridiculous.

Our masses have shown such defiance by protesting against these unjust welfare cuts, because it doesn't only effected them, but these mafias are replusively discriminating them as well as their livelihood.

Well done to our masses of the Republica movement who not only oppose these welfare cuts as well as these Windsors taken liberties by exploiting their victims by doing what they please and am not that amazed that they demand that

they should give back what they have stolen from their victims. Plus that their monarchy should be abolished.

The Tories disrespectfully claiming that they are so-called for the working classes, which is like me saying that I approve of privatisation across the welfare state, when I totally oppose it to the core.

They have the aduacity to ignorantly stigmatise the poor and the deprived discriminately. But it is okay for them to use the money on so-called Buckingham Palace.

Our Facebook families which am not going to name have voiced their fury about the refurbishing of Buckingham Palace, because they aren't only effected, but they have been totally disrespected by this society that haven't done anything to provide for them in term of fairness as well as respect.

The NHS, the post offices and the other public services are more important than Buckingham Palace and that's a fact.



System Of A Down...

By Jack Cornes

Ok...a very quick one, here it goes:

Wow, ok - Buck House to get £369 million renovation, Manchester Town Hall another £330 million in repairs. It's weird isn't it, no housing for families

needing accommodation, mother's with babies being turned away from finding homes. And isn't it just hysterical that I walk through the Manchester streets and they are literally lined with homeless people. And all the while as society has broken down, we blankly gaze into our iPhones and the needy continue to beg for help - the estab-

lishment indulge in further glorification, stabilization and celebration of their elitist power.

The Crown, the Government, Local Authority, the systems that bind our lives as "citizens" are diseased, infected by the rotting worship of self - preservation and regality that is Britain. We are the shit underneath their fingernails - and the worst thing is - we seem to enjoy being so!

WHO GAINS FROM CHILD POVERTY?

By Alex Taylor

In 2001 Tony Blair made a pledge to end child poverty in the UK by 2020. The promise was enshrined in law in 2010 under the Child Poverty Act, which was passed with cross party support.

Child poverty reduced dramatically between 1998/9-2011/12 when 800,000 children were lifted out of poverty. Since the 2010 Tory victory, child poverty figures have flatlined. The number of children in absolute poverty has increased by 0.5 million since 2010. Absolute poverty is the lowest and worst category of the three different categories of poverty.

In June last year Iain Duncan Smith announced what he called "a new and strengthened approach to tracking the life chances of Britain's most disadvantaged children." The move was a cynical cover-up, intended to hide the Tory government's commitment to scrapping the Child Poverty Act.

Fast forward to 2016 and the government has successfully abolished the Child Poverty Act. Yet the gap between the rich and the poor has never been wider since the Second World War.

David Laws the Liberal Democrat schools Minister helped IDS to draft the proposals abandoning the government's obligation to report and reduce on financial poverty.

The Tory government



wanted to scrap the act because since they took power all the measures of child poverty have shown a backwards trend to such an embarrassing degree it is a wonder that other national papers find time to report on anything else.

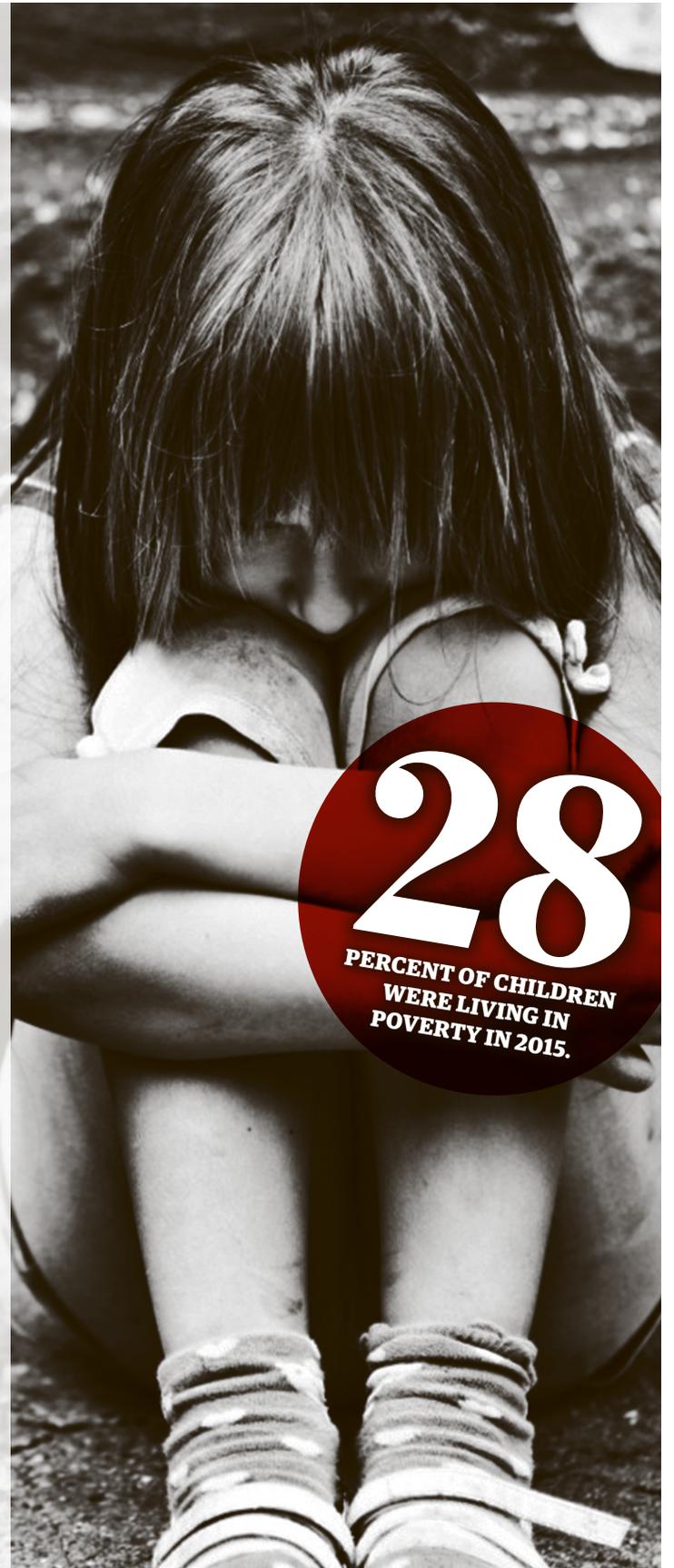
- 28% of children were living in poverty in 2015. (The target was less than 10% by 2020). That is nine children in every classroom of 30 pupils in the UK.

- As a direct result of tax and benefit decisions made since 2010, the number of children in relative poverty will have risen from 2.3 to 3.6 million by 2020.
- Work does not provide a guaranteed route out of poverty in the UK. Two-thirds (66 per cent) of children are growing up in a working family.
- Child poverty has long-lasting effects. By GCSE age 28% fewer children achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades if they receive free school meals.

We might rightfully interpret the government's policy as a cynical attempt to save money yet again at the expense of the most vulnerable members of society. However, there is something fundamentally more corrupt even than this behind the policy - reduced revenue and increased social spending made necessary by poverty costs the government at least £29 billion a year so clearly money is not saved but actually lost.

What certainly is achieved is the maintenance and expansion of a large population of people living in poverty. Is £29 billion a year and the wrecking of all these lives simply the price the Tories are willing to make us pay to ensure the survival of a wealthy elite?

For greater detail see <http://www.cpag.org.uk/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>



When A Golliwog Costume Is No Longer Offensive

Rhythm Riot is a weekend music festival held in Sussex in November each year, it celebrates Rhythm and Blues and Roots Rock and Roll, and has been proud to host a wide range of diverse artists from around the world in its twenty year history.

The day after this year's festival ended a photo started doing the rounds on Facebook of a festival goer dressed as a Golliwog with a thick chain around its neck. People were outraged and the organisers quickly issued an unreserved apology. The photo was posted to Portsmouth Politics, a Facebook group allowing discussion and debate of local political matters. The person posting suggested that racism was on the rise in our post Brexit culture. What happened next was truly shocking.

Over the next few days almost a thousand comments flooded the post. Initially the general theme seemed to be that the image wasn't racist as a Golliwog is just an innocent doll or an image on jam jars. Several people corrected this assumption, explaining that the original creation of writer and illustrator Florence Kate Upton was based on a toy she received as a child, a toy bought at a black minstrel fair during Upton's stay in the US with her parents as a child. Commenters pointed out that black minstrel shows involved white people painting their faces black in order to mock an already oppressed and subjugated race for being, amongst other things, lazy and stupid. Commenters also pointed out

the thick chain around the neck in the fancy dress costume, which was making a clear and overt reference to slavery. They were met with a wall of denial, obstinacy, stubbornness, bigotry and abuse. Many were called 'Lefty liberals' and suggestions were made it was their PC brigade who had ruined life as we know it in good old Blighty.

As the thread continued, those suggesting the costume was offensive were ridiculed and personally insulted, and those mocking them displayed astonishing levels of xenophobia and intolerance. One commenter, while discussing the apparent rise of fascism under the guise of the so called 'Alt-Right' in the US, announced, after a video

showing people at a conference Sieg Heiling Trump's recent victory, that 'We need abit (sic) more of that over here.' He then called anyone who is intolerant of fascism a 'bigot'.

And these aren't trolls either. These are the views of several people in the Facebook group, and sadly the outpouring on the Portsmouth Politics page seems to reflect a rising consensus in this country, in other parts of Europe, and the US, that it's now OK to publicly air opinions that may well be derogatory, offensive or even outright racist. While the page's admins removed most of the really offensive content, it's still readily apparent from the hundreds of comments on the thread that peo-

ple feel emboldened to vocalise what has for so long been taboo.

It's hard to imagine that Brexit didn't have something to do with that. Runnymede, the UK's leading race equality think tank, published an article on 17th November stating that 'Reports of racially-motivated violence against the person had risen by an average of 20 percent in the months immediately before and after the EU referendum'. But it's not just Brexit that is to blame for the rising culture of intolerance towards others, the right wing press and politicians have played an enormous part in stoking the fear and mistrust that now seems to be inherent within our culture.

Because let's face it, fear sells. And fear wins elections.

Best facebook groups

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/519949641500248/>
{We support Jeremy Corbyn}
This is one of the best forums for lively debate by democratic socialist Labour members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/770925089714393/>
{THE WORD - supporters group}
Come and discuss the paper. Voice your opinion. Volunteer to write articles, proof read, draw graphics and generally promote the paper.

<https://www.facebook.com/WatMedMedia/>
This is an NHS social media broadcast by doctors for patients. The doctors provide honest balanced reporting. They educate, entertain & inform via content designed to promote discussion.

Best blogs

<http://breakingdownthnews.blogspot.co.uk/>
Blog by Ste Matthew Murray. He specialises in dissecting the news and political programs and presenting an alternative view of the same news.

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/>
This is a blog by a prolific writer Thomas G. Clark, with an independent and forthright Yorkshire voice who speaks about political, economic and philosophical issues.

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

Tory government refuse planning

<http://breakingdownthnews.blogspot.co.uk/2016/11/tory-government-refuse-planning.html>
by STE MATTHEW MURRAY

A lifeline for the homeless will shut at the end of this month after Dover District Council

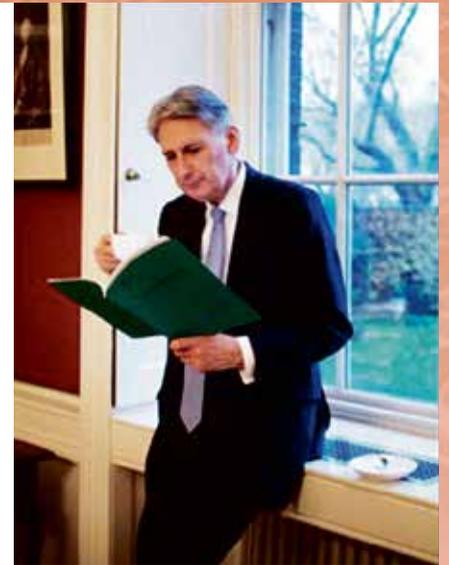
refused to grant planning permission.

Volunteers have run a soup kitchen in Dover for 26 years, serving food from a port-a-cabin to homeless, vulnerable and elderly individuals.

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/2016/11/13-years-of-lost-wage-growth.html>

Philip Hammond's Autumn Statement admits that real wages will still be below 2008 levels in 2021.

13 years of lost wage growth and the "lower orders" are still content to let their Tory lords and masters continue robbing them blind!



Sad postscript to Jo Cox murder trial as 'newspapers' turn to racism to justify her murderer

<http://voxpolygonalonline.com/2016/11/26/sad-postscript-to-jo-cox-murder-trial-as-newspapers-turn-to-racism-to-justify-her-murderer/>

Pathetic, isn't it?

Thomas Mair killed Jo Cox in what her husband Brendan described as "an incompetent and self-defeating act of terrorism" and the Judge, Mr Justice Wilkie, said was "carried out to advance a political cause of violent white supremacism, associated with Nazism".

But The Sun and The Mirror want you to believe it was because his mother married a black man, and the Daily Mail would rather

blame the phantom threat of immigrants taking his home.

What utter drivel.

There is no evidence that Mair's family history contributed to his crime.

There is no evidence that his landlord - the local council - wanted to evict him. In fact, under the terms of his tenancy, it seems this was impossible.

It seems all three periodicals have become apologists for terrorism.

A Tory plot to suppress vital information has been exposed, and it's put us all in danger

<http://www.thecanary.co/2016/11/25/tory-plot-suppress-vital-information-exposed/>

The Conservative government deliberately delayed the publication of a damning fracking report, new documents reveal. And that ob-

struction ensured a council had no access to its findings before it made a fateful decision on whether to allow fracking in its area.

Best of

Writing off diesel

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/toxics/writing-diesel-20161125>

Posted by Areeba Hamid

Turns out brand new diesel cars--and I am talking about diesel cars standing in massive parking lots getting ready to be put in swanky glass showrooms and rolled off for test drives--are polluting up to 15 times more than what they should be.

To add insult to injury, 'clean diesel' is also a myth. Diesel cars were promoted in the 90s because they allegedly emitted 15-30% less carbon than their petrol counterparts. But this is simply not true any more. In recent years, diesel cars, especially small ones produce as much carbon dioxide as petrol cars.

Standing Rock Special: Unlicensed #DAPL Guards Attacked Water Protectors with Dogs & Pepper Spray

<https://www.democracynow.org/2016/11/24/standing-rock-special-unlicensed-dapl-guards>

Many across the United States are celebrating this Thanksgiving holiday. But many for Native Americans observe it as a National Day of Mourning, marking the genocide against their communities and the theft of their land. We

spend the hour looking at the standoff at Standing Rock in North Dakota--the struggle against the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline that has galvanized the largest resistance movement of Native Americans in decades.

What is the European Union For?

<https://off-guardian.org/2016/11/25/what-is-the-european-union-for/>

by Frank

The decision to expand the EU and with it NATO right up to Russia's borders, initially under the guidance and policies of the Clinton administration, was a clear indication that the governments of the EU had come under American domination. With this decisive shift the EU project - i.e., from the quasi-Gaullist, third force in world politics, and

the Delors social chapter - was over. It has been replaced by a North Atlantic neo-liberal, neo-conservative project under American command.

However it is quite possible that even against US wishes and geopolitical imperatives the EU might well fracture internally due to inter-state tensions and contradictions. One thing is certain: in its present structure the EU cannot endure, nor does it deserve to.

Labour's 'fake news' crusader Michael Dugher wrote for The S*n & quaffed 'champagne' & 'oysters' with Murdoch

<http://evolvepolitics.com/labours-fake-news-crusader-michael-dugher-wrote-for-the-sn-quaffed-champagne-oysters-with-murdoch/>

By launching an inquiry into 'fake news' and using the term 'fake news' at every opportunity, Watson and Dugher are attempting to plant a subliminal message. They know they cannot stop the rise of alternative media, so they have

to try and manipulate and discredit it. Their ultimate aim is re-brand 'alternative news outlets' as 'fake news outlets' so that, by definition, they are untrustworthy and you should not read their content.

Best Websites

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

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

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

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

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

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

<http://novaramedia.com/>

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

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

The pluralist discussion can feed back into political action.

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

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

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

Critical look at our allegedly liberal and free press.

<http://evolvepolitics.com/>

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

<http://thejusticegap.com/>

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

I Had A Dream

By Kev Attwood

I am currently on what is called Employment Support Allowance I have a life time sick note, I also receive Housing Benefit, the E.S.A. Has suspended my claim and my Housing Benefit has been stopped, the E.S.A. Claim I have assets that I haven't declared i.e. they have accused me of having money stashed away. I am in a PRIVATED RENTED flat which I've been in for nine years, in fact I've been with my landlord 16 years in two places. Now my housing benefit has been suspended, I have rent arrears and they are climbing, not long ago I Pawned my Cannon 7D camera, this was a Graduation gift and the VERY last thing my Father gave me while he was alive, I am an Artist and photography is my favourite style, the Cannon 7D I also shot my first feature film on "Back In The Daze" a documentary about a nightclub I was involved in, life is VERY hard recently I turned 50, the plan was to hit that and the next day kill myself, I have Manic Depression or commonly known as Bi - Polar, recently I have believed I have gone too far over my so-called sell by date.

But REALLY I want to live and be SOMETHING I in fact want to help others in the same boat as me, I want make another documentary called "The Rock & Roll Life Style" Rock & Roll is slang/Cockney for the Dole I want show how people are REALLY living and if I may say existing and how the MEDIA really portrays us, I want also set up a project helping people deal with this.

As of next month I'm hitting four & half years of being off the illegal drugs and two & half years off medication [ANTI - DEPRESSANTS].

Yet here I am about to be made totally homeless due to sanctions imposed, for no valid reason. I have not been allowed a crisis loan. For now, my home of 9 years has had to become officially - a squat.

Vaizey – 'Arts Are Relentlessly Left – Wing'



By Jack Cornes

Conservatism accepts the world around it, it does not question but accepts it and it does its upmost to protect and uphold it. The left - wing challenge the very society which surrounds them, they do not just accept that monarchy, capitalism or our history are the essential social pillars from which we all benefit. I don't just say this because I am writing in this paper, take my political belief away and leave me as a passing a - political human and I would say that people from the centre to the left seem to have a heart, they have imagination and care for the people and world around them. Whereas the right don't see past what is staring them in the face, their world is simply black and white - they neglect their hearts and act purely

by the ego and the self. Two mere passing concepts which I don't expect any Tory voter to begin to understand.

The arts celebrate and illuminate all that it is to be a human - the imagination, the world turning around us and the culture we live within (good or bad). If the arts do not have heart then it does not exist. This is something I do not think former Tory Culture Minister Ed Vaizey will ever begin to understand as his following comments show:

'Let's not beat about the bush: the arts are relentlessly left wing.'

'As the former [London] mayor's head of culture once said: "there is no pro-fox hunting play. Indeed, there are no plays about over-pow-

erful trade unions letting down their members."

'As a Remainer [myself], there is no pro-Brexit play attacking unaccountable Brussel's bureaucrats building a European superstate. There's no play exposing the corruption and abuse in a country like Venezuela - why not?'

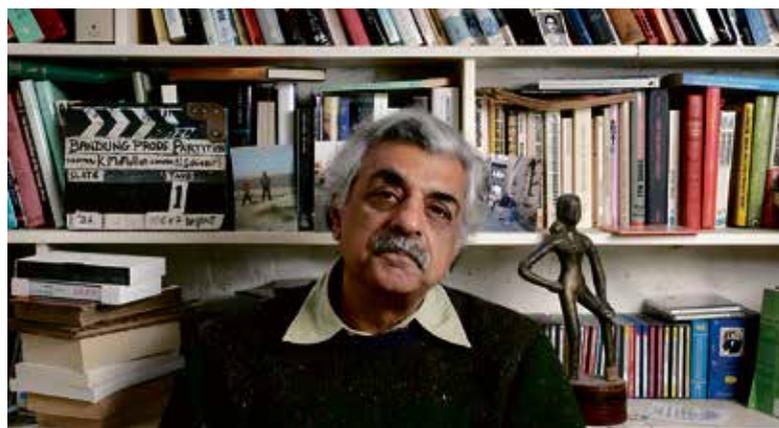
People would call me a naive tree hugger I suppose but it never ceases to amaze me why the Tories have next to no heart or compassion, why do they weigh everything with the same calculating, greed ridden cold bloodedness? Conservatism and the arts are two completely opposite concepts which cancel each other out. Vaizey did agree that the Tory Government must stop its cutting of arts funding but his above com-

ments as well as many others such as 'As far as I remember, literally every new culture secretary that was appointed when I was a minister was greeted by the arts lobby as a philistine. I always thought this was a slightly bizarre way to welcome someone upon whom the arts community depends so much' prove the Tories can never understand exactly what the arts are and their purpose. The very fact that this man wants to celebrate the suffering of animals on our stage goes to show this is a man who neglects his heart and, like every Tory, what it is to be a loving human being. His comments do not advance our thinking on the state of 21st Century artistic expression in the UK but merely highlight yet another cruel Conservative who wants to make our arts sector elitist, inward looking and ignorant.

Me And Mr Ali Are In The Same Paper!!!

By Jack Cornes

This is just a quick piece to say it is a personal honour for me to be writing in the same newspaper as the legendary Mr Tariq Ali. As I am sure many of you know Mr Ali was a friend of my hero and artistic inspiration - John Lennon. Needless to say I have the DVD - *Gimme Some Truth: the making of John Lennon's Imagine* which features Mr Ali sat at John and Yoko's table discussing John's new album and compositions. I have also



listened to the famous interview that Mr Ali and Robin Blackburn held with John and Yoko for the *Red Mole* magazine in 1971. The Beatles and John Lennon mean the world to me and the fact my own pieces feature in the same publication as a pioneering Socialist as Mr Ali who was able to spend many hours with the greatest songwriter of all time is a huge privilege for me. Mr Ali - if we could ever share a cup of tea and a natter then that would be a real treat sir. Thankyou.



FIDEL CASTRO DIES AGED 90



Obituary by
Alex Taylor

"It was less an invasion than a shipwreck" one of the participants remarked, when Fidel Castro landed a boat of 82 men on the swampy shorelines of the wrong beach after a hugely extended journey in the pouring rain. After a three-year campaign of guerrilla war, raids and constant recruitment from the army and urban areas Castro seized the capital, Batista having been allowed by the USA to flee with \$300 000 000 dollars.

In 2008 Castro stood down as President. In his first few decades Cuba had gone from strength to strength, even funding overseas insurgencies designed to spread the revolution all over Africa, sadly decline set in in the 1990's as the preferential trading deals fell apart as Soviet Union also disintegrated into an oligarchical mafia.

I think the first thing to say is that it is incumbent upon us to remain hopeful that revolution is possible and must be inevitable. This is the mental discipline. It is our faith. It is what we believe in the absence of a clear established pathway to achieve radical permanent change, but it is also fundamentally the only thing that can make it possible. However, whereas the religiously faithful can never prove God, we have plenty of evidence for the re-

dundancy of Capitalism. We have faith not only because we must, but because the prevailing system has been visibly collapsing all around us.

Like a bad Facebook meme about bullying or cancer, once we've seen the infected seeping puss of Capitalism we can never "unsee" it.

Under Castro, the ownership of land was limited to 993 acres per owner and it was made illegal for foreigners to buy land. Castro equalized salaries, halved rent for poor people, opened more classrooms to improve education, he introduced free medical aid and created mandatory universal child vaccination.

Nearly half of the parliamentary seats in the Cuban National Assembly are occupied by women. The literacy rate in the country is 99.5 percent. All education is free. The unemployment rate in Cuba is 2.7 percent (5.4% UK).

Cuba was the first nation in the world to meet sustainable development targets set by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

So, what would Castro make of the current rise in activism? Undoubtedly he would think of us as suffering from what Marx would have called "false consciousness". Hopeful socialists backing reformers such as Corbyn and McDonnell in the hope of great change! Quite possibly he would be dead right.

But working for improvement while hoping for revolution are not incompatible - especially when it's about bread on the table for many, homelessness and eviction and the

Table 1 Cuban Socio-Economic Indicators in Comparative Perspective

Indicator	1960	1990
Life Expectancy at Birth (Years)	63.8	75.4
Rank in Latin America	#4	#1
Under Five Child Mortality, per 1000 live births	87	17
Rank in Latin America	#3	#2
Infant Mortality (Under One Year), per 1000 live births	65	14
Rank in Latin America	#3	#1
Adult Literacy	(1970) 87	95
Rank in Latin America	#5	#2
Combined Primary and Secondary School Enrolments	(1970) 76	95
Rank in Latin America	#5	#2
Real GDP per capita (purchasing power parity terms)	n.a.	\$2,200
Rank in Latin America	n.a.	#14
Human Development Index	n.a.	0.711
Rank in Latin America	n.a.	#10
Rank in the World	n.a.	#75

Source: UNDP Human Development Reports 1990, 133; and 1992, 135-136

Table 2 Cuban Socio-Economic Indicators in Comparative Perspective, 1990-2007

Indicator	1990	2007
Life Expectancy at Birth (Years)	75.4	78.5
Rank in Latin America	#1	#2
Infant Mortality (Under One Year), per 1000 live births	14	6
Rank in Latin America	#1	#1
Adult Literacy	95	99.8
Rank in Latin America	#2	#1
Combined Primary and Secondary School Enrolments	95	100
Rank in Latin America	#2	#1
"Human Poverty Index" (UNDP) Rank in Latin America	n.a.	#5
Real GDP per capita (purchasing power parity terms)	\$2,200	\$6,876**
Rank in Latin America	#14	#11**
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.711	0.856**
Rank in Latin America	#10	#3**
Rank in the World	#75	#51**

Source: UNDP HDR, 1990, 133; 1992, 135-136 and 2009

Note (**): Cuba's GDP estimations lack comparability with the rest of the world because government services are calculated not on the basis of the costs of providing them but on the basis of some international price, unknown at this time. This deforms the comparison of both GDP and the HDI which gives a 33.3% weight the GDP per capita in purchasing power terms

stakes are not only high, but as immediate as the knocking of the bailiff at the door.

The UK is currently a world away from popular revolution, but closer than in previous decades. Capitalism has managed us well enough for decades, but is becoming increasingly incapable of sustaining the illusion of

stability or opportunity.

Markets are now increasingly taking the place of production as the key component of national economies, this can only lead to further instability and inequality.

Revolution anywhere must have at least the tacit cooperation of the Police and Army, at some point their

resistance to change must crumble. So far both have been staunchly supportive of the government at any given point, stepping in for fire brigade duties and emergency medical cover etc. as needed.

The two arms of the state apparatus are ready to impose democracy with a batten charge, beatings, false imprisonment, pepper spray and concocted evidence, and in the USA with the police killing around 1000 people a year - the message is clear, this is just business as usual, imagine what happens if the state feels really challenged?

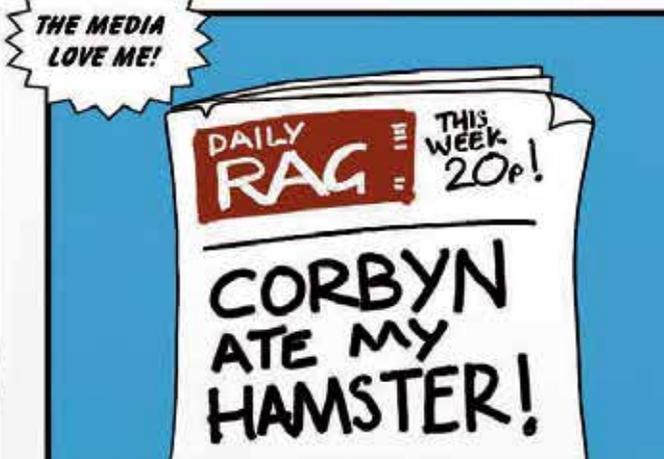
But change can come - because change must come. State apparatus has undergone vast changes over history and perhaps this is what Castro would turn our attention towards, not the apparent equilibrium of a 90-year lifespan, but the vast upheavals of history.

From cave to farm, Stone to Iron, Kingdoms, Dynasties and Empires. From Feudalism to Capitalism and Industrialisation, from merchandise to sophisticated gambling. The reins of power, the means of oppression, the centres of wealth have shifted from one age and region to another, and perhaps the only constant has been - collapse, crisis and revolution.

The wheel will turn, because it must. We must believe. Not only because if the dream is crushed then nothing can change, but because history tells us, capitalism tells us, and the current crises tell us that revolution is inevitable. "Hasta la victoria siempre."

St. Jeremy of London

By Alan Davies & Andrew Keir



FINLAND INNOVATES EDUCATION YET AGAIN



by George Christoforou

Finland is believed by many educators around the world to have the best educational system in the world. Even so the Finns are not satisfied with their education system and are to introduce PHENOMENON BASED LEARNING (PBL) into their schools.

This is holistic teaching of real world topics rather than the academic study of subjects such as Maths, English, or Science.

Children are taught to obtain and use knowledge in real world tasks. Deep learning is the goal. Useful real world knowledge is learned rather than the gaining of dis-



connected facts. Phenomenon based learning typically integrates different subjects to obtain solutions.

It starts from proposing a real world problem. Can we make a flying aeroplane? This would in-

tegrate science, maths, mechanics and woodwork to solve the problem.

PBL makes learning more real and so the students are more motivated to learn. Many times the

children just get involved in doing the task and don't realise they are learning.

The educational world is watching Finland with great interest this year. Finland is implementing Phenomenon Based Learning in their schools starting August 2016.

Not all learning will be PBL. They still plan to continue with subject based learning of mathematics, language, history, arts, music and other subjects.

What will change in 2016 is that all basic schools for 7 to 16-year-olds must have at least one extended period of multi-disciplinary, phenomenon-based teaching and learning in their curricula.

But with the new basic school

reform all children will also learn via periods looking at broader topics, such as the European Union, community and climate change, or 100 years of Finland's independence, which would bring in multi-disciplinary modules on languages, geography, sciences and economics.

It is important to note two remarkable aspects of the Finnish education system compared to the UK in order to see the real picture. First, education governance is highly decentralised, giving Finland's 320 municipalities significant amount of freedom to arrange schooling according to the local circumstances. Central government issues legislation, tops

SATs and sherry

By Cliff Jones, November 2016

The story of how Standardised Assessment Tasks turned into Statutory Assessment Tests is fascinating and involves at least one glass of sherry late at night as a secretary, using a spell check, sought to turn 'task' into 'test' in order that in December 1988 Kenneth Baker could get Margaret Thatcher to accept the report of the Task Group on Assessment and Testing (TGAT). Thatcher preferred 'tests' to 'tasks'. The secretary did not manage to turn all the 'tasks' into 'tests' and ever since people have tried to rationalise the differing terminology.

This story was told to me by a member of TGAT so it must be true. He was, after all, a professor and they never falsify evidence.

The National Curriculum came with ten levels for each subject. The University of Leeds had the

contract to look closely at how assessment would work. I was one of many research associates who visited schools to use experimental SATs with children around seven years of age (end of Key Stage One).

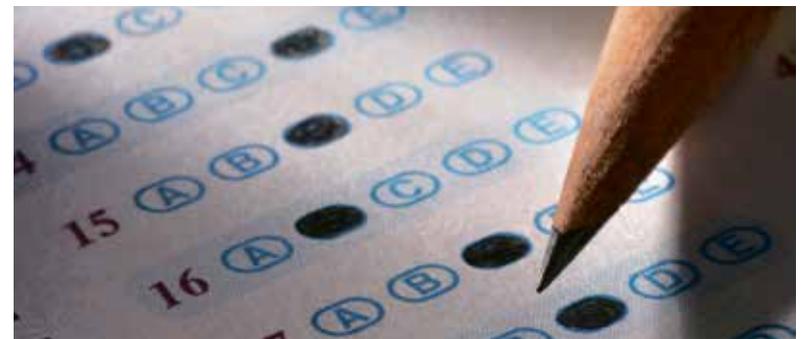
We worked in pairs. My colleague did not seem to notice that separating activities into subjects felt strange to the children. When, trying out a science SAT, he asked them to look at what he called 'a range of instruments' the boy and girl he was working with looked at him, then at each other and, it seemed to me, signalled an unspoken message that said: 'Well, he is a grown up and I suppose he knows what he is doing but you'll never get a tune out of those things.'

With the same boy and girl and my colleague alongside holding the manual detailing the next experimental SAT I asked them to build two columns the same height using

sets of books. I handed them rolled paper to place across the top creating a bridge. We had different rolls: some thick, some thin, some tight and some loose. The children were asked to suspend a plastic bucket from the bridge and keep count of the number of shovels of sand that they put into the bucket before the bridge broke. The idea was to go on doing this with other paper rolls and then to discuss the notion of tensile strength.

Eventually the first bridge broke. I said nothing. I watched. The children, now absorbed in the task, began to mend the bridge. 'Stop them', whispered my colleague. 'But I want to see what they do', said I. He hissed back: 'They are not supposed to do anything like that for another four pages.'

I was happy with SATs when the T word stood for Tasks but I don't think I was cut out for SATs



when it stood for Tests. In fact those children were taking ownership of the task. That seemed fine to me.

During the research I gave a little girl a piece of unseen writing to read out aloud. It contained multi-cultural nicknames, exclamation marks, question marks, speech marks and paragraphs. She picked it up and, like a professional newsreader being given unexpected copy, handled it with total confidence.

I scratched my head because even the relevant descriptor for Level Ten did not seem to do justice to her performance. When the research was over and SATs became serious

what level might she be given?

Kenneth Clarke gave us the answer. Three levels were available.

He told us to expect that Level Two would be the average.

What price the research? More sherry please!

Adapted from
A LOAD OF CLARKE AND BALLS

OR
A COUPLE OF SONG AND DANCE MEN TRY TO RUN EDUCATION

With apologies to Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire
(Holiday Inn 1942)



up local funding of schools according to need, and provides a guiding framework for what schools should teach and how.

Second, Finland's National Curriculum is a very general and flexible guideline that guides curriculum planning at the level of the municipalities and their schools. It leaves teachers free to find the best ways to offer good teaching and learning to all children. Therefore, practices vary from school to school and are often customised to local needs and situations.

Educators in Finland think, quite correctly, that schools should teach what young people need in their lives rather than try improve academic scores.

The new curriculum states that students must be involved in the planning of PBL and that they must have voice in assessing what they have learned from it.

However, some teachers in Finland see this current reform as a threat and the wrong way to improve teaching and learning in schools. Other teachers think that breaking down the dominance of traditional subjects and isolation of teaching is a great educational opportunity, bringing about radical change.

Despite Finland's disregard for academic scores they still score highly in the international PISA scores only beaten by the likes of Japan and China, with their em-

phasis on cramming.

It remains to be seen what effect these latest reforms will have on PISA scores and life outcomes from children undergoing this education. But things should bold well. Their reasoning is that there is an abundance of knowledge and technology readily available to students and that schools must know teach children how to utilise the available knowledge to achieve their goals rather than memorising vast banks of knowledge.

In contrast the educational authorities in the UK are reforming the education system and legislation in a way that allows maximum opportunities for profits to be made.

A Sheep, A Pig And The Meaning Of Educational Progress

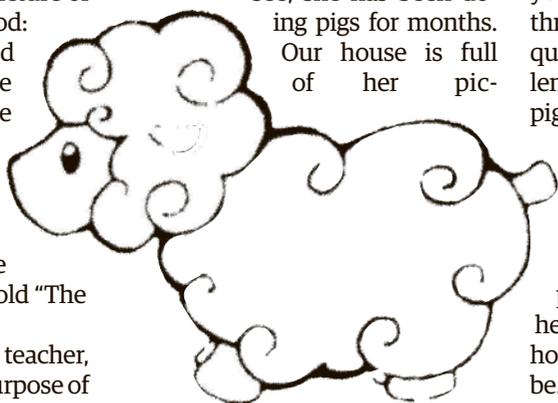
Some years ago, in a Liverpool Nursery School where the headteacher was very keen on Records of Achievement, a four-year-old child asked the headteacher if she could put one of the two pictures she had done that day into her portfolio. The answer was 'Yes, which one?'. Now the child had done one picture of a sheep and one picture of a pig. The picture of the pig was really very good: clearly a well-delineated and recognisable pig. The picture of the sheep, on the other hand, was not very good at all.

When she asked the child which picture she wanted to choose the head was surprised to be told "The sheep, of course".

Being an experienced teacher, and remembering that a purpose of

Records of Achievement was that the child should own the decision about what went into the portfolio, the head refrained from intervening at this point. She did, however, ask the parent who came to collect the child why she thought her child had chosen the poor sheep rather than the much better pig.

The mother replied, "Well you see, she has been doing pigs for months. Our house is full of her pictures of pigs. That's her first sheep."



In other words, the achievement identified by the child as worthy of celebration was the taking of a first step towards new learning.

Having heard the headteacher tell this story it has stuck with me for a long time and I often wonder what happened to that four year old girl when she 'progressed' through a school system that required her to submit the equivalent of better and better pictures of pigs and hide her pictures of sheep.

Cliff Jones, with thanks to Rita McCogley, the headteacher from whom I pinched the story that I have used repeatedly. As far as I know no policy making politician has heard or read the story. Imagine how different our schools might be.

New York Schools mirror UK schools



By George Christoforou

Karen Magee (president of the New York's teachers union) has called for parents to get their children to boycott state testing. The tests are seen by many of New York's teachers as an unreliable measure of teacher quality. The union has posted information on its website instructing parents how to get their children to refuse 3rd grade through to 8th grade English and Maths exams.

The American Statistical Association has said there is no direct link to tie these tests to student performance or teacher evaluation.

Karen Magee is calling for the educational authorities to change their testing practices. She is demanding a different style of tests that are diagnostic that would instead test what the children needed to learn so that



teachers could then set about lessons tailored to the children's needs.

Governor Cuomo sought the most punitive possible evaluation approach to teachers. Despite the evidence against linking teacher evaluation to test scores, Cuomo demanded that 50% of each teacher's evaluation be based on test scores.

However, 70% of teachers do not teach in the tested subjects.

Cuomo also insisted that the views of an independent evaluator count more than that of a principal. The cost of hiring thousands of evaluators will be huge.

Cuomo's actions are creating confrontation with the teachers. Teachers are facing stress and low morale. He is also facing a grave shortage of teachers who are unsurprisingly leaving the profession.

Facebook Does My Libertarian Head In#2 Karl Trevor {50 ¾}

Has Facebook taken you from Absurdity, melancholy and despair to communal inclusive camaraderie in its relentless targeted advertising? I did, just now.

As a stakeholder in the Facebook community which doesn't generate that much Revenue for the GODDAM UK p.l.c, but for Mark Zuckerberg. I will have my say here as well as in the 'Community' or Corporate salesroom.

This Community has standards you know. They are so community focussed that in the 'Post Truth' world of "THEY TUK URR

and a roundabout of 'Antifas' (It's a busy life being a Patriot, typing can be bothersome when there is ethnicity to cleanse.)

On closer inspection the Mussolini swagger is belied by the facial expression of an Infant encountering a whole cucumber. Then Fish and Chips, a tour of the Turner Contemporary with an installation featuring notable Establishment and iconic UK names all of which are Immigrants. In one section Rupert Murdoch, Jerry Hall and John Lydon are in close proximity.



GOSHDARN JOBS"(Not Steve Jobs - he died of natural causes induced by Space Lizards, Muslims and Mexican Rapists). After allowing Billionnaires to bypass trickle down funding of Democratic Governments in an efficiency and Margin improving measure and elect Daniel Clamp from Gremlins II (that is 2 btw) Mr Zuckerburg seized the day and announced a feasibility study into potential Apps that filter out the less profitable 'Fake News'. Hurrah.

It all sounds ridiculous, and hopefully laughable of course that won't here. I t will be fine. PLING!

A black hoodie with your Home town, a map with Wales and Scotland removed from the UK with the George Cross and Union flag on it. Bit weird. Having opposed the 'White Lives Matter march in Margate this is style.

Now from a distance The Narzis appered to be two dozen eggs floating on a High Viz raft in a sea of bewildered Residents

No tah ZuckerCorp.

In need of a lift before smashing my phone I saw another Ad for Anti-Establish Mints. Under which the Genius and Arch #thuginista Carl J Dean commented "THE MINT WITH THE PROLE!" Nasal discharge of Tea from the balmy sub-tropics of Yorkshire. My faith in Absurdity, humour and the benefits of collective and cooperatives restored. I turned my phone off, chatted on the phone with a Mr Poole. Then typed this. And sent it in to a Collective that functions mainly through Facebook. Don't blame the Medium, blame the people who profit. Hurt their margins, don't consume, read, write, post create traffic. We will generate a Niche to be to be exploited. But the Billionnaires will be driven by what we demand not what they dictate.

LIBERTY, FRATERNITY & MINTY FRESHNESS ALL ROUND.

Later Instigators!

Best Wishes Jenny King, have faith.



A MARRIAGE OF INCONVENIENCE

As there have been other books with the above title, so the film about a future king of Bechuanaland (now Botswana) and his white English wife is called The United Kingdom. If you plan to see this film could I suggest you also try to read a book about this couple by Michael Dutson which is entitled A Marriage of Inconvenience: Persecution of Ruth and Seretse Khama.

Not wishing to spoil anyone's enjoyment of the film I would like to just give a little background to what was both a love story and a political time bomb at the time.

Seretse was given that name, which means clay that binds, to celebrate the healing of a rift between his father and grandfather. Aged four he became ksogi (king) of the Bamangwato tribe in Bechuanaland (then a British Protectorate), with his uncle Tshekeda Khama as regent and guardian.

Seretse was educated in South Africa, university in the USA, before attending Balliol College, Oxford, then training as a barrister in London. There he met Ruth Williams, an English clerk at Lloyd's of London in 1947. A year later they were married. This divided opinion amongst his tribe, angered the apartheid government of South Africa and embarrassed the British Government.

Theretse ordered his nephew to return to Bechuanaland and have the marriage annulled because a chief, as servant of his people, could not marry as he pleased. There was great division among the tribe, but after a number of kglotas (public meetings) Seretse's claim to be Kgosi was upheld in 1949. The British Government under Clement Atlee succumbed to pressure from neighbouring South Africa and both Seretse

and his uncle were banished for some time from their homeland. The UK was heavily in debt after the war and felt they could not risk losing cheap gold, and particularly uranium supplies, from South Africa. Our government recognised Seretse as a fit ruler of his people, but because of his 'unfortunate marriage' they chose to 'buy' the good will of South Africa and deny the will of the Bamangwato people.

Having waived his right to be ksogi Seretse returned to Bechuanaland with Ruth in 1956. Ruth became well liked and respected by the local population. In 1961 Seretse moved from involvement in local politics to found the Bechuanaland Democratic Party. In 1965 he became Prime Minister, pushing for the country's independence. On the country becoming the new independent state of Botswana, Seretse became the President, and in 1966 the queen appointed him Knight Commander of the British Empire (KBE). He was President until his death in 1980.

LEGACY. Under Seretse and the next three Presidents including currently his son, Lieutenant-General Ian Khama have overseen great change in Botswana.

Since independence, Botswana, has had the highest average economic growth rate in the world, averaging about 9% per year from 1966 to 1999. At the time of Independence it was rated the third poorest country in the world!

It is rated the least corrupt country in Africa, according to international corruption watchdog, Transparency International, and ahead of many European and Asian countries.

Botswana has, according to Standard and Poors, the best credit risk in Africa and on a par with many countries around the world.

Botswana has carefully avoided being a base for militant movements without initially spending much on defence, relying on a military police force until a small professional military was formed in 1977 because of incursions by South African and Rhodesian forces.

Literacy rates have risen considerably from a low base.

Shortly before his death he helped negotiate the end of the Rhodesian civil war seeing the creation of an independent Zimbabwe and the creation of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference. One of the main goals was for the Member States to be less dependent on South Africa and to introduce programmes and projects which would influence the Southern African countries and whole region.

I will end with his own words found in the inscription on his grave.

"Lefatshe ke kereke yame. Go dira molemo tumelo yame.

The world is my church. To do good my religion"



Has 'Disgusted Of Tunbridge Wells' Finally Lost It? The Telegraph's Hatemongering Propaganda For The Middle-Class Crosses The Line

It's a tricky dilemma for a newspaper proprietor. Whether to support the fusty old institutions of Britain's Establishment, such as Parliament and the Rule of Law, or to get behind a new Anglo-American neo-fascism based on an unholy alliance of a large angry mob, a bunch of rightwing politicians and some billionaire libertarian business people.

Not so tricky for The Daily Telegraph it seems, which was for years about as establishment as a newspaper could get, even under the ownership of the disgraced Canadian businessman and Tory peer Conrad Black. The paper has lurched further and further to the right since the billionaire Barclay Brothers, Frederick and David, purchased the title in 2004. It may look different to the tabloids, presented on the only surviving daily broadsheet, but editorially it is indistinguishable from the other far right titles. It may not rant hysterically like the tabloids, but it puts out the same messages; climate-science denial, freemarket crackpottery, anti-EU myths, anti-public sector and welfare state, Corbyn-smearing, anti-renewable energy, Islamophobia, migrant-blaming and now an unrestrained embrace of alt-right Trumpery.

With the Daily Mail, Sun and Express grabbing attention by competing with each other to stoke the angry mob's fires over the High Court's judgement that Parli-

mentary sovereignty still exists in this country, The Telegraph - more grown up and more upmarket - has been ducking under the radar, but feeding the same ultra-rightwing propaganda to its readers. Its 'The Judges versus The People' headline confirmed that the paper has decided to back the new wave of far-right nationalism. It has since run a series of pro-Trump pieces, by the likes of Janet

The Telegraph

Daley and Simon Heffer, explaining how an ignorant, dangerous, science-denying, racist, tax-dodging, misogynistic billionaire plutocrat is going to be great for the world in general and ordinary working people in particular.

Anti-intellectual ukipper Paul Nuttall's point-missing piece (19th November) on how 'post-truth' should be immediately removed from the Oxford Dictionaries to which it has only just been added because politicians have always lied, was a fine example of the paper's twisted logic, the irony of which was highlighted by Angela Epstein's 'The panic over 'fake news' on Facebook is just the lat-

est liberal ploy to shut down free speech'. After all, the freedom of the press to pump out lies must be protected from our new bogey-man, the liberal elitist, at all costs. Nothing post-truth about that then.

Other contributions last weekend included the terrifying 'Liz Truss must harness Michael Gove's radicalism to help our prisons' by Bruce Anderson, another attack on wind-generated electricity by the eternally wrong climate-denier Christopher Booker and yet another attack on judges by former editor and Thatcher hagiographer Charles Moore.

The strikingly nasty, unsympathetic tone and its lack of any attempt at objectivity place the Barclay Brothers' paper in the same league as the Richard Desmond, Rothermere and Murdoch titles. It doesn't matter whether it's White Van Man or Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells who is being encouraged to join the new wave of hate and distortion. If pressure is going to be applied to advertisers to avoid The Sun, Daily Mail and Express it should include the Telegraph too. It may look civilised, but its hatemongering and far-right zealotry is no less unpleasant.

Stuart Dye 22/11/16

New post on Pride's Purge



Anger after The Sun photoshops out WW2 veteran from Remembrance Sunday service
by Tom Pride

The Sun has sparked anger after it photoshopped out a war veteran who was attending a Remembrance Sunday service with

Jeremy Corbyn. The Sun has now deleted the vile article - which was attempting to smear the Labour leader:



Jeremy Corbyn dances his way down Downing Street as he attend...
The Sun - 12 hours ago
JEREMY Corbyn was pictured DANCING outside Downing Street as he attended Remembrance Sunday in ... Before the Labour leader laid a wreath at the Cenotaph to honour Britain's war dead he was spotted jiggling as ...

The Sun's photoshopped pictures bizarrely claimed Corbyn was dancing:



In fact, Corbyn was chatting with his constituent, Second World War veteran George Durack:



When are British people going to finally photoshop out of our country this vile excuse of a newspaper?

CLOWDIA's Cooperative Movie Of The Month



A CURIOUS LIFE: A film by Dunstan Bruce - The Story of the Levellers and 25 Years of Subsidised Dysfunctionality. Despite over 25 years of rock 'n' roll excess and music press vitriol, the Levellers are still alive...and still here.

In Dunstan Bruce's fascinating film 'A Curious Life'; Jeremy Cunningham, the eccentric artist, archivist and whiskey loving bassist of the Levellers takes us on an often hilarious journey; exploring how the band rose to fame from headlining Glastonbury and the plethora of gold and platinum albums to the depths of drug-fuelled despair to ultimately surviv-



ing and thriving in the present day. This uplifting tale reminds us that behind every band there is always a story of struggle for expression, acceptance and survival; and that by battling their demons, against all the odds, the Levellers landed in the 21st Century completely self-sufficient, releasing their own records, running their own studio (The Metway in Brighton) and staging their own Beautiful Days festival since 2003: without the need of any corporate sponsorship. This film destroys those long-held preconceptions of the Levellers and forces you to reassess the band' because the Levellers are clearly one of the original DIY bands and their unique way of working is evidence of that.

1. A Curious Life (Running time 78 mins | Directed by Dunstan Bruce | Produced by Dandy Films | Cert 15).

2. Deleted scenes (Including Levellers at the BBC Folk Awards, and former NME journalist Andrew Collins charming and apologetic re-reading of his notorious Levelling The Land review.

3. Rare archive material:

1 - Beat The Blues benefit gig @ The Gloucester, Brighton, October 1988

2 - Live at The Richmond, Brighton, September 1989

3 - Live at Glastonbury 1992

Includes CD - Live in Dublin

Story Of The Levellers - A Film By Dunstan Bruce [DVD]
DVD
£14.78 Prime
Get it by Tomorrow, Nov 24
Eligible for FREE UK Delivery
26 offers from £9.94
★★★★★ (22)
BBFC Rating: Suitable for 15 years and over

A Curious Life
Starring Mark Chadwick
£3.49 - £7.99 Rent or Buy
★★★★★ (22)
BBFC Rating: Suitable for 15 years and over

POETRY CORNER

Autumn Winds – Ian Charles

There are big winds
Up in that autumn sky;
Before a patch of lemon sun
Dark horses rocket by.

The rain holds off for now,
And boreal light, shining bright
Yellow and grey, clothed as day,
Lays warmth on chilly night.

Birds pass by ahead of likely rain
And leaves flutter on dismal air;
When those winds descend to earth
The trees will starkly bare.
Then winter wearing grey, and white
With skies that darkly grow
Their purple clouds thick with night,
Shall talk of bitter snow.

Peter Wicks

Bread and Dripping

We kids were a hardy lot
Living on cabbage and spuds
Hardships of war years I've not forgot.
Breakfast was a bowl of oats
Made with water, looking like glue
You could swallow it down, after a
chew.
But bread and dripping, my favourite
bite
Better than Bovril or even black Mar-
mite
We spread the lot on bread, in those
distant days
Even condensed milk was all the rage.
Bread and dripping, from a Sunday
roast
Spread on bread, but best on toast
A pinch of salt, it was done
Taste the flavours till the very last
crumb.
Even now, at 79 I remember margarine
Smear'd on hair, but we drew the line
If mum used the dripping pot
For this was the best breakfast
We ever got.

Poor Moon – Mick Hayes

Faint breath of sweet exhaling wind,
Restless sighs which faintly blow,
Ceaseless calls of night bird black,
Staying time which yearns to flow.

What can it not? That bond of twain,
That cruel pain that cannot taint,
That cannot render souls bereft,
That only tenders sad restraint.

Bloom on, ye everlasting light
That sweetly scents the pitchy night.

Peter Wicks

Globalisation

Such a nasty word to baffle the poor
A creeping cancer and a festering sore
Destroying this World with the ultimate
sin
Of enslaving humans for the stinking rich
Their morals and principles long ago
ditched
They will tell you and have you believe
This is Globalisation and it has to be
But when is enough ever enough?
How much wealth does one man need?
When the obsession for money turns into
greed
From India to China across all seven seas
The "Bandits" from the West come to de-
ceive
Chairman Mao would turn in his grave
If he saw his peoples turned into Slaves.
Gandhi would rise from the dead
If he witnessed the morsels his people
are fed
Women and children are turned into
slaves
As the "Dollar Almighty" digs mass
graves
Why is it called the third world?

TUS IS A PRESS RELEASE FROM SHEFFIELD

On the 29th of November fast food workers in 340 cities across the USA will strike again for 15 and a union this time they will be joined on strike by Airport workers in Chicago, who will also be backed by 20 demonstrations at 20 Airports across the States.

Tens of thousands will rally in over 340 cities. Fast-food workers, are going on STRIKE.

Airport workers will hold major protests at nearly 20 of the nation's busiest airports. And workers at O'Hare will go on STRIKE to demand fair pay for hard work.

To top it all off, we will launch a historic wave of civil disobedience in front of McDonald's restaurants from coast to coast.

November 29 is four years to the day from the moment this movement began. Since then, we've won raises for 22 million workers - and we won't back down now.

We are the 64 million hardworking Americans that make far too little to live. We reject the politics of divisiveness that tear America apart by race, religion, ethnicity, and gender.

We say unequivocally - any efforts to block wage increases, gut workers' rights, deport immigrants, or support racism or racist policies will be met with unrelenting opposition.

AS part of this global movement for these demands workers in Britain will take to the streets in Sheffield on the 17th of December to demand a pay raise for all & £10 an hour real living wage,

The march will gather at Devonshire green Sheffield on the 17th of December 1pm to march and rally at Sheffield city hall.

Ian Hodson national president of the BFAWU said

"In this toxic environment of division and poverty it is upon us as ordinary workers to stand together and fight the forces of division. It is the responsibility of our Unions to stand alongside community organisations, to organise the unity of our class against all those that would divide us, it is the belief

FIGHT FOR



JOIN A UNION Win a Rise

March & Rally

Assemble 1pm Sat 17th December Devonshire Green S3 7SW



of our union that we can bring together workers of all backgrounds to fight for a real living wage of £10 an hour and finally bury the myth that immigration causes the decline in wages. We understand that it is the drive to increase shareholders dividends and the companies that make millions of pounds in profit that force down wages at the

expense of every worker, be that migrant or other. Join us in Sheffield as we say no to division no to poverty yes to a real living wage for all."

Steve pub worker says

"pay is too low, I can't afford to live on these low wages and high rents I'm forced to share a home

with 3 other men which makes the idea of starting a family almost impossible for my girlfriend and I, I struggle to plan my life around a zero hour contract and have very little free time to enjoy my life"

Emily fast food worker Says

"I worry for my children; I hope that they don't have to live the life that I am living. I'd like to send them



Ian Hodson

to college when they finish school but I worry I won't be able to afford to help them when they leave school on my wages id like another job but all the jobs are the same low paid and casual"

Martin Mayer secretary of Sheffield Trades Council says

"Sheffield families are among the worse off already and are seeing real household incomes falling year by year under current and past Tory Governments. Families in work but on low incomes depend on benefits like working family's tax credits and housing benefit which are being cut by this Government."

Sheffield Needs a Pay Rise was launched by John McDonnell shadow chancellor and Sheffield trades council, with the support of GMB, BFAWU UNITE & USDAW Unions alongside community campaigns.

This is written on behalf of the Sheffield Needs a pay rise Organising committee for interviews and more information contact.

Sheffieldneedsapayrise@outlook.com

Tele 07739326006
Twitter @sheff4Ten #Sheff4Ten
Facebook @sheff4Ten

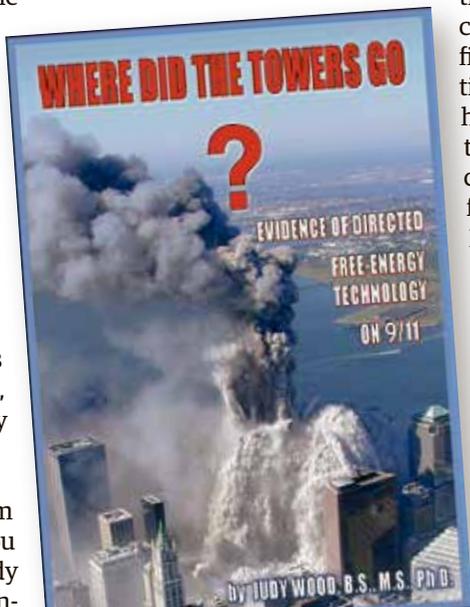
By Alastair Norman

Where Did the Towers go? Evidence of Directed Free Energy Technology on 9/11 is the first and, to date, the only complete forensic analysis of the events that took place at the World Trade Centre on September 11th 2001, available in the public domain. Dr Wood does not theorise about who was responsible for the destruction of the WTC 9/11 but instead looks at the empirical scientific evidence of what actually caused the destruction of the buildings. The book does not speculate about "whodunit?", it looks at what happened that day. The author - who has advanced degrees in engineering subjects - in my opinion, has written the most important book of the 21st Century. This book should be in every School, College, University, and Library across the world.

In writing this review, I am not going to try and convince you of the truth that author, Dr Judy Wood has uncovered. If you are in-

A review of Dr Judy Wood's book, Where Did the Towers go?

terested, you will need to read the book yourself to fully appreciate its importance to humanity. The lavishly illustrated 500+ pages, split



into 22 chapters, should all be read in order and in full. Various aspects of what happened on 9/11 are analysed, including such things as: the jumpers, the seismic data associated with the destruction, weird fires, toasted cars, and "dustification" of the buildings, including how the dust cloud rolled out into the city. There is also data about changes in the Earth's magnetic field on 9/11 and even data about Hurricane Erin, which was right off the coast of New York on the morning of 9/11 (This went largely unreported in the media). The most important thing, is without doubt, the "dustification" aspect - the book proves that about 85% of the buildings turned to dust before they hit the ground. In trying to establish what caused this to happen, a comparison is made between empirical evidence from the events of 9/11

and the scientific experiments and tests conducted by Nikola Tesla and Canadian researcher John Hutchison. This comparison leads to the conclusion that a technology related to cold fusion (low energy fusion) was responsible for turning the world trade centre buildings to dust in mid-air. For anyone out there who believes that bombs, thermite, or mini nuclear devices were used, the book also discusses the evidence which shows these

"85% of the buildings turned to dust before they hit the ground"

theories like the "hijackers" theory, must be wrong.

In short, Where Did the Towers Go? Irrefutably proves that the World Trade Centre buildings did

not collapse to the ground under their own weight. The buildings were turned to dust in mid-air before a gravity driven collapse was possible. It also proves that highly-classified technology exists that can turn concrete and solid steel beams to dust in a matter of seconds. This technology is being kept from the public. It should not be used for destructive purposes. It should provide us with an unlimited source of free and clean energy that could end poverty, stop pollution, and negate the need for pointless wars over oil and resources! If this sounds unbelievable, for the sake of humanity please read Where Did the Towers Go?

Dr Judy Wood (BSc, MSc, PhD) Where Did the Towers Go? Evidence of Directed Free Energy Technology on 9/11, (published by The New Investigation)

TOP 5 Political songs

As voted on by our readers



John Lennon (working class hero) a really easy song to play being a 3 chord trick, but sang by the master of sardonic wit. From the album "The plastic Ono band" it sums up what the Tories think of us, "you are all f..."



UB40 (ONE IN TEN) a song from the Thatcher era and still sounding fresh today. For those of you too young to remember this Birmingham band took their name from the old dole card of the time



The Jam (GOING UNDERGROUND) That was back when JAM wasn't an acronym for just about managing



Green day (AMERICAN IDIOT) If we think we have bad politicians then just imagine how you would feel if you had Bush and Trump



Bob Dylan (THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING) I hope Zimmerman fans are not upset if I say he bottled out of real protest and went commercial

Here are a few others that did not make the top 5 but are in my opinion far better songs than the Dylan one.

THE RED FLAG, THE INTERNATIONALE, Ghost town (the specials) If you tolerate this then your children will be next (Manic Street Preachers) Redemption song (MARLEY) Killing in the name - Rage Against The Machine, Mississippi Goddam (Nina Simone) shipbuilding (ROBERT WYATT), something inside so strong (Labi Siffre)

For a play list of all suggestions see our website.

Down and Out in Paris and London (1933) – George Orwell

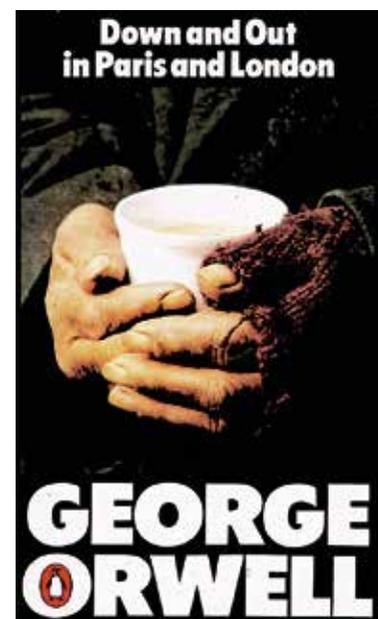
(Penguin, 2001 edition)

George Orwell is a name recognised around the world for his outstanding contribution to literature. He ensured himself an immortal legacy with the publication of Nineteen Eighty-Four, where he introduced the world to his harrowing vision of a very believable dystopian future. Years earlier, however, Orwell wrote a very different book in the form of Down and Out in Paris and London.

Coming from a rich family, Orwell moved to Paris in 1928 to work on a novel and observe the living conditions of the working class. Whilst there, Orwell was suddenly plunged into poverty. This book deals with the experiences he had, and the fascinating people he met during his time in Paris, and later in London.

"an exquisitely written piece of social observation"

Down and Out stands apart from Orwell's other work because he approaches these experiences with complete naivety and a sense of total impartiality. So instead of Orwell centring this book around his political views, it is simply an exquisitely written piece of social observation. The result of this is that we get a much more 'free' Orwell, lacking both influence and agenda. He feels the need neither to over-exaggerate nor to over-dramatise, yet his brutal honesty will strike a chord with



anyone who has come close to this standard of living.

Another fascinating yet disturbing element of this book is just how much of it remains relevant to this day. At one point Orwell manages to get a job in a Parisian hotel. Nearly ninety years later, the parallels from this job and modern jobs in hospitality are astounding. The absurdity of an industry that requires underpaid, and often underappreciated, workers to do the work of two during mealtime hours and seasonal months is something that will resonate with anyone who has worked in a kitchen or on the shop floor of a restaurant. (Those on zero hour contracts will also notice that little has changed when it comes to long-term job security in some of these jobs.)

In the second half of the book,

Orwell takes to the streets of London, living amongst the homeless population. His observations of society's strong prejudice, and the humiliating way these people were treated, makes you question how much has really changed when we have anti-homeless spikes appearing across the country.

Beyond its social commentary, Down and Out's key strength is the wonderfully eccentric characters Orwell meets along the way, from Boris the ex-Russian soldier to Bozo the homeless street artist. Despite dealing with serious themes, the book itself never feels like heavy reading, and the narrative breezes along at a swift pace as you're absorbed into what Orwell describes as 'the world that awaits you if you are ever penniless'.

Down and Out will never be praised amongst critics the way Animal Farm or Nineteen Eighty-Four are, and it doesn't come close to having the same social impact. Despite this, Down and Out in Paris and London is absolutely essential reading. The book has a freshness that Orwell's later work lacks, and its comments on class and social history are extremely satisfying to read. Furthermore, the observations and conclusions Orwell makes in this book would become the groundwork for Orwell's entire philosophy, and the books he would go on to write in the future.

What are your thoughts on this book? Do you have any suggestions for books you wish me to write about in the future? Feel free to contact me on Twitter @RP_Geraghty.

John McDonnell Responds to Donald Trump's Election:

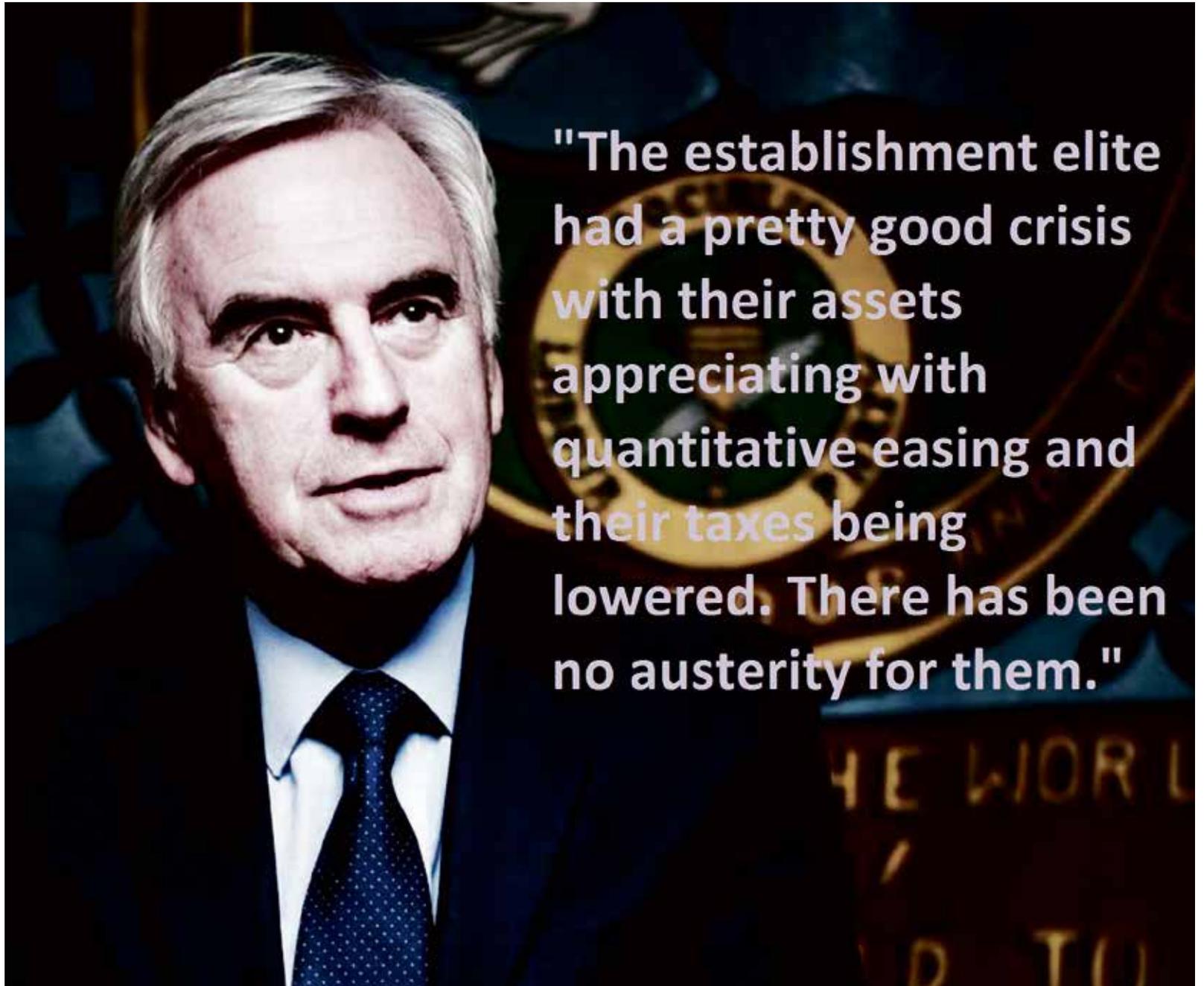
The election of Trump demonstrates a crisis of legitimacy not just of the economic model that has dominated capitalist economies for the last 30 years but also of the political system associated with it. Neoliberalism as the economic theory driving political decision-making since the days of Thatcher and Reagan is collapsing around the ears of the politicians who have espoused it.

I have heard it sometimes argued in left circles that we shouldn't use the terms neoliberalism or austerity because they are meaningless to most people. Sometimes this verges on a patronising attitude to working class people as though we can't get our minds round concepts and theory. This is patent rubbish as demonstrated by the hundreds of people turning up to, and participating creatively in, each meeting I have convened around the country to talk about our economy and economics.

People have no illusions about the failure of the neoliberal trickle down theory that if you make the rich richer, somehow some of this wealth will trickle down to the rest of us. They have witnessed the tax cuts to the rich and the corporations and they have seen successive governments turn a blind eye to industrial scale tax evasion and avoidance by the wealthy and big business. They have experienced the crisis caused by this type of politics because it is they who have been forced to pay for it in pay cuts and cuts to the public services they rely upon. The Brexit and Trump votes were the product of anger that the economic and political systems that promised to deliver so much have failed all but the very rich.

The crash of 2007/08 was the first to shake people's confidence in the neoliberal system and its leaders, especially in the financial sector. In some countries it forced revolt onto the agenda. The first wave was exemplified by Occupy in our cities, Syriza in Greece and Podemos in Spain. There was a rush to stabilise the system and also politically to close the waters over the crisis quickly to stem further revolt.

Ironically the state that was reviled in neoliberal theory was used to stabilise the system with a set of emergency liquidity measures and the introduction of a grinding longer-term austerity programme. After six years of austerity with low wages and the intensification of exploitation with increasing job insecurity, the expansion of forced self-employment and zero-hours contracts, the erosion of working conditions and even the undermining of future pensions, people began waking up to the fact that, despite their sacrifices, nothing had changed. The same freeloading, tax dodging elite were in still in control and ripping them off. In fact most of the establishment elite had a pretty good crisis with their



BUILD A REAL PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE!

assets appreciating with quantitative easing and their taxes being lowered. There has been no austerity for them.

This growing awareness that nothing has changed - but has in fact got worse - has mobilised a

majority of people to use the first major electoral opportunities to demand change. It is pure historical contingency that these electoral opportunities were the EU referendum in the UK and the election for a President in the US.

The irony is that in the US in particular, having been deprived of the chance to vote for a radical left alternative in Bernie Sanders, large numbers voted for a billionaire demagogic oligarch, allowing the vagaries of the US electoral college system to deliver the presidency to Trump without an electoral majority.

In the UK the vote went against a system that many people lost all faith in and which they felt had ignored and neglected them. Ironically again some of this disillusionment found its expression in support for UKIP, a party led by a city stockbroker, whose main em-

ployment for many years has been in the European parliamentary system that he expresses contempt for. To have mobilised a campaign against an anti-establishment elite by members of that establishment elite is the height of all ironies.

Faced with the prospect of a programme of deeply reactionary policies in both the US and UK, the left needs to forge ahead in creating a real progressive alliance of forces - not just to oppose this threat to society but to create the alternative.

A real progressive alliance will comprise not Lib Dem Tories who would still be implementing austerity in government if the electoral maths had been different in 2015, but at its heart the Labour and trade union movement, the numerous liberation groups and struggles, the anti-austerity campaigns fighting against privatisation and cuts to the NHS and public services, the climate change and environmental campaigners, and the vast number of civil society organisations that have a profound sense of unease at the society that could emerge under Trump and May.

Let's seize the moment and start the work to build that real progressive alliance.

<https://labourbriefing1.wordpress.com/subscriptions/>

LABOUR BRIEFING

JOKES

Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one - and let the other one off.

A man walks into a bar with a roll of tarmac under his arm and says: "Pint please, and one for the road"

A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He slides up to the bar and announces: "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."

Three old men are talking about their aches, pains and bodily functions. The 70 year old man says, "I have this problem. I wake up every morning at seven and it takes me twenty minutes to pee." The 80 year old man says, "My case is worse. I get up at eight and I sit there and grunt and groan for half an hour before I finally have a bowel movement." The 90 year old man says, "At seven I pee like a horse, and at eight I crap like a cow." "So what's your problem?" ask the others. "I don't wake up until nine!"

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named 'Amal.' The other goes to a family in Spain, they name him Juan'. Years later; Juan sends a picture of himself to his mum. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wished she also had a picture of Amal. Her husband responds, "But they are twins. If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."

A lawyer dies and goes to Heaven. "There must be some mistake," the lawyer argues. "I'm too young to die. I'm only 55." "Fifty-five?" says Saint Peter. "No, according to our calculations, you're 82." "How'd you get that?" the lawyer asks. Answers St. Peter, "We added up your time sheets."

	+		+		=	30
	+		+		=	20
	+		+		=	9
	+		x		=	?

By Alan Davies & Andrew Keir

WYTHENSHAWE LADYBOYS

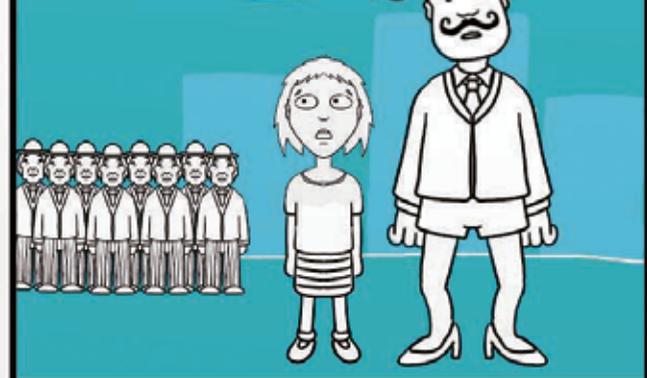
THE LADYBOYS DAY OUT...



DADDY, THESE PEOPLE FRIGHTEN ME!



NOW, NOW DEAR, LIVE AND LET LIVE!



QUIZ!

Answers
 1. The Yellow Submarine, 2. Happy Birthday,
 3. Irving Berlin, 4. Robin Van Persie, 5. 20, 6.
 Hippopotamus, 7. Dolls, 8. Aesop, 9. Young
 Guns, 10. Pussy Riot, 11. Attica, 12. Ullswater, 13.
 Leicester Square, 14. Jean Alexander, 15. Nero,
 16. Daimler, 17. Any dream will do, 18. Little
 house on the prairie, 19. Ireland, 20. Namia

1. The Blue Meanies were the enemy of the Beatles in which film?
2. What song is most commonly sung to celebrate someone getting a year older?
3. Who composed the songs 'Puttin on the ritz', 'I've got my love to keep me warm' and 'White Christmas'?
4. What is the name of the Dutch footballer who transferred from Arsenal to Man Utd in Aug 2012 for £23 million?
5. How many sides does an icosagon have?
6. Which large animal is the only creature thought to produce its own sun tan lotion from its natural secretions?
7. In a musical about gangsters, who are with the guys in the title?
8. Which Greek author was famous for his fables?
9. Which 1988 western saw Emilio Estevez play 'Billy The Kid' alongside Charlie Sheen and Kiefer Sutherland?
10. Which Russian punk band were jailed for two years in Aug 2012 for their anti-Putin protest and inciting hooliganism in an orthodox church?
11. Which historical region of Greece includes the capital, Athens?
12. Glenridding and Pooley Bridge stand at opposite ends of which lake, the 2nd largest in the Lake District?
13. Where in London is there a bronze statue of Charlie Chaplin?
14. What is the name of the actress who played Hilda Ogden in Coronation Street?
15. Who is reported to have played his fiddle while Rome burned?
16. What is the surname of the inventor of the world's first motorcycle?
17. Which song from 'Joseph and his technicolour dreamcoat' gave Jason Donovan a No 1 UK hit in 1991?
18. Which TV show from the '70s and 80's featured Michael Langdon as Charles In-galls living on a farm with his wife and 4 daughters?
19. In which country did Posh and Becks marry?
20. Which fantasy kingdom was found at the back of the wardrobe and featured Aslan and a white witch?



Pot roast beef has long been a traditional favourite but

Pot roast beef has long been a traditional favourite but I love to play around with the flavours. Adding red wine to a pot roast recipe is quite common but coffee and cinnamon less so. It may seem a slightly incongruent combination but I assure you the long, slow cooking marries them together in a sensational way. I first encountered the beef and cinnamon combination at the in Belgravia. It was a family celebration meal and, true to form, I had ordered a steak so rare a good vet could have bought it back to life, but two of my sister-in-laws had ordered the cottage pie. They insisted it was so delicious that I must taste it, so I did, and instantly recognised cinnamon in with the beef. It worked beautifully and I have been experimenting with the combination ever since but this is the most spectacular dish so far; the slow cooking is the key. I cannot enthuse enough about the way the cooking liquor for this dish tastes and the resulting gravy it makes.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 – 2lb piece of braising beef
- 2 carrots
- 2 onions
- 4 cloves garlic
- 300ml/1/2 pint each of coffee & red wine
- 1 cinnamon stick (or 1 tbsp cinnamon bark pieces)
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp good salt
- 2 tbsp molasses sugar
- Couple of bay leaves

Method

Sear the beef on all sides in a heavy based frying pan in a little oil. In the same pan brown the stock vegetables. Place the meat and the vegetables in a slow cooker or in an oven proof dish. Heat the wine, coffee, brown sugar, salt, ground cinnamon and cinnamon bark until it comes to the boil. Pour it over the beef and stock vegetables and add boiling water until the meat is covered. Slow cook the dish for 10 hours either in a slow cooker or the lowest heat in the oven until the meat is butter soft. Gently lift the meat out with a slotted spoon and strain the stock vegetables out of the cooking liquor. Reduce the liquor until there is enough to serve four people and thicken with arrowroot. Do not use Bisto, it will make it too salty. Serve with enormous Yorkshire puddings, roast potatoes and lots of lovely vegetables.

And the Weak Suffer What They Must?

(2016) - Yanis Varoufakis
(The Bodley Head, 2016 edition)

Yanis Varoufakis is the former Greek finance minister, and one of the leading faces in Europe's anti-austerity movement. In *And the Weak Suffer What They Must*, Varoufakis takes us through the economic history that led to the formation of the European Union, and eventually the current Eurozone crisis, analysing the problems which are causing so much financial instability for so many of Europe's poorest people.

The book opens with a description of Varoufakis' upbringing in a totalitarian ruled Greece by his defiantly liberal parents. This powerful prologue gives the reader insight into Greece's troubled history as well as an understanding into who Yanis Varoufakis is, what he stands for, and why he is so passionate about a prosperous Europe.

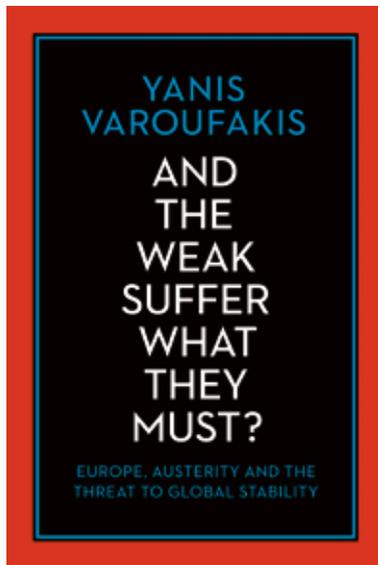
Whilst economics can be a heavy topic (and therefore not always the easiest reading), the analysis is set against a fascinating historical background, taking the reader through history step by step, explaining the events that have brought us to where we are today, and pointing out the missteps that have led us here. From the treaty of Versailles to the formation of the Euro, we see how long the capitalist system has struggled to

deal with the challenges of globalisation and set up a stable monetary system.

Beyond just pointing out mistakes in hindsight, Varoufakis offers real solutions to Europe's financial troubles, most notably in the appendix's A modest proposal where he puts forward four policies to combat four major crises: the banking, debt, investment and social crises that are currently plaguing Europe. He also explains how these could be achieved within current EU law.

Much of the Eurozone crisis links back to Varoufakis' own country. Greece is often demonised as a selfish country whose greed started the dominoes falling in the EU, but Varoufakis gives his own version of events and justifies his defiance against implementing the harsh austerity measures put forward by Brussels, and his eventual resignation when his government was pressured to accept these measures that would eventually lead to total economic collapse.

With our own exit from the EU imminent, many may wonder why this book is relevant to the British people, but the truth is that Britain is suffering from the same problem that is plaguing Europe, and that problem is austerity. *And the Weak Suffer What They Must* is a complete damnation of austerity



and the unnecessary suffering the poorest are being told they must endure. It explains in economic terms why this 'solution' is not helping to solve the problem and offers very real anti-austerity solutions as an alternative.

And the Weak Suffer What They Must is an important book dealing with very current problems and offering very real solutions. It's a great read for anyone who opposes austerity (and could teach a lot to those who support it). On the surface the book is about economics, but at heart the book is about people, and how a united Europe could serve them better if it was run in their interests, as opposed to the interests of global capitalism.

What are your thoughts on this book? Do you have any suggestions for books you wish me to write about in the future? Feel free to contact me on Twitter @RP_Geraghty.

Privacy on the Net

By Victoria Serge

An Austrian friend of mine put privacy to be like this:

When you go to the bathroom at work, everyone knows what you are doing, but you don't want everyone to see what you are doing.

Privacy is something we take for granted in our lives. Our post should not arrive opened. We do not expect that the state agencies should open up our post and record who sent it and the date it was sent.

We do not expect that telephone calls to our friends and family members should be logged by a state agency.

The Snoopers' Charter allows these things to be done when we use the Internet without a warrant, or a judge.

Privacy has been given the middle-finger by Theresa May.

The Department for Work and Pensions will have access to our browsing history. Those

of us who are not in the best of health could have ammo fired at us from their snooping.

I look up legal experts and follow links that explain how to avoid the investigators that insurance companies use.

I suspect that just browsing such a website will alert the DWP to investigate further, and, as we all know, the DWP is no stranger to punitive actions. If you have called a union help-line, the DWP could know about it and react in a different manner. Just think about it for a moment. The state, in all its different departments and agencies, can get at your data, and make decisions from it, about you.

Given the revelations by Snowden, I suspect we can fear the worst.

The Snoopers' Charter must be repealed by the next Labour Government.

Surveillance of the general population is not democratic - it is authoritarian and serves the ruling class.



STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

CHRIS THE CAREERIST #10



Deal Town Council (By-Election) - Thursday, 24th November, 2016

» Status: Published

Deal Town Council (North Deal Ward) - results

Election Candidate	Party	Votes	%	
Susan Hilary Beer	Labour Party	605	55.15%	Elected
Oliver Charles De Rougemont Richardson	Conservative Party	492	44.85%	Not elected

Dear Word

I need to respond to your article 'England Ireland ties' which, perhaps wisely, contains no by-line. It is intensely annoying to read such a piece written without the slightest irony, and without the slightest attempt to research the historical context. The English did not 'teach' the Irish the English language; it was systematically forced on us. Irish culture was legally and deliberately destroyed in order to avoid a repeat of the 1798 rebellion, which was to be the last attempt to overthrow English rule until 1916. The Catholic Religion was outlawed and Catholics forced to pay a tithe to the hated Anglican Church. Irish traditions were also outlawed and property relations were designed to ensure Catholic farms would be divided up to avoid any accumulation of wealth. The

Irish language was expunged from society. Schools were expressly forbidden to teach Irish, and inspectors were employed to catch out any teacher speaking it in the school; dismissal was the outcome. This policy was successful and the Irish were driven into penury and shame, and when 'The Great Famine' struck, mass emigration left a pitiable population. Right up to the middle of the 20th century, the old culture was viewed with shame and embarrassment. This was not helped by the reactionary Free State government which forced the Irish language and music on people in the most negative and backward way. The Irish language was only just saved from extinction, and now is spoken and used in schools quite widely, but it would be a mistake to say it has been successfully revived. Irish traditional music also almost died out and was successfully revived along with the more modern tradition of 'folk' music. I too, hated the Irish language and it was the most disliked subject in school. A sign of the success of the British occupier I would have to say.

'The Irish language was only just saved from extinction...but it would be a mistake to say it has been successfully revived'

Philip Foxe

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THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

WHY MORE BOMBING WON'T HELP SYRIA

with **Billy Hayes**
and **Shabbir Lakha**

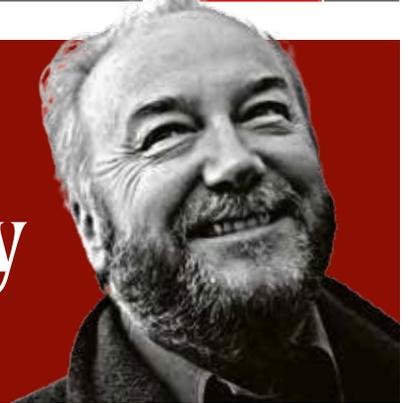
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Stop the War coalition
www.stopwar.org.uk

George Galloway speaks



Many of you will have read about an unpleasant and, at the time, distressing experience I had at the University of Aberdeen earlier this week, which was widely reported in the national news. Someone, who claimed responsibility on Twitter, calling themselves "trans" and an "anarchist", led a five person attack on me as I began my speech, with no intervention from university security, and threw a then unknown substance into my face from point blank range. We had warned the university of a planned protest, which we suspected would be violent, and provided them with the names and faces of the expected aggressors - who did in fact turn out to be the aggressors - yet nothing was done to prevent it.

As someone who has recently been violently attacked a number of times in public, including in broad daylight, this was alarming. I continued as normal, while my pregnant wife bravely tried to detain and then chased after the attackers.

I believe the majority of the population, there is no doubt it does have an appeal to some

I raise this point not only to express my criticisms of the University of Aberdeen - which has still not replied to me - but because it is symptomatic of a wider problem on the "left", or at least of many who self-identify as left-wing, even revolutionary (though they are anything but). Few weeks go by when the "identity politics" crowd don't strike one campus or another, with their "no platform" demands, often employing physical violence. Other recent targets of their rage include Germaine Greer, the world's most famous feminist, and Peter Tatchell, the world's most famous gay rights activist.

I would like to clarify that while Peter Tatchell and I profoundly oppose each other on many political issues, and I hold no candle for him and he none for me, he is someone, like myself, who has travelled around the world and put his life on the line, literally, for his cause. Yet now we both face cowardly intimidation, threats and "no platform" demands from tiny, insignificant

groups with ultra-radical sounding language, who have never lifted a finger for the causes they claim to support, and cannot point to any meaningful achievements in aid of those they claim to defend.

I was not silenced or intimidated by Blair, New Labour and the right wing media during the Iraq war who did all they could to destroy my career and reputation, I've never been silenced by daily abuse from Zionists, racists and terrorist sympathisers, nor by death threats, kidnapping or physical assault by all of these groups. So if the Aberdeen "United Student Left" think they are going to silence me, they had better think again, and I hope more and more people will find the courage to stand up to them and their ilk.

The Return of the Blair Rich Project

The return of the aforementioned war criminal Tony Blair to front line politics - but not to the front line of politics, an important distinction - with the aim of preventing what he sees as the "catastrophe" of Brexit, simply proves that our governing elite, like the Bourbons, learns nothing and forgets nothing. Just today it was reported in the media that a number of his former henchmen/propagandists, including Lord Mandelson, Alistair Campbell and John Sawyer (former head of MI6) met in an exclusive London location - no prizes for guessing what they were talking about.

It does not take too much reading between the lines to see what Blair promises to oversee, albeit as puppet master in the shadows rather than messianic deceiver-in-chief as he once was: a pro-EU, centrist, socially liberal, economically neoliberal, and undoubtedly "interventionist" on the world stage, bloc of Lib Dems, "New" Labour and "Cameronite" Tories. While such a formation would be bitterly opposed by tens of millions of people, I believe the majority of the population, there is no doubt it does have an appeal to some. It would have the support of the media, the establishment and finance capital, and as its social base could appeal to many relatively wealthy, urban professionals, who benefit economically and socially from globalisation and see the national state as little more than an anachronism, an inconvenience.

THIS IS **TORY** BRITAIN?

Under in-work conditionality, those people claiming Universal Credit who are already working up to 35 hours a week are forced to seek more work hours or an extra job as a condition of receiving low-wage top-ups or else face sanctions.

Low-paid workers put through this process report “dehumanising” and “intimidating” experiences. Following years of government rhetoric about prizing “hardworking people”, suddenly many have found themselves subject to the same sanctions as out-of-work claimants.

A woman from Barrow described how she was given a benefit sanction after missing a job centre appointment because she took a last-minute offer of extra part-time work. The punishment is one of three she has received, which she says have left her and her partner on the breadline for a year.

The couple were forced to use Barrow’s foodbank and town community kitchen so they didn’t starve, whilst living without heat or power on occasions when the high tariff pre-payment electricity meter at their rented home ran out of credit.

The woman, who is in her 20s, said: “I was given some extra hours on a Monday morning starting at 7am. My job centre appointment was at 9.30am and I didn’t have any credit on my phone. I took the work and called to explain about the appointment the next day, but it was for a sanction. I got another one for missing a workshop about Twitter. I know how to use Twitter but it didn’t make any difference. They’ll sanction you for anything.”

The sanctions have had such a detrimental effect that the couple faced homelessness when they could no longer afford the rent on their two-bedroom home. They moved into a one-bedroom flat in the town after the landlord offered to accept a deferred deposit.

“We try our hardest,” she told the North West Evening Mail. “I

“I took the work and called to explain about the appointment the next day, but it was for a sanction.”

would love to have a full-time job but we’re really struggling. The stress has made me ill. These sanctions are not fair; they need to be stopped.”

The government claim that sanctions are a method of enforcing “cultural and behavioural change” of people claiming both in-work and out-of-work social security. This of course assumes that people’s behaviours are a prob-

lem in the first place. Sanctions don’t address the decision-making of employers, exploitation, structural problems, such as access to opportunity and resources and labour market constraints.

Barrow councillor and former job centre employee Michael Cassells said there needed to be more flexibility in the system to ensure sanctions were dished out fairly.

“There’s no doubt sanctions are cruel and causing real hardship and, unfortunately, in most cases, people are not told they

can appeal against them, or how to do it. We need this system to be looked at so that people are treated with respect and empathy. Otherwise they simply feel they are trying their best but hitting a brick wall with nowhere to turn to for help.”

It’s not as if the Conservatives have ever valued legitimate collective wage bargaining. In fact their legislative track record consist-

ently demonstrates that they despise it, prioritising the authority of the state above all else.

There are profoundly conflicting differences in the interests of employers and employees. The former are generally strongly motivated to purposely keep wages as low as possible so they can generate profit and pay dividends to shareholders and the latter need their pay and working conditions to be such that they have a reasonable standard of living.

Workplace disagreements about wages and conditions are now typically resolved neither by collective bargaining nor litigation but are left to management prerogative. This is because Conservative aspirations are clear. Much of the government’s discussion of legislation is preceded with consideration of the value and benefit for business and the supply end of the labour market. They want a cheap, disciplined reserve army of labour and low cost workers, unable to withdraw their labour, unprotected by either trade unions or employment rights and threatened with destitution via benefit sanction cuts if they refuse to ac-

cept low paid, low standard work. Similarly, desperation and the “deterrent” effect of the 1834 Poor Law amendment served to drive down wages.

In the Conservative’s view, trade unions distort the free labour market which runs counter to New Right and Neoliberal dogma. Since 2010, the decline in UK wage levels has been amongst the very worst in Europe. The fall in earnings under the Coalition is the biggest in any parliament since 1880, according to analysis by the House of Commons Library, and at a time when the cost of living has spiralled upwards.

In-work conditionality enforces a lie and locates blame within individuals for structural problems - political, economic and social - created by those who hold power. Despite being a party that claims to support “hard-working families,” the Conservatives have made several attempts to undermine the income security of a significant proportion of that group of citizens recently. Their proposed tax credit cuts, designed to creep through parliament in the form of secondary legislation, which tends

to exempt it from meaningful debate and amendment in the Commons, was halted only because the House of Lords have been paying attention to the game.

Benefit sanctions are leaving people almost destitute, with some individuals being pushed toward “survival crime” in order to eat and children missing school because parents can’t pay the bus fare. These are the preliminary findings of a major study into increased restrictions on receiving benefits in the UK welfare system, published in full earlier this year.

The government clearly intends to continue formulating draconian policies which will punish sick, disabled, unemployed, the poorest paid and part-time workers. Meanwhile, the collective bargaining traditionally afforded us by trade unions has been systematically undermined by successive Conservative governments, showing clearly how the social risks of the labour market are being personalised and redefined as being solely the economic responsibility of individuals rather than the government and profit-driven big business employers.





WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Part 4.

In my previous articles I have looked at women who have had an effect on politics during the 18 th., 19 th. and 20 th. centuries in Europe. So I would like to shine a light on the work of an African lady active into the 21 st. century. She is Wangari Matthai whose list of awards from around the globe is immense.

Wangari was born in Kenya in 1940, from the Kikuyu tribe, and brought up on a white owned farm in the Rift Valley. Her upbringing there gave her a strong interest in conservation. More importantly her father allowed her to join in family discussions and express opinions, rare in the male-dominated society at the time.

Educated at a Catholic Boarding school she was sheltered from the troubles of the Mau Mau uprising. She was sent to the United States and Germany to complete a mas-

Assistant Minister for Environment.

In 2004 her work was recognised by the world as she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace"

In so doing she became the first African woman, and the first environmentalist to win the prize. Chair of the Nobel Prize committee, Ole Danbolt Mjos said "Maathai stood up courageously against the former oppressive regime in Kenya. Her unique forms of action have contributed to drawing attention to political oppression—nationally and internationally. She has served as inspiration for many in the fight for democratic rights and has especially encouraged women to better their situation."

There is far more to say about this extraordinary woman than I can do justice to in this short article. Her record speaks for itself:

In 2004 Wangari Matthai's work was recognised by the world as she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace"

ter's degree in Biology and a doctorate. Returning to Kenya she became the first woman to receive a PhD there and went on to be the first woman to become chair of Veterinary Anatomy Nairobi University.

The move to export more cash crops such as timber caused large scale deforestation in Kenya from the 1970s. Coupled with some severe droughts there were severe shortages leading to inter tribal conflict with people fighting for meagre resources. Wangari saw that tree planting would help to reverse the problems and find some employment. She started a movement called Green Belt, which with the backing of the Norwegian Forestry Society has supported conservation projects across Africa.

In the early 80s she was elected chair of The National Council of Women of Kenya (NCWK). This gave her a platform to expand her ideas on conservation and also empower women.

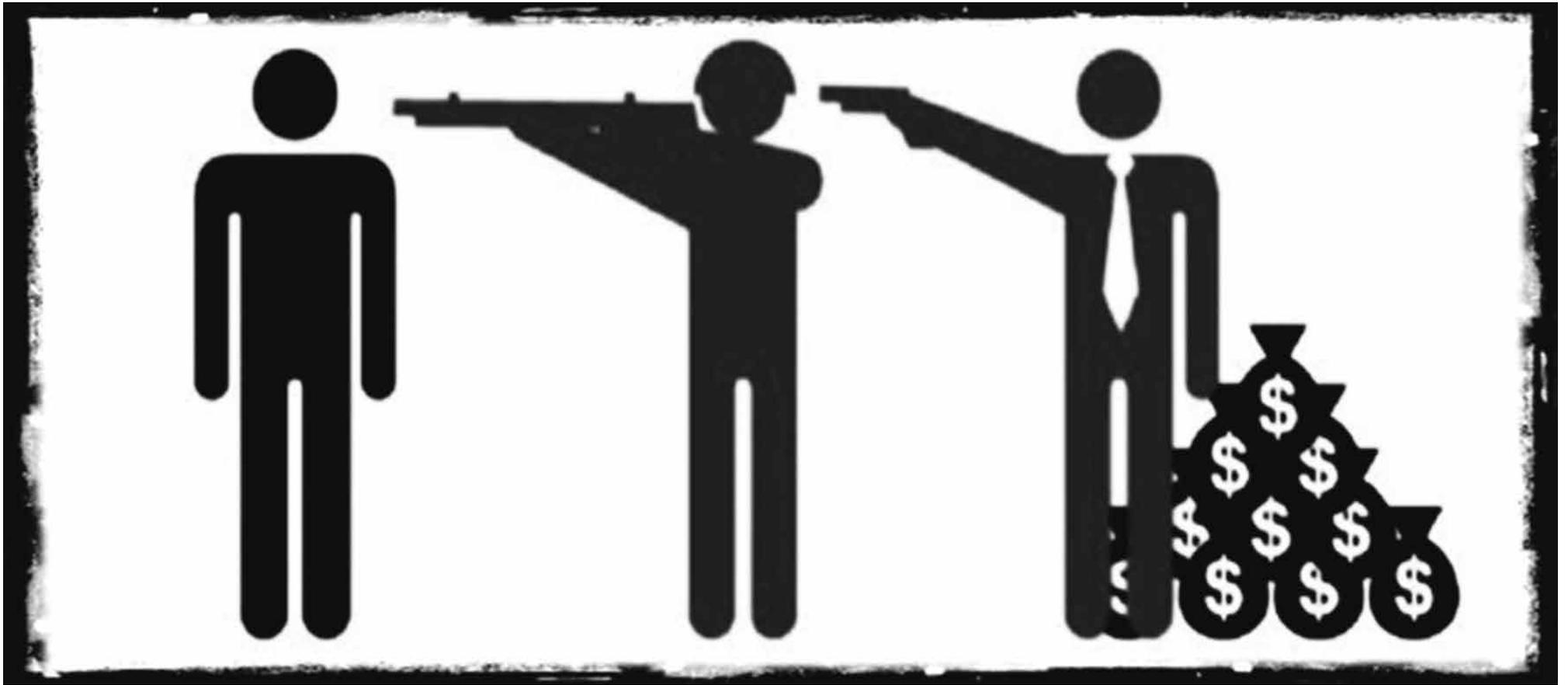
Under President Moi in 1982 Kenya became a one party state. Wangari as a pro democracy activist joined in protests against the regime. In one protest, a hunger strike against building on a public park she was injured along with other protesters when they were forcibly removed. Undeterred she continued to fight for democracy becoming vice president of the Movement for Free and Fair elections. She was elected to Parliament in 2002 when the Rainbow Coalition defeated the incumbent government and was appointed

Honorary doctorates in 15 universities around the world and over 50 awards from 11 countries. Although she succumbed to cancer aged 71 in 2011, her work goes on through many organisations for peace and the environment, including the Millennium Goals Advocacy Group and the Wangari Matthai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI). The WMI will bring together academic research—e.g. in land use, forestry, agriculture, resource-based conflicts, and peace studies—with the Green Belt Movement approach.

I will finish with her words quoted in a book *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who are Changing Our World* edited by Nan Richardson.

"Throughout Africa (as in much of the world) women hold primary responsibility for tilling the fields, deciding what to plant, nurturing the crops, and harvesting the food. They are the first to become aware of environmental damage that harms agricultural production: if the well goes dry, they are the ones concerned about finding new sources of water and those who must walk long distances to fetch it. As mothers, they notice when the food they feed their family is tainted with pollutants or impurities: they can see it in the tears of their children and hear it in their babies' cries."

Barack Obama gestures while posing with his wife Michelle and Wangari Mathai at a tree planting ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya, 28 Aug. 2006.



Part Four

Pigeon Holes

The current crisis in European Politics is ultimately a foreigner to its shores -

Libertarian politics are American. It began as extreme Neoliberalism, an economic style best defined as Thatcher's Britain, Reagan's Corporate America, and Pinochet's Chile - the CIA backed US black project that formed its first manifestation. Its cultish following delivers economics based upon faith - actual faith, lacking scientific evidence - to push policy more 'creationist' than 'evolutionary'. Practical worship of Ayn Rand's insanity, it led to Corporate Law-makers, TTIP and scandal, global financial crisis, crippling bailouts and manufactured austerity. It is The Great Lie of our age.

Libertarianism is best defined by Anarcho-Capitalism, a faith based policy devoted to reducing all government and state to literal non-existence. Destroying every vestige of democracy to grant complete mastery to corporate overlords should sound insane, be-

21ST CENTURY FEUDALISM

at bottom, it relies on a self centred renunciation of your basic, essential humanity. Classic political narratives have little to offer us - that mankind is essentially 'bad' has always been a lie. Some humans are bad, but the vast majority of human beings are - in a more natural, normal state - neither psychotic nor sociopathic. The modern world has us extolling these mental illnesses as positive traits, while taking a

yond the confines of our mental programs. The words we use to organise our thoughts - the programming language of your conscious mind - is limited, and is altered by those who wish to do you harm.

The more you cling to narrative labels, the more you cling to pigeon holes like 'left', 'right', 'tory' or 'labour', the more readily you are to be controlled; 'We pledge allegiance to'...

Owned Proles

The reason a 'mild -euro-sceptic' like Boris would spend three decades of his life preparing to be the face of Vote Leave should be clear - it is part of a 'Tory' masterplan to shorten the struggle for supreme control. The narrative he has devoted three decades to establishing is firmly entrenched in our society and culture; the victims of their schemes have become their greatest advocates. Total victory is within reach for the first time in generations. Let's call it what it is - Full Corporate Control. And this is what it looks like:

"Professor Michael Dougan of Liverpool Law School has stated

that this legal review **"would be an enormous theoretical undertaking"** and that **"it would not be done through parliament"**. He went on to say that there is a strong consensus that the only way that this huge task could be done is **"through an enormous delegation of power from parliament to the government"**, which would mean that the Tory government would be able to set about restructuring pretty much the entire UK legal system to suit their own interests, free from parliamentary scrutiny (so much for voting Brexit to defend democracy eh?). AAV.

We are walking blindly into Libertarian Fantasy Land; subjecting ourselves, our neighbours and our children to faith based economics, all because we are too blinded by their Great Lie to see reality.

The LIE Government is determined to redraw the entirety of British life. Our democracy, our social norms, values and conventions will be overthrown: in the event of Brexit, we have no law.

There is one thing above all else that draws me to such a grand conclusion. Theresa May has overseen

great legal reforms in our country, from Secret Courts to the Snoopers' Charter. As an expert legal reformer she is devoted to removing our Human Rights and leaving European protections. She has repeatedly confirmed her devotion to the removal of our rights - but she has not seen fit to provide even a bullet point replacement. For such an expert this could be no great task. We must conclude she is intentionally stripping our rights, intentionally offering us none.

England has united for this before, after the English Civil War, in a declaration made by Parliament, to William and Mary, in these words: "The Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, do, in the name of the people of England, most humbly and faithfully submit themselves, their heirs and posterities, for Ever."

Everything you take for granted is up for grabs.

If we permit it, everything can and will be dictated by Tory LIEs.

But there is another way.

It is absolutely essential Brexit is overseen by Parliament.

Without this protection, we could wake up in feudal bondage.

cause it clearly is.

It is a system of thought entirely predicated upon this one false principle - that if allowed total control, corporations would somehow act benignly, for the betterment of mankind. All evidence shows this to be an outright lie. It is a fabrication of the wealthiest, packaged and paid for with corporate flair in bite-size gobble pots.

Libertarian Ideological Extremism (LIE) demands you abandon humanity. This is the problem with our modern world;

rapid and brutal toll on ourselves, our children, our ecosystems and our planet - our one resource from which all others come.

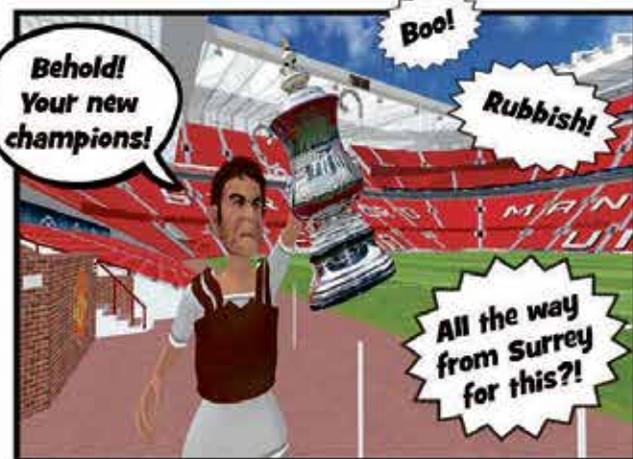
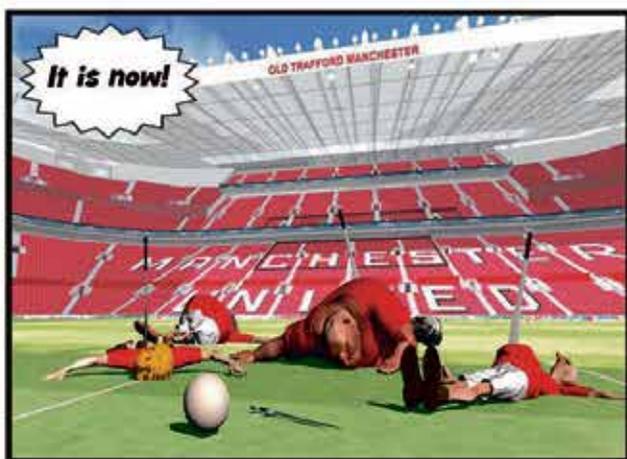
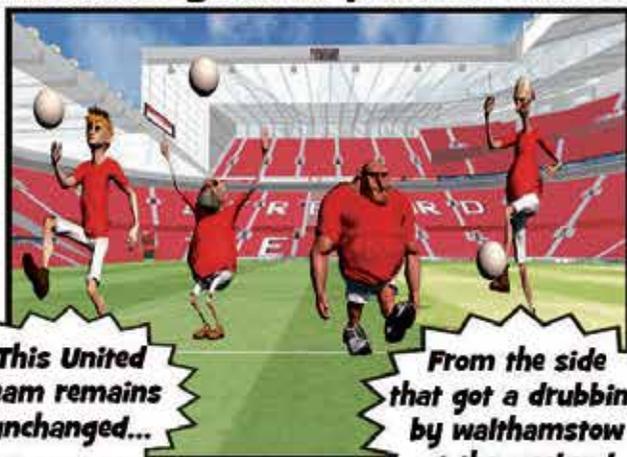
Humanity has been compared to a virus, infecting the world. The truth is we simply lack antivirus for our minds. We are easily infected by Trojans and Malware - mostly from sound-bites; media and corporate advertising. As a species, we are hypnotised the way Derron Brown manipulates volunteers - but we have no choice.

In truth, we cannot think be-

XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD: PART 10



PREVIOUSLY: While Searching for those misbegotten Tories, an ill advised trip to a kebab shop turned into a clash of the titans on the streets of Salford. A tip-off leads them to Old Trafford and a compelling cup tie against a bunch of over paid prima-donnas. We go live to pitch side and what promises to be a classic...



CREATED BY ALAN DAVIES. ART BY ANDREW KEIR

Who're you calling a Libtard?

This summer, a couple of Bulgarians established a busking enterprise in the entrance to the soon-to-be (controversial) new council offices in this small market town. It was only a short time before the inevitable 'Can we get them moved on?' comments started to appear online. I expected the worst...

However, it turns out that there's a lot of compassion in this little place. One post has, so far, drawn over a hundred responses, the overwhelming majority of which extend a generous attitude towards to our Eastern European visitors. There's the odd

"That's offensive on many levels, but it's not my main gripe."

'how dare they smoke fags and own smartphones' comment, but these are challenged politely and intelligently and there's evidence that the discussion itself has gal-

vanised others into action - one poster reports '...after reading these comments I gave them a fiver'. Outstanding.

One post, though, sticks out like a sore thumb and, despite the overall positivity, it leaves me with a somewhat sour taste in my mouth. I've seen it elsewhere and, at a time where some social media commentators are receiving physical threats, it's one that many of us have chosen to ignore:

"All these libtard comments on here make me sick 🤢🤢"

The 'lib' part doesn't bother me. I'm proud to hold liberal (lower case) views and, in another (political) place, I might be able to square my views with a political party with a similar name. I imagine that the other posters feel the same.

The 'tard' bit is worse. The 'ingenious' inventor of this term clearly intends for it to be used in the same way as the word 'retard' may be used as a particularly distasteful insult. That's offensive on many levels, but it's not my main



gripe. There's the further point that, perhaps, the 'tard' bit relates to (excuse my limited grasp of French and, possibly, Latin) 'lateness' or, more sensibly 'being

behind' as in 'behind the times'. This, I consider ironic, given the profile picture of the poster is one of those Union-Jack-British-Bulldog mashups (that seem to be

everywhere if you're unlucky enough to have lots of Brexit-supporting social media buddies), as it's these very people that want to return us all to some sort of cosy 1950s 'Utopia'.

What really grated, though, is that in all this compassion, where solutions, outcomes and instances of personal generosity are presented, the very best response this person with very clear views can come up with is an insult. No discussion, explanation, data, evidence or pointed questions. Just 'Libtard'. The whole word. And they think they've 'won' in doing so. They're "the man"; they've shown "us".

That's the most offensive thing, you see, to me. The left don't find it easy to debate with the not-so-left anymore, who seemingly have to 'win' every argument, often with what they consider a witty insult. I'd have little problem if they challenged with substance, with meaning, with passion. But they don't - and that failure or lack of will or ability to do so is an insult to us all.

LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE

When will 'the penny drop?' Agree or not with Brexit and/or whether Trump is fit to be President of the United States the people have spoken. One of the main reasons for these shock votes is the feeling that politicians on both sides of the 'pond' are seen to be out of touch with the people. OK I did not go along with the results of these recent exercises in democracy, but I can agree that politicians often appear oblivious to the wishes of the electorate. So here is my open letter to Damien Green and Ian Duncan Smith (Minister and ex-Minister for Work and Pensions) on the subject of benefits and sanctions.

Dear Sir,

Some members of the Government seem to think the social issues raised in Ken Loach's film 'I Daniel Blake' are exaggerated and give a distorted picture of life for people claiming benefits. Could I ask you how you have researched this to conclude as I. Duncan Smith MP did that "The film has taken the very worst of anything that can ever happen to anybody, lump it all together and then say 'absolutely, this is life as it is lived by people.'

Firstly can you agree that figures show less than 1% of benefit claims have been found to be fraud-



Support Allowance and 5% of those on Universal Credit or Job Seekers Allowance get sanctioned, with the figure that in the 12 months before Mr Duncan Smith resigned,

Blake," and "We could have been far more scathing, but we were worried that we wouldn't have been believed." She also points to the thorough research conducted by Loach and screenwriter Paul Laverty. If you are still unconvinced I would gladly take you to the Job Centre in Ashton where the protesters have been there for two years and have listened to hundreds of similar stories about sanctions to those of Daniel Blake.

There was criticism about how staff working at the Jobcentre were portrayed but what the film showed was that they were under intense pressure and restricted in how they operated. Personally I have great sympathy for them

because they are like most public servants under intense pressure to hit targets and may be paid so poorly some have to claim working tax credits themselves.

The Government deny that Jobcentre staff set people up for sanctioning or have national targets for sanctions. But this is refuted by the PCS union that represents Jobcentre workers. In a recent Channel 4 Dispatches Programme, a former Jobcentre worker from Leicester, "The pressure was enormous. I just felt what they were asking me to do, was totally wrong - they were asking me to 'hammer people' who ... were doing their best to get a job."

Do you dispute that many of

ATOS staff have no medical training and this is a particularly relevant question when there may be an issue over some one's mental health.

I mentioned ATOS, an American owned company, and at Ashton another multi-national company, G4S, employs a couple of 'goons' who are not always as polite as those portrayed in the film. Again they are not the problem it is the system as they are probably poorly trained and low paid.

If you do one thing this week, go and see this film. Watch it and believe it, and get angry, and do something - anything - because there are millions of us, and this is our story. We are all Daniel Blake.

"As long as the general population is passive, apathetic, diverted to consumerism or hatred of the vulnerable, then the powerful can do as they please, and those who survive will be left to contemplate the outcome." Noam Chomsky

ulent. Most analysis, including the DWP's, show unclaimed benefits is over ten times the amount claimed illegally.

Secondly how do you match up Duncan Smith's claim that less than 1% of people on Employment

526,641 benefit sanctions were applied, according to DWP statistics.

Thirdly the argument that the film shows the worst case scenario is refuted by the producer, Rebecca O'Brien, who says "Some people have had far worse lives than Daniel

Uncle Toms Tiny Trots

Transcribed by his dad, Camus, while he is a Gremlin on Lego Dimensions.

Biography of Martin Luther King

MLK was born on January 15th 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. He was famous as a civil rights campaigner, but originally was a Christian and a Baptist Minister. He used nonviolent disobedience and protest to fight Racial Segregation.

He was inspired by Rosa Parks,

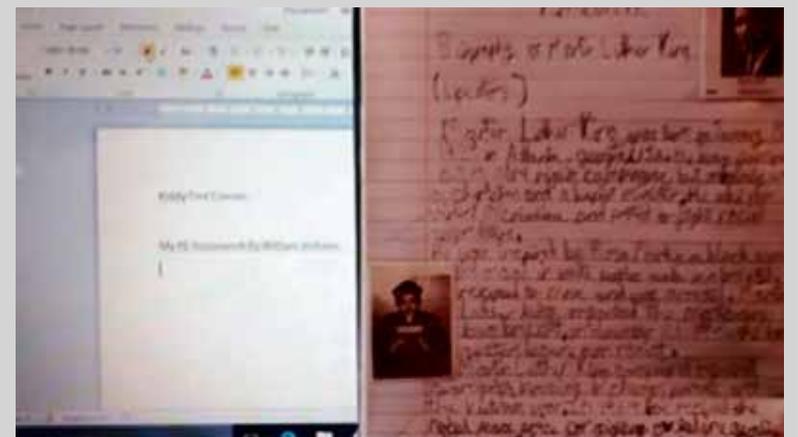


a black woman who sat in white seats on a bus. She refused to

My RE homework By William Voltaire. 12.

move and was arrested. MLK organised the Montgomery Bus Boycott. On December 21st 1956 the bus system became non racist.

MLK campaigned against segregated housing in Chicago, poverty and the Vietnam War. In 1964 he received the Nobel Peace Prize for fighting Racism and inequality with non-violent resistance. On April 4th James Earl Ray shot and killed Mr King. The President in 1968, Lindon B Johnson passed



the Civil Rights Act.

Mr King's life and work show that nonviolent protest can change lives and inequality. In his life he

was inspired by Jesus and Rosa Parks and acted a lot like Ghandi.

He treated poorer people like richer people.

It is a position that the West has no democracy left. The two party system exists, but as an expensive, showy, hollow facade. This has been achieved through undermining the opposition parties in both UK and US. Everybody with a brain knows in the UK, post Tony Blair the real Labour was hijacked. Don't take my word for it. Dr Gaye Johnston, Labour member for 50 years with a PhD in politics, meticulously explains the process in her new book, *New Labour: Was the pain Worth the Continuing Pain?* Evidence and inside knowledge is brought in to support the fact that democratic processes have been sabotaged in a party that's still sold as a people's party. Many rather than a few had a better life in the UK owing to the hard battles of Labour - a party born out of a movement. Now Corbyn leads the helm; it is still not enough hope for the careful observer.

In Labour, the leader has effectively little power. Everything he or the people do, across the country, who gather sleeplessly in BLPs/CLPs, can be taken back by the NEC. This summer's failed chicken coup and the purge of hundreds of thousands of Labour members, to prevent them voting for Corbyn, in the new and unnecessary leadership challenge, has shown how unstable his position is. After his September victory, one might be tempted to sit back and enjoy. WRONG; this was evident soon after democracy had won again, during Conference. The dark forces quickly conspired to ignore a roomful of delegates who had come to Liverpool to support democracy, and overstepped their demand for a card vote when a package was brought forth for vote.

This is vital because, among the motions put through, there was the significant motion that two more members be added to the NEC, who were undemocratically chosen by the Blairites, (Welsh and Scottish Labour leaders); thus, negating the influence of the newly elected pro Corbyn 6-member NEC slate chosen by people in the summer. Every time people fight hard (and they do; I've seen it) to choose those who care about them, who aren't money-crazed liars on a race to devastate the world,



A Very British Coup

it's reversed by bureaucracy and media manipulation techniques. In this case, it was blatant violation of a congress room full of thousands, demanding they get a real vote (i.e. card vote) and not the mockery of a show of hands on a vital matter.

"The dark forces quickly conspired to ignore a roomful of delegates who had come to Liverpool to support democracy"

Paddy Lillis can be seen violating the rule and repeatedly ignoring the delegates asking for a card vote on a video of the conference (available on YouTube 'Annual Conference, 2016 - Tuesday Morning') Make no mistake, what you see in this is blatantly unlawful. If rules are broken like this, how can you trust the party's executive body to represent people? How can you trust

the party? How isn't any grassroots effort sisyphic, if the NEC overrules with its unfettered power? Members pay and support the party, but when it comes to influence and representation, they're no good anymore? This sounds like abuse to me.

This is, in fact, a silent coup; Corbyn and his people won two rounds this year, unnecessarily fighting for their position inwardly in Labour as opposed to fighting Tories, which they were elected there to do. Every time there is a blatant pissing on democracy, brought to you by the obscure forces in Labour who control the money and the bureaucracy. Paddy Lillis needs his

behaviour in this matter checked. That is why members from across the country who are pro-Corbyn and understand the need for transparent democracy have been putting through motions to question the NEC's behaviour on this matter. If you're a member, research and inquire; move a motion at your branch, based on this model. If you're not, and you want to take the country and your life back from the hands of the neoliberal overlords who hijacked your one democratic party, I recommend you join and fight the good fight. There is nothing that promises to take care of itself and prevent UK from being as undemocratic as the US, where voters were pushed into a corner to vote between two evils when good people, VERY popular people were running: Bernie and Stein.

The truth is that corporate, military and banking interests have permeated most, if not all, layers of

economy and politics. Where they do not have direct bribed influence, they manifest passive influence in the minds of otherwise good people, by MISINFORMATION. All we have left is democratic means - until they sweep those all away.

If manipulated, the momentum of Brexit and Trump malcontents, the invisible suffering of the poor masses and maligned middle classes could amount to fundamental change. We must protect the legacy of our heroic forefathers - the force of sheer numbers and the force of democratic structures. We must not allow them to be torn down.

I strongly advise every Labour member to move this motion in their BLP and CLP. The more CLPs call for this rectification, the less NEC can sleep on its despotic laurels. It is time to reclaim our democracy.

@maraleverkuhn

Speaker's Corner

Got something to say? Say it through Speaker's Corner.

Send your letters to us on facebook at The Word Letters Page, or by email to letters@thewordmedia.org.uk

Dear Word,

I need to respond to your article 'England Ireland Ties' which, perhaps wisely, contains no byline. It is intensely annoying to read such a piece written without the slightest irony, and without the slightest

attempt to research the historical context. The English did not 'teach' the Irish the English language; it was systematically forced on us. The entire realm of Irish culture was legally and deliberately destroyed in order to avoid a repeat of the 1798 rebellion, which was to be the last attempt to overthrow English rule until 1916. The Catholic Religion was outlawed and Catholics forced to pay a tithe to the hated Anglican Church. Irish traditions where also outlawed and property relations were designed to ensure Catholic farms would be

divided up to avoid any accumulation of wealth. The Irish language was expunged from society. Schools were expressly forbidden to teach Irish, and inspectors were employed to catch out any teacher speaking it in the school. Dismissal was the outcome. This policy was successful and the Irish were driven into penury and shame, and when the Famine struck mass emigration left a pitiable population. Right up to the middle of the 20th century, the old culture was viewed with shame and embarrassment. This was not helped by the reactionary Free State



government which forced the Irish language and music on people in the most negative and backward way. The Irish language was only just saved from extinction, and now is spoken and used in schools quite widely - but it would be a mistake to say it has been successfully revived. Irish traditional music also almost died out and was successfully revived along with the more modern tradition of 'folk' music. I too hated the Irish language, and it was the most disliked subject in school. A sign of the success of the British occupier, I would have to say.
Philip Foxe

New Feature Coming Soon

The Word is bringing you a Citizen's Rights page, dedicated to tackling the challenges of modern life. If you have an issue involving consumer rights, mental health, employment advice - or anything else - we would like to help. Send your real life queries to us at The Word Letters facebook group, or to letters@thewordmedia.org.uk and we'll get our team of professionals to help with support, advice and guidance.

BILLINGS, MONTANA (AP)

U.S. officials cancelled 15 oil and gas leases in an area sacred to the Blackfoot tribes of the U.S. and Canada.

The cancellation aims to preserve the Badger-Two Medicine area, site of the creation story for members of Montana's Blackfoot Nation and the Blackfoot tribes of Canada.

"It should not have been leased to begin with," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This sets the right tone for how business should be done in the future."

MISSION, B.C. (Canadian Press)

A charge has been laid against a former school principal after confrontation with a vigilante group in Abbotsford, B.C. Const. Ian MacDonald of Abbotsford police said Jason Obert, 37, was charged with child luring on Friday. Obert was released on court-ordered conditions including that he not communicate with anyone under the age of 18 or go anywhere frequented by children unless accompanied by an adult, MacDonald said. None of the allegations have been proven in court.

TORONTO, ONTARIO [CTV]

Ontario's Animal welfare agency laid five animal cruelty charges against Marineland on Friday, levelling allegations of mistreatment that were rejected by the amusement park. The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said the charges against the Niagara Falls, Ont., tourist attraction relate to peacocks, guinea hens and black bears -- and noted that further charges are pending.

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters)

North Korea does not care who is president of the United States, a senior Pyongyang diplomat told the United Nations. Kim Yong Ho, director of human rights and humanitarian issues, spoke to reporters at the U.N. General Assembly. "We do not care about whoever becomes the president of the United States," said Kim.

LONDON (Reuters)

Oxford Dictionaries announce "Post-truth" as international word of the year, beating off "alt-right" and "Brexit". Post-truth was defined as "relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief."

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's charity admitted violating IRS regulations barring it from using money or assets to benefit Mr. Trump, his family, his companies or substantial contributors. The Donald J. Trump Foundation made these admissions in a 2015 tax filing made public after the presidential election. It was revealed that Mr. Trump has used the charity to settle lawsuits, make a \$25,000 political contribution and purchase a painting of himself.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (Reuters)

The European Union agreed a defence strategy that could send rapid response forces abroad for the first time. French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said "Europe needs to be able to act for its own security". The plans could allow the E.U. to send intervention forces to crisis zones before U.N. peacekeepers can take over.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE (Reuters)

A bus carrying elementary students home from school in crashed on Monday afternoon, killing at least six children and sending nearly two dozen to hospital with injuries. Speed appeared to have contributed to the 4 p.m. accident, said Police Chief Fred Fletcher. Five children were found dead inside the vehicle, which normally carries 35 passengers, and a student died at a hospital, said Melydia Clewell, spokeswoman for the Hamilton County District Attorney's office.

HOUSTON, TEXAS (Reuters)

Demonstrators across America demand the U.S. government reroute the Dakota Access pipeline. Thousands rallied outside banks, energy companies and the offices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offices, who authorised development on the sovereign Lakota Nation. "Their job is to protect us, but instead they're protecting corporate interests and profits and money," said Cannon Ball protester Fumi Tosu, 38, of San Jose, California, adding that police used mace on demonstrators. As the Obama administration has delayed a permit needed to finish the DAP project, the pipeline seeks federal court approval for completion.

HAVANA, CUBA

Cuban State Television announced the death of revolutionary leader and ex-president Fidel Castro, aged 90.

LES CAYES, HAITI (Reuters)

Haiti held a long-delayed election amid scenes of devastation, with voters hoping a new president would repair the nation after Hurricane Matthew and a year of political instability.

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL (Miami Herald)

First corruption trial opens against former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who faces charges in an investigation implicating many of Brazil's political and business elite.

The investigation into kickbacks involves state oil company Petrobras, construction companies and politicians, surprising many for both the scale of the alleged corruption and determination of the judiciary to see it through.

Arrests of high-level politicians or businessmen have seemed to come every week, a sea change in a country where such crimes had long been met with impunity, said Sergio Praca, a political scientist in Rio de Janeiro.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (Clarín)

Former President Cristina Kirchner is prosecuted in case involving illegal sale of dollar futures. Kirchner's Mother faces charges of corruption, with 10 of Kirchner's family members investigated so far. Kirchner testifies that she is 'almost certain' 1995 death of ex-President Carlos Menem's son was 'not an accident'.

BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI (AFP)

Thousands took part in street protests in support of the government's opposition to UN investigators looking into alleged human rights abuses. Protests were led by an ally of Nkurunziza Mayor Freddy Mbonimpa. There were similar protests in more than 100 areas. "The first issue is to denounce the role Belgium played during the last time, it hosts the people who organized the demonstrations, the people who planned a coup against the state," he said.

Global Headline - THE HAGUE (AP)

A report from the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor said the CIA and U.S. military may have committed war crimes by torturing detainees in Poland, Romania, Lithuania and Afghanistan. American citizens could be indicted by the global court, despite the U.S. not being a member.

Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's office claim CIA operatives may have subjected at least 27 detainees in Europe to "torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity and/or rape" between December 2002 and March 2008.

"Members of US armed forces appear to have subjected at least 61 detained persons to torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity on the territory of Afghanistan between 1 May 2003 and 31 December 2014".

Prosecutors consider seeking authorization to open a full-scale investigation in Afghanistan that could lead to war crimes charges. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, Pentagon spokesman, said officials were awaiting more details.

GENEVA (AFP)

A new device has allowed two monkeys to regain use of their paralysed legs by transmitting brain signals wirelessly, bypassing their damaged spinal cords, said a study released by the journal Nature.

The implantable 'neuroprosthetic interface' developed by the Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne (EPFL), may soon be tested in humans.

"For the first time, I can imagine a completely paralysed patient able to move their legs through this brain-spine interface, said neurosurgeon Jocelyne Bloch in an EPFL press release.

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA (AFP)

The Dalai Lama met Buddhist worshippers during a four-day visit to Mongolia. China demanded Mongolia "not allow the visit by the Dalai Lama and do not promote any facilitation for the separatist activities by the Dalai clique." Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters China is "firmly opposed to the anti-China separatist activities by the Dalai Lama in any country, in any name, and in any capacity".

NEW DELHI (Reuters)

At least 90 people were killed and more than 150 injured when 14 carriages of an express train derailed in northern Uttar Pradesh. Authorities are trying to uncover the cause.

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Leaders of three opposition parties release a joint statement - "Based on the consensus that President Park is the center of the abuse of power scandal, the best course of action to minimize the vacuum in government and to restore constitutional rule is for her to step down". Park has withdrawn to the secluded Blue House compound in Seoul. On 12 of the 16 working days this month, she took part in no scheduled events.

JIANGXI, CHINA (Xinhua)

At least 40 were killed when a platform under construction at a power plant collapsed in east China's Jiangxi province. The accident occurred at about 7:00 am when a cooling tower platform plunged to the ground, trapping an unknown number of people beneath it.

CAIRO, EGYPT (BBC)

Archaeologists have unearthed what they describe as a city that dates back more than 5,000 years, containing houses, tools, pottery and huge graves. The ruined city lies by the river Nile, close to the Temple of Seti the First in Abydos.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (AP)

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has decided to declare a lagoon in China-controlled waters to be a marine sanctuary where fishing is prohibited. China seized the Scarborough Shoal in 2012 after a tense standoff with the Philippines. Duterte's plan may imply Philippine territorial control.

GIULIN, CHINA

Stan Shih, founder and chairman of Taiwanese computer giant Acer, says global and local business leaders should take more social responsibility and focus less on short-term profit maximization. "There is a blind spot in capitalism", he told Asia Times at a conference on sustainable business development. "Today, shareholder interest is too strong."

SYDNEY (AFP)

Sydney's Taronga Zoo is celebrating its first successful echidna births in 30 years with three healthy babies, known as puggles, from three different mums hatching within days of each other.

Echidnas are notoriously difficult to breed in human care, but keepers at the zoo are pleased with the progress of the tiny trio and first-time mothers Ganyi, Spike and Pitpa.

NAIROBI, KENYA (Africa News)

Elephants are being fitted with radio collars to help secure the corridors they use between national parks. The collars transmit satellite and radio signals using GPS, to map out migratory routes and identify travel in search of water and vegetation. Securing these corridors is one way to end human wildlife conflicts.

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN (BBC)

Maurice Kirk, a 72-year-old British pilot, has been found alive after he went missing for a second time while attempting to fly a 1940s plane the length of Africa. Mr Kirk, who lives in Bristol, was part of a vintage air rally flying from Crete to Cape Town. He was reported missing for the second time on Friday after taking off from Ethiopia. His plane suffered engine failure but he managed to land safely, rally organisers said.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Jakarta governor and vice-governor nominees Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono and Sylviana Murni visited Kepulauan Seribu, as part of their campaign. In a speech, Agus said poor families in Jakarta will be given extra financial aid of Rp 5 million (\$369) each year if elected. Hundreds of people had waited since early morning to see the nominees. "I heard people here need better health facilities, jobs and ships. Sylvi and I will try to address these issues and reduce poverty in the islands," Agus said to loud applause.

The hate of a nation

By Alexander Dommerholt

Take a moment to think about what is likely to be the most successful film in history. *Avatar* maybe, or perhaps *Titanic*? No. The answer is far more obscure.

You'll be forgiven if you don't know the answer, as arguably the highest grossing film ever is *The Birth of a Nation*, first shown on the silver screen in 1915. Though it is not known exactly how much money it took at the American box office, estimates range in the region of \$100 million - equivalent to \$2.3 billion today. Its foreign earnings are completely unknown, but likely to be significant too.

One of the reasons for the film's popularity was its revolutionary use of new cinematic techniques such as close-ups and fade-outs, and it was one of the very first films with its own musical score. These new methods were used to convey a very old and crude message: black people are inferior to white people.

The film depicts the time during and after the American Civil War and seeks to blame abolitionists for its outbreak, and shows black people (some of whom played by white actors in blackface) as dim-witted, prone to violent behaviour and sexually aggressive towards white women. It subsequently glorified the Ku Klux Klan (established after the Civil War but non-existent in 1915) as noble patriots.

Unprecedented success

The movie had a shock effect. Though some were appalled by the film's clear-cut racism, their voices were almost smothered by those who were enthused by *The Birth of a Nation*. The film's explicit praise of the KKK was directly responsible for its re-establishment and for the fact that millions of white Americans flocked to join the white supremacists.

Also very significant: it was the very first film to be screened at the White House. Then-president Woodrow Wilson was reported to have been impressed by the film. Wilson was no stranger to racist views - he was of the belief that racial segregation was 'good for blacks' and that the KKK appealed to the 'white man's instinct for self-preservation'. Also, he was an outspoken critic of 'carpetbaggers': liberal-minded people from the Northern states who supported modernisation and civil rights. Wilson accused them of being 'demoralising' to the South.

Despite film's enormous support among the population and

highest levels of government, its director and producer, DW. Griffith, felt that the protests against his movie and the fact that some cities applied censorship attacked his freedom of expression. He subsequently added a new opening title to the film, decrying that he "demand(s), as a right, the liberty to show the dark side of wrong".

Ultimately, the heyday of the KKK did not last for more than a decade, its collapse not in the least brought on by behaviour the KKK so strongly accused African Americans of. KKK leaders in Indiana raped and murdered a woman named Madge Oberholtzer, which shocked America. Soon after, the KKK lost most of its membership.

Repeat of history

Though *The Birth of a Nation* and the subsequent re-establishment of the Ku Klux Klan precede the current surge of the so-called alt-right by more than a hundred years, there are many striking resemblances between the two events.

Firstly, both *The Birth of a Nation* and the rise to prominence of Donald Trump emboldened those who already held racist views to go public about the sentiments they fostered. With Trump declaring Mexicans to be 'rapists and criminals' and Griffith depicting black people similarly, both sought to legitimise their views through popular media - Griffith pretended his film depicted history in its truest form, whereas the alt-right and their pretend-news outlets like Breitbart seek to dress up their abhorrent views similarly as 'facts'. In the same manner, they seek to reduce the rights of the minorities they so despise.

Secondly, when Griffith was challenged for his blatant racism, he sought to shroud himself in the cloak of 'freedom' - which is a very similar reaction to those on the alt-right whenever they are confronted by those who detest their views. They used to call them 'carpetbaggers' and now 'libtards', derogative terms for those who make a stand for equal rights for all, and accuse them of acting against the national interest and against the wellbeing of 'their own'.

Ultimately, the sad lesson is that history is consistently repeating itself. Swathes of Americans have not learned from the mistakes of previous generations, and in a similar manner, neither have the British.

The Us Election, Trump & My Two Cents

By Jack Cornes

Don't you just chuckle to yourself when you think - as long as the human race has been on this planet, history has constantly repeated itself. After the First World War and the whole of Europe had been ravaged by combat what did the leading nations of this continent do? Did it realise its mistakes as humans and work together to put the previous years of suffering, bloodshed and tyranny behind them? No - it decided to embrace Fascism and put some of the most psychopathic murderers in a position of power. Dr. Martin Luther King peacefully fought and strove towards a possible nirvana of people of all race and creeds living together in harmony - they shot him! And very recently we had the chance of staying with the European Union, having the free movement of people, being able to travel freely and embrace all manner of different cultures and creeds - we voted to leave because of immigration and that age old Anglo arrogance that we don't need such an alliance and we can manage by ourselves. An attitude that must think we are at the turn of the 20th Century and the East India Trading Company is still in full swing!

And now once again in that shimmering beacon of hope, harmony and freedom of the US that all knowing American voter has decided against diplomacy, intelligence, heart and humanity (no not

Hillary Clinton, I was thinking along the lines of Mr Bernie Sanders) and voted for that working class hero, the billionaire mouth on an orange - Mr Donald Trump. I have no idea what this guy will do in office, part of me is hoping the Muslim banning and Mexico border wall building was Trump telling the oxygen to the brain deprived voter exactly what they wanted to hear, a sort of Trojan horse into the imperial walls of the US Political castle so to speak. I mean Trump has been known to say that he would run for the Republicans simply because its voters believe anything you tell them and

in the human race will probably be just about gone. They, the people, have put him there, that's democracy in all of its glory I am not denying that but I simply ask how long do we let fear dictate our lives and our decisions? The constant wars, the fascism, the conservatism and the elitism basically prove the same thing - that the human race is afraid. It is that fear that nailed Christ to the cross, allowed Fascism to spread across Europe, allowed Capitalism to become the opium of the people across the western world, it allowed Britain to leave the European Union and now it has handed Donald Trump the most powerful position in the world. Why are we so afraid of the light to which we always turn to the dark?

Just take a minute and please indulge me - we've tried fascism, it failed, we've tried communism, it failed, Conservatism, Republicanism, Capitalism, even Blair's New Labour eventually are seen for what they are (forms of greed, ignorance, imperialism and uncontrollable wealth inequality) so why not give Socialism a go? What do we have to lose? Bernie Sanders and Jeremy Corbyn are men of humanity; peace and intelligence so why are we so afraid to give them a try? Why is the choice always Conservatism and ultra - Conservatism (Clinton and Trump)?

The reason people believe Utopia is a naive dream is the same reason why we are terrified of ever embracing the light...



What Americans Are Thinking Now

BY Kimberley Griffin

Last Wednesday I met an American travelling abroad. He told me that his reaction to the election of Donald Trump to the White House had been "Wow! This wasn't what was supposed to have happened!" However, he mitigated his sense of shock with the cheerfulness that Americans so often exude telling me "Don't worry too much, America will go on much as before". I couldn't help thinking that if true this will be something of a disappointment to those who thought they were voting for a big shake up, but it is probably the best that many of us can hope for.

In the peculiar way that American democracy works, while Hillary Clinton failed to win enough Electoral College votes to win the Presidency, she did win the popular vote by over a million. The majority of Americans citizens said 'not in my name' to Donald Trump.

The outbreak of protests across the nation, from Los Angeles to New York, from Portland to Washington, from Dallas to Kansas City, reflects an undercurrent of dismay. Characteristically Trump immediately tweeted a totally unfounded



Already we have learnt several things about what a Trump Presidency will be like. Trump has intimated that he will not press charges against Hillary Clinton after all. It appears that he is now in favour

of building a 'fence' along the Mexican border rather than a 'wall', and the US will probably have to pay for it, rather than the Mexicans. President Trump's words are not to be taken literally. Trump continues to refuse to publish his tax returns. He prefers to keep his affairs to himself. This is something to be concerned about given the potential for conflict of interest between Trump's personal affairs and his Presidential responsibilities. This week Trump settled out of court charges against himself to the tune of \$25 million. Trump's tendency is to negotiate his way out of trouble rather than to defend his position in a court of law.

It is undoubtedly true that Trump has fewer restraints on his Presidential powers than previous administrations have had.

The Republican Party now has a majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Trump is also in a position to control the balance of opinion in the Supreme Court by filling vacancies with his own appointees. It is not absolutely clear what the President-elect will do, but it is fairly clear that he has almost unprecedented power to do it!

There are some in America who like the idea of there being restraints on what an individual can just make up his mind to do. It is of doubtful legality for the President to just go ahead and appoint his

own family members (and so many of them!) into high office. The appointments we are beginning to see are an indication that Trump's Presidency will herald a lurch to the hard right.

Trump's election campaign appealed primarily to white working class males. White Supremacist groups endorsed Donald Trump for President and went on to hail his victory. The tone of the campaign was a shock to many across the nation. It has been described as ugly and divisive, and as personally insulting to many Americans, including Muslims, Hispanics, and women. The FBI reported a rise in hate crime during the Presidential campaign. Since Trump became President-elect there has been a further spike in recorded hate crime. Such crimes include the spraying of swastikas on walls, mock building of cardboard walls outside the homes of Mexicans and 'white only' and 'coloured' signs in school drinking fountains.

Many Americans are feeling a very genuine concern for individuals and for the entire nation following the election. Hundreds of Jewish scholars showed solidarity with other victims of hate crimes by signing a statement published in the Jewish Journal calling on 'fair-minded Americans' to 'resist the degradation of human rights'. Such feelings of dismay and even shame can quickly turn to defensiveness and belligerence on all sides. Sometimes it is important to be careful what you wish for. Bullying tactics are intended to demonstrate strength, but the American Dream is looking fragile.

"Wow! This wasn't what was supposed to have happened!"

allegation that the protests had been instigated by incitement in the media. He then withdrew the allegation and instead praised Americans for their political engagement.

of building a 'fence' along the Mexican border rather than a 'wall', and the US will probably have to pay for it, rather than the Mexicans. President Trump's words are not to be taken literally. Trump continues to refuse to publish his tax returns. He prefers to keep his affairs to himself. This is something to be concerned about given the potential for conflict of interest between Trump's personal affairs and his Presidential responsibilities. This week Trump settled out of court charges against himself to the tune of \$25 million. Trump's tendency is to negotiate his way out of trouble rather than to defend his position in a court of law.

by Tom Pride

Sorry Brexiters - but you've been conned. By an American; and he's not even hiding the fact.

PR executive Gerry Gunster has been boasting about how his firm was behind the successful Brexit campaign - and how he used sales techniques instead of facts to trick British voters into voting for Brexit.

"Gunster's Washington firm were bankrolled to run the Brexit campaign by multi-millionaire UKIP backer Arron Banks"

Gunster claims he was behind the successful slogan "take back control" and was the person who directed the Leave campaign to run a campaign free of facts which played on voters' emotions, in particular fears about immigration.

The extremely expensive services of Gunster's Washington firm were bankrolled to run the Brexit campaign by multi-millionaire UKIP backer Arron Banks.

Jerry Gunster

THE US PR EXECUTIVE WHO WON BREXIT



"Facts don't work"

- Washington strategist Gerry Gunster on his Brexit campaign

In the past, Gunster's firm has helped big US corporations fight unpopular public health measures such as sugar taxes.

It's ironic the very voters who wanted the UK to "take back control" were themselves controlled by a foreign PR company.

GET USED TO WINNING.

Our method sets us apart.



We break through the clutter.

We break through the clutter by speaking to the self-interests of your target audiences. Our strategic and creative teams work side-by-side to unify logic and emotion. The results are creative concepts and campaigns that have visceral effects on audiences.



We drive the debate

Through facts and research, we define the parameters of the public debate and align consumer, corporate, and government interests. We implement strategy, monitor the success of that strategy, and adjust as we go across print, television, radio, and digital media platforms.



We win.

We do it by looking ahead. After all, winning is not about reacting—it's about embracing challenges and positioning yourself strategically for victory before the battle has even begun.



Gerry Gunster (far left) next to Banks with Trump and Farage

THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

7pm | 1st December
FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
22 SCHOOL LANE, LIVERPOOL, L1 3BT

#StopBombingSyria

WHY MORE BOMBING WON'T HELP SYRIA

with **Billy Hayes**
and The War in the Middle East

Merseyside Stop the War coalition

3 December at 13:00-17:30

Yarls Wood Immigration Centre
MK441FD Bedford, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom

DEC 3 Demonstrate to SHUT DOWN YARLS WOOD and ALL detention centres



Sustainability Transformation Plan

Horizon Leeds
Horizon Leeds, 2 Brewery Wharf, Kendal

DEC 4 No NHS Cuts-No STP's- Lobby the Privatisers



THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1 December at 19:00
Next Week - 4-8" Scattered Clouds

Sheffield Hallam University International
Sheffield Hallam University, S1 1WB Sheffield

WHY MORE BOMBING WON'T HELP SYRIA

DEC 1 The War in the Middle East: Why More Bombing Won't Help Syria

2 December at 13:30-15:30
Next Week - 3-7" Cloudy

Russian Embassy in London
13 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8 4QX London, United Kingdom

DEC 2 WE STAND WITH SYRIA



We demand that Devon's Hospitals retain all their services!

3 December at 12:00-14:00
Next Week

Exeter (Princesshay) 5E Gate Close, EX1 1 Exeter, Devon

DEC 3 Save Devon's NHS Exeter Rally



3 December at 9:30-20:00
Next Week - 1-5" Rain Showers

The CastleGate
Malbourne Street, NE1 2JQ Newcastle upon Tyne

Tickets Available
www.brownpaperickets.com

DEC 3 Momentum Northern Regional Conference

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD

MOMENTUM NORTHERN



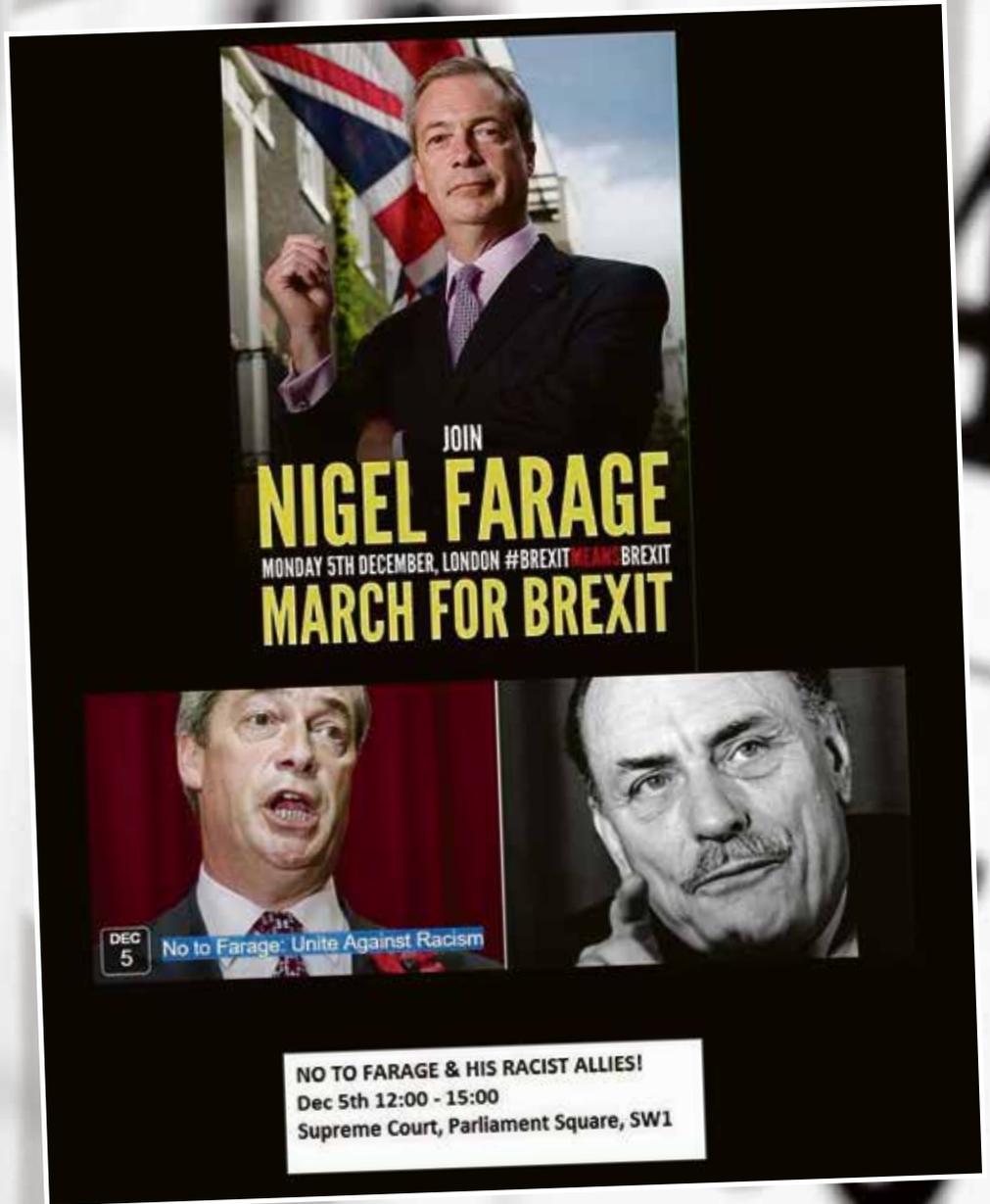
JOIN **NIGEL FARAGE**

MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER, LONDON #BREXIT ~~MEAN~~ BREXIT

MARCH FOR BREXIT

DEC 5 No to Farage: Unite Against Racism

NO TO FARAGE & HIS RACIST ALLIES!
Dec 5th 12:00 - 15:00
Supreme Court, Parliament Square, SW1



5 December at 12:00-15:00
6-8" Partly Cloudy

Supreme Court of the United Kingdom
Parliament Square, SW1P 3 London, United Kingdom

DEC 5 No to Farage: Unite Against Racism



5 December at 12:00-15:00
6-8" Partly Cloudy

Parliament Square
Parliament Square, SW1A 2 London, United Kingdom

DEC 5 Defend democracy - stop the hate





THE CAPITALISTMAS WORD

We will be having a special Capitalistmas word out in a fortnight. More pages and more content. Our next regular issue after this will be out on January 11th. So you are not disappointed we will be bringing out a PDF only version on January 28th. This will be delivered to all PDF subscribers.

For all updated information join the word supporters group

For more information and to donate and order your PDF

www.thewordmedia.org.uk

5 December at 19:00-21:00
5-8° Partly Cloudy
St. Mary's Church, Ealing
Ealing, United Kingdom

CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

DEC 5 The Crisis in the Middle East & The New US President AND THE NEW U.S. PRESIDENT

Refugee Info Bus UAidRefugees

WiFi4Refugees

Tue 6th Dec

DEC 6 WiFi 4 Refugees Event Rich Mix Shoreditch

Tickets Available
www.wifi4refugees.com

6 December at 19:00-23:30
Rich Mix London
35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA London

Stand Up To Racism

STAND UP TO RACISM

7 December at 19:00-21:00

DEC 7 Stand Up To Racism Devon Meeting

Exeter Community Centre
17 St Davids Hill, EX4 3RG Exeter, Devon

JON HOPKIN

ALSO JOINING

FAITHLES

(A-Z)

DAPHNI

FAIS EVERYTHING

DEC 8 Rave 4 Refugees - Faithless, Daphni, Eats Everything, Jon Hopkins

Tickets Available
www.ticketmaster.co.uk

8 December at 20:00-2:00
9 December at 20:00 to 9 December at 2:00

Electric Brixton
Town Hall Parade, SW2 1 London, United Kingdom

WELCOME AHLAN

HUMAN RIGHTS & REFUGEES

DEC 10 Human Rights Day

15 December at 10:00-12:00

DEC 15 Dickensian Christmas Demonstration

Jobcentre Plus
101 Old St, OL6 6BJ Ashton-under-Lyne

LABOUR PURGE

By *TIM COOPER*

We had a very successful conference of Stop The Labour Purge yesterday.

The vast majority of those attending were in Momentum - a considerable number from this region. Greg Marshall spoke on behalf of Notts Momentum.

There were 70 people there, a considerable number of branch and CLP officers from across the Midlands. There were probably a

fair few, like me, still campaigning for the revoking of our exclusion. Personally I found it very encouraging and re-assuring that there are so many prepared to continue to fight this together and win.

Some wonderful speeches as well from Wallasey and Brighton comrades and particularly from ASLEF's Tosh MacDonald who gave a fascinating story of the petty threats of disciplinary action made both to him and his wife.

Christine Shawcroft of Labour's

NEC gave interesting insights about how the NEC functions and where it fails to function.

The best speech was John Dunn (in picture) who got a standing ovation at the end. In it he gives a fantastic account of his challenge to Owen Smith at Orgreave, the challenge that led to his expulsion.

There were many great ideas about how to go forward. We will be compiling them and continue to pull together a broad-based campaign for democracy in the Party.



Artisan...a harmonious marriage of decadent flavours

By *Shareen Ashraf*

The reality of life is that we sometimes need to create the sweetness ourselves! But when you have someone else do it for you, it does become rather appealing.

When going to try some of the fine delicacies at Artisan, the added excitement of having a finalist, of The Great British Bake Off- Ali Imdad, creating my dessert did heighten my expectations (slightly!) and they were definitely excellent.

What makes Artisan stand out from the rest of the dessert parlors is the difference in menus. The 'American' trend of waffles, crepes and thick shakes which is what one would expect was not what they offered. Yet this was replaced with pastries, chocolate melting domes and a selection of teas, impressively.

All desserts are prepared in-house with freshest ingredients every day, ensuring no compromise on taste. The new menu now reveals a theme behind each dessert for example- Ara-



Afternoon tea served at Artisan



with strawberries and served with Japanese green tea- definitely a dessert which spoke out royalty!

Artisan itself has approximately 55 seats, including a gallery level which overlooks the other two floors. They now offer afternoon tea, serving a selection of finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones with jam and clotted cream, assorted sweet treats all accompanied with a variety of teas. They cater for special dietary requirements such as a gluten free diet, presenting a new range each week.

Artisan are open 7 days a week, from 5pm-11pm and open until midnight on the weekend. They will be opening up earlier in the day to accommodate for their new menu- especially with the afternoon teas. If you are fanatic about meeting the baker behind all these creations then he does make his special appearances on the weekend!

Artisan

242 Ladypool road, Birmingham, B12 8JT

bian Nights offers "The Sultan": Aromatic cardamom infused pastry with soft cream cheese and topped with sweet figs.

This is also served with a traditional Arabic tea and Chantilly cream.

I enjoyed the Emperor's

Cheesecake which was a delight to the taste buds. A smooth, light cheesecake which had a subtle hint of Japanese matcha topped



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I would like to order a regular copy of the word newspaper from this newsagents.

Let me start out by saying this: there is a place in football for hate.

Now, that might seem a rather controversial statement, in these happy-clappy days when going to the match is supposed to be all about families and fun. When oompah bands, high up in the stands, are strategically placed so that the newly-gentrified population in the fifty quid seats should not have to hear anything raucous or profane.

But it's true, nevertheless. Football is tribal, it's cathartic; football is where you get to let off some steam after gritting your teeth all week. And, for all of that, you need someone to hate.

Hate is a much misunderstood, possibly demonised word these days. It's not to be found in the lexicon of the politically correct. It sends out the wrong message, don't you know, and speaks of the extreme edges of emotion and feeling, where those of pallid personalities do not wish to be seen.

But hate is a real human emotion, and you can't simply wish or indeed legislate it away. Properly expressed, it's just about the best catalyst for atmosphere at a good old traditional sporting fixture.

The professionals should stay out of it, and get on with the game - it's not within their remit to get caught up in the atmosphere a bit of hate generates (although it's frequently more entertaining than the football when teams *do* let the passion affect them). However, the real arena is in the stands, or on the terraces, as we used to say in happier times.

Here is where the mutual dislike, felt in extreme measure in some cases, can safely be vented. Two sets of supporters, bound by a common loathing, hurl insults of glorious vulgarity back and forth, each seeking to outdo the other in a contest outside of the on-field engagement. The feeling is atavistic, and there's no actual need for it to spill over into physical confrontation for honour to be satisfied. The occasion as a whole is enhanced by these pieces of human theatre.

The modern tendency towards crowd interaction being drowned out by super-powerful PA systems, pumping out crap music, has detracted from this phenomenon, as have the silly drums and trumpets they call 'bands'. My own beloved Leeds United made an ill-advised decision a few years back to recruit a band, but the masses behind the goal did not approve. The occasion-



We hate Nottingham Forest et al ... but in a good way



al toot and drumbeat was heard, only to be drowned out by a throaty "stand up, if you hate the band", and the experiment died an early and unlamented death. Quite right, too. Bands at football stadia prosper only where the indigenous support lacks the moral fibre to resist such contrived attempts at a 'nice' atmosphere, Sheffield Wednesday being the obvious example.

Sadly, it appears that the good old days of free expression, where a cadre of like-minded fanatics could express their hatred of 'that lot from ovver t'hill', are soon to be behind us for good. Yet there are still football clubs and fixtures that conjure up some of the old atmosphere, so deeply do feelings run.

I'm glad to say that dear old Leeds United is one such club.

We're so pathologically hated by so many other sets of fans, and so willingly disposed to return that sentiment with interest, that our matches against a select group of old enemies roll back the years, and set the blood pumping with an almost-forgotten vigour. Long may that remain the case - these are the real football clubs, with the real fans, and it's this unreconstructed

minority which is striving to hold back the tide of plastic, family-orientated, artificial bonhomie that so threatens to dull the palate as the 21st century progresses.

It's not PC. It's frowned upon by the self-appointed guardians of 'The Good Of The Game'. And admittedly, it too often spills over into taboo references, or actual violence, which is never something to be condoned. But come the day when they finally kill the last wisp of hate-fuelled atmosphere, at the last old dinosaur of a non-modern non-Meccano stadium, they'll be well on the way finally to reading the last rites over the corpse of the game as we used to know it. And then - why, I'll throw in the towel, say my goodbyes to Elland Road, and sulk off to watch Frickley Athletic play those gits from FC United of Manchester - confident that there will be enough curmudgeonly old reprobates on both sides who will be happy to spit venom at each other for 90 minutes - just for old times' sake.



F1 Showdown In Abu Dhabi Doo!

It's all over and Ecclestone is back on his Yacht licking his eyebrows and counting his Offshore Cash. Richard Branson heard to shout "Christ Greeny check your Wallet Bernie's back, and put a shirt on Mate!"

If you want to have genuine sports news in future buy, crowd-fund and join The Word! Then we

can have more than a fortnightly issue.

It's down to Lewis and Nico and at the end of the race on Sunday the one who accumulated most points in the season will have won the championship. If they crashed into each other Nico wins and the post-race analysis will feature film of the 2 crashes between Alain

Prost and Ayrton Senna da Silva that decided the championship back in the days when Murray Walker went to work on an Egg and got incredibly shouty during the third repeat of an incident and James Hunt urbanely made wry comments along the lines of 'Well ding dong, hellllllo sweetie fancy a sausage Hunt.

WHY SCOUSERS DON'T BUY THE S*N!

By Jeff Goulding

The root of Liverpool's "socialism" (small 's') lies in its strong sense of community and togetherness. In short, if you take on one of us, you take on all of us. The more poetic Liverpoolians among you might say "an injury to one is an injury to all." It amounts to the same thing.

Every attempt to undermine the city, or besmirch its reputation has only served to drive its people closer together. Nothing symbolises this fact better than Liverpool's response to the s*n newspapers infamous headline "The Truth".

For most of us the thought of mentioning that rag in the same breath as the word truth, bordered on the ridiculous long before 1989. That said, we could never have imagined the depths to which that paper sank after Hillsborough. Just four days after Hillsborough!

Successive editors have since described it as the "greatest mistake in the papers history."

Let's be clear here. That headline orchestrated by Kelvin McKenzie was no mistake. He knew exactly what he was doing.

In the hours that followed the disaster a cover story was hatched by South Yorkshire Police and their cronies in the press. It was a lie that would persist for decades. The s*n, and specifically McKenzie were in the vanguard.

There may have been a time when the less educated would have branded such statements as paranoid and overblown. The Leveson and Hillsborough Independent Panel reports have since



put paid to any such suggestions. Now the whole country knows what we knew thirty years ago.

McKenzie did make a mistake in constructing that headline though. He took on the city of Liverpool and Merseyside.

Can anyone remember a more solid and relentless boycott than the one this city has inflicted upon the s*n? For twenty five years people have refused to buy it. Many newsagents won't even stock it. Now postal workers are refusing to deliver it.

I remember, along with many others going into local shops and asking them to put up the posters in their window. I think the words went along the lines of "In solidarity with our brothers and sisters



who died in Sheffield, Don't buy the S*n." It took hold fast and the paper has never recovered.

This is illustrated beautifully by the stunning response of postal workers in Lancashire. In refusing to handle the paper, they have ensured that no homes in their area will receive it. Needless to say their campaign received widespread support.

Let's put this into perspective. I have grown older and greyer. I have married, had kids, divorced, got married again and had more kids and still the boycott remains solid. This is a fight that spans generations.

My eldest wasn't born in '89. He's eighteen now and he will never buy it. Neither will my youngest. More importantly they know exactly why they won't buy it.

The s*n thought that by omitting Liverpool postcodes from their mail drop they would escape a backlash. Another disastrous miscalculation on their part. Hillsborough touched countless families across Mersey borders and beyond.

The actions of postal workers who deliver to Lancashire postcodes, illustrates this point brilliantly. Members of the Communication Workers Union at the Skelmersdale Royal Mail sorting office are refusing to deliver the rag. They have threatened to strike if their manager's attempt to force them.

My guess is that the marketing team at the s*n just won't get this. Such acts of solidarity are alien to them. However, no one on Merseyside will be the least bit surprised. After all if you take on one of us...