

THE WORD

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**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW**



Corbyn says what he thinks about Donald Trump

We have made it very clear that we don't agree with Donald Trump on the Geneva Convention, on torture, on his treatment of Mexico and Mexican people or his attacks on women we have made it very clear. I also think it wrong that he be given a state visit as a reward after only eight days in office. Would we have to work with the elected President, yes, in every country you have to work with them. It doesn't mean you agree with them, you have to make a case, and so every President and Prime Minister I meet, and I meet quite a lot of them, you have to raise human rights issues with and concerns about human rights in their country, you have to do that. We as a party believe passionately in the cause of human rights. Sometimes the circumstances are very difficult indeed but you have got to do it so you do it.

Theresa May:
There have
only been a
“small number
of incidents”



KILLER

NHS MURDERED BY MAY

THE PETERLOO PROJECT

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

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

THE
WORD

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NHS KILLED BY MAY

New analysis links 30,000 excess deaths in 2015 to cuts in health and social care

Researchers exploring why there has been a substantial increase in mortality in England and Wales in 2015 conclude that failures in the health and social care system linked to disinvestment are likely to be the main cause.

There were 30,000 excess deaths in 2015, representing the largest increase in deaths in the post-war period. The excess deaths, which included a large spike in January that year, were largely in the older population who are most dependent on health and social care.

Reporting their analysis in the Journal of the Royal Society of

Medicine, the researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of Oxford and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, tested four possible explanations for the January 2015 spike in mortality.

After ruling out data errors, cold weather and flu as main causes for the spike, the researchers found that NHS performance data revealed clear evidence of health system failures. Almost

Theresa May: There have only been a "small number of incidents"

all targets were missed including ambulance call-out times and A&E waiting times, despite unexceptional A&E attendances compared to the same month in previous years. Staff absence rates rose and more posts remained empty as staff had not been appointed.

Professor Martin McKee, from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said: "The impact of cuts resulting from the imposition of austerity on the NHS has been profound. Expenditure has failed to keep pace with demand and the situation has been exacerbated by dramatic reductions in the welfare budget of £16.7 billion and in social care spending."

He added: "With an aging population, the NHS is ever more dependent on a well-functioning social care system. Yet social care

has also faced severe cuts, with a 17% decrease in spending for older people since 2009, while the number of people aged 85 years and over has increased by 9%."

"To maintain current levels of social care would require an extra £1.1 billion, which the government has refused."

Professor McKee continued: "The possibility that the cuts to health and social care are implicated in almost 30,000 excess deaths is one that needs further exploration. Given the relentless nature of the cuts, and potential link to rising mortality, we ask why is the search for a cause not being pursued with more urgency?"

"Simply reorganising and consolidating existing urgent care systems or raising the 'agility' of

the current A&E workforce capacity is unlikely to be sufficient to meet the challenges that high levels of admissions of frail elderly people and others who are vulnerable are likely to present this winter and in future winters."

The researchers say that there are already worrying signs of an increase in mortality in 2016. Without urgent intervention, they say, there must be concern that this trend will continue.

Commenting on the analysis, Professor Danny Dorling, University of Oxford, added: "It may sound obvious that more elderly people will have died earlier as a result of government cut backs, but to date the number of deaths has not been estimated and the government have not admitted responsibility."

Doctors Condemn May

BMA chairman Dr Mark Porter wrote: 'I have been horrified to see the position which you have taken in responding to the current crisis in the NHS in England.

'In playing down what is happening in hospitals up and down the country - with beds at full capacity, daily breaches in A&E and critical operations being cancelled - and in then seeking to lay the blame on general practice, your Government appears to be seeking deliberately to distract from what is really happening in the NHS.

'Services are failing patients and their families, tying the

hands of those who care for them, in the face of titanic pressures across the system.

"The continual salami slicing, the presentation of cuts as improvements in the face of palpably deteriorating services and the scapegoating of those who work in the service have led to this situation, one in which patients' lives and well-being are at risk.

"This should not be acceptable for any government."

Dr Helen Stokes-Lampard, chairman of the Royal College of GPs, warned that May had 'upset

lots of people'.

She also said 'it was clearly preposterous to keep surgeries open from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week as Mrs May has ordered.'

Dr Stokes-Lampard said it was 'old fashioned nonsense' that GPs were overpaid and a 'distraction from the real problem'.

Tory MP Sarah Wollaston, a former GP who heads the health select committee, also said: "To be suggesting that all of this problem is due to GPs not seeing people is really stretching it, it's just not the case, it's wrong to be scapegoating them in my view'

May in Denial

Theresa May has attacked the Red Cross' description of a "humanitarian crisis" in the NHS as "irresponsible and overblown".

Her comments during Prime Minister's Questions were criticised by Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron who warned her she should address the NHS crisis "rather than picking on the Red Cross".

Jeremy Corbyn also accused Mrs May of being in "denial" over the state of the healthcare system.

Mrs May acknowledged that there had been a "small number of incidents of unacceptable practice" in the NHS as she sought to defend the Government's handling of problems in

the health service.

She insisted that the Government had committed extra money to the NHS.

"We acknowledge that there are pressures on the health service, there are always extra pressures on the NHS in the winter, but we have the added pressures of the ageing population and the growing complex needs of the population," she said.

Mrs May said the Government was standing by the four-hour target for A&E, which says 95 per cent of patients must be dealt with within that time frame, after Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt suggested earlier in the week he may water it down.

WHERE IS THE



Asks Ian Charles

At your dentist's, you fill in a form saying you are a 'NHS' patient. This means you pay one of three charges (bands) and the rest of the cost is made up by the government out of taxation. Your dentist is a business.

When my Health Centre (a business housing GPs, nurses, Health Professionals, their practice manager, and some other staff, and which can be set up with 'government help') is closed for training, for the evening, weekends, bank holidays and so on, phone calls are fielded to a 'Walk-In Centre' which covers for them. This is 'Nurse-Led' and supervised by just one doctor, a Practice Manager, and administered by receptionists.

I know about nurses, doesn't everybody? The word is synonymous with Angels, Healers, Dogsbodies, Unsung Heroes and (usually) Heroines of the NHS. There are Practice Nurses (No! I want a Real One!) Mental Health Nurses, Health Visitors and District Nurses. There are Midwives and School Nurses, Children's Nurses and Geriatric Nurses. Have I missed anyone out? There are also Healthcare Assistants who do things that Nurses are too busy to do, like routinely taking blood. But the tradition has been that Nurses make you better, listen to you, tell you off and tuck you in. They hold the spoon that tips the medicine down your throat. They twiddle the taps on the drip that carries the liquid medicines, the salty water, potions that flow directly into your veins through the cannula inserted for the delivery or removal of fluid. The correct response when being cannulated is to say, "Remarkable; could you give me John Smith's intravenously, then?"

You will be told, "If Doctor prescribes it."

And there we have the big difference between doctors and nurses: nurses treat you and doctors tell them how; by diagnosis and prescription, except at the Walk in Centre, where a nurse, whom you think is a doctor because they never say *Who* or *What* they are, rushes you in, hurries you out and sends you away with a '*script*' because these people are authorised to '*write them up*' for you.

My experience, and do tell me I'm wrong and then you can deal with the aftermath of these decisions for me, is that these specially trained nurses seem to have around three 'Specialisms' and start seeing all patients as sufferers of one of the limited conditions they've taken responsibility for. Thus my family have been sent away with diagnoses and medicines for: asthma, backache, depression, irritable bowel syndrome, and muscle strain.

These 'Doctor-Nurses' as the proud mother of one of them describes her have thus missed: bacterial sinusitis, perforated appendix, infection of the inner ear, osteoporosis, sepsis and thrombosis. Scared yet?

The comedian Michael McIntyre has a routine where his GP, baffled by any number of things, constantly 'refers' him to specialists: leg doctors, bum doctors, ear doctors, until one day he tells the doctor he has a headache.

"Ah," replies the GP, "I know the answer to this one - *Paracetamol!*"

The reverse is true of "Doctor-Nurses" and now some GPs I'm coming across; they 'know' everything, and you aren't referred anywhere if they can help it; a combination of arrogance, not listening, and penny pinching.

So you stagger-out of the Walk-in Centre and three days later are fighting for your life in the Intensive Care Unit of some big hospital, built and equipped with money totally 'invented' by a bank out of



thin-air so they can extract a 'money-flow' from the NHS Trust for the next 25 years, and your life is saved by some kids from all over the planet, highly trained immigrants who will go home on the train and be abused by a drunk for

being 'over here' and called a 'parasite' and you decide to complain to some Practice Manager about the crazily wrong 'diagnosis' you got initially. You receive a letter of apology 'from the company' explaining that your points are valid,

that no proper examination was carried out, that data such as temperature, blood pressure, do not appear to have been stored on the system, that you weren't advised to go to A&E should the symptoms persist, that training and oversight has been completely overhauled as a result of your letter, that it is completely unacceptable you've waited so long for a reply, and the complaint has been passed through many hands until it got to the GP, the solitary, totally responsible GP, acting for this Private Healthcare Company, 'Nurse Led' but managed by an accountant; the staff policy now is to greet patients with the phrase "Hello, my name is ..." and explain what it is will be happening to you and why. So that's OK now, then.

Half of all care under the NHS comes from 'private providers' - I understood this when I had my thyroid scanned by a friendly

NHS?



young woman in a unit on an industrial estate next to a warehouse storing phones and laptop computers. I didn't expect that my GP, the *Emergency Doctor*, and the buildings and services of my cancer hospital would be owned by the sort of

people who own my local football club, bank or car showroom. I just didn't, is all.

When did all this happen, and why didn't I see it before it happened?

Where is the NHS in all of this?



A Whistle Blowers Tale

In the last few years there has been a change of culture within healthcare. 'Shop floor' professionals are guarded. The shutters have come down. Free speech is no longer a given.

By stealth, an unspoken toxicity has spread by behaviours of those authority & lord of all they survey.

The corporate psychopaths have been given power and have been given carte blanche to use it to suppress unchallenged by even higher powers.

Those with ambition and without a moral compass know that in order to climb the corporate managerial ladder and be a part of the exclusive club of dictators they must develop a sense of superiority and ruthlessness. No-one and nothing can get in their way. And they will be protected in their quest as casualties are merely pawns in their game of ambition.

But what about protection for the shop floor workers against this thuggery when the workers are charged with reporting, for example, misdeeds, illegal activity & concerns regarding patient care? After all, isn't this the whole point of post Mid Staffs cover up recommendations?

And Whistle Blowing. Were we not all told there was a new era of openness whereby any concerns would be listened to?

That was the party line. But has this translated into action in practice?

Frighteningly the corporate psychopaths have had their hackles raised. They who must be obeyed have to find ways of reflecting poor practice back on the shop floor workers in order to conserve the status quo & remain in the corporate club.

So the effects on the shop floor workers on highlighting unsafe practice.

"We are short staffed & cannot meet the needs of the patients safely. We have 2 aggressive patients & have increased our bed numbers by 4. Agency staff are unfamiliar with x procedure. I've only been qualified 6 months & you're leaving me in charge"

"Use your time more effectively, you're not prioritizing, you have the recommended staff ratio, blah blah blah".



I'd like to use whistleblowing policy to report fraud & moonlighting in the trust and at the same time self-destruct my 30 year career

CQC visits & colleagues highlight the bullying, intimidation & oppression. They give a 'poorly run' rating.

Corporate psychopaths are seething. They are above criticism. This is your fault. How dare you not praise the management or tell CQC how supportive the environment is, how rewarding it is & how magnificent it is to work there.

YOU have got to go. You do not sing from the corporate hymn sheet. You are not part of the business plan 'going forward'. You {despite the dire recruitment & shortage crisis for health care professionals}

So how can they get rid of you?

Clearly just sacking you will get them in hot water with an industrial tribunal so you'll be targeted. Your social media will be monitored. They'll get the measure of you.

The CEO asks how things are. "Very low morale I'm afraid. X&Y, who have many years experience & lynchpins of the work environment are leaving as they cant cope with the stress, the workload, we haven't seen a physio for months. Z was expecting a pay increment but that was vetoed."

CEO sniffs & discusses with your line manager. One to one time, intimidation time, bullying & belittling time. It's none of your business if Z hasn't got her pay rise. There is an ongoing advert for the physio job. X&Y are replaceable. This outspokenness

will go on your record.

The patients kitchen is filthy. Patients who are immunocompromised and doubly at risk from poor hygiene. The kitchen manager refuses to supply lactose free milk for a lactose intolerant patient. Dare you mention it to your line manager for fear of reprisal. You know what will become of it but as a professional how can this be ignored. So in the spirit of post Mid Staffs you report it.

Wham. Another one to one. The kitchen manager doesn't want you interfering with kitchen business! So this goes on your record.

Colleagues are aware that you are being targeted. They sympathise. They have mortgages to pay, loans to pay & cant afford to lose their jobs.

So whistle blowing becomes a lonely place & you learn that despite what you witness and the dangerous practices you see, you cant speak out.

So the bullying, intimidating corporate psychopaths have the pathway cleared for them to act in the manner to which they choose to be accustomed.

You leave disillusioned. Knowing that you were a magnificent practitioner & a willing but oppressed advocate for patients & colleagues. You say goodbye to the profession you love but realise you must keep your integrity and keep your sanity.

The corner green grocer advertises for an assistant. That is now your future.

**VICTIMISED
FOR BLOWING
WHISTLE ON
NHS CHIEFS**

From the Mail, February 15

**IT'S LIKE STALIN'S
RUSSIA - SPEAK
OUT AND YOU
ARE CRUSHED**

February 16

**NHS SPENDS £15M
ON GAGGING 600
WHISTLEBLOWERS**

February 22

XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD: PART 16



PREVIOUSLY: Sailing his big ship on the ally-ally-oh, the ally-ally-oh, the ally-ally-oh, Xenophon narrowly avoided a mutiny by some of his crew with the judicious use of his pointy sword. Returning to shore, our heroes continue the fight against tyranny and corruption and, after failing to get the people to rise up, they decide to throw in the towel...



CREATED BY ALAN DAVIES. ART BY ANDREW KEIR

David Lindsay Column

Mr Speaker Bercow does not want President Donald Trump to address Parliament. Is Trump a worthy successor to Nelson Mandela? No. Is Trump a worthy successor to Aung San Suu Kyi? Ask the Rohingya about that overrated figure. But is Trump a worthy successor to Barack Obama? Oh, yes, indeed.

By all means protest against Trump's actions. Up to a point, protest against his utterances. But do not protest against his presence. His arrival in this country would do us no end of good. Provided that the reaction were led by the right people.

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

There is a need to move, as a matter of the utmost urgency,

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

The defeat of the Clintons by a purported opponent of neoliberal economic policy and of neoconservative foreign policy, although time will tell, has secured Jeremy Corbyn's position, since he is undoubtedly such an opponent.

For 25 years, almost completely ignored except in relation to the Iraq War, a section of the political Left and a smaller

section of the political Right have consistently opposed the racist, militarist and imperialist policies of the Clinton, Bush, Obama and Trump Administrations. For 20 years, almost completely ignored except in relation to the Iraq War, a section of the political Left and a smaller section of the political Right have consistently opposed the racist, militarist and imperialist policies of the Blair, Brown, Cameron and May Governments.

A steadfast stalwart has been, and remains, Corbyn. His election and re-election as Labour Leader have been significant victories for the movement against liberal interventionism. Another victory was the social media campaign that led to the

lobbying of the House of Commons such that it defeated the Cameron Government over Syria. Therefore, it is not correct to say that, "They never did Stop the War."

In the event of a State Visit to the United Kingdom by President Trump, it is imperative that those with that consistent, and not unsuccessful, record be the organisers of what would easily be the largest demonstration in British history, and that that demonstration be addressed by Corbyn. This would have the potential to politicise an entire generation, thereby changing Britain in myriad ways over at least 50 years. But it would have to be led by those who would have reacted in the same way to a State Visit by President Hillary Clinton.

Where Syria is concerned reports from Amnesty and Human Rights Watch cannot be taken at face value

By Brendan O'Brien

Where Syria is concerned reports from Amnesty and Human Rights Watch cannot be taken at face value. We have been getting a stream of propaganda from our government, media and NGO's since the war started. Some of it is manifestly false, e.g. the claim by Boris Johnson that ninety five percent of the deaths in Syria have been caused by Assad. However, regardless of the truth or otherwise of the charges laid against Assad the overwhelming need is to bring peace.

There is greater hope for peace in Syria now than at any time since the war began and our government has officially supported the Russian led peace process at the UN. However what is our government doing in practice? Are we still giving non lethal aid to moderate rebels? I have been asking my MP that question for weeks with no answer. Have we pressed America and Saudi Arabia to stop giving arms to rebels? There have been no reports that they have stopped doing so in spite of a well supported ceasefire. Boris Johnson said that we have to accept Assad taking part in elections, recently he seems to have backtracked on that statement. From ear-



ly on in this war Barack Obama should have engaged in talks with Putin over Syria. The Daily Mail and others said David Cameron should have used his influence to bring this about. Is Theresa May making any effort to get Trump and Putin working together for the sake of peace in Syria? Is our government doing the best it can to make this fragile peace process a success or is it quietly working to undermine it, e.g. by pushing for Assad to be hauled before the International Criminal Court? (Of

course justice should be served, if there is justice for Syria many others, including those who de facto supported Islamic State should be in the dock. There are times when justice has to give way to the need for peace, as was recognised in this country and many others in recent years).

The UK government has massive influence over what happens in Syria and has played a destructive role backing America all the way. It is time for change.

What Do You Think

By Joe Nagle

One way to stop extra-judiciary abuse of prisoners by guards and other prisoners, is to allow all convicted felons to keep their vote registered at the local regions. Probably best to have their own ministry of prisons, with representatives over a set number of secure establishments. Their vote could weaken or strengthen a governing party.

Also, to allow respected organisations such as the Quakers, who are very active in prison reform, to have access to prison whenever they wish to check on conditions, the mood of the inmates and to talk to individuals in complete privacy.

However it is done, to have people responsible for their welfare.

My point?

Their punishment is set by the courts, which is prison for a set time. The sentence does not include having to endure abuse by guards or psychotic fellow inmates. They are also wards of the state, like orphans, and their welfare is the responsibility of the state and the government of the day.

That said, it is fairly obvious that most guards just do their job as set by their remit; and most prisoners just want to do their time and get out as soon as possible in one piece. Prison office work is hard and unpleasant.

By all means, if you want seriously angry people to eventually be free with extreme resentment against the system that allowed them to be so abused, just carry on in the same old way.

What do you think?

Theresa's Secret

Theresa May is enjoying steadfast popularity among all sources of main stream media, and even the Tory Party rank and file. But the affection of her colleagues is not enough for Theresa and there is there is still one more heart she wishes she could win. If anyone finds out it's Jeremy Corbyn's, she'll be ruined!



The Tory Genocide Against Labour Voters

<http://stematthewmurray.blogspot.co.uk/2017/02/the-tory-genocide-against-labour-voters.html>

By Ste Matthew Murray

A damning report warns cuts to health and social care budgets were “possibly” to blame for the “unprecedented” 30,000 extra deaths in England and Wales and they are all in strong Labour held areas.

The Tories are accused of wilfully ignoring the devastating social care crisis that is gripping Britain with catastrophic effects.

A major study by academics warns cuts to health and social care budgets were “possibly” to blame for the “unprecedented” 30,000 extra deaths in England and Wales.

The 2015 figures mark the largest increase in “excess deaths” for almost 50 years.

The total was largely made up of OAPs, who rely most on health and social care, the report finds.

It is the first time a direct link has been drawn between cuts and a surge in deaths - and the rise could continue without “urgent intervention”, experts fear.

Missed NHS targets including ambulance call-out times and A&E delays were among factors, according to the study published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Experts write: “The long-term decline in mortality in England and Wales has reversed, with approximately 30,000 extra deaths compared to what would be expected if the average age-specific death rates in 2006 to 2014.”

Saving Syria's Children The Worst Case Of Fake News?

<https://off-guardian.org/2017/02/19/saving-syrias-children-the-worst-case-of-fake-news/>

We've talked about this topic many times on OffG, but at a time when “fake-news” is a hashtag, it's worth returning to this most egregious and worrying example of - at best - sloppy reporting, or - at worst - wholesale deception.

What happened at the Urm al-Kubra school on August 26 2013? Was it a chemical attack, a napalm attack or some sort of drill/rehearsal that was passed off as a real event? If the latter then where did the deception originate? Were the BBC Panorama crew, present at the Atareb hospital to film the aftermath of the alleged atrocity heroes, dupes or wilful advocates for a lie? Was the fact their program aired on the eve of a crucial vote in parliament that might have sent the UK to war against Assad merely a coincidence or a deliberate and calculated act of propaganda to push public opinion to support a very dangerous escalation in the region?

In this program Mike Robinson, Patrick Henningsen and campaigner Robert Stuart take a look at what is quite possibly the worst example of mainstream media fake news in history .

Tories Stall On 'Yellow Card' Scheme For Benefit Sanctions – Because It Exposes Their Homicidal Activities

<http://voxpolygonline.com/2017/02/19/tories-stall-on-yellow-card-scheme-for-benefit-sanctions-because-it-exposes-their-homicidal-activities/>

19 Feb 2017

By Mike Sivier

Select Committee chairman Frank Field said vulnerable people are ‘wrongly having their income snatched away’

This Writer agrees with social security campaigner Samuel Miller - the government won't introduce a system that could curb benefit sanctions because they are doing precisely what the Tories want.

Mr Miller writes: “From the DWP's perspective, the benefit sanctions regime and the recent introduction of the reduced benefit cap are helping to drive record employment, forcing claimants to accept any work - including zero-hour contracts and low wages.

“About 1.5 million people leave the welfare system each year, and there is fear that many of them may be facing destitution and having to depend on food banks for their survival.

“But multitudes of people dropping off the welfare rolls actually saves the government staggering sums of money in benefits provision.”

It should also be mentioned that the reasons for removing many people's benefits are completely false. The Scottish trial proved this when nearly 500 people were able to get their benefits back by demonstrating that they did not deserve to lose them in the first place.

But the Tories don't want that to happen. Most of their social security policy over the last nearly-seven years has been about inflicting destitution on the poor in unreasonable ways, being defeated by logic when people fight these policies, and finding new ways of inflicting destitution on the poor as a result, under a cover story of trying to balance the nation's books.

If people are forced to visit food banks, or to leave their home, or to die, as a result... well, that's of no interest to a Tory.

It's true: Your Tory government is cutting the national deficit - one citizen at a time. What are you going to do when the Tories decide to cut you?

Best of

Right-wing press INVENTED Frankfurt refugee sex attacks

<http://evolvepolitics.com/press-invented-frankfurt-refugee-sex-attacks/>

By Patrick George

German police are now investigating two individuals accused of faking stories about refugees committing sexual assaults in Frankfurt. The reported “sex mob” of “Arab men” that attacked a market in Frankfurt turns out to be entirely false.

In a now deleted article, German tabloid Bild claimed that a “mob” of “50 Arab men” and “masses” of migrants had formed a “sex mob” and attacked woman all over Frankfurt. They included a quote from an unnamed 27 year old woman describing her assault. This woman is also now being investigated. The other witness, a local restaurant owner, claimed he wished to go to the press because he disliked local politicians claiming it was a successful night. He provided most of the details on the size of the crowd. Bild have now issued an apology and a retraction.

The story was then reported on as fact by a number of right wing “news” websites including Breitbart. Breitbart went further however, attacking the Frankfurt police for claiming that “the night went off without a hitch.” They went on to claim that hundreds of migrants had travelled to the city to attend celebrations, offering estimates between 900 and 1900.

In a now deleted article the Daily Express also republished the story. They have since edited the story, publishing a correction and that there has been a retraction but refusing to retract the original allegations.

Police have now reported that they believe the allegations to be “completely baseless.” One of the alleged victims was not in the city at the time and interviews with witnesses failed to hold up to scrutiny. In a statement they said “Masses of refugees were not responsible for any sexual assaults in the Fressgass over New Year. The accusations are completely baseless.”

Only a single sexual assault was reported in Frankfurt on the night and the assailant was not a refugee. No immigrants have been accused or convicted on New Years Eve.

One of the more worrying details was an allegation that the assailants lived at a refugee shelter in the centre of the city. This accusation was also untrue but created a specific target for people to blame for the falsified events.

Edward Conteh: Deported for a murder he didn't even witness

<http://thejusticegap.com/2017/02/controversial-law-led-young-man-deported-murder-didnt-even-witness/>

On Friday, Edward Conteh was put on a plane at Gatwick and flown to Belgium, deported as a convicted killer.

But Conteh maintains he is innocent, that he did not kill 16-year-old Nicholas Pearton in 2011. The courts agree - it was never suggested Conteh played any active role in the crime, but yet he was convicted of manslaughter, imprisoned for years and, now, deported.

‘It doesn't seem right for them to send me away for something I didn't do,’ said Conteh, whose case has been followed by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (TBIJ) for the last three years.

Trapped by the system

Sixteen years old at the time, Conteh was convicted using a controversial law called joint enterprise, which allows prosecutors to scoop up groups of suspects and prosecute them for the same crime.

The doctrine has been described as a ‘drift net’ and critics warn it can lead to those on the periphery of a crime being unduly punished by association.

In February last year the UK Supreme Court ruled that the law had been ‘wrongly interpreted’ for more than 30 years, in a landmark judgment that gave hope that some convictions could be appealed.

Conteh's lawyer Raja Rajeswaran Uruthiravinayagan said that following the ruling, ‘there is a very good basis to say that our client may have been a victim of substantial injustice.’

His case is being considered by the Criminal Case Review Commission, the first step towards getting his conviction appealed. But for Conteh that might be too late.

His family, who are originally from Sierra Leone but live in London, have Belgian passports, so he was categorised as a foreign national prisoner.

That meant that once he had served his prison sentence he was moved straight to immigration detention. He was detained there for a year, let out on bail only to be picked up again. He spent a total of 17 months in immigration detention, until he was deported.

Trump to Pull Out of the UN, Expel It from the US?

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/01/trump-to-pull-out-of-the-un-expel-it-from-the-us/>

By Baher Kamal

ROME, Jan 24 2017 (IPS) - So far, Donald Trump's first decisions as president of the United States have left no doubt that he intends to implement his electoral threats, while most likely not fulfilling the promises he made as a candidate.

Barely 48 hours after his inauguration as the 45th president of the United States, a shocking report was circulated saying that “A bill was introduced early January that calls for the removal of the United States from the United Nations.

According to the Congress website,

H.R. 193 – known as the American Sovereignty Restoration Act – was introduced to the House on January 3 and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

While its official title says it seeks to end membership in the U.N., there are several other key components of the bill which include: ending the 1947 agree-

ment that the U.N. headquarters will be housed in the U.S., ending peacekeeping operations, removing diplomatic immunity, and ending participation in the World Health Organization.

Should the bill pass, the Act and its amendments will go into effect two years after it has been signed.”

Nothing Wrong With Clive



I met young Clive Lewis this summer when he was raising money for the Party by speaking in various places round the country, writes Ian Charles.

My buddy Charlie Abrahams, serious journalist and a very good speechwriter, persuaded me that we ought to try to meet up with other members as much as possible less the Party die of neglect while NEC closed down everything except campaigning meetings, so we toddled off to a WMC in Woodhouse to hear Clive, eat food prepared by some food rescuers, and talk about Labour. The food was delicious.

Charlie and I managed to speak with Clive before the main event (him) and ask advice about a friend who'd been kicked out of Labour for reposting an idea from the Greens, whom I think would do very well to get inside our party rather than flapping about outside of it.

Clive's view seems to be that we need to be less arrogant (OK touché) and recognise that there is wisdom elsewhere too. I said to him that unless we had a decent voting system then co-operation would never work, and with proportional representation we'd end up in coalitions where the Centre, and by this I mean the Liberal Democratic Party (surely a triple misnomer that one) would sit permanently choosing who to help become the Government!

Mu point is that there can be Totalitarianism of the Centre, and then whoever you were to vote for, the Government would get in! Clive doesn't agree with me, he's far more idealistic and possibly more reasonable. I think he sees the good in people, and he's clearly no cynic. That's the first reason I don't think he's after Corbyn's job.

We chatted with him about the bally-hoo-har in the Shadow Cabinet, where people resigned as a kind of drip-drip-drip to undermine Labour. Would they all be back?

Clive thought that they would, and that he'd be returned to the back benches; he told me who he knew had been 'sniffing around' wanting jobs back, and confessed to being both resigned and looking forward to learning how to be a constituency MP. He seemed to be telling us he'd had his education interrupted by Shadow Cabinet work, even though it had been a marvellous experience. That's my second reason for believing he's not after Jeremy's job.

Thirdly, his speech to us was very philosophical, almost theoretical. It was lovely, but it wasn't a hustings or a statement of political position. It didn't sound like a guy who wants to lead a party. And that's my third reason for disbelieving the Fake News coming out of, for example, the BBC, the Sunday Murdoch, or the Daily Fail about a coup surrounding either Clive or Tom Watson.

I'm sorry for old Tom; I'm sure he was good at coups when he was dealing with a man who had no groundswell of National or Party support such as T*ny Bl**r (are we allowed to use his name yet Iain, or is it still a swear?)

But Corbyn is a different phenomenon. He has support from an area that none of them can touch, and he listens. Clive listens too. The people he wants to listen to at the moment are his constituents; he wants to be a small-town MP before he becomes a national figure, and I recognise his sentiments. I can find nothing suspicious or maleficent about this man. Be reassured.

On Monday night MPs voted by 294 votes to 276 to reject a plan for Britain to accept 3,000 unaccompanied Syrian child refugees have ended up in mainland Europe without a parent or guardian.

The amendment had been proposed by Labour's Lord Dubs, who himself arrived in Britain as a child refugee fleeing the Holocaust in the 1930s.

Here are the MPs who voted to turn away the 3,000 refugees who had travelled to Europe:

Adams, Nigel
Afriyie, Adam
Aldous, Peter
Allan, Lucy
Amess, Sir David
Andrew, Stuart
Ansell, Caroline
Argar, Edward
Atkins, Victoria
Bacon, Mr Richard
Baker, Mr Steve
Baldwin, Harriett
Barclay, Stephen
Baron, Mr John
Barwell, Gavin
Bebb, Guto
Bellingham, Sir Henry
Benyon, Richard
Beresford, Sir Paul
Berry, Jake
Berry, James
Bingham, Andrew
Blunt, Crispin
Bone, Mr Peter
Borwick, Victoria
Bottomley, Sir Peter
Bradley, Karen
Brady, Mr Graham
Brazier, Mr Julian
Brine, Steve
Brokenshire, rh James
Bruce, Fiona
Buckland, Robert
Burns, Conor
Burns, rh Sir Simon
Burrows, Mr David
Burt, rh Alistair
Campbell, Mr Gregory
Carmichael, Neil
Carswell, Mr Douglas
Cartlidge, James
Cash, Sir William
Caulfield, Maria
Chalk, Alex
Chishti, Rehman
Chope, Mr Christopher
Churchill, Jo
Clark, rh Greg
Clarke, rh Mr Kenneth
Cleverly, James
Clifton-Brown, Geoffrey
Coffey, Dr Thérèse
Collins, Damian
Colville, Oliver
Costa, Alberto
Crabb, rh Stephen
Davies, Byron
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Mims
Davies, Philip
Dinenage, Caroline
Djanogly, Mr Jonathan
Donelan, Michelle
Double, Steve
Dowden, Oliver
Doyle-Price, Jackie
Drax, Richard
Drummond, Mrs Flick
Duddridge, James



Duncan Smith, rh Mr Iain
Dunne, Mr Philip
Elliott, Tom
Ellis, Michael
Ellison, Jane
Ellwood, Mr Tobias
Elphicke, Charlie
Eustice, George
Evans, Graham
Evans, Mr Nigel
Evennett, rh Mr David
Fabricant, Michael
Fallon, rh Michael
Fernandes, Suella
Field, rh Mark
Foster, Kevin
Fox, rh Dr Liam
Frazer, Lucy
Freeman, George
Freer, Mike
Gale, Sir Roger
Garnier, rh Sir Edward
Garnier, Mark
Gauke, Mr David
Ghani, Nusrat
Gibb, Mr Nick
Gillan, rh Mrs Cheryl
Glen, John
Goodwill, Mr Robert
Gove, rh Michael
Graham, Richard
Grant, Mrs Helen
Grayling, rh Chris
Green, Chris
Green, rh Damian
Grieve, rh Mr Dominic
Griffiths, Andrew
Gummer, Ben
Gyimah, Mr Sam
Halfon, rh Robert
Hall, Luke
Hammond, Stephen
Hancock, rh Matthew
Hands, rh Greg
Harper, rh Mr Mark

Harrington, Richard
Harris, Rebecca
Hart, Simon
Haselhurst, rh Sir Alan
Heald, Sir Oliver
Heapey, James
Heaton-Harris, Chris
Heaton-Jones, Peter
Henderson, Gordon
Herbert, rh Nick
Hinds, Damian
Hollobone, Mr Philip
Holloway, Mr Adam
Hopkins, Kris
Howarth, Sir Gerald
Howell, John
Howlett, Ben
Huddleston, Nigel
Hunt, rh Mr Jeremy
Hurd, Mr Nick
Jackson, Mr Stewart
Javid, rh Sajid
Jayawardena, Mr Ranil
Jenkin, Mr Bernard
Jenkyns, Andrea
Jenrick, Robert
Johnson, Boris
Johnson, Gareth
Johnson, Joseph
Jones, Andrew
Jones, rh Mr David
Jones, Mr Marcus
Kawczynski, Daniel
Kennedy, Seema
Kinahan, Danny
Kirby, Simon
Knight, rh Sir Greg
Knight, Julian
Kwarteng, Kwasi
Lancaster, Mark
Latham, Pauline
Leadsom, Andrea
Lee, Dr Phillip
Lefroy, Jeremy
Leigh, Sir Edward



REFUGEES VOTED TO TURN AWAY

Leslie, Charlotte
Letwin, rh Mr Oliver
Lewis, Brandon
Lewis, rh Dr Julian
Liddell-Grainger, Mr Ian
Lidington, rh Mr David
Lilley, rh Mr Peter
Lopresti, Jack
Lord, Jonathan
Loughton, Tim
Lumley, Karen
Mackinlay, Craig
Mackintosh, David
Main, Mrs Anne
Mak, Mr Alan
Malthouse, Kit
Mann, Scott
May, rh Mrs Theresa
Maynard, Paul
McCartney, Karl
McLoughlin, rh Mr Patrick
McPartland, Stephen
Menzies, Mark
Merriman, Huw
Metcalf, Stephen
Miller, rh Mrs Maria
Milling, Amanda
Mills, Nigel
Milton, rh Anne
Mordaunt, Penny
Morgan, rh Nicky
Morris, Anne Marie
Morris, David
Morris, James
Morton, Wendy
Mowat, David
Murray, Mrs Sheryll
Murrison, Dr Andrew
Newton, Sarah
Nokes, Caroline
Norman, Jesse
Nuttall, Mr David
Offord, Dr Matthew
Opperman, Guy
Parish, Neil

Patel, rh Priti
Paterson, rh Mr Owen
Pawsey, Mark
Penning, rh Mike
Penrose, John
Percy, Andrew
Perry, Claire
Philp, Chris
Pickles, rh Sir Eric
Pincher, Christopher
Poulter, Dr Daniel
Pow, Rebecca
Prentis, Victoria
Prisk, Mr Mark
Pritchard, Mark
Pursglove, Tom
Quin, Jeremy
Raab, Mr Dominic
Redwood, rh John
Rees-Mogg, Mr Jacob
Robertson, Mr Laurence
Robinson, Mary
Rosindell, Andrew
Rudd, rh Amber
Rutley, David
Sandbach, Antoinette
Scully, Paul
Selous, Andrew
Shannon, Jim
Shapps, rh Grant
Sharma, Alok
Shelbrooke, Alec
Simpson, rh Mr Keith
Skidmore, Chris
Smith, Chloe
Smith, Henry
Smith, Julian
Smith, Royston
Soames, rh Sir Nicholas
Solloway, Amanda
Soubry, rh Anna
Spelman, rh Mrs Caroline
Spencer, Mark
Stephenson, Andrew
Stevenson, John

Stewart, Bob
Stewart, Iain
Stewart, Rory
Streeter, Mr Gary
Stride, Mel
Stuart, Graham
Sturdy, Julian
Sunak, Rishi
Swayne, rh Mr Desmond
Swire, rh Mr Hugo
Syms, Mr Robert
Thomas, Derek
Throup, Maggie
Timpson, Edward
Tolhurst, Kelly
Tomlinson, Justin
Tomlinson, Michael
Tracey, Craig
Tredinnick, David
Trevelyan, Mrs Anne-Marie
Truss, rh Elizabeth
Tugendhat, Tom
Turner, Mr Andrew
Tyrie, rh Mr Andrew
Vaizey, Mr Edward
Vara, Mr Shailesh
Vickers, Martin
Villiers, rh Mrs Theresa
Walker, Mr Charles
Walker, Mr Robin
Warman, Matt
Watkinson, Dame Angela
Whately, Helen
Wheeler, Heather
White, Chris
Whittaker, Craig
Whittingdale, rh Mr John
Wiggin, Bill
Williams, Craig
Williamson, rh Gavin
Wilson, Mr Rob
Wollaston, Dr Sarah
Wood, Mike
Wragg, William
Wright, rh Jeremy

Corbyn and McDonnell interview part 2



One of the problems that we know is there are a lot of Labour members of Parliament that would be difficult to bring with you when you are Prime Minister. How would you go about getting them onside?

JEREMY: my relations with my fellow MPs are absolutely fine. "We have interesting conversations" but it is also about the direction in which our party is going to go. We have to be the party of an economic alternative and that is what I am putting forward. The disagreements are highly publicised, the areas of agreement are not. On the NHS there has been no disagreements whatever. On the article 50 vote there has been no disputes whatsoever. John's economic strategy is very widely supported.

A lot of people are finding that they are working full time and can't even manage to keep themselves. What is the first thing you could do as Prime Minister to help?

JEREMY: Well one is the wages, the second is the housing costs, because our housing costs are, for whatever form of housing except council housing, are amongst the highest in Europe. So it is about building more places. It is also about regulating the private rented sector. This reduces housing costs. You are quite correct that a lot of people that are in work are also poor. Poverty is unnecessary.

JOHN: Ten pounds an hour living wage, straight away, 2020. In addition to this restoration of trade union rights, restoration of pectoral collective bargaining and as a consequence of this people will achieve a better wage.

Two further questions, and this is what people have got together to ask in the groups...

JEREMY: I try this on Theresa May every week.

Your thoughts on Donald Trump, could you work with Donald Trump?

JEREMY: We have made it very clear that we don't agree with Donald Trump on the Geneva Convention, on torture, on his treatment of Mexico and Mexican people or his attacks on women we have made it very clear. I also think it wrong that he be given a state visit as a reward after only eight days in office. Would we have to work with the elected President, yes, in every country you have to work with them. It doesn't mean you agree with them, you have to make a case, and so every President and Prime Minister I meet, and I meet quite a lot of them, you have to raise human rights issues with and concerns about human rights in their country, you have to do that. We as a party believe passionately in the cause of human rights. Sometimes the circumstances are very difficult indeed but you have got to do it so you do it.

How do you see the broad left coalition in Europe, do you think we can really build on one?

JEREMY: Yes I do, I was having a long conversation the other night with Antonio Costa, who is the Prime Minister of Portugal, they are a left government doing very well and I have spent a lot of time over the last eighteen months, two years, building a relationship so we can defend workers' rights. Look, it's not going to benefit anybody if a Tory Government in Britain ends up with a low wage economy with deregulation of working conditions, safety standards, that actually becomes a threat to people's working conditions in Europe and the United States. Driving up standards, as Len McCluskey has said, as Bernie Sanders has said, then improves the conditions and living standards of workers everywhere. So trading agreements that actually requires worker's rights in the countries you are buying from actually helps us all.

#2 SHOCKING BLUE

Bands you thought you'd forgotten, or never knew, or perhaps you weren't even there at the time.

By Ian Charles, who was there and forgets nothing...

It was late 1969; I was 17 and had just come out of an unsatisfactory, innocent relationship with a schoolgirl named Theresa - no relation to Mrs 'May / May Not.' If I'd given her a nickname it might have been 'Definitely Wouldn't™' but this was ok because I had been for a while doubly infatuated with two of my fellow 'Saturday Staff™' at C&A outfitters, where I earned £1 for the whole day.

One of my fancies was a cashier who resembled Julie Driscoll, the other a thirty-something mum who was also coming out of a disastrous relationship, and had plainly taken to me, bringing me books left by her husband at the family home he'd deserted, and because she thought I'd like them.

I was in a triangle of 'lurve,' and could do absolutely nothing about it. I knew the cashier found me good fun and a 'potential,' and I knew my older woman was trying very hard to recapture her passing youth, and I was determined not to be that passing youth.

Mariska Veres, or as I knew her, 'Venus,' was my salvation at this time, and I was pleased to give her my heart. I saw her on the tel-



ly; when her band Shocking Blue performed an upbeat song about a 'goddess on a mountain top' which Mariska mispronounced as a 'godness' at the beginning of the track. There was a lovely riff, a suspended 4th chord, a guitar break that began really excitingly but went nowhere, and a hook line "Well: I'm your Venus, I'm your fire, 'tyour desire!" sung over and over again, complete each time with the "Well:" and the "'tyour desire!" I was hooked.

Whether it was the face, rather

like the cashier's, or the long black hair, like the divorcee's, the quite enticing mispronunciations, or the little squeak she gave when she sang "'tyour" I cannot say, but I suddenly saw everything a goddess, sorry, goddess should be, and this lasted me right into 1970 when I had one catastrophic date with Sheila from Tesco, ruined by my obsession with the guitar player of a band we saw playing an early evening set at the legendary Fforde Grene and his even then vintage

Gibson SG. I was completely sure, I told Sheila, that I could play it far better than him. It was clear that I was bored of the date and that she was bored of my obsession with the guitar.

I discovered later that Mariska wore a long black 'Elvira' wig, and as she got a little older she began to look less like the cashier or the divorcee, and more like Theresa 'Definitely Wouldn't,' but by then I was blissfully involved with a girl who looked more like Jacqui

McShee or Melanie Safka, best bits of each, but with a gentler voice more suited to serenading babies or young children, and whom I married as soon as I could in 1974 and with whom I'm still besotted.

'Venus' has been covered by others, notably Bananamara, which I can spell but just don't know when to stop, in 1986. Shocking Blue played many, many other good songs, which I think are not famous at all, but this track is the one I like best.

Blue and Lonesome

"All we wanted to be was the best R&B band in London (or was it Dartford?)" misquotes Ian Charles, who honestly doesn't want to piddle on Mick and Keef's bonfire.

I could dig out my collection of Little Walter, Magic Sam, Howlin' Wolf, and Jimmy Reed, but to hear the Rolling Stones emulating them is entertaining if not exactly ground breaking. Indeed, this album challenges my conviction that since the demise of Brian Jones and the departure of Mick Taylor, it has been impossible to have more than two really good tracks on any one of the band's albums. For here there are twelve, just that none of them are Jagger-Richards songs.

But listening to this first Studio Album from the Stones since Angus Young was in short pants makes me realise just how good Cream, with Jack Bruce, Eric Clapton and Ginger Baker, really were. This material comes from the songbook they used, two tracks here even have Old Slowhand on them, yet something vital is missing.

What Cream did was to take



blues standards, at the time largely unknown here and on the other side of the Great Pond, and slow them right down, let the bass come forward, make the kit play all the notes between the notes while Jack wailed and moaned, and Eric answered all that hollerin' with licks and fills of his own. I think of Spoonful (Chester Burnett) and Sittin' On Top of the World (Walter Vinson/Lonnie Chatmon arr. Burnett.) I think of Crossroads and Born Under a Bad Sign, of Skip James' I'm So Glad, of Four Until Late and Rollin' and Tumblin'. These tracks might have been Cream's very own, except that the

cool kids knew they weren't, and of course the cool kids told me, thus I was introduced to the work of Albert King, Muddy Waters and (here we whisper) Robert Johnson.

Yet the Rolling Stones were enormously popular among my peer group, and the band I played in could only manage to execute anything if it had previously been performed by them, John Lennon or Hendrix. When I use the word execute you'll know what I mean.

The trouble with this 'new' album is that the bass doesn't lead. The other trouble is that the guitars do that Stones thing which Keef Richards calls 'the Art of Weaving'



and I call two rhythm guitars. It's inappropriate here; perhaps it always was. When Brian Jones knew his days were numbered he used to scour the music press weekly to see if the rest of the band had supplanted him with Eric Clapton yet. Instead they replaced him with another Bluesbreakers talent named Mick Taylor on Lead Guitar.

On this album, two tracks work really well, 'Everybody Knows about My Good Thing' and Willie Dixon's seminal 'I Can't Quit You Baby' which I truly believe it isn't possible to play badly. On each of these, Mr Clapton is playing, and I do believe they've let the bass have

a bit more prominence. Not since Metallica deliberately hid Jason Newstead's bass behind Lars Ulrich's heavy kick drum has a bass player been so badly done to. Darryl Jones has been with the band for around two decades yet the rest (which might mean just Mick Jagger) won't actually let him be a real Rolling Stone. There's probably a reason for that; if so, kick him out and get someone who will play it loud.

The Stones say they have wanted to make this album since the 1960s; it's great, admittedly, but that's when they should have made it, and before Cream.

99

RED BALLOONS NENA

Original German version

*Do you have some time for me
Then I'll sing a song for you
About 99 balloons
On their way to the horizon
Are you perhaps thinking of me?
Then I'll sing a song for you
About 99 balloons
And that something (like the war)
comes from such a thing (the balloons)*

99 balloons

*On their way to the horizon
They thought they were UFOs from space
So a general sent
A flying squad out there
To raise the alarm if it was true
Yet there on the horizon were
Only 99 balloons*

99 jet planes

*Each one was a great warrior
Thought that they were Captain Kirk
There were great fireworks
The neighbors didn't understand anything
And felt equally provoked
Yet there they shot on the horizon
At 99 balloons*

99 war ministers

*Matches and petrol cans
Thought that they were clever people
Already caught wind of great spoils [of war]
Shouted: War, and wanted power
Man, who would have thought
That one day it would come to this
Because of 99 balloons*

99 years of war

*Don't leave a place for victors
There are no ministers of war any more
And No jet planes either
Today I'm doing my rounds
Seeing the world lying in ruins
Found a balloon
Think of you and let it fly*

English version

*You and I in a little toy shop
buy a bag of balloons with
the money we've got
Set them free at the break of dawn
'Til one by one, they were gone
Back at base, bugs in the software
Flash the message, "Something's out there"
Floating in the summer sky
99 red balloons go by.*

99 red balloons

*floating in the summer sky
Panic bells, it's red alert
There's something here from somewhere red
The war machine springs to life
Opens up one eager eye
Focusing it on the sky
Where 99 red balloons go by.*

99 Knights of the air

*ride super-high-tech jet fighters
Everyone's a Superhero
Everyone's a Captain Kirk
With orders to identify
To clarify and classify
Scramble in the summer sky
As 99 red balloons go by.*

99 Decision Street

*99 ministers meet
To worry, worry, super-scurry
Call the troops out in a hurry
This is what we've waited for
This is it boys, this is war
The president is on the line
As 99 red balloons go by.*

99 dreams I have had

*In every one a red balloon
It's all over and I'm standin' pretty
In this dust that was a city
If I could find a souvenir
Just to prove the world was here...
And here is a red balloon
I think of you and let it go.*

Gabriele Susanne Kerner (Nena) was born on 24 March 1960 in Hagen, North Rhine-Westphalia, West Germany while her family lived in the nearby town of Breckerfeld. She spent the earliest part of her childhood in Breckerfeld and later lived in Hagen. She acquired her nickname, based on the Spanish word "niña", or "little girl", at the age of three, while on a vacation to Spain with her parents. In 1977 she left high school before graduation, and in the three following years she was trained as a goldsmith.

An end of the world song written at the height of the cold war. While at a June 1982 concert by the Rolling Stones in West Berlin, Nena's guitarist Carlo Karges noticed that balloons

were being released. As he watched them move toward the horizon, he noticed them shifting and changing shapes, where they looked like strange spacecraft (referred to in the German lyrics as a "UFO"). He thought about what might happen if they floated over the Berlin Wall to the Soviet sector.

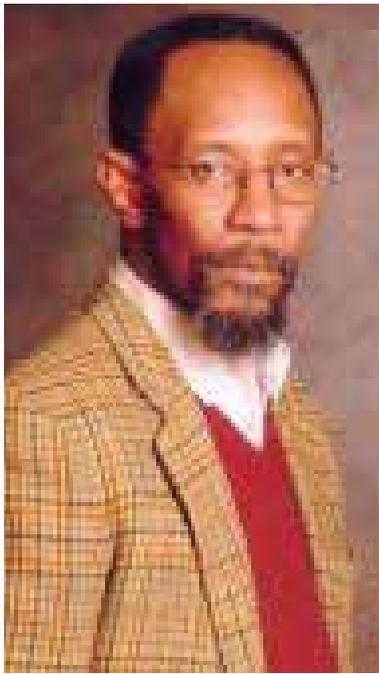
The lyrics of the original German version tell a story: 99 balloons are mistaken for UFOs, causing a general to send pilots to investigate. Finding nothing but child's balloons, the pilots decide to put on a show and shoot them down. The display of force worries the nations along the borders and the war ministers on each side bang the drums of conflict to grab power for

themselves. In the end, a 99-year war results from the otherwise harmless flight of balloons, causing devastation on all sides without a victor. At the end, the singer walks through the devastated ruins and lets loose a balloon, watching it fly away.

The English version retains the spirit of the original narrative, but many of the lyrics are translated poetically rather than directly translated: red helium balloons are casually released by an anonymous civilian into the sky and are registered as missiles by a faulty early warning system; the balloons are mistaken for military aircraft which results in panic and eventually nuclear war.



What is Dub poetry?



By Linton Kwesi Johnson

Dub is a type of predominantly performance poetry which first emerged in Jamaica and England during the early 1970s - so could still be considered in its infancy as a form.

Influenced by the rhythms of reggae music, (the rhythm is everything!) the term was initially applied to the improvised 'rapping' of the Jamaican disc-jockeys known as 'toasters', who sang or recited their own words over the dub versions of reggae records (i.e. the purely instrumental re-mixed versions on the B-sides); however it has come to be adopted as a collective label for a tradition of popular performance poetry in the Jamaican (and black British) vernacular or 'Patwah'.

Early proponents of Dub were Mutabaruka and Oku Onuora in Jamaica and Linton Kwesi Johnson in England. Although Benjamin Zephaniah is probably the most widely watched and read Dub poet.

Dub poetry includes lyrics and narrative poems on a variety of subjects but is grounded in politics and social justice. It also celebrates sex, drugs (ganja) and music and Rastafarian religious themes.

Primarily an oral poetry for public performance, it has increasingly appeared in print, notably in Johnson's *Dread Beat and Blood* (1975) and Benjamin Zephaniah's *The Dread Affair* (1985). Other leading dub poets include Michael Smith, Jean Binta Breeze, and Levi Tafari.

WELCOME TO 4 PAGES OF LITERATURE AND ART... ART IS THE WORD!

These pages are edited by WILD WORDS - a North West based art collective who are working together to develop support for local writers, musicians and visual artists.

WILD WORDS are currently involved in a range of activities including informal drop-in sessions for writers, formal workshop days and writing retreats. They are based in and around Bury in

Greater Manchester.

As the founders of WILD WORDS Chris Bainbridge and Eve Nortley are both writers and performance poets -this first offering reflects their "special" area of interest. We hope you enjoy your trip into the wild and wonderful world of poetry...and maybe feel inspired to put pen to paper. Writing is after all good for your health - its official!

In each edition of The Word we will be focusing on a literary giant from the world of poetry and getting us off to a stupendous start today is a feature article on living legend Birmingham boy Benjamin Zephaniah!

Over the coming weeks we will be featuring the poetry of Maya Angelou, Robert Burns, Irom Sharmila, Edgar Alan Poe

and birthday boy Alfred Lord Tennyson. We will be aiming to offer you the beauty of their words and a modern homage to their style and influences.

If you would like to contribute to future editions please send copy to Chris and Eve at..... (please fill in details) original writing, reviews and your thoughts on the pages are all very welcome.

Q : How easy is it to get started with poetry?

A: Very!

There are lots of writes but no wrongs in poetry.....

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You will find that poets and lovers of poetry are real people, living real lives.....and are more

WRITE OUT LOUD

likely to be seen sitting drinking cups of tea in plastic chairs in jeans than lying on velvet chaise longue wearing velvet smoking jackets in opium dens!

Robert Burns wrote his first poetry whilst ploughing fields.

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Keep your eyes peeled in your local libraries for posters of free

events close to you - many libraries offer readings by local writers or host local writing groups.

You Tube is a veritable cornucopia of poetry.....check out Benjamin Zephaniah's £Money£....truly inspiring and heartfelt!

Money

By Benjamin Zephaniah

Money make a rich man feel like a big man
 It make a poor man feel like a hooligan
 A one parent family feels like a ruffian
 An those who have it won't give you anything
 Money makes your friend become your enemy
 You start to see things very superficially
 Your life is lived very artificially
 Unlike those who live in poverty
 Money affects your ego
 But money brings you down
 Money causes problems anywhere money is found
 Food is what we need
 Food is necessary
 Let me grow my food
 An dem can eat dem money
 Money can save us
 But yet we feel doomed
 Plenty money burns in a nuclear mushroom
 Money can make you happy
 Money can help you when you die
 An those who have it continually live a lie
 Children are dying
 Spies are spying
 Refugees are fleeing
 Politicians are lying
 An deals are done
 An webs are spun
 An no one keeps the third world on the run
 An the brother feels better than the brothers next door
 Cause his brothers got money an his brothers got more
 The brother thinks a brother's not a brother cause he's poor
 When a brother kills another that is economic war
 Economic war we call it economic war
 It may not be the east and west anymore
 But the north and south third world far lord
 Coffee an isle
 That's what it's about
 Economic war
 Economic war
 Shots fired from the stock market floor
 So we work for a livin'
 An we try an we try
 With so little time for chillin'
 Like we're livin a lie
 Money makes a dream become reality
 Money makes real life like a fantasy
 Money has a habit of going to the head
 I have some for the rainy day underneath me bed
 Money problems make it hard to relax
 Money makes it difficult to get down to the facts
 Money makes you worship vanity and lies
 Money is a drug with legal highs
 The parents of poor kids
 Some are not coping
 Some are just managing
 Books that need balancin'
 Property is theft
 No money means death
 You pay for your rent
 An then nothing left
 Some will pick your pocket
 Some will pay to stop it
 Those who will pay to stop it
 They happy cause they got it
 Some go out an fight for it
 Some claim they got the right to it
 An people like my grandparents
 Live long but never side it
 Money made me go out an rob
 Then it made me go looking for a job
 Money made the nurse
 And the doctor emigrate
 Money buys friends you love to hate
 Money made slavery seem alright
 Money brought the Bible
 An the Bible shone the light
 Victory to the penniless
 The gospel shows us
 We come to mash those market forces
 The paper giant called market forces

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH



Born Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah on the 15th April 1958, Zephaniah was born and raised in Handsworth, Birmingham, England and is the son of a Barbadian postman and Jamaican nurse.

He describes himself as poet, writer, lyricist, musician, Aston Villa fan and naughty boy - presumably now a 58 yr old naughty boy!

The combination of an unsettled home life and therefore disrupted schooling, together with his profound dyslexia, resulted in the production of an illiterate and rebellious teenager with a dislike for learning and school. The family moved frequently and the longest time Zephaniah spent in any one school was 18 months - and that was a residential approved school.

He was expelled from one school aged 13 for possession of pornography (another boy had passed him a copy of playboy under the desk) and the following school for graffiti when he spray painted one of his poems about how boring school was, across

the wall of a school building and initialled it.

Zephaniah began creating poetry at an early age and staged his first public performance in church aged 10. By the time he was 15 he had a strong following on the streets of Handsworth and a reputation for speaking out on local and international issues.

However Handsworth proved too small to hold him and he moved to London aged 22, where his first book *Pen Rhythm* was published by a local publishing co-operative. The book sold well going into 3 editions.

However it was in performance that his work really shone - with the reggae dub poet attracting the interest of mainstream publishers who had previously rejected his work.

In the social maelstrom of the 1980's, when Punks, Rastas and the National Front were all making their presence felt on the streets of Britain, Zephaniah's work was heard everywhere - from demonstrations to dance floors!

He was said to be Britain's most filmed, photographed and identifiable poet - thanks in no small part to his TV appearances alongside stars such as Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders, his musical collaboration with The Wailers and associations with such political luminaries as Nelson Mandela.

He has to his credits an impressive selection of books including poetry for adults and children, novels and music albums. He has 16 honorary doctorates to his name, a hospital wing named after him, and is patron of a huge amount of animal rights organisations. He is a vocal vegan.

He has and continues to be an active campaigner against a wide range of social injustices and is a supporter of the foundation of a British Republic. He notably refused to accept an OBE in 2003.

His driving passion has been to make poetry accessible to all and help it shed its image of being geeky and boring - in which he has been hugely successful!

FORGOTTEN CLASSICS

By Chris Bainbridge, *Wild Words Collective*, February 2017.

Eddy Grant

Singer, songwriter, musician and music producer Eddy Grant was born in Plaisance, Guyana on 5th March 1948. Eddy's parents moved to live and work in England while he was a child, but Eddy continued at school in Guyana for a while, his family sending back money for his upkeep. In 1960 Eddy moved to London to join his mother and father.

Eddy was a big fan of Rock and Roll pioneer Chuck Berry and after seeing Berry at a concert at the Astoria in Finsbury Park, Eddy decided music would be the life for him. By 1965 Eddy had formed pop group The Equals, a band which was immediately notable as one of the first (and certainly the most prominent) racially-integrated bands on the pop music scene.

The Equals

After some minor album and singles chart success, in 1968 The Equals hit Number One in the UK singles chart with their smash hit record "Baby Come Back", a staple of jukeboxes, playlists, party discos



and exercise classes to this day! The song features the strong vocals and irresistible guitar riffs and simple, repetitive hooks that went on to characterise the band's best subsequent work, and indeed the most successful of Eddy Grant's later output as a solo artiste. A cover version in a more mainstream Reggae style of "Baby Come Back" was released by Pato Banton and the Campbell brothers from UB40 in 1994, which also reached Number One in the UK.

Other chart singles followed - the more pop-orientated, slightly bubble-gum "Viva Bobby-Joe" in 1969; and then the piece of their work which I feel is a true forgotten masterpiece, "Black Skin, Blue-

Eyed Boys", unleashed on an unsuspecting world in 1970.

Black Skin Blue-Eyed Boys

I was one of those fortunate individuals who was musically aware from a very young age, thanks to the influence of an older sibling, in my case my sister Mary, to whom I am eternally grateful for my comprehensive musical education. For example by the age of four I was listening to the newly-released Beatles' first LP. By 1967 I was a fully-paid-up Hippy - although it was not particularly easy to put flowers in your hair on South Tyneside. In 1970, aged 11, I was into all manner of pop music and had established the eclectic tastes I retain to this day.

I remember being very taken with The Equals' record Black Skin Blue-Eyed Boys - it was somehow "heavier" than their previous and very well-known hit "Baby Come Back". I had liked that too - fantastic guitar hook, just six notes repeated over and over, very danceable...but a bit lightweight, in my juvenile opinion of course! What made BSBEB stand out for me were two main factors - the strong political message in the lyrics; and the sheer, insistent power of the melo-

and rhythms.

Lyrically, the overall message of this song is one of racial equality and integration. The title itself is a reference to a future where all people will be one race. The song's compelling chorus is "You see, the black skin, blue-eyed boys, Ain't gonna fight no wars!". Other references include a call to peaceful rebellion - for instance, by being spiritually and intellectually able to rise above school discipline ("...But the teachers beat you, When they see that they can't reach you..."). Pacifism and the ideal of a peaceful future for the world are further emphasised in the outro, repeated ad lib: "Baby, you know that we hate fighting...".



If a song is a poem set to music, then the music is - or can be - as important as the words. To convey the message most effectively a compelling tune will be best, and in the case of BSBEB the music achieves its task admirably. The constantly-repeated five-note lead guitar hook may at first have echoes of the heavy rock idiom which was gaining popularity at the time, but after a short while it becomes more obviously tribal and hypnotic, offering a timeless connection to African roots. The use of fuzz guitar later in the song is just one of the aspects of this piece which places it well ahead of its time. It is perhaps fitting that the next chart records to offer anything similar came years later in Grant's solo work.

In 1971 Eddy suffered a health problem - heart attack and collapsed lung - which may have been a factor in his decision to quit the band and pursue a solo career. He opened a night club and a recording studio, and spent time and energy promoting the SoCa musical genre (Soul Calypso), as well as inventing an entirely new genre (Ringbang) as well as producing albums for other artistes.

In 1979 Eddy returned to the public eye with the hit single "Walking On Sunshine", which certainly has more of SoCa about it than straightforward Reggae. In the same year, the powerful "Living On The Front Line" also scored very well, and was a powerful return to

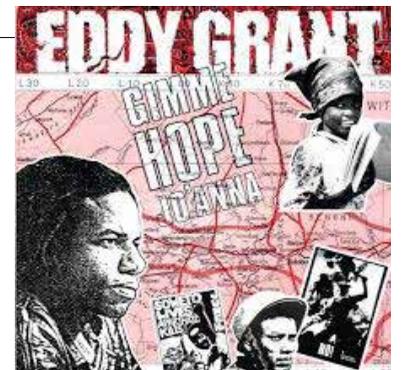
Reggae and Dub idioms. "Do You Feel My Love" peaked at number 8 in the UK charts in 1981, then in 1982 Eddy consolidated his burgeoning reputation with the ironically very danceable Reggae tune "I Don't Wanna Dance", as well as the monumental hit "Electric Avenue", which went platinum and won a Grammy award. In 1982 Eddy moved his base to Barbados and concentrated on his Blue Wave recording studio.

Eddy's last big hit single came in 1988, the overtly political "Gimme Hope, Jo'Anna", which was an obvious swipe at the appalling and murderous South African Apartheid regime, and all those who supported it - for example musicians who took bloodstained gold to play concerts in Sun City -

"She got supporters in high-up places,

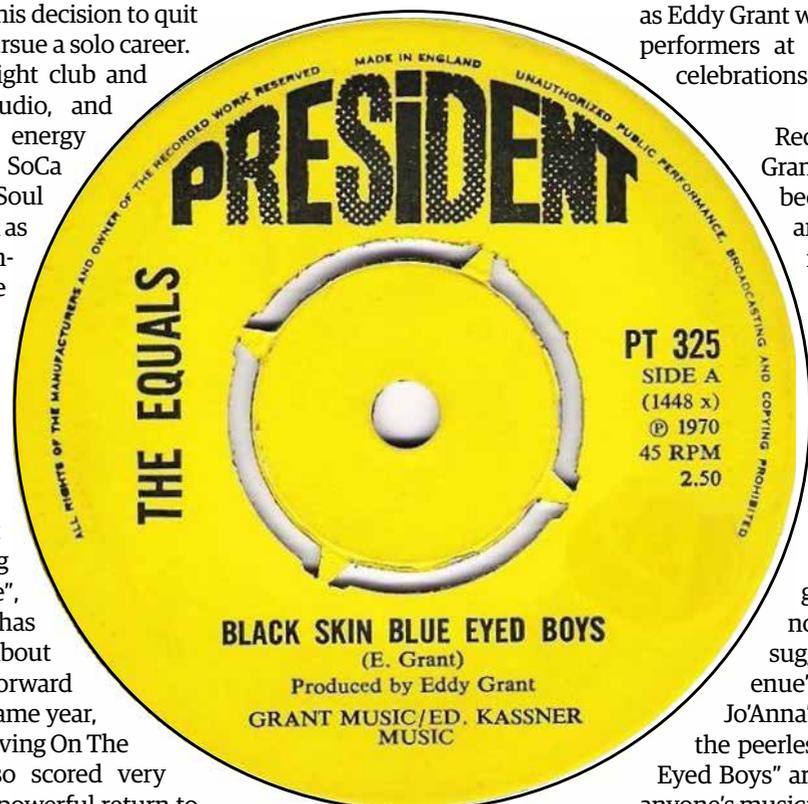
Who turn their heads to the city sun,
Jo'anna give them fancy money
Oh to tempt anyone who'd come"...

The impact of this song was huge - well, apartheid fell short-



ly afterwards, so never underestimate the power of music and words to change the world! Nelson Mandela was suitably impressed, as Eddy Grant was one of the guest performers at his 90th birthday celebrations.

Rediscovering Eddy Grant and his work has been very enjoyable and refreshing for me personally, and I hope it has encouraged you to look into this, I believe, somewhat under-appreciated artist. I hope that you will take a few minutes to look his work up and give it a listen - if nothing else, I would suggest "Electric Avenue", "Gimme Hope Jo'Anna" and of course the peerless "Black Skin Blue Eyed Boys" are essential parts of anyone's musical education.



Poetry

Only Human

*I am only human
I have made mistakes
I have hit brick walls
I have taken a fall*

*I am only human
My beliefs are not fake
I am not on the take
I am not on the make*

*I am only human
I want to see
I want to be free
I want to be me*

*I am only human
I want to run a mile
All the while
Yet also smile*

*I am only human
A complex personality
Dealing with reality
Accompanied by obscurity*

*I am only human
Dealing with conditionality
Residing in duplicity
Loving life's complicity*

*I am alive
I breathe, I smile
I cry, I feel
I touch your heart
I am only human*

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Life Is Like

*Life is like a brick wall
Remove a brick, the wall stands tall
Remove a few and it starts to fall
Remove most, give it your all*

*Life is like a race
The fences are sometimes hard to
trace*

*It's not easy to run with grace
Running it at all can be ace*

*Life is like a trial
Obstacles there all the while
Move a yard to move a mile
Trying hard to do it in style*

*Life is like a stream
It can flow like a dream
Sometimes running out of steam
Not as easy as it first seems*

*Life is like a difficult test
Questions never let you rest
You're always trying your best
Each of us is only a guest*

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January 2017

Choice Feelings

*Adopting the orchestra of life
Moving on hands, body and soul
Enjoying moments as we thrive
We're on a ubiquitous roll*

*We want to be noticed
We need to be seen*

*Pulling strings in every corner
I felt the need to warn her
of my love*

*Time passes us all by
We need to let go
before we die
Speak our minds
and let others find
personal secrets made to share
Yes I love her, I care*

*Moving in the rhythm of the night
My heart beat's just right
Not telling you how I feel
yet feeling oh so real*

*Whom are we hurting
if we continue to conceal
The choice is ours all the while
We have the power to reconcile*

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The Dark Car

*It comes at dead of night when
other vehicles long ago
Have left the scene and one police
van keeps watch,
Its engine running and with lights
ablaze, and curtains
Move and move again as neigh-
bours look then look away.*

*The private man seems to have
gone;*

*Whoever made the phone call sum-
moning the green and yellow car
And paramedic ambulance, has
thus begun a sad and simple
Promenade which leads in one
direction only.*

*And only yesterday it was we'd seen
him*

*Walk a yard or two then stop and
silently
Begin again more slowly - on to
make*

*His final rendezvous, with what is
called
The Private Ambulance.*

*The man whom once I wished a
pleasant day
And who responded with a fearful
look, a quicker step,
Who would not look my way from
that day on in case I tried again,
Has gone without a word, without
a name,
Alone and in the quiet hours.*

*Sleep well, old man, whoever you
have been.*

Ian Charles © 2015

Strumming Away

*Strumming away in false hope
wondering if I am going to cope
In tune with my inner feelings
Yet in despair and reeling*

*Life is what it is; pure reality
Downgraded by relative obscurity
Measured by a laugh and smile
and movement of the mind's dial*

*Worry brings me down with a
flurry
My mood can dip in a hurry
Yet I face up to the truth
via the pretence of being aloof*

*Strumming away until I have the
beat
and can face external heat
I deal with reality all the while
by being one of the rank and file*

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January 2017

Discrimination

*Wannna make me a bean and veg
stew*

ingredients object

What shall I and I do?

*The veg say you are killing us cos we
are green,*

You hate us for our colour

It's obscene!

If we be black

You would leave us untouched

*We really think you don't like us
very much!*

*The beans they were weepers and
Wailers.*

*It's because we're not your sort
them shout out loud,*

We're not peas in your pod

Not in with your crowd!

Now me a Quaker

And me like my oats

I'm very free thinking

do a bit of drinking

Erbal teas

Them the ones for me

But me massacred Mint and

crushed Camomile

All that "blood" shed

So me sleep well with a smile

On my lips

*No animal protein based calories
on me hips!*

*Now I'm a vegan at the end of my
tether....*

*Wondering if being Fruitarian is
better?*

*Should me choose to live on pears
and plums?*

The powers that be

tell me

The apple from The garden

Is silent.

You see

But deadly!

Eve Nortley and Christopher Bain-
bridge Feb. 2017

Straight and Narrow

*On the straight and narrow
Looking for the right furrow
Your love shining through
Relieving me from feeling blue*

*The road is long and wide
I have nothing to hide
Letting my emotion show
our relationship the way to go*

*Looking near and far
to raise love's bar
Enjoying your love's reciprocation
Celebrating with unrestrained
jubilation*

*On the straight and narrow
Love hits my heart like an arrow
You make me happy and content
because you are Heaven sent*

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January 2017

Strutting Stuff

*Poets get together
in stormy weather
Strutting their stuff*

*Giving their voice a hike
in the friendship of the open mic*

*Raising emotion and inflection
in the audience's direction*

*West Jesmond Legion
in the Tyne and Wear region*

*We remember you Mark
With a smile we remember
your smile*

*Poets strutting their stuff
We can't get enough*

*It is good to be appreciated
Great to thrive
and good to be alive
We miss you Mark*

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Love of Life

*Love of life will be see me through
Stability will stop me being blue
Appreciating the chocolate bar of
life
Devouring it without a knife*

*Friendship will keep me grounded
An open mind stop me being
hounded
Staying away from trouble
which could break my living bubble*

*Life is special, life is cool
I won't ignore it like a fool
Nature and circumstance will lead
the way
and get me through each single day*

*Love of life will get me through
So will my respect for you
I will live in the moment
Each instant will be heaven sent*

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The Cold

*Coming in from the cold
Warming our hearts
It's not worth being apart
Life is too short*

*Coming in from the cold
Putting an end to yearning
Lessons taken learning
Life is too short*

*Coming in from the cold
Sharing each other's dreams
Not as easy as it seems
Life is too short*

*Coming in from the cold
with a laugh and a smile
We've missed this for a while
Life is too short*

*Coming in from the cold
Back where we were before
In love, wanting more
Life is life*

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January 2017

"Chris Bainbridge is a Bury-based poet and activist who has been performing regularly on the North West scene since 2012- although he has been writing since his teens back in the 1970s. He has spent most of his working life in health and social care services, most recently with the Stroke Association in Rochdale. A stalwart of demos and benefit gigs, including for CND, he has collaborated with surf-punk band Adventures Of Salvador and has run writing workshop with groups of stroke survivors. Now a grandfather, Chris's vibrant poetry reflects his varied experiences and passion for social and political change."

"Eve Nortley hails from The Midlands and has followed a success-

ful, mainly scientific, academic career, working extensively at a senior level in universities, hospitals and other public institutions. Now a self employed teacher and trainer, she is a politically active with a number of progressive groups, including GJN (Global Justice Network). Her poetry utilises lavish imagery, humour and inventive twists to challenge stereotypes, encourage positive action and - last but not least - entertain!"

Emma Lea - a writer, teacher and publisher - and Gordon Zola - a vastly-experienced poet, performer and qualified counsellor - make up the rest of our happy team, and we will get to know them better in the next issue.

Government's Brexit policy lacks the necessary energy

By Matthew Clifton

Brexit has been a complete omnishambles since the vote on the 23rd June last year, and until parliament voted through the Brexit White Paper the government lacked any idea of a plan. However, with Royal Assent expected on March 7th the UK is at the point of no return but how will it affect energy and tackling climate change?

The UK government lacks any coherent energy policy, it only looks to enact overpriced nuclear deals and fracking policies that will hinder the UK's ability to transition over to renewable energy sources.

There was little to no mention of what government plans are for energy, environment, and climate change beyond Brexit. Energy is barely mentioned, only within a manner of trade deals and the only real mention of climate change comes *under 'cross-cutting regulations'*, the government want to use The Great Repeal Bill to cut climate change and environmental regulations.

The bill claims the Climate Change Act 2008 will under-pin



the government's climate change regulation, but there is no mention of the Paris Climate Agreement, which is based on an improved version of that law. It has been reported by the Green Alliance that whilst private spending on renewables has increased, public spending has decreased drastically.

This means that within the next years the UK could face an energy cliff edge if the government doesn't increase what it spends, investment in renewables could fall by 95% by 2020. To meet the climate targets set out by the Paris Climate Agreement this needs to be avoided.

However, the government continue a destructive path environmentally after cutting spending on renewables. Particularly the solar industry, after it claims the govern-

ment is trying to kill it off before it becomes cheaper than gas in a few years with the Treasury imposing a tax increase on businesses with rooftop solar schemes.

The government's own projections state that only onshore windfarms could provide cheaper power within the next decade, but the 2015 Conservative election manifesto pledges to "halt their spread". The Great Repeal Bill opens an opportunity to deregulate the markets and remove environmental protections, when the government should be looking to radically change the UK's energy infrastructure.

The need to move onto renewable energy increases every year and the government's current path is destructive. The EU is one of the leading organisations in tackling climate change and environmental issues, with drastic improvements made recently with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and the Paris Climate Agreement. Many commentators agree that after years of work and mistakes made originally, the EU have finally begun to make great strides.



Good News and Hope

By Middleton Guardian
Feb. 2 nd. 2017

Continued optimism that Gambia will enjoy greater human rights as new President, Adama Barrow, has promised to free political prisoners, remove repressive laws and take Gambia back into the International Criminal Court.

17 Angolan youth activists who were convicted for holding a political meeting have been granted amnesty by the Supreme Court.

In Venezuela opposition leader Rosmit Mantilla has been released after being unfairly imprisoned since 2014 for human rights activism.

Amnesty Spring 2017 issue 192

Childcare investment of £2million in pre-school childcare for the Boroughs of Blackpool,

Oldham and Scarborough.

Big Issue no.1166 Jan 2017.

Big-hearted bobby. PC Stu Ockwell found two homeless men sleeping under a motorway service bridge near Birch Services on the M62 near Middleton. The vehicle towing their old caravan broke down and after several days the mobile home became uninhabitable. They had been left begging for food at the services and sleeping rough under the bridge.

The bobby arranged for meals to be donated from Tesco and KFC stores in Middleton. He also arranged an appointment with Rochdale Council with a view to finding the men a 'potential permanent' home. 'PC Ockwell said the men are victims of a catalogue of unfortunate events'.

Well done to the kindly police officer and local people for their generosity!

TOP 5 Female politicians as voted on by our readers

Angela Raynor:

Born Angela Bowen, she attended Avondale School, Stockport, leaving school as a pregnant teenager, and with no qualifications. She is currently the Labour MP for Ashton and the shadow education secretary. She terrifies the Tories just by being working class.



She also worked in call centres, a furniture factory, and as a post-woman before eventually studying to become a solicitor. She is MP for Salford and Eccles and the shadow chief secretary to the treasury.

black woman to have a seat in the House of Commons. Abbott's decision in 2003 to send her son to the private City of London School after criticising colleagues for sending their children to selective schools, which she herself described as "indefensible" and "intellectually incoherent", caused controversy and criticism. She is also famous for having an affair with Jeremy Corbyn.



Rebecca Long Bailey:

Rebecca Long-Bailey was born Rebecca Long, in Old Trafford, to Irish parents on 22 September 1979. Her father, Jimmy Long, was a Salford docker and a trade union representative. She began her working life serving at the shop counter of a pawn shop, an experience that she says "taught [her] more about the struggles of life than any degree or qualification ever could."



Emily Thornberry:

Thornberry was born in north Surrey, the daughter of Sallie and Cedric Thornberry. She studied Law at the University of Kent before practising as a barrister. She is MP for Islington South and Finsbury.



Diane Julie Abbott:

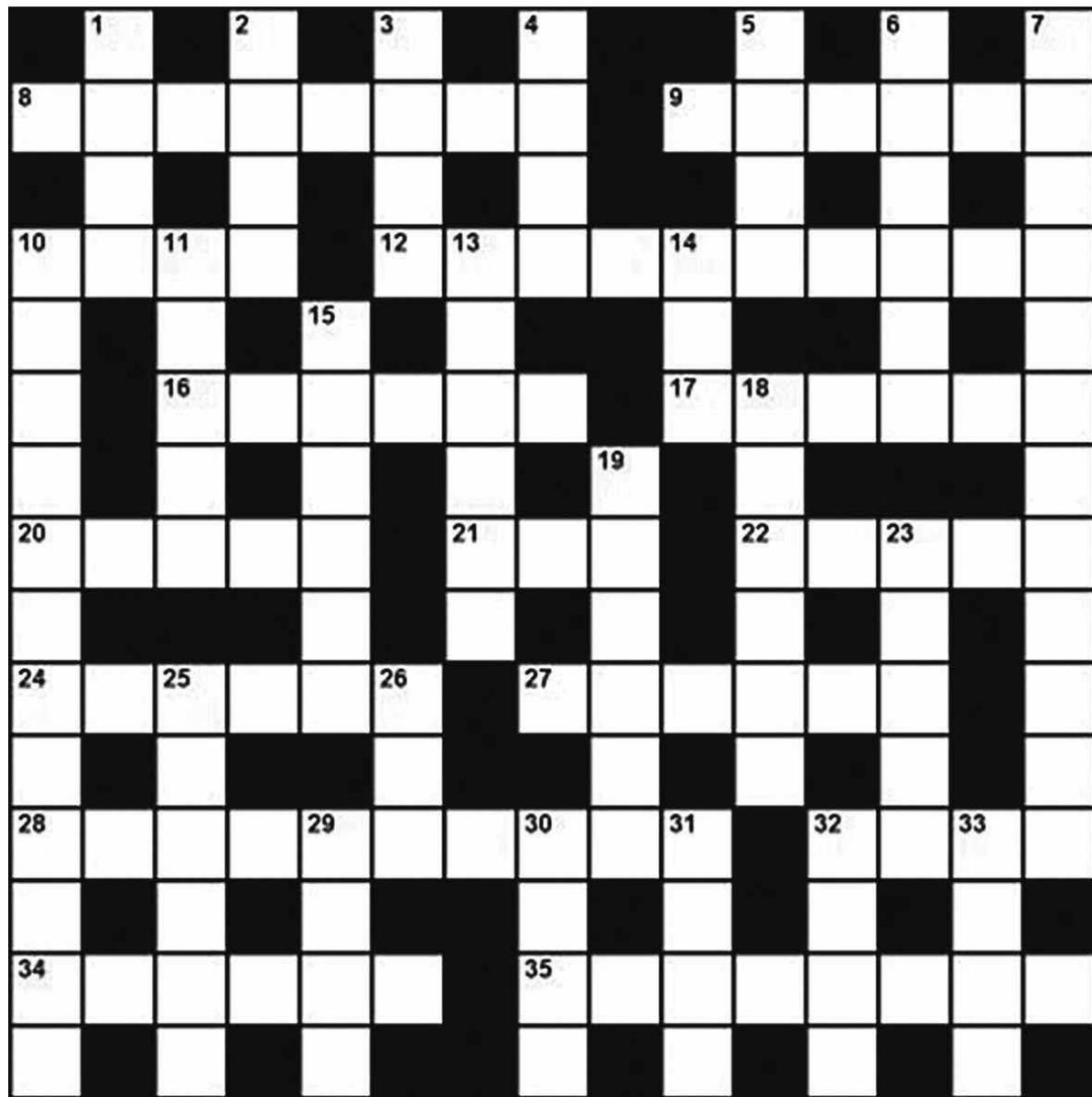
(born 27 September 1953) She was first elected as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Hackney North and Stoke Newington at the 1987 general election, when she became the first



Mhairi Black: born 12 September 1994) is a Scottish politician. She has been the Member of Parliament for Paisley and Renfrewshire South since 2015, when she defeated

Labour Shadow Foreign Secretary Douglas Alexander. She is the only non-Labour politician on our list. She is the youngest elected politician to our Parliament since the reform act. Although a Scottish nationalist she cites Tony Benn as her hero.

Crossword Puzzle



Across
8 Former boxer after heading for big apple is Labour legend (4,4)
9 If lute is altered it becomes pointless. (6)
10 What's more everybody stitch so to speak! (4)
12 By the sound of it, Northerner's going to girlfriend's place for Lords and Ladies (5,5)
16 Ways to be heard on island from 27 (6)
17 Dull end to day (6)
20/32D We hear this chef likes to

take Labour legend (5,4)
21 Be litigious girl! (3)
22 Encountered royal observatory under Paris (5)
24 Daniel upset over Eva in sin city state? (6)
27 Country musical by the sound of it (6)
28 I replace drug makes it sound like confrontations are enjoyable for parasitic plants (10)
32 This shade can be found in icy and wet conditions. (4)
34 Once-a-year bloomer (6)

35 See 19 Down
Down
1 With 25 at end this barometer sounds like a jumping event (4)
2 This can't be write? (4)
3 Country losing direction at end of read. (4)
4 Quick election could be game (4)
5 Embrace honorable Gaitskell. (4)
6 Lie under city of angels gives leg support (6)
7 Where has this true Labour leader been, cry joy Mr Crazy. (6,6)
10 Fashioned a bra even I, nun unveiled this Labour legend. (7,5)
11 Quiet massage produces woody plant.... (5)
13 ...while quiet rent produces the magic word (6)
14 Lefty embarrassed (3)
15 Horse exposed buttocks following cattle sound. (6)
18 Labour legend MacDonald in a ram's eye view. (6)
19/35 Chopped up a gargoyle, we log this Labour legend. (6,8)
23 Infinitesimally small pair of youths (5)
25 What you are doing at 4 with 1 at start sounds like jumping event (6)
26 Tennis player Pat lost his top tree (3)
29 According to hearsay we should give these vegetables a chance! (4)
30 Inside way to go for this African country (4)
31 Uncle Napoleon was exclusive (4)
32 See 20 Across
33 Initially part of a case for negotiation purposes (1,1,1,1)



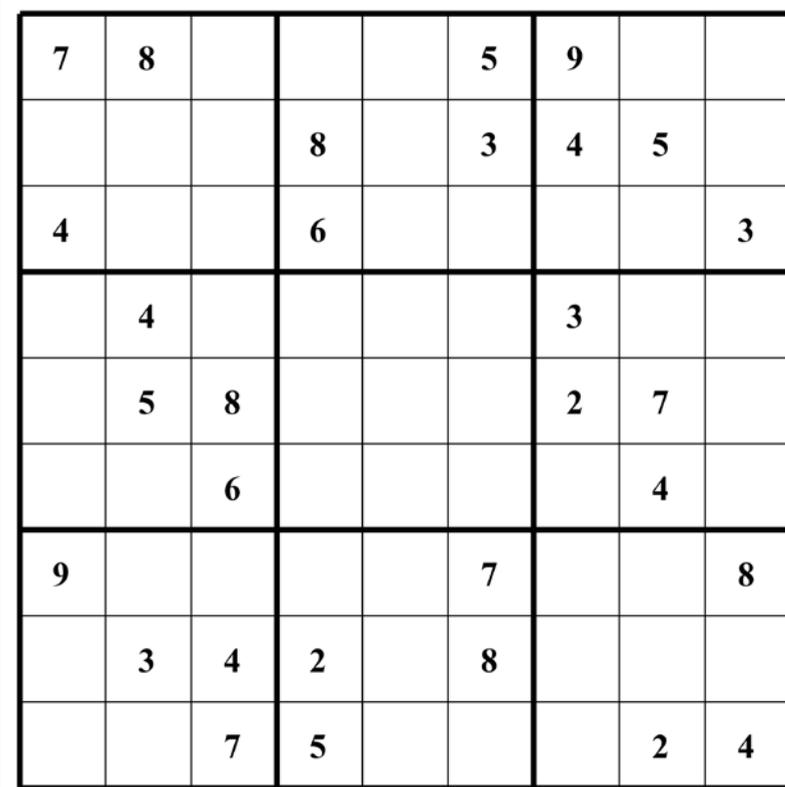
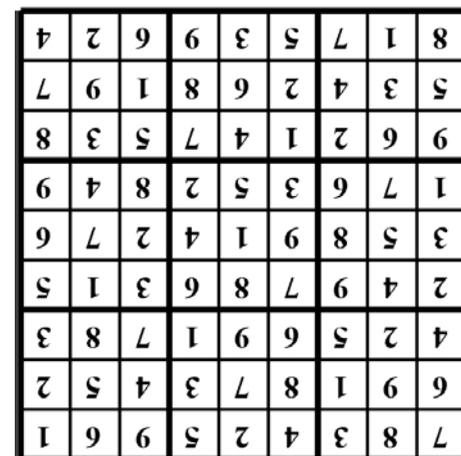
Word Search Puzzle

NNRELC TDNJR I AQP ONYUDT JFB S
 TOPGHTMEXWPTTANGREEOVEJYW
 RRIYCCCVLJLJEGAJJDKOBNMWT
 BTHNKLHAMUMTMKJNGABQEEBQZ
 UHLCUDFPJHAVFSJGORQCDNAUO
 IECNANI FTROPX EKUKTUURIBHY
 TROP SNARTREASURYALCOBAWMQ
 TNEMPOLEVEDLANOITANRETNIV
 CIVNGQACPQHRCQUTNUZCLBVH
 KRUZGTKIEOOLAYRITOTZVNNZON
 LEKXCKDFJMRBYEOHHIMCEKFYE
 JLF TLMFFEZ IUMNLPWTJOFTZHB
 NABFHHAOBNAAEEVKYHAJSEIRW
 SNGCETFHEVDHBE TPJNDWDJQYB
 GDDICFR TLI OFPZH CERC SF PVAM
 WOTNINOLA JNPHEBTIEHZOGXJR
 SFHCF FDATVBOJGFFGTLGYPCBU
 HFELFANESNOISNEPDNAKROWJO
 CIWIODLWHRUXDHCTVI IZT ZSLW
 MCCZSPTNECITSUJFOYRTSINIM
 SENPEJLOAARXCLPTBLHYIYURS
 UVOCLJRMLXSEMCRXTDBGNXEQL
 TRZNAIWM TSCOTLANDOFFICERS
 TFFDWDPOHF WXMYMUA FMVMGUFK
 JCHIEZZCMNVYHKWJTWSDVTGLO

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| CABINETOFFICE | MINISTRY-OF-DEFENCE |
| COMMONWEALTHOFFICE | MINISTRY-OF-JUSTICE |
| CULTURE-MEDIA-AND-SPORT | NORTHERN-IRELAND-OFFICE |
| EDUCATION | SCOTLAND-OFFICE |
| EXITING-THE-EUROPEAN-UNION | TRANSPORT |
| HEALTH | TREASURY |
| HOME-OFFICE | UK-EXPORT-FINANCE |
| INTERNATIONAL-DEVELOPMENT | WALES-OFFICE |
| INTERNATIONAL-TRADE | WORK-AND-PENSIONS |

Sudoku



Jokes

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. But when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.

I went to the Doctors the other day, and he said, 'Go to Bourne-mouth, it's great for flu'. So I went - and I got it.

I'll tell you what I love doing more than anything: trying to pack myself in a small suitcase. I can hardly contain myself.

A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The bus driver says: 'Ugh, that's the ugliest baby I've ever seen!' The woman walks to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to a man next to her: 'The driver just insulted me!' The man says: 'You go up there and tell him off. Go on, I'll hold your monkey for you.'

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

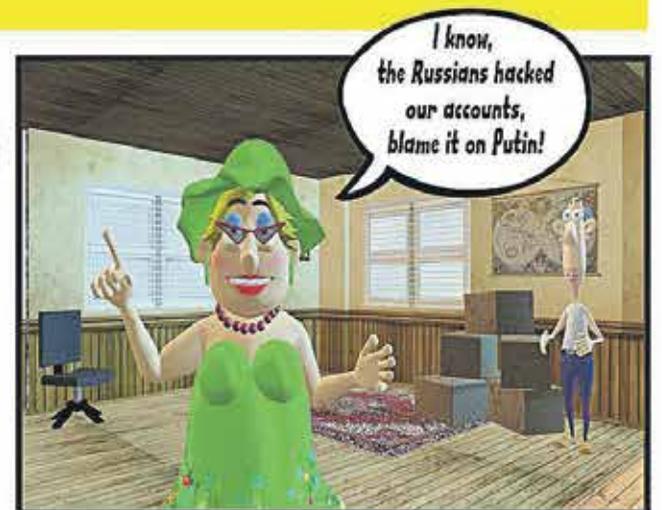
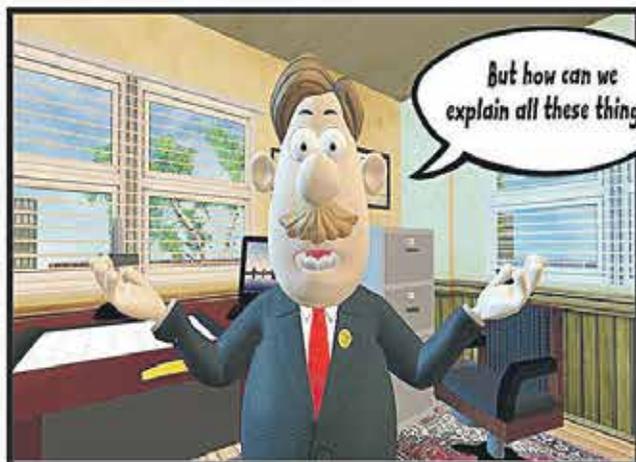
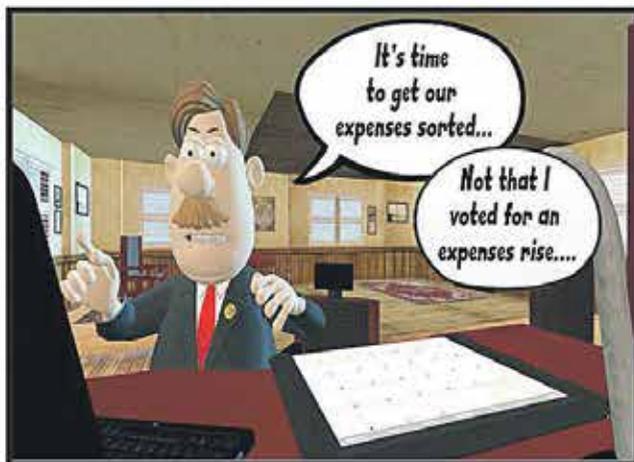
A man and a friend are playing golf one day. One of the guys is about to chip onto the green when he sees a long funeral procession on the road next to the course. He stops in mid-swing, takes off his golf cap, closes his eyes, and bows down in prayer. His friend says: "Wow! That is the most thoughtful and touching thing I have ever seen. You are truly a kind man."

'A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "because," he said "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

CHRIS THE CAREERIST #16





ANSWERS
 1. 48 stars (since Alaska and Hawaii were not yet U.S. states)
 2. The Hoover Dam
 3. Route 66
 4. Philadelphia
 5. Condoleezza Rice
 6. Sarah Palin
 7. William B. Travis
 8. New Mexico
 9. Los Angeles
 10. Arkansas
 11. Massachusetts
 12. Mark Twain
 13. December
 14. Baton Rouge
 15. Spanish
 16. The Waltons
 17. Chester
 18. Alaska
 19. Alaska
 20. Atlanta

USA Quiz Questions III

1. How many stars were on American flags in World War Two?
2. Sioux Falls and Deadwood are in which American state?
3. What great construction is located near near Boulder City, Nevada?
4. What is the Will Rogers Highway better known as?
5. Which American city is home to the Liberty Bell?
6. Who was the first female African-American secretary of state?
7. Who was governor of Alaska from 2006 until 2009?
8. Who was commander of the Alamo garrison at the Battle of the Alamo?
9. The 1947 Roswell UFO incident happened in which U.S. state?
10. In 1992, the Rodney King riots occurred in which American city?
11. Bill Clinton served as governor of which American state?
12. Harvard University is in which American state?
13. Samuel Langhorne Clemens is better known by what name?
14. In which month of 1941 did Japan launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor?
15. Name the state capital of Louisiana?
16. What is the second most common language spoken in American homes?
17. Ike Godsey's Store featured in which classic television series?
18. What was the first name of Fleet Admiral Nimitz of which the supercarrier the U.S.S. Nimitz is named after?
19. Which American state has the longest coastline?
20. The Bank of America Plaza is the tallest building in a state capital and the tallest in the Southern United States - in which city is it located?



Brownies

Yesterday, because I'm a bit like that, I thought 'I wonder what would happen if I just blitzed all the ingredients for brownies in a blender, poured it into the tin and baked it'. What happened was they came out exactly the same as when I've done it the proper way and I had brownies in under 30 minutes flat. The Aztec element - those discoverers of the cocoa bean who used it to make a bitter, spicy drink - was a good pinch of chilli and a quarter of a teaspoon each of cinnamon, ground star anise and ground caraway seeds added to the mixture. You can use any spices you fancy - cardamom would be nice - although I'd probably steer clear of cumin. No-one wants a curry brownie.

To glaze the top I added water to my own home-made chilli jam (but you can buy it in most supermarkets), strained out the chilli bits and brushed it on while the brownie was still hot. The brownie recipe I used is below, but I reckon any recipe will work by just putting it all in the blender until it's smooth, pouring it into the tin (I use those silicon sheets - you don't even have to grease them) and baking at 170 or gas mark 3 for 20 minutes. That may not seem like long but it's enough, as long as the egg is cooked it's fine to eat and the less time it has in the oven, the higher the squidge factor.

Ingredients

- 200g dark chocolate (I used Tesco's 85%)
- 200g sugar
- 100g butter
- 4 eggs
- 60g plain flour
- 60g cocoa powder
- Pinch of sea salt
- Spices of your choice
- 2 tablespoons chilli jam/jelly

Method - as above.



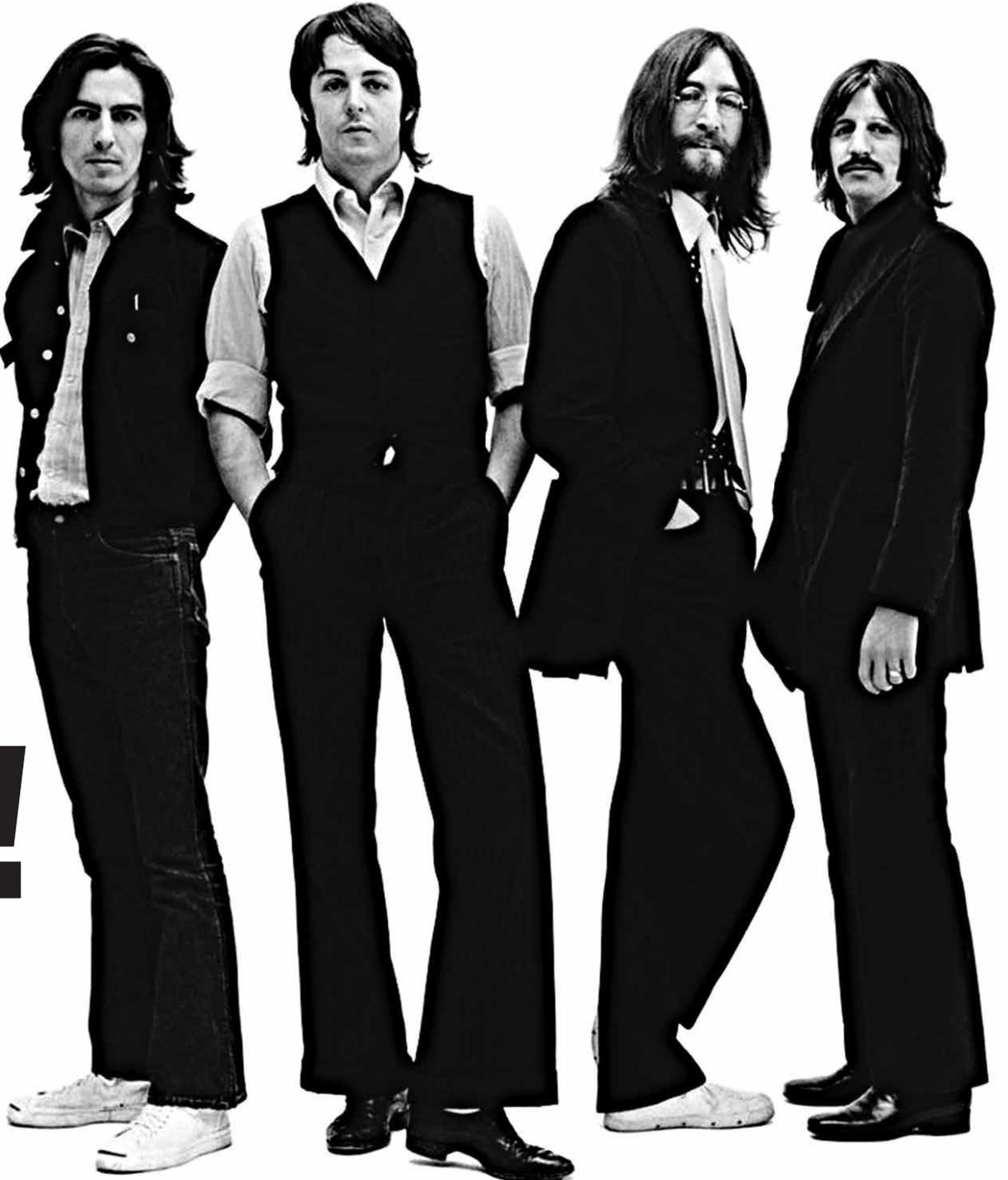
IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY!!!

By Jack Cornes

I have said before in this paper that The Beatles mean the world to me. They are truly one of the greatest pleasures in my life and are a creative inspiration both to my own creative and personal lives. One of my most earliest memories is driving through the dark nights to pick my Mum up from work and my Dad would be playing this extraordinary music in the car. This music was mysterious; the person's voice singing it was unlike any voice I had heard before. It was as though the waves of supernatural mysticism that this song was marinated in were emanating from the speakers. This was the first time that I ever heard the song *Strawberry Fields Forever* and the person singing it was John Lennon. Many years passed and when I re-established my connection to Beatle music when I was 16 the sheer originality and creative genius of *Strawberry Fields* was one of the main components which led to my constant love affair with the four lads from Liverpool and their work which changed the world forevermore. *Strawberry Fields Forever* was released as a single on the 13th February 1967 in the US and the 17th February 1967 in the UK. But *Strawberry Fields* was only half the story as Lennon's masterpiece was released along with McCartney's equal opus *Penny Lane* as a double A-Side ahead of the eponymous release of, arguably, the greatest album of all time - *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* on the 1st June 1967.

Penny Lane/Strawberry Fields Forever are two tracks of equal brilliance which both highlight how

different Lennon and McCartney's songwriting gifts were but how utterly sensational they were when combined together in the greatest songwriting partnership ever. *Penny Lane* is the perfect companion to the masterpiece that is Lennon's *Strawberry Fields Forever*; McCartney proves just why he is John's poetical brother with this psychedelic suburban opus. Like *Eleanor Rigby* beforehand *Penny Lane* is revered for taking the ordinary and transforming it into a freaky, wondrous trip through the shores of surrealism. Paul masterfully paints a picture that provides the ultimate gateway into the streets and memories of the young Beatle growing up in Liverpool. While the feel of *Strawberry Fields* is that of a submersion into the murky waters of clouded psychadelia, Paul achieves a feel of peering through a clear glass reflection into a world of ordinariness and routine yet tinted in the embers of illusory, dreamlike imagery. There are many different versions of *Strawberry Fields* that Lennon recorded on his own and



The Beatles recorded as a band. One very much feels that they are witness to a work in progress as each recording seems to offer a new element and breakthrough in the sonic experience of this piece of music. The master track provides the preeminent piece of Psychedelic Rock Music ever created, the song is awash with rich, varied, surrealist imagery not just in the lyrics but in the instruments, in the sound and the very feel of the music. What proves most incredible is the fact that through this shamanic experience we get a glimpse into the mind's eye of John when he was a child (as Strawberry Field was an old Salvation Army children's home in the gardens of which a young

Lennon would climb over the wall into and play) with so many lyrics of memories within the song.

What also ties *Penny Lane/Strawberry Fields Forever* so neatly together is the fact that both tracks hark back to the childhoods of both writers in their very own unique and original writing styles. It maybe a crime that neither track made it to number one in the UK but their immortality is secured in the very fibres of our cultural heritage as a race in that they are some of the most prime examples of what can be echoed from the very perception of the human condition. These two tracks are now fifty years of age. The world from which they came from is a very different one. *Penny Lane/Strawberry Fields* and the album that followed were written in a time when masses of people, not just politicians and activists, wanted to change the world around them through whatever means possible and art was no exception to this in 1967 with some wonderful creations across the different genres. It was an era of questioning ourselves spiritually. The youth of this era could think for themselves and they generally wanted to get involved in peaceful, harmonious revolution. Of course this exists in mass pockets

today but the majority of youth I see around me today don't appear to be people who are conscious on the current state of society. Their perception has been compromised by the mass hypnosis that is the Ipad and all manner of other mind numbing media creations turning the populace into earphone wearing Ipad gazing zombies. *Penny Lane/Strawberry Fields Forever* are also examples of when music was treated as a medium of art. The lyrics, the sounds and the experimentation were of upmost prominence, they had something to say, they meant something, even if any meaning was ever intended. Music is a totally different thing now. As a 25 year old I feel like a man in the wrong era of time music wise as I simply don't get what it is trying to do or say. Sadly I do sometimes feel music has become like a lot of other facets of our culture. It is now a banal, beige platform for companies to simply spew out product which doesn't say or mean anything but will have enough appeal to go viral or fly off the shelves. In a time when the purpose and quality of music and talent is dying the importance of such genius music as The Beatles and *Penny Lane/Strawberry Fields Forever* continues to ascend in wondrous significance and originality.



GREENWALD'S WAR ON TERROR AND



Glenn Edward Greenwald (born March 6, 1967) is an American lawyer, journalist, speaker and author. He is best known for his role in a series of reports published by The Guardian newspaper, beginning in June 2013, detailing United States and British global surveillance programs, based on classified documents disclosed by Edward Snowden

Trump slapped more sanctions on Iran after a missile test, we've seen him slam down the phone on the Prime Minister of Australia but also strike up a relationship with Taiwan to the annoyance of China, is he looking for war?

I don't think he's looking for war. He actually ran on a platform of avoiding war and criticising Clinton and Obama for starting too many wars or participating in too many wars. I think that in his mind he thinks two things. One, that the way to get better deals between countries is by making them afraid of you because that gives you more leverage. So by threatening them and showing them you're a little bit crazy you get better leverage and therefore better agreements, ones which are more advantageous to you. And that was a big part of his critique of Obama - [Trump said] he was terrible, his trade agreements were disadvantageous to the US and all that.

Then the other aspect is that I think they think that being tough and strong and showing that you're willing to fight, that actually fosters more peace because when people fear you they are less likely to take provocative steps. The problem with that kind of thinking, a lot of wars often happen unintentionally because things escalate and spiral out of control in a framework where there is high tension which is what happens when you start threatening countries. And so I think that certainly when it comes to China and particularly when it comes to Iran, there is a serious danger that they could stumble themselves into

a war even though they may not want one.

A few years ago former British Prime Minister Tony Blair called on the US and Russia to settle their differences over Ukraine and unite in a War on Terror. With early signs appearing to show Trump and Putin getting on rather well will Tony Blair's wish now come to pass?

If you look at at the likely basis of war cooperation between the United States and Russia, it certainly begins with the threat they each perceive. I think a long time fixation of Putin and Russia, going back to the War on Chechnya, is this obsession with what they regard as Islamic radicalism. They are obviously both fighting in Syria and shared targets include Al-Qaeda and ISIS. Even president Obama tried to create cooperative frameworks between the United States and Russia based on these shared enemies. I think Trump is seeing an opportunity as well. The question then becomes: will this detente between the US and Russia, if it happens, expand beyond just national security cooperation? Will they actually share this kind of internationalist right-wing agenda confronting China, uniting hard-right groups throughout Europe and even in other places? And will there be this broader coalition, this broader agenda which they can pursue?

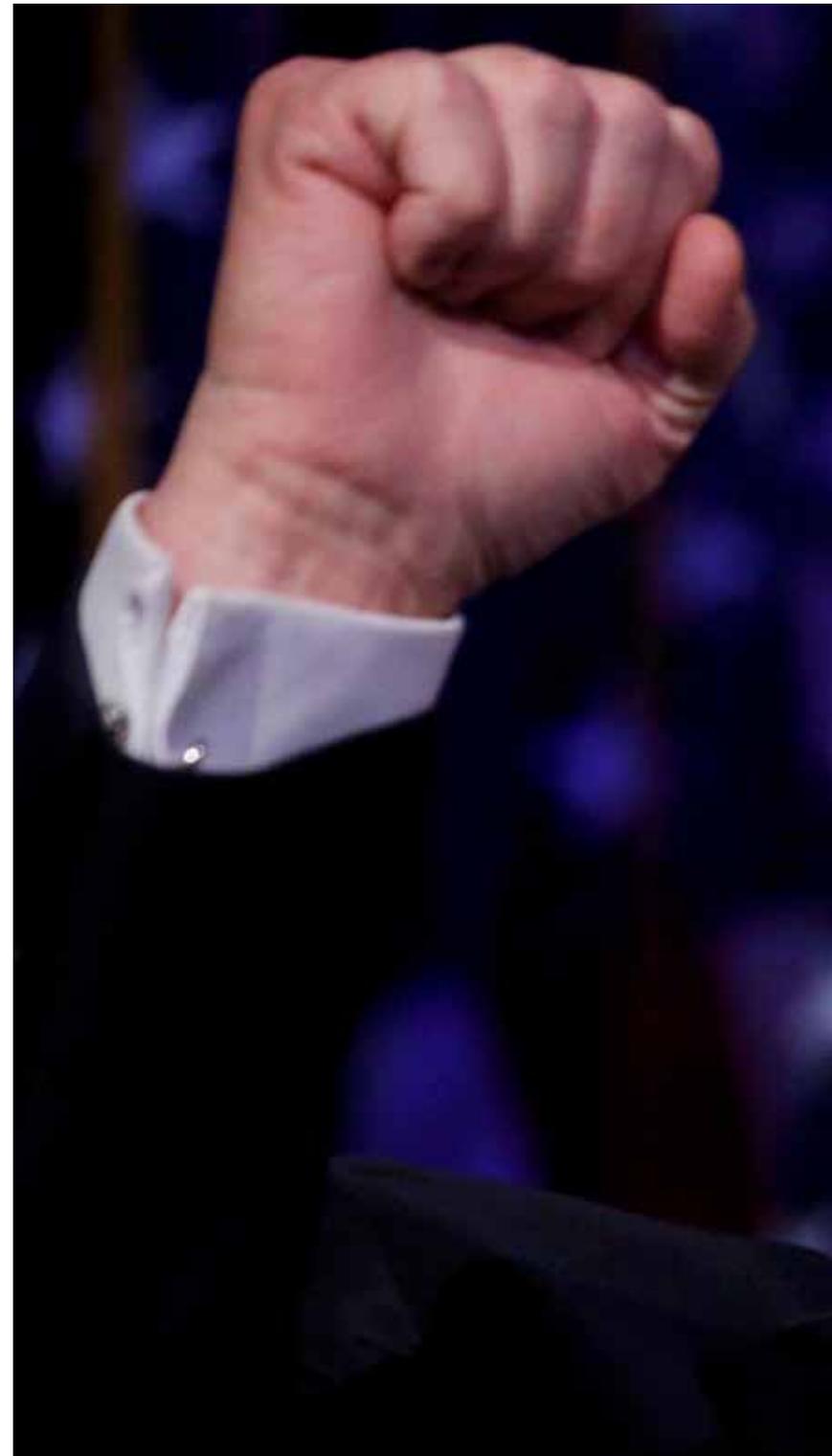
Trump has said he will: 'take the oil', 'bomb the hell out of isil', 'kill the families of terror suspects', 'bring back torture'. Some presidents have done these things, but few have spoken about them so crudely. Are

we moving back to a more overt War on Terror like we saw under Bush?

I think Trump has demonstrated, contrary to what people thought or were hoping, a readiness to act on a lot of the more radical proposals he advocated during the election. There is this sense that people in the military or the intelligence community will somehow impede him from doing things like targeting the family members of terrorists or even potentially using tactical or regional nuclear weapons and I don't think that's a very realistic hope. But I think you're already seeing, whether it's the raid in Yemen that killed Anwar Al-Awlaki's six-year-old daughter and this Muslim ban, you see government agents throughout these agencies obediently carrying out these orders with no resistance, no objection, no dissent. And so I think that he has the power to do the things that he talked about doing. More importantly and more troublingly, both Obama and George Bush worked vigorously to defend and expand the legal framework that Trump would be able to cite in order to justify doing the policies he has advocated. So there is this bipartisan framework in place that he can draw from in a very potent way.

Do you think the American public will allow Trump to, in his own words 'load up' Guantanamo with 'bad dudes'?

I think that the American public has proven fairly reliable that as long as certain abuses are confined to foreign nationals - and in particular those they are told are terrorists - they are willing to tolerate virtually anything. There was very little public outcry when the Bush administration opened CIA black sites and when they tortured people. If they've become a little embarrassing or too public such as Abu Ghraib then maybe there will be some public backlash, but in general as long as you're confining it to people that you're able to convince the public are deserving or are terrorist or just Muslim radicals there's not a lot of opposition coming from the public. And I think that a much broader concern



is what happens if there's a terrorist attack. The instinct of Trump and his advisers, what they're waiting for is to be able to demagogue that attack to raise fear levels and justify even the most extreme policies that right now probably aren't imaginable. I think if he's able to successfully exploit the fear in those emotions surrounding an attack on that magnitude then I think there will be very little public resistance.

Trump has spoken about

targeting CVE - the US' counter-terrorism policy - solely at Muslims. How seriously should we be taking all of this?

I think we ought to take it very seriously both because it starts with Muslims being targeted and then also because it will inevitably expand beyond that. If you look at the history of, not just the US, but the West in the post 9-11 era, it's one programme after another from law enforcement and government

PEAKS TRUMP AND CITIZEN ACTIVISM



agencies in the name of stopping radical Islam or terrorist attacks or whatever the nomenclature is. And once those powers are vested they are almost expanded well beyond the original targeted groups. The Patriot Act is probably the best example. When it was enacted it was supposed to be temporary. We were told it was necessary because of the terror threat and it's now 16 years old - it's the opposite of temporary, it's a permanent part of our fixture, and then I think 85% of the

cases it's used in are in non-terrorism settings for drug crimes, for financial crimes, completely unrelated to national security. These powers take root but nobody cares because everyone's told it's only going to be Muslims who are affected, then eventually it starts to erode all basic liberties for everybody.

You're adamant that the CIA has in your own words 'gone to war with Donald Trump'. Do

you think they are opening a new front against right-leaning politicians similar to what we've seen in the past against left-leaning activists and civil rights leaders with COINTEL-PRO and more recently the targeting of Muslims as part of the War on Terror?

I think that they regard Trump as a particular threat to the prevailing order. He's questioned the kind of foundations of post-World

War Two American power whether its commitment to NATO, or just a general position he has with regards to whether regime change wars are justifiable and in particular whether the CIA proxy war in Syria is something that ought to be expanded or continued. In pretty every one of those cases he's either taken the position that's the opposite of what the CIA wants for its own power or ideology or he's asking serious questions about his commitment to continuing this bipartisan framework [between Democrats and Republicans]. And so I think they regard Trump in particular as a unique kind of threat, and I think they're much more comfortable with a standard, right-wing politician. Some of it is about internal jockeying for power which you often see with governments. I think they also feel threatened by people like General Flynn who have a lot of hostility towards the intelligence community bureaucracy, and will be worrying about what their place is likely to be if he gains too much authority.

But the FBI has the exact opposite posture to the CIA in that they were very favourable to Trump, and so I think there is a very serious danger that Trump can and intends to empower the FBI and use it as his personal police force which I do think can then start to reintroduce dangers. I think we're going to see a lot of dirty game playing whether it's leaking or fabricating claims or just outright subversion

- I think you're going to see a lot of that from each side.

We've seen that courts have presented a road block to Trump's Muslim ban. Are the US's constitutional arrangements robust enough to stop someone like Trump from inflicting serious damage?

It helps. The idea of the constitution and of the courts and the reason why these judges have life tenures is because they're supposed to be immune from political sentiment. No matter how popular a particular abuse is (because these judges can't be removed from office, they don't have to run for election), the idea is that they will defend these rights even when it's really impossible to do so. But that's the theory! The reality is that these judges have been nominated by Republican Presidents and even under Democratic Presidents who knew that judges who were too pro-Liberty and anti-police state probably couldn't get confirmed so you have years or even decades of judges who have been confirmed who have demonstrated a willingness to justify and defend really radical police power, especially ones that have been put in place in the name of national security. So the practical matter is that you will see some resistance, some push back, some limits imposed from the judiciary, but I certainly wouldn't want to count on the judiciary saving the Republic from Trump's abuses.

NHS EDITORIAL



By Melissa Darcey

"Accountable Care" - Is this England's version of the American model "Medi-Care"?

The NHS is currently undergoing some concerning reconfiguration. In the news we are hearing of A&E closures and downgrades, GP surgery closures, community pharmacy closures, more focus on "care closer to home", centralisation on important life saving services such as emergency care, maternity, neonatal, stroke, vascular and heart services - the list goes on...

This is being "sold" to us, the public, as making the NHS safe and sustainable and encourages people to seek preventative care closer to home rather than leaving it until you are "really poorly" needing more "specialised extensive treatment".

We hear phrases such as "receiving the right care, in the right

place, at the right time" - which would make you think these reconfigurations are a good positive move forward...

The Truth

Cutting hospital beds, shutting down A&E's, maternity units, GP surgeries, community pharmacies and centralising acute life saving

services is dismantling the NHS we know and love.

With fewer acute life saving and important services available locally, people are expected to travel journeys of over an hour or more whilst in emergencies such as giving birth, experiencing a heart attack or stroke and GP surgeries are unable to give you a face to face ap-

pointment for, in some areas, 4-6 weeks - people with disposable income are ALREADY experimenting with private healthcare.

Private virtual GP's are springing up all over the place with "Push Doctor" and "Babylon Health" being two of them:

It was horrifying to see someone posting on social media ad-

vertising "Push Doctor" saying it was wonderful that they paid £5 to speak to a doctor on the telephone - when did this kind of healthcare become acceptable in England??

NHS England has split the National Health Service into 44 "footprints" called - Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP's). These "plans" are set to make £22 billion cuts to the NHS in order to reduce "deficits" and make the NHS safe and sustainable for the future of our health as we are an "aging population with complex needs".

All 44 STP's include the creation of either an ACO (Accountable Care Organisation), an ICO (Integrated Care Organisation), Vanguards or a MCP (Multispecialty Community Provider):

The idea is to bring together all of the trust boards, health services, clinical commissioning group's (CCG's) and local authorities (Coun-



UNITY MARCH



cils) within one STP (footprint) area to create one organisation that will commission the health and social care services.

This is "sold" to us as reducing duplication in clinical and non-clinical management which sounds very appealing as we know that too much money is wasted on top tier management.

The fact is - this opens up the opportunity for more "3rd party providers" to take over our NHS.

"3rd party providers" are private providers such as Virgin, Optum and Circle to name a few - these companies own a lot of services in the NHS currently.

The Diversional Tactics -

Most people would agree that the NHS could do better BUT the difference in opinion lies in the reason why people think it needs to change.

In the mainstream media we are now seeing shocking reports



of people dying on trolleys in the corridor of an overrun A&E department but unfortunately it seems the blame is being angled at patients and front-line staff.

CCG's blame hospitals and patients, hospital trust boards blame ambulance services for not being able to cope, ambulance services blaming hospitals for not admit-

ting patients quick enough and also charging the trust boards for the delays.

Whilst we get distracted with all the buck passing, the NHS is drastically changing as a whole!

We are now hearing of hip operations only being available on the NHS if you cannot physically sleep

or move around with ease - is this healthcare that is free at the point of delivery, based on patient need? Was that decision taken with patient need in mind or was it financially driven??

More importantly this decision is a catalyst in transforming healthcare in England into a "Two Tier System", just like the US have already with their private healthcare and "Medi-Care" model.

The restriction in hip operations will further encourage people with a little extra cash to pay for their operation privately out of desperation but more importantly because they have the money to do so, whilst people who do not have extra cash around will be left to suffer in pain - to the point where they cannot sleep - surely is it a human right to be able to sleep???

Plans that Simon Stevens (CEO - NHS England), Jeremy Hunt, The-

eresa May and previously Andrew Lansley and David Cameron have set in motion are already transforming the comprehensive, universal NHS we know into an increasingly limited organisation that doesn't HAVE to treat everyone - which encourages people to seek alternative help offered by - Private Providers.

ADVICE

Get clued up on the truth behind the crisis in our NHS - Join your local campaign group (there will more than likely be one) - if not, make one! - Find out what is going on with your local healthcare - Link up regionally and nationally with other campaigns (there are plenty of us now!)

Let's pull together - in unison - to stop our beloved NHS becoming a two tier system where safe and comprehensive healthcare will be no longer available to those who are poor, vulnerable and cannot afford to pay!

THE RISE OF THE RIGHT

Book Review

By NEIL CLARK

“Economic reform, and in particular ending the dictatorship of finance capital must be the priority”

In their brilliant new book, *The Rise of the Right*, three leading criminologists, Simon Winlow, Steve Hall and James Treadwell, set out to explain the rise of right-wing nationalism in England.

Although the book mainly concerns itself with English society and politics, there are lessons to be learnt for readers in the US and in the rest of Europe too. In fact, I'd go as far to say that if the western left don't pay heed to what Winlow et al have to say, then it could be curtains forever.

The basic problem identified by the authors, is that the left, which once put the everyday concerns of working-class people at the very head of its program, has become liberalized. As neo-liberalism became hegemonic, the main parties of the left and their representatives turned their attention away from economic reform and instead began fighting culture wars. Public ownership and a commitment to genuine egalitarianism was out – identity politics was in. The talk was of “toleration” and not of “exploitation.”

“The left lost interest in the traditional field of political economy, and instead opened up new theatres of conflict on the field of culture. Generally speaking, the left accepted the capitalist horizon,” Winlow et al explain.

Political life in Britain became sterile as Labour and the Conservatives converged to promote a pro-capitalist, economically and socially liberal agenda. The working-class were excluded from this new, City of London-approved consensus.

In the 2001 general election, faced with a choice between Tweedledum Tony Blair and Tweedledee William Hague, just 59% of people bothered voting. Compare that level of engagement to 1950, when turnout was 83.9%. But back then, the working-class was properly represented.

Demonization of Socialism

Former carpenter Eric Heffer, who died in 1991, is cited as “one of the last honest and confrontational working-class heavyweights in the Labour Party.” The authors mention how the CIA played their part too in destroying the genuine socialist left – as chronicled by H. Wilford's book, *The CIA, the British Left and the Cold War: Calling the Tune?* which is referenced in chapter three:

“Central to this was the abandonment of class and the turn to language, cultural identity and social movements... The American liberal-progressivist habit of demonising socialism by placing it in the same breath as fascism was imported into Europe to provide more attractive and subtle support to the conservative right's demonisation program.”

The CIA got exactly what they wanted.

In the era of hegemonic neo-liberalism, anyone who dares to challenge the liberal-left from a socialist perspective, can expect to be denounced by Establishment gatekeepers as a “Stalinist” or even “far-right.” Even advocating a return to the much fairer economic policies of 1945-79 is regarded as beyond the pale.

'Liberal' Media

Back to the 70s? When the gap between the rich and poor

in Britain was at its lowest in history, and the country still had a manufacturing base – why, you must be insane! The acceptable parameters of debate have become hopelessly narrowed, with “liberal” media playing a key role in keeping alternative solutions, which would benefit the majority, “off-limits.”

“The right-liberal and left-liberal media can be distinguished by their approaches to issues such as welfare, multiculturalism and taxation, but when faced with even the remotest chance of the return of anything like real left politics, they become one voice,” the authors declare.

Is it any wonder therefore, that with their voices ignored by those who once claimed to represent them, the British working-class has looked for other options? The second half of *The Rise of the Right* includes interviews with working-class men and women who

support far-right political groups like the English Defence League (EDL). Here's Steppy, who is 39, on why he doesn't vote Labour:

“Those posh white people... They've taken over the Labour party. They're taking over everywhere. And look what they're doing. First thing they get their mates top jobs. And then their mates get jobs for their mates. Your feminists are cut from the same cloth. They talk about democracy, but there's no democracy. Not in this country...”

Anti-Muslim prejudice was widespread among the interviewees. Islamophobia is on the rise in Europe, as derogatory Tweets reach an all-time high. Muslims have become a scapegoat for the anger, frustration and alienation that many supporters of the EDL and other far-right groups feel.

But the big problem, as the authors show, has been the rapacious economic system we live under,

which is inimical to the best interests of the majority. It's neo-liberalism that has destroyed entire working-class communities and the spirit of solidarity that once existed. It's neo-liberalism that has created so much loneliness and anxiety.

Tony, like many interviewees, looks back nostalgically to the Britain of forty years ago:

“Things were better then.. For people like me it was better. We had a right laugh at school and well, everything just seemed to work. There was jobs then. Everyone worked. People stuck together.”

Going Back to Square One

Instead of listening to working-class people like Tony, too many political representatives of the “left” prefer to take their cue from “liberal” middle-class media columnists, and focus on issues which, said media columnists believe, are of the most pressing concern. This has to stop if the rise of the far-right is to be checked.

In chapter eight of their book, the authors argue that the left “must begin from the beginning again”:

“For us the left today needs to be returned to the working class. It is the working-class that must win the fight for social and economic justice. Middle-class liberals cannot and will not win it on their behalf.”

The authors say that leftists need to acknowledge that what they call “hippy counter-culturalism” was a “colossal error” and then begin to undo some of the damage it caused.

Culture should not be abandoned, but “put back in its sub-dominant place.” Economic reform, and in particular ending the dictatorship of finance capital must be the priority. A publicly-owned national investment bank, the re-nationalization of key industries, and the return of jobs – proper, meaningful, well-paid, full-time contracted jobs to areas turned into wastelands has to be right at the top of Labour's agenda.

The rise of the far-right is not inevitable, neither is it irreversible. But the left is doomed unless it campaigns on bread-and-butter working-class issues and makes a clean break with elite-friendly neo-liberalism. If Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn hasn't ordered a copy of *The Rise of the Right* yet, then I recommend he does so very quickly.

**The Rise of the Right, English Nationalism and the Transformation of Working-Class Politics* – Simon Winlow, Steve Hall and James Treadwell, published by Policy Press.



Thoughts on examining an education masters dissertation

By Cliff Jones

The academic exploration of learning by educators is not always confined to what happens in the classroom. Contexts vary and may require us to make critical sense of a range of political issues. Why would we not? If, for example, two cousins are at schools on different sides of a wall erected in order to separate them we cannot write about their education and ignore the wall. Why is it there? Who put it there? Why is it maintained? Nor can we ignore the impact upon the cousins, their classmates, their teachers and the split societies in which they live and grow.

Considering a physical wall reminds us of other walls. The wall separating those, for example, attending Eton from those going to Bash Street Secondary Modern is no less tall, wide and impenetrable for being intangible. Tony Blair told us his priority was Education, Education, Education. His priority ought to have been Society, Society, Society. Can anyone imagine Blair as Peace Envoy talking about this schoolteacher's deep research prompted by personal experience of a deliberately divided society?

Experienced realities

There are times when the reality experienced by students and teachers tests academic conceptual frameworks. I taught the student whose work I examined but did not supervise the dissertation. I was the second marker (why do we still refer to assessing as 'marking?'). The supervisor left the USA many years ago to live in Israel and had worked hard encouraging collaboration across cultural boundaries. Today that noble intent and effort has been negated by intentional



A DIVIDED PALESTINIAN VILLAGE



working in four languages. Births, deaths and marriages come with lots of paper. So do taxes and deeds of property.

The quantity of this kind of literature is evidence of both family and official urges to record. When you record you also classify. What are the headings? How is it decided who or what comes under what heading? Israelis born there before 1948 have stated on their birth certificates that they were born in Palestine.

The Ottoman and the Roman Empires depended upon bureaucracy when they controlled the Middle East. Who, for example, had the rights to sell horses in a given region? It was recorded and so was everything to do with trade, property and people. Despite efforts to portray the Palestine past as empty of settled people, a land criss-crossed by a few nomadic tribes, this was not the case, as the dissertation demonstrated.

Is education a commodity to be weighed and measured? Is it about accumulating scores and qualifications? Might it confront and explain the causes and consequences of chosen inhumanity? Once grandmothers could hold newly born grandchildren. Now some are only allowed to approach a wall on special occasions to touch a finger through a crack.

Would you tell a student that this is irrelevant to education?

government action.

Israeli school textbooks are officially approved and, as Nurit Peled-Elhanan showed in her 'Palestine in Israeli School Books, Ideology and Propaganda in Education', the official national narrative has been constructed to justify inhuman policies. 'They' not only hate 'us' but 'they' stand in the way of 'our' fulfillment.

Internalising such views makes it easier to pull triggers. Children are born into different realities: some have bullets to fire and some have bullets to dodge, if they can.

Literature

This dissertation went into uncharted territory. There were masses of words generated by bureaucracies, in this case involving two countries and four administrations

A man of the People – perhaps too good to be a politician?

A tribute to the late Deyika Nzeribe - Green candidate for Mayor of Greater Manchester and fine human being.

Why should I ask The Word to publish anything about a would-be politician, little known to people outside of Manchester? Simple, because he was the antithesis of many politicians we know. He listened to people, he had a sense of humour, did not seek publicity for himself, did not cheat, and he cared!

Can I substantiate this? Well as I only met him once I can only verify the first two. We met at an African wakekeeping and we never stopped talking for over half an hour, and if anyone knows me he

would have had to do at least his share of listening.

As for the other qualities I have the tributes paid at his funeral service on Friday, 9th. February, at Brunswick Parish Church, Ardwick, Manchester. It was attended by over 400 people and over 20 friends, colleagues and family gave moving tributes to Deyika who died aged 50 on New Years Eve.

Some memories were poignant but tinged with humour. One friend and colleague at Commonword (www.cultureword.org.uk), an writing project to help emerging BAME writers testified to his honesty. With other friends he played poker with Deyika, who

rarely won because he was the only one who refused to cheat! Added to that he was very thorough in scrutinising the finances of the organisation.

Almost everyone mentioned his smile and sense of humour and many commented how he avoided the limelight at events, even those he had helped to set up. One of these was Natalie Bennett (former Green Party National Chair) he had organised an event for her in Manchester when she became chair, but stayed in the background. She said of him, "he was a gentle, passionate and caring man..... He dedicated his life to others and always put others



before himself. He was interested in people and he genuinely cared." Deyika was known for his

work in the community in Hulme, Manchester. But he was involved in diverse causes inspiring creativity, fighting austerity, racism, promoting equality and defending the environment.

When I met him I told him how rare it was for me to meet someone from an African or Caribbean background being involved in politics. He was the type of person we need in politics. My plea is that Deyika's legacy should be that many more from similar backgrounds get actively involved in politics for the RIGHT reasons.

bright-green.org/2017/01/02/mayoral-candidate-deyika-nzeribe-passes-away/

By Cliff Jones

Our level of political literacy is low. We are not citizens. We are subjects of the Crown and Theresa May likes the Royal Prerogative.

Lets re-examine our political vocabulary.

POLITICS

The inclusive discussion of and arrival at public values: a process that must precede the construction of policy.

In 1962 Bernard Crick published *In Defence of Politics* to restore the meaning of politics as being about public values. Fifty years later Michael Flinders published *Defending Politics* with a similar intention. Why do we have to be reminded that politics is an inclusive public activity, not just a few people hoarding power, making policy and often cocking up bigly?

Look at *The Blunders of our Governments* (2013) by Anthony King and Ivor Crewe. How on earth did the devisers of disastrous policies manage to a) escape the blame and b) give all the difficult jobs to others? Putting Michael Barber, Tony Blair's Mr. Deliverology, in charge of implementing policy often made things worse.

ERSATZ POLITICS

'Ersatz' signifies an inferior imitation. The result of the referendum on membership of the EU did not emerge from a political process. Lots of expensive advertising and unverifiable claims countering other unverifiable claims may have looked like a political process but **froth is not beer**.

DEMOCRACY

A disputable and variable concept. The message from John Keane's *The Life and Death of Democracy* (2009) is that it is fragile. The 1911 Parliament Act estab-



lished the supremacy of the elected House of Commons over the hereditary House of Lords: democratic progress. Three years later we had war: democracy suspended. The two are incompatible. The consequences of war make democracy uncertain, transitory and weak. In 1945 Britain experienced a strong assertion of democracy. It lasted (the 'post war consensus') until Thatcher. But it took a body blow in 1950 when the USA pressured Britain to join in the Korean War. Military spending doubled and our fragile welfare state suffered.

In 1951 the Labour Party gained the majority of votes in the general election but lost power to the Conservatives who obtained more seats. We also call that democracy.

Since 1945 the USA has been almost continuously at war and now waves its sabre at Iran and China. It even declares war on abstract nouns. Today's is *terrorism*. Can you sign a

peace treaty with an abstract noun? What has all this done for democracy?

SHAMOCRACY

The systemic partner of Ersatz Politics. Israel has been called (by Israelis) an *ethnocracy*. Democracy in Israel is racially ring fenced. Palestinian schools (labelled 'Arab') have less funding. Belong to the wrong race and life is difficult. The benefits of citizenship are unequally distributed. Our politicians claim Israel is *The Only Democracy in the Middle East*. Just up the road Lebanon really does try to be democratic.

Our government talks a lot about British Values. The values they promote widen the gap between rich and poor, disparage the different and commodify education. Our school history books told us that the franchise widened. All we got was an occasional vote that came with restricted participation. Restricted participation means shamocracy.

Shrugging our shoulders while saying that there is no point in voting because "they are all the same" will do nothing for us.

LEFT WING

The French Revolution gave us 'Left' and 'Right', derived from where you sat in the Assembly. The further left the more you believed that power should lie with the citizenry and that the values of government should be liberty, equality and fraternity.

Some think 'left' means enforced change, albeit in the direction of equality. Enforcement is not, I suggest, a characteristic of the left. I worked in a city run by Militant Tendency. Discussion? Permitted dissent? Friendly disagreement? Forget it! Suppression is not left wing.

RIGHT WING

In 1789 if you sat on the far right you preferred absolute government. Blair is an absolutist. Thatcher's

most famous absolutist episode was the Poll Tax: for Blair Iraq. Thatcher's downfall followed quickly. Blair survived. His personal hot air balloon has many holes but is kept aloft because he blows hard into it.

It will get worse with Brexit. We do not have enough civil servants and hire companies instead. The House of Commons lacks the capacity to scrutinise legislation so the unelected House of Lords does it.

Theresa May likes the Royal Prerogative. How many British voters are aware of its existence? The Royal Family is not the problem. The monarchical power used by politicians is.

Conclusion

Brexit and Trump emerge from long-term social fracking. Today the shock they have given us threatens cohesion.

Do we want froth or beer?

Joint Trade Union Statement on Police Spies

Joint Union Statement:

We the undersigned are outraged at the news that despite court orders to the contrary, the Metropolitan Police Service has destroyed evidence required for use in the Undercover Policing Public Inquiry. State spying on trade unions and political campaigns is a human rights scandal that affects millions of British citizens.

Despite continued reassuranc-

es, the Pitchford Inquiry has failed to secure the documents that will be central to the investigation. Trade union core participants are beginning to question whether the Inquiry team has the ability to stop the police from obstructing the pursuit of justice. Lord Justice Pitchford needs to act now to restore our faith.

We are calling on Lord Justice Pitchford to announce an urgent Inquiry hearing to examine the destruction of evidence by the police. The Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe should be forced to give evidence under oath to explain why, how and under whose authority documents have been destroyed.

Lord Justice Pitchford needs to take immediate measures to secure all documentation held by the



police, in order to prevent future destruction and avoid the entire inquiry descending into a hugely expensive cover-up on the part of the Metropolitan Police.

SIGNED:

Len McCluskey (General Secretary) and Gail Cartmail (Acting General Secretary) UNITE the Union, incorporating UCATT
 Matt Wrack (General Secretary) Fire Brigades Union
 Chris Kitchen (General Secretary) National Union of Mineworkers
 Tim Roache (General Secretary) GMB union
 Mick Cash (General Secretary) Rail Maritime and Transport union
 Michelle Stanistreet (General Secretary) National Union of Journalists
 Dave Smith and Roy Bentham (joint secretaries) Blacklist Support Group



ROMANIAN PROTESTS

Disturbance In The Deep Force?

By MARA LEVERKUHN



Up to 800,000 Romanians travelled across the country to protest an emergency ordinance in 10 degrees Celsius below zero. They're now into the third week of protests and still not going home, though numbers dwindled. The ordinance was a late night attempt by the crypto communist party to pardon corruption where the financial bribe/damage is below £37K. The criminal code was altered. Romanians, with a strong record of standing against oppression, organised huge crowds in front of the Parliament that caused the government to withdraw. But the crowds didn't withdraw. They want government to resign.

This is evidence of the high level of sophistication among protesters, many of whom have participated in several waves of demonstrations in Romania since 2012 and become skillful at calling public institutions to account, communicating and organising.

During the 1989 revolution, in the lengthy protests that followed, during the *mineriade*, for Rosia Montana and during the last presidential elections, Romanians displayed a healthy inclination to take to the streets. In the murky waters post December 1989, Iliescu, the new unelected president from Ceausescu's circle, had the students beaten and killed by miners who he then also subsequently betrayed. But since, these protests proved quite successful: the goldmines in Rosia Montana didn't receive clearing, and the Canadian company was sent back empty handed after it hoped to exploit our mountains and leave them bereft, ecologically downtrodden. A nation of angry people who have been so often oppressed, their eyes are open and bullshit from the media sticks less. Perhaps there's a lesson here?

The newly re-elected social democrats were most likely behind the coup against Ceausescu that hijacked the 1989 popular revolution. They were communists with Soviet support to steer communist Romania away from Ceausescu's independent direction. With a strong foothold in the Security services, in the aftermath of Ceausescu's execution, when the newly rebelled youth realised that their efforts served as cannon fodder for the new kleptocracy, the social democrats had no qualms to kill and hurt dozens of protesters. Thousands of students protested for months and



then years against the hijack, but they were squashed by violence and smeared as hooligans in the press. So the crypto-communists ensured power stayed in the hands of the same people, who were now oppressing not via communism, which is inefficient, but neoliberal capitalism, the trusted tool of new age tyrannies.

They embarked on a mission to vandalise the national patrimony and sell national resources while the process of privatisation was sold by the press as desirable progress. Intermittently in power, they never did loosen their grip over the economy. Voted back into the government last fall, they passed an emergency ordinance to exonerate themselves of corruption in office. Over the past decade Laura Codruta Kovesi, chief prosecutor of the National Anti Corruption Directorate, has been prosecuting politicians at increasingly high levels (even the former PM Victor Ponta), making the fight against old style corruption a promising triumph. A solid three decades of high level bribery gangster style is coming to an end. There is uncertainty over the purity of election results, but fact is the first thing the social democrats did once in power is try to adulterate the criminal code to exempt themselves: decriminalise abuse in power. This alone is sufficient reason for Romanians to take to the streets.

And it's a good example for

the West, if the West cares to listen: instead of protesting against futile and vague causes in vagina outfits, perhaps protest stubbornly against corruption. To my great chagrin, Romanian corruption seems quaintly small beans compared to hi-fi, stealth UK corruption that is sanctioned by all levels of the establishment and disguised as ideology. Austerity kills. The Romanian bribes amount to loss of cash for the public pocket; the Tory cuts amount to tens of thousands of deaths, an unabashed cleansing of the poor, ill, disabled and old. How far does this have to go before the British public reacts? So far, facts about the extent of the government crimes in this country are met with milquetoast patriotism for a state that provides 10,000 flavours of biscuits at the supermarket, that is, if you work 50 hours a week in an office or 10 in zero hour contracts. Look at this recent analysis by the Royal Society of Medicine, counting the cuts-related NHS deaths to 30,000 over the last year. The government of the free first world is emerging as the number one cause of unnatural death of its own people.

OLD TYRANT'S DEAD, LONG LIVE THE EU TYRANT

The more worrying development from back home is voices calling to EU for help. I have nothing against people protesting government, in fact it's a healthy last recourse of pseudo democracies

where we're no longer represented. But the Stockholm syndrome call for justice from the EU equates to jumping from the frying pain into the fire. Corrupt as the Romanian government is, the EU holds unparalleled status in stealth thieving capabilities. Over the past decade, our natural resources have been devastated by Austrian, American and other companies that poison the environment and leave ecological disaster behind. The fact that they EU legislation protects them so the theft is legal is no consolation of mine or anyone with a conscience. If anything, makes the process all the more monstrously inescapable. The law is made by the thieves, for the thieves. These new thieves are corporations and foreign governments with an eagle eye on our rich natural resources.

"No more division, Stop deforestation, renationalise natural resources, stop selling our land"

The probable reason why the average brit voted Brexit is EU bureaucratic corporatism and pan-national undemocratic rule; the same things that affect Eastern countries whose membership went from longstanding aspiration to bitter disappointment really fast. The relics of communist corruption are on their way out for the Romanians; the real common threat to both east and west is really the new globalism that writes the law and trumps human rights for profit. Tory rule is just the British arm of

this new system and it's ruthlessly eliminating anything that doesn't lead to profit—this often happens to be lives of those on the economic fringes. Austerity is eugenics. Let there be known there is no natural law that assigns the presently economically successful as the only worthy of life, healthcare and resources. We are all born of the same land, bankers and paupers. The Romanians, though, have been angry for longer so better placed to identify threat and stand up against it, even in freezing snow storms, than the complacent British who have had their edges filed by a deceptive, lulling, pseudo economic success.

Romania's national hymn says "Wake up, Romanians!". I would say the same to the British, following from the Romanian example—since the rest of the world reflects closely the empire, and what happens here, concerns the rest. If a hundred years ago a state could hope to liberate itself only by liberating from its local tyrants, in the world of today it all leads up on the global pyramid, so local liberation futile unless you reverse the new pan-national corporatism. Read Frankie Boyle's last piece in the Guardian until the end for his and mine proposed course of action.

P.S. While everyone was longingly praising the rising Romanian civil society, 500 US troops and tanks were stealthily moved in Romania this past week. Hm. Wonder what that is about.

FLINT, MICHIGAN, U.S. (CNN) — A government-appointed civil rights commission in Michigan says systemic racism helped to cause the Flint water crisis, according to a report released Friday. The 129-page report does not claim there were any specific violations of state civil rights laws, but says "historical, structural and systemic racism combined with implicit bias" played a role in the problems, which still linger in the city's drinking water almost three years later. "The presence of racial bias in the Flint water crisis isn't much of a surprise to those of us who live here, but the Michigan Civil Rights Commission's affirmation that the emergency manager law disproportionately hurts communities of colour is an important reminder of just how bad the policy is," state Sen. Jim Ananich, a Democrat from Flint, said.

PALM BEACH, U.S. (NPR/Telegraph) — United States President Donald Trump is spending weekends in Florida at Mar-a-Lago. It seems Trump enjoys spending time at the club he owns in Palm Beach, but since the election, his stays there have raised issues not seen when he was a private citizen. They involve security and the impact his visits are having on people and businesses. At Palm Beach County Park Airport, the situation is dire. For the fifth weekend since December, the airport has shut down. Whenever Trump is in Mar-a-Lago, Federal Aviation Administration restrictions ban all flights out of the airport. Along with losing money at its airports, Palm Beach County is worried about the police overtime it's racking up while Trump is here: \$1.5 million so far. Fighter jets were scrambled to intercept an unresponsive aircraft near to Trump's retreat on Friday. The incident took place at around 7pm. It took place a matter of hours after two objects, including a rock, were thrown at Mr Trump's motorcade on his way to his retreat from the airport. The alert ended when the F-15 fighter jets were able to establish contact with the aircraft.

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO (Telegraph) — Life forms sealed inside crystals for up to 60,000 years have been revived by NASA, raising hopes that alien organisms could be found on other planets. Penelope Boston, director of NASA's Astrobiology Institute, and her team have spent years exploring Mexico's Naica Mine, which contain caves as large as cathedrals. "Much to my surprise we got things to grow," said Dr Boston. "It was laborious. We lost some of them - that's just the game. They've got needs we can't fulfil. That part of it was really like zoo keeping." Around 100 different bugs, which were mostly bacteria, were found inside crystals, where they had been trapped for between 10,000 and 60,000 years. 90 per cent had never been seen before.

CAUCA, COLOMBIA (BBC) — The last 300 members of Colombia's largest rebel group, the Farc, have arrived in their transition zone to disarm. Farc negotiators signed a revised peace deal with the Colombian government on 24 November to end more than five decades of armed conflict. Under the accord, the rebels agreed to move into 26 transition zones. Most of the 6,900 rebel members arrived on foot, by bus and boat travelling long distances from jungle camps. The rebels have been complaining that the transition zones have not been finished yet and in some cases the fighters had to set up camps themselves.

QUITO, ECUADOR (Science Daily) — University of British Columbia microbiologists have found a yeast in the gut of new babies in Ecuador that appears to be a strong predictor that they will develop asthma in childhood. The new research furthers our understanding of the role microscopic organisms play in our overall health. "Children with this type of yeast called *Pichia* were much more at risk of asthma," said Brett Finlay, a microbiologist at UBC. "This is the first time anyone has shown any kind of association between yeast and asthma."

QUEBEC, CANADA (Reuters) — Eight people flee U.S. border patrol to seek asylum in Canada. Eight asylum-seekers, including four children, barely made it across the Canadian border just in time... the latest in refugees pouring over the border as the U.S. looks to tighten its immigration and refugee policy. A Reuters photographer capturing images of the group jumping a snowy gully on Friday, followed closely by a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officer. The four adults and four children - said to be from Sudan - had arrived at the border in Champlain, New York in a taxi. The border patrol officer had seized their passports and was questioning a man in the taxi when the eight fled. The officer managed to catch up to one of the men fleeing. That man then appeared to grab their passports and cross into Canada. All eight were helped through the snow and taken into custody by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as the U.S. officer watched from south of the border.

WASHINGTON D.C., U.S. (Independent) — Donald Trump's family's trips have cost taxpayers nearly as much in a month as Barack Obama's cost in an entire year. The US President's three visits to his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida since his presidential inauguration, combined with his sons' business trips, reportedly cost \$11.3m (£9.1m). Conservative watchdog Judicial Watch estimated Mr Obama's travel expenses totalled an average \$12.1m in each of his eight years in the White House. "This is an expensive way to conduct business, and the President should recognise that," said Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton, speaking to the Washington Post.

LONDON, UK (Open Rights)

— Journalists and whistleblowers could be sent to prison for 14 years for exposing corruption and government wrongdoing. The Government want a new Espionage Act to increase penalties, and allow journalists handling secret documents to be treated like spies. Their proposals would stop investigative journalism and public-interest whistle blowing concerning the secret state. Whistleblowers and journalists wouldn't be able to use a public interest defence to protect themselves if they were prosecuted under the proposed Espionage Act. Journalists would have to turn down requests to investigate and report—or risk jail. Journalists and whistleblowers wouldn't have to give the documents to foreign powers, cause harm or even publish the documents to be jailed for 14 years.

BANJUL, GAMBIA (Belfast Telegraph) —Gambia's new president promised greater freedom and an improved economy as thousands attended a ceremony marking his inauguration after a tense political stand-off with the country's former leader. "This is a victory for democracy. It is a victory for all Gambians," President Adama Barrow said to a packed stadium near the capital that included dignitaries and several African heads of state.

PORTO NOVO, BENIN (Reuters) — Four Christian priests from a Benin anti-vooodoo cult were arrested and charged on Thursday for their suspected role in five deaths during prayers held last month in anticipation of the end of the world. The followers of the "Very Holy Church of Jesus Christ of Baname" died after they were instructed to seal off their prayer rooms, burn incense and charcoal and wait for the world to end, residents and a survivor told Reuters. Others were treated in hospital for severe breathing problems. The four priests were charged with manslaughter in the capital Porto Novo and were sent to prison pending trial. The group's young woman leader, Vicentia Chanvoukini, known as "Lady Perfect" and considered a god by her followers, was not charged. "Those who died are not really members of the church, they are people who came to test us," she told local radio.

ANCONCAGUA, ARGENTINA (BBC)

— At least 19 people were killed when a coach overturned on a remote road in the Argentinian Andes, near the border with Chile, officials say. A survivor who was not identified said that the coach had been travelling too fast, despite the concerns of passengers. The crash happened near Anconcagua, the highest mountain outside of Asia. The Chilean company that operated the vehicle says it is striving to ascertain the identities of the dead.

GLOBAL HEADLINE - BLACKBURN, UK – (medicalxpress) Researchers exploring an increase in mortality in England and Wales conclude that failures in the health and social care system are linked to disinvestment. There were 30,000 excess deaths in 2015, representing the largest increase in deaths in the post-war period. Reporting their analysis in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, the researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of Oxford and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, tested four possible explanations. After ruling out data errors, cold weather and flu as main causes for the spike, the researchers found clear evidence of health system failures. Almost all targets were missed including ambulance call-out times and A&E waiting times, despite unexceptional A&E attendances compared to the same month in previous years. Professor Martin McKee, from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said: "The impact of cuts resulting from the imposition of austerity on the NHS has been profound. Expenditure has failed to keep pace with demand and the situation has been exacerbated by dramatic reductions in the welfare budget of £16.7 billion and in social care spending." He added: "With an aging population, the NHS is ever more dependent on a well-functioning social care system. Yet social care has also faced severe cuts, with a 17% decrease in spending for older people since 2009, while the number of people aged 85 years and over has increased by 9%. To maintain current levels of social care would require an extra £1.1 billion, which the government has refused."

SHEFFIELD, U.K. (BT) — Murder detectives are probing the fatal street shooting of a 23-year-old man in Sheffield. The young victim was said to have been shot in the chest while on his way to a family celebration near the Upperthorpe area of the city. Named locally as Aseel, friends described him as a "decent guy" who was "always approachable". Detectives have appealed for information over the killing, the latest in a spate of shootings to hit the city in recent weeks. South Yorkshire Police said they were called at 1.35pm on Saturday to Daniel Hill, Walkley, where they discovered a man with a gunshot wound.

MUNICH, GERMANY (Reuters) — Russia was behind a false report of a rape by German soldiers in Lithuania that was intended to undermine support for NATO's new eastern force, a senior NATO general said on Saturday, warning Europe to expect more such "fake news". Petr Pavel, who heads NATO's military committee, said he also hoped to hold the first telephone call in more than two years with Russia's military chiefs in coming weeks. There he will outline why NATO believes its biggest military build-up since the end of the Cold War is not a threat to the Kremlin. Pavel, a Czech army general, said a claim that German-speaking men raped a 15-year-old girl last week in a Lithuanian town close to a German army barracks "was not based on real events". An email making the claim was sent to the speaker of Lithuania's parliament on Tuesday. "It is clearly fake news and I believe we should expect more of this," Pavel told Reuters in an interview, citing conversations with the German and Lithuanian defence ministers. Estonia's Foreign Minister Sven Mikser also blamed Russia and said he expected more "hostile propaganda" over the troop presence. Pavel said Russia was "not pleased" by the deployment of NATO troops closer to its border. "It will likely use legal means, such as propaganda and they will try to influence public opinion against the deployments," he said. "It will get stronger ... but we will be transparent, consistent."

WENZHOU, CHINA (Reuters) — China will suspend all imports of coal from North Korea starting Feb. 19, the country's commerce ministry said in a notice posted on its website on Saturday, as part of its efforts to implement United Nations sanctions against the country. The Ministry of Commerce said in a short statement that the ban would be effective until Dec. 31. The ministry did not say why all shipments would be suspended, but South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported last week that a shipment of North Korean coal worth around \$1 million was rejected at Wenzhou port on China's eastern coast.

KANAZAWA, JAPAN (Reuters) — After prostate removal for cancer, men sometimes complain to their doctors that their penis shrank, but a new study from Japan suggests they should not lose hope. Following men for up to two years after surgery, researchers found the patients' penises were shortest a few days after their procedures. Penis lengths generally returned to normal after one year, however. The study's lead author said the research was started after encountering a few patients complaining of penis shortening after prostate removal, which is known medically as a radical prostatectomy. Past reports mentioned shortened penises after prostate removal, but the results were a bit different, said Dr. Yoshifumi Kadono, of Kanazawa University Graduate School of Medicine Science.

SOUTH CHINA SEA (Reuters) — A United States aircraft carrier strike group has begun patrols in the South China Sea amid growing tension with China over control of the disputed waterway and concerns it could become a flashpoint under the new U.S. administration. China's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday warned Washington against challenging its sovereignty in the South China Sea. The U.S. navy said the force, including Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, began routine operations in the South China Sea on Saturday.

BARCELONA, SPAIN (Independent) — At least 160,000 protesters have marched in Barcelona to demand that Spain's conservative-led government increase its efforts to take in refugees from war-torn countries like Syria. Spain has accepted just 1,100 refugees of the over 17,000 it has pledged to take in. Marchers held a large banner and signs in Catalan with the slogans 'Enough Excuses! Take Them In Now!' and 'No More Deaths, Open The Borders!' as they made their way through the city centre to its Mediterranean coast.

PARIS, FRANCE (Telegraph) — A workmen's café in central France was overwhelmed with gourmet customers and TV crews after it was awarded a Michelin star — by mistake, it later turned out. Prospective customers were astounded when they turned up at the Bouche à Oreille, in the small town of Bourges, to find a cheap and cheerful eatery serving a fixed price lunch menu with homemade lasagne or beef bourguignon for about €10 (£8.50). The Michelin Guide apologised, saying it had confused the café with a more refined establishment of the same name near Paris. The listing was changed on its website, but not until two days later. Véronique Jacquet, who runs the café, said it had a regular clientèle of local tradesmen. "Suddenly, we were rushed off our feet. Reporters were coming in and then my son phoned me from Paris, where he lives. He almost died laughing."

MOSUL, IRAQ (CNN) — Iraq launched an operation to regain control of western Mosul from ISIS militants weeks after it seized the eastern part, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said Sunday. The Prime Minister described the operation, which comes after Iraq recaptured eastern Mosul, a "new dawn" in the liberation of Mosul. He urged Iraqi organizations to provide humanitarian services and support to the liberated area. "Go forward with my blessing, heroic forces of Iraq," he said on state television. The Iraqi air force dropped millions of leaflets over western Mosul late Saturday, warning residents of an offensive by ground forces on the ISIS-held part of the city. The area has been targeted only by airstrikes in the past. Iraqi forces have had control of the eastern part of the city, which is divided by the Tigris River, since January.

AUKLAND, NEW ZEALAND (Telegraph) — Geologists claim to have discovered a new continent to the east of Australia: Zealandia. At 4.9 million square kilometres of land mass, 94 per cent of which is under water, Zealandia would be the world's smallest continent. The 11 scientists behind the claim presented their findings in the study "Zealandia: Earth's Hidden Continent" in Geological Society of America, making a case for Zealandia to be recognised as the world's eighth continent in its own right. According to their study, the land mass comprises all the four attributes needed to be considered a continent, including the presence of different rock types and crucially "the high elevation relative to regions floored by oceanic crust." "It was not a sudden discovery but a gradual realisation," the scientists wrote.

FAKE NEWS (OR IS IT?)

Paul Nuttall is from Albania and went to Charterhouse with Wayne Rooney's cousin Keith.

Whilst there he played Isaac Asimov at chess, losing in 5 moves.

As a waiter in the Bullingdon club he attempted to piss in the Soup, but missed. It was so foamy that Heston Blumenthal won his first Dunlop Star using it as a dressing for Trout with jam.

Across the Antarctic species of Elk, Reindeer and Eskimos are being harassed by feral GNU's.

GNU is an acronym for German Native Unwashed. Further proof of the breakdown of internationalism and the fall of establishments. Bloody crusties, I mean its like the sodding 80's all over again. If we still had a police force they should kick these GNU's shirtless. Oh hang on its not in Britain, or is it? I'm off to Anfield/Goodison or Tranmere, depending on the bus I get on.

Vote UKIP you daft blerts!

P. Nutter.

I've just chinned my missus in Hanley Aldi. She suggested we try P. Nuttall the UKIP nobhead. Imagine the laugh we had in the Ambulance as the bottle of Peanut Oil was being removed from my anus.

We are lifelong working class Tories.....

Anna Soubry is suing Waitrose over their 3 bird roast recipe, which she claims was her families secret recipe. She told me personally that it was uncanny the similarity and in fact she stated that not thrashing them to death whilst pissed up barely affected the taste.

Oh and Stoke Central is a Labour shitstorm, even if they win with an increased majority.

John Piennars. Nantwich.

It has just been revealed to our ace reporter, Scoop Taylor, that Paul Nuttall did indeed lose close friends at Hillsborough. These were the two witnesses that could prove he was there.

Tony Blair has been spotted at the Baum pub in Rochdale talking with Simon Danczuk and Nigel Farage about the formation of a new political party that they hope will be both nationalist and socialist.

Tongues were wagging in the house of commons bar as Theresa May was overheard to declare rather loudly that she quite fancied Jeremy Corbyn. Having interviewed JC last week it did seem strange that JC called her by her first name. This might also account for Dianne Abbot's recent mood swings.

Shocking CCTV video footage has emerged of a UKIP leafleter in



Stoke Central constituency pushing a leaflet through the door of an elderly lady then urinating on the wall of the house - and then, when the resident comes out to remonstrate with him, trying to force his way into her house in what must have been a terrifying assault.

The new USA government department that deals with fake news is seeking jurisdiction over worldwide media. This will include all British newspapers and TV stations. It is to be controlled by The Countries United News Topic Service. The decision of this bunch will be final.

Footballer Christiano Ronaldo will be the first current top flight player to come out as gay at the end of the season. Our sources have revealed that the homophobia over this announcement was the real reason behind David Beckham's not receiving a Knighthood.

The NHS has improved brilliantly under the Tories with miracle cures for everything.

Council chiefs in Southend On Sea have announced that three beaches on the seafront will run a trial this summer where ladies will be asked to cover up while sunbathing.

these so-called 'Modesty Beach Areas' will be set up to attract visitors from all over the UK who may be uncomfortable with the sight of 'excessive bare female skin' for a number of either cultural or religious reasons.

Russia was behind a false report of a rape by German soldiers in Lithuania that was intended to undermine support for NATO's new eastern force, a senior NATO general said on Saturday, warning Europe to expect more such "fake news".

Petr Pavel, who heads NATO's military committee, said he also hoped to hold the first telephone call in more than two years with Russia's military chiefs in coming weeks. There he will outline why NATO believes its biggest military build-up since the end of the Cold War is not a threat to the Kremlin.

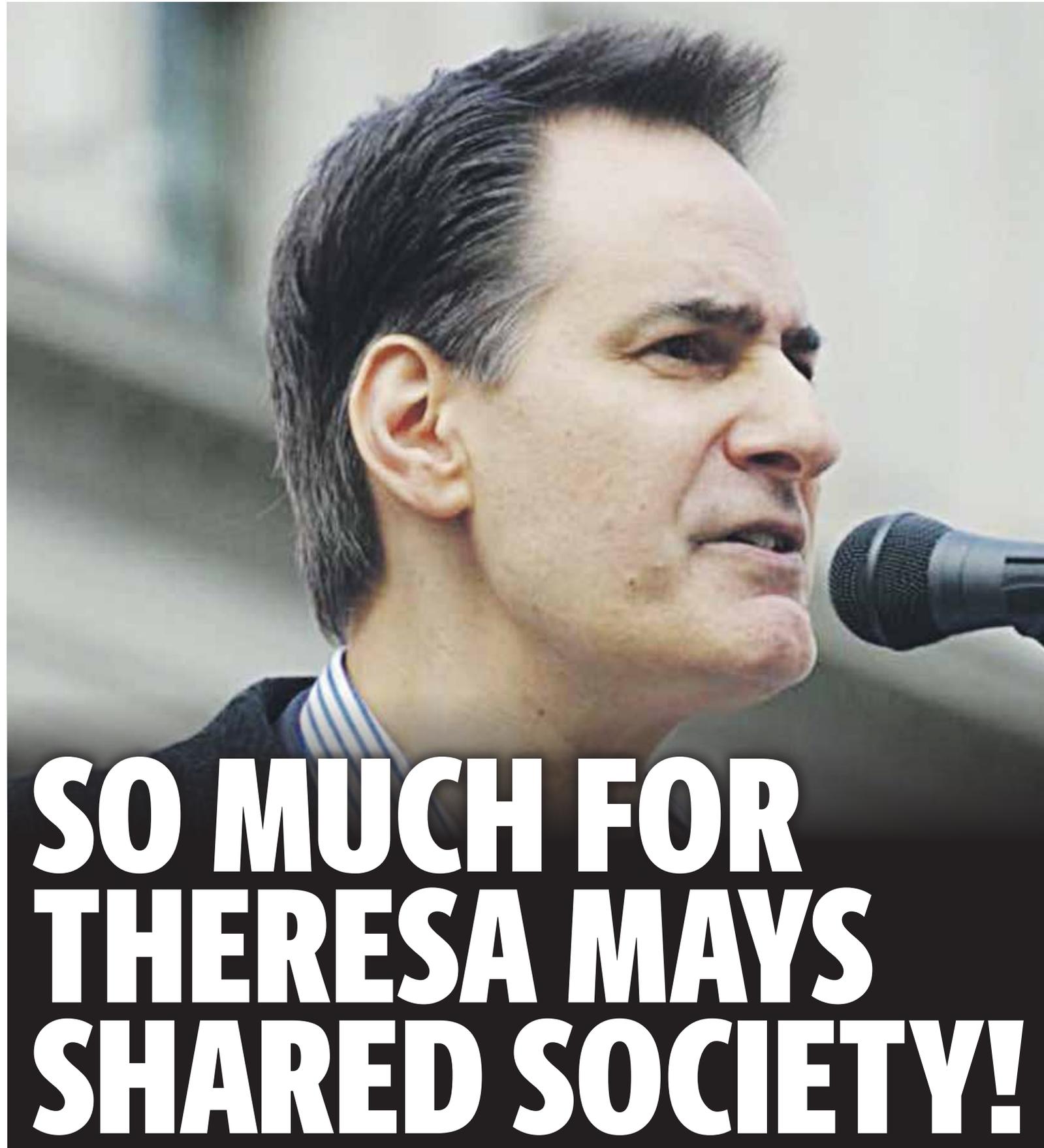
By Peter Stefanovic

We live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world yet over a million people are forced to rely on food bank hand outs to survive. 400,000 children have to use food banks every year. Parents are going without a meal, sometimes for days at a time, so their children have enough to eat and GPs are prescribing nutritional drinks to starving patients as malnutrition soars. Those with disability have been trapped in their homes, abandoned and forgotten and tens of thousands of disabled people have been hit by cruel benefit sanctions. The elderly are forced to sell their homes, to leave their loved ones and a lifetime of memories, and those who remain, heartbroken by a country that has forgotten both them and the sacrifices they made, must choose between heat for their homes or a meal for the table. Many cannot do even that! Thousands of sick have died after this Government has declared them fit for work and the homeless, cold and hungry, are now dying on our streets.

Seventeen million people have less than £100 in savings. Just think about that for a minute, that's seventeen million people just a heartbeat away from being thrown onto the street with their families and children. This week we learned 19 million are on the edge of poverty even though nearly all have a job and its going to get worse. Research by the *Joseph Rowntree Foundation* has found that 30% of the population, 19 million people, are now below the "minimum standard income" (MIS). The number below MIS has risen by 4 million since 2008/9. 11 million people are at least 75% below MIS and at high risk of poverty and 8 million are just about managing to get by! This Government is plunging the people in this country into a level of poverty not seen since the Victorian age and with it we've seen the return of diseases long thought eradicated like scarlet fever. The number of children estimated to now be living in poverty is four million and what is the Governments response to that? Let's disown it by abolishing the Child Poverty Unit!

By stealth, erosion of Legal Aid and an increase in court fees, in some cases to a staggering £10,000, the Government has created a two tier system of Justice in the UK, one for the rich and one for the poor, the latter offering little or no Justice at all.

Nine out ten NHS trusts say their hospitals have been at unsafe levels of overcrowding. A and Es have an average waiting time of 14 hours and 60,000 people wait on trolleys for up to 12 hours just to get a bed. Patients are dying on hospitals trolleys and within the past week we've been told a mother needing emergency surgery tragi-



SO MUCH FOR THERESA MAYS SHARED SOCIETY!

cally died after being turned away from three different hospitals because of a shortage of beds! In spite of an ageing population and increasing costs of treatment, NHS funding, no matter what the Government says, is growing at its lowest rate since records began in 1955 and 19 NHS hospitals face closure! Even so it was revealed this week that hospital trusts are to be hammered by business rate rises whilst web giants like Amazon see costs fall! The first overhaul of levies in seven years is expected to clobber NHS trusts and family doctors with a multi million pound hike!

The NHS is facing a crisis in moral, funding and staffing and social and mental health services are at the point of imminent collapse. An unprecedented rise in mortality in England and Wales is likely to be linked to cuts to the NHS and Social

care according to recent research and we are talking 30,000 excess deaths in 2015 alone! It's time for the Government to face the Truth of the deadly effects of its austerity cuts.

An analysis published by Age UK suggests almost 1.2 million people aged 65 and over don't receive the care and support they need with essential daily activities such as eating, dressing and bathing. This figure has rocketed by 17.9% in just a year and by almost 50% since 2010!

The Prime Minister continues to maintain she has every confidence in her Health secretary, Jeremy Hunt which is surprising to say the least given he's the man responsible for the longest A and E waiting times since 2004, fewer beds and doctors then almost anywhere in the EU and his claims of

£10 billion extra funding for the NHS has been proved to be completely untrue! And let's not forget he plans a further £22 billion of cuts to local services by 2020!

This is also the man who scrapped bursaries for student nurses causing a huge drop in applicants at a time when we have a desperate shortage of nurses and is still railroading through an unsafe and discriminatory contract for 54,000 Junior doctors which will see them working longer hours at a time when a resent study has found many are already falling asleep at the wheels of their cars driving home! So why, we might ask ourselves, does May say she has every confidence in Mr Hunt? Confidence to do what exactly? The only logical answer appears to be to break the NHS in order to privatise it. Theresa May has even

singled out Mr Hunt as one of the most passionate advocates for patients and doctors. That's sheer stupidity in light of his record and says as much about her own judgement as it does his! The simple fact of the matter is that by reason of incompetence or design the Tories cannot be trusted with the NHS and public spending cuts, tax burdens at a 30 year high and a rising national debt rubbish any suggestion of Tory economic competence!

Homelessness soaring, child poverty soaring, malnutrition soaring! For Theresa May to suggest that the Tory party is a party of social justice is an insult to every man, woman and child in this country. She is guilty of grotesque hypocrisy by pretending to care about "ordinary working people." SO MUCH FOR THERESA MAYS 'SHARED SOCIETY!'

URGENT ACCOUNTABILITY

100% OMOV & RECALL ACCOUNTABILITY 4 M

Accountability now- Pure OMOV means: 1) anyone can be on the ballot 2) unions & minority members don't get to vote twice. Recall means: - 3) withdraw your vote at any time to re-elect someone

THE PURE OMOV RECALL ACCOUNTABILITY ORGANISATION

Fully democratic control of an organisation by the membership can ONLY be ended through "pure OMOV" where union and minority and other bodies do not get extra votes. Anything less than full OMOV is open to gerrymandering as representation by unions is never perfectly proportionate to other members and some unions suffer demonstrably corrupt electoral processes. Unless officials are elected by OMOV (e.g. JC) members lose the ability to elect those who truly represents us at senior levels, and, more importantly, have the bodies they sit on behave in a representative way.

Even where the membership does elect by OMOV the electorate can become very disillusioned with a person (e.g. TW). Recall with maximum terms is therefore necessary rather than fixed terms.

OMOV and Recall makes democracy responsive to its electorate. These are minimum standards for those who are truly pursuing democracy and not dictatorship. Anything less is vulnerable to becoming a dictatorship. Neither the Momentum national coordination committee described in Lansmans constitution nor Labour's NEC would qualify as democratic under these rules. Labour democracy and momentum democracy has been systematically undermined including the losing side in the NEC elec-

tion breaching Labour conference rules to deny delegates a card vote in 2016. Corrective action is therefore urgent.

The proposal here is that we separately accept principles listed as rules 1 to 4 below.

With sufficient support, we can agree which of the other rules are necessary. Or vote on this as a start point for fully democratic constitution to be amended by further OMOV ballots.

I allege that the fundamentals below must be accepted and implemented immediately in any organisation proposing to be democratic. Including momentum.

RULES

A) FUNDAMENTALS "PURE OMOV"

1) "PURE OMOV" elections return candidates only to committees and other representative bodies where every member on that committee was elected by a vote only of individual members and/or personally voluntarily paid up affiliated people. See Note 1 for an example.

"NOMINATION"

2) To prevent nomination processes and disciplinary procedures denying entry to candidates who retain the confidence of the membership and therefore reduce the quality of candidates elected, candidates do not need to be nominated in a PURE OMOV process. Before an OMOV takes place, every member is sent an invitation to nominate electronically at their registered email address. Every person, even a non-member, who declares themselves to be a candidate, or is declared to be a candidate, is a candidate. The only requirement to be a candidate is that a date of birth or photograph of the



candidate is supplied alongside their name and surname. Members are entitled to vote for any candidate and in the event that their candidate is not on the ballot, the only thing required to make their candidate a candidate is for a member to write their name and date of Birth legibly onto a ballot paper.

"RECALL ACCOUNTABILITY"

3) A fresh election for the post of a committee member or entire

committee must occur with an immediate OMOV re-election ballot where a majority of the electorate vote in support of a no confidence motion. A no confidence motion can be called by the lower of 10% of all members OR 5000 members submitted to any standing pure OMOV committee. A no confidence motion will also be automatically be triggered where enough people withdraw their votes that that person would not

have been voted into the committee had their withdrawn votes not have been cast in the original vote. To do this members must submit the second half of their ballot paper, which will be identifiable as genuine by a serial number, with the mark by their candidate's name on it.

"TRANSPARENCY"

4) Once manual ballots select this committee of people, their meetings and every vote they take

Recently at 2016 Labour conference the NEC was hijacked by the outgoing members acting through Paddy Lillis. Paddy, in violation of the Rules and therefore the law by denying a card vote to delegates demanding one, simply bundled an unpopular rule change with around a dozen very popular rule changes. The unpopular rule change added two Blairites to the supreme NEC which decides almost everything in Labour, including the critical element of who is selected as a Parliamentary candidate.

The Corbynite majority got confused and eventually didn't

oppose the bundled stack of proposals. Eventually, the proposed bundle passed with a majority, meaning that the party officials could now claim they been passed by conference. Given that the process had been unlawful, this means that conference had acted beyond its powers when it ratified these Constitutional changes.

However, the party is still pretending these rules are lawful because none has opposed them in court.

This means that hundreds of thousands of votes cast in the NEC elections were effectively overruled. 2 Corbyn opponents

who were voted off the NEC have now been illegitimately added by two unelected, unlawful NEC members.

Imagine if on the final day of parliament, after losing an election, the Tories used their majority to add more Tories to parliament before the new parliament took office. That is pretty much what happened here.

It makes it clear that the democracy in the party is a sham.

That is not to say that all is lost. Many members of the NEC are elected. If Corbynites can elect more Corbyn supporters to the NEC, shifting illegitimate mem-

bers who engaged in smear campaigns like Jasmine Beckett from the NEC and replacing them with Corbynite NEC members. The CLPD are the forefront of helping Jeremy and John McDonnell perform this vital work and it's critical that people up and down the country help they do it.

However, it's not only important to try to resurrect Labour's democracy, It's also important to prepare for the possibility that it can't be saved. In that event, the Labour party is merely a mechanism for hijacking people's naive enthusiasm for Corbyn while denying them meaningful participa-

tion in decision making and candidate selection.

Therefore we need new structures, fully democratic ones, to unite people Inside OR outside the party, and highlight where people have not won a Legitimate democratic mandate quickly, responding to members changing views, encouraging compromise and discouraging the endless splits the left is known for.

Full OMOV with recall powers seems to be a sensible unifier to me.

Here's a proposed constitution which work as well as a Labour constitution as it would as a momentum constitution.

ACCOUNTABILITY

MOMENTUM CONSTITUTION



ers, shareholders and chief executives of any pure OMOV recall accountability organisation must commit to making his organisation fully liable to legally enforceable repossession by its members in the event that this model of democracy and its supreme PURE OMOV TRANSPARENT ACCOUNTABLE committee is not obeyed by the actions of the organisation's legally registered directors.

"PORASEC" qualification

9) Anyone seeking election as a representative to an external or superior organisation which does not qualify as a PORASEC must sign a declaration that in the event that they do not submit to and enforce the published mandates of the organisation's PORASEC elected in this way (e.g. Labour NEC/ parliament), that they will resign their seat at that organisation immediately where this would trigger a re-election of the seat from which they resigned.

External representation or elections

10) Only a committee set up in accordance with the above rules can set up votes or subordinate bodies on purpose, principles, policy, structure, budgets, promotions, communications, expulsions, other disciplinary procedures, and electronic votes on motions. Only a committee set up under the above rules may be accurately labelled "The PURE recall accountable OMOV Supreme Executive Committee (PORASEC)"

Constitutional fundamentals change

11) Change of the fundamental rules listed above can only be performed after 1 year's written notice to all existing members of the intent to change the wording in a pure OMOV YES/ NO vote set up by the PORASEC.

B) MOTIONS of a PURE OMOV RECALL ACCOUNTABILITY ORGANISATION

12) A separate committee is elected by the same pure OMOV and pure recall process, again with published meetings and votes. No member of the PORASEC may be elected to the second committee the second committee's purpose is solely to administer the discussion, ownership, prioritisation and voting on proposals for the PORASEC to assess the following month. This committee shall be labelled "The motions censorship committee", it will also have 11 members with the one with the most votes being labelled "chairperson".

13) All motions proposed will, except where the PORASEC or a handwritten petition of 10% or of the membership or 5000 members, whichever is the lower requires that the motion go straight to the PORASEC, be voted on in an electronic forum (e.g. MXV). Handwritten petition motions as described above arriving at the published office of the organisation will be added to the most popular online motions to total 6 motions. Where there are more than 6 motions, those with the most members signatures will be the 6 selected to be discussed by the PORASEC. The PORASEC will discuss 6 motions each month and take 3 hours to discuss each motion before voting on it in its unaltered state.

Changes to implementation rules

14) Changes to the rules above may only be by OMOV ballot.

Appendix A

SUGGESTED SPECIFICS OF AN INDIVIDUAL INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION

1) A PORASEC shall normally consist of 11 members.

2) Counting of manual ballots should be done in many places to prevent vote fraud, no individual count venue being more than more than 2% of the electorate or 100 people, whichever is the greater.

3) Postal votes should not be allowed under any circumstances except where the organisation can reasonably afford the time and investment required to identify and verify a representative sample of not less than 5% of the votes as true before an election result is announced.

4) Personal compensation for work on either committee will not exceed the mean wage in the nation in which it is based.

5) Basic membership and affiliation fees shall be no more than one ten thousandth of the mean waged salary for the country where the member or affiliate wishes to join.

Appendix B)

NOTES

1) e.g. A union who had 30,000 members but only 300 voluntary paying affiliated people to the organisation, would enjoy only 300 votes (one per member) in the election for the committee in question, not a guaranteed place and therefore would have to be more popular and perceived to have more value by those in support of momentum.

must be recorded and published.

"CHAIR"

5) The committee member in attendance with the most votes is the "chair" of the PORASEC and has executive control of meetings while they remain so.

"Maximum Terms"

6) Where there are no recall elections, Pure OMOV Recall accountable members must stand for re-election every 2 years or a duration specified by a Pure OMOV vote to be not longer than 4 years or shorter than 6 months.

"Membership Resurrection"

7) In the event that a recall election is not called within 3 months of the time required, a petition of 10% of the membership or 5000 members, whichever is the lower or a recall trigger as described above can authorise control of the election to a person nominated by the petition as having the necessary equipment and support to arrange the vote in accordance with the rules. The executive must at this point provide that person and subordinates he appoints access to membership data reasonably required to run the election.

"Legal control"

8) The directors, trustees, own-

EVENTS

Wednesday 22nd MHELO - improve mental health services and support for people. 17:00-19:00 Barnwood Business Centre, Work, GL4 3 Gloucester, Gloucestershire

Art for Refugees, 18:00-20:30 EBRD Broadgate, 1 Exchange Square, EC2A 2JN, London

The NHS crisis and STPs - how should Labour respond? 19:00-21:00, Quinborne, Ridgacre Road, B32 2 Birmingham

Thursday 23rd Social media campaign to disrupt Cuadrilla Fracking. See "Rising Up" on facebook for details.

RenationaliseTheNHS DEMO, Hosted by Darlo Young Labour, 12:00-14:00 Darlington Market Square, Darlington, Co Durham

Save NHS, Fight Austerity, Hosted by Socialist Party - Portsmouth 19:30-21:30, Fratton Trades Club, Fratton Road, PO1 5AB Portsmouth

Friday 24th Birmingham - Love Music Hate Racism, 19:00-1:00, The Crossing Digbeth, High Street Deritend Digbeth, B5 5SU Birmingham.

Saturday 25th Moortown Labour Campaign Day - Austerity Isn't Working 10:00-12:00, Waitrose Meanwood, LS6 4RJ Leeds

Revolution: Russia 1917 - one hundred years on, 10:00-18:00, Rich Mix London, 35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA London, United Kingdom, www.eventbrite.co.uk

Stop Britain First, Telford, Shropshire Antifa and Midlands Anti-Fascist, 10:00-18:00, Telford.

March to save the Minor Injuries Unit, Clacton Labour Party, 12:00-14:00, Sea Front CO15 1RH Clacton-on-Sea

Leeds Stand Up to Racism Rally & workshops, 12:00-15:00, Leeds Civic Hall, Portland Crescent, LS1 3 Leeds

Noam Chomsky's The Responsibility of Intellectuals, Noam Chomsky (live video link from Arizona, USA) Hosted by Jacqueline Walker, 13:00-18:30, The Cruciform Lecture Theatre, University College London, WC1E 6BT.

Ulusal Sağlık Servisi NHS/de neler oluyor? Halk Toplantısı, 16:00-18:00, North London Community House, 22 Moorefield Road, N17 6PY.

Monday 27th Protest Na i Garchardai - No New Prisons! Hosted by Manchester No Pris-

ons and IWW Incarcerated, 12:00-15:00 HMP Berwyn

10 things you need to know about the Trade Union Act 2016, 12:30-13:30, The Law Society of Scotland, Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, EH3 8EX Edinburgh, Eyeless In Gaza London Screening,

Public · Hosted by Eyeless In Gaza, 18:30-20:00, Picturehouse Central London, tickets - peatix.com

Taxes for Peace Bill Rally, 19:00-21:00, Friends House, 173-177 Euston Rd, London NW1 2BJ,

Anti-Trump Appreciation Night, Hosted by FDT Brighton, 22:00-3:00, Brighton.

Tuesday 28th PAA London meeting - Banner Making and NHS Privatisation debate

Public · Hosted by Psychologists Against Austerity, 18:30-21:00

Wednesday 1st Stop the Arms Fair Communications Blockade on the day! Na i'r Ffair Arfau, Defnyddiwch Eich Llais ar y dydd! Cardiff, Everywhere / Pobman

NHS Crisis Public Meeting 20:00 Lewsey Farm Learning Centre in Luton

Thursday 2nd Manchester Stands Up To Racism, 19:00 Mechanics Institute in Manchester

The Big Housing Conversation, Hosted by ACORN Bristol 17:45-20:00. City Hall, Bristol College Green, BS1 5 Bristol, www.eventbrite.co.uk

Friday 3rd The Anti Austerity Club presents Funky Fridays 20:00 The Hole in the Wall in Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Saturday 4th It's Our NHS - National Demonstration to defend the NHS 12:00-17:00 Tavistock Square, London, WC1, marching to Parliament Square.

We're Not Leaving Until We Save Our NHS! Occupy Parliament Square. Hosted by Anon UK TV, 4 March at 17:00 to 18 March at 17:00 Our NHS Cornwall, 14:15-15:00, Lemon Quay, Truro, TR1

Monday 6th Honno & WEN Wales: International Women's Day 2017, Aberystwyth Arts Centre in Aberystwyth, 19:00.

Tuesday 7th End the Tory Austerity Assault on Women, 18:00 SOAS University of London in London,

Chesterfield Stand Up To Racism Public Meeting 19:30 Saints Parish Centre in Chesterfield



The village of Nieciecza in southern Poland is not a place you would expect to find a top-flight football team, surrounded as it is by rural cornfields, the pretty river Dunajec and a huge factory that manufactures paving slabs and building materials at its northern end. But up at the north-eastern corner is the home of Bruk-Bet Termalica Nieciecza, a club that are defying all expectations by occupying fourth place in the Ekstraklasa, where they sit just six points behind the leaders, Jagiellonia Białystok, before the league resumes on 10 February.

Their recently renovated stadium is an incongruous sight, with its modern shiny facade and newly built car park set against a village that consists of no more than a handful of streets and just over 700 people. But it is also a source of great pride for a group of people who can now safely say they hail from the smallest place in Europe to host a major nation top-tier football team.

There are echoes of Hoffenheim in the Polish club's rapid rise but while Dietmar Hopp used money he made in the software business to fund the German club's ascent, the owner of Nieciecza, Krzysztof Witkowski - who grew up in the village - has backed the club with cash he has generated from Bruk-Bet, the building materials company he founded around 30 years ago that still stands there today. He began with a mixer and his own bare hands and built it up into one of Poland's most successful businesses. Now he appears to be doing the same again with his local team, who little over a decade ago were amateurs kicking around in the sixth tier of Polish football.

Having raced through the pyramid between 2004 and 2010 they reached the second division, where many thought they would do well to cling on to their status. But with additional sponsorship from the insulation company Termalica and some shrewd signings the club surpassed all expectations. In 2015, they finished second and gained entry to the Ekstraklasa thanks to promotion specialist Piotr Mandrysz's expert management and

the firepower of the striker Emil Drozdowicz.

For a team backed by construction companies, it is apt that their success appears to have been founded on having the right tools for the task at hand. Most clubs would have stuck with a man who had achieved such a stunning feat but after Mandrysz guided Nieciecza to a respectable 13th-place finish in their debut top-flight season in 2015-16, he was let go. In his place they appointed Czesław Michniewicz, nicknamed the Polish Mourinho due to his tactical nous and preference for focusing on a well-drilled defensive system (Bolton-era Sam Allardyce would perhaps be a better fit). Given that he has taken the club to within sight of European football thanks to his unlovely but hugely effective style the move appears to have been a well thought through upgrade. Pragmatism is something the club does very well. When there was a problem with Pogon Szczecin fans attempting to start trouble outside the ground some years ago, the police gave chase and lost them in the overgrown corn fields that surrounded it. Witkowski now ensures nearby land is well kept so there is, quite literally, nowhere for hooligans to hide.

But it is not Krzysztof who is the chief decision-maker on footballing matters at Nieciecza. His wife, Danuta, is the club president and it is she who pulls the strings and handles transfers, contract negotiations and discussions with the manager and staff about what is needed for the team to succeed. It is not the norm for a woman



POLISH FOOTBALL

to hold such a lofty position at a Polish club - and let's be honest, it's not the norm at most football clubs wherever they are - but she has earned great respect for her no-nonsense approach to business and, in a league in which corruption and golden handshakes have been rumoured to take place, her above-board approach has been welcomed. The club, based where

it is far from the cultural attractions of a major city (Tarnow is 20km away and is home to just over 100,000 people) is not an attractive option for players but agents are increasingly recommending Nieciecza to clients due to Danuta's blunt reliability when it comes to discussing wages and paying players on time (something that is not always guaranteed in Poland).

The appointment of a smart young analyst in Kamil Potrykus (who spent time over Christmas studying Aitor Karanka's methods at Middlesbrough and is the former managing director of the International Professional Scouting Organisation) has helped in matters of reporting back in detail on opponents and has given Michniewicz the ammunition to target weaknesses among the league's established clubs. It is an approach that is the norm at big clubs but Nieciecza have had to catch on quickly - and they have. They have also embraced technology in a

huge way, investing in drones to record positional patterns in training sessions so they can give players videos to analyse at home.

In an interview with the Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza, Michniewicz was repeatedly asked questions about his modern methods and he admitted that if results go badly he risks ridicule by conservative commentators who see his approach as being a bit gimmicky. But he believes the small details have made a big difference. "We train as much using our heads as our feet," he said. "This is, as the Americans say, total immersion, total immersion. Footballers should devote themselves to their work. Without having the biggest budget or the widest staff and the best coach, we are in fourth place ... drones can't score goals, but they can help us win a few matches. I recently bought a programme for analysis, LongoMatch, specially prepared for us in Spain. Now we are the forerunners with it but in





OTBALL



five years everyone will use this. However, I hope that then we'll have something else."

Michniewicz believes that with the family-orientated approach of the Witkowskis and the close ties between players and staff - many of them live on the same estate - the positive atmosphere at Nieciecza is a chief strength. "At bigger clubs relationships with owners are difficult but here they are available at any time. At least once a week

the team meets with the president [Danuta]. Thanks to this she knows about all our problems and she is easier to work with. She asks about the wellbeing of all the players with the care of a mother."

The club's arrival in the elite league was at first met with bemusement and they were derisively called the "peasants" by rival fans who snorted at the low gates of around 2,000 for home games (they are still averaging this

number) and lack of atmosphere. But since then there has been a growing admiration for the team's acclimatisation. Far from being an enlivening experience, a visit to the countryside has been a stifling ordeal for big city guests. Nieciecza do not score many but when they do they make them count.

In August and September they beat Lechia Gdansk 2-1 and Legia Warsaw by the same score (they're unbeaten in three matches against Poland's most successful club) and they've held two other major clubs, Jagiellonia Bialystok, and fifth-placed Lech Poznan - who they face on Friday when the season resumes - to 0-0 draws. Thorough match-by-match preparation appears to be working. They have successfully scouted the Slovakian market with Samuel Stefanik and Patrik Misak among seven Slovaks on the club's books who have impressed this season and in their top-scoring Latvian striker Vladislavs Gutkovskis they have a talented 21-year-old who will only improve and has been likened to Romelu Lukaku by Michniewicz. They even have a Brazilian, the full-back Guilherme, who helps add just a smidgen of flair on the left flank and the centre-back Artem Putivcev got a surprise call-up by Ukraine early in the season and is one of the main reasons Nieciecza do not concede many goals.

On top of this, Krzysztof has rebuilt the stadium to meet the league's licensing requirements in less than six months. If a challenge is put in front of the Witkowskis, they rise to it. When the village school closed due to a lack of money they built a new one and Danuta has since been awarded the Medal of the National Education Commission for the philanthropic gesture. The stadium is also home to a state-of-the-art 5D cinema for public use and the couple regularly make charitable donations to a range of causes.

The symbol on the village crest - inherited by the football team - is that of an elephant. Nobody knows why but it dates back to around 1870 and is apt for a village that has never let its size prevent it from being culturally on a par with much bigger towns and cities. In the early 20th century the villagers stood apart for their interest in the arts and amateur dramatics in particular, with Krzysztof's family being keen enthusiasts - his father took a course in set design. Now it is the football team that is flying the flag for this small community.

If Nieciecza do surpass all expectations and qualify for Europe this season, don't expect the Witkowskis to rest on their laurels and view it as an achievement that they can sit back and admire. The couple who made their money in the concrete business, will want to mix it with the big boys and continue building.

5th Round reports

Games were often won in the final minutes, but not by City, whose players were thinking about what they could #tweet after the game.

Burnley 0 Lincoln 1

Stanley Acrimonious said: *This could be a fantastic game, and a warm winter stew made with all the bits that are left when the knee kicking is over.*

The Reality: Burnley spurned their chances; obviously not fancying a trip across the cabbage fields, and following a corner Tom Heaton pushed away centre-half Sean Raggett's header, but was behind the line when he did so.

Middlesbrough 3 Oxford United 2

Stanley said: *OK Oxford, it's been fun; but it stops here, right?*

The Reality: It really was fun, with a couple of spectacular goals, but it ended here; despite the visitors pulling it back to 2-2 in the second half, the hosts scored in the 87th minute to end Oxford's Cup run. Now others are talking about 'Boro as possible winners of the competition, so I might go cool and start to tip someone else.

Wolverhampton Wanderers 0 Chelsea 2

Stanley said: *This depends on whether Chelsea 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.*

The Reality: Chelsea turned up and had to work; goals from Pedro and Costa won the game, despite a fierce performance from Wolves.

Huddersfield Town 0 Manchester City 0

It was City who didn't turn up today; and Pep has to hope he can pep them up for the replay. But don't count on it. If they do manage to win, try not to look at the expressions on their big silly faces as they take their lowly opposition to pieces at home while their fans celebrate as though the large amount of someone else's money spent purchasing some overpriced lazy-bonesies hasn't helped to buy all their success in the recent past. All over to Manchester on the 28th, and back to Huddersfield to celebrate whatever the score.

Millwall 1 Leicester City 0

Stanley said: *Leicester will struggle through the replay with Derby and with another away tie. Someone you've never heard of will score a cracking goal. Then I'll tell you about it.*

The Reality: Struggling against ten men at Millwall, Leicester, in red, might have fared better against Double Gloucester, after defender Cooper played a pooper, kicking the ball out of the keeper's hands (the ref's never going to allow that Jakey, even for Millwall at home) and then knee kicking Musa right up in the air, resulting in his second yellow card. The 'cracking goal' was scored in the 90th minute by Shaun Cummings whose run in the penalty box foxed four opponents. Cummings reminds me of me at the same age; beats you close in.

Fulham 0 Tottenham 3

Stanley said: *Let me not intrude on what is going to be a bit of private grief; but I do hope there will be some token knee kicking, just to show that it isn't entirely fixed.*

The Reality: The grief was entirely Fulham's. They might console themselves that only England Centre Forward and Spurs captain 'Hurricane' Harry Kane managed to score against them. That he scored three completely buried them.

Blackburn 1 Black Sox 2

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

The Reality: Black Sox dominated play, and although Blackburn took the lead, Marcus Rashford equalised fifteen minutes before half time. Sox's bench had more talent sitting on it than in the entire Blackburn team, and on the hour Pogba and Ibrahimović came on to ensure appearance bonuses. Ibra scored after 75 minutes to put Blackburn out.

LINCOLN FOR THE CUP?

Lincoln City, backed by over 3,000 noisy fans, gave the players a rapturous reception as they took to the field and once the pre-match formalities were done and dusted Burnley kicked off.

It was a quiet opening as both sides settled into proceedings but things almost came to life in the fifth minute when good work by Nathan Arnold saw him create space and find Muldoon but he

saw his first time effort fly over the bar.

In the 55th minute Tarkowski somehow escaped a yellow card after flattening Rhead and a couple of minutes later Power was grounded by a Barton elbow which the referee deemed to be a fair challenge.

An off the ball incident involving Rhead and Barton saw referee Scott speak to both players in the 63rd minute, just before Dayle

Southwell replaced Jack Muldoon up front.

In the 73rd minute Ashley Barnes replaced the ineffective Sam Vokes up front for the Clarets and five minutes later a foul on Gray by Raggett gave the hosts a free-kick but Farman claimed Barnes's header following Barton's chipped delivery.

With a minute of normal time remaining City forced a couple of

Quarter final draw

Chelsea v Manchester United

Middlesbrough v Huddersfield

Town or Manchester City

Tottenham Hotspur v

Millwall Sutton United

or Arsenal v Lincoln City

corners and when the second was played deep by Habergham, the unmarked Waterfall headed back into the mix and there at the back post was SEAN RAGGETT to send the Imps into raptures by heading over the line.

Lincoln City held out though and when referee Scott blew for time, the history making Imps booked their place in the QUARTER FINALS of the FA Cup!

