

THE WORD

Issue #14, January 2017..

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➤ PAGE 12: Israeli embassy funding anti Corbyn groups, we uncover fresh information

➤ Page 23: Momentum is dead, long live Momentum

➤ Page 26: Face of the future computing

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

NHS CRISIS

40 NHS HOSPITALS ON BLACK ALERT:

- The Royal Bolton Hospital
- Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge
- Scarborough Hospital
- Ashford Hospital, Surrey
- St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey in Surrey
- Royal Stoke University Hospital
- Stafford's County Hospital
- Peterborough City, Cambridgeshire
- Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
- Cheltenham General Hospital
- Walsall Manor, West Midlands
- Croydon Hospital, South London
- Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals
- Bristol Royal Infirmary,
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children,
- Southmead in Bristol
- Weston General
- Yeovil District
- Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals
- Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS
- University hospitals of Leicester NHS trust
- The Royal Surrey hospital in Guildford
- Lewisham hospital in south London
- Royal Cornwall Hospital
- Derriford Hospital in Plymouth
- Telford's Princess Royal Hospital
- Scarborough Hospital
- Royal Stoke University Hospital
- Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital
- Kettering General Hospital NHS
- North Bristol NHS Trust
- Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
- COLCHESTER General Hospital
- Queens Medical Centre Nottingham
- City Hospital Nottingham
- Ysbyty Maelor in Wrexham
- Ysbyty Glan in Clwyd
- Prince Charles in Merthyr
- Royal Gwent in Newport.

How much of what I say has any truth to it



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.

*By Milton Peña
Worked in NHS for 40
years (1974 to October 2014)
Consultant Orthopaedic
Surgeon for 24 years
[7 years at Rochdale Infirmary and
17 years at Tameside Hospital]
Speciality training in London
at St Mary's Hospital and
in Greater Manchester
at Manchester Royal
Infirmary, Salford Royal,
the Children's Hospital
and Wrightington Hospital*

30 YEARS OLD IDEOLOGICAL WAR

Between two camps groups

Those who believe that health and social care are a commodity in a 'health economy market' and Those that believe they are a fundamental right of every individual

THE 'HEALTH ECONOMY' BAND IS POWERFUL

IT HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY PROMINENT POLITICIANS IN THE CONSERVATIVE, LABOUR PARTY AND LIBERAL PARTIES AND INFLUENTIAL MARKETERS
1980 Creation of Internal Market [M Thatcher]

2000 Onwards:

Introduction of Public- Private Partnerships
Outsourcing of services
PFI Private Finance Initiatives (SUPPORTED BY G. BROWN)
Corporate takeovers in Primary and Secondary care (hospitals)
Hospital Trusts run by Hospitals Boards
Foundation Trusts

NHS AND SOCIAL CARE IN CRISIS

THE INEVITABLE RESULT OF IDEOLOGICALLY DRIVEN SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS' MISTAKES THAT BEGAN OVER 30 YEARS AGO

MILBURN'S CONCORDAT, AN IDEOLOGICALLY DRIVEN DEAL, ONE OF MANY MISTAKES

- In 2000 a Concordat (agreement) was negotiated between the Independent Health Care Association and Alan Milburn, then Health Secretary. (T. Blair's term)
- Tim Evans, representing the private health care industry stated at the time:

'I look forward to a time when the NHS would simply be a kitemark attached to the institutions of a system of purely private providers'.

Presently this has been largely achieved and hundreds of private hospitals, treatment centres and clinics are treating NHS patients 'on the NHS', and using the NHS logo.

Another big mistake: PFIs

Private Finance Initiative where conceived in the early 1990s by the Conservatives.

Under a PFI Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) sprang up.

SPVs: a consortia of construction companies, facilities management companies and banks.

SPVs raised money, by borrowing and issuing shares, to build, own and operate public service premises such as hospitals and schools.

Hospitals Trusts would lease the buildings, complete with maintenance staff, under contracts lasting 25 - 30 years.

PFIs: TOTAL DEBT 222 BILLIONS

- Responsibility for paying back the debt and the interest and the shareholders profit rests with the hospital.

- The hospital pays for them from its annual budget for patient care

- PFI hospitals have on average 30% less beds than the hospitals they replaced, and the operational budgets and clinical staff reduced by 25%.

- Every man, woman and child

is more than £3400 in debt

- Every year the total cost of Hospitals PFIs is £2 billion

The revolving door between NHS and Private companies: Some examples

- Alan Milburn became an advisor to Bridgepoint Capital [private equity firm]

- Patricia Hewitt became an advisor to CINVEN

- Simon Stevens, T Blair's adviser, became Executive Vice President of United Health

- David Bennett, T Blair's adviser, ex McKinsey. Became Chair of Monitor

DISMANTLING THE NHS

- Radical reduction on number of NHS hospitals

- Downsize local hospitals

- Radically reduce

THE
WORD

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SOCIAL CRISIS



specialist care provided by NHS hospitals

- Radically increase the number of Alternative Medical Services Contracts
- Priority given to keep patients out of hospitals
- Introduce personal budgets for health care
- Radical increase on private insurance

NHS has fewer beds per head than Romania

- The UK has less than 300 beds per 100,000 population
- In the Irish Republic it's about 500;
- In Belgium it's over 650;
- In France it's over 700;
- In Germany it's over 800;
- In Austria it's over 700
- In Romania it's over 600.

BED CRISIS AFFECTING NHS HOSPITALS

FROM 1987
TO 2014

THERE HAS BEEN A FIFTY ONE PERCENT REDUCCION OF BEDS ACRROSS THE NHS

Learning and disability	95%
Mental illness	67%
Geriatric	64%
Maternity	51%
Acute	25%

Consequences of lack of beds

- Patients harmed because they are sent home when best practice would have been admission
- Patients are kept waiting in trolleys in corridors for hours
- Ambulances Services became inefficient because upon arrival to hospital patients must remain in the vehicles
- Elective planned operations get cancelled because priority is given to emergency patients
- Poorly staffed Escalation Wards are opened, with nurses borrowed from other wards.

Campaign for the NHS Reinstatement Bill and the abolition of the 2012 Health and Social Care Act

World Health Organisation definition of privatization: 'a process in which non-governmental actors became increasingly involved in the financial and / or provision of health care service'
The 2012 Health and Social Care Act gives carte blanche to those who want to abolish the NHS.

Reference Books

- NHS plc. The privatisation of Our Health Care. **Allyson Pollock, Verso, 2005.**
- The Plot Against the NHS. **Colin Lays and Stewart Player, Merlin Press, 2011.**
- NHS SOS. Various contributors. **Edited by J Davies and R Tallis, One world, 2013.**
- How to dismantle the NHS in ten easy steps, **Y El-Gingihy, Zero books, 2015.**
- The NHS whistleblower. (The Flight of the Black Necked Swans), **M. Peña, UK Book Publishing, 2016.**

THERE IS NO NHS CRISIS



IN FORTRESS SOLITUDE

Updated on 20 September 2016

The Obvious Problem

The number of ex soldiers serving sentences of imprisonment has risen both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the prison population. Today in Britain there are 8,500+ prisoners who are former soldiers, and another 12,000+ on probation either as an alternative to prison or after release from prison. In Britain prisoners are usually released after serving half their prison term, but are "on licence" and subject to control by Probation Officers until their sentence expires.

The human cost is huge. The victims of their crimes have often been physically and emotionally hurt, and will have lost earnings while recovering from their injuries. The former soldiers themselves have often had a hard time before the incident that has led to their imprisonment, and then have served time in prison. The taxpayer pays out about £40,000 a year as the cost of keeping a prisoner in prison. The soldiers after release are frequently unemployed for many years, so we have the social security costs of maintaining them and also their families when they form relationships as young men do.

Why Does It Happen?

A former infantry sergeant who had served in both Iraq and Afghanistan explained to me:

"We take very young men who have often never lived away from home and have little experience of the world. We break them down, and then we build them up. We teach them to react instantly to threat. A half second delay could lead to the soldier or another soldier being killed or wounded. So we instil into them that you react instantly. You react instantly every time."

"We also teach them that if you are in a fight you must kill quickly. There may be more than one enemy, so kill the first one and take out the next. Soldiering is not about a fair fight. Soldiering is about killing your enemy and not letting him kill you or your mates."

"In our society it is not normal to see violence or to be part of violence. Most people are brought up not to be violent, or only to use violence when there is no alternative. We have to break that conditioning and condition them that you kill when ordered to or you kill when you must. If we put our young men into danger with a civilian mentality too many of them would be killed while assessing the situation and thinking out what to do. To save their lives we must train them to react and kill instantly."

"The first time they see combat the feelings are naturally bad. Fright, disgust, concern for your friends, and seeing the dead bodies of young men from the other side. The injuries on both sides make

you feel sick. It was bad enough for me and I was 22 when I went in. For a kid of 18 or 19 it is horrible."

"And we have a "macho" culture. The Army is not the place to bare your inner soul and express doubts. We are not a "trendy Wendy" camp of sensitive souls. We are fighters in a fighting culture. So you bottle it up. If you let out the least hint of unease you will be subject to ridicule, have suggestions you are a coward, be attacked in the night, and be expected to lead the next suicidal charge. Actually it isn't a suicidal charge but it is very frightening to leave the berm or trench and race over open ground while you are being shot at."

"When they get back to England the pressure is off. They have time to think through what they have experienced. Although counsellors are available the culture is that "men" don't need counselling."

"After their first or second tour they decide they cannot face another combat tour. So they quit. They buy themselves out or get

discharged on psychological grounds or they desert."

"They hit civilian life instantly. The Army does prepare people approaching the end of their 12 year enlistment, but these guys are on the street very quickly."

"So they are young. They have often lost touch with their social

group and families back home. They have lost the whole of their new family, the platoon, They feel like failures and cowards. They feel guilt because their friends are going into danger without them, and with an inexperienced newcomer in their place. Will their friends get killed or wounded be-

cause they are not there?"

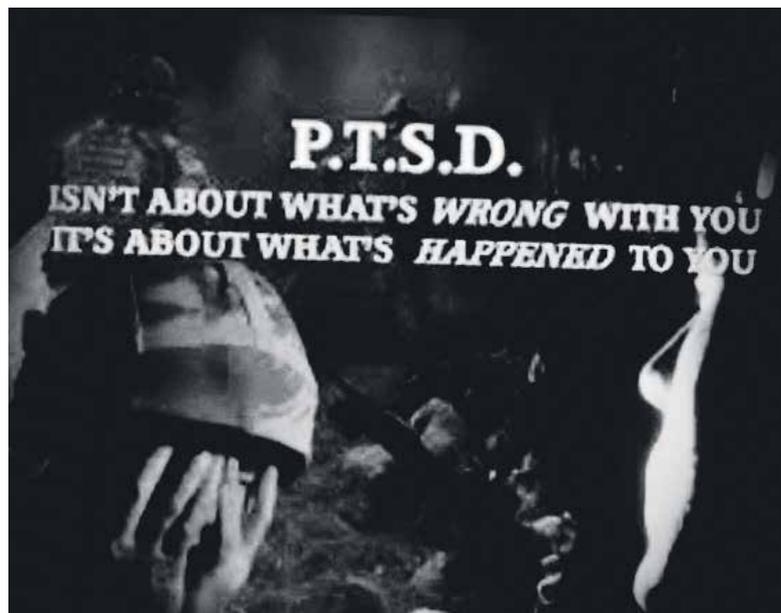
"The kids had few skills to begin with. The Army gave them few useful skills to help their employability. They have "dropped out" of the Army and employers are wary of them because of their emotional issues and because they are unsettled and do not stick at things. They did not stick at the Army. Most young men of that age have friends and relations who will help them get jobs, but these guys have nothing."

Getting Into Trouble

"So the young guy is out as a civilian. He has few skills, no relevant experience, feels a failure and a coward and guilty. He does not have the normal network of friends. He has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder but does not know what is wrong with him."

"One place where you can go when you have nowhere to go is the pub. The pub is the traditional recruiting ground for construction labouring jobs. Or he might go there to meet young women.

EX SERVICES PRISONERS NEED HELP





"He is easily recognisable as an ex squaddie, from his haircut to the way he walks. Someone decides to wind him up. All we have taught him is aggression and speed. A situation arises where he feels threatened and "zap" he hits out. We taught him to kill, not to play patacake. Whoever he hits is badly hurt."

The Justice System

The young man gets arrested and he is now on the judicial conveyor belt to prison. Even if there is a psychiatric report, which often there is not, PTSD is rarely a defence to an act of violence. At best it is mitigation, which reduces the sentence. But he still goes to prison.

In prison he rarely gets help. He comes out of prison no better than he went in, but now he is even more unemployable because he has been to prison for violence. So he is on social security for the foreseeable future.

There is nothing in place to stop him reoffending. And there

are still people who will despise him because he was a coward and now he has been in prison. For a repeat act of violence he gets more prison time.

He Is Not Loveable

There are families who have served, often in the same regiment, for generations. The teenage sons have through their parents and cousins a pretty good understanding of what the Army is about. They are often educationally adequate or above adequate who join the Army as a vocation. They are confident in their patriotism and in their personal identity. Their relatively secure backgrounds will rescue them if they have need.

The majority of recruits have no great military heritage. They may join simply to get a job, to get away from their town, for adventure and excitement, or for a combination of reasons. They rarely have intended to be a soldier since childhood, but have turned to soldiering for want of an alternative.

They have crashed out of the Army. They did not have much going for them before. These young men have been damaged by their military service and Britain owes them something.

They will rot on the dole or become serial criminals unless they are given a helping hand.

The Helping Hand

While in prison they need counselling. They need anger management. They need relationship training. They need education and they need marketable skills. They need their confidence building, and they need a lot of help to begin to plan lives and careers. This is not a quick process, but is a series of steps and layers building up upon each other. They have to confront the offences that brought them to prison, and critically examine some of the key incidents in their lives.

In some cases they were "looked after children" and may have several more layers of mental, physical and sexual abuse

which arose before they joined the Army. They will have even more difficulty building relationships. "Relationships" does not just mean sexual activity but friendship, work relationships, parenting, building networks, and hopefully rebuilding their past family relationships.

At some point, possibly dictated by the early release calendar, they move out into secure accommodation where there is built in supervision. They have jobs or training or FE Education organised for them, possibly as day release. This gives them the opportunity to obtain good references and qualifications. At College and at work they begin networking.

The point comes when they and the organisation agree they are capable of independent living. They move out but keep in touch for a year or so, until they are clearly "flying".

Who Pays?

Keeping these men in prison costs the Home Office about

David Lindsay Column

Late last year, Durham County Council's 2700 Teaching Assistants went on strike twice in three weeks. They had faced being sacked at Christmas and reappointed on a 23 per cent pay cut. Meanwhile, the Council had written off its loan of £3.74 million to Durham County Cricket Club, which provides the most powerful Councillors and Officers with a private box.

The fabulous Durham Miners' Hall has hosted rallies of a size and energy not seen since the Miners' Strike. The Teaching Assistants marched in their hundreds, to tumultuous applause, at last year's Durham Miners' Gala. Their cause was endorsed from the platform by speaker after speaker, including Jeremy Corbyn.

All of this has led to a stay of execution. Fresh negotiations are ongoing, with those affected at last in the room. But the fight goes on. Durham County Council was the first local authority of which Labour ever won Overall Control. That has never been lost, in more than 100 years. The Labour Group on that authority is the largest in local government. But that Council is now the twenty-first century version of Margaret Thatcher's National Coal Board. This May, it should be taken to No Overall Control.

Very large numbers of Labour Councillors have absented themselves from the votes on this issue. But enough of them have attended to ensure that the Teaching Assistants have been betrayed. Those Councillors, all of them Labour, ought all to lose their seats to whoever was best placed to remove them. Several have already announced their "retirement", in one case at the ripe old age of 23. There will be more.

The Liberal Democrats and the Independents have been stalwart supporters of the Teaching Assistants. Therefore, they deserve to be re-elected. That leaves only the Labour absentees, plus a mere four Conservatives who abstained. Whoever the new Leader and Deputy Leader of Durham County Council were to be, they must not be members of the Labour Party.

Labour's loss of this unitary authority for half a million people would be very big news, and it would set the scene for the 2020 General Election. For reasons that will by then be 25 years old, but which retain currency, I shall be contesting the new seat of Durham West and Teesdale, most of which is where Pat Glass MP will be retiring. I shall be doing so without any party designation, not even the word "Independent". I am not a member of any political party, but I am part of numerous overlapping networks of political interdependence, not least the Teaching Assistants' campaign.

It is imperative that Grahame Morris MP, who has given the Teaching Assistants stalwart support, be re-elected at Easington. But there has been no such support from any of the other MPs who intend to stand again. Likewise without any description next to their names, candidates from among the Teaching Assistants need to stand against those MPs, and they need to be sent to a House of Commons that their presence would transform.

£40,000 a year. Keeping them on benefits, including accommodation costs Social Security about £7,500 a year. If they are not working they are not paying tax or National Insurance. The Ministry of Defence should contribute. The Education Ministry should pay for their education.

If we could keep say 2,000 men out of prison for one year the saving to the Government is £80,000,000, enough to fund a project like this and to have change left over. It is about joined up government.

The organisation committee should have people from the Royal British Legion, SSAFA, NACRO, and hopefully some big employers like chain stores, logistics companies, and manufacturers who hopefully will provide work placements.

The path for these young men is not smooth. There will be failures. I hope there will be significant personal successes, that the project is cost effective, and that eventually people can gain entry without having to commit offences first.

The rebuttal/prebuttal operation run during 1997 was really terrific. We need not only to set it up but to keep it running permanently.

We need to maintain information on our opponents. We need to assemble great thick files to record info on Young Conservatives, daft Council candidate leaflets and so forth that comrades not yet born can wave around as evidence that MP candidate X once supported hanging Nelson Mandela, wanted heroin legalised or wanted the poor to starve.

There ought to be a database anyone can enter for reliable statistics, policy statements etc.

The Labour Party should produce really good leaflets about four times a year. The leaflets should be timeless rather than refer to current information that then becomes dated. They should use cartoons and graphs rather than turgid text. So for instance

a leaflet explaining why Labour is not responsible for the 1987 crash, and how Gordon Brown (1) did not take us into the Euro and (2) saved the banks to prevent international financial collapse. A graph of government debt for three or four decades.

Graph of pension income against average earnings for four decades

Graph of the percentage of their income paid into tax by each decile of the population including VAT, National Insurance

Why Sure Start and assisting the poor and the working poor is cost effective for society. The relative cost of addiction treatment schemes versus prison, with recidivism information.

Life expectancy tables based on a rich electoral ward and a poor electoral ward.

What is Socialism? Cartoons immediately spring to mind. One is from the 1920s about austerity where three men are on the same ladder. The working class man is up to his chin in water. The rich guy at the top says "Equality of sacrifice - we all take one step down".

The other is of three boys each stood on a box trying to watch a football match. One lad can't see over the wall. The second frame shows that the tall kid has no box but can see over, the middle kid still has a box and can see and the short lad has two boxes and can see.

Third is a cartoon of a small girl and a small boy who are comparing genitalia. "So is that why you will always earn 22% more than me?"

For target constituencies (generously interpreted) the leaflets would be subsidised.

The Party website needs an overhaul. I recently saw on it information from 2013 about Ed Miliband that in 2016 was of no obvious value. The overhaul should be timetabled for annually at least, and shared out to named individuals.

The constituency representatives on the NEC apparently are not paid expenses. They also tend to be

SUGGESTIONS AROUND THE WAY THE LABOUR PARTY OPERATES



London and South East rather than being spread out geographically. It would help if the NEC reps were elected by regions or groups of regions, to improve contacts with CLPs. And I think they should be paid expenses to make it possible for poorer people to serve.

In the Conservative Party the Party Treasurer has a team who cosset and coax their rich donors. I strongly suspect that the Labour Party has no system or dedicated team for this purpose. I have never seen an enquiry from the centre or a regional office asking for suggestions of wealthy Labour supporting people who may not be LP members.

In some continental socialist parties the subscription is based on income. There are many Labour Party members who earn good incomes. The current annual sub-

scription for the Labour Party is less than two bottles of good wine. A request, without any enforcement mechanism, that comrades pay one half of one per cent of their net income as subscription, would generate a phenomenal amount of money. The activists already part with much more than that, so it is a way to gain money from the less active.

Among our supporters and our inactive members we have a million strong army of people who work for themselves as self employed, in family businesses, and in partnerships. They may be owners or managers of businesses of various sizes. They are too busy to go to party meetings or to be active.

What we need is for a few of these folk to form an "Enterprise For Labour" group that produces a quarterly emailed newsletter, has local fundraising dinners in sup-

portive restaurants, and acts as a transmission belt to give information about commerce and industry upwards and to transmit Labour's policies and information towards those who most need to know. Membership of a good information source at say twentyfive pounds a year is good value. It can be reduced fee for those on benefits or low incomes. Two hundred thousand people at an average of fifteen pounds each generates three million pounds, a fraction of which would pay the running costs. If it is a good magazine ordinary party members may choose to subscribe.

The group would have no policy making powers, and no capacity to pass resolutions. Its members, like anyone else, may write to the relevant Labour Minister or spokesmen.

One real problem we have on

the campaigning side is that when there is a change of party leader, then during the waiting period little campaigning takes place. It surely would be possible for the party managers to put proposals to the leadership candidates that the leadership candidates can agree to.

Where there is no Labour MP, then who leads the fight in each constituency? The Campaign Coordinator post is sometimes not filled. It is presumptuous of the defeated candidate to continue to try to lead.

The NEC should instruct each CLP, particularly in the marginals, to appoint a campaigns leader for the CLP. The CLP may appoint anyone, including people who are not CLP members.

In a marginal constituency there is often a party employee placed as organiser. The CLP has utterly no power or influence. Short of going on strike the CLP cannot get its concerns listened to by the organiser's line managers. It is not beyond the wit of man to create a liaison arrangement between the line manager and a senior CLP officer.

My observation of 2015 was that our organiser was utterly numbers driven because his bosses were numbers driven. The quality of the information gained was irrelevant. We paid in the end.

The polling process was disastrous. The high proportion of "don't knows" was a warning bell, yet the statistics my team was generating looked good.

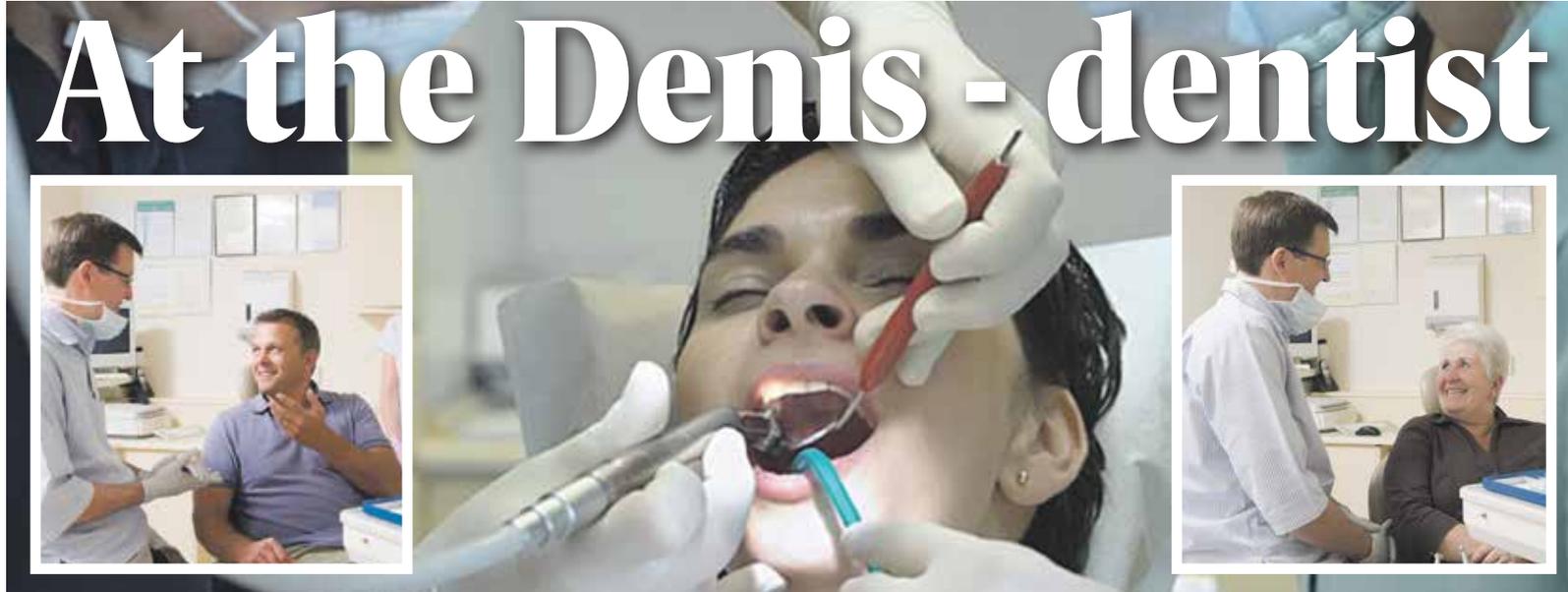
As Parliamentary Agent I was very unhappy to receive **after the election** a statement of what I should put into my election expenses for the cost of the lp organiser for the long campaign and for the short campaign. That information could have been provided in January! Had I spent up to the limit and Labour had won I would have been on my way to an Election Court!

I go to the dentist every six months for a check-up. Should the dentist not have time to clean my teeth during the visit, I must then visit the hygienist who will do it very thoroughly and charge me again. I determine, therefore, at the start of my check-up that I'll be getting my teeth cleaned as part of the check-up. I pay just shy of £20, a standard NHS charge, writes Ian Charles.

Very often it is decided that I need a filling, some other kind of 'minor' attention, such as root canal work (not something you'd have for fun) or an extraction, pulling the blighter(s) out. This will cost £53 but will include any work done in the check-up, including x-rays. This I think is good value too.

Occasionally I will need a crown or bridge, or some kind of more expensive treatment, which will cost me over £200. Should I also have root canal work as part of this treatment, or a normal filling, there is no extra charge, nor is there if I require several crowns, or more than one extraction or filling. The check-up charge is again absorbed by this 'Band Three' payment. It was all explained to me by the receptionist and by the time she'd finished I was sure she understood it, at least.

Inside the treatment room this week my dentist told me a num-



ber of other things. The costs to patients keep going up but the amount the government contributes doesn't, so eventually we'll all be pretty much 'private' clients. She said that if she were a GP there would be NHS grants to set up her practice, but since dentists are treated as private businesses (which they are) they attract no start-up support. Indeed, since 'new contracts' for dentists were introduced in 2006 there had been a lack of government investment in NHS dentistry. She told me that she'd not had a pay increase for sev-

en years, and she believed patients had no sympathy for dentists.

My dentist is the daughter of immigrants; she's ethnic Chinese with a broad Northern accent, as is her colleague in the next room. The dental nurse, a Muslim from West Yorkshire, wears a head scarf, make-up and fashionable spectacles. All are young, pleasant, friendly and efficient. They spent time talking to me about my teeth, my general health, about social media, and the NHS. They confided that most patients seem to have little interest in either dentistry or their own teeth,

except when they expected miracles to be worked on behalf of their suddenly important oral health.

The dentist seemed impressed that I clean my teeth twice a day; that I use interdental sticks, and that I actually like the scale and polish, in which a nasty little needle dodges about in between my teeth and rips out any horrors and terrors that reside in difficult to reach areas. She was pleased that I'd kept my arranged appointment, arrived on time, and not complained about what I was getting as part of the price.

"The general public have no respect for dentists," she said sadly. "They consider us to be overpaid and greedy."

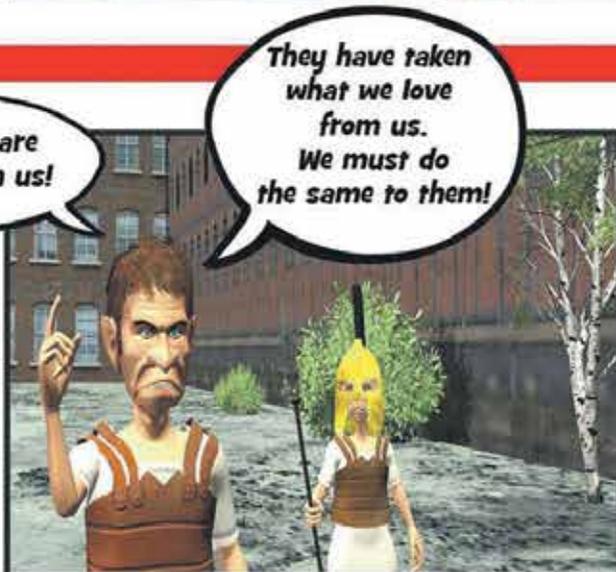
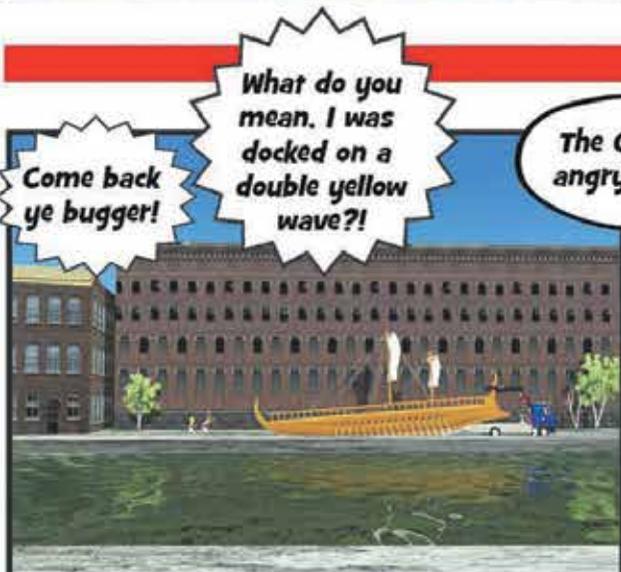
The dental nurse said nothing at this point; I'm aware that she's not a high wage earner.

When I suggested that as an investment in oral hygiene, it might be worthwhile for the practice to give every patient a packet of interdental sticks or a reel of dental floss or tape, my dentist seemed stunned. "Who would pay for them?" she said. If you have to ask, you've missed the point.

XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD: PART 14



PREVIOUSLY: Identifying the deadly plague, known in these times as 'celebrity', Xenophon sets about ridding modernity of this terrible scourge - as usual, by way of pointy sword... But as our heroes make good their escape, the tools of fascist oppression reign down upon them and their day goes from bad to worse...



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

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

<http://voxpolygonalonline.com/>

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

<https://skwawkbox.org/>

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

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

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

The Bullies are the Victims

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/2017/01/the-orwellian-propaganda-of-british.html>

In the wake of Theresa May's woeful January 2017 Brexit speech the right-wing propaganda rags went into overdrive to try to convince the gullible that her rhetoric laden speech was some kind of triumph rather than an excruciatingly embarrassing low point in British diplomatic history, utilising a load of Or-

wellian "Black is White" propaganda in the process. May's speech sent the excruciatingly weak diplomatic message that unless our 27 former European allies cave into her pro-corporate demands, then she's going to turn the UK into a vast bargain basement corporate tax haven, and then they'll be sorry.

Are the people of Stoke Central ever likely to want THIS as their MP?

<http://voxpolygonalonline.com/2017/01/21/are-the-people-of-stoke-central-ever-likely-to-want-this-as-their-mp/>

by Mike Sivier

Paul Nuttall is parachuting into Stoke-on-Trent Central and intends to conquer the constituency for UKIP.

Despite This Site's warnings of dire humiliation if he follows this course, UKIP leader Paul Nuttall has ignored my good advice and barged the 10 other possible candidates from his party out of the way to stand in the Stoke Central by-election.

Apparently the 10(!) other possible UKIP candi-

dates stood aside to make way for their leader, who is from Bootle, and is therefore being 'parachuted' into the constituency.

The people of Stoke-on-Trent Central have prior experience of 'parachuted-in' candidates - Tristram Hunt, whose resignation forced this poll, is from Cambridge. His selection was extremely unpopular with Labour Party members in the constituency, leading to him getting the lowest turnout and majority of any MP in the current Parliament.

A mental health director's moving story is a stark warning of the recklessness of Tory cuts

<http://www.thecanary.co/2017/01/21/a-mental-health-directors-moving-story-is-a-stark-warning-of-the-recklessness-of-tory-cuts/>

by Emily Apple

A mental health director's moving story is a stark warning of the recklessness of Tory cuts

An NHS director's personal story challenging mental health stigma is going viral. Entitled From NHS director to mental health inpatient in 10 days, the post is a moving reminder of how so many of us suffer from mental health problems and how quickly things can deteriorate. And it comes against a backdrop of more cuts to mental health services despite Theresa May's promises to the contrary.

The post

Mandy Stevens posted the account on her LinkedIn page. She says she was moved to make the post public after feeling "overawed by the response" on her Facebook wall. She further states:

Hundreds of comments along the lines of "I never thought someone like you could go through this". Well guess what... we can and we do; mental illness does not discriminate.

Stevens says she worked in mental health services for 29 years. Firstly as a mental health nurse and then as a manager and director. She writes:

One would think I would be immune to mental illness... But there is no immunity; mental illness can come out of nowhere and affect anyone at any time.

She also describes her experiences with depression:

I am recovering from the most terrible depression that ripped the heart and soul out of me. Very unexpectedly an NHS Acute Inpatient ward in Hackney has been my home for the past 12 weeks.

Revealed: HSBC linked to forest destruction

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/forests/revealed-hsbc-of-the-recklessness-of-tory-cuts/>

by Annisa Rahmawati, Senior Forest Campaigner, Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

Today we've let the cat out of the bag that HSBC - the biggest bank in the UK - is funding destructive palm oil companies.

Now customers across the globe are waking up to the news that the bank card in their pocket is linked to the destruction of already-endangered forests.

Secretly filmed footage shows bulldozers from the Salim palm oil group - a firm that borrowed millions of pounds from HSBC - destroying Indonesia's rainforests.

This isn't about one palm oil company though - HSBC funds multiple shady palm oil companies. Most of us will never have heard of these faceless palm oil predators - but they're notorious in their industry for trashing rainforests, so HSBC knows exactly what it's doing.

In April 2016, an influential environmental group released a briefing stating that if HSBC loaned money to a forest-trashing company called Noble Group it would be breaching its own sustainability promises. Yet HSBC signed a deal with Noble just a few weeks later that flagrantly ignored the evidence.

Best of

Moving On: Six Recommendations for Momentum

<http://novaramedia.com/2017/01/20/moving-on-six-recommendations-for-momentum/>

by James McAsh

Momentum's long internal feud appears to be over. The Leadership have imposed a constitution on the organisation through an hour-long email vote of the 12-person Steering Committee; a move justified by the results of a survey of members. However, despite this same survey showing overwhelming support for 'key decisions' being taken through online all-member votes, the constitution was imposed without members even being consulted. For the organised Opposition this has vindicated all their suspicions of the Leadership's unprincipled and undemocratic approach to politics. For the Leadership, it was a necessary move to keep the or-

ganisation from imploding.

Here are six suggestions to get started:

- 1) The Leadership must totally adhere to both the letter and the spirit of the new constitution.
- 2) The first National Coordinating Group (NCG) should share power across the movement.
- 3) The seats on the NCG reserved for affiliate organisations must be used to expand the reach of Momentum, not as factional pawns.
- 4) Online decision-making must be independently scrutinised.
- 5) The NCG should facilitate easier submission of constitutional amendments in the first year.
- 6) The Opposition should stay in Momentum, criticising but not undermining.

United States: Regime change comes home

<https://off-guardian.org/2017/01/18/united-states-regime-change-comes-home/>

by James Petras writes in 99GetSmart:

The norms of US capitalist democracy include the election of presidential candidates through competitive elections, unimpeded by force and violence by the permanent institutions of the state. Voter manipulation has occurred during the recent elections, as in the case of the John F. Kennedy victory in 1960 and the George W. Bush victory over 'Al' Gore in 2000. But despite the dubious electoral outcomes in these cases, the 'defeated' candidate conceded and sought via legislation, judicial rulings, lobbying and peaceful protests to register their opposition.

These norms are no longer operative. During the election process, and in the run-up to the inauguration of US President-Elect Donald Trump, fundamental electoral institutions were challenged and coercive institutions were activated to disqualify the elected president and desperate overt public pronouncements threatened the entire electoral order.

We will proceed by outlining the process that is used to undermine the constitutional order, including the electoral process and the transition to the inauguration of the elected president.

Regime Change in America

In recent times, elected officials in the US and their state security organizations have often intervened against independent foreign governments, which challenged Washington's quest for global domination. This was especially true during the eight years of President Barack Obama's administration where the violent ousting of presidents and prime ministers through US-engineered coups were routine - under an unofficial doctrine of 'regime change'.

The violation of constitutional order and electoral norms of other countries has become enshrined in US policy. All US political, administrative and security structures are involved in this process. The policymakers would insist that there was a clear distinction between operating within constitutional norms at home and pursuing violent, illegal regime

change operations abroad.

Today the distinction between overseas and domestic norms has been obliterated by the state and quasi-official mass media. The US security apparatus is now active in manipulating the domestic democratic process of electing leaders and transitioning administrations.

The decisive shift to 'regime change' at home has been a continual process organized, orchestrated and implemented by elected and appointed officials within the Obama regime and by a multiplicity of political action organizations, which cross traditional ideological boundaries.

Regime change has several components leading to the final solution: First and foremost, the political parties seek to delegitimize the election process and undermine the President-elect. The mass media play a major role demonizing President-Elect Trump with personal gossip, decades-old sex scandals and fabricated interviews and incidents.

Alongside the media blitz, leftist and rightist politicians have come together to question the legitimacy of the November 2016 election results. Even after a recount confirmed Trump's victory, a massive propaganda campaign was launched to impeach the president-elect even before he takes office - by claiming Trump was an 'enemy agent'.

The Democratic Party and the motley collection of right-left anti-Trump militants sought to blackmail members of the Electoral College to change their vote in violation of their own mandate as state electors. This was unsuccessful, but unprecedented.

Their overt attack on US electoral norms then turned into a bizarre and virulent anti-Russia campaign designed to paint the elected president (a billionaire New York real estate developer and US celebrity icon) as a 'tool of Moscow.' The mass media and powerful elements within the CIA, Congress and Obama Administration insisted that Trump's overtures toward peaceful, diplomatic relations with Russia were acts of treason.

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.

the new web

By Sean Jones

Bloomsbury Paperbacks 2016
£10.99

This gripping new analysis and reconstruction of world history starts with the enactment of the first ever legal system in Babylon. This laid the basis for all subsequent historical kingdoms and empires, of which the greatest of all, over the 4,000 intervening years, has been that of the Persians - modern-day Iran.

European history is largely centred around and built upon the Roman Empire, but in the context of the real history of the rest of the world it was a short-lived blip that was actually snuffed out in a manner that makes a nonsense of Gibbon's thesis of degeneracy in "Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire". The real reason was catastrophic climate change that occurred in the 4th century and affected the great steppes of Central Asia so badly that nomadic tribes consolidated under the Huns and flooded into Eastern Europe, overwhelming the Romans. But this is a detail. Europe returned to its former state of being a remote backwater, isolated for another thousand years from where the real action had always been taking place, in the broad belt between the Middle East and the Himalayas, encompassing the 'Stans' of central Asia north and East of the Black Sea as and far as Mongolia.

It is in this area that great em-

THE SILK ROADS:

A NEW HISTORY OF THE WORLD

pires rose and fell continuously for 3,500 years, depending on the vast volumes of trade and commerce of various goods, that barely touched Europe. Only when Iberian sailors discovered the Americas in 1492 and then the sea route to Asia via southern Africa in 1497, did Europe suddenly find itself in the centre of the world.

Frankopan traces the economic and social pressures that caused the rise and fall of each suc-

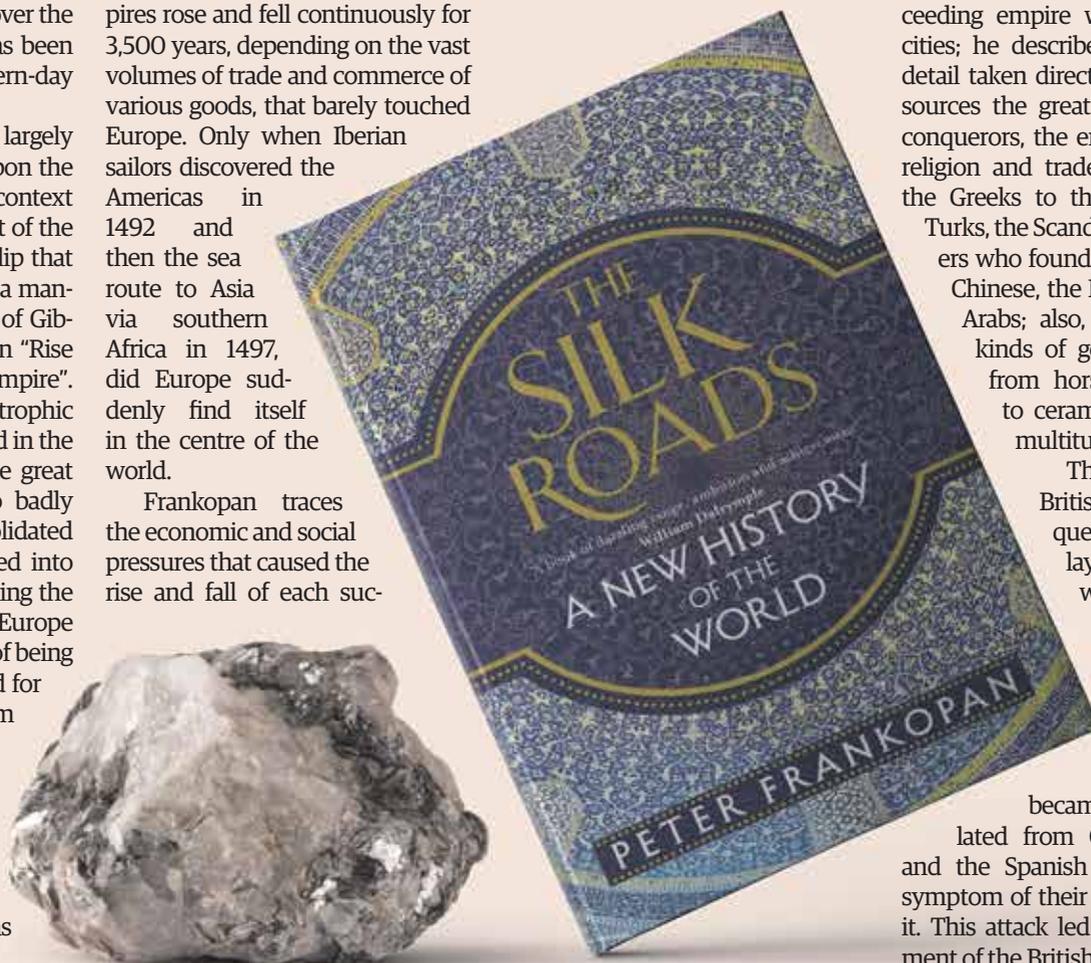
ceeding empire with its opulent cities; he describes in fascinating detail taken directly from primary sources the great migrations, the conquerors, the empires based on religion and trade together, from the Greeks to the Sogdians, the Turks, the Scandinavian marauders who founded Russia, to the Chinese, the Mongols and the Arabs; also, the flow of all kinds of goods and value, from horses and textiles to ceramics and endless multitudes of slaves.

The genesis of the British Navy that conquered the world lay in Henry VIII's wish for divorce and his ensuing confrontation with Rome. Just like after the modern Brexit Britain became politically isolated from Catholic Europe and the Spanish Armada was a symptom of their desire to punish it. This attack led to the development of the British navy for self-defence, which in turn led to superior-

ity on the high seas and eventually, to the emergence of the British Empire.

Modern history is also expounded as a function of trade wars, piracy, competition for resources - especially oil - and the ceaseless urge of the most greedy and powerful nations - none more than the USA - to conquer, seize control and enrich themselves, no matter what the cost to others in death and destruction.

Particular attention is paid to the fall of Iran 1979 and the subsequent decades-long struggle over Afghanistan - both of which the writer happened to witness first hand. These events are framed as seminal symptoms of the imminent and inevitable downfall of the power of the west, now stumbling into uncertainty, and sure signs of the beginnings of the return of power and wealth to its original location at the centre of the world - the old silk roads between the Mediterranean, the Himalayas and Central Asia, where the rising power of China is working with its neighbours stretching away towards the west to restore the old status quo.



- A memory of music you thought you'd forgotten, or never knew, or perhaps you weren't around at the time. By Ian Charles, who was yet forgets nothing, except, perhaps.....

#1 Steamhammer

It's said that if you can remember the 1960s you weren't there; Beatle John Lennon who was there for sure claimed that nothing really happened except that in or around London on a weekend, fewer than a hundred people "got dressed up." But I remember the nineteen sixties, which I observed from Leeds via TV and the odd pop music magazine I bought, and pals would make me (reel-to-reel) tape copies of albums they'd bought from record shops. Thus I first heard *Steamhammer*.

The first thing you notice about this band is that the singer, Kieran White, sang from the very depths of his throat, perhaps without using his lungs at all, and that there was plenty of guitar from two lead guitarists, band founder Martin Quittenton and another player Martin Pugh, who has taken advantage of this digital age to promote himself and his "ever present" contribution on an "of-

ficial website." The next thing to notice is that there is no gap between tracks, giving the album the urgency of a live performance, which it isn't. My view is that the first album, known as *Steamhammer I* or 'Water,' (CBS 63611) was their best release (as is often the case) but that the 'second difficult album' *Steamhammer II* was quite good too. Between I and II the drummers changed, Michael Rushton leaving and Mick Bradley joining, and rather than having guest flautist Harold McNair and session piano player Pete Sears contributing, Steve Joliffe joined on sax and flute, and wrote much of the second album, giving the band a whole new style and becoming the musical focus as Martin Quittenton had been on *Steamhammer I*.

Moreover, Quittenton then left during recording, leaving Martin Pugh to do the guitar playing, hence his claim to be the band's backbone throughout their many incarnations. By the time *Steamhammer III* came along I'd lost

interest and there was one more album that I hardly gave a listen. Quittenton meanwhile co-wrote two of Rod Stewart's best numbers and worked with a number of other people. Between albums III and IV, Kieran White left, and Pugh carried on with a couple of

the others. The received wisdom concerning personnel changes in bands is that so long as you keep the same number of members as you started with, the thing continues to work; this band had gone from five members down to three. Both founder members had left;



it was no longer Steamhammer to me, though for one further album it tried to be.

You can Google them, and their work is available on YouTube, but beware; the best stuff in my opinion is their first release, containing two covers that they made their own, and nine originals that sound like standards. The *blues* is apparent, but there is more, and if you like you could explore the 'more' option by listening to the second album, full of original material, also released in 1969. This seminal decade, begun in December 1963 when Richard 'Ringo Starr' Starkey joined the Beatles, came to an early end on 6th December 1969 at a disastrous concert in Altamont Speedway, but that is a very different story, and I'll tell my version of it on another occasion. Steamhammer got two albums into the 1960s just in the nick of time. I won't ever forget them. Thanks lads.

Recommended listening:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bllYhCy4EO>

GOOD NEWS AND HOPE



I have to start with the hope we perhaps all share, that President Donald J. Trump will not be the disaster many predicted. As far as the UK is concerned let us hope, as we drag ourselves out of Europe, that the country does not rush into a trade deal with the US which is not as secretive and dangerous as TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). Hopefully the image portrayed in the cartoon below, published in the New Scientist (29th. Oct. 2014), is not changed to an image of Theresa May on bended knee replacing the European lady on the right, with the UK becoming the 51st state of America. Any agreement which threatens the environment, food and other standards, and further privatisation MUST be avoided.

some forms of autism. In one case a 3 year old boy had suddenly stopped talking and was no longer the bright happy child he had been. He was diagnosed with regressive autism which no treatment appeared to help. This was until he started watching and re-watching Disney films. They seemed to help him make sense of his confusion. Now an adult he has learnt how to communicate again and relate to society.

This was no isolated case, and a college in the States called 'Exceptional Minds' has had success with the use of animation largely perhaps because cartoons are a major topic of conversation for autistic students. Many have a creative ability which has enabled them to express themselves through working as animators themselves. Operations director Yudi Bennett says people often "only see the limitations. We see the potential."

TTIP: Healthy profits, but what about the people?

Good News:

1. UK is reported to be one of the most successful nations in Europe in the reduction of cigarette smokers. Only Sweden has a lower proportion of smokers. Now just 17.3% of the population over 15 are smokers. The improvement is largely due to women stopping. Just 15.8% now smoke compared with 25.7% in the early 2000s.

Bennett believes all of the students would make excellent employees someday, because they are "really dedicated," frequently even arriving early, leaving late and working through lunch

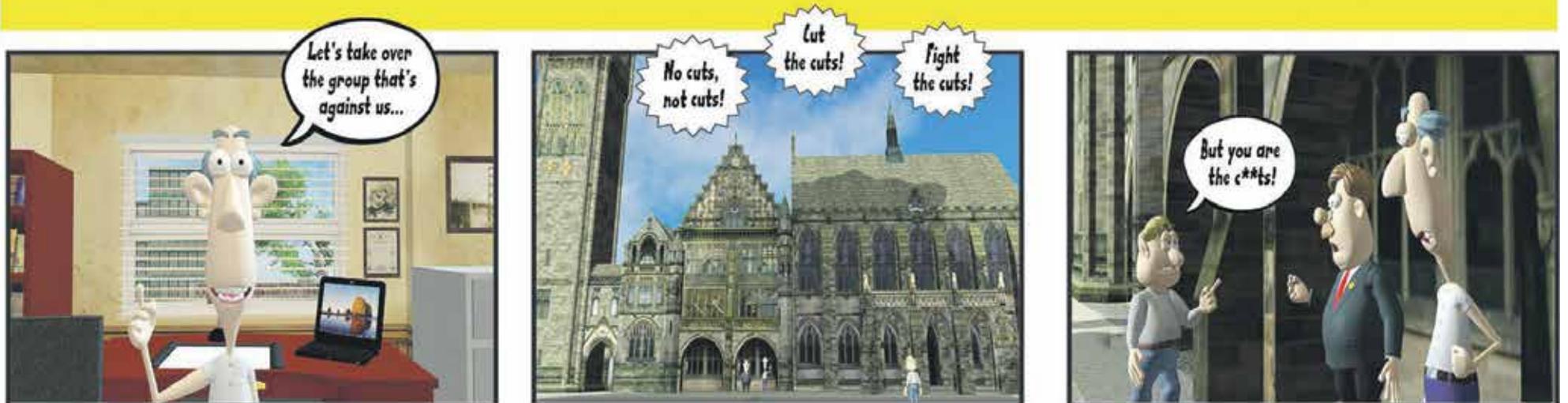
<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20131201/exceptional-minds-trains-autistic-students-for-hollywood-gigs>

2. Cartoons have been shown to reverse

STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

CHRIS THE CAREERIST #14



ISRAELI EMBASSY FUNDING ANTI-CORBYPN GROUPS

After undercover footage shot by Al-Jazeera News is released the Senior Political Advisor within the Israeli Embassy in the UK - Shai Masot - is shamed, recalled to Israel, and forced to resign, along with British Civil Servant Maria Strizzolo. Plotting to "take down" "pro-Palestinian" MPs.

The maelstrom of confusion caused by over inflated, spurious and politically motivated accusations of Anti-Semitism in the Labour Party seems to be made somewhat more understandable in the light of the activities of one Shai Masot filmed giving advice about how to form, recruit for and find funding for new pro-Israeli groups within the Labour Party (LP). Israel is now very worried about the success of the strongly emerging Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment (BDS) movement which germinated in the UK. Jeremy Corbyn is a strong supporter of Palestinian justice, and the BDS movement, the first LP Leader for decades to support this cause.

It is completely illegal for a foreign power to seek political power within another country through funding and directing covert political groups, no matter how benign their apparent aims may be.

To spite this the former political advisor was at the centre of a veritable circus of seemingly benign groups in the UK which are deeply embedded into the Labour Party and the Conservative Party.

Masot has links and sends funding to various groups including the Fabian Society, Labour Friends of Israel (LFI), the Jewish Labour Movement (JLM) and the Labour Party group run by Luke Akehurst called We Believe in Israel. Masot is seen at the LP Conference being asked for assistance by Russell Langer, a Director at the influential umbrella group; the Jewish Leadership Council. Masot assures him that he can help arrange things and has a high level of clearance, showing a text reading "do anything you want."

Masot is seen telling the undercover reporter that he wants him to form a new group - Young (LP) Friends of Israel, and also telling him on the train of his intentions to start yet another group himself called the "City Friends of Israel."

Numerous very interesting things are shown happening at the LP Conference (last year in Liverpool). Jonny Morris a Plymouth LP Councillor who infiltrated his local Momentum group and became its Media Manager - and stayed in post for months to spite signing a motion of no confidence in Jeremy Corbyn, is seen chatting with Luke Akehurst a recent anti-Corbyn NEC candidate, whose group We Believe in Israel works in the same office as Israeli funded Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM), and is heard talking about taking notes for BICOM

Joan Ryan MP is caught on cam-

era discussing with Mr Masot when her (LFI) list of potential visitors to Israel is going to be turned into an actual visit. Masot assures her that he has been given £1m for the jolly. Shortly afterwards the Deputy Israeli Ambassador shows up.

Later in the conference Joan Ryan is seen proudly telling the reporter that she had reported hapless LP member Jean Fitzpatrick for anti-Semitism because she had come up to the LFI stall to ask - in what sounded like all earnestness - about how a two party state could be achieved in the face of the "atomisation of the West Bank" in her own words. Joan is seen accusing Ms Fitzpatrick, after she had gone, of things she had never said. She even manages to persuade her parliamentary assistant Alex Richardson to make a complaint against her as well, to spite him saying on camera "Joan convinced me to

report [it] because I felt uncomfortable...although nothing anti-Semitic was said." Take note folks - this is a Labour Party member attempting to discuss international politics with a Labour Party MP, at a Labour Party Conference, and being reported totally dishonestly, as anti-Semitic as a result. She was actually subjected to an investigation. No apology was given by Joan Ryan for this. Such is the fear which these people want to instil in anyone wanting to discuss Israel.

Jeremy Newmark is the chairman of the Jewish Labour Movement (JLM), his group was behind the unprecedented attack on Jacquie Walker, who questioned the assumed link between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism which is JLM meeting was attempting to promote at the LP Conference last year.

Jon Lansman has, of course, jumped wholly aboard this bandwag-

on and agitated for Jacquie to be removed as Vice-Chair of momentum, which she was by a narrow majority. Lansman has gone on to sack all voting members of Momentum and replace them with a 28-member central committee, with Momentum members in a 40% minority.

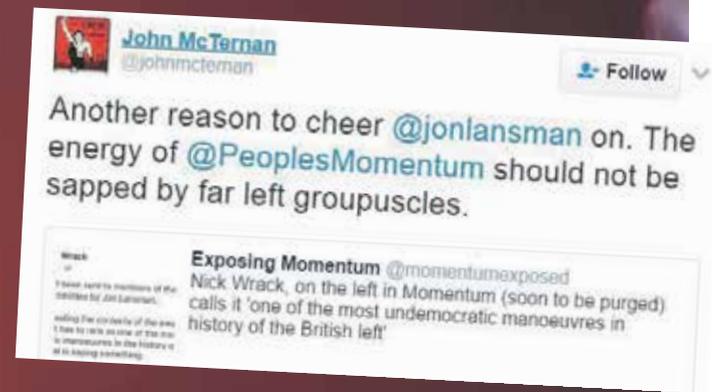
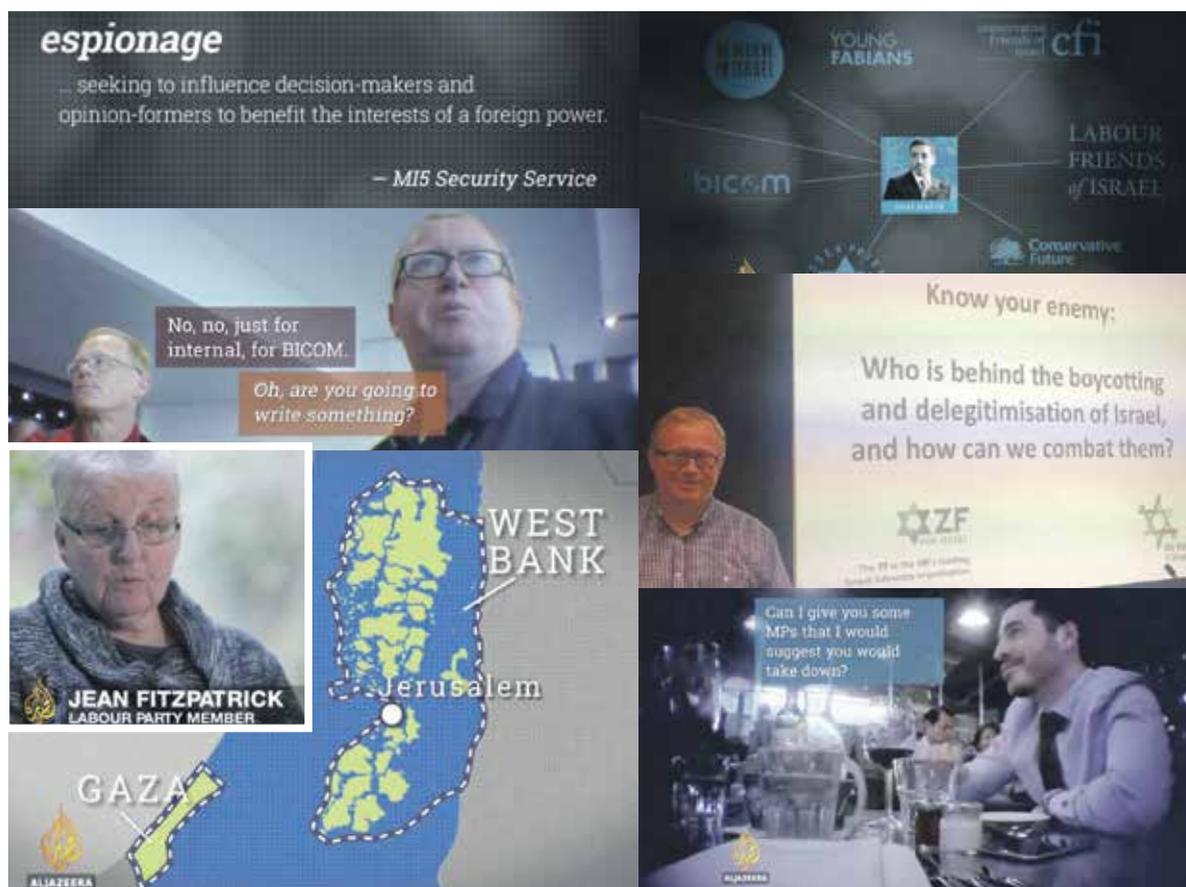
Bizarrely, the virulently anti-Corbyn Newmark and Akehurst have all shared political platforms lately with Jon Lansman and most tellingly for someone who has risen to power telling a story of support for Corbyn, Jon Lansman recently received glowing public support, from the viscous anti-Corbynite John McTernan!

(PIC 7 JMC Ternans Tweet)

It seems increasingly clear that, as he attacks democracy in momentum and affiliates himself more and more with the anti-Corbyn and pro-Israeli lobby, Jon Lansman's political ambitions are much more about ambition than socialism. On that basis John McTernan is of course, a natural ally, and Jon Lansman's membership of the JLM seems more understandable.

JLM and FoI are both known to be fond of taking a swipe at Jeremy Corbyn and their membership are known to over inflate and publicise anti-Semitism as much as possible in the media - the MSM has hardly had a month without a story about LP anti-Semitism hitting the pages.

Key mistake that Shai Masot "resigned" over were his asking UK Civil Servant Maria Strizzolo on camera "Can I give you some MPs that I would suggest you take down?" but it's clear that a hugely tangled web of Israeli influence is woven into the heart of the labour movement. New groups being set up, funded, populated and given schedules and remits by shady covert operatives - essentially they are spies. We can expect not to see Masot again for some time, but clearly he will be replaced by someone perhaps a little more cautious, and no less effective at dividing the left along this issue and protecting Israel's interests at the expense of British Socialists.



SOCIALIST SONGS

Army Dreamers

"B.F.P.O."

Army dreamers

"Mammy's hero"

"B.F.P.O."

"Mammy's hero"

Our little army boy

Is coming home from B.F.P.O.

I've a bunch of purple flowers

To decorate a mammy's hero

Mourning in the aerodrome

The weather warmer, he is colder

Four men in uniform

To carry home my little soldier

"What could he do?"

Should have been a rock star"

But he didn't have the money for a guitar

"What could he do?"

Should have been a politician"

But he never had a proper education

"What could he do?"

Should have been a father"

But he never even made it to his twenties

What a waste

Army dreamers

Ooh, what a waste of

Army dreamers

Tears o'er a tin box

Oh, Jesus Christ, he wasn't to know

Like a chicken with a fox

He couldn't win the war with ego

Give the kid the pick of pips

And give him all your stripes and ribbons

Now he's sitting in his hole

He might as well have buttons and bows

"What could he do?"

Should have been a rock star"

But he didn't have the money for a guitar

"What could he do?"

Should have been a politician"

But he never had a proper education

"What could he do?"

Should have been a father"

But he never even made it to his twenties

What a waste

Army dreamers

Ooh, what a waste of

Army dreamers

Ooh, what a waste of all that

Army dreamers

Army dreamers

Army dreamers, oh

"B.F.P.O."

Did-n-did-n-did-n-dum

Army dreamers

Did-n-did-n-did-n-dum

"Mammy's hero"

"B.F.P.O."

Army Dreamers

"Mammy's hero"

"B.F.P.O."

No harm heroes

"Mammy's hero"

"B.F.P.O."

Army dreamers.

"Mammy's hero"

"B.F.P.O."

No harm heroes

Catherine "Kate" Bush, CBE (born 30 July 1958) is a singer-songwriter, musician and record producer. She first came to note in 1978 when, at the age of 19, she topped the UK Singles Chart for four weeks with her debut single "Wuthering Heights", becoming the first female artist to achieve a UK number-one with a self-written song.[13] She has since released twenty-five UK Top 40 singles, including the top ten hits "The Man with the Child in His Eyes", "Babooshka", "Running Up That Hill", "Don't Give Up" (a duet with Peter Gabriel) and "King of the Mountain". She has released ten studio albums, all of which reached the UK Top 10, including the UK number-one albums *Never for Ever* (1980) and *Hounds of Love* (1985). She is the first British solo female artist to top the UK album charts and the first female artist ever to enter the album chart at

number-one

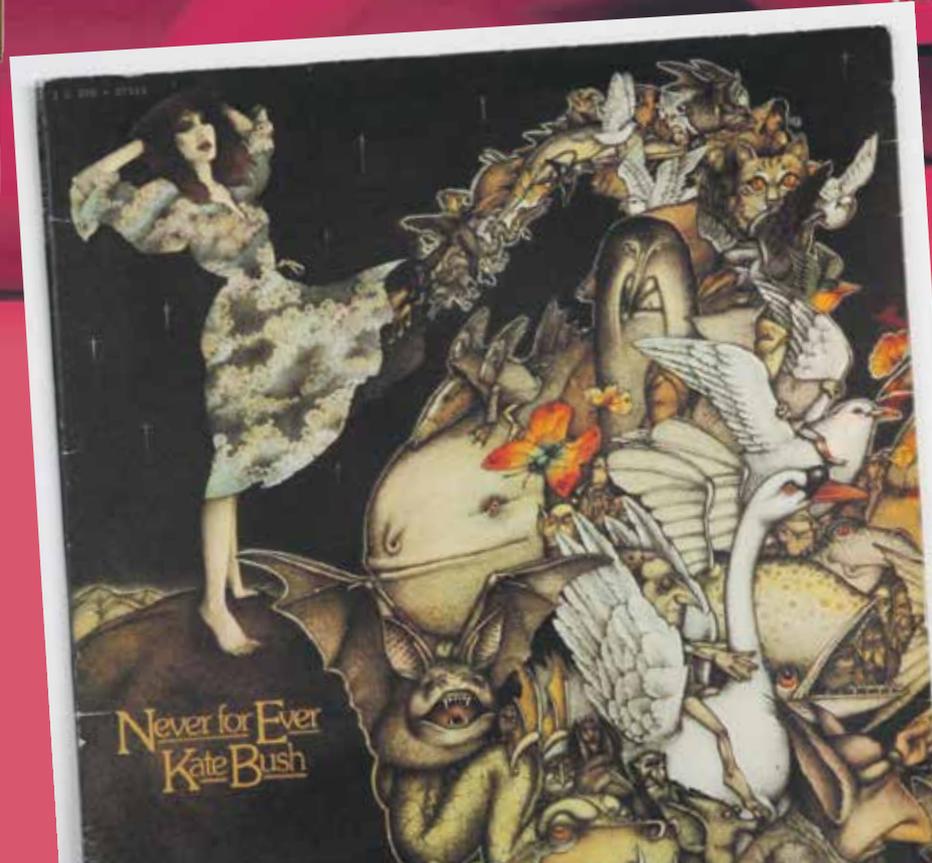
Kate Bush came from a well to do middle class background in Kent (her father was a Doctor.) This might explain the ridiculous statement she made last year:

Kate Bush has described Theresa May as "wonderful" in a Canadian magazine interview.

Speaking to *Maclean's* magazine, she said that having a female prime minister is "the best thing that's happened" to the UK for a long time.

"I actually really like her," the British singer-songwriter said.

"I will say it is great to have a woman in charge of the country. She's very sensible and I think that's a good thing at this point in time."



ABOUT SONG

Army dreamers was taken from the album *Never for Ever*. Released in September 1980, it was Bush's first no. 1 album and was also the first ever album by a British female solo artist to top the UK album charts.

The song tells the story of a mother at the funeral of her son. The line BFPO stands for British forces posted overseas. The song is about the futility of war and lists all the things that could have been done with a life if the chances had been there.

January 2017 promised new years resolutions, as every new year does. What resolutions we have been threatened and promised with (depends on which you agree with) however many resolutions are already appearing to be a shock to others an inevitable progression of a global capitalist agenda.

Global News...

Ms May :

Is looking to Strengthen West Ministers ' special relationship' with the ' Whitehouse ' and the new Tenant : President 'The Trump'. 'The Trump' , is now Leader of the ' free world' and the nation formally known as the: The United States of America. The USA is now ' by whisper' to be known as a country of inhabitants torn by division and protest . Theresa May however, will visit 'The Trump' hoping to be the first in his queue for a special, confessional and hearing. A unifying prayer shall be offered via a trade agreement.

Trident:

Theresa May declares she has ' absolute faith' in trident make of that resolution as you May. it emerged that an unarmed missile malfunctioned during a rare test last June. The missile had no faith in the Tories.

Laura Kuessenberg of the ' English' BBC news was found to have misrepresented Jeremy Corbyn's words. This is not the first time Laura, has done this and by way of an apology the BBC made this announcement of bias, by formally putting an article out in their entertainments section. Our press team await further statements of misinformation from the BBC on this issue.

Brexit and Davos

Theresa May, decided to by pass the UK parliament and its ' nations sovereignty' by narrating her 'global' agenda at Davos. It was in the Swiss Alps that Theresa May, hailed the UK as a 'foreign investment hub' despite banks looking to move jobs abroad by ignoring anywhere else in the UK outside of Westminster and its investment Alpha global role banking role. The 63 nations plus trade agreements that the UK are already trading under the EU agreement are conveniently forgotten because no one hugged her at recent EU meetings. May, has reached out to both India and Australia for a hug trade. Both have confirmed they are happy to hug and trade with 'Westminster' as long as there is a loosening of visa control between the UK borders and their own.

THE NEWS

JANUARY 2017

NHS

The NHS continues to be in crisis and across Britain there have been marches against the government cuts. Thousands of people - including doctors, nurses, other NHS staff and union members - marched across the UK (Saturday 21 January) in protest. The reason for this is because....

Blue Labour becomes Yellow

Tristram Hunt abandoned his 'labour' position by accepting a post an imperialist, constructed, Victoria and Albert Museum . Tristram, the former Labour MP once was quoted as saying that: free museum entry 'didn't achieve that much'.

UKIP Rant on

Paul Nuttall, of UKIP declared that he would stand for councillor for Stoke, in the contested labour seat after Mr Hunt left the community, to focus on a more profitable position. Mr Nuttall is campaigning against the

elderly' as he feels that they are a burden on the welfare state and certainly the NHS and is calling for privatisation of health care and by the way it is also the 'immigrants' fault ...

The disenabled

Doug Pulley Bought a well needed court case to the supreme court and won. Although only a partial victory. The court order does ensure that certain providers of public services, such as buses, trains, supermarkets, parking spaces must provide support to ensure that wheel chair users can do more than 'request' a person to vacate a space that is designated for them. Here is a thought ...make more spaces for the disenabled not profit for standing.

Scotland

Nicola sturgeon unveils 'Scotland's place in Europe' sending a clear signal to Westminster that it will go it alone, its up to rest of us who live in Wales, Scotland and

' other' parts of England to work out what the UK means... Like Westminster and its occupants, Holyrood is standing firm in place. One adrift in the Globe and one drifting in the EU in the globe

Trident

The SNP are declaring: "Trident obscenely expensive and morally repugnant" amid the safety concerns and are still calling to 'scrap trident' with the warning of a second independence referendum. The SNP are declaring that the original referendum hinged on Scotland staying the EU and the free market. Theresa May fails to inform Parliament before Trident vote that a test fire of the missile did not work. The (unarmed nuclear warhead went off in the wrong direction.)

SNPs at Westminster

Will absolutely vote against article 50
Furthermore Alex Salmond, argues that Theresa May's hard Brexit undermines Scottish devolution by ignoring Holyrood and its electorate. Alex, claimed that the English Brexit is an "arrogant dismissal" of the Scottish Parliament's support for remaining in the EU.

Wales

A trade deal with 'The Trump' will put the NHS and public services at risk of privatisation. Wales online: discusses: "Trump's team has said a trade deal between Britain and the United States could be struck in just 90 days,' they reference the former Ukip leader Nigel Farage as the middle man in this maybe, deal.

Other news:

Carwyn Jones and Leanne Wood are reported to be setting out their alternative Brexit plan :

"The First Minister has joined forces with the leader of Plaid Cymru to present the UK Government with an alternative plan for leaving the European Union."

The two leaders will put forward their proposals in a White Paper that they'll publish together in Westminster tomorrow but they've set out their principles in

a joint article for the Sunday Times today."

" At the heart of this plan is the importance of continued participation in the single market for our businesses and our economy. People voted to leave the EU but they didn't vote to undermine thousands of jobs, two-thirds of Welsh exports or foreign direct investment into Wales." *Carwyn Jones and Leanne Wood*

Maybe they should ask The USA, Australia and India what they also think?

Northern Ireland

Sinn Féin president says Brexit would undermine the Good Friday agreement and would constitute 'a hostile action.

Martin McGuinness: has had enough and gone and There has been outrage after car parking charges in Northern Ireland are set to increase by as much as 50%.

Gov.UK are declaring that maybe its time for A fresh start for Northern Ireland? A pre emptive post in November 2015

That's how much 'Westminster' and its news networks focuses on the UK

Everywhere

Millions of women across the globe took to the streets to march against Donald Trump in protest to his anti-female policies.

In Washington DC, 50,000 turned out to stand up for gender equality, healthcare for women and other issues thought to be threatened under Trump's presidency.

Across the US, a staggering 2.9million people showed up to support the cause - making history with the number of turnouts.

And in London, 100,000 people took over the capital to raise banners, flags and their voices against the President of the USA.

The rest...

Syria is still being bombed. Palestine is still under Israeli occupation and Gambia is being re introduced to the ' global news stage ' the rest of the globe needs representation in global news because they are either forgotten or bombed. This doesn't bode well for a global relationships does it Ms May?



BLAIR'S MESSAGE TO THE WOMEN OF THE 21ST. OF JANUARY 2017

Tony Blair dislikes popular movements because they are not easy for rulers to control. His entire approach to government was based upon establishing a target, creating a narrative about that target so that any discussion would stay inside the approved framework, ensuring that everyone involved aimed only at that target and then deploying carefully constructed statistics to prove that the target had been hit. The irony that will escape Blair is that this is close to how Lenin and Stalin operated. Their belief that Marx had provided an infallible template and timetable for history is, I believe, echoed by Blair's belief that only he could see the way, the truth and the light. The messianic parallels are obvious. Spilling blood on the way to fulfilling the chosen purpose is merely incidental.

The Non-New British Labour Party is/was not like that. Its urge to change sprang from a set of ethical commitments. It wished for more equality and fairness and the end of exploitation by the powerful.

Wishy, washy? Open to discussion? Disputable? Difficult to tie down? Yes, all of those things. Certainly not to the liking of a Great Leader. If you work in education in the UK, particularly England, you cannot have failed to notice the spread of the cult of leadership and management during Blair's time. The same cult is now very strong in politics. The 1930s come to mind.

The 21st. January 2017, however, saw a worldwide populist movement by, mostly, women from all over the world. The USA has just elected a Great Leader. Donald Trump does not have the ability to articulate ethical questions. Neither, it seems, do his supporters. Nevertheless, he can tap into the kind of discontent that generates the negative forces of racism and sexism. Essentially, those forces are anti humanity. They are exploited by greedy people and lead only to the fracking of society.

By contrast the 21st of January Women are potentially a posi-



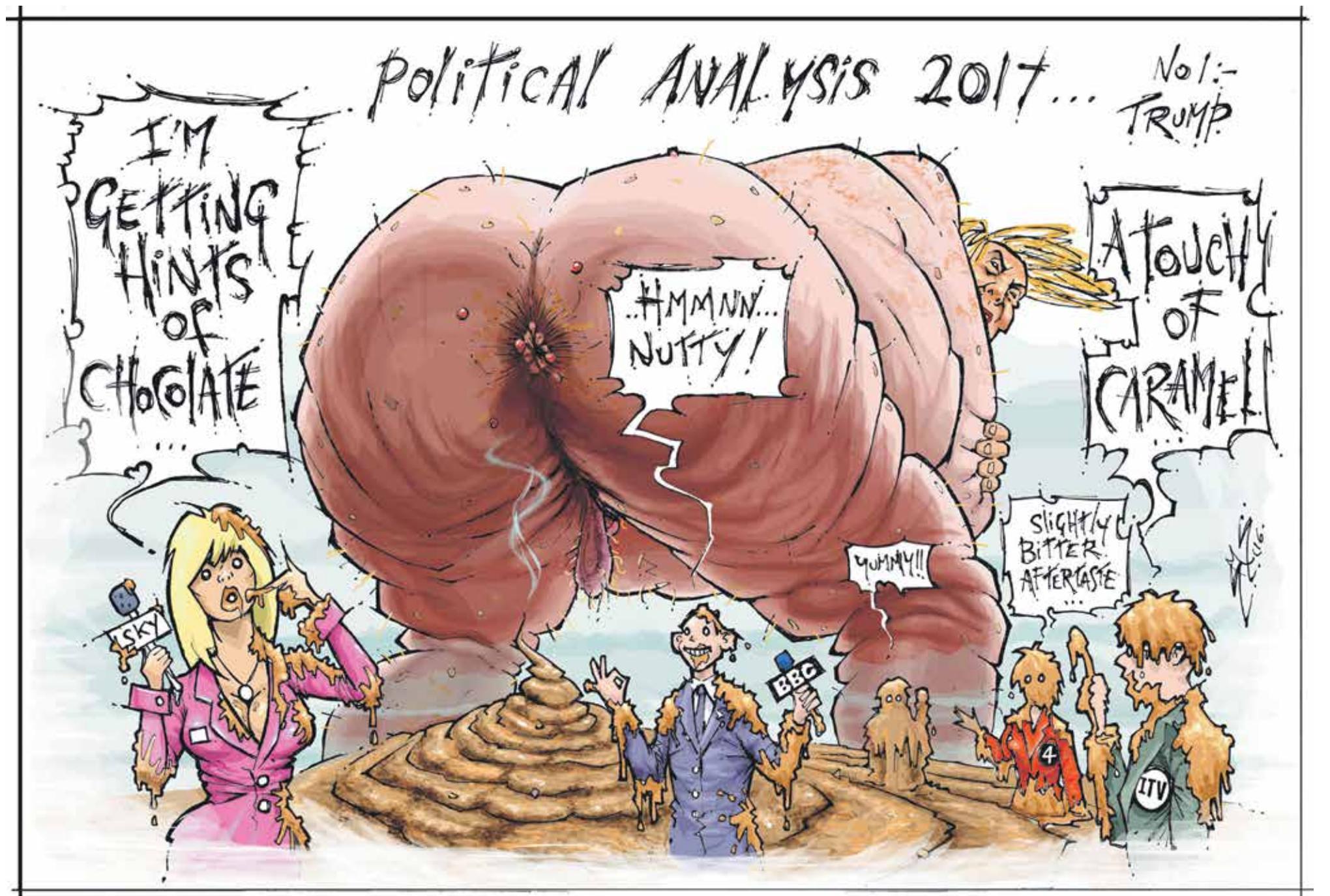
tive force. They are pro humanity. Perhaps they will be represented in the media merely as a protest. That would be to undervalue what

they represent. Certainly sustained organisation is needed. Certainly there will be post euphoria relaxation. And certainly some will think

that a march is all it takes. But just look at that word 'demonstration'. We may see it as a protest march but something is actually being 'demonstrated'. For me, humanity is being demonstrated.

The question is: what next? My fear is that few of our politicians will wish to have anything to do with those marchers. They are an embarrassment for them: a reminder that values such as 'fairness', 'justice' and 'respect' have been kept in the waiting room of history for too long. Sometimes they are brought out to adorn speeches soliciting votes but then they are put away.

Right now I sense Tony Blair is drafting a speech for his new Centre for Centristism, or whatever it is called. The world record for bullshit will be smashed. The way forward he proposes is not to appease the discontented Trump voters. Neither is it to submit to pressure from marchers: 'Calm down dear.' Heard that before?



WE TOOK IN

Updated on October 21, 2015

Why We Took In Refugees

I was driving home from work at about 9pm, listening to the car radio. The current affairs program started by discussing a far off country I had never heard of.

It seemed that Ethiopia had occupied an Italian colony called Eritrea before or during the Second World War. The Eritreans now wanted their independence from Ethiopia. There was a nasty war going on.

If you were Eritrean it was a war of liberation and if you were Ethiopian it was a war stirred up by outsiders.

The casualties in the war were heavy because the Ethiopians were killing indiscriminately.

Almost a quarter of Eritrea's population had fled. They were now living as refugees in Sudan and in other nearby countries.

The radio program was not about the war.

In the last month over 300 Eritrean children had arrived in London.

London's social services were overwhelmed. Hundreds of children were sleeping on church hall floors across London. There was virtually no one in England who spoke Tygringa, so communication with the children was difficult. Children were still arriving and the problem was getting worse.

At that time it was very difficult to kick out ("refoul") an unaccompanied child asylum seeker. As Eritrea was a war zone we could not send the children there. Sudan did not want them back and the only accommodation in Sudan was in tents in very large refugee camps.

I was an immigration lawyer, which included political asylum work. The last thing I wanted, driving home at 9pm as I often did, was to be involved with refugees at home, too.

These were children in desperate need of family accommodation. We were two couples living together. Across the two couples we had two boys and two girls. And we had two spare bedrooms.

Sometimes the logic of a situation leads one to a conclusion one does not want.

When I got home one of the other adults had gone to bed, so I could not discuss the question immediately. I wanted to sleep on the problem, because the logic was that we should offer to take two children.

We were already cooking for 9 each night because we also had an aunt living with us. Cooking for 11 instead of 9 would not be a big issue. With four adults working we could afford to feed and clothe a

couple of extra children.

We had the space. They had the need. There was an inexorable conclusion here.

The following night I was home at a reasonable hour. When the children had gone to bed I raised the issue with the other adults. As one of them said,

"How can one say "No"?"

We thought that if we were so desperate that we had to send our young boys to a strange country on another continent we could only pray that some decent people picked them up.

The following evening I was home for dinner. Over dinner I told the children about the radio program. The reaction of all four children was immediate and unanimous. "They can stay here!"

I have often been proud of the children, but this is one of those events which still brings tears to my eyes.

I suggested we did not have room for 300 children. The eldest child pointed out that we had two spare bedrooms. There was unanimous agreement that I should set about finding two Eritrean children straight away.

The following morning I telephoned the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI), a leading immigration organisation. I asked who was dealing with the Eritrean child problem and I was put through to someone. The person explained that the Director of JCWI had retired a few months earlier, and when the problem blew up she had become attached to an Eritrean self help organisation. This organisation was the only organisation actually doing anything.

So I telephoned the lady.

I explained who I was. I gave her the names of two female immigration lawyers she could telephone to check me out. One had known me for ten years and the other for only five years, but she had visited my home.

The following day the lady telephoned. My references were satisfactory. A man called Jamal would arrive that Saturday with two children to see what the people and the accommodation were like. Jamal would take the children away again so the children would be free to decide when they got back to London.

When they arrived the children were 15 and 16 years old. They had been some of the earliest children to arrive and one had some English. They were very happy with our set-up.

A few days later the lady rang. One of the children did not want to be away from the other Eritrean children in London. Another child had desperately wanted to get

away from London because he wanted to learn English. He had pleaded his way into this Yorkshire arrangement. The children coming were called Amanuel and Fitzum.

When the boys arrived with Jamal we had a brief conversation. Jamal had reasonable English. There were no dietary issues. The children were not interested in religion.

One of the first things the children did was to ask where they were. We brought out a map of Britain. We showed the children where London was, and where Huddersfield was.

I took them to the local tech where I enrolled them on an intensive English course. And of course our children spoke with them all the time.

As the boys' English improved we learned more of their history and their families. One boy was an orphan who had lived with an aged grandmother in Eritrea. The Ethiopian air force would machine gun any group of boys playing football. The Ethiopians also raided the schools for children to use as pack mules, and for teenage girls. Sometimes the children had to walk in front of Ethiopian Army convoys so if the Eritreans had planted mines on the road the children would set them off. His father was a lorry driver who had been killed by a land mine.

The grandmother had arranged for him to be smuggled to safety in Sudan.

The other lad told us that the journey over the mountains to Sudan took over 20 days. After two days of walking his guide asked if people were hungry. They were all hungry, so the guide collected their money and gold. He said he would go to a village in the next valley to buy food.



IN REFUGEES



He did not come back.

They waited. They could not go forward and they could not go back. They were lost. Eventually a man came through the area where they were stranded. He was a guide who was returning from Sudan. He knew the way. They asked him to take them to Sudan.

They had no money to pay the guide. He would not work for free.

After a while he pointed to a pretty 15-year-old girl. If she would give him sex every night he would take the group to Sudan, and if not he would go home. It was up to her. It was not a pleasant decision for her but she agreed.

In a Sudan refugee camp he met a woman who knew his father. Father was contacted in Saudi Arabia and he paid for the boy to go to England. At one time it had been possible to smuggle children into Saudi Arabia but not now.

We learned a few recipes from the boys.

There were various activities and flashes of humour.

We discovered that Fitzum was known as "George" by the children on our street, with whom he played soccer. He was a serious good-looking lad who was often asked his name by attractive young ladies at the tech. For their purposes his name was "Mohammed" because he had worked out that "Mohammed" maximised his social opportunities.

We were happy to discover that the children already had social security incomes as asylum seekers but because they were so young they were not expected to work. The system has changed several times since then.

Once their English was adequate the boys joined a motor vehicle mechanic course at the tech.

We took the boys to Manchester for a party to celebrate Eritrean Independence. There were many happy people that night. The happiness was tinged with sadness because everyone had lost kin and friends.

The following weekend some Eritreans from Manchester came to visit, and went away very satisfied with how the boys were living. They were probably the local representatives of the Eritrean Liberation Front, now the new government. Our boys told us that for over a year they had been sending money to ELF in London because every Eritrean abroad supported ELF and was expected to pay money every week. The political instruction to all the Eritreans abroad from ELF was to gain skills and qualifications.

ELF had plenty of unskilled

fighters who would have to be resettled and looked after when the war ended. Eritrea would need people with skills. And Eritrea would continue to need foreign income from those who did not return.

There was a sad incident. One of the boys had been on the last bus to the village from Huddersfield. A village lout on the bus threw an empty drink can at our boy, which bounced off his head. Our boy got off the bus. He told no-one.

Within 30 minutes I was in his bedroom wanting to know the details. He was surprised.

The lout's girlfriend's mother was a visitor to our house, and the girl had given the lout a loud and public tongue lashing on the bus until the lout was literally in tears. Then she told mum and mum rang me.

We took the boys on a camping holiday with us. One of our children was asked who Amanuel was and she said "He's my brother" Her mother got some very strange looks!

After a while the boys drifted off.

The boys came back for our wedding. One of the surprises for them was to see their first ceilidh, because we had a ceilidh at our wedding reception. They had never seen the English like this before!

I had a telephone call from the Immigration Service one night. They had raided a pizza restaurant and one of the delivery drivers had no documentation. He claimed to be Amanuel and he had given my home telephone number. I checked my notebook and I confirmed Amanuel's date of birth, Home Office Reference Number, and the date when his current leave would expire. They said they would take my word for it. The Home Office computer was down, but in view of what I said they would not detain him further.

Fitzum moved to Manchester for a course and then to London to read for a degree in Electrical Engineering. We believe he went to Italy. Amanuel went to London.

We heard nothing further from them.

There are lots of loose ends. Was it pure coincidence that a new guide turned up in that lonely valley? Who paid the air fares initially? Why did 300 children suddenly come to London in one month? There is a huge story behind all this that I will never know. I am confident that what the boys told me about themselves was true because they had no need not to be truthful.

It has been a privilege to know and to help two young men who will be a credit to their society wherever they are.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

Fight Actual Racism And Bigotry Not Culture

This latest outburst of anger against a group of Morris Dancers blacking up their faces is yet another example of political correctness over common sense. What limited evidence shows is that forms of this dancing came over from the continent over 500 years ago and the name probably derived from the Flemish mooriske danse. Morris dancers do not all black up but all tend to wear extravagant, colourful clothing. This type of dance was quite prevalent across Europe and was probably influenced by the Moors from North Africa, however it was popular for its exotic nature and not confined to people of colour. The picture below is of a small statue made by Erasmus Grasser in 1480 for Old Town Hall, Munich. This dancer would be described at the time as "moorish", but all are fairer- but all the other remaining 9 carvings are fair skinned.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris_dance#cite_note-6

These traditional forms of ritual dancing go back a long way, and its hard to know how they originated, as the dancers were neither wealthy nor literate. Some early morris dancers were farm labourers fishermen in Hereford, Shropshire and Welsh Borders who earned extra money in winter. They blacked their faces as a disguise because it could be termed begging at the time which was illegal. This form of disguise was used by poachers and even when there were riots against enclosures in the 1450s in Kent and Essex.

My wife and I witnessed a Morris Dance in Stratford a few years ago where one of the groups had blackened faces so out of curiosity my Nigerian born wife asked what was the reason for the blackened faces. The lady questioned said she understood that when the Morris Dance tradition spread to the industrialised Midlands and the North, workers did not want their



factory bosses to know as they often not only relied on meagre factory wages but generally lived in houses owned by their bosses and often had tokens to use in the factory shop.

I can see that if the revival of this tradition might have been boosted by the popularity of 'Minstrel shows' in America during the 19th Century which gained popularity here during the 20th. Century. Given the long tradition in this country behind this form of dance it should not be a matter of such magnitude and some individual dancers have just put a strip of black across their face so as not to cause offence. This would be a sensible compromise rather than a full ban on those dance troupes 'who black up'.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/black-faced-morris-dancers-traditional-disguise-or-simply-racist-9794704.html>

I would ask that all of us who abhor prejudice of any form choose appropriate targets and do so in a calm considered way. I know this can be difficult from campaigning and canvassing for elections and there are times when you might put your views across strongly to make you feel better rather than change another's point of view. Out canvassing in 2010 with a candidate for the local election I found a middle aged man who only wanted to talk about immigration. I quickly answered some of his points, calmly ignoring him labelling immigrants as 'wogs' and 'Pakis'. I then reminded him that I was canvassing on behalf of my colleague for the local election and started to move away. My colleague, not knowing what I had put up, came over to introduce himself. I was close enough to hear the man say to him "too many black bastards

here". Hearing this I turned round and told him I was married to one of these "black bastards" and had wasted too much time listening to his bigoted views and I would not wish to have his vote. (Gordon Brown take note this was a true bigot!).

Contrast this with how my African born wife responded to another bigot when in a charity shop with a younger relative visiting from Nigeria. Again a middle aged white man came into the shop, saw the two ladies in African costume, and was heard to say in his brief visit that he could not get anything because "these Africans are taking over." My wife later spotted the same man drinking outside a pub in the town centre and could not resist giving a 'black power' salute and saying 'yeah we are taking over'. I was not there but I have visions of him spilling his beer in shock.

In over 50 years since coming to live here my wife has learnt skills in responding to prejudice in a variety of ways. When she first came here looking for houses to rent, she saw notices 'no blacks, no Irish, no dogs'. Moving on from those times she has used irony as a respond to taunts of 'go back home' by replying 'yes I am on my way'. She is not afraid to speak her mind and I could give you numerous stories as to how she has dealt with prejudice, perhaps another time.

The moral of my message is not to get hung up on perceived racism but challenge the lack of opportunity for underprivileged of whatever racial background. Fight institutionalised racism whether in public services or the Board Room. The real battle is against the establishment in this country and the vast inequality of wealth and opportunity here.

The Magic Porridge Pot

The problem a BBC journalist has to overcome, they are taught, is the mastering of the art of objectivity and subjectivity. They must rise above their own notions, prejudices and beliefs and move towards a rationale of objectivity over the subject content. The BBC journalist is taught to analyse the subject within itself (the ordinary, everyday person) and rise above and be objective over, them. Once the BBC journalist has mastered that gift, they have gained the title of objectivity, the spell books

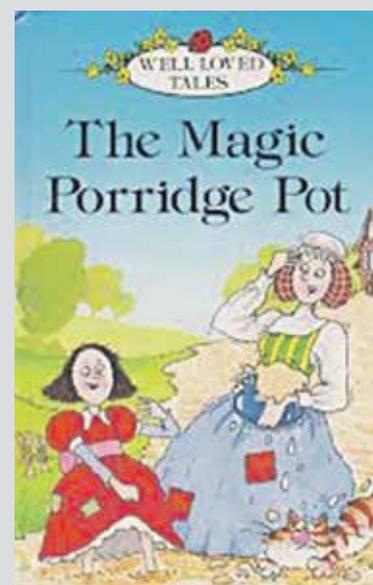
Is that true or did you hear it on the BBC ?

state...

Objectivity to the BBC is a form supremacy, one which truly proposes a more objective theory about the ordinary person and its 'ordinariness' of the others everyday lives and practices. A mystical gift no less!

And one the BBC holds dear. The executive committee has the spell to release the contents of the magic porridge pot, no less. A mystical gift indeed!

The problem inherent with this 'mystical gift' is not in the 'not ordinary' persons' ability to try to be objective or even the attempt to be as objective as one professional can be. No! That is not problematic! The problem with the BBC's objectivity, when studying and analysing the ordinary person, as a subject, is the authorship, authorship as the mastership of authority and ownership of the ordinary subject and its ordinary



subjectivity. They forget to say: 'Stop little pot...Stop!'

A messy mess of porridge indeed!

Any assumption of the power of the BBC elite, that thinks they are objective fails to recognise that the BBC, typologise, re tell and analyse the 'others' story in a self delusory way. For example, if we ask any BBC journalist to retell their own story then we may encounter problems of subjectivity of ownership, editing and re telling of any story. If we question the BBC shall we all drown in porridge? Or shall we shall we all say; ' stop little pot stop! '

Apologise Laura, apologise...!

SUDOKU

5	4	8	3	6	7	2	9	1
7	3	9	2	1	8	6	4	5
6	1	2	4	5	9	7	3	8
9	6	3	5	7	4	1	8	2
4	7	5	1	8	2	3	6	9
2	8	1	9	3	6	5	7	4
8	2	6	7	4	5	9	1	3
1	5	7	8	9	3	4	2	6
3	9	4	6	2	1	8	5	7

9	6	2	8	7	8	2	6	9
5	4	8	2	3	6	1	7	5
6	2	7	9	1	5	4	3	8
4	6	3	8	9	2	5	1	7
8	7	5	3	6	1	9	2	4
2	1	9	5	4	7	3	8	6
1	5	4	7	8	3	6	9	2
3	8	2	6	5	9	7	4	1
7	9	6	1	2	4	8	5	3

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7	2	5	8	9	3	8	2	6
8	2	6	5	4	2		1	
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4	7		8	8	3	6	9	
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7	3	8	2	1	8	2		6
8	4		3	5	7			1

7	9	6	2		4		5	3
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8		9			7	1	5	6
8	7	5	3	6	1		2	4
4		7	8			5		
9	2		5	1	7	4	5	8
		8		3	6	1	7	
5	3		4			2	2	9

Word Search Puzzle

N N R R L E Q J L H P E N G T
 O O O F I V I U S K Z A N H O
 S T N S Y C D S Y Y M D O R J
 L N A Y N Z H G E U E M C I S
 I I L M J H G A R N A P M D P
 W L D F X B O T R S H M Q Z K
 W C R L G A S J J D Y O M Q S
 O L E X J Y L E B C N W W A T
 R L A O R Y F R A N J I H E L
 D I G R N F C R K E O B X I R
 O B A N E V T L H J K D R O Z
 O H N R P E H T A S E K N E N
 W H S T R W N L C X M K Q Y G
 V O J O H N F K E N N E D Y L
 N L O C N I L M A H A R B A Q

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

- ABRAHAM LINCOLN
- BILL CLINTON
- EISENHOWER
- HARRY TRUMAN
- JIMMY CARTER
- JOHN F. KENNEDY
- LYNDON B. JOHNSON
- RICHARD NIXON
- RONALD REAGAN
- THOMAS JEFFERSON
- WOODROW WILSON

Sudoku

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			6			2		
3	1			8	9			
6			7	4			8	
		8	5					
	2		1		4	3		
			3		2	6		

2	6		3					
	4	3			1		2	
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			6					
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				1				

Jokes

What does Melania see in Donald Trump?
"Ten billion dollars and high cholesterol!"

What is the Beach Boys song "Kokomo" about?
All the places Donald Trump has bank accounts.

What does Donald Trump say when he can't find his Viagra?
"The erection is rigged!"

What do you see when you look into Trump's eyes?
The back of his head.

Did you hear about the new Netflix series with Donald Trump? It's called "Orange is the New Racist".

How can Donald Trump be hostile to people of colour when he himself is orange?

What is Donald Trump's favourite nation?
Discrimination.

My friend said to me, "I hear the FBI have foiled a terrorist plot to kill Donald trump."
What, a suicide bomber?" I asked.
"No, a surface to hair missile."

Donald Trumps Wake When Donald Trump died, an elaborate wake was planned. In preparation, Mrs. Trump called the undertaker aside for a private little talk. "Please be sure to secure his toupee to his head very securely. No one but I knew he was bald," she confided, "and he'd never rest in peace if anyone found out at this point. Our friends from the old country are sure to hold his hands and touch his head before they're through paying their last respects." "Rest assured, Mrs. Trump," comforted the undertaker. "I'll fix it so that toupee will never come off." Sure enough, the day of the wake the old timers were giving Donald's ancient corpse quite a going over, but the toupee stayed firmly in place. At the end of the day, a delighted Mrs. Trump offered the undertaker an extra thousand dollars for handling the matter so professionally. "Oh, I couldn't possibly accept your money," protested the undertaker. "What's a few nails?"

Metropolitan Opera House At the evening performance, the head usher at the Metropolitan Opera House was quite surprised. During an intermission, one middle aged lady stopped and whispered in his ear, "Sir, I believe that I was sexually harassed!" The usher didn't think much of this complaint, but promised he would check into it soon. At the end of the nights performance in an area close to the first complaint, a second little lady bent down and whispered in his ear, "Sir, I believe I was sexually harassed!" This time, he knew it had to be taken care of soon. A few guests had remained in the opera house, and he decided to go back and question them, to see if they had any knowledge of what was going on. He found one old man crawling along the opera house floor underneath the seats and stooped down to question him. "Excuse me, sir, can I help you?" A bald Donald Trump looked up and said, "Well, sonny, you sure can. I've lost my toupee and I'm trying to find it. I thought I'd found it twice, but they were both parted in the middle...and mine's parted on the side!"

Donald Trump is visiting a school one day. In one of the classes, they're in the middle of a discussion about words and their meanings. The teacher asks Trump if he'd like to lead the discussion of the word "tragedy." He agrees to do so and asks the class for an example of a tragedy. One little boy stands up and says, "If my best friend who lives on a farm, is playing in the field and a runaway tractor comes along and runs him over and kills him, that would be a tragedy." "No," says Trump, "That would be an accident." Next a little girl raises her hand and says, "If a school bus carrying forty children went off a cliff, killing everyone inside, that would be a tragedy." "No, I'm afraid not," says Trump. "That's what we would call a great loss." The room goes silent for a while as no other children volunteer. Trump looks around the room and says a little testily, "Isn't there anyone here who can give me an example of a tragedy?" At last, a little boy at the back of the class raises his hand and says, "If a private jet carrying you, Mr Trump, was struck by a missile and blown to smithereens, that would be a tragedy." "Fantastic!" shouts Mr Trump, "That's exactly right. And can you tell me why that would be a tragedy?" "Well," says the boy, "Because it sure as hell wouldn't be a great loss and it probably wouldn't be an accident either."

QUIZ!

- ANSWERS**
1. Guernsey (in the Channel Islands)
 2. Stupendous
 3. Viz
 4. Rudolf Hess
 5. William Wilberforce
 6. Tungsten
 7. Samuel
 8. The Beano
 9. Italy
 10. Justin Timberlake
 11. T.V. Times
 12. Fulton Mackay (plays Principal Officer Mr Mackay)
 13. DHL
 14. Inuit
 15. Xerox

1. To which part of the British Isles was Victor Hugo exiled to by Napoleon III (he wrote Les Miserables while living there)?
2. There are only four words in common use ending in 'dous', three are tremendous, horrendous and hazardous, what is the remaining one?
3. The characters 'Billy the Fish' and 'Sid the Sexist' have appeared in which comic?
4. Which infamous Nazi parachuted into Scotland in 1941?
5. Which leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade is buried in Westminster Abbey, close to his friend William Pitt?
6. What metal is commonly used in the manufacture of playing darts?
7. David slays Goliath in which book of the Bible?
8. Lord Snooty was a fictional character in which comic?
9. Which country has the largest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites?
10. Who did actress Jessica Biel marry in Italy in 2012?
11. Which magazine has been advertised with the slogan: 'I never knew it had so much in it'?
12. Which actor keeps his name for the character he plays in the sitcom Porridge?
13. What company was co-founded by Adrian Dalsey, Larry Hillblom and Robert Lynn?
14. In Canada and Greenland, the term 'Eskimo' has fallen out of favour and has been widely replaced by which term?
15. Which photocopier company took its name from a Greek word meaning dry?



Brown Rice Sushi

Why brown rice? Well, because although I like sushi, it's always bothered me that it's mostly made with white rice, which just isn't that healthy. Then one day I saw brown rice sushi in Waitrose and thought, aha, so you can have a healthier version of sushi. Through a bit of trial and error and some swearing, I have worked out how to make this brown rice sushi, and it's not actually that hard.

There are two tricks to making brown rice sushi rolls and they are to make the rice sticky enough to hold together and to roll firmly and tightly. I used rice which I bought in Planet Organic labelled as brown risotto rice but I believe any short grain brown rice would work. I've yet to try it with brown Basmati rice but somehow I just don't think it would stick together.

Before you start making the sushi rolls you need to get everything assembled along with a bowl of water for dipping your fingers in. I'll tell you why in a moment.

I'll start with the method and give ingredients last. Cook the

rice in the usual way, i.e. a 2:1 ratio. When the rice is just cooked that's when you get in there with your vinegar, soy sauce etc* and start turning it over and over with a wooden spoon or spatula, mixing the flavours thoroughly through the rice but also getting the rice to release its starch and become sticky. This is what will ensure the sushi comes together and holds together. Once the rice is feeling nice and gluey put the lid back on and allow it to cool completely. While you're waiting, chop up or otherwise prepare your fillings and lay them out.

Place one square of nori on your rolling mat, shiny side down. Use a quarter of the rice and spread it out on the two thirds of the square nearest to your body. Wet your fingers to stop the rice sticking to them and don't take the rice right to the very edges, leave a small gap instead. Be patient and re-wet your fingers if you have to. Try to get the rice in a nice, even layer as this will help when you come to roll it up. Then place a small selection of your fillings slightly off centre - a tad nearer to you than not - and prepare to roll!

This may take a bit of practice

or you may get it straight off but I'll do my best to describe how it's done (by the way, if you can make a decent roll up it's the same principle). Pick up the end of the rolling mat nearest to you. Your thumbs should be behind the mat and all your fingers should be free to tuck and guide and tighten the sushi roll. Do it slowly, you can't rush this - tuck everything under at the end nearest to you and start to take your end of the rolling mat over. Keep it tight against the roll. Apply enough pressure with your thumbs to make the roll tight but not so much pressure that you burst the nori. Keep tucking in as

you go and gathering up the slack of mat with your thumbs. Get your head right over the mat and keep an eye on what's going on so you can see if anything is escaping or it's not rolling evenly.

When you're about to come to the end, wet your fingers and run them along the far edge of the nori to seal the roll. Once it's rolled you may find it's not completely round but that's fine because you can use the mat to gently reshape. You will find the roll is surprisingly sturdy. There will be a section at each end that is not filled properly and can't really be served. This is inevitable, but the good news is, those ends are yours; chef's perk. To cut the rolls into slices you will need an extremely sharp knife which needs to be wet so there's a lot of wiping

and re-wetting to do but it's worth it. Serve with wasabi, soy sauce and pickled ginger.

To make the pressed sushi blocks you literally press your rice into the moulds. tap it out and top them with either vegetarian or seafood/fish topping. It's pretty much a wide open field dictated by taste so be as creative as you like!

*Most authentic recipes stipulate using Mirin, but it's not always available (and it's quite pricey). Mirin is basically sugary Saki, so the effect can be replicated with the substitutes I've chosen here. By all means use 5 tbsp Mirin if you have it, or flavour the rice as best you can with what you have. It's the perennial salty/sweet/sharp combination, characteristic of so many cuisines, you're aiming for. Or, in other words, just make the rice taste nice.

Ingredients

- 1 cup short grain brown rice
- 2 cups water
- 1 tbs sugar dissolved in 5 tbsps rice wine vinegar (or failing that cider vinegar)
- 2 tbsps soy
- 4 sheets nori (seaweed) - available from Chinese supermarkets or online
- Fillings of your choice
- Soy sauce, pickled ginger and wasabi to serve.



MOMENTUM IS DEAD LONG LIVE MOMENTUM!



By Alex Taylor

Serious concerns are emerging regarding Momentum - far from being a left wing activist powerbase, it seems to have been turned into nothing more than a launch-pad for Jon Lansman's personal ambitions.

Those of us who were there at the beginning of Momentum can remember the heady days when we were "all in it together", here at last we thought was a framework within which we could gather in unity around the common ethos of grassroots, collective activism. Along came Corbyn, and "Socialism" was no longer a dirty word, we were ready to give our all, to carry socialism outward to our communities; and inwards to a suffocating and unrepresentative Labour Party.

First Lansman set chaotic and inadequate deadlines for creating delegate structures. "there was not enough time for local groups to prepare properly...some regions didn't meet at all...many documents were either not presented until the day or circulated at very short notice" wrote one otherwise complimentary attendee (<https://shirazsocialist.wordpress.com>). Then Lansman told us the SP, SWP, TUSC members had to leave. Many of us were deeply unhappy about this, but none of us were asked our views. Meetings where this got raised got cancelled. Many groups around the country got round the ruling by having a public "open" meeting for anyone to attend followed by a "closed" meeting for Momentum members to vote at.

In May 2016 Lansman gave the groups a few weeks to elect around 8 roles in each meeting, without which we could no longer be called a Momentum meeting. Needless to say people totally unfit to take roles ended up with key positions. For example, in Plymouth the man elected as Social Media Manager was found to have signed the letter of no confidence in Jeremy Corbyn about 6 weeks after he was elected. He remained in post for another three months.

Lansman then attempted to

disband the delegate system - a 100 - 200 person committee representing each group. He wanted a 15-person National Steering Committee. This travesty of democracy created huge division and argument. In December 2016, John McDonnell himself brokered a 'peace deal' - part of which was that the delegate conference of Feb 2017; would be "allowed" (that word again...) to go ahead. Lansman agreed.

By January 10th 2017 Lansman had broken his word. An email sent to just 11 people formally disbanded the entire delegate structure, and the current Steering Committee which had been so divided against him. He has now replaced it all with a 28 person "National Coordinating Group". It was created entirely by (and for) Jon Lansman.

The new rules ("constitution") needed to be voted on to be legally justified. Lansman could have held another on line poll, there could have been a clear deadline. At least a few weeks would seem appropriate. What better opportunity to use OMOV the system Lansman claims to favour? A OMOV In Lansman's own words

"Momentum needs written rules or a constitution with which all its members agree, and in our current circumstances, the only way of agreeing such a constitution which is binding on the relationship between the organisation and our members is to seek the individual consent of each of our members and affiliates."

What Lansman actually did beggars belief: he sent an email to the 11-person National Steering Committee asking them to vote by return email. He monitored the incoming votes (many of which had been arranged by him in advance) and less than an hour later, without even having everyone's vote, when he saw he had a majority for him, he closed the vote.

As to the wider membership? His message was clear. If you don't like it - sling your hook:

"If you consent to Momentum's constitution, you do not have to do anything. Simply continue paying your membership fees. However, if you wish to opt out, you can email membership@peoplesmomentum.com to cancel your membership."



MSM sources said groups numbered around 100 in April 2016. On those figures alone it means 200 delegates drawn from all over the country, have been replaced with 28 people, only 12 of whom - a minority - are going to be drawn from Momentum. Also you now have to be in the Labour Party.

Needless to say, many Momentum groups have met to vote in condemnation of Jon Lansman's unbelievable coup. The London Regional Committee (LRC) for example met on 21st January and voted overwhelmingly in support of the following:

1) The LRC condemns the undemocratic closing down of elected bodies within Momentum, by its legal owner, Jon Lansman.

2) "The LRC rejects the new constitution imposed upon Momentum.

'Red Labour' and the LRC have declined places on the NCG

But do you want to know what I find truly amazing about all this? Lansman's grubby political ambitions? No, they are no surprise

cialism. These are ways of being, they are not one of many good ways of doing things. It's so far removed from the principles of socialism as to be absurd. We have absolutely no reason to believe we have been left with a benign dictator either.

So ask yourselves this - when the time comes for Momentum to choose who it will next support as leader of the Labour Party, who is going to decide? It's not going to be you; it won't be the wide membership. It will be Jon Lansman. Momentum members who allow all the above to happen - you are making him into a Labour party "king maker". So...Long Live Momentum, but at what price?

Still feeling good about being "allowed" to campaign? Momentum must be taken off Lansman's hands by the grassroots. The priorities of Jeremy Corbyn are simply not his objectives.

Momentum groups that have held votes or passed motions against the new constitution or the imposition of it (27+2):

Blyth and Wansbeck Momentum
Broxtowe Momentum
Cheshire West and Chester Momentum
Coventry Momentum
Darlington Momentum
Derbyshire Momentum
Hexham Momentum
Kirklees Momentum
Lambeth Momentum
Leicestershire Momentum
Lewisham
Leeds Momentum
Liverpool Momentum (Riverside Caucus)
Liverpool Momentum
Medway Momentum
Newham Momentum
North Tyneside Momentum
Sheffield Momentum (SC)
South Tyneside Momentum
South East Kent Momentum
Southwark Momentum
Thanet Momentum
Tower Hamlets Momentum
Truro and Falmouth Momentum
Wandsworth Momentum

Conference Arrangement Committee (CAC)
London LGBT+ Momentum
Northern Momentum (Regional Committee)

The votes/motions in favor of the new constitution are (6):

Calderdale Momentum
Manchester and Trafford Momentum (SC)
National Steering Committee (SC)
Stockport Momentum
Teesside Momentum
Youth and Student Momentum (Committee)



THE TYRANNY OF VIRTUE SIGNALLING

by MARA LEVERKUHN

Brendan Cox (Late Jo Cox's Husband) is making a case that politicians are not responsible politically, and that you should absolve politicians of all blame even when it's due, with the people whose job description is to take decisions that DETERMINE international facts, because it could lead to their brutal murder. In effect letting them off the hook in case of assassination.

Politicians seek power to take decisions that frame our whole existence, whether we w**k to porn or bomb countries causing millions to die—such as the Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan wars, ETC; despite the fact that EVERYTHING on f**king planet earth is direct or indirect consequence of politicians' decisions, they are somehow exempt for responsibility for their actions... because once, one of them, was killed. Can you understand how much of an over reaction or how dangerous this is?

John Lennon was shot. Should we not make music? JFK was assassinated. I'm sure that was milked for political reasons but to be frank, although I've heard a lot of stupidities in my life so far, I haven't heard the one where you can't criticise subsequent presidents because of the shooting.

LET'S DEFINE EXTREMISM

Politicians decided to invade Iraq. Before that, politicians (US) trained Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, to counteract the Russians. Before that politicians dealt with the Saudis, and in exchange for the oil, turned a blind eye to extremist Wahhabism. Do we need reminding where Islamic extremism originates from in the Middle East? Saudi Arabia with the beheading and stoning of people for unjust reasons. It certainly wasn't Syria or Libya, which were secular and peaceful, before the politicians in the US and UK and France decided to stick their weapons in. Funny, I don't remember it being people who did all this. It sure as hell isn't doctors, artists, priests, lawyers or scientists who took these decisions. It may have been some big shot businesses. Some weapons manufacturers. The decision to invade countries is by the politicians. So yes, perfectly legit to blame the actions of extremists on politicians. Which is, not to say let's execute them; but let's call them to question. We have a law system; a voting system.



Conflating responsibility in a democratic system with a crazy back alley murder is a step too far. You can understand his personal loss. Using the murder of Jo Cox to silence legitimate criticism of politicians is wrong.

Stating that Islamist extremism is their hatred for our freedoms is a lie. First off, we don't have much freedom left. Daily mention is made of extremism to drown out the real reason for war- OIL. War historically is waged for resources. This government doesn't give a f**k about dictatorships. If they did, they wouldn't snoopers charter us. Extremism is like the reaction of people to western stirring. It's ugly, but it's a reaction. Know who doesn't have an extremism problem? Romania. Know why? it didn't f***ing invade anybody.

Ah, I hear you say, poor old Brendan Cox wasn't referring to the real extremism, he's using blurred and inexact definitions here, whereby Jo's assassin, whom we don't know why he did it yet, it definitely doesn't look like a solid

story to me, is a new, novel, type of extremist. The English... freedom fighter? Well this is misplaced. Since you are a dominant race, part of the Anglo-American empire with white privileges all around, when you shroud yourself in the cloak of racism out of vindictive defence against the oppression of the west by the occasional poor brown immigrant who's running for his life out of Syria, you're a caricature. An ideological idiosyncrasy. You see, the BNP and UKIP fans are poor deluded souls who, while themselves victim of their own cannibalistic governments, have ingested the propaganda that subtly and constantly lays blame with the "other", where the other is: Polish, Romanian, Syrian refugee, Irish, Jewish, the Huguenots. This deflection and division is carefully seeded by OUR POLITICIANS through careful planning. The Queen gave a speech in 2013 where she cautioned against the waves of Romanians come here to sponge off her royal palace. She even barricaded her throne room against the evil f***s.

Of course the Romanians, like most immigrants, are here actually to be exploited: overworked at subhuman wages, then discarded when they're sick. A globalist relentless labour competition that without regulation, drives everyone's wages down. It's the politicians who do this. It's all politics. Economy is politics. When they take decisions that benefit the ultra rich and corporations and banks at the expense of the poor or middle class, they need a scapegoat. Which is the "other". They could stop the cycle. But it's not profitable. So EVERYTHING, from the pesticides you eat and the wage you make to your retirement age and likely diseases and treatment or lack thereof, is the politicians' making. So yes, they are responsible. No, that doesn't mean shooting and stabbing them cruelly in a back alley. But from calling them responsible all the way to assassination it's not the dangerous slippery slope of criticism but rather polar extremes one of which is exceptionally rare. The cruel and unjustifiable events

like the murder of Jo Cox are an aberration; the shocking value of it demonstrates it's rarity. But there is a whole rule of law out there based on taking people to court when they do something illegal. 'Member Iraq? Blair should've been taken to International Criminal Court for that. That he wasn't only shows that more people high up in the responsible hierarchy should be taken to court also. Take a minute to apply Cox's thinking here: no, you shouldn't blame war criminal Blair for Iraq, because what if a crazy man somewhere takes to killing him in the streets?

Let's examine the context to Brendan's tweet. The Farage musings. Oh yeah, the parroting opportunist. A superficial attention seeker riding the wave of discontent for vapid glory. Dangerous he isn't. What perplexes me is those that just see fascists as superfluous demagogues like Farage and Trump. You're already a fascist country! Fascism today comes in more shades than in the past. Where the failed dictatorships were brutal about their policies and discriminations, the current western one is expert at populist language that claims inclusion, protections and identity politics but hides the seeding of division and factions in society. With one hand it says "racism isn't tolerated", with another May claims NHS is failing because of European scroungers. Pretty subtle unless you think about it. The ensuing fractured national psyche is directed into barking at each other. I hate the middle class virtue signalling preoccupation with the upcoming Trumpocalypse, or Brexit, as if we have this pure angelic government but the damn masses can't stop being peasantly by electing dangerous fascist Trump and Brexit because of racism. Wrong, we have fascism already. May is the most obscene, perverse and subtle form of fascism ever, disguised as a Victorian hag with leather pants and Gucci heels, who uses simple verbal commands to lead the unthinking into their own economic slaughterhouse. All the while they VIRTUE SIGNAL scaring the s**t out of righteous middle class, to embody the enemy, while the real danger is not the racist with a beer, but the besuited, aristocratic, PR men of the establishment.

Your humanitarianism is used against you to fight one another while the rich steal your life.

POETRY CORNER

Thank you for this morning
The colours of the sky
Dark patterns of the naked trees
That now befall my eye
Thank you for my life
Often I forget
To marvel at the wonders
And miracles you set

JOHN FRANCIS

The law locks up the man or woman
Who steal the goose from off the
common
But leaves the greater villain loose
Who steals the common from off the
goose.

The law demands that we atone
When we take things we do not own
But leaves the lords and ladies fine
Who take things that are yours and
mine.

The poor and wretched don't escape
If they conspire the law to break;
This must be so but they endure
Those who conspire to make the law.
The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose from off the
common
And geese will still a common lack
Till they go and steal it back.
(17th Century Folk poem)

Reward

You can't live your life like you did before, your balls are
gone you've legs no more,
Half your face is acid raw, an awful twisted sight.

You cannot live like others do; you only move inside its true,
no girl will ever look at you,
As dribbling you're pushed by.

But at least you are rewarded with a medal from the queen.

Kevin John

Penguins

The penguins walk by with briefcases and suits,
A sardonic attachment to whichever lie shoots,
Out of the mouths of this confident pair,
Dripping with hubris and so unaware,
With their unctuous, duplicitous, cruel lawyer stare.

Kevin John

'What it's like' by Dedrick Poole the 1st.

Too scared of everything in the future,
Can't stand the pain of reminiscing in the past.
Misery feels that it will never end,
Terrified of happiness because I know that it must end.
I can't go to the party, I need it to go on
for ever and ever and never come down,
Carry on and keep it going,
In tears when everyone else is either asleep or has gone home,
My rent money all snorted,
Taking more and more
Of whatever intoxicant there is left,
until something breaks.
So in truth my only real option is to stay in alone.
And get used to it.
Or maybe join a knitting circle.

Loves lost, people lost -
to life or to death,
Each hurt and every sadness stacks and intensifies,
One on top of the other,
Year after year.
Past happiness never solidifies into experience or memory,
It is gone - fleeting
And leaves no enduring impression.
Achievements never matter -
Another one made them.
Another me.
Not I.
Then minute by minute apprehension,
Not knowing which emotion is coming next
Whether gentle or ferocious,
Heart and head like driftwood smashed against rocks,
Or not,
Dependent on a random tide.

National fronts

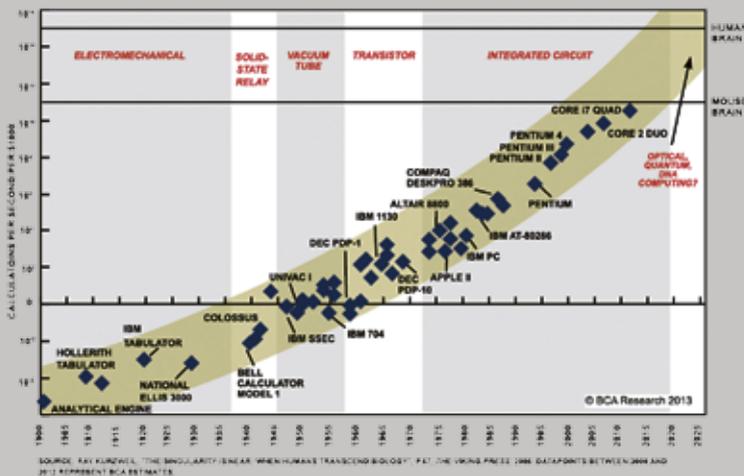
As the leader of the English National front, said Mr White, I would
like you at our conference, so here is your invite.
From the Vikings of the fjords to the rivers of the Ruhr,
Let us learn from one another how to keep our countries pure.

As the fuehrer of one Germany I'll be pleased to come. Alexander
of the golden dawn will make another one.
My true American Klansman will make sure we are there.
The answers they all poured in from almost everywhere.

Thank you so, said Mr White, right at the conference end;
The day has been a great success, I'm glad you could attend.
And as he surveyed the creeds and colours all within his sight;
He had a short epiphany and Mr White went white.

Peter Loo

Face Of The Future COMPUTING



By John Jones

A Quantum of Snowden

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

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

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

6 million 22 nanometre Tri-Gate transistors could fit in this full-stop.

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

Silicon is dead, long live Carbon!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quantum processors and their waveforms are very sensitive to electrical or temperature interference. One device uses diamond impregnated with nitrogen and empty spaces. These holes trap electrons whose spin presents a common waveform in the crystal. A laser is repeatedly shone into the diamond to measure that waveform indirectly as emerging light. This holds information from all the entangled electrons at once. The wavelength and patterning of holes can thus be used to calculate..

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

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

By John Jones

In this one-off article we will examine a few of the many ways in which corporate, private, commercial, political, and academic interests can cloud the lens of science and technology.

Popular Marxist academic and TV/media pundit Slavoj Žižek, was asked recently why he wrote for a clothing catalogue. He said that it was better to earn money that way than as "... an American academic, kissing ass to get a tenured post".

That's honest, Žižek. But what's this "kissing ass"? The use of jargon in debate, for one. Žižek avoids jargon - he wants the public to know what he is talking about.

Jargon - a steppe too far?

"Grizzly Steppe" is the name of the US report of December 2016 into the alleged hacking of the Democrat party machinery. It uses impressive technical jargon in its analysis of hacking strategies: Injection Flaws, SQL Injection, Command Injection, Cross-site Scripting (XSS)...

The report drew the criticism that it used jargon to hide their failure to identify a hacker or what was hacked.

"It's a bunch of rubbish," said a jocular Annie Machon, former MI5 intelligence officer, "and they know it," while a dismissive John McAfee, cybersecurity mogul, said "what it actually is...is a series of recommendations like changing passwords."

The profits of deception

The pharmaceutical industry uses jargon in its colonisation of the human spirit. New diseases proliferate, backed up by glib phrases that point to scientific explanation where none is to be had.

You won't find "chemical imbalance" in any chemistry textbook. It actually describes behaviour and experience - sexed-up and tagged to a chemical. This deceives doubters into believing that madness is chemically provable. A reminder - chemicals are always at the right level for you to have that experience.



BLINKING WITH S

Also plated up as facts are the platitudes that serotonin "controls us" and "we are our brain". Yet if we are the brain, and its chemicals, then it is difficult to see how they control us.

Climate change

Where jargon fails, swamp! The American Petroleum Institute, among other corporate-affiliated bodies, is flooding the Climate Change media debate with views that deny human responsibility. This strategy inhibits calls for action by presenting climate change as a matter of mere opinion.

But there's one persuader. The increase of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide is almost twice that of any total rise in the last 500,000 years. No matter: if your feet get wet enjoy the extra warmth by moving to a mansion further up the hill.

No jargon from Richard Dawkins, but sometimes conceptual confusion. Dawkins thinks that the only way to know for sure if something is an earthworm is to dissect it.

School-biologese? Vivisection promo? Or an assertion of the hegemony of facts (Mr.Gradgrind)? Dawkins puts part before whole. How did he know what to dissect before dissecting it?

Leviathan

Žižek's swing at academics can also be a reaction to their aversion to tangling with an informed public.

One reason for this aversion is structural. Each University discipline holds its knowledge in a single, vast, net of references that can only be added to or amended by accredited University scholars. Outside this net,



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knowledge in the public domain appears impotent, informal, and "anecdotal". All the more reason, it seems, that public knowledge threatens to scratch the veneer of an informed elite.

Academic protectionism was a theme that emerged late last year from the British Wittgenstein Society (BWS). Wittgenstein was arguably the greatest philosopher of the 20th century. Philosophy is important to science, medicine and psychology because it establishes their foundations.

The scholastic standard of many lay (public) posts to the BWS's Facebook group was high and academically challenging, though rarely attracted responses from Wittgenstein academics.

Following a change of ownership the group launched an attack on informed lay contributions. It ruled that posts that explored Wittgenstein's ideas from the perspective of the contributor would be removed and the author banned without warning.

This oddly draconian move made sense when, astonishingly, tenured academics were assured

through selected individuals that they, and their posts, would not be affected. A short time later the process of banning informed lay contributors began.

This blatantly underhand promotion of a lay/academic divide is ironic first, because Wittgenstein, like Zizek, hated pretension in academia and, second, because the BWS was profiled on Facebook - a public platform.

Elsewhere, at a two-day University conference in Cardiff last year, representatives of lay (public) philosophy groups offered strategies for popularising philosophy. Academics also gave lectures but singularly failed to acknowledge the lay initiative or engage with its speakers.

Finally, a list of the traps and strategies that deny the public a clear view and participation in its own business wouldn't be complete without mentioning those pseudo-scientific phrases to which our response should always be to shoot first and definitely, definitely, ask no questions later. My favourite is "breaks all physical laws as we currently know them!". Bang-bang!

Genetically Modified Organisms

By Peter Kitchen

Smoking is today regarded as harmful by every responsible authority. It has taken four hundred years - and over thirty years of extensive research - to reach a point where it is generally understood this habit is a dangerous one. The science here is elementary compared to the science of genetic alteration.

The precautionary principle (officially endorsed and espoused by the EU) states that in cases of doubt action should not be taken that could potentially cause harm until we know the further implications of such action.

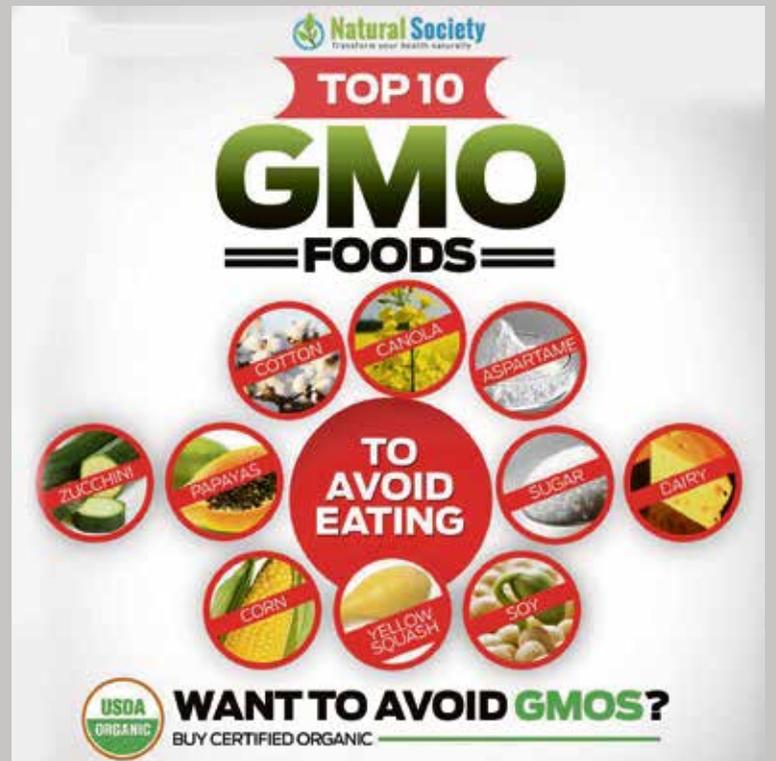
In the case of genetic engineering - where an organism is forced, by human intervention, to carry alien information within its genetic structure - there is at present no way to even estimate potential dangers. Worse, such intervention is compounded by the natural processes such intervention circumvents; genes are passed on, and genes mutate. Further, these processes are the same processes stimulating evolutionary processes:

"Genetic engineering is inherently dangerous, because it greatly expands the scope for horizontal gene transfer and recombination, precisely the processes that create new viruses and bacteria that cause disease epidemics, and trigger cancer in cells." - Dr Mae-Wan Ho

Once GMO's are released into the world natural processes take over; the wind carries seeds and animals breed. In the perfectly possible event of a genetic catastrophe, it would be extremely difficult and immensely costly - if not entirely impossible - to cleanse a world of endemic, pernicious, perhaps cataclysmic pestilence - however naively created:

"The fact is, it is virtually impossible to even conceive of a testing procedure to assess the health effects of genetically engineered foods when introduced into the food chain, nor is there any valid nutritional or public interest reason for their introduction." Richard Lacey: Professor of Food Safety, Leeds University.

The precautionary principle - and common sense - advise caution in this area. Considering the



comments of Dr Mae-Wan Ho on the risk of creating new viral and bacterial strains, there is something inherently disturbing about the engineering of animals to directly affect viral strains already in existence, such as the transgenic chickens engineered to prevent the transfer of avian flu. A virus will mutate and evolve, just like a chicken will - but the virus will do it faster. Anything that stimulates the evolutionary process of an already lethal virus is, in truth, potentially apocalyptic.

There is simply no guarantee that these changes will remain 'safe' indefinitely, after several thousand generations and associated evolutionary adaptations. And until there are such guarantees, it would seem sensible they should remain behind sealed doors.

Fears of losing 'another strain of bananas' are irrelevant when considering the potential loosing of a super virus, the creation of a super cancer or - as has readily been demonstrated in experiments by The IJBS study author Gilles-Eric Seralini - that GMO products already prevalent in human foods, readily distributed in supermarkets and not clearly labelled (even in the UK), have been associated with organ failure in mammals.

Genetic Engineering is a dangerous game. And anyone with an interest in living without serious illness should adopt a dose of caution when it comes to GMO's.

One method of hastening viable safety information would be to guarantee that anyone wishing to certify such foodstuffs as safe should be obliged to eat it themselves, with every meal, for the rest of their lives. Better yet, they could pass this burden of proof onto their children and grandchildren. Three or four generations of humans testing supposedly safe foodstuffs so thoroughly would surely go a long way to demonstrating, and validating, said safety claims. And it would surely go a long way to preventing blasé safety claims made by companies like Monsanto, who tested their products for only 90 days before declaring them safe for human consumption.

Any layman will readily see that 90 days may only guarantee something is not immediately lethal (like cyanide, drowning or a bullet to the head) but offers no evidence whatsoever regarding long-term health effects. The AIDS virus takes longer than 90 days to kill, but I for one will certainly not be eating it for my dinner or feeding it to my children, or to anyone else, for that matter. Aside from a psychopathic killer it seems no-one would.

When considering that GMO's have only been around for a single human generation- and not even a single human life span - and that they are already endemic throughout human food supplies, we would perhaps do well to make some noise about it.

I Get Myself Into It

Back in 1984 I ran the Labour Committee Rooms in a council election for Toller ward in Bradford. It was my job to co-ordinate the identification of Labour voters in the run-up to the election, and to co-ordinate getting them to the polling station on Election Day. The election was successful and a good socialist was elected.

I began to think about a neighbouring ward, Heaton, which should have been Labour or at least a see-saw or marginal ward. It was a safe Conservative ward, the third safest Conservative ward in the Bradford District.

Thinking about it, I thought we had several distinct constituencies in the ward.

There was a large Muslim population of generally Kashmiri origin. If they voted they normally voted Labour.

There was an even larger white middle class community who wanted to vote for someone they could respect, and who would cross traditional party lines to do it.

There was a Council estate, traditionally Labour voters, but where there was a racism problem. Not all the estate were racist by any means, but there had been some racist incidents.

The ideal candidate had to be male, middle class - preferably a professional, white, and whom the Asians would wish to vote for. I looked around for about six weeks, but I could not find anyone who fitted the picture better than me.

It had not been my intention to stand for the Council. If I had wished to be a Councillor I could have had a nomination for my ward, Toller, without much difficulty.

I thought about this a bit longer. My solicitor practice was still young, and really I should not become a councillor as well. On the other hand, if I stood in an election and lost the time input did not damage the firm. If I won, I would have to cope.

It was extremely unlikely I would win first time round, so I would commit to standing a maximum of three times, in '86, '87 and '88. Councillors served four year terms and there were three councillors for each ward.

I wrote to the Heaton ward party. I wanted to talk to them about how Heaton could be won for Labour.

They read out the letter at a meeting, laughed, and did not reply. I had wanted to campaign over an 18 month period, to really work the ward and build an organisation and establish myself as a presence in the community.

I was disappointed.

I get selected

The first step for me now was to put myself forward for the party's local government panel. This involved waiting until applications were requested, lodging an appli-

cation, and having an interview with the District Labour Party sub committee. This Committee was assessing whether I would be an acceptable Labour candidate. Their main considerations were first of all had I been a party member for the required two years, would I promise to obey the party whip if elected, and was I not obviously insane or politically embarrassing.

The District Party were not selecting me, they would put me on the panel from which any ward in Bradford Metropolitan District could select me. I had a history of activism and party office holding and I had not been known to advocate crazy political positions.

They were surprised when I said I only wanted to stand in Heaton.

I explained that I was very busy

in my Law practice, and that becoming a councillor would involve some sacrifice. I was prepared to make a sacrifice to win a new seat for Labour, but not to be selected for a safe seat.

I had no obvious flaws, so they put me on the panel.

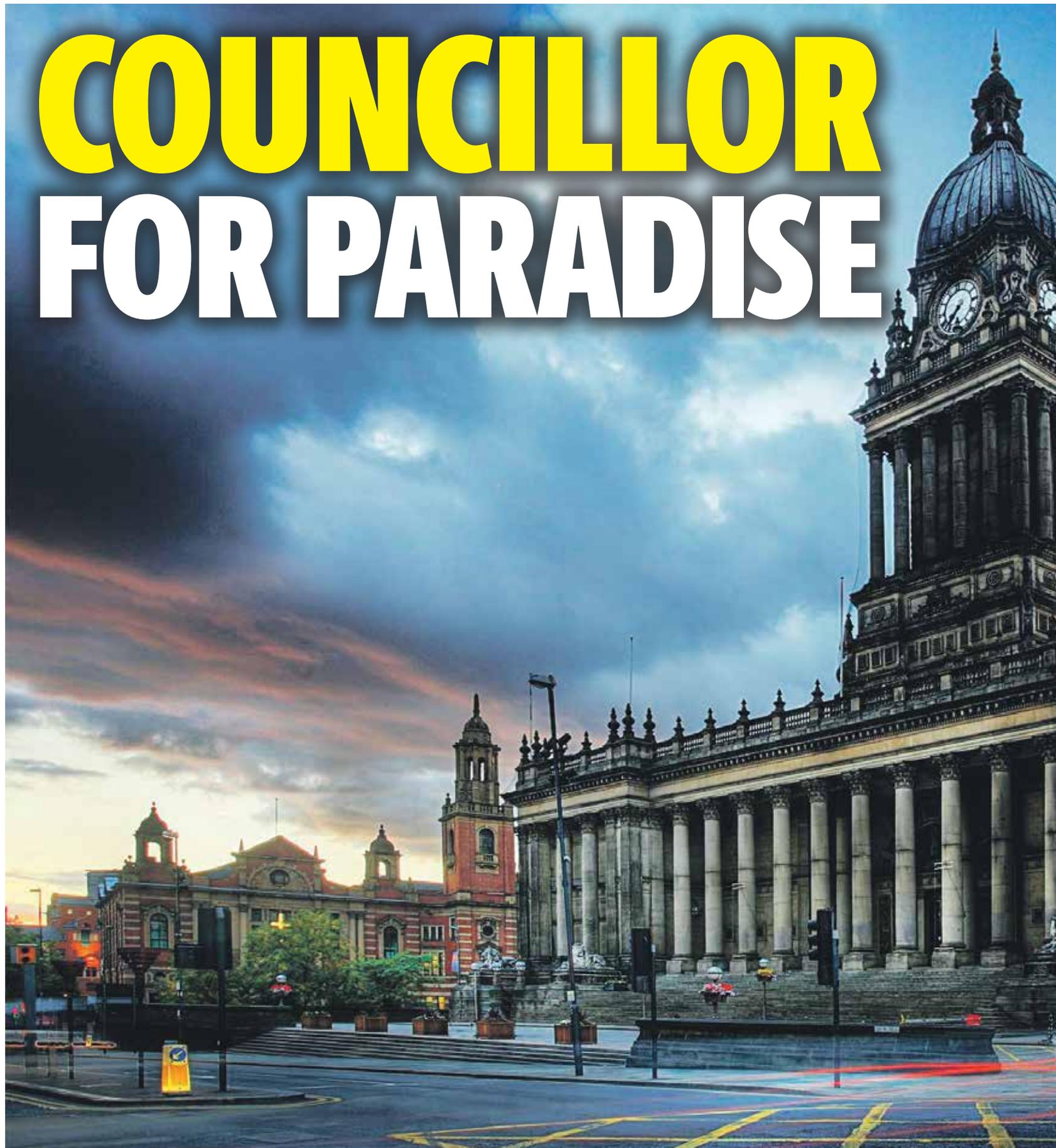
When Heaton started its selection process there were only three people who put themselves forward. Only two of us turned up for

the selection meeting.

Almost every party member present was a graduate. One candidate was a relatively young fitter (an engineer and technician), whom nobody knew. One was me, who was acquainted with half the people in the room. I announced I had exchanged contracts to purchase a house in the ward. We both made speeches and I was selected.

The Campaign

The campaign was not the long, well organised campaign that I had wished to run. There were only about two months left to the election, so I had to work hard. As an immigration lawyer I had a lot of friends and clients in the Asian community and they came to help in the Asian part of the ward. I was invited to lots of house meetings



COUNCILLOR FOR PARADISE





where I would meet with between a dozen and twenty Asian men, who each influenced an extended family of between ten and fifty voters. The Asian part of the ward was a sea of red Labour posters. I spoke in a couple of mosques at Friday prayers.

My election leaflet was a politically moderate document pointing out that I ran a business and so could contribute to running Bradford Council better. By now I lived in the ward. The leaflet was mailed to every house.

The Liberal candidate was a really nice woman who had at one point been Secretary of the Heaton Branch Labour Party. She had got fed up with the Labour Party and had joined the Liberals. Her husband was an active Labour member.

I visited them during the election and we got on well. The Liber-

al vote had been very small at the previous election so she had no expectation of winning. She thought that as she was personally popular in her part of the ward she would do better than the previous Liberal candidate.

And we canvassed. This was going house to house to ask if we could rely upon their support on election day.

The Thatcher government was highly unpopular at the time, so we got a good response in the poorer areas.

On Election Day I had rigged up a car mounted loud speaker system. The English message had an ice cream van type jingle and then "Send Maggie a Message. Vote Labour Today." This would repeat three times and then I would move to the next street. The Asian mes-

sage had cheerful Asian music and a message in Punjabi "Vote Labour. Vote For Charles James. Vote Number Three."

My father and three friends had no election in their area that year so they came from County Durham to help.

The process was called "knocking out". One went to the doors of those who had promised to vote Labour but who had not yet voted, knocked at the door, and offered them a lift to the polling station.

At close to 7pm I was driving down one of the main streets in the Asian area. I was surprised to see one of my activists stood at a street corner doing nothing.

There were only two hours left before the polls closed. The street he was on, Leamington Street, was about 90% Labour voters. He pointed further down the street to where an elderly man was being helped into a car. "Leamington Street has voted" he said. "That's the last Labour voter, going to vote now."

About half an hour later it was clear that there was very little knocking up left to do.

I and a few car loads of activists went to another marginal ward and helped to knock out there. The Labour candidate was the young fitter who had not been selected for Heaton.

He won.

At half past eight I drove back to Heaton where one of the elderly Asian Labour Party members established a new tradition. He was really not fit to do a lot of work "knocking out", and certainly not fit to go to the count later that night. So he and his wife cooked a curry for the Count Team. This was me, my agent, and a few people who were going to watch the election counting to make sure my votes were not accidentally put on the wrong pile.

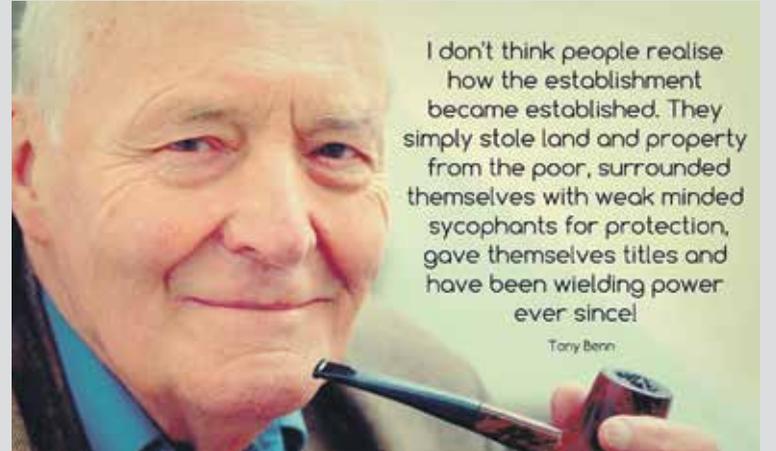
This gave us all a chance to sit down and rest, talk and laugh about the little incidents that make up every election, and generally calm down for the night session

From the Tony Benn Diaries

Thu 4th Novemeber 1993
Tony Benn meets with Sir Nicholas Henderson the ambassador to France.

After Benn asks, 'Have you ever known anything secret?'

He thought of two things. Firstly he said, 'If I reported to you what Mrs Thatcher really thought about President Reagan, it would damage Anglo-American relations.' Secondly, during the Falklands War the Argentinean air force was using American bombs, where the fuse was set for 900 feet, and they dropped the bombs on the decks of British warships and would have sunk far more of them, except that the fuses didn't go off. The



I don't think people realise how the establishment became established. They simply stole land and property from the poor, surrounded themselves with weak minded sycophants for protection, gave themselves titles and have been wielding power ever since!

Tony Benn

Americans knew this, and if they had rung up Buenos Aires and said, 'Reset the fuses for 200 feet,' then a lot of the fleet would have been

sunk. Henderson said, 'You mustn't put that in your diary,' and I replied, 'Why the hell I shouldn't, I don't know.'

ahead. This tradition was so popular it continued until the comrade died about eight years later.

The Count

When we got to the count in the Council Recreation Centre hall there were three wards being counted.

I met the Conservative candidate, a councillor standing for re-election. He was aware I ran an active campaign and expected his majority to be reduced. He had had a huge majority in Heaton in the previous election, so it was unlikely he would lose the seat.

He was Chief Whip for the Conservatives on the Council, and spent the campaign in Toller ward helping the sitting Conservative councillor in her difficult fight for re-election. Labour had won in 1984, and the Conservatives were even more unpopular now in 1986.

my pile of votes was significantly good in the ward as a whole and overwhelming in areas I knew I had turned the seat into a marginal.

The Liberal candidate had increased the Liberal vote 92%, which was really impressive.

I had increased the Labour vote 80%, which was stunning. The Conservatives had put all their efforts into the marginal seats and from what we could see had done little "knocking up" in Heaton. The Conservative vote was significantly down from 1984, but it still would have beaten the 1984 Labour vote. I won by 2401 to 2317, which after a recount was 2400 to 2318.

I was elected!

I had not expected to win. I was stunned, and I had not prepared a speech. In the photos taken over the next 48 hours I have an very wide smile and a startled expression.



As the first results came out, it was obviously Labour's night.

All over the country the marginals, including Toller, fell to Labour. The swing alone, about 12%, was not enough to win Heaton.

In a Council election it was quite common for election turnouts to be in the order of 33% to 40% because Council elections are not as important as a General Election. In the two Asian community polling boxes the turnouts were 80% and 67%. The turnout in the rest of the ward was nearly 50%. As

When I went to the Labour Party near the town centre I was cheered into the room, and could not buy a drink for myself all night. I bought drinks for my agent and for a few supporters who had helped during the election.

Paradise Road

Heaton had a nonconformist chapel. Around it were a few streets. One of them was Paradise Road. This little patch was known as "Paradise".

I was Councillor for Paradise.



FEUDALISM THEN & NOW



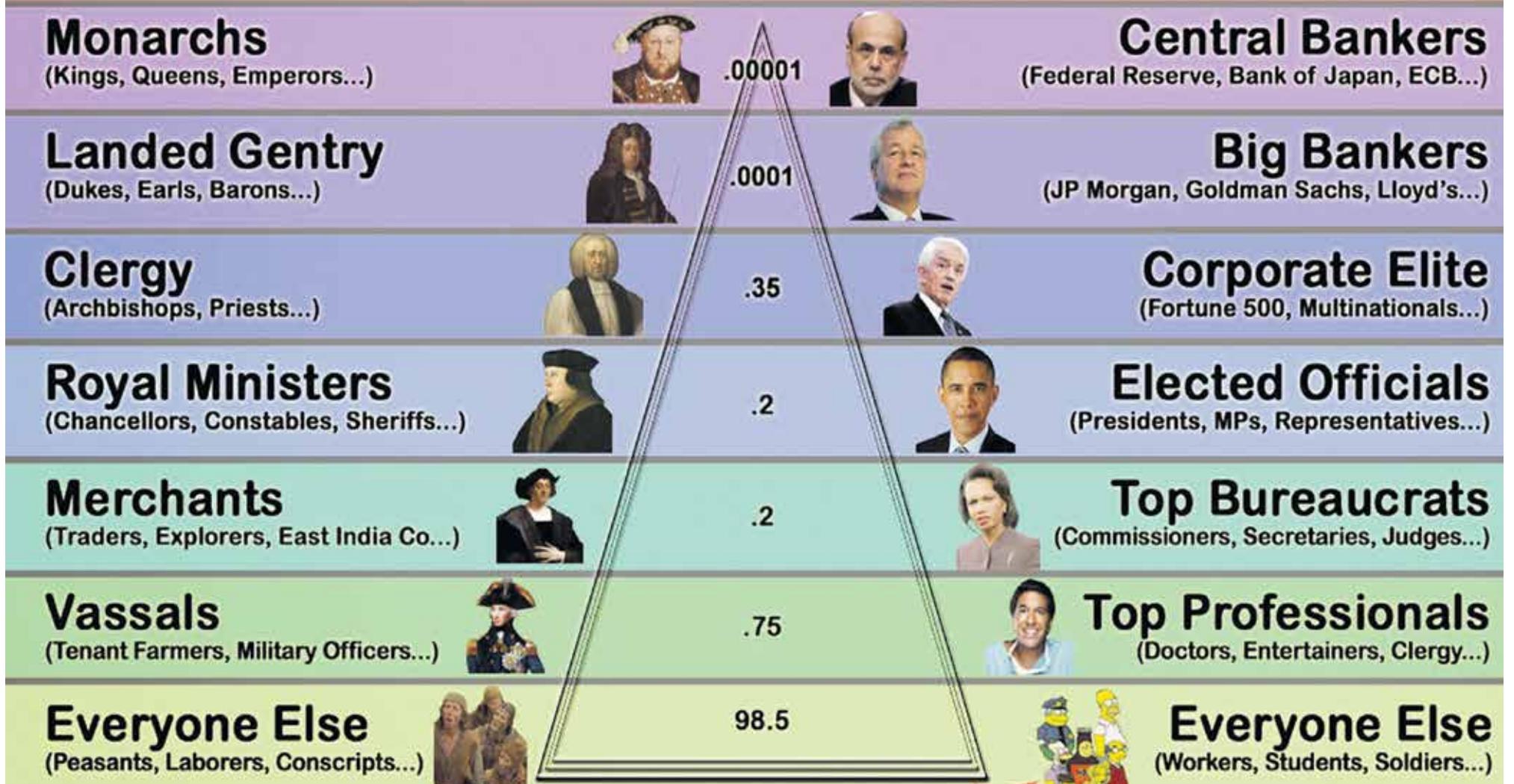
Medieval Feudalism

Corporate Feudalism

By Rank

% of Population (Est.)

By Rank



You Are Here*

AmendmentGazette.com

Data from U.S. Census & Bureau of Labor Statistics

* Unless you're in the top 1.5%

By Guido Paine

We owe our liberty to a number of sources.

The true beginnings of English Democracy lie in the Norman Conquest, with the foundation of the Parliament of the Kingdom of England, the council under William the Conqueror. This was of course a plutarchy, a few rich men governing the nation. However, as William established a feudal system in England during his rule, the majority populace were not citizens in any way, but were in fact chattels, owned outright by their overlords.

The Domesday Book showed that England comprised 12% free-holders; (an owner of a 'fee simple';

ON THE NATURE OF BRITISH DEMOCRACY

one who owns the right to use land and owes the duty to pay rent on that land to their lord) 35% serfs or villeins (modified slaves counted part of the land purchased or sold but allotted a portion of land for their own use); 30% cotters and borders (modified slaves with only enough allotted land to sustain themselves, until Enclosure removed from them all such lands), and 9% slaves (not permitted to own property).

This 'feudal' (term coined in the 18th century) system essentially reduced all 'peasants' or 'commoners' to 'chattels', to moveable property, to livestock but for their value in labour.

There are only five ranks of nobility in the UK, and no person below the fifth rank, Baron, is a free man (although a single rank of commoner, 'Free Tenants', enjoyed some preferential treatment). The term Baron is related to the Old Frankish 'baro' meaning free man, the German form of baron being 'freiherr', lit. 'Free Sir', and signifies the fact that only peers, nobility or aristocracy are considered to be inherently free from servitude, above a legally binding duty of obedience, and free to dispose of themselves as they see fit.

British law remains today based upon this feudal system, and each of these terms is legally applicable today. Common Law, and the House of Commons are both references to 'feudal' peasantry. If you are not a 'peer' (that is Baron, Viscount, Earl, Marquis or Duke) then you are a commoner; you are not a peer, you are not free, as defined by the law. Incidentally, the Sovereign is neither a peer or Commoner, though every ruling English monarch carries the title Duke of Lancaster by convention.

William's 'parliament' has thankfully evolved since its inception. There are a few mediaeval precedents that now form part of the so-called 'constitution of England'; this British Constitution is a loose collection of archaic and modern documents impossible to pin down, and in the absence of the law lords, impossible to interpret. Many of these 'constitutional' documents are truly archaic, but convey rights we still hold, especially when they convey rights to 'commoners'. One such document is the Magna Carta, titled The Great Charter of the Liberties of England, and of the Liberties of the Forest, which still remains on the statute books of England and Wales.

Rights conveyed by this document include explicitly accepting that no "freeman" (in the sense of non-serf, i.e. ranks of Free Tenant, Baron and higher) could be punished except through the law of the

land, a right which is still in existence today. Peasants could still be punished by other means.

In a 2005 speech, Lord Woolf described it as "first of a series of instruments that now are recognised as having a special constitutional status",[2] the others being the Habeas Corpus Act, the Petition of Right, the Bill of Rights, and the Act of Settlement.

The Habeas Corpus Act (1679) formally established the right of all free men to due process, that is the legal restriction of imprisonment without legal authority. This is the first time this three hundred year old practice was formally legalised, though forty years previously it had been established that 'by command of the King' was no justification for imprisonment in of itself; imprisonment must now only be a result of wrongdoing.

The Petition of Right (1628) sets out specific liberties the King is limited from infringing, it declares that Englishmen have various "rights and liberties", and provides that no person should be forced to provide a gift, loan or tax without an Act of Parliament, that no free individual should be imprisoned or detained unless a cause has been shown, and that soldiers or members of the Royal Navy should not be billeted in private houses without the free consent of the owner. It also lim-

its the declaring of martial law unless in time of war (which is de facto martial law) and proscribed the setting up of commissions. It is still debated whether this petition constitutes law. Please note this document specifically states that only false imprisonment of free men is precluded, that is peers of rank baron and above.

The Bill of Rights (1689) gave a number of rights to 'all Englishmen', and is the first legal document granting rights to the peasantry, though it does stipulate class differences: 'no royal interference in the freedom of the people to have arms for their own defence as suitable to their class and as allowed by law'.

Chaucer outlines the basis of the feudal system in

the general prologue to his Canterbury Tales. There are three branches to feudal systems, known as 'The Three Estates' and today these remain as purely class distinctions: The Nobility were a "small hereditary aristocracy, whose mission on earth was to rule over and defend the body politic". The Church had the responsibility of "look[ing] after the spiritual welfare of that body". Commoners "were supposed to do that work that provided for its physical needs". The social status was a division of different classes and their places and occupations in Mediaeval society. Chaucer explored these in his general prologue through the Knight, the Parson and the Ploughman. The three symbolise the 'modern' (though archaic) class system; upper class, middle class and working class. This could be further reinforced by the Domesday Book outlined above; the 12% of Freeholders could be considered middle class, while the 74% of people in either slavery or modified slavery could be considered purely working class.

The Act of Settlement (1701) deals almost exclusively with the disposal of the Sovereignty pertaining to William III and Mary II, who were invited to jointly assume

the English throne.

It appears to codify one of the greatest travesties of all time; that parliament that could forcibly decree the nature of government for all later generations of English people, for ever:

'We, the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, do, in the name of the people of England, most humbly and faithfully submit ourselves, our heirs and posterities to William and Mary, their heirs and posterities, for ever' and then compounded this travesty in a later law; the said parliament, 'in the name of the people of England then living, binds the said people, their heirs and posterities, to William and Mary, their heirs and posterities, to the end of time.'

The feudal system as we now understand it, is alive and well in modern Britain. This is due largely to the continuity of the British monarchy, and to the archaic legislation on our statute books, based upon premises any modern, western citizen would consider laughable. While it may have been legal in ancient times and ancient places to sell one's own descendents into slavery, there are very few who could

consider this legal in any modern, western democracy. It must be stated The Act of Settlement can have no basis in modern law, and that the incumbent British Sovereign can have no defensible right to that position.

In addition, there is in British Law a potential way out for us mere commoners. Attempts were made by some contemporary scholars to set out a legal definition of freedom, one of the most notable being the treatise by Ranulf de Glanvill written between 1187 and 1189. This stated that:

"He who claims to be free shall produce in court several near blood relatives descended from the same stock as himself, and if they are admitted or proved in court to be free, then the claimant himself will be freed from the yoke of servitude".

It should therefore be possible to test the archaic text in a court of UK law, thereby gaining the consent of one's peers (for a commoner, commoners, for a peer, peers), and through their approval gain the benefits of every law pertaining to the ruling class, to gain freedom without question. However, any nominal freedom is largely irrelevant if not provided for financially. It is simple to conclude that the nature of servitude is simply financial in the modern world.

In modern Britain, according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS), 66% of all British people consider themselves middle class. Also according to the ONS, only 10% of all British people earn over £43,000 per year. With the definite closing of economic gaps between middle and working classes, and with the very real decline of religion, it can be seen that there are far fewer contemporaries engaged in 'looking after the spiritual welfare of the body politic'. The middle class is now clearly dwindling, in effect leaving an enormous group of peasants or Commoners beneath an undiminished 'small hereditary aristocracy'. In short, these 66% of people are in fact working class. Using Chaucer's definition of Commoners 'supposed to do that work that provided for its physical needs', one must simply ask any self claimed member of the working-age Middle Class - do you need to work? Perhaps five percent of the British population do not, and most of these will be moneyed due to the benefits of wealth conveyed by historical hereditary advantage.

Essentially, we are all working class.

The rich still rule, and if we are not rich, then we are not the ruling elite.

Modern Britain would appear to have been polarised.

It must be stated The Act of Settlement can have no basis in modern law, and that the incumbent British Sovereign can have no defensible right to that position.



INDIANA, UNITED STATES (UPI)

State Police said traffic was slowed when a truck lost its load of 38,000 pounds of marbles. The truck was hauling the marbles on Interstate 465 when the vehicle's trailer came loose and spilled the tiny balls all over the embankment. Police said there were no injuries and one lane of the road was expected to be closed for most of the day. "A truck driver has lost his marbles..." State Police spokesman John Perrine tweeted. "Literally, 38,000 pounds of them on I-465 SB at the 41mm."

TORONTO, CANADA (CTV)

Toronto Public Health says about 200 people have fallen ill by a mysterious outbreak at a Toronto college. Health officials are investigating the outbreak. The illness first broke out Thursday afternoon when students complained about vomiting and abdominal pain. A Humber College spokesman said at least 77 students were affected, most of whom live at a residence at the institution's North Campus, and that 30 students were taken to hospital for treatment but have since been released.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA (Reuters)

OPEC's latest oil production cut, agreed with non-OPEC countries, has made a strong start to lowering oil output under the first such pact in more than a decade, energy ministers said on Sunday as producers look to support prices. "The deal is a success... All the countries are sticking to the deal... (the) results are above expectations," Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said after the first meeting of a committee set up to monitor the deal. Ministers said 1.5 million of almost 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) had been taken out of the market already.

LANGLEY, UNITED STATES (Reuters)

U.S. President Donald Trump tried to ease tensions with the CIA on Saturday, telling officers he 'had their back' after unprecedented criticism against spy agencies for their investigation into hacking during the election. Trump, who said U.S. intelligence tactics were reminiscent of Nazi Germany - sought to leave no doubt with officers that he supported their work. Analysts said it would take more than a quick visit to patch up relations with a community that he has denigrated.

TEXAS, UNITED STATES (UPI)

Agents intercepted 3,000 pounds of suspected marijuana disguised as watermelons, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said. Its Office of Field Operations at the Pharr International Bridge cargo facility searched a shipment of fresh watermelons on Jan. 17. Officers discovered 390 of the watermelons were actually packages of suspected marijuana formed into the shape of melons and wrapped in green material. The packages contained a total 3,000 pounds of suspected cannabis with an estimated value of \$600,000.

ABRUZZO, ITALY (Reuters)

The luxury Hotel Rigopiano, located at the foot of a mountain chain in the central Italian region of Abruzzo, was hit on Wednesday by an avalanche caused by an earthquake. The Italian fire service has suggested 23 people were still missing as the search continues. The death toll stands at six. Nine people, including four children, were pulled alive from the rubble and snow on Saturday.

LIMA, PERU (Reuters)

Police detained a former government official accused of taking bribes from Brazilian conglomerate Odebrecht in exchange for a contract to build the Lima metro, prosecutors said on Saturday. Edwin Luyo, who led a committee to auction off the Metro in 2009, was identified thanks to information obtained from Odebrecht as part of a preliminary leniency deal, Peru's prosecutors' office said on Twitter.

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL (Reuters)

A Supreme Court justice who had overseen the investigation of politicians linked to the nation's largest graft scheme was buried on Saturday, two days after he died in a plane crash. Justice Teori Zavascki was killed when the small aircraft he was in crashed in heavy rain on Thursday. Investigators are working to determine what caused the crash. Four others on board, including the pilot, also died.

GLOBAL HEADLINE - BORNO, NIGERIA (CNN)

A Nigerian fighter jet mistakenly bombed a camp for the internally displaced during an operation against Boko Haram militants, according to Nigerian officials and the Red Cross. The Nigerian government provided no official death toll, but humanitarian aid group Doctors Without Borders said "about 90" people were killed Tuesday at the camp in Rann in the northeastern state of Borno. Maj. Gen. Lucky Irabor, a Nigerian army commander, said during a news conference in Maiduguri that two soldiers were "affected" during the operation. He did not elaborate. "There are casualties and wounded but the actual numbers," he said, "I am yet to get the numbers of casualties of civilians (who) were killed." Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari described the airstrike as "regrettable" in a statement on Twitter.

**BUDAPEST,
HUNGARY (Reuters)**

Authorities have begun investigations into the cause of the bus crash near Verona which left 16 dead and two with life threatening injuries. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said on Sunday that investigations were under way and confirmed that the bus carrying Hungarian students returning from a ski holiday had 56 people on board when it crashed and burst into flames. It could take days to identify the victims because of severe burns.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (CTV)

The Russian parliament is expected to take a step closer toward decriminalising domestic violence. Battery is a criminal offence in Russia, but nearly 20 per cent say they think it OK to hit a spouse or a child. In a bid to accommodate conservative voters, deputies in the lower house of parliament gave initial approval to a bill eliminating criminal liability for domestic violence that stops short of serious bodily harm or rape.

TEHRAN, IRAN (Reuters)

An Iranian appeals court has confirmed a five-year jail sentence for British-Iranian aid worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe on security charges, Iran's judiciary spokesman said on Sunday. Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family said in September that a Revolutionary Court had handed down the sentence on undisclosed charges. Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said the term had been upheld. "The five-year prison verdict against the security defendant Nazanin Zaghari has been finalised".

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA (UBP)

Parliament approved a proposal to form the Tost Tosunbumba National Park in Umnugovi Province. The new National Park status means that the area will be immune to hunting, mining and other developments. The region is unique as researchers discovered it is one of the most populated territories of the magnificent and rare snow leopard.

MUMBAI, INDIA (Reuters)

At least 39 people were killed and 50 injured on Saturday night when nine coaches of a passenger train derailed in eastern India. The Hirakhand express derailed near Kureri station, Andhra Pradesh. "The rescue operation is almost over," said J.P. Mishra, chief public relations officer at East Coast Railway, "Our first priority is to take care of the injured passengers and provide proper treatment by shifting them to hospitals."

**PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW
GUINEA (Reuters)**

A 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck off Papua New Guinea (PNG) on Sunday, but there were no reports of casualties or damage after a potential tsunami did not occur. The United States Geological Survey downgraded the quake from an initial measurement of magnitude 8. It struck some 47 kms (29 miles) west of Arawa on the north coast of Bougainville Island at a depth of 154 km (96 miles).

**SOFIA,
BULGARIA
(Sputnik)**

On January 19, President Ruman Radev and Vice President Iliyana Yotova took an oath at the official ceremony held in the country's parliament. Radev, a former air force commander and an independent candidate backed by the Socialist Party, won the Bulgarian presidential election on November 13, 2016 with some 60 percent of votes.

**EAST JERUSALEM,
ISRAEL (Reuters)**

Hundreds of building permits were approved on Sunday for homes in three East Jerusalem settlements, in expectation that U.S. President Donald Trump will row back on the previous administration's criticism of such projects.

**PORT LOUIS,
MAURITIUS (BBC)**

Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth says he is stepping down to hand power to his son, Pravind. The 86-year-old first became prime minister in 1982. In a televised address Mr Jugnauth said he was resigning in favour of a "younger and more dynamic leader". His son is currently finance minister. Opposition parties criticised the move but there is little they can do to stop it.

**KUALA TERENGGANU,
MALAYSIA (ST)**

Heavy rain, strong winds and rising sea levels persisted over the weekend, with schools shut and thousands evacuated to relief centres. The Malaysian Meteorological Department issued a heavy rain warning Saturday. Kelantan state was worst hit by rising waters, with some 10,000 people evacuated from their homes and 21 schools to remain shut.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Plans are on track to replace passports with face recognition technology at airports by 2020. The transition is part of the Seamless Traveller initiative announced by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection that aims to simplify air traveller processing. Using fingerprints, iris or facial structure recognition, the system will allow those entering or leaving Australia to avoid irritating and time-consuming paperwork.

The Republican Party

By Guido Paine

The Republican Party once represented the greatest American ideals. The United States was founded on Enlightenment values, championing rationality, reason and science as the guiding light for this fledgling nation. Thomas Jefferson said "Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government", but this statement relies upon US culture placing health and security above more selfish concerns, such as greed and the seeking of personal power.

America was not founded as a Christian nation. Early Puritan settlers are said to have sought freedom from authoritarian Christianity. To be Puritan demanded study of both the Bible and the book of nature, in order to discern God's laws; a process called 'natural philosophy', and today called 'Science'. Isaac Newton was a Puritan. Along with Francis Bacon, John Locke and David Hume, Puritans deeply influenced Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson incorporated their ideas into the very foundation of the US: If every human had the potential to build knowledge of reality and truth, no king or pope could claim authority over an ordinary citizen - and all men were created equal. For these reasons America did not base its authority on religion, but on liberty, reason and science.

Seen in this light, it makes sense that past Republicans have championed the advancement of Science. Abraham Lincoln created the national Academy of Sciences in 1863, and later Republicans bitterly challenged creationists. William McKinley twice defeated anti-evolution Democrat William Jennings Bryan in Presidential Elections (1896 and 1900), McKinley creating the forerunner of today's National Institute of Standards and Technology, while Bryan's anti-evolution protests resulted in the 1925 'Scopes Monkey Trial', driving yet



more scientists to the Republican Party. In 1923, exasperated Republican Robert A Millikan, Nobel physicist and President of the California Institute of Technology, wrote that Creationists were "Men whose decisions have been formed, as are all decisions in the jungle, by instinct, by impulse, by inherited loves or hates, instead of by reason. Such people... are a menace to democracy and to civilisation."

Today's republicans seem to meet such a definition. The world has seen Americans elect a man with clear mental deficiencies to the world's most powerful office. And they have done so twice now.

Present day republicans are ready to provide world-wide learning resources for both humanities and sciences, in the form of ill educated, twisted idiocy:

"The big thing we are working on now is the global warming hoax. It's all voodoo, hokum, a hoax." Mi-

chelle Bachmann, 2008, candidate for republican presidential nomination.

In 2016 Donald Trump tweeted "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."

Today's republicans appear to be everything 'the grand old party' once opposed: Protectionist, Conservative, Monarchists; Tories.

They are Protectionist in wanting to protect anything they perceive themselves to already have.

They are Conservative in wanting to preserve the immense disparity and division between rich and poor in the world today. They are conservative in wanting power to stay exactly where it is, while extending the scope of this control.

They are Monarchists as they promote a brand of Aristocracy, a feudal system where the rich, the owners of corporations and pri-

ivate entities, live like Kings. The corporate puppets we call republicans today, best exemplified by the American President, could be said to be Regents, who may take a turn as Sovereign.

And how is a president made? By the private, corporate donations of half a billion dollars¹²³.

Voting republican today can only embarrass America.

"Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?" -George W Bush, Jan. 2000.

"I wrote this out, and it's very close to my heart. Because I was down there and I watched our police and our firemen down at 7/11, down at the World Trade Center right after it came down. And I saw the greatest people I've ever seen in action." - Donald Trump, confusing 7/11 with 9/11, April, 2016

Donald Trump challenged the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to a public IQ test when Khan called

his views on Islam 'ignorant'. Khan could have challenged Trump's arrogance.

As it stands we are left with the test of time. America has elected a republican President with questionable sanity, and it has done so twice this century.

There's an old saying in Tennessee - I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee - that says, fool me once, shame on - shame on you. Fool me - you can't get fooled again." -George W Bush, September 2002

Today's Republicans have come to represent all they once despised.

(Endnotes)

- 1 Patricia Zengerle, Forget the struggling economy, Reuters,
- 2 Cordelia Hebblethwaite, US Election: how can it cost \$6bn?, BBC News,
- 3 Arianna Huffington, Half a billion Dollars, Huffington Post,

THE NHS and POLITICAL WEATHER

I used to teach in a secondary modern just off Scotland Road in Liverpool. The area competed, often successfully, for the prize of highest unemployment figures in the country. Like other schools of the time it kept a book in which were recorded the names of pupils that had departed before their due date and where they had gone. Page after page was full of the names of children who had left because of illness; until you

got to the page for 1948. That was empty. It was the year that the Labour government of Clement Attlee, against considerable opposition, introduced the National Health Service and children from that area qualified for free medical treatment.

I tell this story partly to illustrate what I think the values of a Labour Party ought to be, but also to show how a political party can

shift the centre ground so that other parties seek to go there. Despite its initial opposition to the NHS, the Conservative government that replaced Labour in 1951 made absolutely no attempt to abolish it. They accepted the new consensus. Labour had, if you like, made the political weather and established a set of values on the left to which even its opponents felt it necessary to subscribe. I believe that, by contrast, New La-

bour, probably in pursuit of Conservative votes but also because it had no socialist hinterland, shifted even further to the right. The already right-leaning consensus, as it had been re-constructed by Margaret Thatcher.

And now we have Theresa May and her Shared Society in succession to Cameron's Big Society, both of them imbued with as much intellectual rigour and

revolutionary zeal as The Cones Hotline. We also have a very well funded Tony Blair preaching to us that the centre is where he says it has to be.

There are lots of issues to argue over but my guess is that the NHS has to be the biggest. Once again it can help to change the political weather.

Cliff Jones January 2017

Events

Wednesday Jan 25th

- Vigil for Lawrence Bond who died after being found "fit to work"
Hosted by Momentum Camden
Wednesday at 12:00-13:00
Jobcentre
174-178 Kentish Town Rd, NW5 2AG London,
- Threat to 535 NHS beds protest
Hosted by Peter Robinson
Wednesday at 17:30-18:00
The Council House, Corporation Street, DE1 2FS Derby
Created for Derby People's Assembly Discussion Group
- Cardiff Activists Cafe - regular event #2
Wyndham Street Day Centre, 3-5 Wyndham Street, Riverside, Cardiff CF11 6DQ
- I, Daniel Blake
Hosted by Cumann Scannán Loch Lao
Wednesday at 18:45-21:00
Cultúrlann Mcadam Ó Fiaich
216 Falls Road, BT12 6 Belfast, United Kingdom
Free Admission, Guest Speaker, Film Screening, Food & Drink
- Holocaust Memorial Meeting - learning from the past
Hosted by Stand Up To Racism - South London
clock
Wednesday at 19:00-21:00

- Brixton Library
Brixton Oval, SW2 1JQ London
- Activist meeting- Keep Our NHS Public
Hosted by Nick Jonz
Wednesday at 19:00-20:30
O'Neill's Leeds
26 Great George Street, LS1 3DL Leeds
 - A More Dangerous World? War and Foreign Policy Under Trump
Hosted by Croydon Stop the War Coalition
Wednesday at 19:00-21:00
Mandela Room, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon
 - Momentum Plymouth Meeting
Hosted by Momentum Plymouth
Wednesday at 19:30-21:00
Quaker House Outreach Centre
74 Mutley Plain, Plymouth

Thursday Jan 26

- Scottish Peace Network Vigil
Hosted by Scottish Peace Network
26 January at 17:00-18:00
Buchanan Street, Glasgow, G1 3
- I, Daniel Blake Special Free screening
Hosted by Streatham Free Film Festival
26 January at 19:45-21:25
Streatham Free Film Festival
Streatham, London

Friday Jan 27

- 'I Daniel Blake' Free Community Screening Rhyl
Hosted by Rhyl People's Assembly
27 January at 18:30-22:30

- Little Theatre
LL18 2BS Rhyl
- Tickets Available - Eventbrite
- I, Daniel Blake screening & talk - Croydon £3/other amount
Hosted by Sarah Hatch and 2 others
27 January at 19:00-22:00
Ruskin House, Croydon, CRO 1, United Kingdom
Created for South London Peoples Assembly SLPA
 - Brighton and Hove Momentum Fundraiser
Hosted by Colin Piper
27 January at 20:00 to 28 January at 1:00
Cafe Plenty Brighton
CAFE PLENTY BRIGHTON, 3-4 Circus
 - Riggots + supports, anti-arms trade fundraiser £4
Hosted by Emissaries of Syn
27 January at 20:00-23:59
Conwy Comrades Sport and Social Club
8 Church Street, LL32 8AF Conwy

Saturday 28 Jan

- LGMH- 2017 Inaugural Conference
Hosted by Labour Campaign for Mental Health
28 January at 9:30-17:00
GMB Union
22 Stephenson Way, NW1 2HD London, United Kingdom
Tickets Available - www.eventbrite.co.uk
- PNR Solidarity Saturdays

- Hosted by RAFF - Residents Action on Fylde Fracking
28 January at 10:00-14:00
Maple Farm - Preston New Road PR4 3PE
- Hands Off Our NHS! D-Day March and HOWL
Hosted by Hands off our NHS
28 January at 12:30-17:00
Old Palace Yard, London, SW1P 3
- Protect Youth Services Protest March
Hosted by Protect Youth Services
28 January at 13:00-14:00
Old Steine, BN1 1NP Brighton,
- The Economy: What went wrong and how to fix it
Hosted by Plaid Werdd Ceredigion Green Party
28 January at 18:30-21:00
Morlan Centre
sy23 2 Aberystwyth

Sunday 29 Jan

- Frack Free Totnes Film Night and Meeting
Hosted by Frack Free Totnes
29 January at 19:00-21:00
Royal Seven Stars Hotel
The Plains, TQ9 5DD Totnes, Devon
- I, Daniel Blake - Free Screening
Hosted by Catford Film
29 January at 19:30-22:00
Catford Constitutional Club
Catford Broadway, SE64SN

Monday 30 January

- Frack Free Leeds Meeting
Hosted by Frack Free Leeds

- 30 January at 19:00-20:00
The George Pub Leeds LS1 67-69 Great George St, LS1 3BB Leeds
- I, Daniel Blake - Free Screening / Foodbank Donations Welcomed
Hosted by Paul Hinchliff
30 January at 19:30-21:30
Thimblemill Library
Thimblemill Road, B67 5 Smethwick

Tuesday 31 January

- PAA London Meeting - Basic income discussion
Psychologists Against Austerity
- Momentum Penzance AGM
Hosted by Momentum Penzance
31 January at 19:30-22:00
Redwing Gallery
36A Market Jew Street, TR18 2HT Penz
- I, Daniel Blake
Hosted by Foxlowe Films and Foxlowe Arts Centre
31 January at 19:45-21:30
Foxlowe Films
Market Place, ST13 6AD Leek, Stoke-On-Trent, United Kingdom
Tickets Available - www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk
- Frack Free North Somerset Open Meeting
Hosted by Frack Free North Somerset
31 January at 20:00-22:00
The Bristol Hotel
29 Locking Road, BS23-3 Weston-super

Theresa May has swept to power on a tide of popular support within the Tory Party rank and file. Now the despicable Donald Trump has become USA President and has scheduled a visit this week! She so wishes Jeremy Corbyn would come to her rescue.... If anyone finds out though, she'll be ruined!



Rebecca Long – Bailey

(interviews)



Property Developers Attacking Camden Market

By Lizzie Fletcher

How many of us have spent hours at the market and food stalls in Camden? Watched bands and great comedy shows then stared at all the artistry on the buildings as you made your way to the tube?

Well, it looks like the end of Camden is in sight.

The company redeveloping Camden Lock Village has announced its 'vision' for the canal-side market's new look. The plans involve a new school, 170 new homes, only 14 of which will be affordable housing, which in itself are unaffordable at 250 grand each, as well as shops and market pitches for chain or corporate companies to replace all the sole traders, plus 100,000 square feet of offices.

The project is being led by Forbes list billionaire Teddy Sagi, who has appointed Mace, the contractors behind the Shard, to oversee the whole thing.

After the plans were announced the traders of Camden Market's middle yard were given some terrible news, with less than a month's notice, 56 people will be losing their businesses and 150 people will be losing their jobs and livelihoods.

Camden has recently been bought/invested in by Kerb street traders who have been planning their re-development for just over a year. Their plan is to kick out all of the businesses that are currently there and replace them with new businesses with bigger pockets.

For many years, the traders of Camden Market have fed and provided joy to the millions of tourists and locals that have passed through.

It has been a beautiful example of the entrepreneurial spirit of London.

These people have worked tirelessly to make their businesses work and to keep the energy of Camden alive.

For many people, there is no second option, and there is no plan B.

Camden is beautiful because of its uniqueness and diversity and that is what these traders provide, these aren't people with millions of pounds behind them, these aren't money hungry business people, these are passionate people, in love with the food they create, who strive every day to create amazing street food that is enjoyed and loved by the locals and tourists that have tasted it.

Camden is a vital contributor to the UK's economic success, contributing 1% to its GDP. It is home to hundreds of small businesses and the world famous

Camden market, which is one of London's most visited tourist attractions.

Losses to Camden's famous creative industries are estimated to be in excess of £600 million, plus 9000 jobs.

The problems in Camden will be compounded by the rebuilding of Euston station, and surrounding areas, to accommodate HS2 trains. This work will be on a massive scale. The plans currently proposed by HS2 Ltd are the most destructive under consideration, and will cause massive damage to the surrounding area including the demolition of 250 homes (the 14 'affordable' homes will not replace these!) and the probable bankruptcy of the much loved Bangladeshi restaurants in Drummond Street.

Traffic will be gridlocked over a wide area.

There will be up to an additional 1000 lorries on the roads every day

Overall, direct losses to Camden from HS2 construction work will amount to £1.01 billion.

Indirect losses have not been calculated.

Over ten years, the gross domestic output (GVA) affected by HS2's current plans is estimated to be £49.8 billion, which will have a significant impact not only on Camden, but on the wider UK economy.

Q) What aspect of Socialism should we be integrating into our current economic and political model?

A) Socialism full stop. The important thing is we have got to invest in infrastructure, skills, we have got to invest in our public services because at the end of the day you cannot take these things as one issue. You have got to understand that people have got to be healthy. Mental health for example, we have a mental health crisis. It has not just happened overnight a lot of mental health issues are linked to people's experiences. So if people have a better standard of living then that helps going forward, better education and help when people need it is also important. We need the NHS to make sure that people are healthy and they can contribute to society, we need an holistic approach because everything is linked into the economy in some way or another.

Q) We have seen enormous cuts to mental health services in the North West over the last few years so rather than seeing integration we have seen fracturing at the moment?

A) It hasn't just happened over the last few years it started pretty much in 1979 when Thatcher came to power and started championing a new brand of economics called Neo Liberalism and the idea behind it was that you would

deregulate markets the government would not try to control the economy. It would be treated as if it were some kind of biological entity banks, markets ETC would not be controlled. We were told that in the end it would all balance itself out as if there was some kind of natural equilibrium. We know it was rubbish then and it is rubbish now because that was not what has happened over the last 30-40 years. And we have seen that wealth has been sucked up to the top and now we have a bigger gap between the rich and the poor than we had in Victorian times. Some economists would still argue that the reason this hasn't worked is that governments didn't completely walk away from the economy. But I wouldn't agree with that and neither would most economists and that school of thought is being moved away from, thankfully. Even some right wing economists are turning their back on this theory and they are going back to a more Keynes like approach. The government's role is in providing a decent quality of life for its citizens and in doing so it has to make sure that we have an economy that is fair for everyone. Where everyone contributes if they can and were everyone pays taxes that are fair and ultimately building a society that gives us a better quality of life.

ROUNDBALL FOOT-UP

(you can get sent off for that – Ed)

"THE ONLY FOOTBALL ROUND-UP YOU'LL EVER NEED" - Stanley Acrimonious (Sports Editor)

Ian Charles looks at the fourth round of the FA Cup:

Two weeks without knee kicking, when almost all clubs played against others in the same league as themselves and there was no incentive to kill or otherwise maim a player from the prawn sandwich layer above them, or even higher, now leave us with a number of fourth round matches where such acts of giant bashing, or whatever other newspapers call it when eleven fit and otherwise large and clumsy men beat another eleven very fit and a bit less clumsy men in a game of ninety minutes (plus whatever time the referee adds on for rolling around) against the received wisdom that better paid well-groomed men will or should win games against oiks. This newspaper makes no such assumptions, but neither does it follow the silliness of certain TV 'pundits' who try to whip up enthusiasm for these relatively early rounds of 'The Cup' by suggesting that there is a kind of

Magic that causes lowly placed teams to 'upset' better placed ones just because it is 'The Cup.'

When we look at some of the under-strength teams put out against supposedly inferior opposition in the Third Round, it beggars belief that any Premier, or Championship teams, or Millwall, would ever be disappointed or 'upset' to get knocked out of the competition when there are real fish to fry in winning league matches (careful, Ian, you're going to be talking about minnows and sticklebacks before long - Ed)

Now I'm not going to descend into pond-type insinuations (thank heavens for that!!! - Ed) to describe what happens when a smaller club beats bigger opposition, but one or two fixtures could lead to a reversal of expectations in this Round of Thirty Two. Some of it will be the result of knee-kicking, questionable refereeing, random events/darn bad luck, and some of it will be just because Leeds United always seem to fly for a while then revert to type and lose away from home, or at home, or likeliest of all, when taking part in a play-off at Wembley. Then you should probably back them to

lose. If they don't then you have only yourself to blame for taking my advice.

A special mention should, however, be made of the replay between Lincoln City and those daft blighters calling themselves Ipswich Town. Having failed to despatch non-league opposition the weekend before last, Ipswich had to travel just a little way across the flat and boring cabbage fields of the Sto Plains to be outplayed, and once the ninety minutes were up, outscored 1-0 by Lincoln.

The daft blighters.

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

Oxford United - Newcastle Wanderers (can we just stop with the sarcasm - Ed) This isn't an easy game to predict. Oxford scored three away from home in the third round, but that was against Rotherham. Newcastle didn't play well, but won their replay. I'm going for another draw for the 'Toon.'

Lincoln City - Brighton & Hove Albion: Whatever the result of this game, I expect Lincoln to send the fancy boys of Brighton (and Hove - Ed) back to the south coast with their knees in bandages and their heads feeling like cabbages from Sto Helit.

Chelsea - Brentford: It won't be Brentford.

Rochdale - Huddersfield Town: I'm actually quite disinterested in who wins this one.

Burnley - Bristol City: Burnley

please. I still remember 1973. Anyone who puts Sunderland out of the FA Cup in the last round is a favourite of mine, even if it's Burnley.

Blackburn Rovers - Blackpool: Two famous clubs, neither of which will win the FA Cup this season, or anything else for that matter.

Middlesbrough - Accrington Stanley : It is my hunch that one of the eventual cup finalists will come out of this match. Don't think it'll be Stanley.

Crystal Palace - Manchester City: One team will be very attentive to what Pep Guardiola says in his pre-match talk; the other set of players are Manchester City.

Southampton - (ahem)ARSENAL! (5.30 pm) Southampton did well midweek and won their home replay against Norwich, but ... how

to say this without sounding disrespectful ... it was Norwich, a club that when in the Premier League spent a decade filching Championship grade players from Leeds and as a result had a mid-table Championship squad ready for when relegation finally came.

Sunday January 29th

Millwall - Watford (12.00 noon) Who cares?

Fulham - Hull City (12.30 pm) Ditto

Sutton - Leeds United (2.00 pm) The heart says Sutton! The head says Leeds, but the brain says don't waste a penny of your hard earned money on it.

Manchester Black Sox - Wigan Athletic (4.00 pm) Now Wayne has beaten Sir Bobby of Charlton's club goals record he'll be looking for most sendings off or something; he might get one today.

The Fixtures in Full

Friday January 27th

Derby County - Leicester City: This is a difficult one to call; Derby flying, and Leicester having the sort of season they've always had until for some inexplicable reason they won the Premiership last year. Do we go with home advantage, or with Ian Charles's prediction that Leicester will win something this year even if it's only a throw-in?

Saturday January 28th (3.00 pm kick off unless stated)

Liverpool - Wolverhampton Wanderers (12.30 pm) There's only one team ever going to win this match; which is a silly thing to say because never in the history of this sport of Roundball has there been

a game in which both teams won.

Tottenham Hotspur - Wycombe Wanderers: Another fixture in which a team calling itself 'Wanderers' has to travel a distance to get royally stuffed by Premiership hosts, but why do they style themselves so? My young son regularly had to play in Sunday League against a team called 'Killinghall Nomads' because they truly had no home ground, but he could never remember the word 'Nomads' and referred once to them as 'Gonads.' They never had home advantage but got to provide the referee, whom I'm not allowed to say wasn't impartial, hence they were referred to by everyone else as Gonads, or similar, after each game.



TACKLING FOOTBALL

Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho has decided to extend Marouane Fellaini's contract by a year, The Sun claims. The Belgium international had the option of further 12-months in the four-year contract signed when joining from Everton back in 2013, which Mourinho is thought to have already raised. Fellaini, 29, has struggled during his time...

West Ham United have reportedly expressed their interest in signing Chelsea striker Michy Batshuayi on loan, according to Sky Sports News. The Belgium international is yet to make a league start for the Blues since his move from Marseille last summer, but scored in the 4-1 FA Cup third-round over Peterborough United.

The Ligue 1 giants Paris Saint-Germain are reportedly preparing to table a £40 million offer for Liverpool midfielder Philippe Coutinho in the January transfer window. The Brazilian, who is currently sidelined due to injury,



has been strongly linked with a move away from the Reds

Juventus have reportedly decided to retain their interest in Arsenal talisman Alexis Sanchez, who has just 18 months left on his current contract. It has been understood that the Gunners are in negotiations with the Chilean but it has been claimed that the 27-year-old attacker is asking a substantial pay-rise in order to stay.

Chelsea will reportedly make

a massive bid for Thomas Muller from Bayern Munich if Diego Costa leaves the Stamford Bridge this month.

The 28-year-old Spaniard wants to depart the west London club during the January transfer window after being offered a whopping amount of money to join the Chinese outfit Tianjin Quanjian.

Arsenal midfielder Jack Wilshere's situation at the Emirates has attracted interest from Premier League rivals Manchester City, with Pep Guardiola interested in signing the England international in the summer transfer window.

Wayne Rooney's goal for Manchester United against Stoke last Saturday saw him take his tally to 250 for the club and clear of Sir Bobby Charlton on the all-time list. Rooney anecdote, When England got together at the Lowry hotel in Salford a few years ago our Wayne used to send one of the England staff into the nearest newsagents (The Chapel Kabin) to buy his fags.

Watford have agreed a deal with Fiorentina to sign the striker Mauro Zárate for £2.3m. The 29-year-old Argentinian has been offered a two-and-a-half year deal and the Premier League club are expected to announce the signing in the next couple of days.

Angelo Ogbonna played the full 90 minutes as the Hammers beat Middlesbrough 3-1 on Saturday but will now miss the rest of the campaign as he requires surgery on a knee injury.

The current agreement with Brent Council allows for 37 full-capacity games to be played at Wembley per year. However, the FA want to increase this by 20 to 57.

Southend have thrown their support behind bad-boy striker Nile Ranger after he pleaded guilty to a fraud charge.

Ranger plotted to get hold of the personal bank details of Diane Bloss and transfer £2090.23p into another bank account.



ENGLAND WOMEN

England women began their 2017 season with a 1-0 friendly defeat by Norway in Spain, bringing their 10-match unbeaten run to an end.

Norway went ahead midway through the first half when the Hegerberg sisters combined to make the breakthrough.

Andrine Hegerberg sent a free-kick into the box for sibling Ada to head past Siobhan Chamberlain from close range.

England are next in action on Tuesday when they face Sweden, the Olympic silver

medallists from Rio, in Murcia.

Their best chances against Norway fell to Fara Williams and Lucy Bronze, who saw efforts from the edge of the box go over the crossbar.

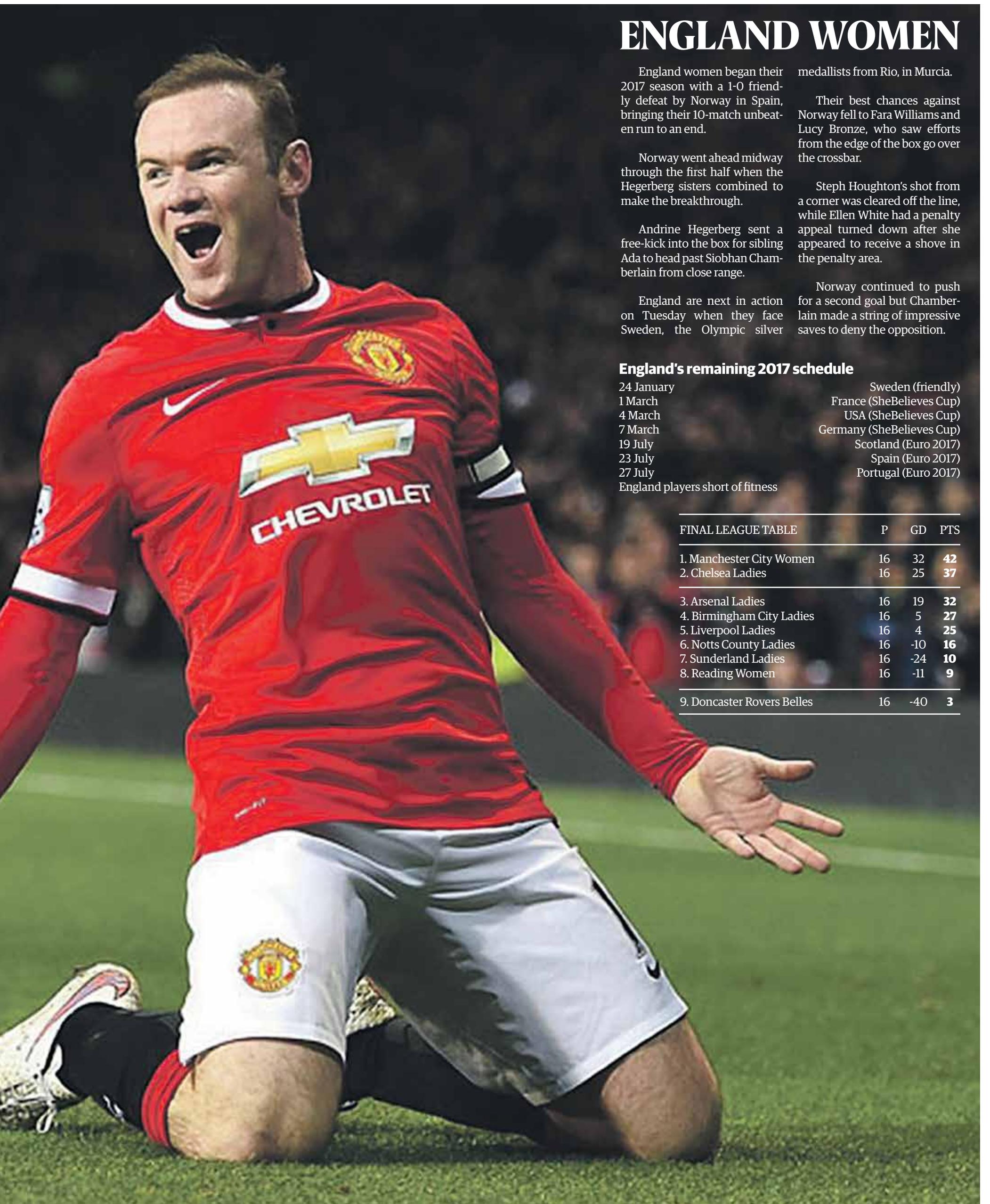
Steph Houghton's shot from a corner was cleared off the line, while Ellen White had a penalty appeal turned down after she appeared to receive a shove in the penalty area.

Norway continued to push for a second goal but Chamberlain made a string of impressive saves to deny the opposition.

England's remaining 2017 schedule

24 January	Sweden (friendly)
1 March	France (SheBelieves Cup)
4 March	USA (SheBelieves Cup)
7 March	Germany (SheBelieves Cup)
19 July	Scotland (Euro 2017)
23 July	Spain (Euro 2017)
27 July	Portugal (Euro 2017)
England players short of fitness	

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE	P	GD	PTS
1. Manchester City Women	16	32	42
2. Chelsea Ladies	16	25	37
3. Arsenal Ladies	16	19	32
4. Birmingham City Ladies	16	5	27
5. Liverpool Ladies	16	4	25
6. Notts County Ladies	16	-10	16
7. Sunderland Ladies	16	-24	10
8. Reading Women	16	-11	9
9. Doncaster Rovers Belles	16	-40	3



WILL THIS MAN KILL FOOTBALL?

FIFA technical director Marco van Basten has floated a radical blueprint for the future of football which would see offside abolished and sin-bins introduced.

The former World Player of the Year was employed by FIFA in September to oversee all technical areas ranging from innovations in technology to refereeing.

And the Dutchman's long-term vision for the game includes scrapping some of its most established rules.

Van Basten says abolishing the offside rule would mean an end to games which "resemble handball where nine players, plus the goalkeeper, pack the penalty area and [the defence] is like a wall".

He argues sin-binning players would

prove a greater deterrent than the yellow card system.

"That would frighten teams," he said. "It is hard to play 10 against 11, let alone with eight or nine."

Among Van Basten's other ideas is one to replace extra-time and penalties with ice hockey-style shootouts involving players dribbling towards the goalkeeper from "25 metres out".

Most, if not all of these rule changes, have been tried in USA soccerball style games where the American advertising business is more important than the sport. Anyone old enough to remember football in America at the time of the New York Cosmos heyday will remember the game deciders that used dribbling one on one against the goalkeeper.

Marco van Basten (born 31 October 1964) is a Dutch football manager and former football player, who played for Ajax and Milan, as well as the Netherlands national team, in the 1980s and early '90s as a forward. He is regarded as one of the greatest players of all time and has scored 300 goals in a high-profile career, but played his last game in 1993 at the age of 28 due to an injury that forced his retirement two years later.[2] He was later the head coach of Ajax and the Netherlands national team.

Playing for the Netherlands, Van Basten won, and was named player of the tournament, at UEFA Euro 1988, scoring five goals that included a memorable volley in the final against the Soviet Union.[2][3] At the club level, he won three Eredivisie titles and the Cup Winners' Cup with Ajax, and three Serie A titles and two European Cups with Milan.

WHAT THE MANAGERS THINK

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp encouraging the Dutchman should go and create another sport if he is intent on his ideas.

Arsene Wenger was open to discussing some of the suggestions but was equally damning about the offside rule "Some of the proposals are worth discussing, some I don't see any big interest. The one I don't find interesting is to suppress offside.

Slaven Bilic said removing the offside rule would be "impossible".

Pochettino said: "I understand that sometimes when you are in some positions you need to try to find ideas but I don't want a machine without offside.

So the general consensus amongst the football managers in this country was that it is unworkable. However, THE WORD feels that this is the start of what WILL be introduced as the money men of The States seek ways of increasing their revenue and turning it from Football to Soccerball.

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