

THE

WORD

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Star wars review

PAGE 14



**Jeremy
Corbyn
endorses
Robin
Hood**

In an exclusive interview with THE WORD the Labour party leader has given the example of Robin Hood as the way forward. (see more of the interview inside this edition)

A local council has set up a not-for-profit energy supplier that it hopes can sign up 10,000 customers a month and save them each up to £237 a year on bills.

Robin Hood Energy, which employs 30 staff, was the first local authority-owned energy company run on a not-for-profit basis since the market was nationalised in 1948.

The council said the first customer, who signed up with the new firm, had cut their annual energy bill from £2,000 to £1,400.

The company will use energy generated from the city's incinerator, solar panels and waste food plants and also buy in gas and electricity from the market.

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► NEW! REGIONAL NEWS

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THE AMERICANIZATION OF THE NHS

Yanking the NHS for all it's worth

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.



NHS AMERICANISATION OF THE NHS

My extensive qualifications for my job are listed below for people that believe I am inept...

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Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) provides private healthcare via the NHS since 2006. The company has formed what it calls HCA NHS Ventures, which are alleged partnerships with NHS trusts to provide clinics and hospitals. Though a part of the NHS, these facilities serve only private patients.

HCA
Hospital Corporation of America™

HCA, is worth more than \$28bn, and is one of the biggest health-care facility companies in the US. The company's UK branch is part of the Private Hospitals Alliance which lobbies the government for increased privatisation in the NHS.

The US hospital and clinic group Tenet Healthcare acquired Aspen Healthcare, an operator of private hospitals and clinics in the UK. The intention was to make a grab for the increasing NHS privatisation of hospitals. The publicly traded Tenet employs more than 130,000 people and operates more than 470 outpatient centres, 84 acute care hospitals and 20 short stay hospitals in the US. Up to now Aspen Healthcare has 9 private hospitals where NHS patients are sent to.



Optum, the health management arm of the US health insurance giant UnitedHealth Group,

REVOLVING NHS DOORS

David Cameron's Former Health Advisor Joined an NHS Privatisation Firm



The prospect of further privatisation will remain a tantalising one for the health companies already making fat profits from NHS contracts. And at the top of one such firm is none other than David Cameron's former Special Advisor for Health - Nick Seddon.

Nick Seddon was Cameron's health advisor until July of 2016. According to transparency documents released just before Christmas by 10 Downing Street, Seddon became an Executive Vice President of Optum in November last year, just four months after he left his post with the Conservative Party.

Previously Seddon was head of communications at Circle Health, which became the first private healthcare company to run an NHS hospital, Hinchingbrooke in Cambridgeshire, in 2011. This was a disaster.

Optum is a division of US private health giant UnitedHealth, and

has been bidding for NHS contracts for years. A potential trade deal with Trump that includes trade health services could be a boon for them, so it seems like a good time to have a look at its record.

Optum already provides 156 NHS organisations, which it calls its "partners", services such as contract negotiations and medication management.

And now they've got the for-

mer PM's ex-health advisor on board, lobbying by Seddon to former government colleagues on behalf of UnitedHealth is a forgone conclusion.

The head of NHS England, Simon Stevens, is also a former UnitedHealth executive which further cements the revolving door system operating between US private health care providers, the NHS and the Tory government.

The NHS is the best healthcare system in the world - but 40% of new contracts are now going to private companies





The NHS fares well compared to American healthcare

THE UNITED STATES IS THE only remaining industrialized country without some form of universal access to medical services.

Most of the NHS's dreary features—the rundown hospitals, the chronic shortages of specialists in every field, the long waiting lists—stem from chronic underfunding and undersupply of personnel and equipment according to a research paper "Universal Health Care: Lessons From the British Experience by Donald W. Light, PhD"

The US health care system is richly funded but designed so that it maximizes waste, inefficiency, and inequity

The largest 125 US health insurers collected \$744bn in 2013 premiums, according to a US News & World Report article citing data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Health care should be "free at the point of service," is a founding principle of the NHS. Although this is precisely opposite the principle of American employers and politicians as they increase co-payments, the evidence from the United States and abroad supports the British position. Co-payments create inequities, raise barriers to access, and usually do not achieve their goals

Fund health care from income taxes. Whenever the British have reviewed the option of using health insurance instead of income tax financing, they have found evidence that an insurance-based health care system costs more to operate, is more inequitable, controls costs less effectively, and provides no basis for population-oriented prevention or public health gains.

Failures of privatisation ignored by Tories



Private company Circle was the first to take over an NHS hospital, Hinchingbrooke, but it withdrew from the 10 year contract after three years, leaving the public to pick up the rest of the bill. The Care Quality Commission found that the company was neglecting patients and had inadequate hygiene standards.

Private company Coperforma was given a contract to run the NHS's South East Coast non-emergency ambulance service. After hundreds of patients - including people with cancer and kidney failure - repeatedly missed important appointments for treatment, the NHS launched an investigation into the service.

Private company Serco was forced to pull out of a contract to provide out-of-hours GP services in Cornwall after it emerged that the company had been falsifying data and that it had a 'bullying culture' which discouraged whistle-blowing in the interests of patients.

Avoid American style Health Care at all costs

Things like being sick and turned away from a hospital because they do not accept your insurance provider. People forget that medical insurance much like car insurance has excess fees where the insured has to typically cough up 20% of the medical bill from his own pocket. The fact that hospitals inflate their prices to the insurance companies meaning higher premiums. The fact that 15% of the population have no medical insurance despite Obamacare. Profit driven hospitals regularly perform unnecessary operations and do not do preventative health programs which means that the US population pays more than twice the UK per capita and receives poorer health care.



works with the NHS to provide services such as contract negotiations and medication management. Optum is one of the rare profit making companies that has managed to gain contracts with the NHS.



US giant IBM provides electronic staff records services to the NHS, such as payroll, pensions and other human resources functions.



Interview



Jeremy And John (1)

A lot of your supporters feel that a lot of the people you have around you come from the same class and the same background and it seems that maybe you feel trapped?

JC: I understand that people often feel worried about advisors, etc. We have a very diverse office, we have lots of people from very different backgrounds and I think it is very important to take advice and never forget why we are there.

JM: I left school at 17, I went on the shop floor, I did my A levels at night school and when I did my degree it was on a sandwich course. The people who work for me at the moment, all of them come from working class backgrounds. They are people who stuck at it and went to university, stuck at it and are now making a contribution. I represent a multicultural, working class community and all of my advisors are absolutely rooted in what's happening in their communities and around the country as well. There is an

issue we get accused of as being all London based but if you look at our new shadow cabinet we have strong northern voices that populate half if not two thirds of our shadow cabinet.

The electricity price hike that we have seen, will we see public utilities back in our ownership?

JM: Two things we are going to do: one is we are going to control prices so we will cap the prices themselves. But one of the ways of breaking the monopolies of the companies is to follow the German model where you invest in the local communities renewable energy. You get local communities and local councils to supply that energy then you redistribute the profits to the local communities themselves and that way you break the stranglehold on the market that the companies have. Germany have done that. So what we are doing if you like is bringing into social ownership the energy supply from the grass roots.

JC: Robin Hood energy in Nottingham is a good start, a good example.

Grandmaster Corbyn

By Jack Thomas

Reading the Guardian's reporting of Corbyn's imposition of a three line whip, you'd think that Labour MPs were being forced to invoke article 50 and start the countdown for the UK exiting the EU. This is as misleading as it is inaccurate. When a bill passes through parliament it is voted on at several stages of development before a final vote when it becomes law. As an MP, you can vote for a bill at each of the first stages to allow it to develop. You can make changes and amendments so it reflects the interests of the people you represent.

After all this, if you still think the bill stinks, you can vote it down at the final stage; only the last vote determines whether it becomes law or not. The early stages just decide its detail.

This is key - but it isn't the end-game.

At the referendum 52% voted

to leave the EU after several campaigns that were not only misleading, but devoid of any actual details. Since then, we have learned nothing new from Theresa May, an avid Remainer during the campaign. There is wide concern about the future of the NHS, Human Rights and our livelihoods, yet when we ask the Prime Minister what a Tory Brexit actually looks like, we are told that "Brexit means Brexit" and that it will be "Red, White and Blue."

Labour adopting a position which allows the bill to continue through the first and second readings, the committee and final report stages, achieves several things simultaneously:

Firstly, Tory Remainers would love to blame the failure of this bill on Labour and not have to go

'The Tories will lose all remaining credibility.'

through with Brexit. They would prefer that Labour prevented Brexit by acting against popular will, and accuse Corbyn of being not a man of the people but an unprincipled establishment stooge. The pro-EU Tory leadership need to reconcile themselves with anti-EU Tories 'blame-free,' but can only do that if they make Corbyn the scapegoat. Whipping Labour MPs in these first stages means the Tories can't do that; in chess this is called a *'pin.'*

Secondly, Labour amendments to protect our NHS and workers' rights put the Tories into difficulties. Brexit is laid out on paper in black and white, which is why Theresa May didn't want to go through Parliament at all. The Tories are desperate to keep their 'game-plan' secret from the public and this spoils their strategy. They'll have to reveal some detail.

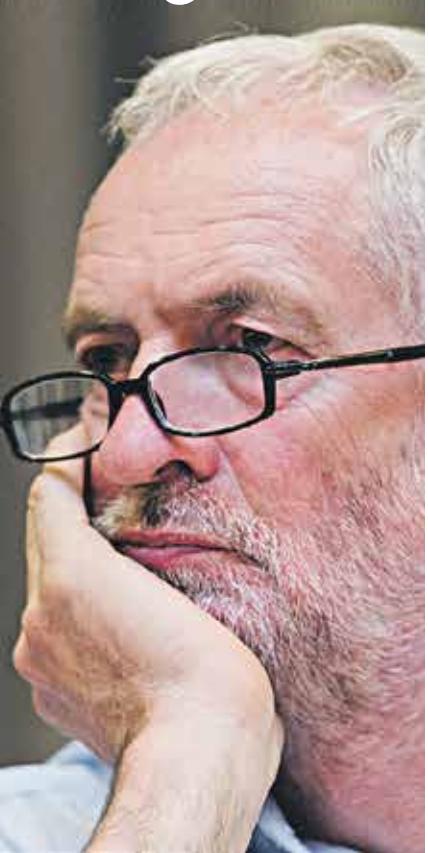
Thirdly, with Labour engagement in this process, the Tories are forced into an impossible situ-

ation; if they vote down Labour's amendments, they admit a Tory Brexit means the end of our NHS, the end of workers' rights, and economic misery for millions.

Once it is laid out for all to see, Labour can kill this bill at the final vote, justifying it to the 52% on the grounds that the Tories are using Brexit as another opportunity to hurt them; Gove, Farage and Johnson 'played' them. The Tories will lose all remaining credibility.

The Tories' second option is to accept the amendments, ruining the plans of hard-right-wing, anti-EU Tories. This is called a *'fork'* - watch them implode; they are more divided on this than they would have you know.

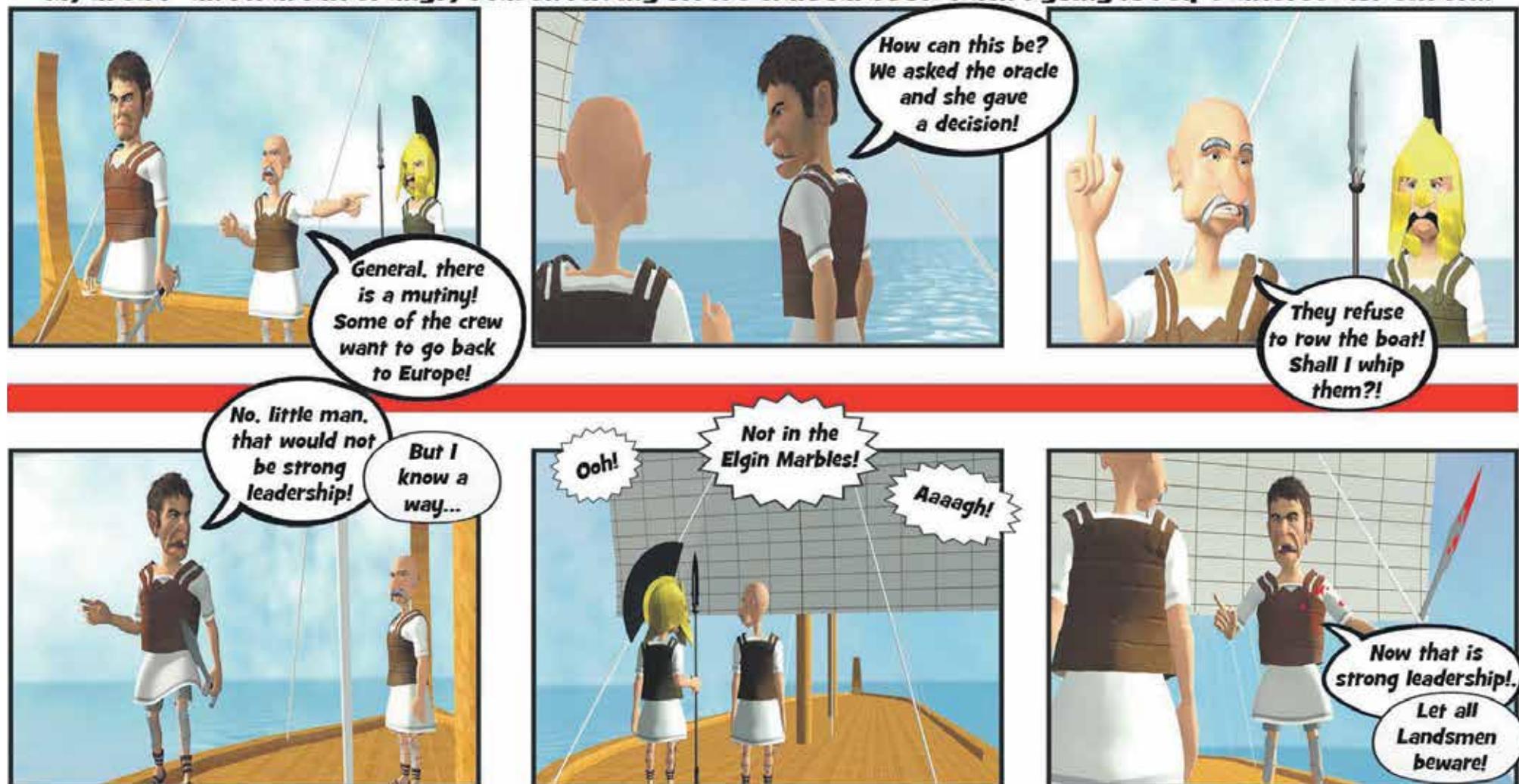
So it's prudent for Labour to allow the bill to progress, offering amendments along the way and shaping it; forcing the Tories' hand. I have a feeling that it will be this Government's undoing; this should be Checkmate.



XENOPHON'S ADVENTURES IN Salford: PART 15



PREVIOUSLY: After battling a fixed penalty notice, and wrestling his beloved boat back from the vile clutches of the local vessel impound tyrant, Xenophon put to sea for a well earned break... Little did he know that troubled waters lay ahead - and that rather angry Kraken lurking off the starboard bow wasn't going to help matters much either...



I was shocked at the amount of Corbyn bashing on the news today. This was deemed to be an appropriate response to the number of Labour MPs voting against the triggering of article 50 and apparently defying their leader. We know that Sky and the BBC don't really need an excuse to go Corbyn bashing, but this was beyond ridiculous.

So what if some members of the Labour party decided they wanted to vote against article 50. That doesn't necessarily denote that everyone who voted against triggering article 50, or who abstained, did so because

Maybe we should look at how other parties voted as well, and how those figures compare to how constituencies voted during the EU referendum?

they had it in for Corbyn. Clearly all Labour MPs will have voted with their conscience and some will have voted according to what the majority of their constituents would have wanted.

A breakdown may build a better picture of this alleged defiance from within the Labour ranks.

Maybe we should look at how other parties voted as well, and how those figures compare to how constituencies voted during the EU referendum?

Conservative : 1 MP opposed the triggering of article 50, while 319 MPs voted for triggering article 50. That's 99.69% FOR vs 0.31% AGAINST. Now many of us might recall that only 58% of Conservative voters actually voted to leave the EU in the referendum. In other words, Conservative MPs have gone against the wishes of 42% of their voters and many Conservative MP's will have gone against the wishes of their own constituencies.

Labour : 40 Labour MPS opposed triggering article 50, compared to 153 MPS who voted for triggering article 50. That's 79.27% FOR vs 20.73% AGAINST. If we bear in mind that only about 37% of Labour voters actually voted to leave during the referendum this means that Labour MP's voting to trigger article 50 have decided to respect the result of the referendum rather than be swayed by the 63% of Labour voters who voted to remain. Under the circumstances, it's quite significant



ARTICLE 50 VOTING BREAKDOWN

that only 20.73% of Labour MP's voted against triggering article 50, wouldn't you agree?

SNP : 50 MPS opposed to triggering article 50 and no SNP MP voted for, so that's 100% AGAINST. Bear in mind now that there was also a sizeable number (about 36%) of SNP voters who voted to leave the EU last year. In other words, these results show that SNP MP's were not going to be swayed by the Brexit voters within their

constituencies.

LibDems : Like the SNP, all 7 LibDem MP's (100%) opposed the triggering of article 50 and so, they voted against the wishes of approx. 30% of their electorate.

UKIP : Being the party with the singular objective of extracting the UK from the European Union, UKIP's solitary MP, Douglas Carswell, understandably voted to trigger article 50. It's worth noting though that this gives UKIP the

unique accolade of being the only party to vote overwhelmingly in favour of its electorate, 96% of whom voted in favour of leaving the EU.

In conclusion, it seems hard to ignore the fact that mainstream media has not just turned its back on objective, fact based reporting; it's now effectively happy to serve its own bias in support of a right wing political agenda.

Don't believe the hype!

David Lindsay Column

Both Houses of Parliament will reject withdrawal from the Single Market. But whereas the composition of the House of Commons can be changed, that of the House of Lords cannot. At least, not without what would be the ludicrous creation of hundreds of Peers in one go. Giving the Lords a veto is Theresa May's way of ensuring that the whole scheme is killed off. This has nothing to do with such reforms as there were under Tony Blair. Those reforms post-dated the European Communities Act, the Single European Act, and the Maastricht Treaty.

This looks like the real possibil-

ity of a new second chamber. The Left needs a specific proposal that would maximise the representation of the Labour Left, of smaller Left formations that had the good sense not to use the C-word or what have you for electoral purposes, and of non-party Left activists. There are alliances to be made here.

The powers of the House of Lords should be transferred to a new Senate, the members of which would be remunerated in the same way as MPs were. Ministers would not be drawn from the Senate, but they would appear

before it. Even the Prime Minister might. The Senate's term of office would be six years.

Each of the nine English regions would elect 30 Senators, namely six Conservatives, six Labour, six Liberal Democrats, six from other registered political parties that did not contest Commons elections, and six non-party candidates to sit as Crossbenchers. Many of us do not like the word "Independent", since, while not members of any party, we are proudly part of many overlapping networks of political interdependence.

In the first three cases, any member of the relevant party who was a parliamentary elector

within the region would be eligible to stand. As electors, each of us would vote for one candidate, with the top six elected at the end. Casual vacancies would be filled by co-opting the next candidate down who was willing and able to serve. The fourth category would use party lists, again requiring candidates to be from within the region. The fifth would replicate the first three, but for non-partisans.

Scotland and Wales would each elect 30 Senators. Five each from the Conservatives, Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the SNP in Scotland or Plaid Cymru in Wales, other registered political parties that did not contest Commons elections, and Crossbenchers.

Northern Ireland would elect 30 Senators. Three each from the Conservatives, Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the Ulster Unionist Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, Sinn Féin, the Alliance Party, other parties that did not contest Commons elections, and Crossbenchers.

This would give 360 Senators, representing a very broad range of political opinion. UKIP, or whatever came after it, would happily exchange the off-chance of one Commons seat for the effective guarantee of 11 Senators and the serious possibility of 12. The same would be true of the three Green Parties in different parts of the United Kingdom.

How many clips could we find on YouTube of politicians not answering a simple question? From Jeremy Paxman trying to extract information out of Michael Howard to Theresa May, this very week, refusing to answer Andrew Marr. There is an inexhaustible supply of this same old approach of not being transparent.

It's as though this elite fear giving the people the information and letting them decide. Never was this borne out more than when Westminster was rocked to the core at the Brexit result.

Yet here we are, months after the people spoke, and the Tory government still won't be open and transparent with the people. Will they ever learn?

Quote - 'The worker is left with no faith, no trust that what they are being sold is fair or reasonable. There is hope.'

Everyone can talk a good game: We want to be transparent, we want our businesses to be transparent, we want ethical business. We want our businesses to reflect the people and to pay the right taxes. Heck, we even want to put workers on the boards of our best companies.

But not right now.

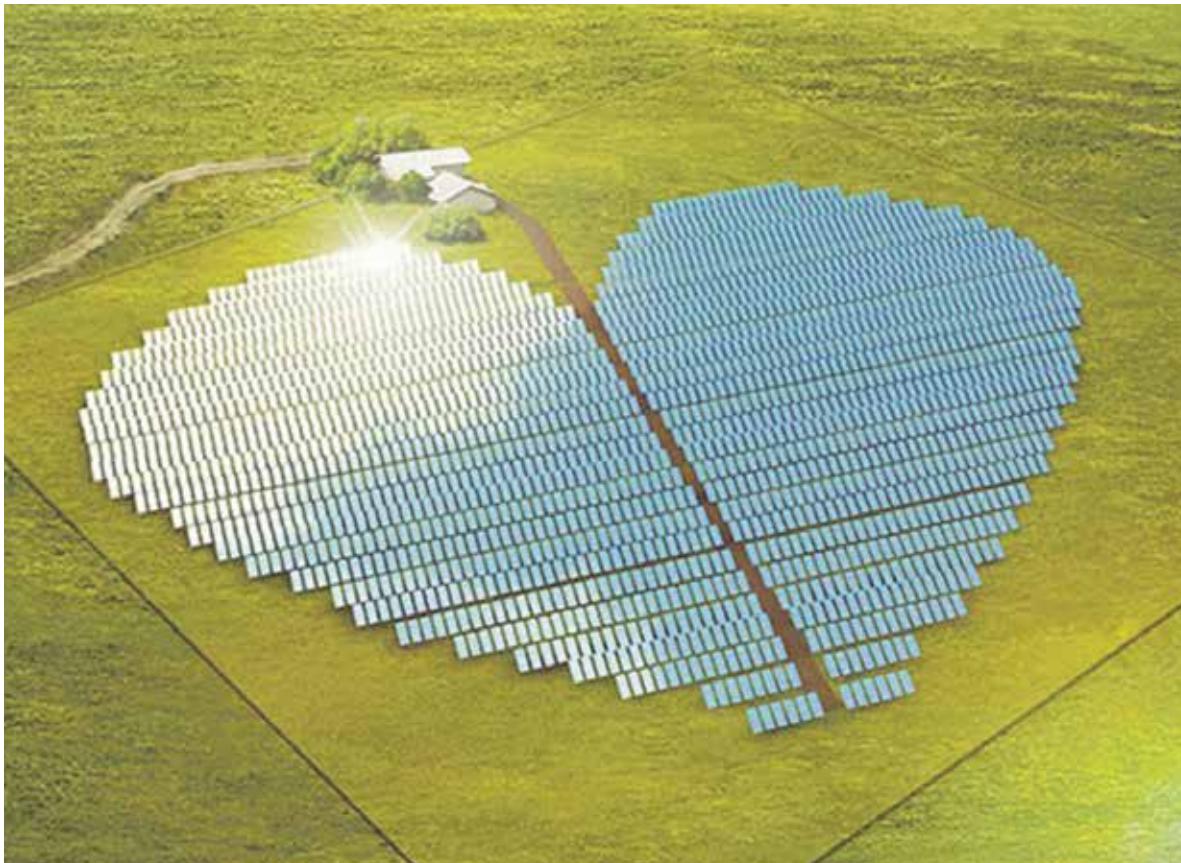
Tomorrow would be more convenient. Perhaps when I've shuffled off the political stage and it is someone else's turn.

Whilst those in power pontificate, there are companies out there who are already trying to do the right thing. Companies ready to embrace the people and be guided by them - but how many actually get a voice?

One such company is a new start up, Our Energy.

The founders of Our Energy want to create a Company that is set up to provide you with a basic utility at a fair price - where the customer is in control. The customer - the public - know they are not being ripped off.

A FAIR ENERGY COMPANY BUILT FOR PEOPLE



Workers graft. All day, all night, all week. They earn a wage, they deserve to be able to spend it on things that will make them happy. Who loves paying their energy bill? Even if Boris Johnson manages to heat his house with his own hot air, he still can't be enjoying paying a

Big Six utility company money.

Yet the worker is left little choice but to spend their hard earned money on a Big Six energy company - money that disappears to other countries, to foreign shareholders, to the wealthy and powerful. The worker is left with no faith,

no trust that what they are being sold is fair or reasonable. There is hope.

Our Energy have been trying to break through to get the word out to people that there is an alternative - ready for the here and now. That we, the people, can build and

in 76 countries have agreed to withdraw \$5 trillion of investments in coal, oil and gas companies.

The three topics above were featured in New Internationalist Jan/Feb 2017 NI 499

Human Rights - Ravi from Sri Lanka was in the UK on a student visa but returned home at the end of the Sri Lankan Civil War to see his family. However he was detained and tortured, being burnt with cigarettes and hot metal rods. Despite 46 scars from his torture and a report showing he had symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder the Home Office dismissed his asylum claim,

despite 46 scars from his torture and a report showing he had symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder the Home Office dismissed his asylum claim, even suggesting they were "self inflicted". On appeal a judge believed Ravi and upheld the appeal.

This was possible through the work of Freedom from Torture, whose doctors, psychologists and counsellors document evidence of the effects of torture through an important legal document: a Medico-Legal Report (MLR). These reports, commissioned by legal representatives, are crucial for enabling survivors of torture to secure safety in the UK and prevent being returned to further torture or possibly death.

My hope is that we can help Freedom from Torture to continue to fight for justice in more cases of torture (Sadly if President Trump has his way there will be more).

For further information go to freedomfromtorture.org/proving-torture

Hope & Good News

Gambia - a month ago I put an item of good news in The Word welcoming the end of Yahya Jammeh's calamitous reign as President and Adama Barrow's win in the Presidential Election. I was premature because Jammeh managed to get Parliament to extend his Presidency for a further 3 months. However Hope has turned to Good News again as Jammeh has been flown out to Equatorial Guinea and Barrow sworn in as the new President in neighbouring Senegal. He has now returned home after getting the backing of the Gambia military chief. Gambian and ECOWAS# troops will hopefully ensure a smooth change of power. Let us hope that Gambia can look forward to happier times.

Economic Community of West African States

Wild Life - Beavers have been reintroduced into Scotland having been designated a British native species. Now over 250 are living in the lochs and rivers there. "Beavers are one of the world's natural engineers" claims Jonathan Hughes (Scottish Wildlife Trust). "Their

ability to create new wetlands and restore native woodland improves conditions for a wide range of species."

Press Freedom - There was a win for press freedom in a Thai court when a case brought by a mining company against a public broadcasting company and four of its journalists was rejected. The broadcaster had reported on the environmental impact of a goldmine.

Environment - Divestment from fossil fuels has doubled since September 2015. 680 institutions

The NHS is bloomin' brilliant, but as the largest employer in Western Europe and the embodiment of working Socialism in the World, its wheels sometimes grind exceedingly slow. And it is chronically underfunded. My job is to keep prodding it until it works a little faster on my account says Ian Charles, Health Correspondent.

As you know, I'm suffering (if that's the word) from a cancer which began in my prostate gland and without my knowledge discovered interplanetary space travel using my bloodstream, thus finding its way to my lungs, my right eye (hence the title of this column) and I believe, though no-one else does, my thyroid gland. Am I being paranoid? Am I little mint balls; I've been told time and again that there is nothing wrong with me, that the problem is contained, that my growths are 'benign.' I've had seven consultants and two multidisciplinary teams reducing to one, an oncologist who has seen fit to put me on a course of treatment costing the NHS £40K per annum.

I already receive a synthetic 'hormone' injection once every twelve weeks which tells my pituitary gland that I have far too much testosterone in my body. This is biological post-truth, i.e. not entirely true, if true at all.

The real truth is that ANY tes-

Conversations with my Oncologist - III

tosterone, the sex hormone that makes a man male, is 'too much' for me, as my cancer actually feeds off testosterone; it is so aggressive and insidious that it eventually begins to make its own, in the way that plants sit in the sunshine and photosynthesise their own sugar. So when my testosterone level began to rise, about ten months ago, and I began to bleed from places a man should never bleed from, I asked my GP what to do. Phone your urologist, he suggested. As a result of a summer of standing around with my pants round my ankles arguing with radiologists, frightening chest

'People tell me I look great.'

specialists with my biting satire and enduring the humour of an ancient Cypriot throat specialist who did tricks with his endoscope like he does for children, I was passed



on to a serious lady in a suit. She is friendly, very 'Yorkshire' (uses words like 'Grand!') and tells me I'm not getting chemo. What I am getting is a very clever drug called

Enzalutamide which I take around breakfast time, and which attaches to the very same receptors on my cancer cells that would have soaked up the testosterone they'd

made earlier themselves before the programme went out on live TV, and which takes the cost to the NHS, which I love like a very old aunt, to just over a quarter of a million pounds.

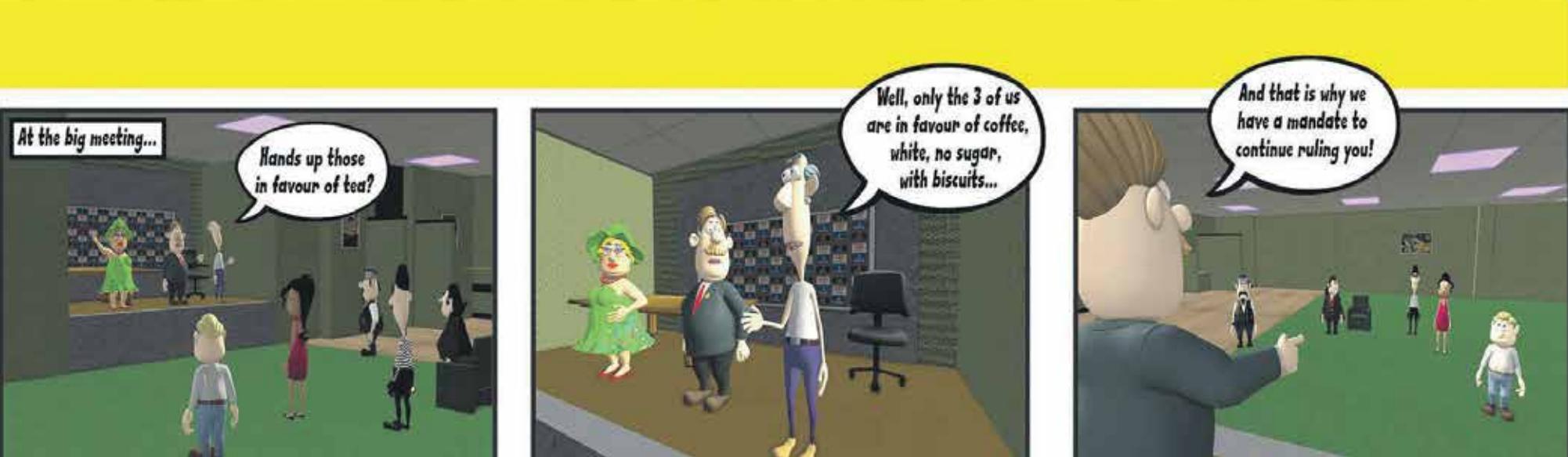
The result is that I have no more serious symptoms, all pain has gone, I can go up and down stairs without holding the handrail, I bleed hardly at all, my energy levels are high. People tell me I look great. For a while longer, my body has the ascendancy over those traitorous cells that once promised to destroy me.

"Early diagnosis saves the NHS money."

Tell your GP this when he/she says to you that they keep treatment 'in-house' or that the NHS has a surfeit of people they call the 'worried well.' Say, "I have a catchphrase for you too, doctor; 'I'd like a second opinion.'"

By forcing the system we get better care; I'm sure it shouldn't be like this. Ian Charles.

STORY BY ALAN DAVIES
ART BY ANDREW KEIR



Labour just won a delicious election victory against UKIP and it shows Corbyn's Brexit stance may be paying off

<https://www.thecanary.co/2017/02/03/labour-just-won-delicious-election-victory-ukip-shows-corbyns-brexit-stance-may-paying-off/>

By Steve Topple

Labour just won a delicious election victory against UKIP and it shows Corbyn's Brexit stance may be paying off

On Thursday 2 February, Labour snatched a seat from UKIP in a council by-election, increasing its share of the vote. And the result may indicate that Jeremy Corbyn's stance on voting for the government's Article 50 bill was popular, as the election win was in an area that overwhelmingly voted to leave the EU.

Labour gained the second seat in Dinnington (Rotherham) from UKIP. The election followed the resignation of the previous UKIP councillor. The Labour candidate, John Vjestica, won with 36.1% of the vote; an increase of 15.5% on the last election and a 9.3% swing from UKIP. The result means that Labour now has all three councillors in the ward. And it's worth noting that Vjestica was also the candidate for Dinnington in last year's election, when UKIP's Ian Finnie won.

But the result is interesting for a number of reasons. Firstly, in last year's EU referendum, Rotherham voted to leave the EU by 68%; well above the 51.9% UK average. And the Dinnington seat has been held by UKIP since 2014.

A government scheme for funding renewables is about to be sold off to a firm that backs fracking. We must stop this

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/climate/government-funding-renewables-firm-backs-fracking-we-must-stop-20170203>

By Richard Casson

If you're on Greenpeace's email list, chances are you'll have just received an email about the Green Investment Bank - a government body that is currently being privatised. If the sale goes through as it stands, it could have devastating consequences on the UK renewable energy industry.

But now Theresa May's government wants the green bank privatised and sold off. And it looks like a company called Macquarie, a firm that supports fracking and coal, and focuses on short-term profit, is set to buy it out.

Jlm Chair And Exec Block Clp Call For Investigation Into Israeli Interference

<https://skwawkbox.org/2017/02/05/jlm-chair-and-exec-block-clp-call-for-investigation-into-israeli-interference/>

By SKWAWKBOX ·

Liverpool's Riverside constituency has been at the centre of controversy recently over allegations of antisemitism by its MP and officers against members - including at least one Jewish member - who condemned the actions of the Israeli government, accompanied by accusations of 'entryism' against members trying to exercise their democratic rights within their local party.

The antisemitism allegations - which if true should, both legally and according to Labour party rules, have been reported to police - seem to have petered out with no action taken against any Riverside CLP (constituency Labour party) members. Instead, the CLP has suffered the imposition of a branch/delegate structure that largely disenfranchises most members and is easier for experienced right-wing members to exploit.

This is a troubling and deeply anti-democratic move that lays bare the real motivations behind the convenient appearance of hate-crime allegations by right-wing party members and functionaries when left-wing members look like achieving the democratic control of local parties that their numbers merit.

Even more troubling in the context of similar allegations suddenly materialising against a Brighton CLP over the last few days - just as, again, left-wing members looked likely to elect a full 'slate' of officials to run the CLP. More on that to follow in a separate article.

Now, it has emerged that the anti-democratic tactics of certain Riverside officials has gone even further.

Riverside Labour MP Louise Ellman is Chair of the JLM (Jewish Labour Movement) and vice-Chair of Labour Friends of Israel (LFI). The former organisation is highly controversial because of its affiliation with the openly pro-apartheid Israeli Labour Party 'Havoda' and the latter because it was specifically mentioned by the Israeli embassy operative filmed by an undercover Al Jazeera reporter, in connection with his activities in setting up pro-Israeli groups within the Labour party.

Supporters of both groups have been prominent in the discredited but still persisting antisemitism smear

against the national party.

And it appears that Ms Ellman and her allies in Riverside CLP - in spite of their obvious conflict of interest - have no intention of allowing members to add their voices to the calls for a full Labour investigation into the infiltration of the party by a foreign government.

In their CLP meeting at the end of January, members tried to move an amendment to a tabled motion that had already been refused, to call on Labour to investigate Israeli interference. This is the wording of the amended motion :

Riverside CLP supports the call by the Labour Party leadership to ask the Government to have a full investigation into the extent of Israeli embassy and Israeli Government interference in British policy making, regarding Israel and Palestine and their efforts to discredit politicians in both the Labour Party and Conservative Party who support Palestine and are critical of the Israeli Government.

Liverpool Riverside CLP therefore calls on Labour's NEC to lead by example and undertake an internal investigation into allegations that attempts have been made to infiltrate and subvert our party by a foreign state.

Specifically, we ask that the investigation examine the £1m fund being set up primarily to be accessed by Labour MPs sympathetic to the Government of Israel.

We ask that the investigation examine the purpose and nature of this fund and that the findings be shared with all CLPs via the NEC.

A CLP member described events that followed :

An email had been sent to the exec with details of the amendment, However, no reply to the email was received and the chair attempted to skip over the original motion without making any comment or acknowledgement in relation to the proposed amendment.

At this point the proposer of the amendment objected and a very short 'discussion' took place where the chair ruled that she was not accepting the amendment as the original motion "had been resolved." Whatever that means! This was questioned by members who held a copy of the standing orders used for the meet-

Healthcare UK: A Conduit for Market expansion? Part one of a Two Part Report

http://socialinvestigations.blogspot.co.uk/2014/07/healthcare-uk-conduit-for-market-part_31.html

investment arm access to 'confidential' information.

The vast majority of corporations involved in the international agreements are kept hidden through commercial confidentiality but enough evidence has emerged to show how Healthcare UK acts as a conduit for commercial companies in a bid to expand the 'domestic market' here in the UK as well as increasing the market abroad.

This is Healthcare UK, unlocking deals for UK companies, some of who are based in tax havens and whose investors have donated to the Conservative party. All in the name of the NHS.

Rest of

to Israeli Interference

ing. The amendment proposer then insisted that the motion was taken as an emergency motion instead and that was also rejected by the chair and the MP waved the antisemitism stick at anyone who objected.

Many of us are not surprised that serious party business in relation to an issue involving national security was brushed under the carpet in such a cavalier manner when our neighbouring CLP had felt the issue had sufficient merit to be given an emergency vote.

We must remember here that the documentary in question suggested that political opponents of Israel were likely systematically targeted, using false allegations of antisemitism, by the agents of the Israeli government and their UK lobby in the Labour Party and that this may well have been the case in Liverpool Riverside itself.

What is now clear to us, is that three members still have not been cleared of the allegations nine months on.

The following statement by Andy Smith from Labour Party region has been offered:

"The NEC have received a number of complaints in regard to individual members in Riverside. Where the NEC finds that there is a case to answer for individual members, they will be contacted in due course." Andy Smith, NW Labour Party Liaison

A member commented on this as follows:

As you can see the option is still open to proceed against individuals. XXXXX has confirmed that no local CLP action will be taken and that all complaints and allegations are with the national party.

I have now had a reply from Andy to say that the quote comes from a response from the National Compliance Unit acting on behalf of the NEC.

The Al Jazeera documentary was raised earlier in the meeting, when a member specifically mentioned the JLM and Joan Ryan, MP. Louise Ellman's response was to blatantly misrepresent what the member had said in relation to Joan Ryan in order imply that something improper had taken place. It was outrageous that in response to a member's concern about the episode called "An antisemitic trope," where Joan Ryan misrepresented and twisted the words of a Labour Confer-

ence delegate, that Louise Ellman would immediately attempt to do the same. She further suggested that it would be folly to make such a claim in a public place, thus implying that it was antisemitic in its nature.

When challenged, she refused to retract what she had claimed was said. The meeting did not appear to be impressed. [Well-known right-wing councillor] questioned the member on why the matter had been raised. Well why not?

Louise Ellman explained that she was the president of the JLM and that it had been affiliated to the Labour Party since 1924, which is meaningless in respect of some of the charges that call its impartiality into question. She also claimed the documentary was outright false, despite it having significantly more robust evidence than any of allegations that have been covered by the MSM in respect of antisemitism accusations. It appears that this whole strategy has backfired on them.

She further suggested that the Al Jazeera documentary had been edited, which of course most of these things are, particularly when they are recorded over a six month period. She also suggested that the documentary was "being looked into," but failed to tell the meeting by whom/lemer

So it seems the MP seems to think there is sufficient reason to investigate Al Jazeera, but her and the chair of the CLP, feel there is not sufficient reason to investigate what it alleges is underway in the Labour Party.

If this pattern is being repeated elsewhere, it means that JLM/LFI supporters in the party have no qualms about ignoring their unarguable conflict of interest, which should require them to abstain from any influence over the matter, in order to impede Labour members from exercising their democratic rights. If you're similarly affected, contact the SKWAWKBOX with details of your situation.

Members around the country are sending an unequivocal message to Labour's National Executive Committee to properly investigate the matter of Labour officials collaborating with an interfering foreign power even to the extent of undermining the party and its leader - and to sanction those involved.

Except where they're being blocked from doing so.

Breaking: Wikileaks Boss Julian Assange Agrees To Go Back To The Us As Chelsea Manning Sentence Commuted

<http://stematthewmurray.blogspot.co.uk/2017/01/breaking-wikileaks-boss-julian-assange.html>

Healthcare UK was set up in order to sell NHS expertise abroad, but following a series of Freedom of Information requests, Social Investigations can reveal that far from benefitting the NHS, 80 per cent of all contracts gained through Healthcare UK have ended up in private hands.

Memoranda of Understandings made between China and the UK show that in exchange for financial support for UK companies from Chinese investment, the government has promised to provide information on UK health 'policy' and offer China's main financial

investment arm access to 'confidential' information.

The vast majority of corporations involved in the international agreements are kept hidden through commercial confidentiality but enough evidence has emerged to show how Healthcare UK acts as a conduit for commercial companies in a bid to expand the 'domestic market' here in the UK as well as increasing the market abroad.

This is Healthcare UK, unlocking deals for UK companies, some of who are based in tax havens and whose investors have donated to the Conservative party. All in the name of the NHS.

Welcome to Brexit Britain

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/2017/02/welcome-to-brexit-britain.html>

Make no mistake about it, racist and bigoted behaviour in Britain is being re-normalised.

The process has been going on for years with one lurid anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-refugee propaganda piece after another emblazoned across the front pages of the right-wing tabloid rags (Daily Mail, The Sun, Express) but things are getting worse and worse.

One of the biggest culprits is Facebook, which continues to allow the ex-BNP criminals at Britain First to operate their vile hate-fuelled echo chamber which encourages anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim abuse and relentlessly purges dissenting opinion. As far as Facebook are concerned, the hate-fest at the Britain First Facebook page makes them tons of cash in ad revenues, so they don't give a damn that by hosting it they normalise hatred, violence, bigotry and abuse and allow the Biffers to blatantly scam money out of people to fund their hate campaign.

The vote for Brexit was another factor in empowering bigots. Of course not all Leave voters were savagely racist bigots, but it's absolutely undeniable that a significant cohort of them were, and it's also undeniable that racist attacks have soared after the EU referendum.

Trump CIA Deputy Director Pick Gina Haspel Ran Secret Torture Black Site

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/2/3/jeremy_scahill_trump_cia_deputy_director

By Jeremy Scahill

The Intercept: "The CIA's New Deputy Director Ran a Black Site for Torture"

President Trump has selected Gina Haspel to be the new deputy director of the CIA. The Intercept reports Gina Haspel was directly involved in the CIA's torture program under the George W. Bush administration. She was responsible for running a secret CIA black site in Thailand where prisoners were waterboarded and tortured. The Intercept also reports Haspel played a role in the 2005 destruction of two interrogation videotapes that depicted the torture of prisoners. We speak with journalist Jeremy Scahill, co-founder of The Intercept, which reported on Haspel's record at the CIA.

the word

History will reflect that 2016 was a year in which the Labour Party temporarily ceased to exist. Party managers put an end to the shenanigans of a group of so-called 'democrats' who took it in turns to resign from the Shadow Cabinet of Jeremy Corbyn, bursting into tears on camera, or haranguing other party colleagues, again on camera, or, spectacularly, running an unconstitutional 'Vote of No Confidence' in the Leader. Faced with uncorroborated reports that local meetings were descending into arguments, name calling, and physical threats, the Management of the Party decided that all except campaign meetings were banned.

Despite assurances from a (non-Corbynite) MP I know that the trouble causers numbered 20 or 30, "Top side 50" (his words) and another friend in the PLP supporting this estimate, one MP was able to get 162 signatures from the PLP (plus some MEPs) and force a leadership election. At that point the lights were switched off.

The Labour Party began to resemble a long, dark room lit only by some high windows. In the shadows, people moved to one end or the other, and peered through the gloom to see who might be looking back. One end called itself 'Socialist' or 'pro-Corbyn' whereas the other end had many names, none of which did it justice. Some said *Progress*, others *New Labour*, but still others called themselves *Unity*, meaning I think Brown/Blair followers colluding in tandem; their chosen candidate to oppose Jeremy Corbyn for the *Soul of the Party* claimed he was "Exactly the same as Jeremy..." which made no sense whatsoever.

"Top side 50"

So who were they? Who were these 50 people destabilising the party, the PLP, and the Shadow Cabinet, and giving Karma Loonsberg such a laugh on the BBC each evening? It was difficult to tell, because against the Shadow Cabinet,

THE SHADOW CABINET VS CABINET OF SHADOWS

Rachael Swindon



loyal to the elected leader, and the membership, who had elected this leader, were anonymous voices of dissent, coming out of the pages and screens of the mainstream media, and more openly, interventions by people who had been Party leaders in the past and whose terms had ended in failure or ignominy.

Then the lights went back on, and it was found that even more Labour Party members supported the elected leader than ever before!

But something strange has begun to happen; the dissidents are beginning to find themselves isolated. Despite a get-out from the leader last week (a 3-line whip on the 2nd reading of the bill to trigger Article 50) where any MP whose constituents had a large percentage in favour of remaining in the EU could claim that to be following the Party Whip and still oppose 'Brexit' later, just under 50 members of the PLP chose to vote against it there and then, in direct challenge to the Party leader, and resignations from the Shadow Cabinet began again, not one every day, as before, but one every few days, as there aren't that many of them now.

These people numbered 47, but I believe there is one, very big hitter, a behemoth that protected his cabinet position by not revealing himself as dissident (though everyone knows his identity) and one other person 'Whipping' support for an *'Alternative Cabinet of Shadows'*. There's an inner circle of about 21, and another 28 giving qualified support. But it is now far fewer than 162, and reducing.

Tales from a Dark Room

I went to a Party last weekend; it was the Labour Party!!! It was the first local LP social since Christmas, and full of lovely Labour Party members and their husbands, wives and children. As is/always the case, in order to be a proper Labour group, it needs to contain people of all shades of opinion and experience within our Labour family, and there were councillors, party officials, union members, members of the Co-operative Party like myself, really young people, really old ones, and many in between.

Nobody asked anyone else who had voted for whom as leader, but they didn't have to. Many people kept sniping at the current leadership, and affecting not to understand the Party position on withdrawal from the EU. I was able to explain exactly what the position was, and yet, I got the distinct im-

pression that people knew full well what the line was, but wanted to see, instead of Theresa May in a position where she was wrong whatever she did, Jeremy Corbyn in a position where he was damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

One person told me that the NHS was already dead. Another told me that we could not possibly win a General Election. Another told me quite seriously that although he agreed with Labour's

ten pledges, there were one or two that were missing; one was a commitment from the leader to re-run the (bitter and divisive) referendum, this time letting people know that the other side were telling them lies.

That should do it then!

And the spectre of Trump hung over us like a bad smell.

I pointed out that if this was the way we behaved when we didn't get what we wanted out of any con-

test in which we didn't like the outcome, then what could we expect from our opponents when we win a contest that they don't like the outcome of?

This was ignored. It was essential that Jeremy Corbyn 'stands up' and campaigns for a new attempt to keep us in the EU, and in particular the single market. I explained that Labour has nine amendments designed to do that, as far as possible.

No.

Jeremy Corbyn has not been strong enough.

Isn't a 3-line whip a sign of strength?

No.

This isn't about Brexit at all, this is about the kind of people who burst into tears in 2015 when Jeremy won the Leadership, and again when he won in 2016, who cried when the Remain campaign lost the referendum by 48% to 52%, who cried again when Hillary Clinton, the least appropriate Democrat

candidate for a long time, lost to a man whose name is synonymous with a malodour, people who insist that the 25% or so of people who didn't vote in the referendum should be counted as wanting to Remain.

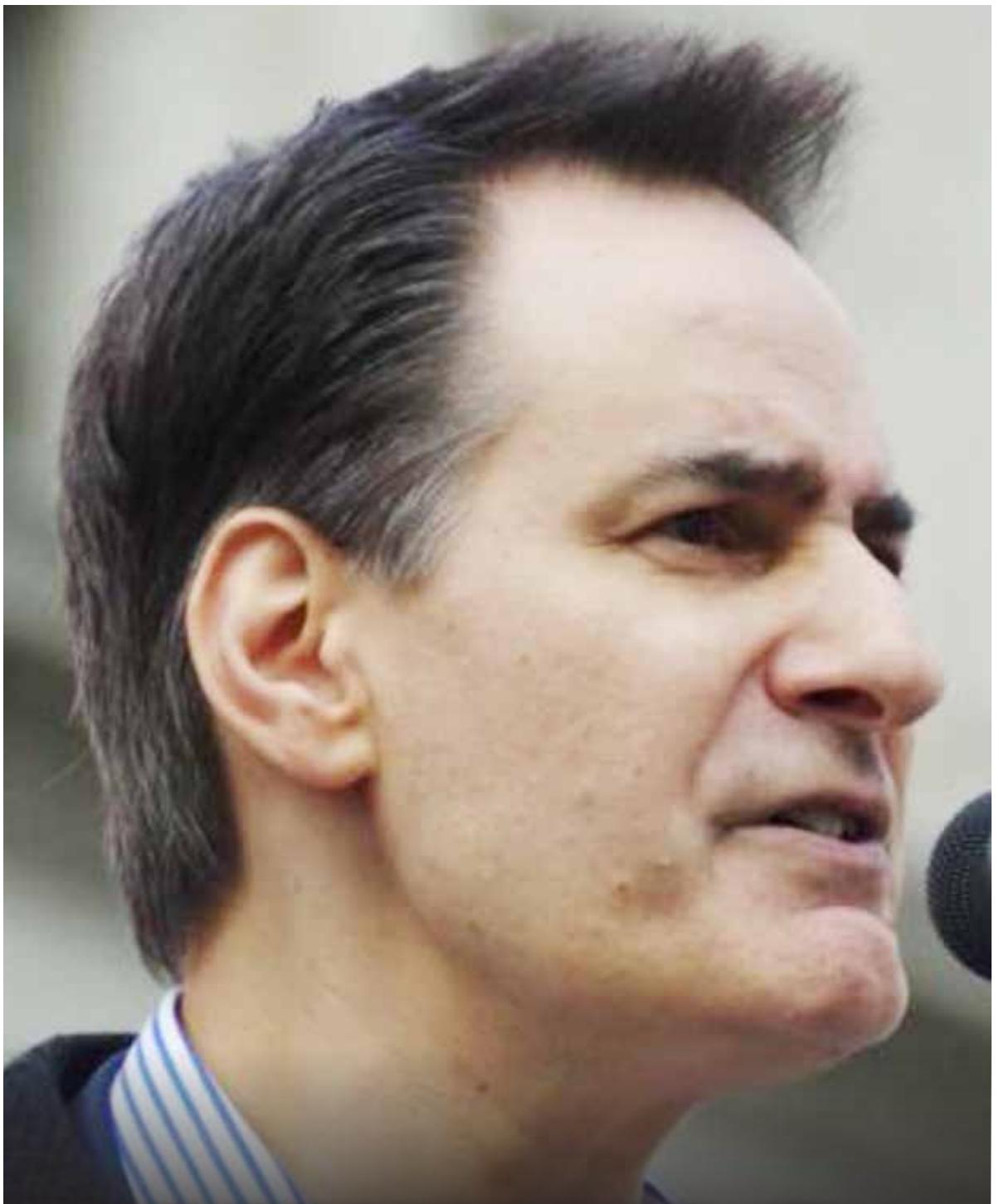
I'm a poor loser, and I always have been, but these lovely people come from a standpoint of having had everything their own way for far too long; I'm sorry about the election of Trump, and I voted for Remain as did every other person I know, Labour or otherwise.

But the moment we deny democracy because we 'know better' is the day we cease to be democratic socialists and become the nicest kind of totalitarians, because we 'know better' than our fellow citizens.

One councillor, who is not a fan of Corbyn, looked at me conspiratorially but said gloomily, "This Party is still not back together yet."

We have to try harder; we're better than this. Aren't we?





CUTTING THROUGH THE SPIN

**WITH LAWYER AND NO BULLSHIT
JOURNALIST PETER STEFANOVIC!**

What would YOU be willing to do if a woman you loved was betrayed, robbed and left destitute by someone she had put her complete trust in? If a woman you loved had the future she planned and worked for all her life suddenly stolen from her? If she was forced to sell her home and belongings and suffered illness, depression and even suicidal thoughts as a result? I would hope that any man reading this would shout out in anger "I would want Justice for that women!"

Well that's what's happening right now, today, in the U.K. to a generation of women born in the 1950s and that's the heart of the issue for women affected by the rise in the state pension retirement age who were born in that decade.

Let's get one thing straight right away, gender inequality is still a significant problem in the U.K. today. Equal Pay Legislation for men and women was first passed in 1970 yet the UK still has one of the worst records for gender equality at work. A report last year ranked Britain 11th out of 18 countries and a TUC analysis showed women still earn significantly less than men at every stage in their careers. If gender inequality is a problem today just imagine for one moment the level of inequality which was faced by women born in the 1950s! Working women were paid much less than men, educational opportunities were limited and many teachers and parents still had very narrow expectations for girls. Women were still seen as homemakers and the likelihood is they will have been married and had their first baby before they were twenty five. They were still expected to be the main caregiver in the home, despite the fact many women had full time jobs. Women born in the 1950s often started work in low paid, manual occupations at age fifteen. They worked hard and paid their taxes and national insurance.

In the expectation of retiring at age sixty these women made irreversible life changing decisions. In a time of austerity many took early retirement and redundancy. In many cases this was done out of necessity due to illness. Many stopped working to care for an elderly relative. All did this believing they only had to survive on the meagre savings they had for a short time before they received their state pension at age sixty.

Out of the blue, with little or no warning, they were told by the Government that the state pension retirement age for women had been increased to age 65 (now 66)!

The Turner commission recommended that fifteen years notice be given to women about the change in pension age but due to the expected ineptitude of the DWP many women got less than two years notice and many got no notice at all! This failure to give women sufficient notice to prepare and make alternative plans for their retirement is the crux of the gross injustice which has been inflicted on these women. Lives of women born in the 1950s have been literally turned upside down and destroyed with many doomed to live out the rest of their lives in poverty.

These women have been robbed by a Government they trusted of a life they had worked and planned for. If a private pension provider had done this there would be outrage! It would quite simply be miss-selling! This is why we MUST get in this fight! These women are not asking for anything they are not entitled to. They should be given fair transitional state pension arrangements to give them an income until state pension age and compensation for losses for those women who have already reached state pension age.

Many 1950s women have been left desperate and helpless by this Government's arrogant and unjust conduct towards them. Many have been forced to accept zero hours contracts and temporary low paid jobs which offer no financial security at all. Many have been forced back to work despite the ill health which led them to take early retirement or redundancy in the first place! Many are depressed and even suicidal. We cannot allow this Government to betray, rob, bully and intimidate an entire generation of women. That's not what we do in this country! That's the sort of behaviour we stand up against and we fight!

Quite extraordinarily the government believes it can just get away with this and we will turn a blind eye! Lets show them they are WRONG! Get to Westminster on 8 March for the WASPI Protest and help them send a message to this Government that we will not tolerate the bullying and intimidation and robbery of an entire generation of women!

By Jack Cornes

Michael Jackson was and is the greatest entertainer of all time. His music is some of the most popular and best selling and his artistry easily makes him one of the most famous global icons the world has ever seen.

This legacy was not an easy achievement but one which was earned throughout pretty much the entirety of Mr Jackson's life. He was performing from the age of six through to the day before his untimely death in June 2009 at the age of fifty. He enjoyed immeasurable success and faced immeasurable harassment throughout his life but the man's humanity, decency and sheer love for the world around him far out way what little mistakes and bad judgements he made in his lifetime.

What always continues to fascinate me about people is why we can't just accept Michael for who he was - an immensely talented creative genius who was a good person. That's it, that's who Michael Joseph Jackson was. It was announced recently that Sky Arts has been forced to pull its upcoming episode of Urban Myths, a show focusing on supposed stories of famous faces across popular culture, which was based on the alleged story that Michael, Elizabeth Taylor and Marlon Brando went on a road trip together against the backdrop of the US being under attack on 9/11. The show was pulled due to a fierce backlash from people across the world, including Michael's daughter Paris, because Michael was being played by White Actor Joseph Fiennes. Sky Arts did offer a statement in support of their decision to pull the programme which says:

"We have taken the decision not to broadcast Elizabeth, Michael and Marlon, a half-hour episode from the Sky Arts Urban Myths series, in light of the concerns expressed by Michael Jackson's immediate family."

"We set out to take a light-hearted look at reportedly true events and never intended to cause any offence. Joseph Fiennes fully supports our decision."

The casting of Fiennes as Jackson was down to the fact that this story was set in 2001 when Mr Jackson's skin disease, Vitiligo, was at a very advanced stage causing Michael to have to use different skin treatments to even out his complexion which resulted in Michael looking very pale. Joseph Fiennes is a fine Actor but as a fan

of Michael Jackson's artistry and his legacy it was a pretty ignorant casting decision, by the show's producers, to cast a Caucasian male as an African-American male.

It just adds further fodder to the ludicrously cruel goading and ignorance that Michael had to endure throughout his lifetime. But this highlights the unawareness that really should go without saying in our society - being a black person is not just about skin colour, the pigmentation and biology are just mere elements to the greater core of who we are. Michael Jackson was an African-American, his skin disease could never take this away from him.

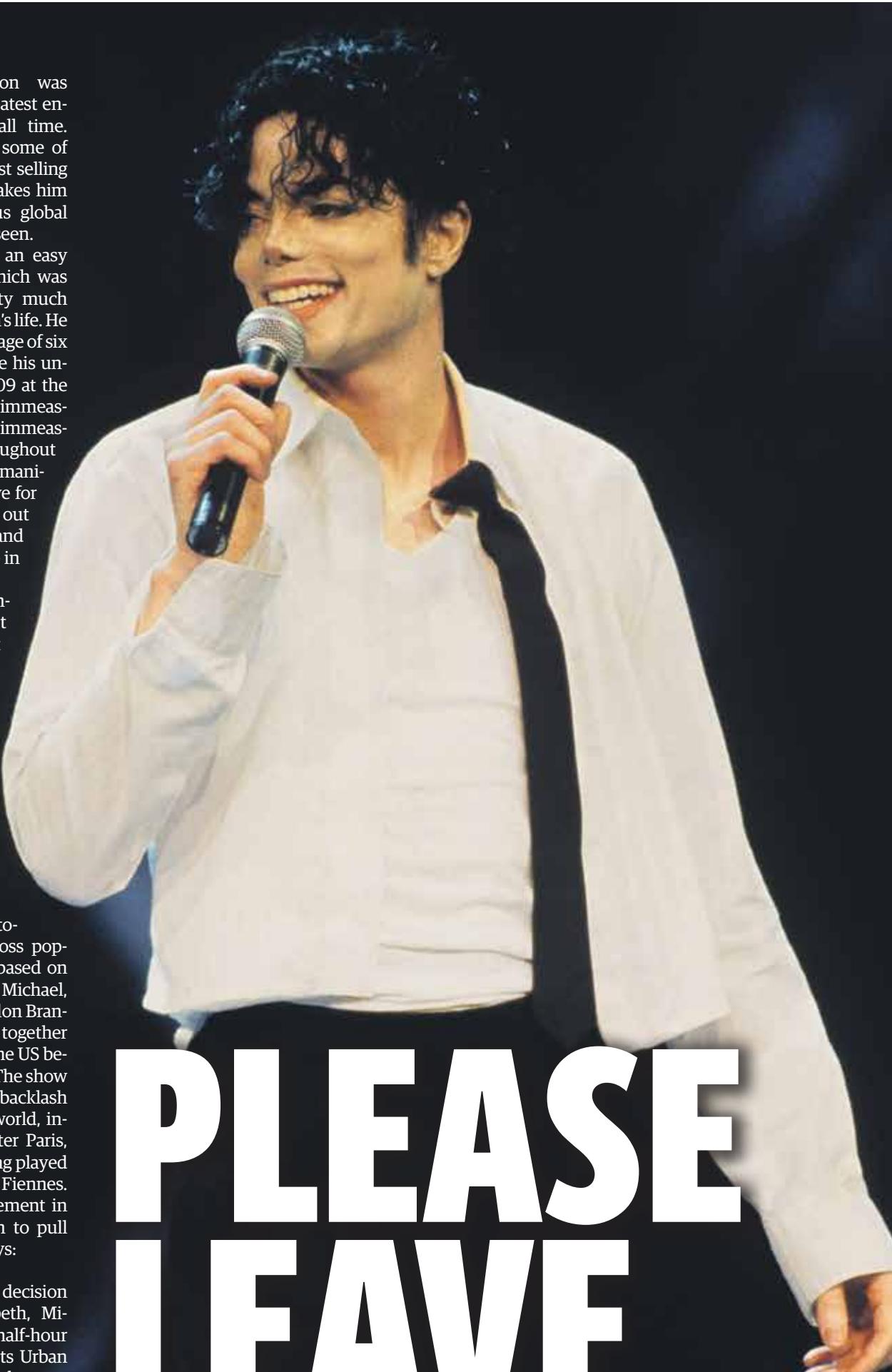
He was proud of his African-American heritage, as he stressed many times, and so he should have been. What I am saying is, who we are biologically is more than just our skin colour. But I use this latest chain of events to stress, as an admirer of MJ, that I am so tired of these constant misunderstandings and fallacies with regards his life. Why can't we just accept Michael as the kind, caring man he was?

Michael was not a paedophile who bleached his skin to look white; he was not 'Wacko - Jacko'. Michael was the greatest black artist of all time whose music transcended race and sexuality. His music broke down barriers and his artistry as an entertainer was incredibly innovative, he supported countless charities giving the hundreds of millions of dollars he earned from his tours completely to numerous charities. That is who Michael Jackson was and I will always defend him in any way I possibly can.

Of course I do not aim all of this at Sky Arts. They had the integrity to do the right thing and drop this show in light of the concerns it caused. Sky Arts' website described the upcoming show, called Elizabeth, Michael and Marlon, as "slightly tongue-in-cheek, mischievous and deliberately ambiguous". I don't wish this to read as an all out attack on Sky Arts as this is not my intention. I regularly watch Sky Arts and their fantastic range of programmes, which span across the entire artistic spectrum, are a much needed portal in homes across the UK to enjoy, experience and learn about the varied world of artistic expression.

They are certainly a much needed voice in our society today. I never knew Michael Jackson but like millions around the world his work means the world to me and I sometimes feel upmost sadness for some of the trials, tribulations and injustices he had to endure. He should now be left to rest in peace and for his legacy to shine across the ages. And if you're going to make a show about him respect the fact that this man was a black artist and cast a black artist to play him.

PLEASE LEAVE MICHAEL ALONE



HAZEL O'CONNOR

Her song "Eighth Day," was also inspired by an idea presented to her director Brian Gibson, who wanted O'Connor to write a song for a futuristic/metropolis/robot scene he had in mind. O'Connor says she went to the bible and began reading in the book of Genesis and says that she realized "Jesus, we're acting like we're bloody living Gods all of us!" and that's how she came up with the lyric. (The US release of *Breaking Glass* ends after the song is performed).

She demoed a handful of her first songs with her brother's band backing her up, and Albion's owners had thought there might be something in her future so they offered her a long-term recording contract but they didn't give her much of a recording advance – in interviews she's said they given her just £1, "just a quid," – which certainly wasn't enough to pay the rent, even back then, and she was pretty much penniless so the owners of Albion then offered her a two-week job as a "telephonist" while their regular girl was out on holiday.

Albion had only just launched earlier in the year and by that point had only released a few recordings by Ian Gomm, who was focusing on his solo career after having been a guitarist with pub rockers Brinsley Schwarz. Gomm was primarily working as a studio engineer and producer, having built his own recording studio, where besides himself he recorded the Stranglers, Alexis Korner, Peter Hammill (solo artist, and founding member of the progressive rock band Van der Graaf Generator)

and German rockers Amon Düül. Hazel O'Connor would later detail in her autobiography *Breaking Glass Barefoot* about how she'd run away from her family home in Coventry, Warwickshire, England, at the age of sixteen, after she'd gone a bit "loopy." She'd planned to go to a college in Leamington Spa to study art but first she decided to take a trip with two of her friends to Morocco.

There, while in Marrakesh, she says she was raped, no doubt a horrific, traumatic event which she writes about in her memoir as responsible for changing the direction of her life. She rushed back to Casablanca, and she wanted to get out of Morocco as soon as possible, and so she accepted a lift from kind Canadian strangers who were heading to Spain, where she reconnected with her two English friends again, and together they returned home.

But, she just couldn't get settled again, and after a few weeks at college, she was restless and needed to leave school. College administrators were understanding and supportive, and O'Connor took off again, hitchhiking and traveling to countries where she would settle again for a short time, working weird little odd jobs and adventures before getting restless and taking off again.



Eighth Day

*In the beginning was the word,
man said: Let there be more light
Electric scenes and laser beams,
neon brights the light abhorring nights
On the second day he said: Let's have a gas
Hydrogen and cholera and pest
Let's make some germs, we'll poison the worms
Man will never be suppressed*

*And he said: Behold what I have done
I've made a better world for everyone
Nobody laugh, nobody cry
World without end, forever and ever
Amen, amen, amen*

*On the third we get green and blue for pie
On the fourth we send rockets to the sky
On the fifth make the beasts and submarines
On the sixth man prepares his final dream:
In our image, let's make robots for our slaves
Imagine all the time that we can save
Computers, machines, the silicon dream
Seventh he retired from the scene*

*And he said: Behold what I have done
I've made a better world for everyone
Nobody laugh, nobody cry
World without end, forever and ever
Amen (amen), amen (amen), amen (amen)*

*On the eighth day machine just got upset
A problem man had never seen as yet
No time for flight, a blinding light
And nothing but a void, forever night*

*He said: Behold what man has done
There's not a world for anyone
Nobody laughed, nobody cried
World's at an end, everyone has died
Forever amen (amen), amen (amen), amen (amen)*

*He said: Behold what man has done
There's not a world for anyone
Nobody laughed, nobody cried
World's at an end, everyone has died
Forever amen (amen), amen (amen), amen (amen)*

By Jack Cornes

THIS IS A SPOILER FREE REVIEW

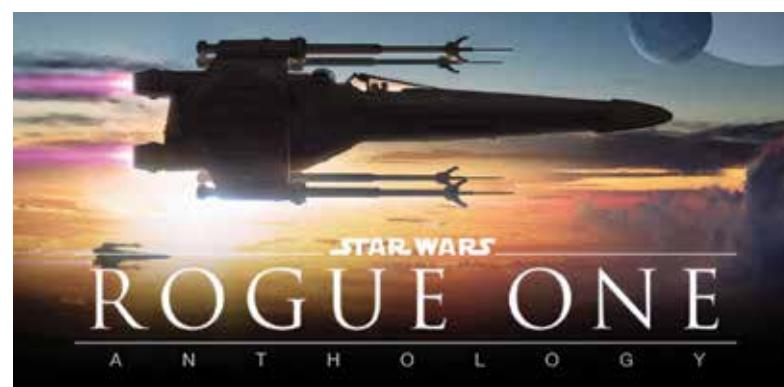
Upon watching Rogue One: A Star Wars Story for the first time I knew I would have to return to the cinema for a second viewing. Not simply because of my Jedi fandom, although that was a factor, but because I needed to consolidate how I felt about the latest addition to the only series of films I will rush to the cinema to see. The second viewing helped form my opinion perfectly. Upon first viewing I was left wondering how I felt about this new story in the beloved saga. After all, this was the first film not to deal with the Jedi and Skywalker story arcs which form the main canon films, and I think I went into this first viewing under the illusion that all of my favourite elements of Star Wars would be there which, of course, they were not. Of course I still greatly enjoyed the film the first time round, however, when I returned for the second viewing I took my seat knowing this was the first spin-off story focusing on just a segment of the Star Wars narrative and not its entirety. With this firmly in mind I was now fully open to the fast paced, character driven, excitable story which unfolded before me and this time... I was sold!

I won't go into specific parts of the film for all of you who have not yet been to see this picture but if you are a fan of the original trilogy of films then I think you will see this as a worthy relative to those legendary stories. Set between the events of Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith and Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope, Rogue One focuses on a



plot by the recently established Rebellion to steal plans from the evil galactic Empire for their newly created super weapon - the Death Star. Felicity Jones plays rebel Jyn Erso, whose father reluctantly designed this very super weapon which the rebellion is seeking to destroy. Ms Jones puts in a gutsy performance as Erso leading a band of rebels who the audience can easily relate to and champion. Having watched this film twice it definitely feels that, under Disney's new ownership,

Lucasfilm are creating the world and imagination that made us fall in love with George Lucas' masterpieces all those years ago. The used, greasy, dirty feel of this galaxy far far away is created in abundance as the delightful backdrop to the film's events. And while there is a whole host of familiar story devices to this film we are also treated to new



planets and new characters. The final act of this film provides some of the best visual moments seen in a Star Wars film with both old and new surprises culminating together to bring the audience to the very brink of the events which start the very first Star Wars picture.

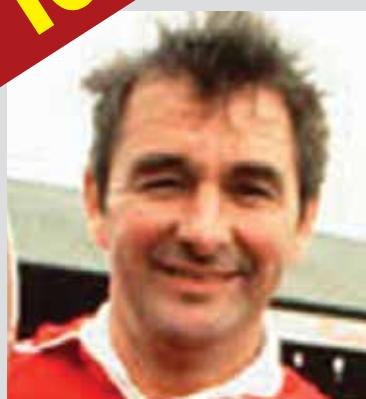
Of course we see some very

familiar characters in Rogue One notably, as the trailers have shown, Darth Vader is back in action once again and not only are we shown how brutal this character can be, but also how frail he is too. There are also some very advanced uses of CGI proving that filmmakers with big budgets can more or less do anything now. One notable per-

formance I must mention is that of Australian Actor Ben Mendelsohn as evil Imperial Weapons Director Krennic. I have seen Mendelsohn in other pictures and have been completely unaware that this man comes from Oz. He creates a character that is arrogant, power hungry and eager to have a place in the Empire's elite command chain. All in all Rogue One is an exciting, action packed, character driven story which treats us to both the familiar and the new at the same time. Director Gareth Edwards has offered up a chapter in this ongoing saga which continues to prove that George Lucas' brainchild is still the greatest film franchise in the galaxy. Now onto the next canon film - Star Wars Episode VIII - which, I have to say, it would be good to see a trailer of soon, I'm on tenterhooks here!

TOP 5

SOCIALIST FOOTBALL MANAGERS



Bill Shankly: The man who built Liverpool from a poor second division side into the best side in the country. "Above all, I would like to be remembered as a man who was selfless, who strove and worried so that others could share the glory, and who built up a family of people who could hold their heads up high and say... WE ARE LIVERPOOL."



Brian Clough: He took the provincial team of Nottingham Forest and won the European cup twice. The best manager England never had. "Resignations are for prime ministers and those caught with their trousers down, not for me" - on staying the course.



Alex Ferguson: Ex ship yard worker and shop steward who took Manchester United to the next level. 'At the end of this game, the European Cup will be only six feet away from you, and you'll not even able to touch it if we lose. And for many of you, that will be the closest you will ever get. Don't you dare come back in here without giving your all.' (1999 European Cup final with Bayern Munich, half-time team-talk)

Jock Stein: The protestant who became the manager of the Catholic Celtic and was the first British manager to win the European cup. "Without fans who pay at the turnstile, football is nothing. Sometimes we are inclined to forget that. The only chance of bringing them into stadiums is if they are entertained by what happens on the football field."

Matt Busby: The manager who literally built Manchester United from the ashes of World War Two then again after the Munich crash. Having been offered the Real Madrid job in 1956 and being told that the job would be like 'managing paradise': "Manchester is my Heaven."

POETRY CORNER

tomorrow

I will love you a little less
tomorrow
when it isn't raining
when my hands aren't shaking
and the shape of our shadows
are ready to part
beneath November stars
one more day living
the perfect lie
one more day to dismantle
the pretence
one more day
then pack forever away
the silly morning quarrels
and breakfast coffee
we both knew
summer could never stay
as the hinges sadly moan
on the front porch swing
beneath the freshly polished sky
I say, "I'll love you a little less tomorrow"

Vanessa Peterson

SECTIONED!!

The time to sleep, the meds.
Off to the Cells and cold, hard beds.
Its kicking in now,
time to drift and how!

From silent rest sound returns,
the tap of feet, table upturned.
Its kicking off let's ROW.
Time to beam up Scotty, NOW.

The first of many Nocterns Lad.
From the bewildered bastard mad.
But in the morning my old son,
look in the mirror, you are 1!

Karl Trevor

Peterloo

I beg you will endeavour to preserve the most perfect silence. Put your hand to the ground and take its pulse. The time of the martyr is at your feet. A climate of angels lying low in a buried world, fragment seeds of liberty, sixpences of bone spent for us. This is the archaeology of the heart, be meticulous with it and know that their ballad is in your blood. Their cries still rent the air outside the room where The Sex Pistols played, outside the rooms chasing Michelin stars, where borough mongers and their abettors from an umbilical distance away severed the contract of the heart. As hussars' sabres cut the seams of heaven and bled down on to the field a holy alliance, not to be petitioned by prayer. A flock that had drawn from the four corners of the North West, a forest of men, women, children and liberty cut down, made to buckle in its bloom. The ball in their right breast a Tory sphere that still orbits the poor today as they rust in a half-life harbour. Eclipses the truth on bedroom tax suicides and blots out the sun on the homeless wards. All evidence must be received, we are all the body of John Lees. Look up two hundred years and see time like a mirage, the ghosts of us, hold their dreams aloft like something new born. And let us sit beside poverty, have a word in its ear. Say, listen 'We are here'.

O Lomax

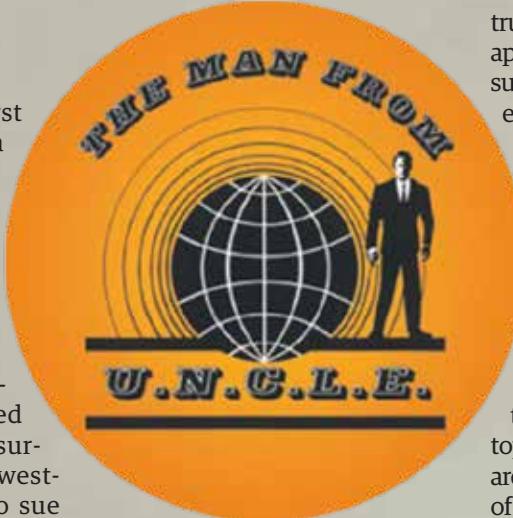
FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

By Cold War Correspondent
Ilya 'Guido' Kuryakin

America's First Lady Melania Trump, formerly Melania Knavs, was born beyond the Iron Curtain; in the Eastern Bloc, during the Cold War, to a card-carrying communist. After taking up modelling, various sources have alleged she underwent plastic surgery to 'appear more western'. She recently tried to sue the Daily Mail for \$150m over claims she worked as an escort in the 1990's. It all reads like the plot of a *Man From Uncle* movie.

If you've seen *The Americans*, you will be familiar with the subject of Soviets in America. Soviet spies were taught to become, even think American; all in the hope they could one day gain the ears of the powerful. Star of her real-life *Mongolian Candidate* meets *Get Carter* spy farce, Melania steals the show. Cold War Senator Joe McCarthy would have placed the Trumps on trial.

'Cold War Senator Joe McCarthy would have placed the Trumps on trial.'



Reminiscent of Ernst Stavro Blofeld, she has a thing for both cosmetic surgery and secrecy. Julia Ioffe wrote for British GQ: "Melania scoffs when I ask if she had had a breast augmentation. 'I didn't make any changes,' she says. "A lot of people say I am using all the procedures for my face. I didn't do anything. I live a healthy life, I take care of my skin and my body. I'm against Botox, I'm against injections; I think it's damaging your face, damaging your nerves. It's all me. I will age gracefully, as my mom does."

A simple image search raises questions about her

truthfulness; her breast size appears to have increased substantially, both chin and eyes have thinned noticeably; but her popularity has risen unquestionably.

The truth of any such allegations seems irrelevant; tall tales and top secrets are part of her legend.



Marxism Plus



Alex Taylor

I've never found that those who associate spiritual practice with inner bondage have honestly investigated or researched the spiritual practices they generally criticise with such force.

The religion of Marx was all consuming, suffocating and totally aligned with the state.

Hence its demise.

Spirituality today has been for many decades a turning away from the Anglican sermon, the Catholic order and the Protestant's

self-abasement.

Functional (as opposed to bullshit) Spirituality is about the still moment of wonder, the search for the inner truth, the need to connect with something bigger than either the personal or the universal human struggle.

We cannot live on struggle alone; as I feel the ardent Atheists want us to, and history shows us this. The will for stability surfaces way too fast and (to at least some extent) the masses settle for almost every form of brutal predictability rather than continue with the harrowing effects of total uncertainty. Of course propaganda and brute

force are also powerful persuaders.

In army training the exercise with the biggest drop out rate is the hike where recruits are given a backpack and told to set off in a hole, but not told how long the hike is. How heavy that normal back pack feels when the length of journey is unknown! Yet who is around the cadet? All their buddies, and therefore every purely human resource is at their disposal. Yet human resources break down under extended stress, and this is what socialists need to admit.

Left wing politics is rife with burn out, sell out, and splitting into factions. It happens all the time, the media, self-interest Labour MPs, and MI5 have all played leading roles very successfully for many decades now. We can expect the at-

tacks to continue, but where is any new resource to combat this?

When socialists assume that the sum total of human resources is all we need to overcome the evils of Capitalism outside, and the fundamental lack of total human strength inside it may be that they stifle every possibility of an internally united and harmonious - and therefore permanent - revolution. To look on human history from almost any perspective and to view the human as being possessed in general of some totally independent capacity (or social capacity) to overcome all obstacles to achieve a goal demonstrates an arrogance which should cause anyone calling themselves a Political Scientist (i.e. a Marxist) to blush with embarrassment. There is simply no evidence for it.

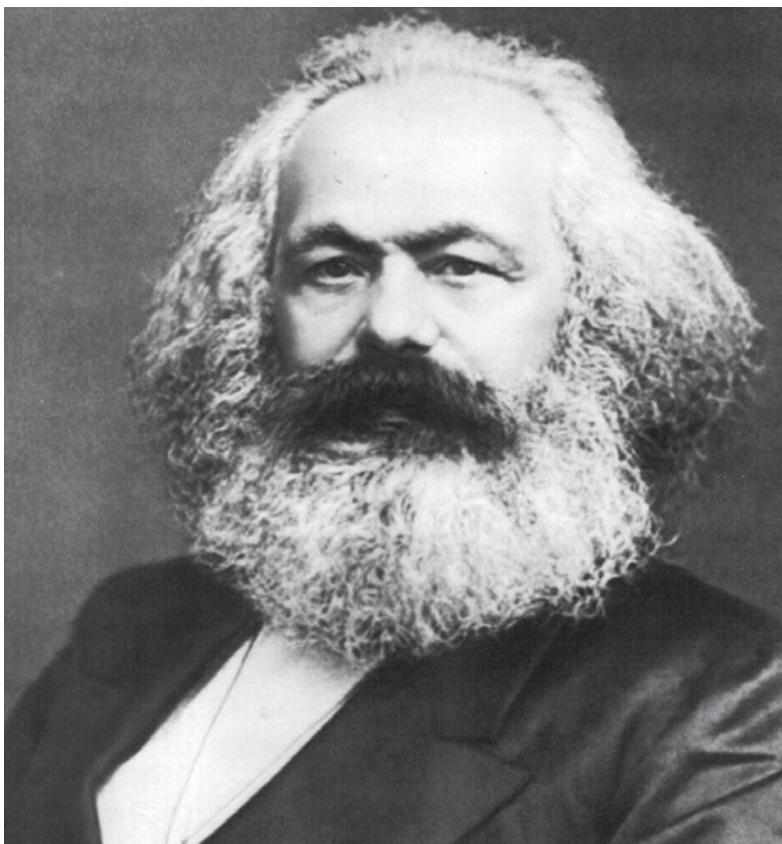
The way forward must be some kind of synthesis of the two positions. Not prescriptively, but certainly unquestionably inclusive of practitioners, and absolutely absent of the harsh automatic criticisms that someone revealing their religious or spiritual beliefs inevitably triggers in a Socialist environment. Next time you feel like attacking some comrade who practices their faith alongside you and your atheism ask yourself what genuine statistical evidence you have, and how much research you've ever found that backs up your point of view.

And also remember this - Karl Marx himself once said, reflecting on how other people had interpreted his writings that "All I know is that - I'm not a Marxist!"

POST CAPITALISM TRANSFORMATION OF HUMANITY

2017 is upon us, I'd like to take a risk and speak about a topic I'm compelled to think about; a topic that will seem far out to most readers. Those at the leading edge of politics see trends and developments that most people on the conceptual trailing edge of intellectual thought, including many politicians and the commentariat, do not. One such topic is post capitalism. For many readers this will be a subject that is rarely dealt with and might even seem conceptually quite preposterous, writes Charles Abrahams.

Aleksandr Bogdanov, one of the founders of Bolshevism said something rather prescient of our modern age. He predicted that mental labour would replace manual labour; that all labour would become technological. Once this happened, Science would replace philosophy, and we would come to see reality as connected 'networks of experience.' Bogdanov, a highly gifted and intelligent man, was probably unaware that this prediction was first conceived of by Marx in his theory of the general intellect which I will speak more about later. The concept of the general intellect was written about by Marx in his *Grundrisse*; a collection of notebooks compiled in 1858 but



unavailable until almost a hundred years later. Although they were bought by the USSR in 1920, Bogdanov had been expelled from the Bolshevik faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in 1909 and so probably wouldn't have had access to them.

Most people are familiar with the name Karl Marx and that he's got something to do with left wing politics but beyond that not much else. Awareness of Marx and his ideas no longer resides in most people's political consciousness,

and I hazard a guess that many people on the left of politics don't know much about them either! This isn't helped by his writings being rather dense, and remain opaque to the general reader. To make things worse he is generally identified as being responsible for many of the worst, extreme political regimes that have labelled themselves communist - which is ironic considering he was dead long before they came into existence. Like Jesus of Nazareth, he came from a Jewish family and yet would anybody seriously identify Jesus as being the reason why some members of the Christian church in more recent times have been responsible for various acts of barbarism unleashed on humanity? The fact remains that the writings of Marx are the seminal influence on socialist thinking. It's also noteworthy that some socialists would also identify their socialist motivation as the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

Even more than politics, economics is a rather dry, uninteresting subject for many people; however, we need to embrace it, as did Marx. He saw it as the fundamental basis of politics, and our lives as social beings. The very quality of our lives and our status

in society are determined by the current economic system: Capitalism. He identified that the capitalist class privately owns the means of production, distribution and exchange (e.g., factories, mines, shops and banks) while the working class live by exchanging their socialised labour with the capitalist class for wages. Further more he identified the interconnectedness of the state to capitalism, in as much as that without state support capitalism couldn't function. That is why capitalists run the state in their own interests and are determined to make sure that it stays that way, but nonetheless it ironically is always represented as being in favour of the common interests of all! You could say that the state is a cartel of various capitalist groups who run thing for the benefit of their vested interests but through the agency of mainly the media, though other institutions are also co-opted, they project the idea that they're working for the benefit of all.

Notes:

General intellect, according to Karl Marx in his *Grundrisse*, became a crucial force of production. It is a combination of technological expertise and social intellect, or general social knowledge - increasing importance of machinery in social organization.

Karl Marx, *The Grundrisse*, 1858
This is part 1 of a 3 part series. Parts 2 and 3 continue on the website <http://thewordmedia.org.uk/un-categorized/postcapitalism/>

Announcing WBI Conference Feb 2017

[Today/this Saturday/4th Feb] a new global anti-poverty initiative will be launched in Salford, as over 100 people meet to discuss proposals for a worldwide basic income.

Hosted by the new Manchester-based organisation World Basic Income, the conference will examine global inequality and look into the practicalities of gathering and distributing money at the world level.

One of the founders of World Basic Income, development econ-

omist Paul Harnett, led one of the first international cash transfer programmes in Malawi in 1999. Rather than being given seeds and fertiliser, some farming families were given a \$10 voucher to spend on goods of their choice.

The outcomes were both positive and fascinating, with families able to spend more time working on their own farms and growing more than ever before. It turned out that it was time, not only fertiliser that they needed to boost pro-

duction. The initiative showed that often it is people themselves who know best what they need.

From this starting point, and drawing on ideas in the wider global justice and basic income movements, Harnett joined forces with local campaigner Laura Bannister to form World Basic Income.

Saturday's conference is the first event of its kind in the world. Although Basic Income is increasingly in the news, surprisingly



there has never been much discussion of implementation on a global scale. The twelve speakers, drawn

from five countries, include academics from Oxford and Manchester, including one of the most renowned thinkers on Basic Income, Hillel Steiner, leaders of local and national campaign groups, including the Belgian NGO, Eight, which is distributing a basic income at present in Uganda, representatives from basic income movements and pilot projects, and prominent politicians Cllr John Merry, Deputy Mayor of Salford for Labour, and Jonathan Bartley, Co-Leader of the Green Party.

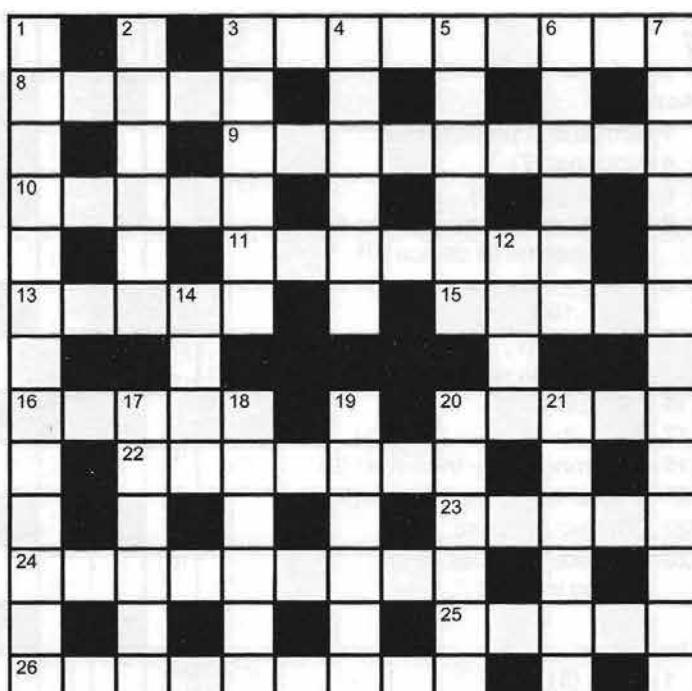
Crossword Puzzle

5**Across**

- 3 Lampoons, ridicules (9)
 8 Depart, go (5)
 9 Authorise use of medicine (9)
 10 Minutes (5)
 11 Opposite in nature or effect (7)
 13 King with a golden touch (5)
 15 Take without permission (5)
 16 Titles (5)
 20 Factions (5)
 22 Usually (2,1,4)
 23 Repeat performance (5)
 24 Indefensible (9)
 25 Moves towards (5)
 26 Food turner with a broad blade (4,5)

Down

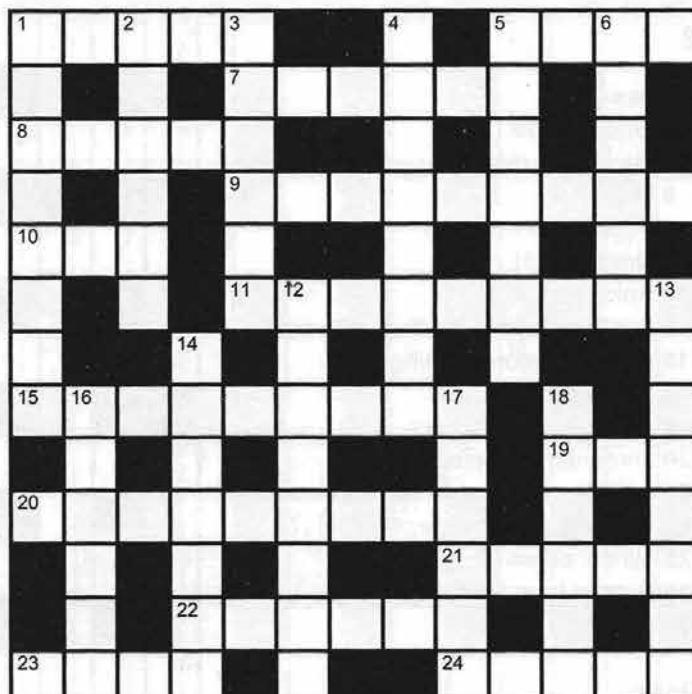
- 1 Popular children's party game (9,4)
 2 Remained in readiness
for a purpose (6)
 3 Invasion by pathogenic bacteria (6)
 4 A dozen (6)
 5 Happens again (6)
 6 Party of people assembled
in the evening (6)
 7 Insomnia (13)
 12 Eye infection (4)



- 14 Top cards (4) 19 City formerly called
17 Insect that rests with Bombay (6)
forelimbs raised as 20 Calm, unagitated (6)
if in prayer (6) 21 Marked by the
18 Canonised people (6) appetites and passions
of the body (6)

6**Across**

- 1 Summarise briefly (5)
 5 Vessel for travel on water (4)
 7 Expression of sorrow (2,4)
 8 Formal school balls held at
the end of a year (5)
 9 Respected leader in national
or international affairs (9)
 10 Flushed (3)
 11 Collection of live animals
for study or display (9)
 15 Functioning competently (9)
 19 Automobile (3)
 20 Formal expression of goodwill (9)
 21 Chinese secret society (5)
 22 Dissimilar (6)
 23 Charitable gifts (4)
 24 Semi-liquid (5)

**Down**

- 1 Adroitness and cleverness in reply (8)
 2 Nebulous (6)
 3 Arboreal marsupial (6)
 4 Hold back (8)

- 5 Cut of beef from
the chest (7) 14 Inciting sympathy
6 Compound capable of and sorrow (7)
turning litmus blue (6) 16 Conventional (6)
12 Entitled, qualified (8) 17 Sample (6)
13 Commonplace (8) 18 Lawsuit (6)



Word Search Puzzle

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

WILSON'S CABINET

JOHNSILKIN
 ANTHONYCROSLAND
 MERLYNREES
 BARBARACASTLE
 REGPRENTICE
 DAVIDOWEN
 RICHARDCROSSMAN
 DENISHEALEY
 ROYHATTERSLEY
 GEORGEBROWN
 JAMESCALLAGHAN

TONYBENN

Sudoku

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

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

Jokes

Defend Political Jokes!

Political Jokes often present a political truth succinctly. Many are transferable across continents and across time. Most contributions welcomed!

A Coal Miner Dies

A Coal Miner dies, and goes to Heaven. While he is outside, waiting for Saint Peter to open the gates, he hears laughter and cheering and a brass band playing. When he is admitted, he asks "Is the cheering and the band for me? I am only a coal miner."

Saint Peter looks at him kindly. "Nay, lad - we have coal miners here every week."

"This is for a Tory Cabinet Minister. We are making a celebration of it because no-one can remember the last time we had one!"

Prisoners of Saddam Hussain

The three party leaders - John Major the Prime Minister, Tony Blair leader of the Labour Party, and Paddy Ashdown the leader of the Liberal Democrats have all been captured by Saddam Hussain.

From their cell window, they can see the executions taking place each day. The victims are taken out to the execution yard, stood against the low wall, and shot by firing squad.

One morning the guards come for Paddy Ashdown. He is stood against the wall.

"Ready"

"Aim"

Paddy shouts "Earthquake!". The guards drop their weapons and drop to the ground. Paddy climbs over the wall and runs away. Tony and John think this is marvelous.

The next day, the guards come for Tony Blair.

"Ready"

"Aim"

"Hurricane!". The guards drop to the floor, and Tony climbs over the wall and escapes.

The next day the guards come for John Major.

"Ready"

"Aim"

"Fire!"

Nancy Astor

Nancy Astor gave a speech in which she said that during one debate in the House of Commons,

"a quiver of horror ran along the bench of Scottish Tory MPs - looking for a spine to run up!"

Welsh Nationalists

A Welshman explained that politics is a matter of give and take.

"We give you our coal and you take our water"

Khrushchev and Chou En Lai

Nikita Khrushchev was very proud of his working class origins. Although from a poor family, he had risen to be Premier of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

On a visit to China, Khrushchev started teasing Chou En Lai, because Chou En Lai's family had been wealthy merchants. Khrushchev went on and on about Chou En Lai being of the capitalist class, whereas he Khrushchev was truly working class.

Eventually Chou En Lai got irritated . He said

"There is something we have in common"

"What?"

"We are both traitors to our class!"

The Prague Good Fairy

During the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia, a citizen of Prague meets a good fairy in the woods.

"Well" says the Good Fairy, "you are entitled to three wishes. Think carefully for you have only one opportunity like this in a life time."

The man thinks for a while.

"For my first wish I would like the Chinese Red Army to march into Prague on a Monday morning, and to go home on the Tuesday night."

"For my second wish I would like the Chinese Red Army to march into Prague on a Wednesday morning, and to go home on the Thursday night."

"And for my last wish I would like the Chinese Red Army to march into Prague on a Friday morning, and to go home on the Saturday night."

"Well, I can do that", said the Good Fairy. "But why?"

"Imagine what it will do to the Russians to have the Chinese Army march over them six times in a week!"

Pakistan

Pakistan's military dictator General Zia ul Haq is on a state visit to Vanuatu in the South Pacific. The Prime Minister introduces Zia to the Finance Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Agriculture Minister, the Railways Minister...

Zia interrupts

"Why do you have a Railways Minister when there are no railways in Vanuatu?"

"Why do you have a Justice Minister in Pakistan?"



1950s Quiz ANSWERS

1. Alaska (49th) and Hawaii (50th)
2. Sputnik I
3. Spike Milligan
4. Ben-Hur
5. The Master
6. Sue Canai
7. Carry Grant
8. Chuck Berry
9. Michael Wilding
10. Michelangelo

1950s Quiz Questions

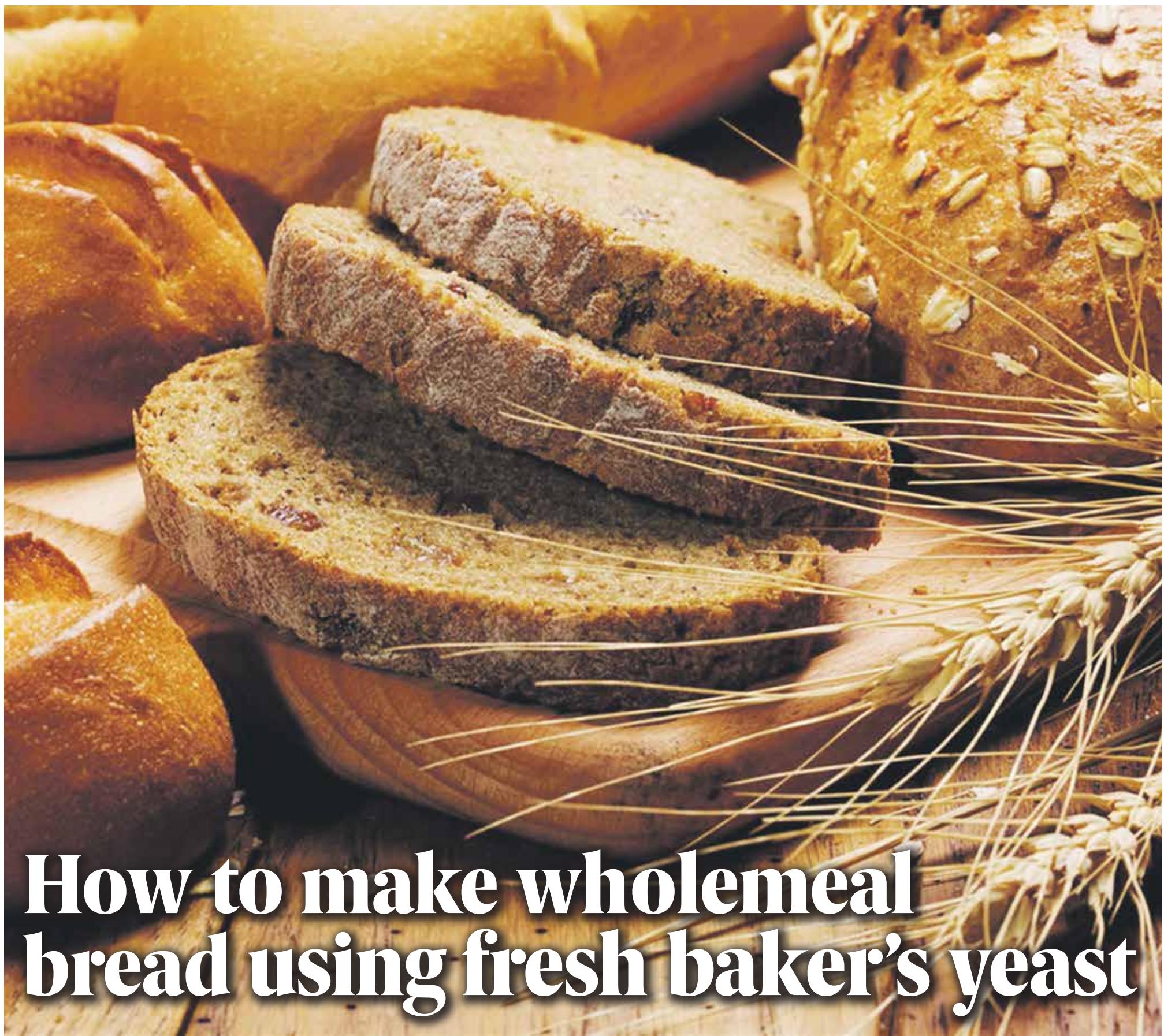
1. In 1959, which two states became the 49th and 50th states of America?
2. Name the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth?
3. Who was chief creator and the main writer of The Goon Show?
4. Which film epic won 11 Oscars in 1959?
5. What was nationalised in 1956 by Gamal Abdel Nasser?
6. What was first built by Charles H. Townes at Columbia University in 1953?
7. Who starred as Roger Thornhill in the film North by Northwest?
8. Who wrote and originally performed the song Johnny B. Goode?
9. Who did Fidel Castro overthrow to become leader of Cuba?
10. Who was Elizabeth Taylor married to from 1952 to 1957?

1960s Quiz Questions

1. What is Max Yasgur's 600-acre dairy farm famous for?
2. 'Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head' was a song written for which 1969 film?
3. In which city were the 1960 Summer Olympics held?
4. How old was President Kennedy when he died?
5. The Beatles gave their first live American television performance on which show?
6. Who delivered his 'Wind of Change' speech in 1960?
7. Name the British doll created by Pedigree Dolls and Toys as a rival to Barbie?
8. In 1967, who was captured and executed by the Bolivian army?
9. Who refused the 1964 Nobel Prize in Literature?
10. Which sixties television series starred Larry Hagman as an astronaut?

1960s Quiz ANSWERS

1. Woodstock (Location)
2. Dutch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
3. Rome
4. 46
5. The Ed Sullivan Show
6. Prime Minister Harold Macmillan
7. Sidney
8. Che Guevara
9. Jean-Paul Sartre
10. I Dream of Jeannie



How to make wholemeal bread using fresh baker's yeast

The smell of home made bread baking is a primal food experience.

We never eat shop bought bread in our house. I work full time and have a one hour commute either way so how do I do it? Well, there's a few tricks I employ to ensure a fresh home-baked bread supply and I'm willing to share them.

Bread should only ever have five ingredients - flour, salt, water, yeast and enough sugar to ferment the yeast i.e. 1 tbsp. Mass produced processed bread can contain up to 15 ingredients and I'll leave you to guess if any of them are any good for us. This wholemeal bread recipe serves as a great base for any type of day to day bread you may need (or knead! Sorry). It can be shaped into loaves, rolls, baguettes or even rolled flat and used as wholemeal



pizza base. You can add seeds or bran or even olives/sundried tomatoes - whatever you want. My daily bread always features a handful of onion seeds but sometimes I add chocolate & coffee to the warm water, use molasses instead of sugar and then throw in a tbsp of caraway seeds which gives a sort of black German bread which is divine. (This does not contradict what I said earlier - the basic bread is still made of the four ingredients I stated).

I get my baker's yeast from Sainsburys bakery counter. It costs 99p for a huge block which keeps me going for months and - this is the best bit - you can break it up into smaller pieces and FREEZE it. Bargain, eh?

Ingredients

- 8 oz strong brown flour
- 8 oz strong white flour
- 4 oz stonground wholewheat flour
- 14 fl oz warm water

- 1 oz baker's yeast
- 1 tbsp sugar or honey or molasses
- 1 tsp salt

Method

Place the yeast in the warm water with the sugar. When it has dissolved either knead it into the flour (with the salt added to it) by hand or - and this is that cheat I was telling you about - stick it in the bread machine to knead or do it with the dough hook on a food processor. When the dough is thor-

oughly smooth and does not stick to your hands place it in a bowl and put it somewhere warm covered with cling film for a tea towel. OR (and this is the second cheat) put it in the fridge to rise overnight or while you're out at work. The cold temperature in the fridge won't stop the yeast doing it's thing, it will merely slow it down. The next stage - whether you're doing it after one hour of normal rising or 8 or so hours of fridge rising - it to knock the dough back, shape it into a loaf or rolls and allow it to rise again for another 20 mins, again somewhere nice and warm. Bake at gas mark 4 for 40 mins for a loaf and 25 mins for rolls. I always like to turn them halfway through cooking so they get a nice undercrust. It may seem like a hassle but good artisan bread costs a bomb and it really is not that hard to make your own.



A personal view

THE LEFT AND BREXIT

By Andrew Wallace

The current state of play

How is the cookie crumbling? If I can be permitted this Americanism I want to look at the Left with especial regard to Brexit and the current conundrum that we face.

There were those on the left such as the Social Workers Party who argued prior to last June's referendum, that a leave vote would throw the Tories into disarray by defenestration of the Cameron government and exposing the Tory divisions in all their gory glory for all and sundry to see. And whilst some of these things have come to pass, the Tories subsequently served up a veritable masterclass in damage limitation by a ruthless cosmetic operation to patch themselves up in a Phase II Theresa May leadership. Within a matter of a few days the regrouping/rebooting operation of the Tories was done with such panache and a minimum of fuss that it was possible for the casual spectator to wonder if we had all dreamt the bit in the middle.

Furthermore incredible as it seems, the Tories appear to have found their mojo again as they now bask in the warm glow of polling in the region of the mid 40% range, showing a succession of double digit leads over Labour who are now alarming trailing sometimes as low as 26%. Clearly the SWP line was wrong, Brexit has not been good strategy wise for Labour. How did they call it so wrong?

Labour's Europhilia

The history of the Labour Party with regards to Europe is a long and complicated one which in many ways parallels the Conservatives as well. Hugh Gaitskell for

instance was markedly against membership of the then Common Market during his leadership of the opposition (1955-63). His successor Harold Wilson was more pragmatic but eventually came down on the side of joining the EEC. Labour then turned to complete rejection of the Community during Michael Foot's tenure (1980-83), going to far as to put withdrawal at the centre of the infamous 1983 manifesto.

Kinnock (1983-1992) successfully reoriented the party back to Europhilia and this was particularly underscored by Jacques Delors' (then President of the European Commission) speech to the TUC (1988) which talked in terms of a 'social Europe' which would help to protect the labour movement against the harsh domestic realities of Conservative governments.

EU Neoliberal realities

Unfortunately for progressives, the general direction of travel in the decades after this were resolutely neo-liberal, a phase of capitalism marked by the move from traditional large scale production methods to an age of downsizing, flexible specialisation and outsourcing of many production lines. A succession of EU treaties underpinned by judicial judgements of the European Constitution and reaching its apotheosis in the Lisbon Treaty provide for a formidable constitution to oversee compliance with the founding principles of 'free and undistorted competition' - free movement of capital, deregulation of labour markets, privatisation of public services and financial waterboarding of recalcitrant members. All things in other words that are complete anathema to left progressives.

Remainers and the Establishment

Whilst much has been made of the unsavoury elements leading on Brexit, should it really need pointing out of the overwhelming nature of the Establishment grounded Remainers? - the City, big business, Europhile majority of Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats.

Abandoning the field

The self immolating liberal left remainers in their dereliction of opposition to the EU, have let the Brexit case default to the unsavoury and regressive. As Stathis Kouvelakis has argued,

"the British left - with the limited exception of some far-left groups that constituted the low-visibility 'Lexit' campaign - didn't just abandon any credible anti-austerity platform. It also handed over the task of defending democracy to reactionary forces. And the latter isn't any less devastating than the former."

The Left remainers are caught in a double bind, "trapped by a Europeanist faith, it bypassed the issue of the European Union and the denial of democracy that its institutional set-up requires. Having abandoned this decisive battleground to its adversary, it had no other choice than to retreat to a type of syndicalism, focusing on a minimal social agenda of workers' rights."

We have fallen into the same folly and incoherence as Syriza.

Kouvelakis also crucially makes the same point as Takis Fotopoulos, that we should avoid the guff and political correctness that fails to recognise the central prominence of the 'nation'.

"If we start from the premise that

any positive reference to the nation inherently produces nationalism, racism, imperial and colonial nostalgia, then the Left is doomed to lose this political battle by losing touch with the working and the popular classes... it requires hegemonising the very concept of 'the people' ...to transform it into an inclusive, multi-racial, multi-cultural, welcoming, and sovereign body politic."

Left Remainders and Corbyn

Whilst the Europhile right of the Labour Party have used any half baked excuse at hand as a pretext to attack the Corbyn leadership it is only now in the wake of the parliamentary votes on invoking Article 50 that we are now seeing the sad and ungainly spectacle of a sizeable and noisy chunk of Left Remainers who have chosen to denigrate Corbyn and decamp off to Tim Farron or some other option totally at variance with their professed leftism.

Such is their affection for the EU with all its damning faults and its uncongenial nature as far as making domestic Keynesian illegal, that they now weep and wail in inconsolable grief. Corbyn of course is hemmed in by a number of complicated contingencies - damned if he does, damned if he doesn't. This really is one of those no-win scenarios - the mother of all existential dilemmas.

Another consideration for all those professed uber fans of Corbyn and the late Tony Benn. They have spent decades defining themselves in opposition to the EU. Corbyn has voted consistently in Parliament against EU treaty and our membership of it. However there has been some mollification of Corbyn's view, no doubt in view of his accession to the leadership and his calculated need to avoid the obvious calamity that would have engulfed him at the time. The petulant ultras busily tearing up their membership cards clearly had a rather skewed take on their heroes political views.

As has been pointed out elsewhere, Labour MPs largely voted yes to the referendum in the first instance without any caveats as to 'advisory'. The outcome was understood as binding. It seems obvious then and eminently sensible that Corbyn now decides that Labour needs to accept Brexit in principle. That does not mean of course acceding to the Tories version of Brexit. There are if we did know it several versions and contingencies for the future. It is surely the left's version to look for progressive options that might be co-opted on the horizon of possibilities rather than regress to prima donna indulgencies.

The left have been rightly appalled by the undemocratic manoeuvrings of the Blairites and the general bankruptcy of the 'soft left' who are easily manipulated by the former. We took some comfort that the grassroots membership were heavily behind Corbyn and McDonnell. That doesn't mean that we all sign up to everything the leadership is about. Indeed there is urgent need for robust constructive leadership. If we are honest with ourselves we have to admit that the odds are massively stacked against us. They will have been even further undermined by an unfortunate number of high profile kamikaze left-remainders who are now repeating at grass level the attempted coup of last year. Things ain't looking good comrades - we know where this is heading. Prepare to pack your packs and head for the hills until more reasoned voices prevail.

http://www.sutonguardian.co.uk/news/15070859.Bed_shortages_leaving_south_London_hospitals_at_breaking_point_union_claims/

Bed shortages leaving south London hospitals at 'breaking point', union claims

Bed shortages at hospitals across the south east have grown by more than 60 per cent in seven years because of "serious underfunding", according to the GMB.

The GMB union claims that lack of funding has allowed this country's social care system to "crumble", with the number of patients stuck in hospital who are ready to be discharged increasing by 46 per cent since 2010.

A lack of available social care support as one of the most common reasons for delays in patients being discharged from hospital.

Gary Palmer, GMB regional organiser, said: "At a time when desperately ill patients are left waiting in hospital corridors due to a lack of beds, these figures are particularly distasteful."

"The Conservatives have let our social care system deteriorate to breaking point due to years of serious underfunding."

"Their drive to undermine and privatisate the NHS is causing these shocking bottlenecks and putting people's lives at risk."

The Red Cross warned that the NHS was on the verge of a "humanitarian crisis" in the New Year, with the NHS currently consulting on where to make cuts to acute care services at hospitals across south west London.

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/15070909.Anti_Trump_protesters_gather_in_Middlesbrough/

Anti-Trump protesters gather in Middlesbrough

PROTESTS against American president Donald Trump took place in Middlesbrough on Saturday.

Waving placards, people gathered in the town's Centre Square and outside Debenhams to oppose the divisive policies of President Trump.

The protest was just one of many across the UK.

Tens of thousands of protesters con-

demned Theresa May's state visit invitation to Mr Trump.

Demonstrators urged the Prime Minister to withdraw her controversial invite and denounced the American president's travel ban as "racist".

<http://www.getwestlondon.co.uk/news/west-london-news/tube-strikes-rmt-call-february-12553433>

Tube strike 2017: RMT call off February strikes as they come to agreements with London Underground

RMT have said they welcome the news of TfL re-opening control rooms and as a result, will suspend strike action.

There will be no service on the Waterloo & City line.

Tube strikes set to hit London in February have been suspended as RMT come to agreements with Transport for London during negotiations.

The strike action, scheduled to start on Sunday, February 5 and span across four days will no longer go ahead.

Rail Maritime and Transport union (RMT) said they welcome the agreement to reopen control rooms and the guarantee of "promotion into safety critical grades for Customer Service Assistants grade 2 positions".

Strikes caused chaos for Londoners in January.

General Secretary Mick Cash said: "The fighting stance taken by RMT members since the jobs cull on our tube stations was first announced has reversed nearly 60% of those savage cuts."

"That is a tremendous victory and a reflection of the resilience and determination of our reps and the membership right across London Underground."

"We will now continue to work on implementation of the new staffing arrangements at the local level and as always RMT remains eternally vigilant."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/sinn-feins-gerry-adams-says-he-will-go-to-white-house-on-st-patricks-day-if-invited-35424959.html>

Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams says he will go to White House on St Patrick's Day if invited

It comes as Sinn Fein's Stormont leader Michelle O'Neill said that an invitation to invite President Donald Trump to Northern Ireland would no longer be appropriate.

An invitation was issued back in November by the then First and deputy First Ministers Arlene Foster and Martin McGuinness after Mr Trump's election victory.

Mrs O'Neill said if she was in the Executive Office, she would not have issued the invitation as it would "not be appropriate".

Donald Trump visit invitation receives lukewarm reception from Northern Ireland parties

Mr Adams will be in America during the week of St Patrick's day for a 48-hour visit.

Speaking at an event he said: "I'll be there, if the negotiations allow me, to engage with Irish America, with our friends in Capitol Hill, with the undocumented Irish.

"I haven't been invited to the White House. If I am invited, of course I would go."

Meanwhile a protest was held in Belfast on Saturday against President Trump's travel ban on citizens from seven mainly Muslim countries from entering the US.

<http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/hull-mp-alan-johnson-on-why-he-voted-for-brexit-after-backing-campaign-to-stay-in-eu/story-30109636-detail/story.html>

Hull MP Alan Johnson on why he voted for Brexit after backing campaign to stay in EU

'OUTRAGE': Alan Johnson MP said there would be a 'constitutional crisis' if MPs blocked Brexit

Alan Johnson MP says he voted in favour of Article 50 not because Hull voters wanted him to but because any attempt in Parliament to block Brexit would have been an "outrage".

Hull voted by 67 per cent to leave the European Union at the June referendum but Mr Johnson, MP for Hull West and Hessle, said he was "not a delegate" sent to Parliament to do his constituents' will.

Mr Johnson, who led the Labour In For Britain campaign, said the referendum result meant any attempt to vote en masse against Article 50 on Wednesday could plunge the country into "constitutional crisis".

<http://www.nottinghampost.com/liberal-democrats-and-green-party-join-forces-in-nottinghamshire/story-30111780-detail/story.html>

Liberal Democrats and Green Party join forces in Nottinghamshire

Two political parties - the Liberal Democrats and Greens - have joined forces and agreed not to oppose, but rather endorse each other at this year's County Council election in May.

Councillors have claimed that this is the first time that the two parties have decided to do this in Nottinghamshire.

Liberal Democrats will not be standing in Conservative wards Kimberley and Nuthall and Brinsley and Greasley but instead backing the Green Party which will stand in their place.

And in return, the Green Party will not be standing in Liberal Democrat wards Stapleford and Broxtowe and Bramcote Beeston North. Instead, the party will be backing the Lib Dem candidates.

Kat Boettge, who will be standing for the Green Party in Kimberley and Nuthall, told the Post: "We share a lot of local policies and are very similar locally speaking."

"Instead of splitting votes we have a better chance doing it that way and can implement these policies we share such as protecting the environment, the green belt, making public transport affordable especially for the elderly and protecting public services."

"It's something we have never done in this area. We are living in difficult times and this is showing voters that we are doing politics differently and are working together."

Tim Hallam, who will be standing for the Liberal Democrats in Stapleford and Broxtowe Central, added: "I am completely for it. Our manifesto is almost identical for the county council. Nationally there are some differences. We would not implement this on a national level, just local. It should not be about the colour of your rosette, it should be about policies and if they are identical, why fight for each other's voters and why not combine our efforts?"

The decision to join forces was announced at the Flour Mill in Beeston on Saturday, attended by Lord Brian Paddick and Liberal Democrat MP Tom Brake.

Mr Brake said: "It is a local initiative and if parties want to discuss a joint strategy it is totally acceptable. It is not something that can work in Westminster, I think it is easier at a local level."

Lord Paddick, who was attending a din-

Regional

ner in Nottinghamshire to raise funds for the Liberal Democrats, did not wish to share his opinion on the matter, and said it was a decision for local parties.

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/hundreds-turn-out-newcastle-march-12557552>

Hundreds turn out in Newcastle for march and rally in support of NHS

MPs, families, unions and health workers join fight against draft plan which critics fear threatens local services and jobs

Hundreds of people took to the streets of Newcastle on Saturday in a high-profile show of support for the NHS.

Carrying banners and placards, families, health workers, union members and five MPs took part in a march through the city centre.

They started gathered at around 11.30am in Framlington Place, near the Royal Victoria Infirmary, to protest against a draft government plan which critics fear will mean drastic cuts to local health services.

But the crowd's concerns proved to be for the NHS in general with chants to keep "hands off" the public service.

Passing cars sounded their horns in support as the procession made its way down Claremont Road to the Haymarket and then down Northumberland Street to rally at the Monument.

<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/first-nhs-now-schools-face-12554092>

First the NHS, now schools face £3 billion cash crisis

Headteachers are worried that schools across the West Midlands will run out of money.

And it's not just them. The warning has also come from the National Audit Office - the official and impartial body which monitors public spending.

We've seen hospitals across the country run up deficits because the money they've been given for the year just isn't enough.

Now, schools are facing the same problem - unless they somehow manage to save £3 billion.

That's how much schools across the

country need to cut their spending by, according to officials at the National Audit Office.

Funding for Birmingham schools cut by £20 million - and the Government says it's FAIRER

They don't actually have less money than they used to. In fact, school funding has been "protected" ever since spending cuts for other services were introduced after the banking crisis.

It means the total schools budget - due to be £42.6 billion by 2020 - has gone up in line with inflation.

But despite this, schools don't have enough money.

The National Audit Office said: "The Department of Education's approach to managing the risks to schools' financial sustainability cannot be judged to be effective or providing value for money until more progress is made."

That's a very polite way of saying the Department for Education has messed things up.

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/politics/politics-opinion/1155925/alex-salmond-earth-want-leave-court-protects-human-rights/>

Alex Salmond discusses the origins of the European Court on Human Rights - and asks the question, why would we want to leave it?

The council of Europe was created after the 2nd world war. It was created to protect citizens from government abuses such as those of Nazi Germany. And it was a huge success. There are 47 countries that are part of the council of Europe. Theresa May wants to get out of the human rights court as well as the EU. It is a great instrument on behalf of justice. Nobody can understand why Britain would want to leave the convention on human rights.

<https://sciscomedia.co.uk/fylde-fracking-near-nuclear/>

Can the UK survive fracking in the vicinity of nuclear sites?

By Marianne Birkby

In October the communities secretary, Sajid Javid, overruled a decision by

Lancashire County Council and said that Cuadrilla could frack at Little Plumpton, near Preston against the wishes of the local council. Fracking campaigners are now bravely taking non-violent direct action on the front line. Cuadrilla's plan is to drill down thousands of feet into the rock and take samples prior to full on fracking. Anti-nuclear campaigners have also fought fracking these last few years, for very good reason. The government halted all onshore fracking operations in 2011 over concerns at earth tremors after fracking at the Preese Hall site in Lancashire, which were attributed to Cuadrilla's operations there. Preese Hall is six miles away from the world's first and probably biggest nuclear fuel production plant, Springfields in Preston. Little Plumpton is a mere five miles away.

Proximity of Nuclear Fuel Plant to Frack Sites

In October 2014 architect Maureen Kelly wrote to the then Energy and Climate Change Minister, Edward Davey, to raise concerns regarding the proximity of fracking sites to nuclear establishments and requested that no fracking sites be located within 50 miles of any nuclear establishment. Cuadrilla's proposed frack site of Little Plumpton is just 5.33 miles from Springfields nuclear fuel fabrication plant.

Radioactive Risks of Fracking and Nuclear

At Little Plumpton, back in 2014 when the site was being eyed-up by the fracking industry, anti-nuclear campaigners joined with anti-fracking campaigners in a protest camp. There were even art and science workshops on the radioactive risks of fracking and nuclear. Of these two extreme energy industries, Jonathon Porritt has commented:

"Anyone serious about a genuinely sustainable energy strategy for the UK should be as implacably opposed to fracking as they are to the idea of new nuclear power stations. When these twin horrors of our wholly unsustainable energy legacy are put together, in close juxtaposition, we should all be up in arms."

Deep down in the earth where Cuadrilla plan to frack for shale gas at Little Plumpton there's a lot of radioactivity. The technical term is NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM)). The decay of Thorium 232 and Uranium 238 to Radon, Radium and

Polonium, drives the earth's natural processes, but it's best left in the ground where it belongs.

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/scottish-politics/362334/snps-30bn-budget-saved-late-deal-scottish-greens/>

SNP's £30bn budget saved by late deal with Scottish Greens

By Gareth McPherson

The SNP have struck a deal with their pro-independence allies to save their £30bn budget from defeat.

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay says the support of the Scottish Greens will give them the Holyrood majority required for his tax and spending plans to pass.

The deal is thought to include an extra £160m for cash-strapped councils and a freezing of the income tax threshold for higher ratepayers.

Mr Mackay tweeted: "I've reached a deal with @scotgp for all stages of the budget to pass. Good news for the economy, taxpayers, communities & public services."

Confirming the deal, a spokesman for the Scottish Greens said they have secured "significant additional funds" from the Scottish Government to protect local council services.

The Greens have been pursuing an extra £160m for local authorities, as well as a more progressive income tax system.

An Scottish Government source said the deal includes freezing the threshold for the higher rate of income tax, rather than shifting it in line with inflation.

The SNP have refused to follow the UK's raising of the 40p threshold to £45,000, saying that would be a tax cut for the richest in society.

Under the Scottish Government's amended proposals the threshold is set to stay at £43,000.

The Scottish Greens spokesman said: "A substantial package of funding for local councils to spend on local priorities is welcome.

"Opposition parties have a responsibility to make a difference, and that's exactly what the Greens are doing."

A Holyrood debate on the plans, and the agreement between the Greens and the Scottish Government, is set to take place this afternoon, before MSPs vote on the general principles of the bill tonight.

ainews

by John Jones

First, the big picture: there are 93 naturally occurring elements; and That's your lot, says God.

So, the task of material scientists is to make the best of them. Options include tinkering with microscopic structures, or re-arranging the ways in which the atoms of elements combine as "molecules".

Elements, of course, include metals like iron, tungsten, gold, etc. and non-metals (including gases) such as carbon, phosphorus, chlorine. There are also elements that are half metal, half non-metal, called metalloids. These include boron, selenium and antimony.

Let's take a look at some of the latest structures and compounds.

Microlattice is one hundred times lighter than styrofoam.

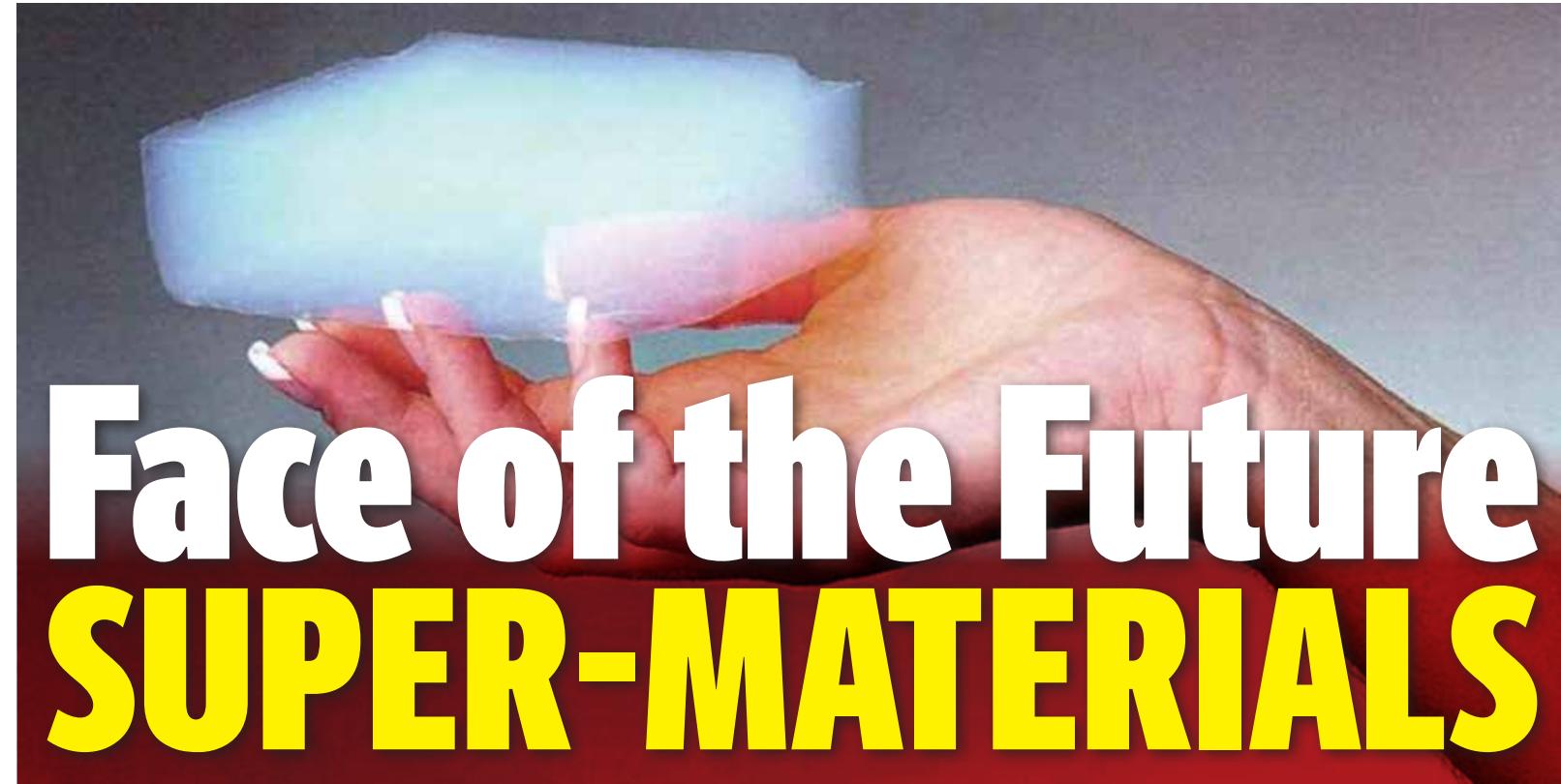
The use of light-sensitive plastics and stencil photography is becoming increasingly important in the construction of electronic parts and novel materials. Here's one such use.

In 2012, HRL laboratories and California University made an extremely light, flexible material that they named "microlattice". Microlattice is a nickel lattice only 1.7 times as heavy as air.

A two inch cube of Microlattice is light enough to sit on a dandelion seed-head, and falls slowly when dropped. Popular Mechanics magazine dubbed it one of 10 world-changing innovations.

Here's how it is made. Light is shone through a moving stencil of tiny holes into a plastic that solidifies when illuminated. This procedure creates a lattice of plastic rods.

The unhardened plastic is washed out and the remaining plastic



lattice dipped in a nickel salt solution. Hypo-phosphite solution is then added which deposits nickel on the plastic lattice. The plastic is dissolved out and we are left with a nickel metal lattice. Microlattice can be used for insulation, shock absorbers, and catalyst supports for exhausts, etc.

Wonder substance you can make in the kitchen

Material scientists have not finished tinkering with the molecular forms of carbon, though one, graphene, can be made by blending pencil leads. Graphene consists of single sheets of hexagonal-crystal carbon or graphene. The trick, though, is to isolate the single sheets of graphene. Graphene is excellent at repelling water and contaminants.

Also made of carbon is aerographite. Bizarrely, objects painted with aerographite are so black they seem to lose their features.

uted to a deeply flawed election process: A unilateral declaration of the election date by the hastily convened and politically compromised Constitutional Court, formed after the country adopted a new constitution; heavily biased state media; a voter registration process that did not comply with the law and that

These compounds can be made into super-light, bouncy materials by vapour deposition onto sponge or evaporation and sintering of an aerographite/graphene gel-impregnated plastic sponge. They can be used in the construction of very light batteries for electric cars and bikes, for air and water filtration, or in satellite and aviation engineering.

Also tinkering with the small scale, and more immediately useful is Ductal. Ductal is concrete with added metal or plastic fibres. It is 7 times stronger than concrete, denser, and more flexible. This makes it resistant to corrosion and cracking - properties useful for under-water bridge supports and earthquake-resistant buildings.

Substance harder than diamond created by meteorites

Lonsdaleite is harder than diamond and is found in meteor or impact zones. The enormous temperatures and pressures crush amorphous carbon or graphite present in the meteor into a special ultra-hard hexagonal form. Diamond is carbon in its cubic form and is also formed at high pressures.

Boron nitride is similar in crys-

tal structure to diamond and made, funnily enough, of boron (B) - a metalloid, and nitrogen (N). In its special hexagonal form BN is also harder than diamond, and exists in minute quantities in nature.

Scientists have been able to synthesise both these compounds by a variety of methods such as vapour deposition from high temperature carbon plasma-gas.

A New Chemistry! (what? you 'avin a laugh?)

New chemicals, yes. A "new chemistry"? - no way! But take a gander at "high-pressure chemistry" - it will surprise even the chemists among us.

Researchers from Stony Brook University have managed to change the formula of salt. You know, the stuff you put on your chips, sodium chloride or NaCl. They say they have made

"...crazy compounds that violate text-book rules, NaCl₃, NaCl₇, Na₃Cl₂..." The researchers point out that these are chemicals, and not just a material composite of sodium and chlorine.

Here's the background. According to chemistry text-books, elements, like sodium (Na) and chlorine (Cl), have "valencies". Valencies



are like electro-statically gluey arms. Both sodium and chlorine have one valency which is why the formula of salt is NaCl - one atom of each.

But (and you won't find this in standard text-books) under high pressure (200,000 atmospheres) this chemistry can change. Sodium can combine with 3 chlorines for example (NaCl₃), or vice versa. Another compound, Na₃Cl, conducts electricity through a sandwiched sodium-rich layer.

I cannot imagine where high-pressure chemistry will take us. The electronics industry have expressed a keen interest, and at least some of the reported compounds appear relatively stable at room temperature.

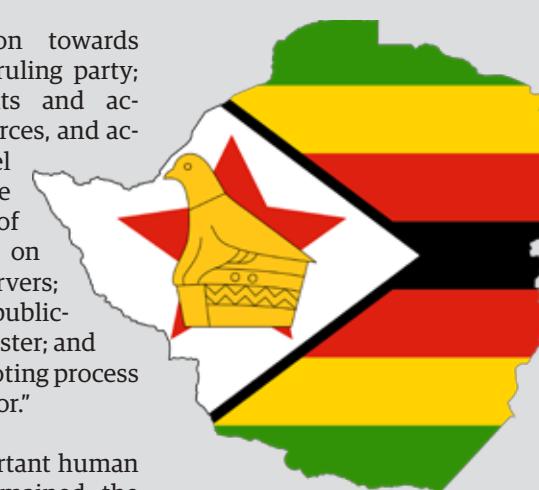
However, I am sure that stability of these new compounds will be a problem; but then that may be an asset. As with all these innovations, and there are many that I have not mentioned, the public must wait and see what eventually turns up.

ZIMBABWE

US State Department Human Rights Report on Zimbabwe 2015 states,

"Presidential and parliamentary elections held in 2013 were free of the widespread violence of the 2008 elections, but the process was neither fair nor credible. Numerous factors contrib-

uted to a deeply flawed election process: A unilateral declaration of the election date by the hastily convened and politically compromised Constitutional Court, formed after the country adopted a new constitution; heavily biased state media; a voter registration process that did not comply with the law and that



government's targeting members of non-ZANU-PF parties and civil society activists for abduction, arrest, torture, abuse, and harassment; partisan application of the rule of law by security forces and the judiciary; and restrictions on civil liberties."

"The most important human rights problems remained the

"The government generally failed to investigate or prosecute state security or ZANU-PF supporters responsible for violence. Authorities restricted freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, and movement."

Adapted from a post on We Love Jeremy Corbyn, October 2016.

Just some musings that might help newer comrades. As I joined Labour in 1972 most readers are "newer comrades".

In 1997 Labour had 13,518,167 votes.

In 2015 Labour had 9,347,304 votes.

4,170,863 Labour votes were lost while the Blairites (or 'Moderates') ran the Labour Party. The Moderates still don't know how or why this happened. It happened because many people thought (and said on the doorsteps) that Labour was no longer their party, was doing nothing for the working class / the aspirational / the self employed and small businesses / the unions. There was nothing in the 2015 manifesto that aroused enthusiasm.

In 2015 a third of the Labour vote sat on its hands or voted for other parties.

All this happened before Corbyn.

We lost Scotland before Corbyn.

We lost Scotland for a variety of reasons. There was a credible "left" party competing for our vote and they got it.

Labour lost much of its credibility in Scotland for helping Cameron lie to the Scottish people in the independence referendum.

This is the principle reason I think that Corbyn refused to appear on the same platform as Cameron during the BREXIT referendum. I think Corbyn was wise.

Corbyn brings a long track record of independent thought and integrity that resonates with people.

Jeremy has voted against wars.

Jeremy has voted against every attempt to make the poor pay for



MUSINGS

the economic crisis they did not cause and did not benefit from.

Jeremy is not in politics for himself.

As party leader Jeremy took into the Shadow Cabinet a lot of people with whom he did not agree. He gave them opportunities and one by one they chose to betray him. They combined to betray him. Resignations were orchestrated to maximize bad publicity for the Labour Party.

Corbyn is providing a program that the Labour Party can rally around. We are gaining supporters

who are not traditional Labour voters. Our disaffected comrades are coming back. In April 2016 Labour was actually ahead of the Conservatives in some polls, and close in the others.

It does not help that some comrades are so anti-Corbyn that they would rather Labour lost than win under Corbyn. They provide ammunition to the Tory media.

Constituency Labour Parties are scrutinising the conduct of their MPs closely. Virtually every constituency party and trade union has a pro Corbyn majority who

are learning how to exercise their strength in a democratic party or trade union.

The Ministers who resigned were told that if they all resigned Corbyn would go. It did not happen. They have all had criticism from trusted friends in their CLPs. In many cases they saw their CLP nominate Corbyn. Corbyn increased his support on the second election.

Current opinion polls look poor. This is hardly surprising when so many of the PLP were leaking bile to the media. In actual elections Labour does better than the opinion

polls would suggest.

For the Tories, the chaotic Brexit revelations promise political dissensions on a tremendous scale. Who would bet on Mrs May being Tory Leader a year from now?

There are troubled waters ahead for Labour. Of course there are. We are trying to change society!

And there are troubled waters ahead for the Tories. The next Election brings with it a sea change. Our nation has a stark choice; Saving the NHS under Corbyn, or losing the NHS forever under anyone else.

Add to this the legal fascism personally authored by Theresa May - the Snooper's Charter and the Secret Courts Act; anti-privacy and pro-incarceration laws that go further than Hitler or Stalin ever did.

When we consider such realities our priorities should be crystal clear, even to 'Moderates'.

Women who made a Difference -Veronica Guerin

On 2nd. May 1997, a brave Irish journalist, Veronica Guerin, was remembered with 38 other international journalists who died doing their job that year at a ceremony in Arlington, Virginia, when their names were added to the Freedom Forum.

To avoid confusion Veronica is not related to Ola Guerin, an equally brave war correspondent.

Veronica was born on 5th. July 1958 in Artane, Dublin. She attended a Catholic school there and excelled at sport. She was a promising athlete going on to play for both the Ireland women's national basketball team and the Republic of Ireland's women's national football team.

She studied accountancy at Trinity College, Dublin and worked in her father's company before setting up her own public relations firm in 1983, which she ran for seven years. She dabbled in politics with the Fianna Fail group at this time.

Then in 1990 she found her true vocation as a journalist with the Sunday Business Post and Sunday Tribune. She prided herself on getting first hand information and to do so developed a rapport with both the Garda Siochana (police), criminals and then the Irish Republican Army.

From 1994 she wrote about criminals for the Sunday Independent and with her accountancy experience was able to trace proceeds of illegal activities. To avoid Irish libel laws she used pseudonyms for those involved in criminality. She gained information from a convicted drug dealer which led to shots being fired at her home and several death threats, but Veronica carried on with her work regardless. An article about another criminal, John Traynor, resulted in her being shot in the leg on her own doorstep. Her newspaper installed a security system for her home and the police

offered 24 hour escort. She found this restrictive to her work and carried on turning her attention to convicted criminal, John Gilligan. He attacked her when she started probing his expensive lifestyle, even calling at her home, threatening to kidnap and rape her son, and kill her if she published anything about him.

This was in 1995 and in December of that year she was awarded the International Press Freedom Award.

The criminal gang had lost patience with her continued probing into their illicit affairs. A hit squad struck on 26th. June 1996 and they killed her when she stopped her car at traffic lights on the outskirts of Dublin.

Traynor was at the time seeking an injunction against Guerin to stop her publishing a book about his involvement in organised crime. She was due to speak at a Freedom Fo-



eventually arrested on differing charges and served long gaol sentences. The Irish parliament enacted a Proceeds of Crime Act within a week of her murder and set up Criminal Assets Bureau to seize criminal's assets.

Veronica's funeral was attended by the Irish President and the head of the armed forces and was televised. Labour unions across Ireland held a minutes silence on July 4th. that year which was observed around the country in respect of this brave woman.

A memorial statue to her can be found in the grounds of Dublin Castle. In 2000 Veronica Guerin was named one of the International Press Institute's 50 World Press Heroes in the past 50 years.

Her husband said of her at a ceremony in Arlington in 1997 "Veronica stood for freedom to write..... But paid the ultimate price with the sacrifice of her life"

rum two days after her murder. The title of her talk was "Dying to tell the story: journalists at risk".

Gilligan, Traynor, the assassins and other gang members were

Events

Wednesday 8th

19:30 Momentum Plymouth Branch Meeting, Quaker House Outreach Centre in Plymouth. Constitution vote.

Thursday 9th

17:30 Against Trump? let's get organised together Central Methodist Hall in Manchester. 18:00 Frack Free Cleveland Meeting Saltburn House Hotel / Bar in Saltburn, Redcar And Cleveland. 19:00 Wales Against Trump: Black Lives Matter Activists Speak! Trinity Methodist Church in Cardiff.

19:15 Stand Up To Racism with Moazzem Begg, Broadmead Baptist Church in Bristol 19:30 Support the Cardiff No-Cuts Three - Stop Expelling Socialists! The Andrew Buchan Bar in Cardiff.

Friday 10th

19:00 Frack Free Notts at Light Night 2017, Broadway Cinema in Nottingham. 19:30 Fundraiser for Help Refugees, The Globe Cardiff

Saturday 11th

All day - Leeds Labour Campaign Day 2 - Austerity isn't working Please contact Councillor Jonathan Pryor if you want to add a location for a street stall. 10:00 Glasgow buses to

Scotland Against Trump national demonstration George Square in Glasgow.

12:00 Scotland Against Trump | NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION The Meadows in Edinburgh.

13:00 Life After Trident, Helensburgh CND conference, Helensburgh Parish Church in Helensburgh.

19:30 Fundraiser for Help Refugees, The Globe Cardiff

Tuesday 14th

19:30 The Alternative Valentine Quiz - Colchester People's Assembly Castle Pub in Colchester, Essex

Wednesday 15th

19:00 Strikers & Spycops - from Grunwick to now. Malet Suite, Student Central, 2nd Floor, Malet Street London WC1E 7HY. 19:30 Frack Free North Somerset Open Meeting The Bristol Hotel in Weston-super-Mare.

Saturday 18th

09:00 - Sunday 17:00 Campaigner's Activist's Course, Cardiff. 25 places. Apply here <http://tinyurl.com/zf3k5bv> 10:00 Cardiff Anarchist Bookfair 2017 Cathays Youth & Community Centre in Cardiff.

11:00 Momentum Hull & East Yorkshire, Unison in Kingston upon Hull

11:00 DEMO: Enough is Enough! Time for Bristol to Fight the Cuts! College Green, Bristol BS1 5UY

11:00 March, Rally, Die in and then to the pub! Heathrow Airport in London.

12:00 Protest outside UKIP's national conference Burnden Way, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6JW.

12:00 We Love The Major Oak (Fracking & Seismology Seminar) Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

22:00-03:00 Anti-Trump Party! Stoke Newington High Street, N16 7PL London.

Monday 20th

12:00 Day of action against racism & austerity: 1Day Without Us-Bristol The Fountains in Bristol.

12:30 Human Chain Outside Senedd For #1DayWithoutUs Feb 20th Senedd- Cardiff Bay.

18:00 Invite Trump- Anti-protest outside Parliament, Parliament Square in London

18:00 Stop Trump - National Day of Action - Cardiff, Queen Street, Cardiff.

18:00 Woodcraft Bloc On Anti-Trump Vist March Picket, Parliament Square.

19:00 Momentum Hastings Featuring Alex Nunns. Isabel Blackman Centre in Hastings, East Sussex.

Tuesday 21st

19:30 Stockport Stand Up To Racism! launch meeting Quaker Meeting House, 2 Cooper Street, Stockport, SK1 3DW

I Daniel Blake Screenings

Wednesday 8th February

18:30 Ayr Town Hall, KA7 1LU Ayr

Thursday 9th February

18:00 I, Daniel Blake plus Q&A with Ken Loach and Francesca Martinez. SOAS University of London in London. 19:00 Broughton High School in Edinburgh, United Kingdom. 19:00 Hackney People's Assembly London. 20:00 The Electric Theatre in Guildford By The Electric Theatre.

Friday 10th February

13:30 Scala Cinema in Ilkeston By Unite Community Chesterfield. 19:00 The Old New Inn in Llanfyllin By Llanfyllin FilmI. 19:00 The Little Theatre, Nairn. 19:30 Gipsy Hill Tavern in London, United Kingdom By Unite Community Lambeth and Southwark.

Saturday 11th February

11:00 Tigh na Sgire, Portree. 15:00 Cathays Youth & Community Centre in Cardiff, United Kingdom. 19:00 St James Community Centre in Morpeth, Northumberland. 19:00 Cathays Youth & Community Centre in Cardiff, United Kingdom. 19:30 Gipsy Hill Tavern in London, United Kingdom By Unite Community Lambeth and Southwark.

Sunday 12th February

19:00 Darlington Friends Meeting House in Darlington, Co Durham.

19:45 Stahl Theatre, PE8 4EJ By Oundle Businesses and Events.

Monday 13th February
21:00 Oxford Dignity Drive HT17.

Tuesday 14th February
19:00 Unitarian Church Hall in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Wednesday 15th February
19:00 Film: 'The Divide' Aberystwyth University: Hugh Owen theatre A12.

Thursday 16th February
18:00 Email WestCumbria Momen-tum@gmail.com Venue TBC Probably Mirehouse Labour Club CA28 8 White-haven. 18:00 Mitchell and Kenyon Cinema, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, England, PR1 2HE.

Friday 17th February
19:00 Berwickshire High School in Duns. 19:00 Blantyre Miners Welfare and Community Resource Centre in Blantyre, South Lanarkshire. 19:30 Mandeville Hall Kimbolton in Huntingdon By Kimbolton Cinema.

Saturday 18th February
15:00 St. John's Picturehouse in Cambridge. 19:30 Wylam Institute By Wylam Film Club Newcastle.

Wednesday 22nd February
18:30 Lochgelly Centre in Lochgelly, Fife.

Theresa's Secret!



Theresa May has swept to power on a tide of popular support within the Tory Party rank and file. She's harboured a secret love for Jeremy Corbyn since their eyes first met across a sultry dispatch box in the House of Commons. But could dashing American beau Donald Trump be about to change all that?

By Jack Cornes

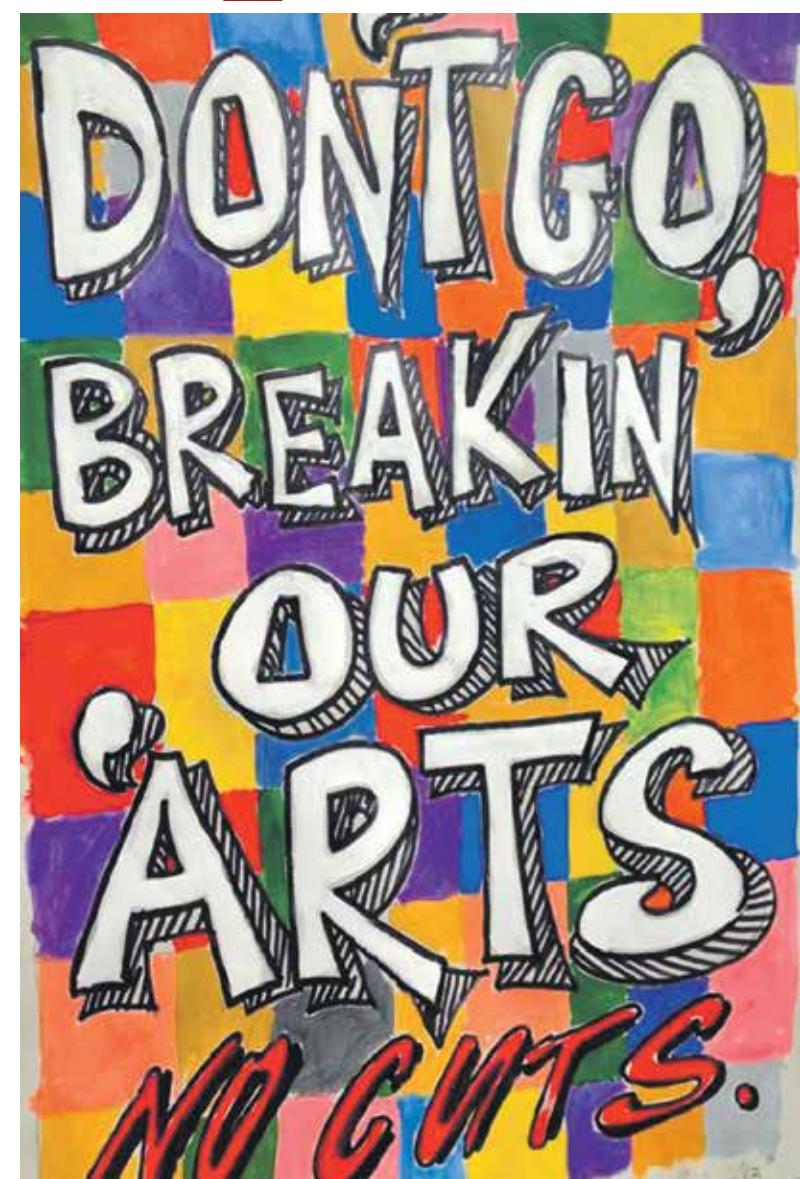
Arts Council England has UK Theatres bracing themselves once again by forewarning of standstill funding for the next lot of national portfolio grants. ACE has said that most of these portfolio grants which remain in these folios for the 2018 - 2022 round of investment will be subject to standstill funding. Only in 'exceptional circumstances' would arts companies receive any rises in its funding. Of course there are many other areas of government funding which deserve priority over the Arts, the NHS for one, but in a nation which is supposed to pride itself as being the home of such artistic minds as Shakespeare, Elgar, Lawrence, Loach and Lowry, among so many more we are stifling any creativity whatsoever of breaking through. Unless you are a multi - millionaire artist or a multi - millionaire arts organisation then you are not even contemplated by those in a position of power or influence. I do generally believe we are living in an era now where the likes of Shakespeare, Loach or Lowry would never have succeeded, if they were all alive and starting off afresh now. *King Lear* would be left in the submissions pile, Loach wouldn't be able

THE ARTS TO BE CUT ONCE AGAIN (what a surprise!)

to break out of his working - class surroundings because working - class artist participation in the high end arts jobs is at an all time low, plus he never went to a public school, and Lowry would have had to resort to crowdfunding to support his work. The arts funding in Berlin is more than the entirety of the arts funding in the UK. The Germans are bathed in cultural history and they uphold this legacy. As an Actor from the working class myself, from which I am very proud, seeing our arts sector in such disarray further supports the

notion that the UK arts sector is pretty much an elitist sector which is further creating a colossal void between our societies and their exposure and participation in first rate artistic experiences regardless of their backgrounds.

My answer to this is no one can control art; it is something which exists in all of us so express yourself and keep fighting for recognition, keep knocking on the door. The establishment of this country wants to turn you into a Scientist, an Economist or an Engineer. These are all fine and needed professions but let's add a bit of colour to the grey, let's break up those lined masses of conformity and get people to think about and question the society around them. So if you're a Painter - paint, if you're a Singer - sing or if you're a Writer - write. Art is not a budget, it is not a figure, it is that unique need for expression, which exists inside you and you alone. Harness it and use it, we are living in an age where they are closing the doors on us so sod the doors, we'll create our own doors to walk through, the difference is we will keep ours open for everyone and anyone to walk through. This is an age where we have to take our destiny into our own hands. Always remember - Art is freedom!



**THE
'EARTH'
WITHOUT
'ART'
IS JUST
'EH'**

Joe Solo Column



I was asked again yesterday how I can do what I do. How I can play with so much concentrated passion.

Truth is, I can't.
It isn't me.

It is the me written indelibly into my songs, fused to every word and unleashed when I sing them. It isn't a tap you can turn on, and nor could I sing any old song

like that. It's the channelling of an emotion buried within us both.

It comes from the music too. It's a fusion of Folk and Blues and Punk, sometimes unrecognisable as any of them I will grant you, but they form its core. People slag off Folk for being too twee, too fiddly-dee diddly-dee, but anyone who has played those cyclical melodies will tell you they have a groove all their own, not an overtly rhymical one like Reggae or Funk, but groove none-

theless. When you first start to join in you are playing along, but as your confidence and competence grow so you find yourself floating along in a musical trance, the music almost playing itself, a pitch and roll of the sea, the sway of the scythe, the marching of an army bound for war. The story is in the music, and out it comes, back from the dead, given new life in a collective summoning of souls.

The Blues too has this. The darkness of a past bound in chains, shipped far from a homeland with no hope of return, the loss of family and friends, the barely-concealed loathing of its

masters. All there, all channelled from centuries old misery and an insatiable thirst for justice, and all given life by the music.

And Punk, much maligned and misunderstood, is a channelling too. It's a channelling of rage. Rage at the world, rage at people who would blindly follow orders; rage at those who would sell each other out to curry favour with their masters; rage at heads buried in the sand; at the narcissism and selfishness of people who demand solutions while being a part of the problem. It is not a blind rage, it is a rage with its eyes wide open.

So yes, it isn't me. Not all of it.

I write those emotions into the words, yes, and I deliver them not from the stage but from the moment I wrote them with all their original intent. That part is me, at least a series of former me's; but more than that it's the music. It's every last ghost I am giving life again- from the soldier to the navvy to the slave, it is THEY who are making that noise because I understand the music they made and why they made it, and it is branded on to my soul.

A wise man once said you give it everything you've got or you stay at home.

He was right.

In January 2003 Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva was elected as President of Brazil. The Workers Party held office until President Dilma Rousseff was impeached in August 2016.

Her "crime" is that the Government's cash flow problems required either massive cuts in the social spending that helps Brazil's poor, or transferring money from a state bank, as other Presidents have done before. The transfer has since been repaid out of normal state income. President Rousseff gained nothing personally from the transactions.

Although many senators made speeches denouncing Dilma Rousseff none alleged personal dishonesty.

According to Transparency International over 60% of Brazil's legislature is under investigation for crime or has been convicted of offences ranging from corruption to electoral fraud.

"Within months of assuming power, President Temer and his right-wing government have introduced harsh austerity and neoliberal policies in Brazil that are reversing the social progress achieved by the PT with the support of social movements over the past 16 years." (Telesur)

"Temer recently admitted in a speech to business and political elites in New York that the real motivation behind her ouster was the fact that she wouldn't go far enough and as she refused to implement a radical neoliberal economic agenda." (Telesur).

The reason she's being removed is because she is an unpopular president. The economy of Brazil is weak and is—a lot of people are suffering because of it. And as you indicated earlier in the opening package, the party to which she belongs, the Workers' Party, has been in power for 13 years, and the reason they've been in power for 13 years is because they've won four consecutive national elections. And there is no way that the opposition, which is composed of oligarchs and business interests and media barons and conservatives and uber-nationalists—this opposition faction has concluded that they are incapable of defeating this party in the ballot box, meaning within the democratic process, and so they are opportunistically using her unpopularity and the serious mistakes she's made to remove her undemocratically." (Glenn Greenwald)

Glenn Greenwald is a journalist in Brazil. The quotations are from an



THE ONGOING COUP IN BRAZIL

interview with "Democracy Now" during the impeachment crisis.

"And I think the most important thing to realize about this process, Brazilian media elites, who are almost uniformly behind impeachment, and have been from the beginning, constantly say, "Oh, look, in the United States you have impeachment; in Europe there's impeachment. This is a constitutional means of removing a president." But the big difference is that in the United States, if you impeach the president, if you had impeached Bill Clinton in 1997 or 1998, Al Gore would have become president, the Democratic Party would have continued to remain in power, and the

agenda and ideology that the American people ratified would have been the same. In Brazil, it's exactly the opposite. The vice president, who has now become the interim president, who's about to become the president, is not part of the Workers' Party. He's part of the centrist party and has aligned himself with this right-wing party, the PSD, that has continuously lost at the ballot box. Their candidates have been rejected. And yet, as a result of this impeachment process, the very party and the very ideology that the Brazilian people have over and over rejected, when asked to vote, when asked to consider their candidates, is now ascending to power. And

their agenda of privatization and cutting social programs and keeping taxes low to benefit the oligarchs is now gradually being imposed, as is their foreign policy of moving away from BRICS and regional alliances, and becoming once again extremely subservient to the United States and to Wall Street and to international capital. And so, you can call it a coup, you can debate whether that word applies, but what it is is a complete reversal of democracy in a way that is ushering in an agenda that benefits a small number of people that the Brazilian citizens have never accepted and, in fact, have continuously rejected." (Glenn Greenwald)

Lula Da Silva is running to be

President in 2018. At 25% in the opinion polls he runs well ahead of any other candidate. He and his wife are being prosecuted for receiving a bribe. Apparently a contractor renovated an apartment for them without charge. Their defence is that they have never owned this apartment and know nothing of it.

Left critics of the Workers Party complain that instead of standing by their socialist principles Presidents Lula and Rousseff tried to appease the Right and to appease the rich. Every appeasing step they made hurt the poor. This gradually led to a weakening of their political support.

PETER LOO Translates for you

rendition - transfer of suspected terrorists to foreign countries that practice torture for interrogation

Healthy Forests - program logging of protected wilderness areas

Clear Skies - initiative removing the restrictions on businesses

which pollute the air

abuses - at Abu Gharib torture

death tax - estate tax

insurgent - applied, in place of freedom fighter - to those indigenous forces fighting against us

freedom fighter - right-wing

militia member trying to overthrow elected communist/socialist regime

defence - war

IED - bomb

downsize - fire employees

embedded - journalists con-

trolled/censored journalists

enemy combatant - P.O.W./captive

forced disarmament - war

human intelligence - spy

infomercial - commercial

House of Windsor - House of Saxe-Coburg

person of interest - suspect

regime change - overthrow

pre-owned - used

shock and awe - massive bombing

taxpayer - citizen (implies that primary purpose of a citizen is to pay taxes)

wet work - assassination

terminate; neutralize - kill

revenue enhancement - tax increase



On 16 January 2017 Amnesty International reported that between 1 January and 15 January there had been 120 inmate deaths reported. The vast majority of the 26 inmates killed in the latest disturbances at Alcaçuz prison in Rio Grande do Norte were beheaded.

More than 8,000 people are imprisoned in Rio Grande do Norte state, though its prison system has capacity for just 3,500. As far back as March 2015, the government declared a "state of calamity" in its prison system due to the number of riots that had taken place.

Human Rights Watch reports, "Widespread violence, often perpetrated by criminal gangs, plagues many Brazilian cities. Abuses by police, including extrajudicial executions, contribute to a cycle of violence in high-crime neighborhoods, undermining public security and endangering

the lives of the police officers who patrol them. In 2015, 393 police officers were killed in Brazil, according to the latest data available at time of writing."

"Police officers, including off-duty officers, killed 3,345 people in 2015, according to official data compiled by the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Brazilian Forum on Public Security. This represents a 6 percent increase over 2014, and a 52 percent increase over 2013. While some police killings result from legitimate use of force, others are extrajudicial executions, as documented by Human Rights Watch and other groups, and as acknowledged by Brazilian criminal justice officials."

"After doubling in 2014, killings by on-duty police officers in São Paulo—the state with the largest population in Brazil—decreased by 17 percent in 2015

and fell by another 19 percent from January to September of 2016. But killings by on-duty police officers in Rio de Janeiro—the state with the highest rate of police killings—increased 11 percent in 2015 and an additional 23 percent in the first 9 months of 2016."

United States State Department report for 2015 said

"Brazil is a constitutional, multiparty republic. In October 2014 voters re-elected Dilma Rousseff as president in elections widely considered free

and fair."

There is a huge corruption problem in Brazil with state money being used to fund political parties.

Ms Rousseff was impeached by the Senate forcing her from office despite general acceptance that she is not herself corrupt.

Those forcing Ms Rousseff from office are not regarded as having clean hands themselves. The new President is so unpopular that his speech at the Olympics was drowned out by booing.

Something Being Done Right

Wikipedia reports,

"To expand the access of the population to drugs, incentives have been offered for marketing generic products, which cost an average of 40% less than brand-name products. In 2000, there were 14 industries authorized to produce generic drugs and about 200 registered generic drugs were being produced in 601 different forms. In 1998, the National Drug Policy

was approved, whose purpose is to ensure safety, efficacy, and quality of drugs, as well as the promotion of rational use and access for the population to essential products.

The responsibility for national production of immunobiologics is entrusted to public laboratories; which have a long-standing tradition of producing vaccines and sera for use in official programs. The Ministry of Public Health invested some US\$120 million in the development of the capacity of these laboratories."

"In 2000, the supply of products was sufficient to meet the need for heterologous sera, such as those used in the vaccines against tuberculosis, measles, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, yellow fever, and rabies."

HERETICAL THOUGHTS (OR AN EPIPHANY)

Before the EU Referendum the official Labour Party policy was to remain in the European Union. The vast majority of Labour MPs wished to remain in the European Union. Our Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn wished to remain in the European Union. Most Labour Party members and most Labour supporters voted to Remain.

Apart from the Referendum result there has been no change in the EU or in us why we should change our minds.

Quite properly, as a democrat, Jeremy said immediately after the vote that the will of the people as expressed in the Referendum



should be honoured.

Since the Referendum we have learned that we cannot have the single market and also have restrictions on EU immigration.

Mrs May decided that the racist

vote is more important politically to the Conservative Party than access to the single market is to British industry and commerce. Jeremy could quite legitimately say that remaining in the single market

is more important than restricting EU immigration.

With this clear division between the parties it is reasonable to have a General Election with Labour pledging to Remain or to renegotiate entry and the Tories wanting to Leave or to stay out. Logically this election ought to take place before Article 50 is triggered.

Even if Article 50 has been triggered the sight of the terms on which we leave the EU will be sobering if not revolting.

Some comrades may say that if 52% voted for "Leave" is it wise to fight an election supporting the minority? They say we will lose La-

bour support in the North.

We will gain Tories who may hate us but who recognise that we are the one practical hope of remaining in the EU. Even if they abstain that is gain for us. Most Liberals are pro EU and may vote for the Labour candidate in their constituency to stay in the EU. Some of the 52% who voted Leave have changed their minds.

UKIP and the Tories will be fighting each other for the racist vote, which is fine by me. Labour was never going to gain the racist vote so let it split.

We will offer a clear choice to the British people.

WASHINGTON DC, UNITED STATES (The Hill)

#NeverRemember A group of New Yorkers held a fake vigil Friday honouring the victims of the Bowling Green massacre, the event referred to by President Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway that never happened. People with signs that read "We are all Bowling Green," and "never forget" gathered Friday evening for the vigil. Some also lit candles and left flowers for the imaginary victims. In a video by the New York Daily News, people chanted "what do we want: alternative facts. When do we want them: now." People also chanted "Bowling Green never remember, always forget."

GLOBAL HEADLINE

United States President Donald Trump is "foolish" and has ignited the "flame of jihad" with a raid in Yemen in which civilians were killed, terror group Al-Qaeda has said in its first official comments on the new US administration. That the raid came only days after Mr Trump's vow to eradicate Islamist terrorism in his inauguration speech makes it "clear for us that the threat was not directed to the Islamic militants only, but to all the Muslims, men, women and even children," Al-Qaeda's Al-Nafeer bulletin said, accusing the Trump administration of intentionally killing women and children. US Central Command, or Centcom, has not specified how many civilians were killed in the raid on Jan 28, in which a Navy SEAL also died.

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES (Washington Post)

Before taking office, US President Donald Trump promised to place his assets in a trust designed to 'erect a wall' between him and the businesses that made him wealthy. But newly released documents show that Trump himself is the sole beneficiary of the trust and it is legally controlled by his oldest son and a long-time employee. The documents, obtained through a public records request by the investigative news service ProPublica and first reported by the New York Times, also show that Trump retains the legal power to revoke the trust at any time.

LONDON, UK (Guardian)

Scotland Yard is investigating claims that Capita workers were paid by convicts to deliberately fit electronic ankle tags loosely, allowing them to slip the devices off when they wanted to go out. Staff were allegedly paid £400 a time to help at least 32 offenders beat their court-imposed curfews, according to the Sun. The Metropolitan police said the investigation was centred on the London borough of Newham. It said 14 people had been arrested in connection with "offences involving the monitoring of offenders". According to the Sun, the scheme was revealed after one offender was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder while he was supposed to be at home, under curfew.

CALI, COLOMBIA (IBT)

A 17 year-old boy is accused of being a notorious hitman who has carried out more than 30 murders after being captured on Thursday (2 February). The alleged teenage assassin, who is only known by his nickname "Frijolito" which means "Little Bean", is believed to have begun killing aged just 12. The alleged killer was picked up by the Metropolitan Police force after a four-month manhunt. The force described the teenager as "a highly dangerous criminal" on Friday after his apprehension.

PARIS, FRANCE (IBT)

France's centre-right presidential candidate Francois Fillon has claimed allegations that he paid his wife for jobs she did not do were "carefully prepared" to destroy him. The 62-year-old had a significant lead in the polls for April's elections, until the satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaine accused him of paying Penelope Fillon hundreds of thousands of Euros for jobs she may have not done.

LIMA, PERU (AP)

Peruvian police searched the house of ex-President Alejandro Toledo for five hours on Saturday in a case involving alleged bribes from a Brazilian construction firm under investigation in a major corruption probe. It's the latest development in a case that first started in Brazil but has since caught up dozens of politicians from around Latin America in a far-reaching probe. Prosecutors said on social media that the evidence they gathered at Toledo's home in Lima will be evaluated by investigators.

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN (Arabnews)

Rebels accused Egypt on Saturday of carrying out bombing raids against their positions, drawing an immediate denial from Cairo, and warned of the risk of a regional war. It was the first time either side had alleged Egyptian involvement in South Sudan's festering conflict, which pits President Salva Kiir's military against forces loyal to his former vice president, Riek Machar. Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid denied the alleged airstrikes, saying: "Egypt does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries."

BERLIN, GERMANY**(Euronews)**

Customs officials in Germany have put on display the country's biggest ever cocaine haul. More than 700 kilos of the class A drug, with a purity of 80 percent, were seized. The cocaine – smuggled from the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao – is said to have been hidden under lead in a shipping container. Authorities in the Netherlands reportedly tipped off their German colleagues after criminals searching for the haul kidnapped two people, one of whom later escaped.

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA (Reuters/Euronews)

Romania's prime minister said on Saturday (Feb 4) he was scrapping a decree that would have shielded dozens of politicians from prosecution for corruption, bowing to one of the biggest protests since the fall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in 1989. Hundreds of thousands of protesters had taken to the streets across Romania. Sorin Grindeanu said the decree - which decriminalised several graft offences in what the government said was a bid to relieve pressure on the prison system - would be repealed on Sunday, just five days after it was approved by the Cabinet.

TEHRAN, IRAN (Oregonian)

A 4-month-old Iranian girl was unable to travel to the U.S. where her parents hoped she could undergo heart surgery for a serious condition she was diagnosed with two weeks prior. Fatemah Taghizadeh, barred from entering the U.S. under President Donald Trump's travel ban, has been granted boarding documents to enter the country and is expected to undergo surgery in Portland for a heart condition. The development capped a tumultuous day of manoeuvring that included announcements by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Oregon lawmakers.

BEIJING, CHINA (Reuters)

The United States should stop using the Dalai Lama to create trouble for China, a senior Chinese official in charge of Tibet affairs told an influential state-run newspaper. It would bring no benefit to the U.S. but damage Sino-U.S. ties instead, the Global Times reported late Friday, citing Zhu Weiqun, head of the ethnic and religious affairs committee of the top advisory body to China's parliament. The Global Times, a tabloid known for writing strongly-worded, hawkish and nationalist editorials, is published by the ruling Communist Party's flagship paper.

BANGALORE, INDIA (BBC)

Apple is to export iPhone jobs to the Indian state of Karnataka, the state's government has said. Ministers said Apple would start manufacturing by April. The tech giant has a 2% share of India's mobile phone market, well behind South Korean rival Samsung. Apple has yet to officially confirm the plan, saying only that it is keen to "invest significantly" in India. Priyank Kharge, minister of information technology and biotechnology in Karnataka, told the AFP news agency: "We have an understanding with Apple and we expect them to start manufacturing in Karnataka by the end of April."

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (BBC)

Police seized a rare right-handed conch shell which they suspect was going to be sold illegally. Seven people are in custody after appearing in court, charged with trying to sell the 18-inch shell. The conch may have fetched £60,000. Its sale is banned under an international convention. It is feared that Sri Lanka is emerging as a hub for the illegal export of rare seashells. The conch is in the custody of Sri Lanka's wildlife department.

**TORBA,
VANUATU (ST)**

A group of islands in the South Pacific is set to ban foreign food - particularly Western junk food - in an effort to ward off potential health problems among islanders. It plans to go entirely organic by 2020 and has already ordered tourism bungalows to serve guests only locally-sourced, organic produce. Torba province, part of Vanuatu, aims to impose restrictions on the import of foreign food-stuffs and instead take advantage of its productive agricultural land and rich natural resources.

**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES (Euronews)**

Over 4,000 healthcare companies from 70 countries gathered in Dubai for Arab Health, which showcased the latest industry-leading technology. 3D printing was in the spotlight with a zone dedicated for hands-on training and practical workshops on the possibilities of 3D printing in specialized treatments such as cardiology, neurology, surgery, gastroenterology. "The whole region is facing exactly the same challenges as the UK does, long term chronic and complex illnesses increasing, like diabetes, obesity, cancers and we all need to find those the same solutions," explained Nicola Blackwood MP, British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health."

**PORT LOUIS,
MAURITIUS****(Tech Times)**

Scientists have confirmed that the island nation Mauritius sits on top of a sunken continent that is billions of years old. The study was published in Nature Communications. According to the team, the pieces of Mauritius formed after the splintering of Gondwana supercontinent are still spread over the Indian Ocean.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (BBC)

Australian scientists have turned ordinary cooking oil into graphene, in a discovery they say lowers its cost to produce. Graphene, a strong carbon material, is just one atom wide and conducts electricity better than copper. It was discovered at the University of Manchester in 2004, winning its inventors a Nobel Prize in 2010. Now researchers say they can make graphene with soybean oil, making it more commercially viable. Graphene is hoped to have numerous applications including in electronics, biomedical devices and water filtration.

**QUEENSLAND,
AUSTRALIA (BBC)**

Thousands of blue blubber jellyfish have washed up at an Australian beach, surprising locals and marine experts. Charlotte Lawson, 24, took photos of the jellyfish at Queensland's Deception Bay after noticing an unusual colour in the water. "[When] we got closer we realised it was jellyfish," she told the BBC. "It was like bubble wrap across the beach." Although a common sight on Australia's east coast, the mildly venomous marine stinger is rarely seen in such numbers.

By Ian Charles

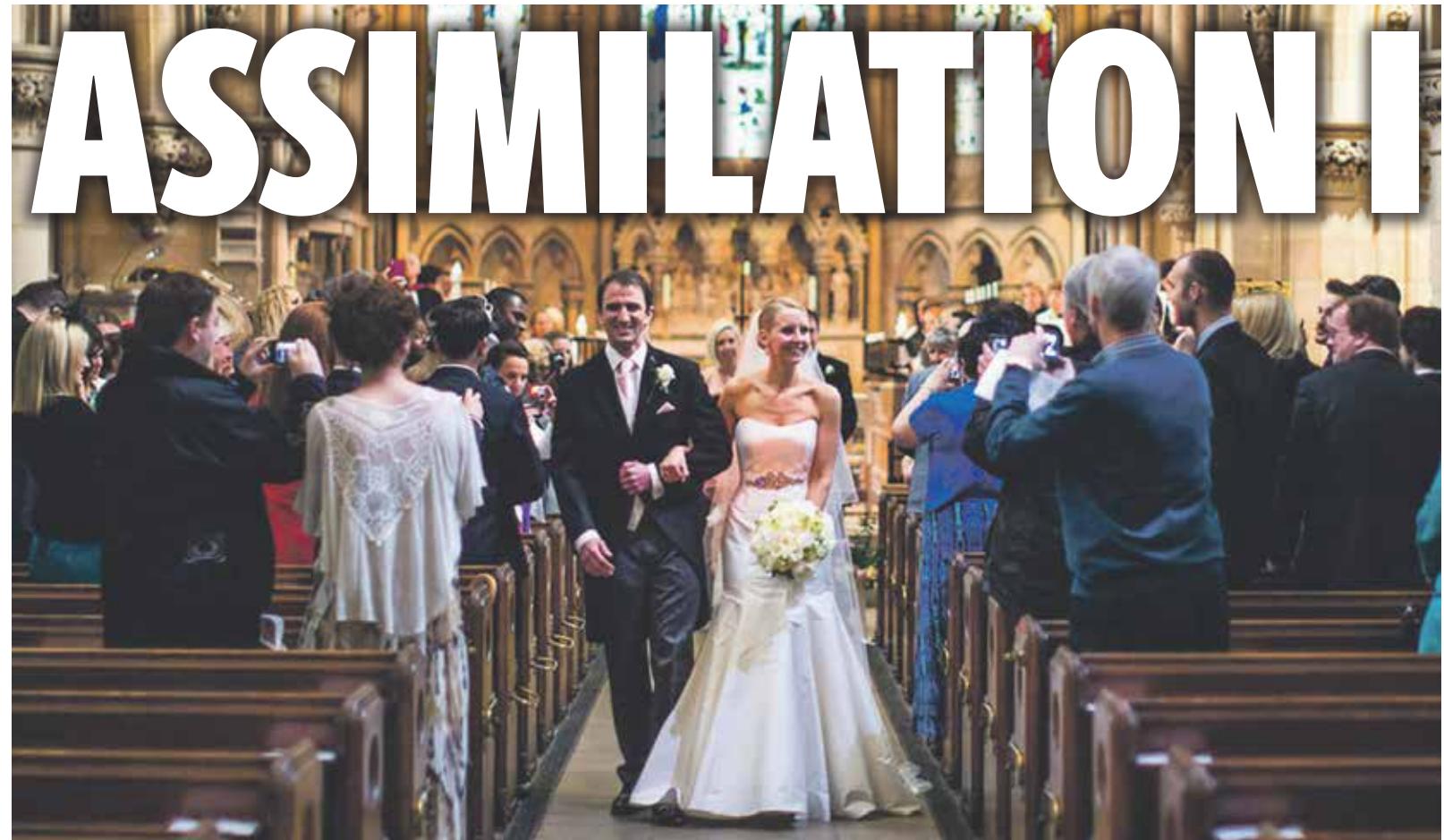
It's not every day your daughter tells you she's getting married, but mine reminded me five or six times a week. Eventually she and Ben tied the knot last April, but not before I had made several discoveries.

Firstly, they intended to marry in a church, "so as not to deny Dad the pleasure of walking me down the aisle!" Secondly, they had reached a compromise over where to marry. The bride had chosen an Anglican parish in which we, her (catholic) parents live, so she needed banns to be read in the C of E parish *where she now resides*. She needed a certificate from *her* local catholic parish to verify that she'd been baptised, as Ben would from a church he could no longer remember the name of. We got to know a lot of vicars and discovered a different world.

Wherever we looked in the locality they now live, you could buy a house for under £100,000; you can't go hungry if you have £2 in your pocket; there are three sets of prices in shops, the Price, the Local price, and Mates' Rates.

For a pound you can get three garlic naan baked in a clay oven in front of your eyes, savouries described by a young intern at the nearby Hospital as "*on a par with the best street food in India*." Unique to the area is a *Local Highway Code*. Even the taxi drivers think it's crazy!

There's also another way of running church services; people walk around hugging one another. You'll



hear the scriptures read aloud in *Tagalog*, sing a hymn in an African language, discover an Iraqi Christian Community; Afghans and Somalis attend Holy Communion with you, and there's a Congolese presence at Sunday Mass. The Irish still live in the area, and Eastern Europe is well represented.

Young men in suits arrive after church services for instruction; what is it that pulls them to these scruffy buildings? Is it the curtained off 'camps' that each church recently built in side altars and baptisteries

for homeless and hungry refugees? Or the belief that if you become a Christian you won't be sent back to a country where changing religion leads to persecution?

In the words of one Priest, "I don't care why they are coming to church; it is my duty to receive them in Christ's name and to represent Him to them."

In the words of another, "Whatever their motives, these people are welcomed by us in the name of Jesus; perhaps we've saved them

twice - once by welcoming them into a family of believers, and again by enabling them to avoid being returned to be abused and murdered."

This is surely controversial; have I discovered a scam like sham marriages, where people tell lies to beat deportation? Should the Home Office be involved? Do I report this to the Gestapo?

I've been attending churches for well over sixty years, and I recognise fellow believers, whether

at rallies for Corbyn or group hugs during Mass. Many of these people have been Christians for a long time, and lives rooted in Social Justice, grounded in Inclusivity, built on sharing and giving, have impressed the poor, needy and scared at a time when Theresa 'May / May Not' and UKIP have other policies for them. This Inner City Area has welcomed its newcomers, given them food, temporary lodgings and places where they can lift their heads high and then bow them down in prayer, not in submission to the rich and powerful.

ASSIMILATION II



for Corbyn or group hugs during Mass. Many churchgoers have been Christian for years and lives rooted in social justice, grounded in inclusivity, sharing, and giving, impress the poor and needy and scared while Theresa May /May Not and UKIP have other policies in mind for them. This Inner City Area has welcomed people, given them food, temporary lodgings, and places where they can hold their heads high then bow them down in prayer not in submission to the rich.

Alastair Campbell famously told his pal Tony, "We don't do God," and I know what he meant; to let Blair turn Cool Britannia into Cool and Holy Britannia would have been to Rebuild Camelot and become even more of a Totalitarian Third Way. I see this place as a different 'Way.' It's a kinder communi-

ty, with groups of young men milling about at the end of the day from their precarious 'jobs' in the gig economy, meeting up to say hello; purchasing a tin of meat from the Polski Schlep, or a can of energy drink from the Sikh family's post office and general store, or a samosa from the Sweet Centre on the High Street. Perhaps they're on the

way down the hill for a bible class. Whichever way they're going they look like they're assimilating into British Society better than grand families who say they've been in Britain since ten sixty-six and gather on a Sunday with packs of dogs to murder wildlife while these less affluent folk are cooking food and reading the Gospel in Filipino.

I haven't told you about the Romanian street band that invited my son-in-law to join them on guitar for a summer evening singalong. How their children greet you in the street and call you 'Sir' - or about the Polish lady who cried when someone thanked her for contributing to the UK economy. Or the guy who sadly left his house, and furniture, and caught a bus and a train and a flight 'home' on June 24th this year. There are so many stories

There is a unique way of driving which I call the Local Highway Code; the main point is that you cannot predict anything unless you know the exact rules; I'm learning them. I've also learned about groups of refugees converting to Christianity, in many ways like the new members joining Labour after decades of inactivity or even other political beliefs.

I've been attending churches for over sixty years, and I recognise fellow believers, whether at rallies

The Human Rights Watch 2017 Report recounts developments during 2016.

Belarus' human rights friendly rhetoric was not supported by genuine human rights improvements in 2016. The death penalty remains in use. Officials continue to prosecute human rights activists and critical journalists on spurious charges. Legislative amendments further restricted freedom of expression by expanding the definition of "extremism" and by banning dissemination of certain types of information among children under the false pretense of protecting them. International observers recognized some progress during the September parliamentary elections, but called for additional reforms."

"The European Union lifted sanctions, citing releases of political prisoners and improved elections."

"Authorities continue to refuse to cooperate with the United Nations special rapporteur on Belarus."

"In October, the government finalized an action plan to implement recommendations made by UN human rights treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council in the country's Universal Periodic Review. The government did not consult independent civil society, and the plan lacks specifics and does not adequately address civil and political rights."

"Although in 2015 Belarusian President Aliaksander Lukashenka pardoned six men sentenced in politically motivated trials, their criminal records were not

BELARUS

expunged, preventing them from occupying governmental jobs or standing in elections; authorizing police to question them frequently; and preventing their international travel."

"In early 2016, authorities resumed targeting freelance journalists cooperating with unregistered foreign media, a practice suspended since August 2015 after President Lukashenka publicly promised to examine the cases. Law enforcement officials in southern Belarus' Homel region brought 10 administrative cases against Kanstantsin Zhukouski and Larysa Shchyryakova for cooperating with Poland-based Belsat television channel, and fined them US\$250-350."

"Police detained Zhukouski and Aliaksei Atroshchanka in June as the journalists prepared a video about a business where workers complained about low wages in Loyeu, Homel region. Zhukouski alleged police beat him, and filed a complaint. In response, authorities charged and fined him for disorderly conduct, insulting police, and petty hooliganism."

"In January, Minsk police beat and detained Pavel Dabrowsky as he filmed how police detained two activists holding a "No to Political Prosecution!" banner outside a court. Dabrowsky sus-

tained minor injuries. An internal police inquiry found that the use of force was justified. Dabrowsky was fined for contempt of court and disobeying police orders. Dabrowsky claimed he did not resist police."

"In April, parliament hastily adopted a bill expanding the definition of "extremist activity" and introduced new offenses, including "creation of an extremist group" and "financing the activities of an extremist group." Activists warned that the law's vague definitions may be misused to suppress legitimate speech."

"The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development reviewed its Belarus strategy in September and removed restrictions on support for state projects. The bank noted that "the situation of human rights in the country has not under-

gone a systemic change and remains a subject of concern," but claimed Belarus had a "constructive role" in the region and authorities showed "more openness" to discussing human rights."



By Steve Sutton

In November The Word reported on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's ongoing protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline [DAP].

An early proposal for the DAP had it cross the Missouri River by Bismarck, the ninety percent white state capital. The Bismarck Tribune claims this route was rejected because of the threat posed to their water supply. The rerouted pipeline passes the Missouri River at Lake Oahe, the water supply of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The pipeline passes sacred burial grounds; places of great significance, places protected by Federal law.

Standing Rock Updated

President Obama's administration reaffirmed a commitment to preserve Native American sacred lands, effectively delaying decisions on the DAP at the end of his term.

Donald Trump - who owns stock in the pipeline, who received funding from the pipeline, who calls for removal of regulations on the oil and gas industry - then became President Elect.

The Word said "Standing Rock may be Trump's litmus test. His handling of the DAP could allay the

fears of non-white Americans. It could also warn of things to come."

On January 24th President Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum (PM) to the Secretary of the Army detailing measures to expedite construction of the DAP. A PM has the same force of law as an Executive Order.

At the same time he issued several related PM's. One authorised the Secretaries of State, the Army, and the Interior to expedite the completion of the Keystone XL Pipeline; another dealt with general pipeline construction; and a separate Executive Order expedited environmental approval of high priority infrastructure projects.

In a nutshell, President Trump has done everything in his power to ensure the pipeline is constructed as soon as possible, despite the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

While the pipeline should complete in short order, this may not be the end of the tale.

President Trump faces im-



peachment for extensive conflicts of interest. In the main this stems from his refusal to follow tradition and distance himself from business interests. As a President personally profiting from vested financial interests, his activities can be seen to place personal profit before national benefit.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), a non-profit legal watchdog dedicated to holding public officials to account, is now suing President Trump. CREW's members have

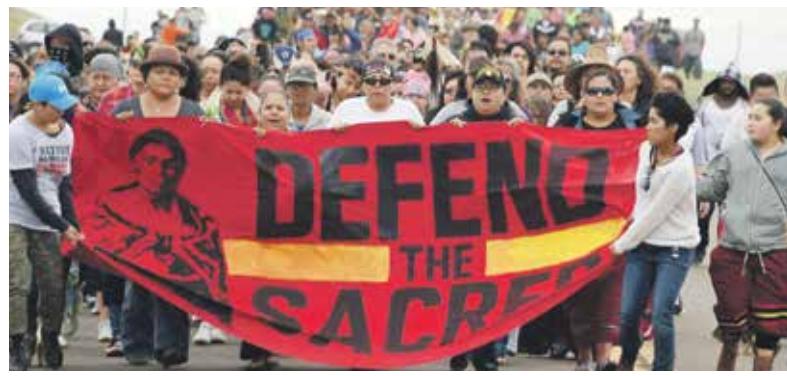
served on the ethics councils of two former presidents.

CREW has filed to sue President Trump for his vested interests, beginning the impeachment process citing breaches of constitutional law, conflict of interest and his vulnerability to foreign influence.

Similar charges are levelled by impeachdonaldtrumpnow.org, who back charges with a petition already signed by half a million Americans.

Lisa Gilbert, Public Citizen's Congress Watch director said "He might decide to go softly on a foreign government because he knows he has assets there. He can't even have that in the back of his mind. The American economy has to outweigh any personal financial benefits."

President Trump owns stock in the DAP and has received campaign funding from the DAP; could the Standing Rock Sioux be victims of a conflict of Presidential interests?



EPL 4TH/5TH FEBRUARY

By Curly Insole

Crystal Palace 0 Sunderland 4

Four goals against them in the first half then a little bit of pressure from Palace. Sam Allardyce was left unimpressed, but how long before the fans are unimpressed by him? David Moyes said he was pleasantly surprised, but one fan got onto the pitch to 'have a word' with a Palace defender as the home crowd booed their team. I bet that helped them focus in the second half, said no-one at all.

Everton 6 Bournemouth 3

Everton were forced to battle, ceding possession, committing fouls galore, and receiving three yellow cards. The big difference between the two sides was Romelu Lukaku with four goals, beginning in the first minute, popping up on the half hour and again just before the end.

Southampton 1 West Ham 3

So you score first, feeling a bit comfy that Dimitri doesn't matter anymore, yet despite having 54% of the possession, go in a goal behind at half-time. After the break, the Hammers get a third, out of only four shots on target. If I were Slaven Bilic I'd want to know about the shot that was saved. Southampton fans will want to know why their team's 21 attempts resulted in just one goal.

West Brom 1 Stoke City lost

The Baggies bagged one in the seventh minute, and despite Stoke's greater possession, only had to contend with two shots on target against them. Just as well they weren't playing West Ham.

Tottenham 1 Middlesbrough also lost

I've tipped 'Boro to win something this season. It won't be the EPL, and it wasn't this game at White Hart Lane. "Hurricane" Harry Kane scored with a penalty, after Bernardo pulled down Son in the area. Middlesbrough need a good Cup run, but will have to focus for now on avoiding relegation.

Hull 2 Liverpool 0

So you go to Hull of all places, have 67% of the possession, 15 corners, 22 shots, 5 of them on target, but no goals. Meanwhile the other team's lads, desperate not to be fed to the Big Cats in the Zoo at the end of the season, have 4 shots out of 7 on target and score two against you. I thought Klopp was supposed to be good, or is that only when he's got the top German team to manage?



Chelsea 3 (ahem)ARSENAL! 1

Three up by the end of normal time, Chelsea then let Giroud have one he could tell Wenger about in the 91st minute. Where is the manager anyway? 'Not seeing' things from up in the stand. Ahhhh....

Watford 2 Burnley 1

Were Brady and Barton playing? Did they know they were playing? Sent off was "Jimmy" Hendrick after six minutes for a crashing foul. It was an ugly game, and despite scoring from a penalty Burnley couldn't turn their

numerical disadvantage into more goals.

Manchester Rich Boys 1 Swansea City 1

Both teams need points; Jesus got City's first goal and Gylfi Sigurdsson nabbed a possibly pagan equaliser very late on. A second coming saw Jesus get the winner in stoppage time.

Leicester City 0 Manchester Black Sox 3

Black Sox left some big names out, but included other good players who needed to play, and who easily beat struggling ex-Champions Leicester.

Goals: Mkhitaryan, Ibrahimović, Mata

Perhaps you spotted the error in my 'January Sales' article, confusing French footballer Schneiderlin, transferred to Everton, with the wondrous Bastian Schweinsteiger who looks like Kier Starmer in footie kit? I'm not the first to do that, which is how Black Sox bought both, 'to be on the safe side.' Now they know the difference they've sold the one they didn't need.

And Keir Starmer's currently in the Shadow Cabinet ;-)

Typical Labour

By Joe Solo

"Typical bloody Labour. They want to pick our pockets again, and steal our wages."

I have to have a go at this don't I?

"Are you earning 70 million quid a year? Bloody hell, fair play to you for sticking to your roots. I'm surprised you haven't got a mansion or something!"

"What are you on about?"

"Corbyn. He said he wants to cap the wages of the highest earners and spread it out more fairly among the work force."

"Yeah, like THAT would happen!"

"Well imagine if it did! You and me wouldn't have to watch our bosses rub our noses in it with their flash cars and their expensive sun



tans while we struggled to pay the bills. That has to be better than the way things are NOW surely?"

"Well...."

"Take football right. If Premier League players were capped at, say, £25,000 a week, still WAY more than they need to live on,

and all those millions saved were spent on the grassroots game and kid's coaches and all that, then the entire game would benefit. Local facilities would be brilliant, the smaller clubs would start to thrive, and more people would want to play. Over time that would make the Premier League BETTER rather than worse and we might stand half a chance at the World Cup. That's all Corbyn is saying, cap the top to reinvest in the rest of us."

"I suppose you're right...."



FOOTBALL'S JANUARY SALES

The January Sales are over and the football transfer window is now closed until summer, writes *Curly Insole* our footwear sponsor and *Soccerball* Correspondent. This signals the other big event of the year, the actual football, where men chase around trying to get as much money as they can from the clubs they play for while their agents slip little bits of post-information and fake news to gullible newspapers all owned by the same half a dozen blokes, who have little interest in football so they can write what they want on the internet and in the Sports Pages of their toilet paper editions.

Now, until summer, you will see speculation about which overpaid and overpriced star will definitely be moving to which far too rich club for far too much money, which of course their agents will see plenty of. This is entirely to prepare readers for any discovery that this or that mediocrity earns a far from mediocre purse for refusing to play for West Ham and an even bigger one should he decide to resume. And should he score a goal, the objective of the sport after all, then Bingo!

From time to time, a player is prevented from 'playing' as a result of some over-zealous knee kicking, or falling over too much



in the 'penalty area' as some wives and girlfriends call it, or suffer a groin strain from over-exuberances on or off the pitch. It seems that they are paid well for sitting down, watching, and tweeting their thoughts about the game, the ref, the manager, their replacement, Brexit, and players from other clubs who have tweeted something else. The *Manic Media* fairly lap it up.

The January Sales are now over, and the overview is that not much happened except that one or two people went to China. Now I've never been there but have had a little taste of it at the Fortune River Cantonese restaurant and takeaway on Scott Hall Road, and I suspect that a number of the players who have agreed to transfer to Chinese clubs have no greater experience than I have. But the amount their agents are going to make from the deals, and the bonuses these chappies are going to get every time their clients do something remarkable like scoring a goal, makes the whole thing worth uprooting the basically working class families of these Soccerball players from private schools in Cheshire, say, and setting them down in even more exclusive schools in, say, Guan Jong Province.

(Any such place? -Ed)

AND THE DRAW FOR THE FIFTH ROUND TO BE PLAYED 17-20 FEBRUARY

Burnley v Lincoln Cabbages

The head says Burnley but the heart says, it'll be a draw, and then across the cabbage fields of Sto Helit for a bit more knee kicking. This could be a fantastic game, and a warm winter stew made with all the bits that are left when the kicking is over.

Fulham v Tottenham Hotspurs

Let me not intrude on what is going to be a bit of private grief; I'm sure these two sets of Londoners can sort things out with recourse to unpleasantness. But I do hope there will be some token knee kicking, just to show that it isn't entirely fixed.

Blackburn v Manchester Black Sox

I cannot see Manchester Black Sox losing at Blackburn, but this one might go to a replay.

Sutton United v (ahem)Arsenal!!!

I would love this one to go to a replay, just so the Sutton lads can play at the Emirates! Indeed, Arsenal might even offer their ground to Sutton for this game, which is easier than Victoria line (tube) to Victoria Station and then a train to Sutton; too much faffing.

Middlesbrough v Oxford United

OK Oxford, it's been fun; but it stops here, right? Tell you what though, it is very cold up in them Cleveland Hills. I once had to go to 'Boro in February via a place called Yarm. I made up a very short rhyming poem: 's not Warm
In't Yarm

Wolverhampton Wanderers v Chelsea

This has the potential for an upset, it depend on whether Chelsea are going to turn up thinking they've won already. If Costa is playing, there will definitely be some knee kicking, or rolling around, or both. There might even be some goals. Hope so.

Huddersfield Town v Manchester City

Will Pep be bugging the home dressing room, so his players can hear what Huddersfield say? The alternative is that the Scampi and Caesar Salad Boys will be tweeting as he is talking to them.

Millwall v Leicester City or Derby

Leicester to struggle through the replay and the away tie. Someone you've never heard of will score a cracking goal. Then I'll tell you all about it.

ROUNDBALL FOOT-UP™

(you can get sent off for that – Ed)

"THE ONLY FOOTBALL ROUND-UP YOU'LL EVER NEED"

Stanley Acrimonious looks at the fourth round of the FA Cup:

Liverpool 1 Wolves 2 In my last report I castigated Liverpool for fielding an under strength side against Lincoln; this time they might have done better if their reserves had been given another run out. As it is, Liverpool can now concentrate on getting beaten to the EPL title by someone whose second team are better than theirs. I should apologise to Wolves for suggesting they were going to Anfield to get beaten, but I shan't.

Lincoln 3 Brighton 1 Despite going one-up, Brighton could do nothing against the cabbage patch kids of Sto Helit, who threw everything at them and ran out, or ran off, eventual winners. They're going to be tricky to beat, despite their lowly status (careful Stanley, you're going to be talking about sticklebacks and minnows soon – Ed.)

Burnley 2 Bristol City 0 Burnley made eight changes, and Bristol weren't at full strength either; so if they can't be bothered then neither can I.

Chelsea 4 Brentford 0 Well I got this one right; it wasn't Brentford.

Crystal Palace 0 Man City 3 Ah, rather than listening to their manager, the cocktails and prawn sandwiches boys were eavesdropping on the Crystal Palace dressing room chit chat about what they'd found out by eavesdropping on what Guardiola was trying to say to City. This is a winning play, and Pep should try to set it up more often.

Blackburn 2 Blackpool 0 I'd rather go on my holidays to Blackpool than Blackburn, but only just. I'd rather be a supporter of Blackburn at this stage than Blackpool, but only just.

Middlesbrough 1 Accrington **0** This is the result that made me weep; my loyalties were torn, and so were my grudges when I'd had to queue in the toilets at half time and pulled them up too quickly while rushing out so as not to miss any of the game. I still tip 'Boro to win, but I'm sad for Stanley. And I'm sad for myself, as I shall have to buy a new pair.

Oxford Utd 3 Newcastle 0 A miserable prediction here, I'd sug-

gested a draw, but it's an even more miserable result for the 'Toon' lads, who couldn't even manage to score last night when they were out in toon wearing thin polo shirts. Life gets more and more hinky.

Rochdale 0 Huddersfield 4 Despite scoring a shedload of goals here, Huddersfield won't win the Cup.

Tottenham 4 Wycombe 3 This is the saddest result of the round. I described them last issue as the second team named Wanderers who were going to a Premiership club to get royally stuffed. If games lasted 80 minutes (plus stoppages) as they do in Square Ball, or if referees needed the toilet more often, as they did when I was a lad, then they might have heard the whistle blow a few minutes early and won it 3-2. Indeed if a plague of boiled frogs had fallen from the skies as happened in Old Testament Times, the match could have been abandoned as soon as Wanderers, surely a coded reference to Moses and Joshua and their band of travellers, netted their third. Ah well.

Southampton 0 Arsenal 5 (ahem)ARSENAL!!! Arsène Wenger™ didn't see™ any of the incidents in this game, being at home unloading the dishwasher, or was he in the seat reserved for him in the stands by the FA? Never mind, he can watch it on TV.



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19	105	480	30 P	
20	56	1264	79 P	
21	122	2512	1-57	
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Played Friday 27th January:

Derby County 2 Leicester 2 So it's all back to Leicester on February 8th to see what they've got hidden under a car park these days. They certainly didn't have anything special on the field, but neither did Derby. There were two Bent goals, one at each end. 'Chesty' Morgan knocked an equaliser in with his head. It's allowed. The winners go to Millwall, which is a bit like 'A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse.'

Played Sunday 29th January:

Millwall 1 Watford 0 One you could make a joke out of thus: "Millwall ... won; Watford ... lost."

I think I'll just leave it there.

Fulham 4 Hull City

The club whose owner Assem Allam wanted to call them Hull Tigers, and then Hull City Tigers could well have exposed his team to even more ridicule here. Out of a second cup competition in a week, all they have to look forward to are a relegation battle which the smart money says they will also lose, and a trip to Flamingoland Theme Park and Zoo, courtesy of their owner, who plans to leave most of them there in the big cats' enclosure.

Sutton United 1 Leeds United 0 This match I could have got tickets for quite easily having family connections in both places. My plan was to go down a day early, collect the tickets and stand or sit with the home fans and make fun of Leeds, who in their own city have a special nickname - 'Mugs'.

I suggested to you last time that if you insisted on making a bet, to make it against Leeds winning.

Manchester Black Sox 4 Wigan 0 The Black Sox have been a real bogey team for Wigan in their last

twenty meetings. Heaven knows, they're miserable now, but Sox do seem to have some sort of sign over them. What that sign is we're not sure, but in this game it looks as though it used only two fingers. Wayne Rooney did not get sent off, and trails Roy Keane by about five red cards; shameful.

Neville Neville's boy Neville stated that Marouane Fellaini's goal in the first half won the Black Sox the game, and since Wigan didn't score, technically he's right. The goal of the game was the third, scored by Mkhitaryan, a carbon copy of the one my lad Chris scored for Cardinal Heenan High School in 2007 against better opposition than Wigan. My favourite was scored by Bastian Schweinsteiger, of the big German face, where he performed an overhead kick but hit the ball with the side of his foot. This man just might be a modern Denis Law, who had a big Scottish face. I love them both equally.

Born in the Ayrshire mining village of Glenbuck, where conditions were harsh, Shankly was however certainly subjected to the workings of grass roots politics. Keir Hardie, one of the founding members of the Labour party, was chipped from the same Ayrshire coal seams, but for Bill, whilst never losing sight of his humanitarian socialism, football not politics was to be the life's devotion.

Bill Shankly the football manager that made Liverpool. If you look at any other football manager throughout the history of the game you will find controversy and disagreement. Any one that is other than Bill Shankly. It does not matter one iota whether you are a supporter of Liverpool, Everton or even Chelsea, Shankly is held in the same esteem. The reason for this is the honesty and lack of malice in the man. Shankly took Liverpool from a going nowhere second division team (the second tier down) and made them in to one of the best teams in Europe. He built them up from nothing by sheer determination into a team that went on to dominate Europe. The Shankly way of what was to be known as (the boot room) became the ideal of comradeship and the will to win that inspired generations. How we could do with a hard genuine working class organiser of his ability in politics.



BILL SHANKLY

Shankly on Football

"A football match is like a relay race. We realised at Liverpool that you can score a goal by playing from the back. We learned this through playing the Latins in Europe. It might be cat and mouse for a while, waiting for that opening to appear. It's all very simple really, but it's effective. Improvisation! If your players can improvise and adjust to what's happening, you've got a chance. It's vital you conserve energy, making the opposition do all the chasing. When you play over 60 games a season you can't afford to be running flat out all the time."

The system we devised was designed to confuse the opposition. And it was economical. You want everyone to do their share. The important thing is that everyone can control the ball and do the basic things. It's control and pass -

Club	From	Until	Hons	Games per Honour	W	D	L	Total	Win%
Grimsby Town	1951	1953	0	n/a	48	16	17	81	59.26
Liverpool	1959	1974	10	78.5	409	198	178	785	52.10
Carlisle United	1949	1951	0	n/a	48	33	27	108	44.44
Huddersfield Town	1956	1959	0	n/a	49	35	50	134	36.57

As a player Preston North End

FA Cup (1): 1937-38

As a manager Liverpool

Football League First Division (3): 1963-64, 1965-66, 1972-73

- Football League Second Division (1): 1961-62
- FA Cup (2): 1964-65, 1973-74
- FA Charity Shield (4): 1964, 1965, 1966, 1974
- UEFA Cup (1): 1972-73

control and pass. If you delay, the opposition is all behind the ball. So you are looking for somebody who can control it instantly and give a forward pass. And that gives you more space. You see some teams playing and it seems as nobody wants the ball. They turn their back

on on each other. But at Liverpool, there is always somebody to help you. That's why Kenny Dalglish was an instant success. He came to a club and he had choices. Kenny was the kind of player who could exploit that kind of thing to the full.

So this is the secret. Get it. Give an early pass. Switch the ball around. You might not seem to be getting very far, but the opposition pattern is changing. And the space opens up for the final pass. All the players must understand that when they've delivered a pass, you've only just started. You have to back up and look to help somebody else."

Quotes

"Football is a simple game based on the giving and taking of passes, of controlling the ball and of making yourself available to re-



ceive a pass. It is terribly simple."

"When I've nothing better to do, I look down the league table to see how Everton are getting along."

"Now I want one thing. I want loyalty. I don't want anybody to be carrying stories about anybody else. If somebody comes to me with a story – I warn you about this – whoever you're telling it about

won't be the one who goes. It'll be you. You'll go – out! I don't care if you've been here 15 years [sic]. I want everybody to be loyal to each other. And to do everything you do for Liverpool Football Club. And we'll all get together. And that will make strength ... And maybe one day we'll get players as well!"

A scout told Shanks about a young player who he'd given a trial at Liverpool

'He has football in his blood,' the disappointed scout complained. 'You may be right,' Shanks said, 'but it hasn't reached his legs yet!'

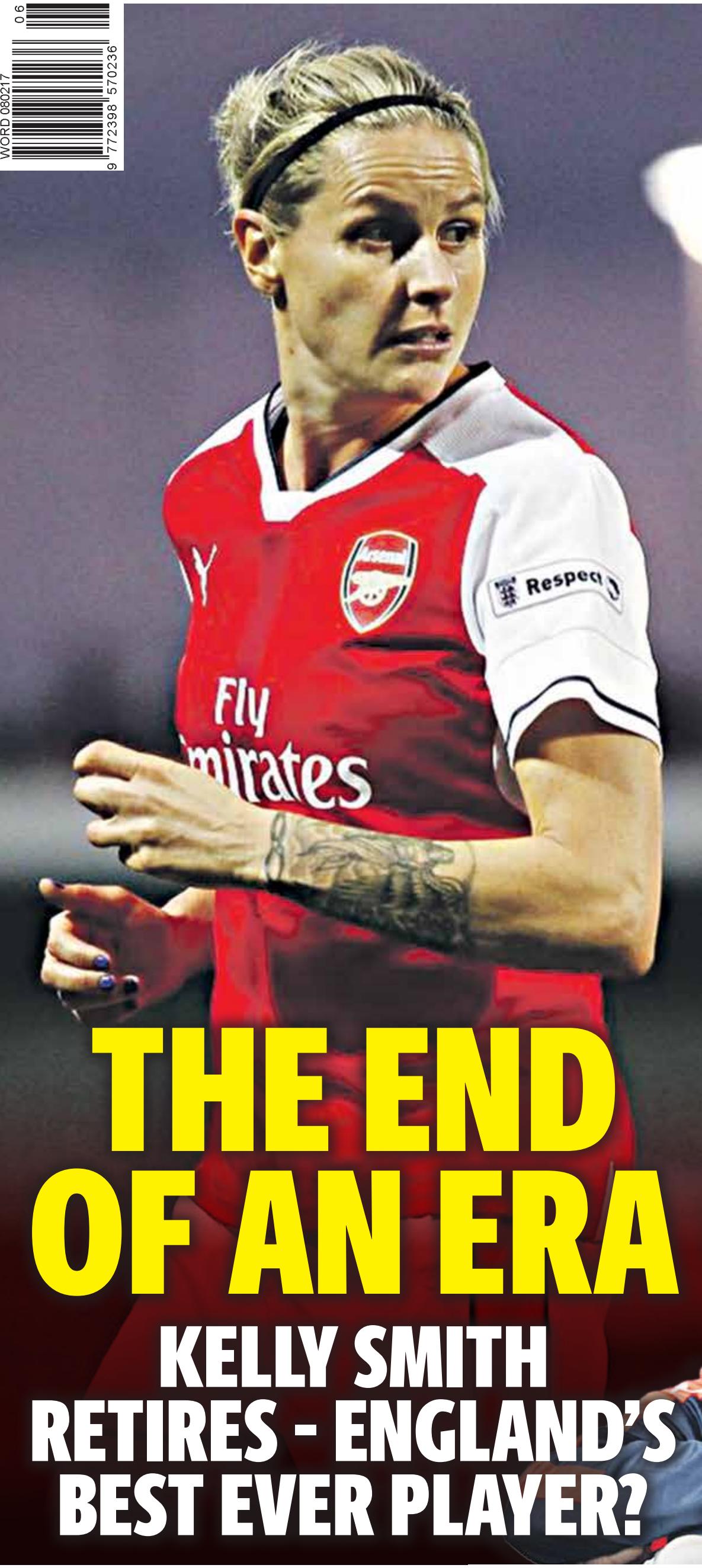
"If you've got three Scots in your side, you've got a chance of winning something. If you've got any more, you're in trouble."

A football team is like a piano. You need eight men to carry it and three who can play the damn thing.

Pressure is working down the pit. Pressure is having no work at all. Pressure is trying to escape relegation on 50 shillings a week. Pressure is not the European Cup or the Championship or the Cup Final. That's the reward.



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THE END OF AN ERA

KELLY SMITH RETIRES - ENGLAND'S BEST EVER PLAYER?



Not Bobby Charlton, Stanley Matthews or Wayne Rooney. Kelly has been a leader of the English game since before it became fashionable. Indeed, well before there were professional women's teams she blazed a trail. Although she has now retired from the game let us pay tribute to her achievements.

Kelly Smith

Kelly Jayne Smith, MBE (born 29 October 1978, in Watford) now retired, English striker/midfield player. She had three spells with FA WSL club Arsenal Ladies. A product of the American college system, Smith broke records with Seton Hall University then played professionally with Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) franchise Philadelphia Charge. After returning to Arsenal for a spell which included a 2007 UEFA Women's Cup win, Smith was tempted back to America with another professional contract, this time with Boston Breakers in Women's Professional Soccer (WPS). She has accumulated over 100 caps for the England women's football team since making her debut in 1995. Despite being hit by serious injury during her career, Smith is England's record goal scorer. Kelly had a tough

time with injuries during her career and at one time infamously turned to drink when she was laid up alone in the States. Despite this she kept coming back to end her career this season as her country's most famous player of all time.

Smith was due to play in a testimonial game for her club but will not be able to appear in the match itself as she is three months pregnant.

Releasing a statement on her website, Smith said, "Thanks so much for all the wonderful messages you have sent me since I announced my retirement on 11th January. I've been so touched by your warmth and generosity.

"I'm also massively excited about the upcoming celebration game on Sunday 19th February at Borehamwood FC, and I'm really looking forward to meeting you all there.

"But I do have a bit more news to share with you all in advance...

"I won't actually be playing on Sunday 19th now, as I am three months pregnant. My partner and I are ecstatically happy and joyfully getting ready for our baby's arrival.

"So, although I won't be on the pitch, I will be on the side lines coaching my All Star team and I will also be speaking and engaging with the crowd.

Kelly's playing record

- The 38-year-old has scored a record 46 goals in 117 England appearances
- She played at two World Cups and four European Championships.
- She came third in Fifa Women's World Player of the Year in 2009 - one of four occasions she finished in the top five for the award.
- While playing for Arsenal, Smith has won the 2006-07 Uefa Cup - the only British team to have won what is now the Champions League - and five FA Cups, plus played a part in numerous league titles.

