

THE WORD

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MAY OUT BY JUNE!

May snubbed by voters

 **Michael Crick** 
@MichaelLCrick

"We're not allowed to answer your questions," say workers at factory being visited by Theresa May



1:31 p.m. · 21 Apr 17

1,551 RETWEETS 703 LIKES



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

Editor

Peter Loo

News Editor

Guido Paine,
Julie Stevens

Cartoonist

Andrew Keir

Website

George Christophorou

Advertising sales

John Ball

Events

Alex Taylor

Sport

Ian Cockerham

Proofreading

Steve Sutton

Picture editors

David Edenbrow
Charles Abrahams

Contributors

Alan Davies, George Galloway, John McDonnell MP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Julie Ward MEP, Peter Stefanovic, Ian Cockerham, Phil Brown, Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Tariq Ali, Jack Comes, Charles James, Cliff Jones, Eileen Kersey, John Wilkins, Andrew Wallace, Derek Frazer.

Design

Branko Pejovic



IS THERESA MAY N



Vote for a pay rise
£10 hour min wage
#VoteLabour
FOR THE MANY
NOT THE FEW
Vote for affordable housing
1 million new homes

Nationwide appeal - Has ANYONE SEEN Prime Minister Theresa May in public since she announced she will call a General Election? "She's campaigning across the nation" Claims Tory Head Office!

Has Theresa May has absconded? Been kidnapped? Or perhaps been done in?! Some sources claim that the PM's disappearance has been hidden from the nation in a Soviet style cover up!

Prime Minister May has REFUSED to appear in a PUBLIC DEBATE with Jeremy Corbyn.

No Public allowed in the venues she is claimed to be visiting.

Journalists have even been LOCKED in room to prevent them seeing Tory May. "Cornwall Live" news team footage has to be seen to be believed!

Either Theresa may is turning into Howard Hughes, the famous business magnate who become so paranoid about germs in mid-life that he was unable to leave his

room, or perhaps it's not germs but just the public she's scared of?

The Tory Party leader has allowed no debates to be heard, she has appeared nervous and uncertain at press conferences, in spite of being surrounded only by Conservative party members at every single occasion, and she has had journalists literally locked into rooms to avoid meeting them. She appears terrified to engage in any discussion and hasn't described How are your tactics working for you Theresa?

The Tories have plummeted from an amazing lead in over Labour since April, after 2 years of solid BBC attacks on Jeremy Corbyn, the man the rich are terrified will be PM. Previously at a 48% approval rating, the Tories after only a few weeks are now at 33%, a loss of 15% in a staggeringly short time, to spite the main stream media backing them 100%.

The predicted massive gains in Wales totally failed to materialise with the Tories gaining only one council, and very little change occurring in overall control at all.

May's attempts to ignore her Tory affiliation and make it all about her, may not be helping the nasty party as much as she'd hoped. But why hide her party in the background as she has done on all occasions that she's appeared on TV and elsewhere? Could it be due to

Massive fraud investigation into the Tories - they have been fined £70 000 the maximum fine

Labour MP's standing down

Although the MSM has made as much as possible about this many are standing down because of age, ill health, or to do other things, for example:

Alan Johnson

He said he will be stepping down from his Hull West and Hessle seat rather than retiring in 2022 when he will be 71.

"I've decided that going now will give me the opportunity to do other things with my life and is therefore in the best interests of me and my family. I also think it's best for the Party."

Iain Wright

"I do not intend to stand again to become Member of Parliament for Hartlepool. I would like to do other things and now is a good opportunity to do so."

Pat Glass

Pat Glass MP has announced she will not be standing this year. North West Durham

Andrew Smith, the MP for Oxford East said:

"This election is for a Parliament which is likely to run until 2022, when I would be over

71, so I think it is now time for someone else to take forward the work of serving local people as your MP."

Rob Marris Wolverhampton, said: "At my age and after 11 years in Parliament, I have decided that it is time to step down and support a new Labour candidate for the city. As a proud Wulfrunian, it has been a privilege to serve the people of Wolverhampton as a Labour Member of Parliament."

David Anderson

The Shadow Scottish Secretary

will not be standing for re-election. He said: "I have reluctantly decided that for reasons of health, age and my family's needs, I cannot commit to another five years in Parliament.

Jim Dowd

The Lewisham West and Penge MP announced on Thursday he would be stepping down. He was returned to his south London seat with a majority of 12,714, with an increased share of the vote, at the last general election.

Andy Burnham, MP for Leigh, seems to be wanting to concentrate on other political ambitions - he's not standing as MP, but still wants to be the Labour Mayor of Manchester.



MISSING?!

that can be applied by the toothless Electoral Commission. Theresa May said she had "complied fully", but the Electoral Commission said the Tories had been obstructive and unhelpful.

At present, up to 20 Conservative MPs are the subject of criminal investigation by 16 police forces. The Tory lead is only 16 seats.

Food bank usage - 26,000 in 2008-2009, rising by 4,800% to 1,200,000 in 2016-2017. Even working nurses have started needing to use food banks recently

60% of children in poverty come from working households. 32% of adults with children are in poverty. The Tories answer has been to try and change the definition of poverty!

More than 16m people in the UK have savings of less than £100 - that's around 33% of the adult population. They are literally one wage packet away from homelessness.

Above are just a few reasons why Theresa May is in hiding from debate and the public in general, and trying desperately not to raise the Conservative party flag.

Every time she appears in a public area she has been heckled by the discontented British people that she is so desperately trying to avoid!

Photo 1 - Theresa May early campaign meeting, trying to look dignified as a local shouts "Shame - meet the people, meet the people,

shame!!!" The PM hides instead in a small church hall - capacity 55.

Photo 2 - No luck in Bristol either! Locals actually lined the streets to boo and hiss the British Prime Minister as she fled in cars which looked to be breaking the speed limit as she raced away from another Tory member only meeting.

Photo 3 - Theresa May's security looking worried in Bristol.

Photo 4 - "No thanks!" shouted one resident as Theresa May tried to knock on the only door that anyone was willing to come to in Aberdeenshire.

Photo 5 - Camborne a member of the public finally gets close enough to talk to our Prime Minister as she campaigns in her General Election. Theresa May bravely suppresses the urge to spray the impudent interloper with CS gas, and even manages to grimace politely as the assailant - very politely actually - tells the PM about growing homelessness, massive food bank usage and the growth of unaffordable housing in Cornwall.

Britain and the UK cannot afford to have another 5 years of money grabbing Tory rule, the direction of travel is towards a stagnant economy which the Tories are refusing to invest in, and public sector it's refusing to pay properly. Combined with their readiness to engage in acts of warfare, this country will be devastated by another term of office under the Tories.

Fiona MacTaggart

The MP for Slough quit because she has been "bored by political struggles over personalities".

That leaves only TWO MP's who are leaving due to their direct opposition to Jeremy Corbyn.

Tom Blenkinsop

"I have made no secret about my significant and irreconcilable differences with the current Labour leadership. It is because of these differences I feel I cannot in good faith stand as the Labour candidate for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland."

Gisela Stuart - the MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, has refused to endorse Jeremy Corbyn for Prime Minister on #R4Today, and would only say a strong majority

was needed to deliver Brexit, albeit she said representatives across the house were needed to ensure a fair Brexit. She also said it "looks like Labour will not win the election".

Who SHOULD stand down but won't?

John Woodcock

The Barrow-in-Furness MP has said he cannot vote for Jeremy Corbyn to be Prime Minister.

In a video message to constituents, he said: "I intend to seek re-nomination from my local Labour and Co-operative parties to be their official candidate.

"But I will not countenance ever voting to make Jeremy Corbyn Britain's Prime Minister." The Word says "Dear John - get lost!"



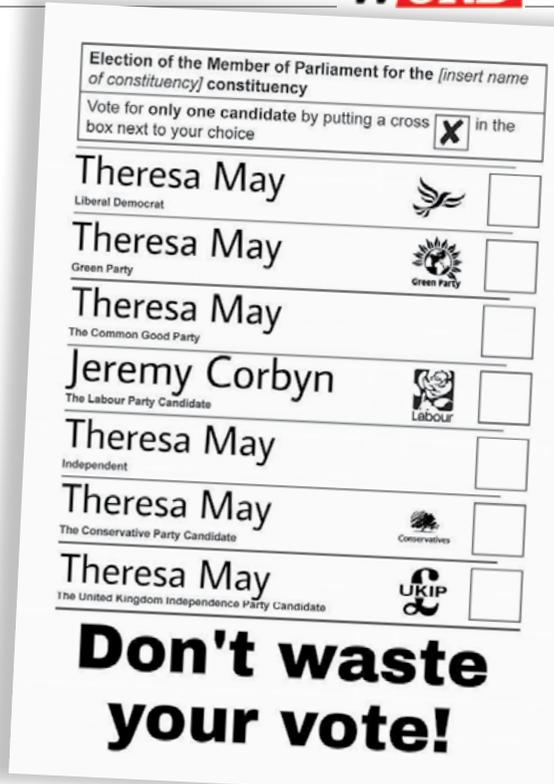
Labour from 1997 until 2010 (13 years) increased the national debt by £420 billion.

In 2008 Labour borrowed heavily to cope with the banking crisis



Conservatives from 2010 until 2017 (7 years) increased the national debt by £760 billion

The Conservatives have had no economic crisis. What have they spent the £760 billion on?



list of Conservatives under investigation for fraud

The Conservative majority in the House of Commons is 12. Police forces across the UK have sent files to the CPS on 20 Tory MPs, who are now under investigation for election fraud.

Twenty Conservative MPs have so far been named as being under police investigation*:

- Stuart Andrew (Pudsey - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Gavin Barwell (Croydon Central - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Neil Carmichael (Stroud - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Maria Caulfield (Lewes - Conservative gain from Lib Dem in 2015)
- Alex Chalk (Cheltenham - Conservative gain from Lib Dem in 2015)
- Oliver Colville (Plymouth Sutton

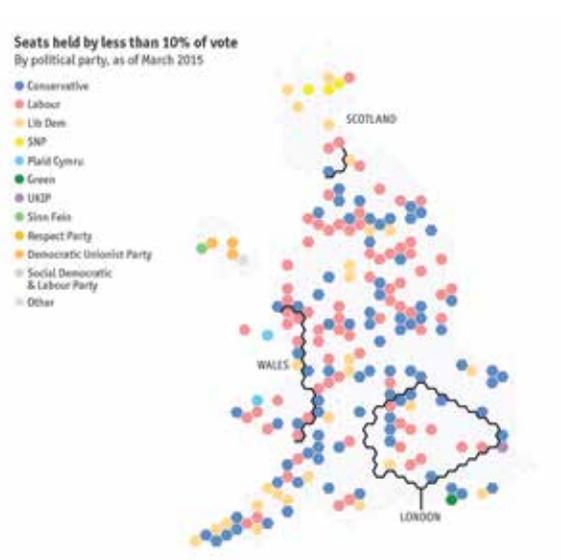
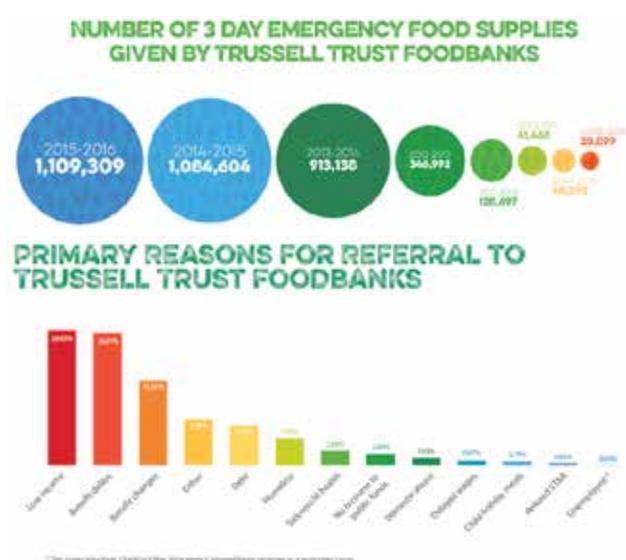
and Devonport - Conservative hold in 2015)

- Michael Ellis (Northampton North - Conservative hold in 2015)
- George Eustice (Camborne and Redruth - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Graham Evans (Weaver Vale - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Kevin Foster (Torbay - Conservative gain from Lib Dem in 2015, where the police have called in another force as the Police and Crime Commissioner was a Tory in 2015)
- Luke Hall (Thornbury and Yate - Conservative gain from Lib Dem in 2015)
- Marcus Jones (Nuneaton - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Scott Mann (North Cornwall -

Conservative gain from Lib Dem in 2015)

- Karl McCartney (Lincoln - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Amanda Milling (Cannock Chase - Conservative hold in 2015)
- David Nuttall (Bury North - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Will Quince (Colchester - Conservative gain from Lib Dem in 2015)
- Mary Robinson (Cheadle - Conservative gain from Lib Dem in 2015)
- Anna Soubry (Broxtowe - Conservative hold in 2015)
- Mark Spencer (Sherwood - Conservative hold in 2015)

It also looks like a Conservative candidate is under investigation in Chester, which was a Labour gain from the Tories in 2015.



Where Can Labour Win BIG if campaigners get Jeremy Corbyn's message across?

These are the seats in the UK held with the lowest majorities, where political parties will be focusing their efforts.

1. Gower - held by the Conservatives with a majority of 27
2. Derby North - held by the Conservatives with a majority of 41
3. City of Chester - held by Labour with a majority of 93
4. Croydon Central - held by the Conservatives with a majority of 165

5. Ynes Mon - held by Labour with a majority of 229
6. Vale of Clwyd - held by the Conservatives with a majority of 237
7. Ealing Central and Acton - held by Labour with a majority of 274
8. Berwickshire Roxburgh & Selkirk - held by the SNP with a majority of 328
9. Bury North - held by the Conservatives with a majority of 378
10. Wirral West - held by Labour with a majority of 417



CASH FOR CONSERVATIVES EXPOSES THE HSBC

DIRTY MONEY RUNNING THE TORY PARTY

<http://www.dorseteye.com/north/articles/cash-for-conservatives-exposes-the-hsbc-dirty-money-running-the-tory-party>

HSBC awarded a £214m loan [1] to a highly indebted company, IPGL Ltd, chaired by Tory Party Treasurer & Chief Fundraiser, Michael Spencer.

IPGL and its struggling subsidiaries donated at least £5.3m [2] to the Conservative Party - large, ongoing donations enabled by HSBC.

HSBC has won significant concessions from successive Conservative governments on tax, the bank levy, Mexican money laundering & terrorist financing investigations, as well as over the Swiss Leaks & Panama Papers.

HSBC left a trail of cash, gifts, [3] loans, and donations, which bought the bank unrivalled open door political access, [4] yet deny claims of undue influence over the Conservatives.

Move Your Money and Debt Resistance UK have uncovered fresh evidence raising questions over the Conservatives 2010 and 2015 elec-



tion funding, exposing millions of pounds of dirty money flowing into the Conservative Party via IPGL Ltd and HSBC.

A leaked internal email suggests HSBC has flouted anti money-laundering protocols which require screening of high risk political clients, ignoring its own commitment to 'political neutrality'.

Loan documents obtained by Move Your Money and Debt Resistance UK [5] show HSBC lent over £214m [6] to a private company called IPGL Ltd, chaired by Tory Party Treasurer and Chief Fundraiser for the Conservatives 2010 general election, Michael Spencer.

IPGL and other subsidiaries controlled by Spencer donated more than £5m to the Conservatives, [7] donations that would not have been possible without HSBC's loan, and which HSBC must have known about, as they bank IPGL.

Reacting to the news, John Mann, a Labour MP on the Treasury Select Committee, said:

"This is a very major regulatory issue and needs assessing for potential criminal behaviour. It's political games being played in the hope of a weaker approach to bankers fraud."

Since the £214m loan, HSBC has gained significant concessions from successive Conservative governments, including escaping investigation for Mexican money laundering and terrorist financing, [8] light treatment for the Panama Papers [9] and Swiss Leaks [10] scandals, as well as successfully lobbying for a roll back on the bank levy [11] in 2015. The bank denied claims of corruption and undue political influence when challenged by Move Your Money [12] at the bank's AGM last week.

The news emerges with 30 Conservative MPs still facing charges for 2015 election spending fraud [13], and threatens to engulf the party in a fresh dirty money scandal with only 5 weeks

until the country goes to the polls.

Releasing the evidence, campaigner for Debt Resistance UK, Joel Benjamin, said:

"Cash for Conservatives shows just how easy it is for big banks like HSBC to buy off the Tories, who are already being investigated for electoral fraud."

"Michael Spencer's donations were only made possible through an undeclared HSBC loan. Regulators must get a grip on City dirty money corrupting British politics."

Alexander Runswick - Director Unlock Democracy said:

"Despite reporting substantial and consistent losses, IPGL made sizeable donations to the Conservative party over many years. For a company in financial crisis this was a high-risk strategy. When private companies make big donations to political parties there is usually an expectation that their influence will be extended, and so a question must be raised about what they were expecting to get in return. A question must also be raised about HSBC's role, and whether they were aware the loan they made may have been used to fund political donations."

Roger Mullins - Treasury Spokesperson for the SNP said:

"This is a very serious and deeply worrying case, suggesting that a major bank and a business customer have been involved in activities serious enough to warrant criminal investigation. I shall be writing to the Electoral Commission, there must be an investigation into this and before the General Election of 2017."

Rebecca Mitchell of PR firm Maitland on behalf of IPGL said:

"As IPGL is a private company, it does not have any comment on this"

Ivana Zadro for IPGL said: "IPGL has provided all relevant information in this regard to the Conservative Party."

HSBC, Michael Spencer, and the Conservative Party declined to comment.

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https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12YZBQhg-37p11A9bvG4dF6_3jWXeAeBN-Zmlt7lvBFFHo/edit?usp=sharing

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/309814/response/764600/attach/html/4/Cllr%20Fairhead%20form.pdf.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/chancellor-george-osborne-56-meetings-5207555>

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<https://www.channel4.com/news/exclusive-cps-considering-charges-against-over-30-people-including-tory-mps-over-expenses>

Debt Resistance UK

Jeremy Corbyn
ALWAYS for the
MANY
Protecting
the PEOPLE



Curriculum Vitae:

Name:
Jeremy Bernard Corbyn

Previous Employment:
1967-1969
Reporter for Local Newspaper
(Newport and Market Drayton Advertiser)

1969-1971
Voluntary Service Overseas
in Jamaica with a vision for a
"world without poverty"

1971-74
Union Organiser
(National Union for Tailors & Garment Workers)
(National Union of Public Employees)
(Amalgamated Engineering & Electrical Union)

1974-1983
Councillor of Haringey (Haringey '78)
(1974 Appointed Member of the district health authority)
(1978 Moved a Motion for Dentists to be employed by the NHS)
(1978-1981 Labour Party Agent & Organiser)
(1979 Contributor & General Secretary for the London Labour Briefing)
(1982-1983 Labour Candidate - Islington North)

1983-2017
MP for Islington North

2002 Voted FOR Equal LGBT Rights
2003 Voted AGAINST Iraq War
2004 Voted FOR Hunting Ban
2010 Voted AGAINST Rise in VAT
2012 Voted AGAINST Bedroom TAX
2013 Voted FOR Raising Welfare
2015 Voted FOR Higher Benefits for illness and Disabled
2016 Voted FOR Right to Remain for EU Nationals in UK

2015-2017
Leader of the Labour Party

2017...
Prime Minister?

Jeremy Corbyn
ALWAYS for the
MANY
Protecting
the PEOPLE

Theresa May
ONLY for the
FEW
Protecting
the ELITE



Curriculum Vitae:

Name:
Theresa Mary May

Previous Employment:
1977-1983
Bank of England

1985-1997
Senior Advisor at APACS
(Association for Payment Clearance Services)

1986-1994
Councillor of Dunsford
(1986-1994 Chairman of Education)
(1992-1994 Housing Spokesman)

1997-2017
MP for Maidenhead

2002 Voted AGAINST Equal LGBT Rights
2003 Voted FOR Iraq War
2004 Voted AGAINST Hunting Ban
2010 Voted FOR Raise in VAT
2012 Voted FOR Bedroom TAX
2013 Voted AGAINST Raising Welfare
2015 Voted AGAINST Higher Benefits for illness and Disabled
2016 Voted AGAINST Right to Remain for EU Nationals in UK

2016-2017
Prime Minister

2017...
Backbencher?

Theresa May
ONLY for the
FEW
Protecting
the ELITE

<http://www.kentonline.co.uk/thanet/news/prosecutors-could-announce-decision-over-125219/>

Crown Prosecution Service could announce decision over South Thanet Conservative election expenses inquiry before poll



By Paul Francis

The South Thanet Conservative candidate Craig Mackinlay could be told whether he is to face charges over allegations concerning election expenses before voters go to the polls on June 8.

Reports suggest that Mr Mackinlay and a number of other Conservative candidates will learn from the Crown Prosecution Service if they are to be charged in early June.

It could cast a shadow over the party's campaign in the run-up to the election both locally and nationally.

http://www.suttonguardian.co.uk/news/15266015_The_names_they_call_you_are_right_Watch_an_angry_health_campaigner_confront_Jeremy_Hunt_during_hospital_visit/

An angry health campaigner from Keep Our St Helier Hospital (KOSHH) confront Jeremy Hunt during hospital visit



An angry health campaigner confronted Jeremy Hunt and accused him of 'demolishing the NHS' and closing down the hospital he was visiting.

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt visited St Helier Hospital in Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, on Wednesday (May 3) as part of his campaign.

As he was leaving alongside Sutton and Cheam's Conservative MP Paul Scully, Mr Hunt was followed and questioned by a member from the Keep Our St Helier Hospital (KOSHH) group.

<http://www.pembrokeshire-herald.com/34554/philippa-thompson-launches-election-campaign/>

Philippa Thompson launches election campaign



PHILIPPA THOMPSON, Labour candidate for Preseli Pembrokeshire, launched her election campaign yesterday (May 6) on Old Bridge, Haverfordwest. Large numbers of local Labour Party members were there to support her.

Philippa said at the event: "I'm delighted to have been selected to stand for Welsh Labour in the General Election and to launch my campaign in our County Town. It's fantastic to see so many Labour supporters here today. I met with women from Pembrokeshire this morning to give them my full support for their campaign fighting the injustice done to them with the changes to their State Pensions.

"WASPI women have been badly let down by the Conservative Government and our local Tory MP, Stephen Crabb. It's time Preseli Pembrokeshire returned a Labour Member of Parliament to Westminster again to stand up for us all."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/northern-ireland-traffic-alert-loyalist-protest-in-belfast-parades-in-lisburn-larne-portstewart-loughgal-35616931.html>

Northern Ireland traffic alert: Loyalist protest in Belfast, parades in Lisburn, Larne, Portstewart, Loughgal

Traffic will be affected today by loyalist protest in Belfast and parades across Northern Ireland.

<http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/benefit-cap-is-affecting-hundreds-of-hull-families/story-30316391-detail/story.html>

Benefit cap is affecting hundreds of Hull families



Hundreds of households in Hull have been affected by the latest benefit cap - losing up to £115 a week.

According to new figures, a total of 382 households in the city had their benefits slashed in February - the vast majority thanks to the latest Tory cuts.

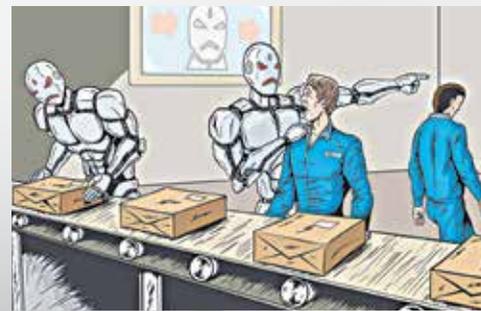
In November, a new benefit cap was put in place that limits the amount of benefits a household can receive to £20,000 a year (£384.62 a week) for couples and families outside Greater London.

The cap drops to £13,400 a year (£257.69 a week) for single people without children living with them.

Out of those seeing their benefits capped in Hull earlier this year, 240 were capped only because the new cap levels are lower - 63 per cent of the total.

<http://www.stornowaygazette.co.uk/news/scottish-news/1-2-million-jobs-at-high-risk-over-automation-within-10-years-1-4439311>

1.2 million jobs 'at high risk over automation within 10 years'



Nearly half of all jobs in Scotland could be done by machines in just over 10 years' time, a new report has warned. A study by the IPPR Scotland think tank said that 46% of jobs - about 1.2 million - are at "high risk" of automation in the period up to 2030. The report says changes are needed so that people can get more training and career support

when they are mid-way through their working life.

According to the research, by then adults are "more likely to be working longer, and will often have multiple jobs"

As a result of that is says changes are needed so that people can get more training and career support when they are mid-way through their working life.

The IPPR wants to see the establishment of an Open Institute of Technology to achieve this, saying this could bring about "improved rates of career progression, pay and productivity, starting in low-skill sectors"

It also recommends the establishment of a new unit to tackle what it calls the "progression gap" - poor levels of career progression which can hold back low-skilled workers.

IPPR Scotland said it suspected this problem was "related to the attainment gap at school" and added that addressing the issue would "work to tackle rates of in-work poverty and drive social mobility in Scotland".

It put forward the recommendations in its Scotland's Skills 2030 report, which said: "The world of work in 2030 will be very different to that in 2017. People are more likely to be working longer, and will often have multiple jobs, with multiple employers and in multiple careers."

<https://www.commonspace.scot/articles/10917/scottish-greens-welcome-council-election-progress-edinburgh-and-glasgow>

Scottish Greens welcome council election progress in Edinburgh and Glasgow



Greens now represented in six of Scotland's council authorities

GAINS for the Greens in Glasgow and Edinburgh have led the party to claim it's achieved "significant breakthroughs" in the 2017 council elections.

The Scottish Greens, whose membership increased rapidly during the independence referendum period, had been targeting seats on new councils and increasing its number of seats in Scotland's two largest cities.

Strong performances in Glasgow and Edinburgh won the Greens the majority of

LOCAL

its seat, while the party also returned councillors in Stirling, Aberdeenshire, Highlands, and Orkney.

A total of 19 seats represented an increase on the 14 councillors the party won five years ago - with victories in Highlands and Orkney being the first ever Green candidates returned. However, the party failed to hold its seat in Midlothian.

John Finnie MSP points out the Greens are now the largest (and only) major party on Orkney council - which is dominated by independents

http://www.thenational.scot/news/15269030.Wealth_of_Scotland_s_richest_rises_by_10_to_nearly_15bn/

Wealth of Scotland's richest rises by 10% to nearly £15bn



THE wealth of Scotland's 10 richest people or families grew by almost 10 per cent in the last year to a new high of £14.71 billion.

The figures appear in the latest version of the Sunday Times Rich List, which names the Grant-Gordon family of whisky distillers as the country's richest people with a fortune of £2.37bn, up £210 million on last year.

The compilers of the Rich List say their top 10 in Scotland proves the Scottish economy is not dependent on oil - contrary to the position of many opponents of independence.

Only two, Norwegian entrepreneur Trond Mohn and Sir Ian Wood and his family, are completely dependent on the oil and gas industry for their fortunes, which are estimated at £1.62bn and £1.6bn respectively.

Others in the top 10 include Mahdi al-Tajir, owner of Highland Spring, whose wealth fell by £65m but who still has a fortune of £1.67bn, putting him third on the list.

The family of the late car dealer Sir Arnold Clark are also in the billionaires' club, with a fortune of £1.1bn.

Rich List compiler Robert Watts said: "Our Scottish list of 10 billionaires shatters the myth that this country's economy runs on oil alone. Scotland is a place where 10-figure fortunes can be built from whisky, car dealing or even bottled water. This reflects the changing nature of wealth in 21st-century Britain.

"Gone are the days when the Rich List would be dominated by finance, property or manufacturing. Greater diversity of entrepreneurial success is good news for the wider economy, and ultimately us all."

http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/15270631.Huge_solar_farm_plan_near_Newport_Wetlands_quot_must_be_in_harmony_with_nature_quot/

Huge solar farm plan near Newport Wetlands "must be in harmony with nature"



THE ROYAL Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has said a potential solar farm spanning hundreds of acres near Newport Wetlands must be "in harmony with nature".

No application for the massive scheme has been formally submitted, but one is expected this summer by the Gwent Farmers Community Solar Scheme.

A 345-acre site in Llanwern is said to be preferred, with Peter Grubb, the schemes director at estate agents Savills, saying it has "large scale, low costs and can deliver high generation".

"The renewable energy hub seeks to provide green energy for over 15,000 homes and save over 21,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum," he added.

"It will enable a group of local landowners to diversify their agricultural enterprise and help secure their livelihood during uncertain times for farming communities."

The RSPB, which controls the wetlands, has said it is keen to see the full plans.

A spokesman added: "The UK must switch to greater use of renewable energy as we look to meet our climate change targets for reducing greenhouse gas emission.

"However, this must be in harmony with nature to avoid damaging the very things we are trying to save.



<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/unviable-bus-service-scrapped-arriva-12990407>

'Unviable' bus service scrapped by Arriva now booming in hands of local operator

Arriva received subsidy from Conwy council, but axed the route because it was 'not commercially viable' ... but Llew Jones Coaches says it's more popular than ever with passengers

By Mari Jones

A rural bus service which was axed by Arriva for not being 'commercially viable' has seen an increase in passenger numbers under a new operator.

Llanrwst -based Llew Jones Coaches appears to have made such a success of the Number 19 Llandudno to Betws y Coed ser-

vice that it has also been able to splash out on new vehicles and livery.

Last April bus passengers in the Conwy Valley reacted angrily after Arriva Buses Wales announced they were dropping the vital service which connected a number of rural villages and major tourist attractions such as Surf Snowdonia and Trefriw Woollen Mill.

Arriva insisted at the time the service wasn't "commercially viable", despite it being partially subsidised by Conwy council.

Luckily Llew Jones stepped in to offer the service which included additional stops in Henryd and Rowen. These extra stops are being subsidised by the local authority.

Llew Jones managing director said of the No.19 Service: "This is our first commercial bus service and therefore we rely almost entirely on income from passenger fares.

NEWS

Theresa May's psychotic divorce strategy

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/2017/05/theresa-mays-psychotic-divorce-strategy.html>

Isn't it strange how it's possible for bad situations to escalate gradually so that people don't actually realise how extreme things are getting until it's far too late?

Watching Theresa May's approach to the Brexit negotiations become ever more deranged is a perfect example of the way social groups tends to accept a slow buildup of erratic behaviour until it reaches a crescendo of insanity, when an immediate outburst of insanity from the beginning would have shocked people out of their indifference and forced them to put a stop to it.

Just imagine for a moment that during the Tory leadership contest Theresa May would have outlined her Brexit strategy along the following lines:

We fob the electorate off with utterly vacuous "Brexit means Brexit" platitudes for around six months while we desperately try to cobble together some kind of plan.

As we are trying to botch together our plan we will fight two futile court battles trying to scrap parliamentary sovereignty while our supporters in the right-wing press will whip up an unprecedented wave of public hatred towards the judiciary and the legal system.

After six months of sitting on our hands we will finally announce that the centrepiece of our negotiating strategy will be a ridiculously juvenile threat to severely damage both the UK and the EU economies by walking away from the negotiations with "no deal".

Our Brexit minister will then make it clear that we did no impact assessment of the damage a "no deal" strop away from the negotiating table would actually cause to the UK economy before we decided to make it the centrepiece of our negotiating strategy!

Another important step in the process of securing a "good deal" will be to throw away the Single Market and Customs Union bargaining chips before the negotiations have even started.

We will announce a Great Repeal Bill that will give government ministers the ability to rewrite thousands of UK with no democratic oversight whatever.

We will send a very clear message to the EU that we intend to use the lives of EU citizens in the UK as disposable bargaining chips by stripping out a simple amendment to the Article 50 bill that would have obliged us to at least begin working on our proposals to protect their rights.

We will attempt to blackmail the EU by implying in our Article 50 notification letter that the UK would turn a blind eye to terrorism and security threats in Europe if they don't give us the kind of deal we're demanding.

Immediately after setting the clock ticking on the most complex negotiations the UK has ever faced we'll take a two month holiday by calling a snap election, ensuring that the focus of our attention is on that rather

than the diplomatic process.

We will make the impossible demand that all of the Brexit negotiations are done in secret, while the supposedly "undemocratic and unaccountable" EU want the negotiations conducted in an open and transparent way so that the 27 member states can understand what is being negotiated on their behalf.

We will have a disastrous meeting with EU representatives where we make it clear that we have no conception of the complexity of the task we're facing, then when details of this dinner are leaked to the German press I won't react with a "poker face", I'll deliberately poison UK-EU relations even further by spouting a load of paranoid anti-EU conspiracy theories about how there's some kind of sinister personal vendetta against me going on.

The next important step in my Brexit strategy will be to double down on our "no deal" nuclear Brexit threats by drawing up and publishing a plan of action for how we would attack and undermine the EU economy if they don't give us the kind of deal we're demanding.

A psychotic divorce strategy

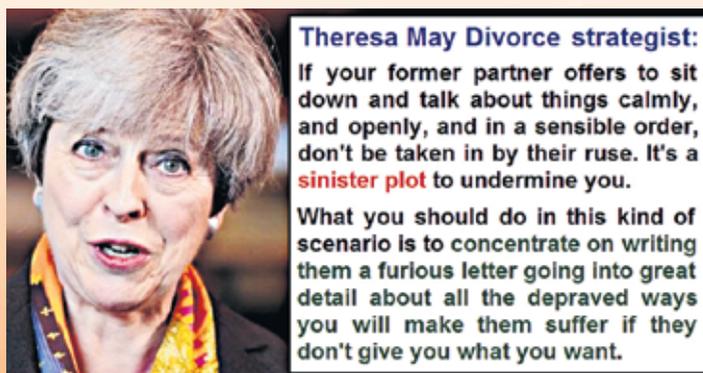
To get a perspective on how mad this last point in Theresa May's descent into diplomatic insanity is, maybe try thinking about it in terms of a divorce: Your former partner wants to sit down and negotiate in a calm and open manner, putting the needs of the children (EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in Europe) above all else.

However you decide that this kind of approach is a sinister plot to undermine you, and instead of dealing with things calmly and in a sensible order, you're going to write them a furious letter going into great detail about all of the depraved schemes you've dreamt up to make them and the children suffer if you don't get what you what you want!

Do you honestly think that kind of approach would work? Do you honestly think that in real life you wouldn't get arrested if you tried sending a letter full of threats to your ex during the divorce process?

The obvious conclusion

If you're horrified about how extreme this is getting you need to make sure you're [registered to vote](#) so that you can vote against the Tories in protest at Theresa May's ever more erratic behaviour.



How Theresa May is getting around election spending limits with big newspaper ads

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/sunny-hundal/theresa-may-is-getting-around-election-spending-limits-with-big-newspaper-ads>

By Sunny Hundal

By running local newspaper ads focusing on her message, Theresa May is getting around local spending limits for the upcoming general election

You could call it a trial run for an avalanche of media bombardment.

In 14 different areas across the country this week, the Tories have been running local newspaper ads that cover the entire front page, promoting May's message.

The four-page wraparound adverts were carried in local newspapers, focusing entirely on her leadership and message on Brexit. They are a sign of what is about to be unleashed.

It smells fishy but such ads are considered perfectly legal under rules set out by the Electoral Commission.

While local candidates have a maximum spending limit over the

course of the campaign, by focusing on May, which in itself is unusual for a General Election, the spending is classified under national campaign spending.

And that can be as high as £19 million over the course of an election campaign. Some think this is unethical and the rules need to be changed.

Being able to buy big ads in target constituencies without being constrained by local spending limits was a "massive flaw," Philip Cowley, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, told BuzzFeed News.

These rules of course benefit the party with the most money.

With the Conservatives already under scrutiny over their election spending in the 2015 election, this brazen attempt at ignoring local spending limits will raise more hackles.

But in her bid to win in the General Election, Theresa May is showing no such qualms yet.

Labour Must Commit to Nationalising the Big Six Energy Companies

<http://novaramedia.com/2017/05/06/labour-must-commit-to-nationalising-the-big-six-energy-companies/>

by Luke Neal

Estimated read time: 3mins
Tweet Article Facebook Share Send to Kindle

In his campaign to be elected Labour party leader, Jeremy Corbyn spoke of taking the 'Big Six' energy companies into public ownership. Since then, the idea seems to have been quietly discarded. Now Labour's pledge on the environment states: "We will ensure a fair transition to a low-carbon economy, and drive the expansion of the green industries and jobs of the future, using our National Investment Bank to invest in public and community-owned renewable energy."

Expanding investment in renewable energy alone is not enough to address an ecological crisis, and with a general election looming, the Labour party must go much further. If the labour movement is serious about tackling climate change - as it urgently needs to be - it must directly confront the threat of fossil fuels to the planet

and its inhabitants by transforming the economic relations which have led us here. In the UK, the first step towards this should be a plan for taking the energy industry into common ownership as part of a wider Labour agenda of wealth and power redistribution.

'Green investment' will not make the fossil fuel industry disappear.

Greater state investment in renewable energy will not address the root causes of climate change. As a strategy, 'green investment' is limited by the extent to which fossil fuels are embedded in the global economy. States and corporations have obstructed decarbonisation programmes because of the inseparability of fossil fuels and the global accumulation regime. This is no more true than for the UK, a forerunner in industrial capitalist development. Most states are expanding renewable investment slowly in order to uphold the profitability of fossil fuel capital and the system more widely, illustrated by the Tories' overruling of Lancashire council to allow fracking for shale gas.

BEST OF

UKIP: 'YOU CAN'T TRUST THERESA MAY WITH BREXIT'. HERE'S WHY (VIDEOS) #GE17

<https://skwawkbbox.org/2017/05/06/ukip-you-cant-trust-theresa-may-with-brex-it-heres-why-videos-ge17/>

There was a remarkable interview yesterday on BBC Five Live with the treasurer of UKIP. Remarkable because - on at least six occasions - he said:

You cannot trust Theresa May with Brexit; or some very close variant of it.

The local elections - in which UKIP failed to successfully defend a single seat - undoubtedly saw a huge phenomenon of previous UKIP voters switching to the Tories, but it seems they're being taken for fools by a Tory leader who is not only completely out of her depth in negotiations with seasoned and far more capable EU leaders and negotiators, but whose heart isn't really in it.

Both in public and in private, May is heard voicing strong support for remaining and talking up the dangers of leaving.

No Brexit supporter could hear what she said about leaving the EU before she felt it was politically expedient to say otherwise and feel that Theresa May is genuinely someone to be trusted to navigate the tricky path that lays ahead over the next couple of years.

It's not merely that she's untrustworthy, though. She's genuinely incapable - completely out of her depth.

Theresa May has already dropped the ball when it came to defending the UK's interests against EU leaders whose own self-interest now lies in giving us a hard time. In a massive way.

And it was Labour who had to bail her out.

Recently-leaked documents showed that the European Commission was en-

couraging European companies to discriminate against UK businesses when awarding contracts - which is completely against EU law while the UK is still a member.

Theresa May and her government did nothing. Labour had to write to the EU to draw attention to the situation and insist that they enforce the law.

Theresa May is brittle - she descends to insults within seconds at each PMQs, outclassed by Corbyn.

She is untrustworthy - if you want Brexit, she campaigned against it in private as well as in public but now expects you to believe she's the one you should trust with getting it done. If you don't want Brexit, she has shown her principles last only as long as it's politically convenient.

She is weak - a classic case of a coward trying to talk up how tough she is, but she did nothing when the European Commission tried to hurt the UK economically.

She can't negotiate - all she knows how to do is threaten, but no EU leader or negotiator is afraid of her and she knows it.

In other words, Theresa May is all talk - and not a word she says can be relied on.

It goes against the grain of this blog to agree with the UKIP treasurer - but he's absolutely right: Theresa May cannot be trusted with Brexit negotiations. The outcome will affect the UK's future for generations and it's far too important to trust someone who's already shown herself to be weak and unstable.

for a "strong" leader to emerge from the UK general election, and that when "she" does, negotiations will be better. Theresa May is the only "she" who might be elected. Does the BBC have some empirical evidence for asserting that "EU leaders" want her to win the election? I'm sure the BBC is aware that "strong and stable" is the campaign refrain of the Conservative Party. Is the BBC campaigning on their behalf? This is the second time I have heard Katia Adler make these claims. It doesn't seem accidental, the bias is very clear. How can the BBC justify this dangerous distortion, misrepresentation and blatant favouritism as "news"?

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Corbyn Leicester rally: Labour leader pledges to reverse privatisation of energy, rail, health and social care services

<http://evolvepolitics.com/corbyn-leicester-rally-labour-leader-pledges-reverse-privatisation-energy-rail-social-health-care-services/>

Jeremy Corbyn addressed a crowd of around one-thousand people at the Tigers' Stadium in Leicester yesterday. He spoke powerfully against the Tories' track-record in government, and pledged to tackle the deep-seated inequality which has been allowed to run rampant across the country.

His message for the tax-avoiding super-rich was clear:

Today, I say to tax cheats, rip-off bosses, and the greedy bankers, enough is enough. We want that money for investment.

Throughout the election campaign, Corbyn has promised repeatedly to put a stop to corporate tax avoidance. But he has stopped short of addressing the issue of who owns these big businesses.

Yesterday's speech finally began to address this. Corbyn called for an end to the privatisation of health, social care, the railways, and energy:

We are drawing a line under decades of privatisation from energy and rail to health and social care that has made some people very, very rich, but it's not delivered richer lives for the vast majority.

He continued:

In this election, we'll be outlining a plan to transform Britain: an upgraded economy, run for the many and not the few. It will mean standing up to powerful vested interests, but we are up for the challenge, aren't we?

This call was met with a resounding "YES" from the audience.

This is fantastic stuff. But if Corbyn is to win this election, he needs to make the issue of the ownership of parasitic corporations central to his campaign. He should spell out the real implications of "reversing privatisation" by calling for energy, rail, health, and social care to be brought under democratic public ownership and workers' control.

He could then build upon this demand and call for the nationalisation of the banks. After-all, it was the gambling and financial speculation of the bankers who led us into the 2007-2008 recession, and it is the working class who have been paying the price ever since.

Today's *Sunday Times Rich List* would provide serious ammunition in making this case. Over the last year, Britain's wealthiest 1,000 individuals and families have actually increased their wealth by 14% - from £575billion to £658billion.

At the same time, more than 1million people, including nurses and others suffering from in-work poverty, now depend on food banks.

Tax the rich!

Today, Labour also hit back against the Tories' fearmongering that a Corbyn-led government would mean tax rises for low and middle income earners. In a speech set to be given later today, Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell will [rule out tax hikes](#) for those earning less than £80,000 a year - i.e. 95% of the population:

The choice at this election is very clear on tax as there is currently only one party which is committing not to raise taxes on middle and low earners.

Compare this with Theresa May, who [refused to rule out](#) income tax and national insurance rises should she win the general election. She has also indicated that the "triple lock" on pensions would come to end under Tory rule.

Having seen how angry the Tories' policies are making [even their core-voters](#), May has since retreated into robotics - "strong and stable".

The Tories claim to be the party of low tax, but, as McDonnell will say, this only applies to the "super-rich and the big corporations".

Can Corbyn win?

Corbyn faces an uphill battle - that much is clear. The toxic legacy of Blairism means that many people still regard the party with suspicion. This is not helped by the fact that the overwhelming majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party and Labour councillors are Blairites.

Part of Corbyn's problem, therefore, is convincing voters that he would make good on his promises. The more he disavows the class collaborationist tactics of New Labour the better chance he has of doing this.

Calling for the full nationalisation of energy, rail, health, and social care is a step in this direction.

This tale of blatant BBC pro-Tory bias could bring tears to your eyes

<http://voxpolygonline.com/2017/05/06/this-tale-of-blatant-bbc-pro-tory-bias-could-bring-tears-to-your-eyes/>

This one could make you laugh so hard you cry - or it could simply make you cry. The attempted justification by the BBC complaints department is so bad it deserves to be commemorated in mockery of the corporation - forever.

But it isn't my story. I hand you over to *Vox Political* reader Steve Fox:

I submitted a complaint to the BBC last week, after hearing blatant bias by Katia Adler on Radio 4. I couldn't quite believe what I heard her say (it was almost subliminal) but the BBC response has now confirmed it, and their excuses are totally inadequate.

My complaint:

This morning, reporting on EU negotiations, Katia Adler asserted that EU leaders are hoping

for a "strong" leader to emerge from the UK general election, and that when "she" does, negotiations will be better. Theresa May is the only "she" who might be elected. Does the BBC have some empirical evidence for asserting that "EU leaders" want her to win the election? I'm sure the BBC is aware that "strong and stable" is the campaign refrain of the Conservative Party. Is the BBC campaigning on their behalf? This is the second time I have heard Katia Adler make these claims. It doesn't seem accidental, the bias is very clear. How can the BBC justify this dangerous distortion, misrepresentation and blatant favouritism as "news"?

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The new web



LABOUR'S FALSE ANTI-SEMITISM CRISIS

Former London mayor and long-time Palestinian rights campaigner Ken Livingstone is the latest victim of the UK Labour Party's witch hunt over alleged anti-Semitism.

By Tony Greenstein

Amongst the mainstream media it is taken for granted that the Labour Party has a problem with anti-Semitism. To call this into question is like asserting that the Earth is flat.

Yet here is a strange ???????? John Mann MP and the Labour Right, no anti-Semites have been uncovered.??????

I was suspended as part of the anti-Semitism controversy back in March 2016. I was told it was for comments I had made. I only got to learn what these comments were when details were leaked by Labour's Compliance Unit to those Labour supporting newspapers, The Telegraph and The Times two weeks later. I also happen to be Jewish and the author of a book, The Fight Against Fascism in Brighton and the South Coast. What then was my offence? I am a prominent anti-Zionist and supporter of the Palestinians.

Jackie Walker, the former Vice Chair of Momentum, has been suspended twice for 'anti-Semitism'. In the context of a private discussion, which was broken into by the

Israel Advocacy Movement, about her ancestors being both perpetrators and victims of the slave trade, she said that 'many Jews, my ancestors too, were the chief financiers of the sugar and slave trade...' No doubt if she had been speaking publicly to an audience she would have said 'among the chief financiers...' For the absence of one word Jackie has been pilloried by the Jewish Labour Movement, which calls itself the 'sister party' of the racist Israeli Labour Party, which for years refused to even accept Arabs as members, as an anti-Semite.

Ken Livingstone, in a staged confrontation for the media by John Mann, was pilloried as a Hitler apologist. His crime? He said that Hitler had supported Zionism. When he was eventually arraigned before Labour's National Constitutional Committee he wasn't charged with anti-Semitism, because what he had said was factually correct. Instead the catch-all charge, beloved of Joe McCarthy, was that he had brought the Labour Party into disrepute.

The irony is that Ken Livingstone, who pioneered Council support for anti-racism initiatives at a time when it was unfashionable,

has been accused of anti-Semitism by those who make it their profession to support the Israeli State. Israel is a state where the Prime Minister can describe Arabs as 'beasts', where its Israeli Arabs are prevented from marrying Palestinians living outside Israel, where Israel's Arabs are prevented from living in hundreds of 'Jewish' communities because the Access to Communities Act allows existing residents to bar Arabs from renting properties there.

Israel is a state where I can 'return' although I was not born there, because I am Jewish, whereas Palestinian friends whose families lived there for hundreds of years have no such right.

Alongside the media's bogus anti-Semitism crisis in the Labour Party is a concerted attempt to redefine anti-Semitism so as to prevent free speech on Israel and Palestine. This means that all those protesting about Israel's systematic racism and human rights abuses are in danger of being accused of 'anti-Semitism'. Israel is a state where the torture of Palestinian detainees is the norm, where Palestinian children as young as 12 are detained, subject to torture and vi-

olence and denied access to either their parents or lawyers and forced to sign confessions in a language, Hebrew, that they don't even understand.

The new International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism, which Theresa May adopted recently and Jeremy Corbyn has to his shame also gone along with, equates criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is over 400 words long yet anti-Semitism can be simply defined as 'hostility or hatred of Jews as Jews'. Seven words. The reason why the IHRA definition is so long is that it attempts to conflate genuine anti-Semitism, hatred of Jews, with anti-Zionism and criticism of Israel.

If you compare what Israel does to what the Nazis did then that is anti-Semitic, even those Israel's supporters routinely use the Holocaust to attack their opponents. ???????

If you challenge the very idea of a Jewish supremacist state, where Jews have very real privileges, then you are anti-Semitic. If you deny the right of the Jewish People to a state of their own, that too is an-

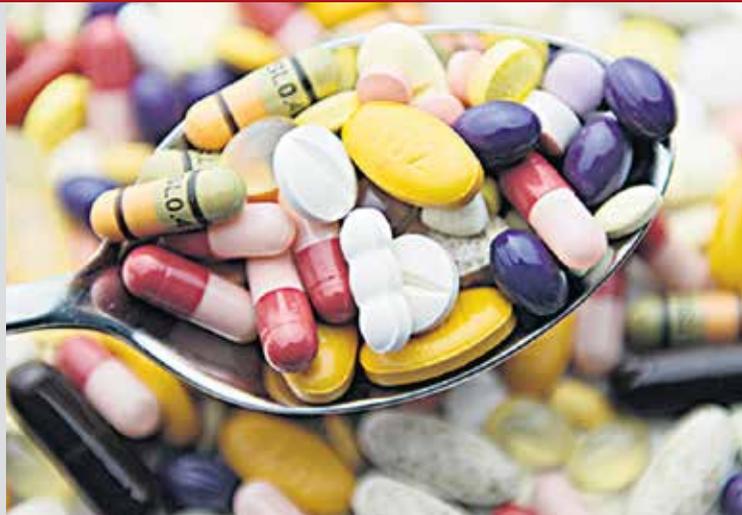
ti-Semitic.

It is ironic that when the Zionist movement first began the idea that there was one single Jewish people was considered an anti-Semitic idea. Jews live in and among all nations and peoples. The main opponents of Zionism, the movement to establish a Jewish state, have always been Jews. But today, because support for Israel is an essential part of western foreign policy in the Middle East, criticism of Israel is held to be anti-Semitic.

Racism however is not criticism of a state, any state. If you criticise the American state it is not criticism of its people. Racism is an attack on a person or persons because of a characteristic intrinsic to them, e.g. colour or religion.

Anti-Semitism today in Britain is at an all-time low. I was brought up in non-Jewish communities for most of my childhood. I cannot remember a single anti-Semitic incident. I have never experienced anti-Semitism in the Labour Party either. This whole anti-Semitism hysteria is concocted by a combination of the media, the Israeli Embassy and its allies on the Right of the Labour Party. It is fake and synthetic.

CONVERSATIONS WITH MY ONCOLOGIST



Enzalutamide, or Xtandi, is for me a miracle drug

By Ian Charles

I got it instead of chemo. I'm 'too early for the late chemo' and 'too late for the early chemo' although the supervision of my prescription is undertaken by the chemo lab.

Prostate cancer kills one man in forty, but affects one in 8; one in 4 if you come from the black community. Why this ethnic difference exists is hard to pinpoint, though some (female, black) health practitioners I spoke with last year wondered whether it might be partly due to what they called the *Black Male Psyche*, supposedly reluctant to deal with any intimate problem and certainly any which involves interference with parts of the anatomy one wouldn't want another guy anywhere near.

I can refute that supposition entirely; it doesn't matter whether you're black, white, or purple, men do like going to their GP and have their doctor put on the one-fingered glove and begin *that unpleasant business*. This, and the unreliability of the PSA (prostate specific antigen) blood test, lead to late diagnosis and lost lives.

What if we were all happy enough to toddle on down to the GP every twelve months and say, "OK, doc, time to cop a feel?" I can tell you it would not make a damn of difference; GPs do what is called the 'digital-rectal-examination' all wrong anyhow. If you have had it performed by any urologist you will know the difference; you feel as though you've in some way offended the guy, he rags you around the trolley, and then afterwards each of you tries to avoid eye contact with the other.

Look, I'm sorry, it really it like this. Men are strange creatures. But at least the urologist is better able to tell you how things are, what he (generally) or she has found or suspects, and what's go-

ing to happen next.

In my case, I met an A&E Urologist in January 2013, by when my cancer had gone too far for many of the treatments you or your loved one might hope to get away with, so I received 'hormone treatment' where my body was starved of the male hormones that prostate cancer thrives on. By Spring/Summer of 2016 that treatment seemed to have failed, and secondaries were spotted in my lungs (and I contend other places, though doctors deny that like they've denied everything so far.)

Six or seven specialists came together to refer me to an Oncologist who decided to run yet more tests (here we go...) then all of a sudden moved very quickly to give me *Xtandi*, something which prevents any male hormones I have from binding to the receptors on whatever tumours I may have, anywhere in my body.

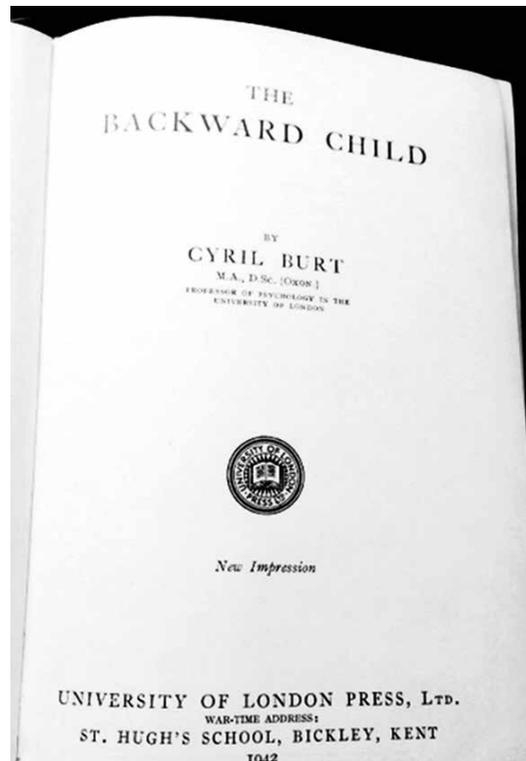
It really does feel like a miracle drug; suddenly my energy levels have improved, my permanent cough has gone, my aches and pains have disappeared, but most importantly, my blood markers have dropped significantly and my injections of hormone suppressant have begun working again. Actually, the hormone suppressant began working as soon as I adopted a diet that eliminated all foods based on ovulation, lactation or growth hormones; I began a semi-vegan diet. More next time.....

Very pleased with myself, I turned up for my three month appointment with Lisa, the specialist oncology nurse who now oversees my case. I smiled, told her how great I feel, and waited for her response.

"That's fantastic," she replied. "But do remember that at some point this treatment will cease to be effective."

"Then what?" I asked.

"We think again," she said.



Autobiography of a Professional Educator (unfinished)

By Cliff Jones

Episode One

Cyril Burt and my part in his downfall

The arrival of the letter

From our back kitchen was one step down to the outhouse. I was on the bottom step and my mother on the top one having just brought the post through the house. I could see the brown official envelope in her hand. I knew that in it was the result of the test of my 'general intelligence' (called 11-Plus) but I prayed and offered deals to what I had been taught was God so that instead of the letter inside telling my mother that I was a failure it would be magically turned into something that would make her happy. My prayers and offered deals were unsuccessful and rejected, as I was about to be labelled and treated.

That was in 1953 and I shudder to think how many eleven year olds, before and since, have had similar experiences that have stayed with them throughout their lives. Designing school systems to run like that and apply labels sucks the humanity from education.

Below is the frontispiece to Burt's book on 'backward children'. When the picture was taken the school leaving age was fourteen. I wonder if the boy knew that his photograph was going to be used to illustrate backwardness or if his parents gave permission.

Briefly, Burt was part of the widespread eugenics movement that sought to improve the quality of racial specimens. His research work as a psychologist provided much of the justification for the educational selection of children at the age of eleven. Another prominent member of the eugenics movement was Marie Stopes who remains famous for the work she did to encourage family planning. Her motive was, however, to reduce the number of poor specimens being born. She did not approve of her son marrying a woman who needed to wear glasses: racially inferior!

We can be sure that the boy pictured here was intended to illustrate what could go wrong if the eugenicists were ignored and also to support the belief that providing for the education of such children to the same extent as what were taken to be good racial specimens was a waste of resources.

If you are looking for a reason to justify greed and privilege eugenics is a handy notion. The rich are rich and the poor are poor, the privileged are privileged and the unprivileged are unprivileged because nature has determined that this should be so. Education was (is?) intended to play its part by separating the 'top' twenty percent capable of benefiting from a well resourced school system from the 'bottom' eighty percent who at the age of eleven were (are?) deemed too ignorant to require more than a basic education; always leaving to one side the six or seven percent in private UK education whose social privilege was such that they required no testing.

Below is the facing page revealing the date of publication to be the same as that of the Beveridge Report. We have almost sanctified Beveridge but like so many influential people of his generation he too was a believer in eugenics.

Perhaps I ought to be comforted by remembering that as a member of staff of the University of Liverpool I walked the same streets as Cyril Burt when in 1908 he was appointed to be an assistant lecturer in the Faculty of Science.

STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

CHRIS THE CAREERIST #18



Theresa's Secret

Theresa May is pounding the polls just by endlessly repeating the same phrase over and over, being praised by the BBC every hour of the day, and avoiding the public completely! Is her bold success unhinging the PM though? She still wants to win the one heart which is so remote to her - Jeremy Corbyn's. But no one must ever know!



THEN IT WAS 1997. NOW IT IS 2017. WHAT IS THE CHOICE TODAY? AND WERE YOU UP FOR PORTILLO?

By Cliff Jones

It was as if the humiliating defeat of Portillo on the First of May 1997 lanced the boil of Thatcherism. Since 1979 the body politic had suffered from a monetarist, neo-liberal experiment first trialed by Pinochet in Chile. But let no one tell you that it was Tony Blair and New Labour that provided the indispensable winning ingredient bringing victory twenty years ago. The evidence is that had the party been led by John Smith, Gordon Brown or our cat the result would have been little different. Tony Blair's reason for replacing Old Labour with New Labour had far more to do with his need for a personalised vehicle than it did for any wish to restore to us the values of a government such as Attlee's.

The significance of that Portillo moment was that it seemed to kill off the chance of any perpetuation of the Thatcher dynasty: the line had been broken: there would be no more offspring: Thatcherism had died out. By 1997 selfish capitalism and the rationalisation of greed and privilege had so clearly run their course. Gosh, it was exciting and such a relief to throw off the feeling that we were commodities in a market rigged in favour of the powerful.

But we got Blair and Mandelson and Campbell and an array of New Labour acolytes, altar boys, curates,



priests and bishops. We acquired a new political liturgy. Words such as 'modernisation', 'reform', 'choice', 'progress' and more were given new meanings. The New Labour liturgy has so effectively captured political discourse that when, for example, Michael Gove deliberately set out to deform the school system in England he was able to deploy the word 'reform' without causing an eyebrow to be raised. That word

used to call to mind school history lessons about changes such as the abolition of slavery, the factory acts and the extension of the franchise. Today if you bring in G4S to run a prison you can get away with calling it a 'reform'.

In Not the Chilcot Report (2016) Peter Osborne, emphasising Iraq, makes the point that at one time we felt able to trust governments,



the civil service and even our spies to behave with some honour, probity and efficiency (my words). We did not expect to be lied to. Now we do and we are: three hundred and fifty million quid a week for the NHS anyone? That referendum demonstrated very clearly that we live in a SHAMOCRACY. We were deceived into playing a game to decide who was going to be the next Head Prefect of the Tory Party.

Twenty years after we mistakenly felt that we were about to participate in a DEMOCRACY and create a more fair society we have the opportunity to vote for a party led by someone who holds to decent human values; who is not a sound bite philosopher; whose ego does not require an hourly massage; and whose default position is not falsehood.

I could argue with Jeremy Corbyn about Brexit and strongly wish he would confront more fiercely the promoters of the artificially constructed charge of anti-Semitism. But I recognise his job is not easy.

Politics is about the inclusive discussion of and arrival at public values. For too long we have been taught that it is about power.

To vote for Theresa May is to vote for the kind of power that promotes greed; that maintains privilege; that celebrates war; and that drives ever wider the gap between rich and poor.

To vote for Jeremy Corbyn is to vote for humanity at home and abroad. Thatcher told us that there was no alternative. There always was an alternative but we were given little opportunity to choose it. Now we can choose.

How many Portillo Moments would you like?

Brian Mear: I joined the Ambulance Service in 1986.

For over 28 years I worked doing "Front Line" work. That's Emergency work. Covering 999 calls. For the last 6 years of my service I worked alone predominantly on nights at weekend so I could care for my mum who had cancer. At night I would be covering 80,000 people alone. In that time I undertook significant training. Advancing myself in skills and knowledge. I became a Paramedic in 1992. A Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support instructor, I trained new entrants on the road for over 16 years. I became an Hems Paramedic on the Thames Valley Air Ambulance dealing with Major System Trauma incidents. I've dealt with royalty and the lowest

sections of society. Film stars, Rock Stars, Serial Killers, Drug Addicts, I've been stabbed twice, punched, spat at. Had vomit thrown in my face. Had ribs broken by being kicked by a hypoglycemic patient. Been called a c*nt and worse, been held at gun point as a hostage even had a man try and bite my nose off.

Been to major shootings. Helped guide 60+ babies into life. Seen countless people at the very end of their journey. I'm trained to cannulate people to administer drugs, intubate, defibrillate, put chest drains in, I've put a trachyotomy on a 16 year old boy hit by a train, tried to resuscitate two burnt toddlers after their father set fire to

them both. I've seen things that no one should have to witness

At the end of that time with all that experience I was worth £12.35 an hour before tax. (this was my bank shift rate on my very last shift, somewhat lower than my colleagues due to not getting anti social enhancements but even with I feel we are criminally underpaid for the work we undertake)

That's what my skills are worth to society.

Less than an estate agent, less than a refuse collector, much less than any MP regardless of political party, less than the majority of office workers working in a clean environment doing sociable hours.



Yes £12.35 before tax and National Insurance. Tax something the super rich avoid.

Why because modern society puts no value on me because I don't make money.

I'm not a footballer or an actor or a bean counter for the banks. I don't fit into the Capitalist system that we are all brainwashed to think is the only workable system

humanity can live by.

So go ahead and vote for the Tories again and see the NHS finally die. Let them take away the last decent thing we have left in this country that cuts across all races, ages, and class.

The great institution that our grand parents fought through the horror of the Second World War to set up "from cradle to the grave".

Corporatisation Manipulating Our Innocence

By Jack Cornes

It is not uncommon at the moment to see banks and insurance companies advertising their businesses by using classic cartoon characters from classic shows. I think it is Halifax bank which is currently leading the way with such advertising tools. Over the last few months I have seen them use cartoon characters such as Top Cat, the Flintstones and Scooby Doo in adverts about getting mortgages and bank loans with Halifax. They are currently using Brains, Parker and Lady Penelope from Thunderbirds in their latest advert.

Where am I going with this you may ask? I believe such advertising strategies are somewhat dangerous.

Halifax are not alone in this new tactic, Nationwide are using the medium of Poetry to advertise their building society and Money Supermarket are using the cartoon characters Skeletor and He-Man in their current advertising campaign.

Some may say this is clever marketing but I am not a Capitalist and I believe the use of these childhood favourites, as well as artistic mediums such as poetry, is a way of the corporate world manipulating our innocence to get us to sign up even more to the wealth creating juggernaut.

I know such marketing ideas like this have always been used in the advertising world but when I see banks and price comparing websites exploiting it I feel there is something sinister about it.

The corporate machine has entered this new culture now of coying up to the people by using these devices as a way of showing they are one of us and that they are a natural part of the flowing form of human expression. It feels that they are appealing to our dreams, our memories and our imaginations to sell their wares and this deception is yet another device that corporatisation will use to further pen us in like the consumer sheep we seem to feel at peace being. evices as a way to show they are one of us and that they are a natural part of the flowing form of human expression.

NINE MONTHS AFTER THE REFERENDUM ON JUNE 23RD LAST YEAR, MAY FINALLY TRIGGERED ARTICLE 50, BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF KINGDOM LEAVING THE EU. AND NOW SHE HAS CALLED A SNAP GE

Since the triggering of Article 50, your Labour MEPs have watched in deep dismay as this Conservative government abandoned any idea of retaining sincere and close links with our nearest neighbours, egged on by the Eurosceptic rump in their own party and dancing to the tune of UKIP who ironically now have no MP's in Westminster.

Theresa May's iteration of 'European values' are hollow words at odds with her behaviour. She has shown more enthusiasm for clinching trade deals with brutal regimes in Saudi Arabia and Turkey and holding hands with Donald Trump in Washington, in a sickening display of 'trade at any price' that demeans our country. Backed up by Boris Johnson's embarrassing behaviour as foreign secretary and Liam Fox's shameful support for the self-confessed killer, President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, May heads up one of the most extreme right-wing war-mongering Conservative governments the British people have ever had to endure. Churchill, who envisioned a peaceful post-war union of European people working together for the common good, must be turning in his grave!

At home, before it has even started, we have already seen the cost of Brexit. I was sad to hear of the closure of the biscuit factory in Wigan with the loss of 100 much-needed jobs. The company could no longer pay the higher prices for raw materials imported from the EU, and this trend is set to continue as our economy reels from the uncertainty and capital flight provoked by Brexit, not to mention the exodus of EU nationals (many of whom are the backbone of our NHS) who no longer feel welcome post-referendum. I was one of two MEPs who signed a letter printed in The Guardian on March 29th, condemning the Prime Minister's anti-migrant rhetoric and demanding that EU nationals should not be bargaining chips in any Brexit negotiations.

Every day I hear stories of businesses shutting up shop, or struggling to stay afloat. Large firms may seem more resilient but many are looking to relocate production elsewhere in the EU. This is true across virtually all sectors, but especially where collaboration, research and innovation are key, such as renewable energy, and the cultural and creative industries. The threat to our automotive and aerospace industries is also very present as parts are manufactured in many different EU states, each operating under the same harmo-

Julie Ward MEP



BREXIT MA

nised rules and regulations. Outside of the EU there is no guarantee that British plants will be able to operate in such a seamless way, meaning more red tape not less, as we will have to negotiate 27 different sets of rules in order to maintain our manufacturing and trading links with individual Member States.

Small businesses are also feeling the pinch and as many of these are family-run there is a heightened risk that lost livelihoods will also mean losing one's home. Small businesses often rely on being part of a supply chain for large multi-nationals or conglomerates which is one of the reasons why it was so important for Labour to fight to retain the steel industry. The EU has taken action against

Chinese steel dumping but our Tory government refused to play ball, so now the steel contracts for our new infrastructure projects are being outsourced to other countries, and our traditional steel-making communities are suffering acute deprivation.

All this has happened over the past year as Brexit became the defining moment in our history. But where do we go from here, especially as the clock is now ticking and experts are concerned that it may take a decade or more to negotiate a new trade deal with the EU after our departure in two years time. The government has produced a White Paper on The Great Repeal Bill which should raise alarm at the undemocratic nature of the sweeping powers it proposes

to use, recalling archaic laws going back to the reign of the despotic Henry VIII.

May Day 2017

Meanwhile in our most recent Strasbourg plenary session MEPs voted on a resolution setting the tone for negotiations between the EU and the UK and laying down some red lines. It should come as no surprise that membership of the single market is not possible without freedom of movement so a 'hard' and damaging Brexit now seems sadly inevitable. Indeed, Theresa May in her letter to Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, states that the UK will not seek to remain in either the single market or the customs union. This presents enormous problems, especially in Northern Ireland where

THERESA THE UNITED GENERAL ELECTION.



RCH

week, Keir Starmer MP outlined the Labour Party's promise to scrap the Great Repeal Bill and ensure the rights of all EU nationals living in the UK who are currently being used as bargaining chips. Labour will make sure that all EU-derived laws - including workplace laws, consumer rights and environmental protections - are fully protected without qualifications, limitations or sunset clauses. You can read about Labour's 10 pledges to transform Britain that will shape our election Manifesto here.

MEPs will get a vote on the final deal but you can rest assured that Labour MEPs will not vote for a deal that risks workers' rights (including health and safety at work) or weakens environmental protection. Just this week I participated in many International Workers Day events across the North West, celebrating the progress made on workers rights to date; we cannot see those reversed by a shambolic Tory Brexit.

On a personal level I will work hard to try and ensure that young people can continue to enjoy some of the positive benefits of EU membership, such as Erasmus+ projects that enable study visits abroad and cultural exchange. This programme benefits ALL young people even those with special needs as proved by students from the Together Trust's school for autistic children in Cheadle Hulme who are working with their European peers to develop self-confidence and employability - with excellent results.

On a personal level I will work hard to try and ensure that young people can continue to enjoy some of the positive benefits of EU membership, such as Erasmus+ projects that enable study visits abroad and cultural exchange. This programme benefits ALL young people even those with special needs as proved by students from the Together Trust's school for autistic children in Cheadle Hulme who are working with their European peers to develop self-confidence and employability - with excellent results.

goods and people cross an invisible border many times a day, as part of a post-conflict solution brokered by the EU.

It should be noted that David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, publicly stated that we would get the same benefits outside the EU as we currently enjoy as a full member. This of course is fanciful as stated by all the key players in the EU institutions and by the other 27 Member States.

Labour's response to the Tories direction of travel is a 6 point test on the final deal based on promises made by Theresa May and prominent members of the LEAVE campaign. This is designed to hold the government to account and provide a framework for scrutiny. This

As we begin the last two years of our 5 year mandate I remain committed to fighting the Tories version of Brexit. As a pro-European I seek to reassure our sister parties across the EU and beyond that will work with them in the fight for social justice at home and abroad, delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, putting people before profit, and upholding human rights, freedom and democracy. It is for these reasons that I have decided to remain in the European Parliament until the end of the mandate to fight for the best possible deal for people in the UK and not stand in the upcoming general election. I will be out campaigning with Labour members across the North West and nationally - you can find out what campaigning is going on in your area here.

YET ANOTHER U-TURN BY MAY

Despite saying that there were would be no snap General Election after she became Prime Minister, Theresa May (in classic Tory style) has now performed a u-turn and set the date for June 8th.

Don't be fooled by people saying that this is a 'brave' decision. It isn't.

For starters, the Crown Prosecution Service is currently investigating thirty cases of alleged cheating and expenses fraud by the Conservatives during the 2015 election. Secondly, the government's Brexit 'negotiations' look set for disaster, with the UK set to gain nothing other than a break-up of the country, as Scotland and Northern Ireland pursue independence. In addition to that, having injected poison into the NHS since 2010, the Conservatives are seeking to put it out of its misery by way of full privatisation.

If that wasn't enough, the government's program of austerity will continue to ruin the lives of the vulnerable and those at the bottom end of the pay-scale.

If an election was held in 2020, it's likely that the public backlash against them would be immense. Theresa May is hoping that she can avoid all that and blindside the public by taking advantage of the polls and a mainly sycophantic mainstream media by winning a General Election now. That way, she can secure her position and have free rein to lay waste to the country and make the rich even richer in process, claiming that it is the 'will of the people'.

The Prime Minister is showing neither courage, nor leadership. Like David Cameron before her, she is playing political games to cover her own backside and to protect her party. Make no mistake; barring the well-heeled end of society, the welfare of the British people is way down her list of priorities.

People need to pause for a second and think very carefully about this election. The media are already going out of their way to say that it is as good as won for Theresa May and that it will be a landslide victory. They will roll out polls saying that the Tories are way ahead and that Labour has no chance of winning.

Anyone with any degree of common sense should know

that polls are not a reflection of public opinion. They are designed to shape and influence public opinion and must therefore be disregarded.

The reality is that the millions of decent, fair-minded people in this country have been presented with a golden opportunity to achieve genuine, positive change and equality on a scale not seen on these shores for generations. The political and media establishment will (for the most part), steer clear of Labour's policies because they don't want the public to know what they are. They will play the man instead of the ball by painting Jeremy Corbyn as an unelectable leader of a 'chaotic' party. After June 8th, it's unlikely that the British people will ever have another chance to give neo-liberalism and the greedy establishment the kicking that it so richly deserves.

Look at the policies and judge for yourselves. A minimum wage of £10 an hour, investing in and safeguarding the NHS and social care, renationalising the railways, scrapping zero-hours contracts, free school dinners for all children, a program of building affordable homes, strengthening workers' rights, protecting small businesses, security for pensioners and the elderly, support for carers, a foreign policy based on peace rather than conflict, scrapping the 'bedroom tax', scrapping the Work Capability Assessment and Brexit negotiations with people at the heart of it, are all policies worth getting behind and voting for.

Contrast that with what the Tories are offering. Their main pitch will be Brexit and they will use the tried and tested formula of tapping into people's fears, insecurities and prejudices in order to secure votes. They will offer nothing for the NHS, nothing for young people, nothing for the disabled and nothing for schools. They will however, offer plenty for the wealthy in this country by way of tax cuts and will go above and beyond in terms of attacking Trade Unions and their members, who make up more than six million of the country's workforce. They will hedge their bets that fear, division and hate will see them through, as people vote in terms of which demographic

Sky News, the Daily Express, the Sun and the Daily Mail say they should despise the most, be it immigrants or the unemployed, rather than what will have the biggest positive or negative impact on their lives. As always, they will take the country's electorate for fools.

Jeremy Corbyn is a rare breed. He is an honest and decent man in politics who can't be bought and who time and again has been on the right side of history, be it on wars in the Middle East, the NHS or the economy. He has no fear of standing by his principles and is neither irrational, nor impulsive.

In terms of electability, Corbyn has been winning elections since 1983, often with increased majorities. The Labour Party that he inherited as leader was broken and demoralised after the 2015 election. Under his leadership and despite the savagery of the UK's right-wing press and media, Labour has performed solidly in council, Parliamentary and mayoral elections, with membership figures that place it as one of the largest political parties in Europe.

Corbyn has also nurtured young talent within the party, with the likes of Angela Rayner, Richard Burgon, Rebecca Long-Bailey and Cat Smith doing admirable jobs on the opposition front benches.

The UK under Corbyn would not be a poodle for Donald Trump and the United States. The UK under Corbyn wouldn't be a tax haven for the super-rich, nor would it be a prostitute for big business. The UK under Corbyn would be a society based on common values, social justice, peace and equality.

Don't be fooled by the smears. Don't be conned by the Tories or those claiming to represent working class values. The working class has a party with working class values at its heart. Today's Labour Party will bring back an economy that works for all with re-investment, good jobs and fair pay.

Don't give Theresa May the blank cheque book she craves for her scorched Earth policies and don't let the establishment keep the status quo any longer. Most of all, don't squander this opportunity on June the 8th. Be brave, be bold and vote Labour.

Palestinian political prisoners

PHROC Calls for International Protection of Palestinian Political Prisoners

On the occasion of Palestinians Prisoners' Day, 2017, the year that marks 50 years since the establishment of the military courts which routinely charge and trial Palestinian civilians, including children as young as 12 years old, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) calls for international protection of Palestinian political prisoners, an end to ongoing collective punishment by Israeli occupation forces, administrative detention, continued denial of fair trial, and illegal transfer and deportation of detainees.

Since the occupation of 1967, an estimated 800,000 Palestinians, roughly 20% of the population, have been imprisoned by the occupying authorities. On this year's Prisoners' Day, Israel holds approximately 6300 Palestinian political prisoners, 300 children and approximately 56 females (including 13 female children) as well as an estimated 500 Palestinians in administrative detention (including 2 children), held for indefinite periods without charge or trial.

This year marks 50 years of torture of Palestinian political prisoners through a military system which has historically been endemic and various forms of physical and psychological torture and ill-treatment, including beatings, kicking, insults, being forced into stress positions, sleep deprivation, isolation and solitary confinement, threats of sexual violence, and threats of arrest of family members continue to date. Furthermore, they have been systematically denied the right to a fair trial, as well as adequate health care, access to education, and the right to family visits.

Palestinian prisoners and detainees also continue to suffer from a policy of deliberate medical negligence, as well as poor prison conditions, including overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and being kept in extreme temperatures.

Continued arrest and detention of Palestinians undermines

the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people. These arrests target women, children, Palestinian Legislative Council Members, and civil society activists. With all Palestinian political parties being deemed illegal organizations by military orders, Palestinians continue to be deprived of participation in any form of civil and political activities. They are thereby criminalized for any tools of resistance - whether militant or not - against an illegal and protracted belligerent occupation by Israeli forces.

The issues of prisoners transcends one of individual human rights; it is also one of collective rights of an entire people - the Palestinian people, who continue to be deprived of the right to self-determination and sovereignty - basic fundamentals of international law. All Palestinian political prisoners - regardless of their alleged political affiliations or charges - are entitled to fair trial guarantees by international human rights laws.

Palestinian political prisoners are systematically subjected to torture and ill treatment with continued impunity - highlighting the need for the international community, as well as individuals, to intervene and call for immediate protection for these prisoners and detainees, long-denied basic rights.

While Palestinian prisoners are about to launch a hunger strike to end Israel's ongoing violation of Palestinian prisoners human rights, including its rejection to fulfil its obligations in accordance to provisions of third and fourth Geneva conventions, the international community is asked to fulfil its responsibility through tangible and practical measures to ensure the protection for prisoners legitimate struggle and human rights.

PHROC therefore calls on the International Criminal Court to immediately open an investigation into the case of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and bring those who have tortured, extrajudicially executed, forcibly transferred, and arbitrary detained Palestinians to be held accountable.

GAME O WILL JUNE B

You have the power to change what you are about to read, in just a few short weeks.

The information is disturbing, it will shake you to the core. Even if you have heard it before you may not have processed it fully.

As human beings we react to horror, to unnecessary deaths, with cognitive dissonance, because it is uncomfortable to hold two contradictory beliefs simultaneously. Beliefs that the people in government are working in your best interests, and that the people in government are neglecting your fellow citizens to death are two such beliefs. Because of this we try to explain evidence away, we try to reason where there is none, we try to find some explanation that will keep us feeling safe and stable.

It is too late for this. We are at too crucial a time to allow this natural defence to keep us from doing the right thing for our fellow citizens.

When the argument "we have to do this for the economy, we have to save money" goes through your mind, think about what we are saying, is money worth more than life?

Then consider the fact that Austerity is a choice not a necessity. Not only is Austerity leading to the deaths below but it is also destabilising our economy even more. Defunding and privatising our NHS is completely unnecessary and can only cause chaos for the population and increase the profits of the wealthy.

The next piece of information will leave you flabbergasted - the sanctions imposed that are leading to some of these unnecessary deaths and suicides cost us the tax payer £153 million more than we are saving per year. Every single year, it costs more to harm these people than we will save. Did you agree to this? I know I didn't?

The Tories know this, they have been advised against it, they went against majority economic academic opinion to impose austerity in the first place.

When you hear yourself say-



ing "people who claim benefits are fraudsters, we need to be harder on them", read the facts on benefit fraud and consider the official figures in this graph (Tax fraud here does not include Tax Evasion which is much higher):

Then consider this:

And ask yourself what the hell is going on? All of these figures and statements are factual, they can all be supported with independent research.

Tax avoided, evaded and uncollected is a drastically far greater drain on our resources, and yet the Tory government promotes this, they continue to cut taxes for corporations and refuse to take action on Tax Havens. So why are we asking the most vulnerable to pay the

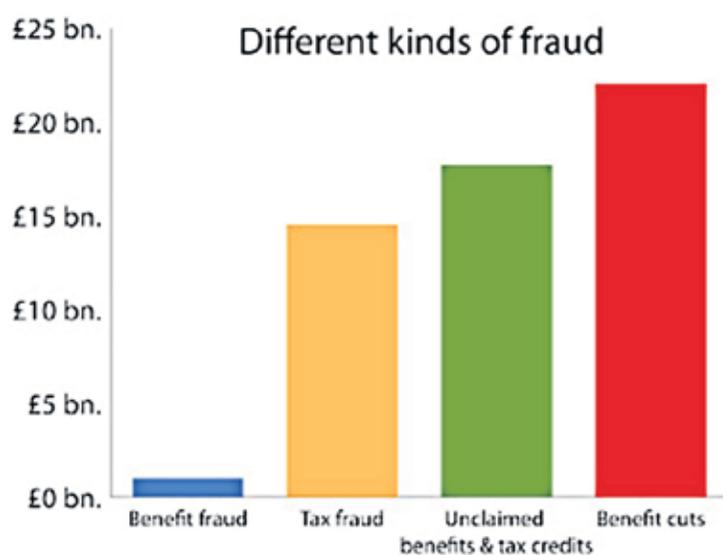
price? Benefits going unclaimed far exceed any fraud, so why is this the focus?

There were 30,000 excess deaths in 2015 (the largest increase since WWII) linked to Tory cuts in health and social care. These were largely in the older population most dependent on health and social care, but more and more we are hearing about urgent and essential operations being cut for all sections of the population by an NHS at breaking point. We are hearing of people being turned away and the Red Cross declared "a humanitarian crisis" in our NHS earlier this year.

Hospitals themselves are issuing black alert status, this means they are unable to guarantee

OF THRONES

BE THE END OF MAY?



life-saving emergency care. None of us is safe from this breakdown of care, even personal fortune may not save you.

The Tory overhaul of disability benefits has been on a level of callous and cruelty I have not witnessed before.

People are being declared fit for work despite severe disability and even terminal illness. We can't reason that this is in anyway justified, we can't say that the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) are targeting people who are not "disabled enough", or people who are abusing the system, because thousands of people, 80 people per month, are dying after this declaration, many within weeks of the decision. How fit and healthy can they have been do you think? Ordinary people are being denied basic care, really, denied basic humanity, despite many having paid into the system all their working lives. Ken Loach's recent film 'I Daniel Blake' recently highlighted many of these issues and is highly recommended.

"The figures revealed that between December 2011 and February 2014, 50,580 recipients of ESA had died. Of this number, 2,380 - or 4.7% - had received a decision that they were fit for work. Many of these would have appealed the decision, a process that can take many months. Another 7,200 claimants had died after being awarded ESA and being placed in

the separate work-related activity group - a category which identifies claimants who are unfit to work but may be able to return to work in the future."

Unsurprisingly, some of these deaths may have been suicides linked to welfare assessments. The intense stress people are put under leave many to believe they have no other option. In an unusual move The British Psychological Society together with leading Counselling organisations, recently issued a statement opposing all welfare sanctions, not only because there is no evidence they work, but also to warn that their will be a mental health crisis if this continues.

We are used to blanket denials from the Conservative Government, the Party line is to deny, deny, deny and avoid taking responsibility. Thankfully the Professionals speaking out are the people we trust, including Doctors, Surgeons, Nurses, Psychologists, Counsellors, Psychotherapists. The denials increasingly look as ludicrous as they are in the face of the evidence and these expert assessments.

Even one of the Tories arguably most biased reporters admits "This is the fourth Number 10 team that I've covered, and their (Conservative Government) attitude to all of this is very, very different - where they basically try not to respond to anything".

We are being lied to, we are being pushed to blame our fellow vulnerable citizens of which any of us could become, for the drain on our economy. Who is actually responsible:

"It was the f*****g banks" - Frankie Boyle:

The Tories are telling us that we must pay with our health care as they defund the NHS, we must pay with our social security as they take essential money away from the disabled and stop the money of people who have no other means of survival. We cannot expect benefits when we are ill or disabled even though we pay for this in national insurance contributions?

You will undoubtedly be shocked to hear that this National Insurance Fund, that we all pay into to secure our health care, welfare net if we can't work and pension, has a surplus, 2016 figures showed this to be £30 Billion. Yes Billion. We must pay with our job security as 0 hours contracts become the norm. We must pay with our security of a roof over our heads, as rents far exceed our wages. It doesn't end because the Tory Party seem unconcerned as our Country and our revered Health and Social Care crumbles.

Next time you hear Teresa May or any of her fellow Conservative Politicians repeating the Strong and Stable hypnotic mantra, remember what kind of society they consider Strong and Stable. It includes neglecting Citizens to death and presiding over a failing economic model that sucks the vulnerable dry and open handedly provides welfare for the richest. If they are this cruel or deluded (it can only be one or the other) now, what the hell can we expect if they secure a win again?

#Vote Labour - because Jeremy Corbyn is currently the only Politician who understands how broken our society is. He is also the only Leader who has the economic strategy and policies in place to fix it. He has been fighting this kind of injustice all his life. We could not be in better hands.



presentes

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- A memory of things 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, except, perhaps.....

#7 Marcy Playground

The whole concept of a band conjures up the idea of co-operation, teamwork, and a form of organisation that involves give and take. Generally this is true and even bands named after, say, the lead singer, or even the drummer (John Hise-man's Colosseum) contain within them democracy and mutual respect, although like John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, one individual might hire and fire other members at will.

But most bands arise from a relationship between two guys (yes, it can be ladies too) who either write together or play the music in a certain way. Others are drawn in, and before long, a drummer is found, and a bass player persuaded to come along and perhaps drive the van, or help lug gear, taking his place on stage to play some low notes, more or less in time with the drummer. Sometimes the bass player and drummer build such rapport that another band will come along and make them a better offer.

Most successful bands, in my

opinion, are ones in which the bass player and/or the drummer are part of the writing team or the power-politics of the band. Think of Lars Ulrich of Metallica or Paul McCartney of The Beatles, who took over on bass when Stu Sutcliffe left. When one of the two co-founders / co-writers leaves (Mick Abrahams - Jethro Tull) or takes a back seat for

a while (Keith Richards - Rolling Stones) the band might become a benevolent (or otherwise) dictatorship.

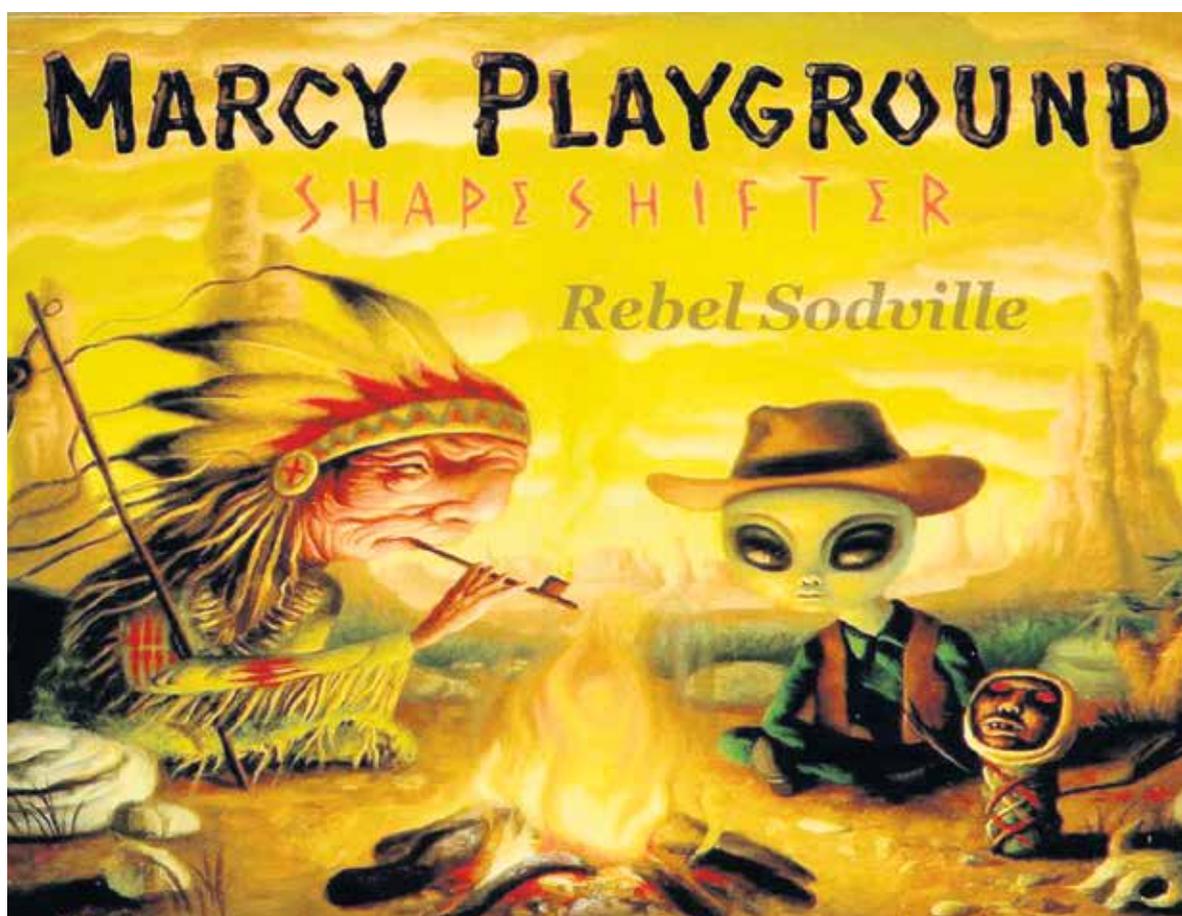
Marcy Playground (1994-) was a creation of Jon Wozniak, writer, singer, guitarist, and Jared Kotler, singer, producer, bass player, and drummer, whom Woz moved near so they could work together. The

1997 Album 'Marcy Playground' was dominated by memories from Woz's childhood, including long-time friend and ex - Sherry Fraser. Indeed, one song is named after her and another co-written with her. The album is beautiful. It's sweet and mournful and exciting. The opening track 'Poppies' is about Opium, as is the eighth. The

second track 'Sex and Candy' contains the rather creepy line "I smell sex and / candy / here ..." which gets your attention as soon as you hear it. It was the band's breakthrough single, and names an 'Executive Producer,' which I won't. My favourite song is 'Sherry Fraser,' followed closely by 'A Cloak of Eleven Kind,' which bears psychological analysis, as does the entire album, but in a good way.

The power of the Producer (Kotler, though Wozniak possibly says otherwise) shines through. This is something I've seen many times with different bands and different producers at different times. Whatever anyone else says, my opinion is that the best work comes from what musician(s) let the producer get away with, or vice versa. You'll hear about it another time, but essentially the producer plays the band, who play music, written by one or many writers.

A bass player was found, Dylan Keefe, in 1996 and who is on the album, and a drummer, Dan Rieser who is credited, though Jared plays drums on every track. Dylan is still with the band, but Dan left around 2000 when the band took a break. Two more drummers, 'Gonz' Martinez and Shlomi Lavie, have played since and there have been three or four more albums, but for me, Marcy Playground is that first Album and first Band, a magnificent writer, and a superb producer. Give it a listen.



Y Y M N Z X D U H K K P P X W
 L K I E T G T Y P R O N T C Z
 A C R T Y Y S M A R P S D E R
 T A E H D Y E M T M Y C D B W
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Word Search Puzzle

EU COUNTRIES

AUSTRIA
 BELGIUM
 BULGARIA
 CYPRUS
 DENMARK
 FRANCE
 GERMANY

GREECE
 IRELAND
 ITALY
 NETHERLANDS
 PORTUGAL
 ROMANIA
 SPAIN

Sudoku

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Labour Policies for Election 2017

10,000 new **Police**
 200,000 **homes** a year
 £10 **minimum wage** p/h
 £500 more for **Carers**
 £3bn more for **Education**
 Free NHS **Car Parking**
 4 new **public holidays**
 Free School **Meals 4-11**
 Halt NHS **Privatisation**
 Restore **EMA**
 Restore **Nurses' Bursaries**
 £160m Pupil **Arts Fund**

- £1.5bn Cut in **Small Business Tax**
- End Public Sector **Pay Freeze**
- Renationalise **Railways**
- Eradicate Gender **Pay Cap**
- End **Zero Hours Contracts**
- New Child **Obesity Plan**
- Safe **Staffing Law** for NHS
- Halt new **Grammars & Free School!**
- Ban HMRC **Sweetheart Deals**
- 20 Point **Workers' Rights Package**
- Fine & License **Rogue Landlords**
- Tax Freeze for all **below £80,000**

PROMISES PROMISES

Unbelievably The Conservatives will pledge to cut net migration to "tens of thousands" for the third General Election in a row.

The commitment appeared in the Tories' manifestos for both the 2010 and 2015 elections, but has never been met. Recent figures put migration at 273,000. The UK record was by Theresa May as home secretary with over 330,000 net migration in a single year.

Prime Minister Theresa May has again restated her hope to cut annual net migration to a "sustainable" level in the tens of thousands. Will she fool the electorate a 3rd time?

The "Right to Recall" corrupt MPs has still not been delivered, and the proposals are terribly watered-down, meaning that the final say on whether recall proceedings go ahead will lie with MPs and other members of the political class.

The number of MPs has not been cut by 10% and the amount claimed by MPs in subsidies and expenses is still enormous. In fact the £103 million claimed in expenses by MPs in 2014 is higher than the amount claimed at the peak of the MPs expenses scandal in 2009!

Cameron did cut ministers' pay by 5% but then he outsourced decisions on MPs pay to a quasi-independent body which then decided that MPs should get a whopping 11% pay rise while the rest of the country suffers austerity!

Ideological cuts in government spending crashed the recovery causing the "double dip recession". Some of the "wasteful government spending" slashed included flood defence schemes in places that were badly flooded.

Despite their promises that ideological austerity would have completely wiped out the budget deficit by now, the government is still borrowing £billions a month. In fact Cameron's government has now created more debt than all of the Labour governments in history combined!

After pretending that they were going to be "the greenest government ever" Cameron soon U-turned. He cut spending on green energy infrastructure and research, he began promoting fracking, and he even instructed his aides to "cut out all the green crap".

Despite lots of Tory trickery it is absolutely clear that spending on the NHS has not been increased every year, 4,000 senior nurses have been sacked since 2010 and frontline staff have endured years of below inflation 1% pay increases.

Sure Start funding has been ruthlessly slashed, resulting in the closure of some 600 Sure Start Centres. The "tax break" for married couples is a tiny fraction of financial losses due to the longest real terms decline in wages since records began.

A contract between the Conservative Party and you

We go into the general election on 6 May with trust in politics and politicians at an all-time low. And I can understand why: the years of broken promises, the expenses scandal, the feeling that politicians have become too remote from the people – they've all taken their toll. That's why I'm writing to you now. For too long, you've been led to by politicians saying they can sort out all your problems. But it doesn't work like that. Real change is not just about what the government does. Real change only comes when we understand that we are all in this together; that we all have a responsibility to help make our country better. That's why I'm sending you this document. It sets out my side of the bargain: the things I want to do to change Britain. But it also makes clear that I cannot do it on my own. We will only get our economy moving, mend our broken society and reform our rotten political system if we all get involved, take responsibility, and work together.

So this is our contract with you. I want you to read it and – if we win the election – use it to hold us to account. If we don't deliver our side of the bargain, vote us out in five years' time.

We will change politics

Our political system needs to change. Politicians must be made more accountable, and we must take power away from Westminster and put it in the hands of people – individuals, families and neighbourhoods.

1. Give you the right to sack your MP, so you don't have to wait for an election to get rid of politicians who are guilty of misconduct.
2. Cut the number of MPs by ten per cent, and cut the subsidies and perks for politicians.
3. Cut ministers' pay by five per cent and freeze it for five years.

We will change the economy

Gordon Brown's economic incompetence has doubled the national debt, given us record youth unemployment, and widened the gap between rich and poor. Unemployment is still rising, and this year we will spend more on debt interest than on schools. We need to get our economy moving.

1. Cut wasteful government spending so we can stop Labour's jobs tax, which would kill the recovery.
2. Act now on the national debt, so we can keep mortgage rates lower for longer.
3. Reduce emissions and build a greener economy, with thousands of new jobs in green industries and advanced manufacturing.

We will change society

We face big social problems in this country: family breakdown, educational failure, crime and deep poverty. Labour's big government has failed; we will help build a Big Society where everyone plays their part in mending our broken society.

1. Increase spending on health every year, while cutting waste in the NHS, so that more goes to nurses and doctors on the frontline, and make sure you get access to the cancer drugs you need.
2. Support families, by giving married couples and civil partners a tax break, giving more people the right to request flexible working and helping young families with extra Sure Start health visitors.
3. Raise standards in schools, by giving teachers the power to restore discipline and by giving parents, charities and voluntary groups the power to start new smaller schools.
4. Increase the basic state pension, by re-linking it to earnings, and protect the winter fuel allowance, five TV licences, five bus fares and other key benefits for older people.
5. Fight back against crime, cut paperwork to get police officers on the street, and make sure criminals serve the sentence given to them in court.
6. Create National Citizen Service for every 16-year-old, to help bring the country together.

4. Give local communities the power to take charge of the local planning system and vote on excessive council tax rises.

5. Make government transparent, publishing every item of government spending over £25,000, all government contracts, and all local council spending over £500.

4. Get Britain working by giving unemployed people support to get work, creating 400,000 new apprenticeships and training places over two years, and cutting benefits for those who refuse work.

5. Control immigration, reducing it to the levels of the 1990s – meaning tens of thousands a year, instead of the hundreds of thousands a year under Labour.

Local government budgets have been ruthlessly slashed, and now the Tories are planning to severely limit judicial reviews, which are one of the only means left for local people to hold their elected representatives to account.

The Tory led government have fought a long legal battle to keep the veil of secrecy over interference in government by Prince Charles. They've also repeatedly refused Freedom of Information requests over issues like workfare and disability deaths.

They haven't just cut benefits for "those who refuse to work", they've also slashed the in-work benefits used to top up the poverty wages paid by their corporate chums. The bit about apprenticeships is just guff, most of them are unpaid forced labour schemes.

Without reforming EU Freedom of Movement legislation this was always a completely impossible promise. Net immigration rose 39% to 243,000 in 2013-14, despite Cameron's government deliberately discriminating against British families with draconian income rules.

The opening part about restoring discipline is empty rhetoric, the concluding part is jargon for their giving away £billions worth of public property to unaccountable private sector pseudo-charities.

The basic state pension has been re-linked with earnings, however earnings have undergone the longest real terms decline since records began. The winter fuel allowance was cut in the 2011 Budget.

34,000 police jobs have been cut since 2010. Slashing the number of working police would seem to be an odd way to "get more police officers on the street". Also - sentencing has not been reformed.

Is it any wonder this pack of lies has completely disappeared from the Tory Party website?

ANOTHER ANGRY VOICE

THE WORD

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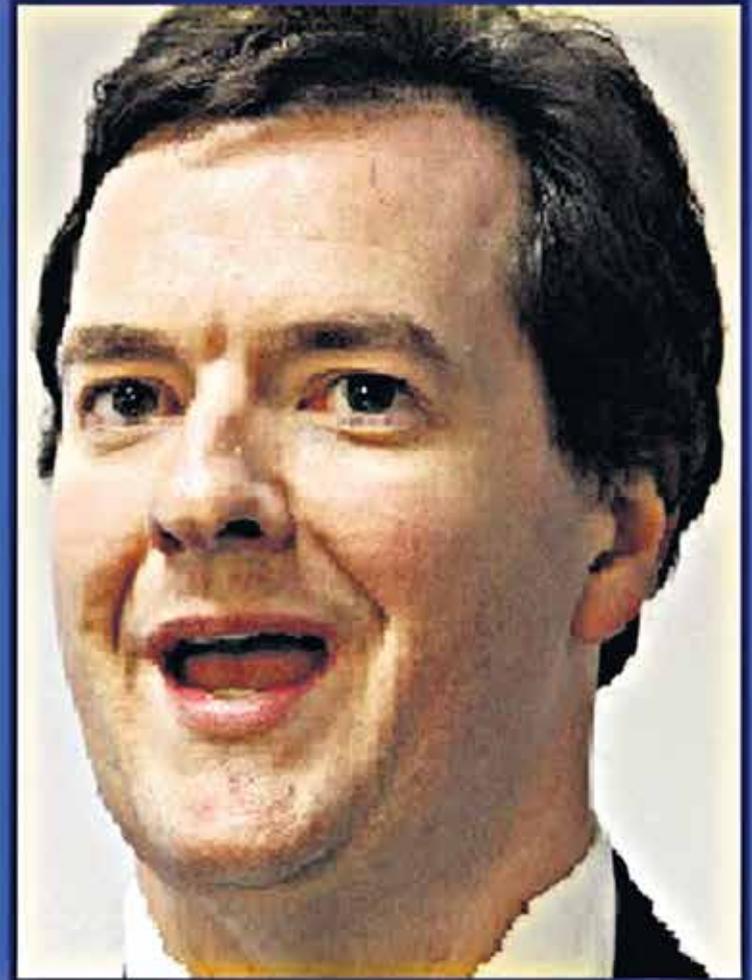
Name Address

Post code Phone

I would like to order a regular copy of The Word newspaper from this newsagent

ANOTHER ANGRY VOICE

Since he became Chancellor in 2010 George Osborne has **created more new debt** than every Labour government in history combined!



The fallacy of right-wing patriotism

They wrap themselves in the flag and proclaim themselves patriots, yet their beloved neoliberal ideology has given us the situation that:



Our vital energy infrastructure is owned by the French state (EdF) and by German Municipalities (E-on)



Our transport infrastructure has been carved up and franchised out to numerous foreign interests



Our "independent" nuclear deterrent is operated by a consortium which is 66% owned by US corporations



And our HMRC tax collection offices have been sold off to a company registered in the tax haven of Bermuda for tax purposes!

ANOTHER ANGRY VOICE



- ANSWERS**
1. Leeds
 2. 24
 3. Coventry
 4. Stockton and Darlington Railway (the world's first permanent steam locomotive-hauled passenger railway)
 5. Elizabeth I
 6. York
 7. Dorset
 8. Studley Royal Park
 9. Beachy Head
 10. Somerset
 11. Westward Ho!
 12. Mary
 13. French
 14. Winchester
 15. Ludlow
 16. Silbury Hill
 17. Cornwall
 18. Mother Shipton's Cave
 19. 75
 20. Bristol

England Quiz I

1. The M1 motorway connect London to which English city?
2. How old was William Pitt the Younger when he became the youngest Prime Minister in 1783?
3. Which city has been known as 'Britain's Detroit' and the 'City of Peace and Reconciliation'?
4. 'S and DR' operated in north-east England from 1825 to 1863, what do the initials stand for?
5. Who was the final ruler of the House of Tudor?
6. The Roman fort and city Eboracum evolved into which present-day English city?
7. Golden Cap is a hill and cliff situated on the coast of which county?
8. Which Royal Park in North Yorkshire is a designated World Heritage Site?
9. What name is given to the chalk headland near Eastbourne, immediately east of the Seven Sisters?
10. In which county is the seaside town of Weston-super-Mare?
11. Name the only town in England which has a name ending with an exclamation mark?
12. In 1811, nearly a quarter of all women in England had what name?
13. What was the official language of England from 1066 to 1362?
14. What city was from 827 to 1066 the first capital of England?
15. John Betjeman described which town in Shropshire as 'probably the loveliest town in England'?
16. Found in Wiltshire, name the largest man-made earthen mound in Europe?
17. In which English county is the Eden Project?
18. What near Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, is England's oldest recorded tourist attraction?
19. England is how many times smaller than the USA: (a)35, (b)55, or (c)75?
20. Which city is known as the 'Seattle of England' because of its youth culture?

Minimum Basic Income, also known as Citizen's Income is currently being tried in parts of Finland and Canada. In the UK, a number of documents and articles exist which explore the possibility in detail, outlining possible funding options, conditions and amounts.

The idea works like this; each citizen would be entitled to a small amount of money, enough to fund the basic essentials, regardless of circumstances. It would then be up to the individual to earn more. Supporters claim that the scheme has a number of advantages. Firstly it would eliminate the need for welfare payments along with their intrusive and cumbersome administration as well as the scope for fraud. If everybody got the same amount of money, there would be no need to prove entitlement.

Another advantage of a Basic Income is that it gives workers the option of cutting their hours, leaving people with more free time and a better work/life balance. This would lead to more work being made available for unemployed people who could share jobs previously done by one person.

It's hard not to like the idea of free money, especially if you are poor, under employed and over qualified and especially if you are over worked and rarely see your family and friends. If you are struggling to get a deposit for a home, dragged down by debts or frantic about how to pay the next bill, you may think this is the answer.

The first important question is how much money are we talking about? It's supposed to be enough to provide a safety net and to allow people to reduce working hours if that's what they want. The Royal Society of Arts Report - Creative Citizen, Creative State, sets the amount at around 71 pounds a week. That's less than a single person's dole money. The Finnish experiment involves a similar amount. The good news is that the RSA allow 74 pounds for a first child and around 70 for each subsequent child. I know children are expensive, but do they really cost more to maintain than a single adult living alone? Which brings me to the next issue.

If I was unemployed, apart from JSA of around 75 pounds a week, I would also be able to claim Housing

MINIMUM BASIC INCOME IS IT FEASIBLE?

Benefit which would cover my housing association rent of £80 per week. In addition, I'd get Council Tax Support to cover 80% of my Council Tax. For me that would be worth another £15 a week. Altogether, these benefits total £170. This is enough to cover my basic costs if I was unemployed. If I were renting privately I would need an extra £30 a week, bringing the total to £200. If I was privately renting in London I'd probably need double that. If I was an owner occupier who had paid their mortgage, I would need less than half.

So most suggested Basic incomes exclude housing costs. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation report sets their basic income at £10,000 pa. That would cover basic expenses for anybody privately renting a tiny flat in my area, but if they lived in London, they wouldn't have a prayer. When it comes to housing costs, many supporters of Minimum Basic Income clam up. Those that do mention the topic do so briefly, explaining that it may be necessary for some households to continue to claim Housing Benefit. This contradicts the previous advantages of the income. You don't get more intrusive, expensive and cumbersome than Housing Benefit.

As for the idea that people can opt for shorter working hours, you can't buy many hours with £71 a week, even on minimum wage. And working poor people who claim Housing Benefit would find the increase in income absorbed by housing costs. On the one hand, many households would be lifted out of Housing Benefit but financially they would either be no better off, or less better off. So the option of working fewer hours may be closed to them.

Giving everybody free money overnight will put a lot of extra money into the economy and stimulate capitalism by will increasing demand for goods and services, especially housing. Those intending to buy a home will

have more money to save for a deposit. Others will spend the money on a bigger property, or a more expensive home with better amenities. Young people living with parents will have the means to live independently. Flat sharers could get a place of their own. Landlords would coin it in and before you know it, your £71 per week will be absorbed by property prices - as well as rising inflation on everything else. In a few years we would be no better off in real income terms than we are now.

In my opinion, there is a better solution, one that would start by putting more money in the pockets of the poorest, cut the benefits bill and eventually lead to a better standard of living for the majority. That solution is rent control. The present system of Housing Benefit profits landlords more than tenants. Local Housing Allowances, the housing benefit cap, does little to stop landlords setting high rent. Lowering the Local Housing Allowance and then making it illegal for landlords to charge more than this would allow rent control to be implemented with a minimum of administration costs - The Government did the admin when they set the LHAs in the first place.

The initial effect of rent control would be to save money on Housing Benefit. Many households would be lifted out of Housing Benefit altogether. Renters would have more money in their pocket. Those in overcrowded or inadequate housing could afford to move. Landlords who lose earnings may offload their properties on to the market. This could cause property prices to fall, especially at the lower end of the market where a lot of Buy to Let properties would end up, providing opportunities for first time buyers. Any that were too decrepit to appeal to buyers could be purchased and refurbished by social landlords using the money saved by the Government in Housing Benefit.

And then there's London.

Remember those hotbeds of deprivation know as the Inner City? Those communities are now like doughnuts, hollowed out by the absence of ordinary folk and populated by the very rich, who can afford to buy the homes and the very poor who qualify for the little social housing that still exists. The good news is that a lot of 'sink' estates have now been demolished. The bad news is that they have been replaced by gleaming luxury flats. And if that wasn't enough of an insult to the ordinary Londoner, many of these flats stand empty. They are bought by foreign billionaires who have no intention of living there, even for holidays. They buy the properties because rising prices make them a good investment even without tenants.

An increase in Stamp Duty and Council Tax would do little to deter these people. A great big Capital Gains Tax bill that negates any profit when they come to sell would put them off once and for all.

So why is the question of rent control never aired when it comes to talking about rising benefits and falling wages? Thatcher's idea of the 'Property Owning Democracy' is insidious and serves to divide the left. Many left wing people own their homes and have struggled with the costs involved in doing so. As a consequence they may regard any profit as a right that they have earned. Today's economy is more of a property owning dictatorship than democracy. The decimation of social housing makes buying a home the only option of getting anywhere to live that is decent and secure. As socialists we need to go back to basics on this. Property reforms that make homes more affordable, in the context of a revived welfare state with elderly care available to all would make it unnecessary to make huge profits from the sale of a home. And would redistribute wealth far more efficiently than giving away money.

Good News and Hope

RODRIGUE MUGARUKA KATEMBO, Democratic Republic of Congo - The Goldman Environmental Prize 2017 (aka. the 'Green Nobel') These are awarded for people on six continents to persons recognised as 'grass roots' environmental heroes.

One of this year's recipients was Rodrigue Katembo who put his life on the line to fight the British oil company, SOCO International, that had purchased the right to drill for oil in the oldest national park in Africa where he was a Park Ranger. Rodrigue went far and beyond his role as a ranger in Virunga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, facing down poachers, armed thugs. Rodrigue documented SOCO International's corruption and misdeeds until international outrage forced the corporation to withdraw from its proposed project.

Rodrigue and the footage he gathered during his undercover investigations were heavily featured in the documentary film Virunga. The film gained a massive international audience through Netflix and in late 2015, SOCO announced it was giving up its oil licence. Rodrigue won.

He paid an enormous price for his activism. In 2013, just days after he had stopped a SOCO team from building a telecommunications antenna inside the park, Katembo was arrested and tortured for 17 days.

Since his unlikely victory, Rodrigue has been promoted to Director of Upemba National Park, where he continues to protect the park and wildlife from poachers, militia, and the extractive industry.

The other five recipients were: Uros Macerl (Slovenia), Prafulla Samantera (India), Mak Lopez (USA), Rodrigo Tot (Guatemala) and octagenarian Wendy Bowman (Australia)

us@sumofus.org see also www.goldmanprize.org

Bhutan.

The Himalayan state of Bhutan has become the first carbon negative country in the world. It has 72% of land forested. This means the 750,000 inhabitants produce 1.5 million tonnes of carbon annually but more than 6 million tonnes are absorbed. Their constitution guarantees forested areas will NEVER be less than 60%. The country aims to grow 1005 organic food by 2020 and produce zero waste by 2030!

Amnesty April 2017

EW POST ON PRIDE'S PURGE

Theresa May's secret plans to replace NHS England with private US healthcare system Kaiser Permanente

By Tom Pride

Kaiser Permanente is a private healthcare company based in California.

But unlike many other private healthcare companies in the US, Kaiser provides a complete model of integrated pre-paid insurance along with healthcare which is supposedly provided free at the point of need.

This is a system much like our own NHS but with one major difference - Kaiser's healthcare provision is much more expensive than the NHS and the healthcare provision side is run for profit.

Despite that, Secretary of State

for Health Jeremy Hunt seems to love Kaiser. He and other ministers have personally visited the company at its California headquarters - several times in fact:

And Kaiser's own website lists other recent visitors from the UK, including many NHS hospitals and NHS trusts as well as HM Treasury and the Ministry of Health itself (click to enlarge):

We have already seen that US firms are looking to capitalise as the NHS becomes increasingly privatised, including Kaiser Permanente Foundation's senior vice president Hal Wolf who has openly called for

the NHS to become "more like Kaiser Permanente".

Alarming, Theresa May has specifically refused to guarantee she will not open up the NHS to US firms in a post-Brexit trade deal across the Atlantic.

Understanding the plans to replace the NHS with the Kaiser Permanente system explains why there has been a recent speeding up of the ongoing marketisation and privatisation of the NHS.

It also explains why the Tories were so desperate to push through their disastrous NHS reforms in the first place. A central plank of the NHS reforms was the formation of Clinical Commissioning Groups - which

were openly based on Kaiser's Permanente Medical Groups and which also happen to be a central plank of Kaiser's healthcare system.

And understanding the plans to replace the NHS across England with the Kaiser Permanente system goes a long way to explaining why Theresa May has done nothing to resolve the worsening NHS crisis, which she is gambling will only make the public more keen to see changes to a system that is being deliberately broken.

So if the Tories win in June - say goodbye to the NHS in England and hello to Kaiser Permanente ...

WHY LABOUR SUPPORTERS BACK CORBYN



Some socialists question why so many Labour supporters still back Jeremy Corbyn. With the opinion polls against us, with the press against us, and with the Labour Party divided the logic of the situation is surely to sack Jeremy Corbyn.

No Left leader will win on Left policies so jettison the Left policies. The media and the PLP will always decide Labour's Leader and will decide Labour's policies. Following this argument means that Labour is doomed always to be an innocuous opposition.

After 2015 there was a complete lack of enthusiasm for Liz, Yvette, and Andy. Jeremy squeezed a nomination and then the Leadership Election caught fire.

The Shadow Cabinet including three of the Leadership contenders ordered Labour MPs to abstain on the Conservative Welfare Reform and Work bill. The bill

- Restricted child tax credits to the first two children unless the mother could prove that the third child was a product of rape.

- Removed the government's legal requirement to reduce child poverty.

- Removed the words "child poverty" from the Child Poverty Act 2010.

- Cut the income of many sick and disabled people on Employment Support Allowance by £30 per week.

- Cut the benefit cap to £20,000 a year, or £23,000 in London.

What socialists could abstain? Only those who had swallowed austerity.

Jeremy voted against.

GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS 1987 - 2015							
	% turnout	Con votes millions	Con%	Con seats	Lab votes millions	Lab%	Lab Seats
1987	75.3	13.78	42.2	375	10.03	30.8	329
1992	77.7	14.09	41.9	336	11.56	34.4	271
1997	71.4	9.6	30.7	165	13.5	43.2	418
2001	59.4	8.54	31.7	166	10.7	40.7	412
2005	61.4	8.78	32.4	198	9.55	35.2	385
2010	65.1	10.7	36.11	306	8.6	29	258
2015	66.1	11.3	36.9	331	9.3	30.4	232

Jeremy Corbyn's track record and message are so strong that Jeremy was established as a political personality before he became Leader.

Jeremy has credibility because Jeremy has not jumped on the anti austerity bandwagon. Jeremy has always had his shoulder to the wheel.

Jeremy's principled objection to apartheid, to the invasion of Iraq, to the bombing of Syria, and to the intervention in Libya also place Jeremy on the right side of history.

Imagine that Liz or Andy or Yvette or Owen had become Leader. They had all four abstained on the Welfare Reform and Work Bill. How could they credibly have focussed on anti-austerity given their voting history?

It is simply not credible for people who bought into austerity to lead the campaign against austerity.

On what other issue or issues could Labour credibly campaign while ignoring austerity?

The Right say it is hugely important that Labour should win the next election. When asked which charismatic figure will lead Labour to certain victory there is a silence. Keir Starmer is still the front runner of the ABC (anyone but Corbyn) brigade, but even Keir failed to vote against the Welfare Reform and Work Bill.

Since 2010 the Labour Right have been in denial. They lost a third of the Labour vote and over half the Labour Party membership while Labour was in power.

The Right does not understand why people stopped voting Labour even before the Gulf War.

"It is inevitable that we lose support between elections" they say.

Harold Wilson increased La-

bour support in the 1966 election. David Cameron increased Tory support in 2015.

The problem is that the 1997-2010 Labour Government did not deliver enough and did not deliver fast enough. For Labour to win again Labour has to be seen to have policies that will deliver significant change to people's lives within the first term. Not understanding the problem the Right has been unable to come forward with proposals for how Labour will win power again.

One disadvantage of not being thought of as a future Leader was that Jeremy Corbyn had not built up a support infrastructure that could compare with Peter Mandelson, Alistair Campbell and Anji Hunter. It takes years to build a team like that.

There were some stumbles.

Not like the Bernie Ecclestone

fiasco.

Not like Blair's inability to resolve the Blair / Brown differences.

Not like going into an illegal war in search of Weapons of Mass Destruction that did not exist.

The real issue is not Jeremy Corbyn. Had any Leftist become Leader the attacks would have been identical.

The reason for the attacks is that Jeremy and his team are intent upon changing Britain significantly. Making the rich pay fair taxes, reducing poverty, inequality, and homelessness, having an industrial strategy. Not getting into pointless wars.

Why are so many of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) opposed to Corbyn? The answer is that they bought in to austerity. They voted for the Iraq War. They voted against having an enquiry into the origins of the Iraq War.

Vote Labour on June 8th for A £10 living wage. To secure our NHS. Full employment and an economy that works for all. A secure homes guarantee and action to secure an equal society. #JC4PM

They voted to intervene in Libya. They voted to bomb Syria. They are pro Israeli. They are so politically opposed to Corbyn that Corbyn must go.

Britain is the second largest supplier of weapons in the world. Many Labour MPs know that arms factories employ people in their constituencies. A Leader who would not push the nuclear button, and who would be involved in fewer armed conflicts is extremely bad news. He has to go.

We now have an explanation for the clamour to remove Corbyn. It is not that there is anything particularly wrong with Corbyn. The real problem is Corbyn's policies.

I have been asked to point out that some who are against Corbyn are antsy rather than anti. They would like Corbyn to win but they don't think he can.

Opinion polls show that Corbyn's policies are generally popular all over the country when they are not identified with Corbyn.

That Corbyn is not getting a fair media is beginning to become understood.

There could be a snap election this year or next. Labour's lines in the sand allow Labour to have a principled vote against the leaving agreement. So we are essentially "Remain" and the Tories are essentially "Leave". That is far more problematic for the Tories than it is for us.

Or the General Election will be in 2019 or 2020 on the new boundaries. By then the depth of the BREXIT shambles will be fully understood. If Labour campaigns on rejoining the EU that

will meet the views of most Labour Party members. Remainers from other parties will come to us because we offer a solution to the most important problem in Britain. The "Leave" vote will be split between Tories and UKIP. It will certainly be smaller than the original 52% of voters.

What about Scotland?

Labour will gain some seats from the SNP because of the SNP's failures on child poverty, education, health, and inequality. How many seats Labour takes depends on many imponderables such as the price of oil and the qualities of the Scottish Labour leadership.

Generally speaking Governments lose elections rather than oppositions winning them.

We put forward policies we believe in. The people will make the choice.

It has dawned on the Right that Labour losing seats will impact disproportionately upon the Right. Corbyn's internal Party opposition hopefully will be less virulent.

Do we have a Leader who can be elected Prime Minister? Anyone who has seen Corbyn in a television interview or who follows Prime Ministers Questions can see that Jeremy is Prime Minister material.

The task for Corbyn and for the Labour Party Generally is to get our message across when there is not a fair wind from the media. For that it should be all hands on deck to write and to distribute leaflets memes and so forth.

Be positive. If it were easy to bring about a socialist revolution we would already have done it.

Crisis? What crisis?

Nick Gibb stays stoic after damning NAO report

By Emily Marbaix December 2016/
by Freddie Whittaker, Feb, 2016

Crisis? What crisis? Nick Gibb stays stoic after damning NAO report

Teacher recruitment targets missed, vacancies up almost tenfold and a stark warning from key auditors, but still no crisis, according to Nick Gibb.

The schools minister was characteristically stoic in his continuing refusal to use the word "crisis" when he appeared on the BBC's Daily Politics programme earlier today, despite strong words from the National Audit Office in its report on the matter, released this morning.

The NAO report criticised the Department for Education for failing to hit teacher recruitment target for four years running, and included figures which seemingly vindicated calls of a growing recruitment crisis from beleaguered headteachers.

The report revealed the number of teacher vacancies has risen from 350 (0.1 per cent of the workforce) in 2011, to 3,210 (0.9 per cent) in 2014.

Pressed several times on whether the NAO was in fact the latest sign of a crisis, Mr Gibb instead referred to problems created by "the challenge of a strong economy", with high demand for graduates, and described government initiatives like bursaries aimed at attracting people to the classroom.

The MP for Bognor Regis came under fire last July for telling the TES that he didn't believe there was a crisis relating to teacher numbers, and has previously been accused, along with other ministers, of burying his head in the sand over the issue. Gibb DP

During his Daily Politics interview, Mr Gibb also proved he was more than willing to bat for the government in its criticism of teaching unions and Labour, which have both come under recently for alleged scaremongering.

Mr Gibb said: "What we want is for everybody to be helping us to encourage people to come into teaching not spreading a negative message, which is what we hear from Lucy Powell, the shadow education secretary."

His comments echo those of a Conservative source in response to the NAO report, which said the "negative picture" painted by the unions was the "greatest threat" to recruitment and called on unions and Labour politicians to back the government's plans to increase teacher numbers.

Ms Powell has said the NAO report should be a "further wake-up call for the government", which she said was "in denial and neglectful" about teacher shortages.

She said: "The teacher recruit-

ment and retention crisis is serious and growing, with schools struggling to get teachers with the right qualifications in front of classes in subjects vital to our country's economic success.

"Having enough high-quality teachers is the first job of any education secretary, yet year after year she has failed to attract and retain enough teachers in our schools. This record of failure is threatening school standards and the future success of the next generation.

Joseph Dunn - a teacher commented on the report - "This is not the first time Mr Gibb has said this so he will continue to deny there is a crisis. Even if he was correct the solution is not to train as many teachers as possible because they would still be inexperienced and a great number of these will leave in the first 5 years after they have qualified. Mr Gibb needs to do some serious talking to teachers which is something I suspect he is reluctant to do and so the government will keep burying its head in the sand and the problem just will not go away. I take my hat off to all the teachers who ply their craft under very trying circumstances."

In December last year, another quango, Ofsted, similarly highlighted the issue. Consequently, ALT, the teachers union stated:

"Ofsted is right to highlight escalating teacher shortage-Teacher recruitment and retention is in crisis in England."

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ALT) says "Ofsted is right to highlight escalating teacher shortage: Whether Nick Gibb chooses to acknowledge it or not, teacher recruitment and retention is in crisis in England."

Commenting on Ofsted's annual report, Dr Mary Bousted, ATL's general secretary, said: "Ofsted is right to highlight the escalating teacher shortage, and the damage this does to educating pupils, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Sir Michael rightly emphasises that the quality of a nation's education system rests upon the quality of its teachers. Whether Nick Gibb chooses to acknowledge it or not, teacher recruitment and retention is in crisis in England."

"We are pleased that Ofsted has warned about the difficulties of recruiting senior leaders. The lack of training, multiple accountability pressures - including from Ofsted, and challenge of running schools on a shoestring are making the role increasingly undo-able and unattractive."

"It is good to hear Ofsted acknowledges that the quality of education in England is improving and is the strongest that it has ever



been. Teachers and school leaders know the improvements are due to their unremitting efforts to do their best for every child and young person, whatever their background, and despite the relentless changes to the curriculum, tests and exams, imposed by the Government, that have added to their workload over the past few years."

"But, as we know, all is not well in England's education system. Ofsted confirms ATL's analysis that the further education (FE) area reviews have been chaotic, and are likely to result in poor decisions which will have long-term negative effects. The Government needs to understand the FE sector better and resist the compulsion to impose constant structural change which leaves turmoil in its wake and makes it hard for staff to focus on the quality of teaching and learning provided to students."

"Schools and colleges need a period of stability, and opportunities for teachers and leaders to take part in professional development which helps them improve how they work rather than just training to deliver the next new policy. We are hopeful Justine Greening recognises this and is acting accordingly, and setting a higher bar for policy development and implementation."

Members of the Axcis team will be on hand to help with your SEND staffing matters.

Recruiting agencies have had to attend careers fairs all over the world to help combat the teaching shortage here in the UK.

Recruiting agencies are working hard to attract trainee teachers to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) part of the education sector. Agencies are having to attend careers fairs at home and abroad as well as encouraging support staff to apply for on-the-job teacher training schemes. These recruiters are also asking mainstream teachers to consider their options before they leave the profession, as there are a lot of different types of school and teaching role out there.

We can't afford to lose teachers - especially when not enough are training to enter the profession.

MEME

OUR WAY TO DOWNING STREET

Social media has become the difference between winning and losing the general election, writes Political Truth. We spread ideas through memes, images on the internet that take a second to click and share. A picture being worth 1000 words has never been more appropriate.

I remember websites posting pictures about Trump 24/7 before his election, some serious, mostly jokey, but people constantly shared pictures (memes) of him; he was everywhere. People laughed about his chances but still nobody stopped talking and haven't even now. Someone said "Trump memed his way into the White House." That's true. I read that the most talked about candidate in any election wins, regardless of policies, opinions, or even their looks. I couldn't find any sources or verification, but it seems to me entirely plausible.

When a candidate responds to other candidates it's good too; the video of Jeremy Corbyn asking in parliament why Theresa May wouldn't debate with him on TV if

she liked her record - people love "comebacks" like this! Videos on YouTube of "Trump's best comebacks" have nearly 2 million views each.

If 1,000,000 people talk about a candidate, and 10% of people agreed with them, they'd have 100,000 votes. If 10,000 people talked about them and 100% agreed, they'd have a tenth of those votes. We need to get people talking about our candidates, not anyone else's.

Who could forget Coca Cola, one of the biggest brands in the world,? Coke still advertise; people go for the thing they have seen the most, there are safety and security in familiarity.

Leaflets through doors add to the "junk mail." I instinctively walk to the bin when brightly coloured leaflets arrive. Social media is absolutely huge. I bet we could promote going "leafletless" as environmentally friendly. Perhaps leaflets on the street work if the front page shows a policy which people agree with. You are forced to interact

with a leaflet on the street rather than through your door and into the bin.

Shaming Teresa May is short sighted. Labour voters know she's evil; Conservative voters are blinkered to criticism; better to present Corbyn in a positive light. A Tweet shared recently said, "I'm a Conservative but agree with everything Corbyn is saying." His policies are his strong point; an image of him, created and tarred by the mass media, is his negative. We need to put pictures of him, with policies, on the internet and get as many people to share them so that everyone can see them. Some will read the policy and agree with it, others might just change their minds.

Obama's team knew what they were doing. They did a Q/A session on the website Reddit. So many people visited the site to see it that this huge website temporarily crashed. Newspaper articles then talked about how Obama crashed Reddit, memes were made about it. Obama knew cameras were on him. When he saw a child, he



played with him, when he saw a dog, he stroked it; these images got shared around the internet and people remembered. When Obama saw a black janitor, he fist bumped him. That image, spread across the internet, is what I remember most from this most iconic president.

A phone app, Vine, let you record yourself and send it to your friends; the catch was you only had 6 seconds. People condensed everything into these vines, and they spread all over the internet, getting millions of views per "vine" in just 6 seconds. Attention spans are shorter than ever, especially in young people; few people in my age group, under 30, read articles of any description, but almost all share pictures on Facebook.

People might not read articles about Corbyn, thinking they know enough - the mainstream-media's portrayal of him. Many can't name any of his policies but then claim he is a joke. I worked with people like this in my last job; they'd ask me why I read a book on the bus to and from work. They were resistant

to reading, and some voted Conservative. In my head I called them Paradoxical Tories. They talked about Cameron giving tax breaks to wealthy people while we worked for £6.70 an hour. We need to throw it in their faces. One of Labour's policies is raising the minimum wage to £10 per hour. We need a picture of Corbyn and a few lines of text about raising the minimum wage; if the text is short enough they will accidentally read it, realise that it applies to them and see they will benefit from the policy.

When we ask a question, and find an answer, we are changed. The ever present question in everybody's mind is "How does this benefit me? Will my life be better because of this? What can I gain from this?" If we give people a picture of Corbyn with an attractive policy answering these questions, straight away this changes people. Perhaps they will become more receptive to Corbyn, and question what the Conservatives do for them?

"Political Truth"

Disabled Accessible Housing

THE HIDDEN HOUSING CRISIS

By Jonathan Fletcher

It is often said that the United Kingdom is facing a Housing Crisis, but rarely do politicians of any Party address the Housing Crisis facing the Disabled Community. It is quietly overlooked.

It is conservatively estimated that there are one in six of the population who identify themselves as disabled and that could rise to at least one in five of the population, when its considered that many people with invisible disabilities such as autism, mental health problems etc., fail to declare their disability for fear of discrimination. One in ten of the United Kingdom population have a mobility problem, in essence this means over 5 million people would benefit from a wheelchair accessible or disability adapted

housing.

To illustrate the scale of the problem Leonard Cheshire Homes carried out a survey of people with mobility problems in 2015 and found that 72% of people with mobility problems could not access their buildings or homes easily or safely. 52% of those asked told the charity that they do not have doors and hallways wide enough for a wheelchair and over half said they do not have stairs that would be suitable for a stairlift. Which means even in their own home they face accessibility issues and many are confined to one or two rooms in their own homes. This means that for many in the Disability Community they are not simply trapped in their homes by their disability but trapped within their homes by isolation from their families, friends and com-

munities.

There is a massive shortage of wheelchair accessible housing in both the private developer sector and the social housing sector provided by councils and housing associations. Leonard Cheshire Disability found that disability accessible housing only accounted for 5% of the housing stock in Britain. When a minimum of 10% is needed. This means for many people with a disability the choice of inadequate and inaccessible housing or a future in residential care.

One of the main reasons for the chronic shortage of housing for people with disabilities has been undoubtedly the failure of property developers and social housing providers in Britain to design and build homes that are suitable and accessible for those people with a

mobility problem. With an aging population, many of whom have a mobility issue or deteriorating mobility the Housing Crises facing people with a disability is forecast by many housing industry experts to be likely to grow unless it is tackled now.

Many European countries, for example in Austria they have a very different approach to housing provision for people with disabilities and mobility problems. They view building housing for people with disabilities and their elderly population as much more than just an accessibility issue but also a very effective way of managing social care costs as people can live in their homes much longer and have a greater level of independence. Whereas in this country many people with disabilities face the stark reality of losing their independence and the choice of living in inadequate and inaccessible housing or residential care.

What can be done? It is imperative that all Political Parties recognise the problem and refrain

from burying their heads in denial that the crisis exists. In order to cope with accessible housing demand we need to at least double the current level of accessible housing stock from 5% to 10%. To enable this to happen both central and local government must encourage the building of new affordable disability accessible housing in both the private and social housing sectors. Possibly by offering grants and tax breaks. It is also important that local authorities review the planning rules pertaining to existing properties and their adaptation to provide necessary accessibility improvements for people with disabilities. Cutting the red tape many disabled people face when submitting plans to adapt an existing home will ease the stress many of the families experience and allow disabled people to live more independent lives and enable them to live in their existing home longer, rather than residential care, which will offer them greater choice and say in their lives and also reduce the level of social care spending.

FACE OF THE FUTURE

By John Jones

PTSD - Pain, Profit, and Alternatives

A successful model for helping "PTSD" patients was developed late last century. Big Pharma, and political and academic interests have all but shelved that model, ensuring the dominance of the profitable, illness-based approach of today's medicine.

A few years ago Professor Nutt (UK ex-government drug czar) arrived in Cardiff to give a seminar on the use of psychedelic substances in PTSD therapy. As I have some knowledge of the topic, I invited him to a discussion where I might present some of the techniques and insights of early workers in the field. Nutt's team gave me a run-down of their own work but surprisingly there was no awareness or interest shown for early research findings.

I later found this academic indifference to be widespread, often appearing as a corporate and political strategy. Decades of global endeavour had been wasted, deliberately it seemed. I needed to know why, as the consequences for PTSD sufferers was profound.

First, let me briefly describe the two models that have influenced PTSD research. The dominant model is the pathology model of mainstream medicine. It tackles "illnesses" and uses cures and extended coping strategies for the suppression of experiences which it regards as illnesses. This is reflected in the very name P.T.S.D. - post-traumatic stress "disorder".

The early model is radically different. It rejects the pathology or illness-based model and its concepts of "cope and cure". Its techniques are much more powerful than the standard medical model. For this new psychology, PTSD is not an illness, and its accompanying emotional reactions, such as shaking, hyperventilation, physical pain, unusual experiences and the reliving of events (abreaction or catharsis) are considered standard but crucial aspects of a natural healing process that needs encouragement. The idea of employing a daily drug regimen for the suppression of "symptoms" is regarded as entirely inappropriate.

It quickly became clear for many early researchers that the use of cathartic techniques and agents could not be attempted using psychology's model of the human psyche and the pathology model of medicine.

So, they devised new support structures, and models that gave a much expanded cartography of the human psyche - biographical, per-

inatal and transpersonal. They rejected most, if not all of medicine's pathology superstructure.

Today, cathartic agents such as psychedelic substances are now making a comeback - but without the support structure for catharsis devised by early workers.

The Profit Motive

One reason for the medical indifference toward the strategies of early workers is that their catharsis-based approach is not profitable. After all, a single, full reliving of a traumatic event is often enough to resolve the problems associated with PTSD, and so threatens the profit margins achieved by routine medication and long-term cognitive or "talking" therapies.

In the US, companies pay doctors for the amount of drugs they administer. This encourages research into their illness-based model, and into the suppression rather than resolution of painful experiences. It is a vicious circle.

It seemed to me that Professor Nutt's approach and that of his peers have fallen foul of this vicious circle, this methodological cul-de-sac. Their use of cathartic agents under the auspices of a mainstream model that actually suppresses catharsis seems designed to leave clients in a long-term pre-cathartic state - with all that that entails, such as flashbacks and somatic pain. Like all extended dose-related outcome regimens of the medical model, Nutt's approach is good for profits, bad for clients.

The Puritanism of modern Psychology

Freud once insisted his client not roll off the couch and onto the floor to do his own thing. This points to another reason for shelving early work: it uses an expanded model of human experience that challenges the experiential puritanism promoted by the DSM - the psychiatrist's illness-based diagnostic bible. The DSM allows only a highly restricted range of physical behaviour and experiences as the basis of normalcy, all else is assumed to be illness.

I put these matters as a question to Professor Nutt. How would he cope with a client who was writhing on the floor in the midst of a shattering encounter with birth or death? How would he approach a client who was hyperventilating and apparently benefiting from it? These are common experiences when using powerful cathartic techniques. Nutt's approach used cathartic substances, but rejected cathartic outcomes.

His response was to reiterate



details of structural and chemical models of the brain. Surely, this neurobiological analysis is here an empty gesture targeting armchair science enthusiasts. It also happens to be a necessary stance taken by academic researchers seeking funding from the pharmaceutical industry, an industry that is impressed by science-based pseudo-justifications of their illness model.

Set and Setting

Another reason for shelving the insights of the early workers and their new psychology is that today's medical Clinic is quite unable to provide the ambience and social setting ("set and setting") that can support abreaction or catharsis. Not only that, but no one is trained to provide such support, nor does any training program exist for it, except among workers in the new psychology.

"Set and setting", is a phrase coined by Norman Zinberg who argued that drug effects are not simply a matter of dose-related biochemistry. Set and setting are requirements identified by early workers in drug and non-drug catharsis whose implementation is crucial for successful client outcomes. It is worth pointing out that not all cathartic experiences are intense and physical.

Neither Professor Nutt nor his peers expressed an interest in set and setting, which, I presume,

meant that he was supporting the mainstream model that emphasises cures through daily dose-related drug regimens, despite his use of cathartic agents. Early workers also stressed the importance of ditching the illness model which they say contaminated or steered patient outcomes.

The Godfather of LSD

The early workers also had a well-organised support strategy that paid particular attention to set and setting. For example, Stanislav Grof used, and still uses, the powerful, non-verbal technique of holotropic breathwork in a client-centred group setting where participants support each other over 24 hours or more in a process that carries no trace of the concept of illness or "disorder".

Grof was one of the early workers who used cathartic agents for his clients. Albert Hofmann, the so-named "Father of LSD", dubbed him "The Godfather of LSD". Grof later developed holotropic breathwork in response to the restrictions placed against psychedelic substance research by Nixon's "war on drugs". It uses prolonged hyperventilation and evocative surround-sound/music.

Dance it Away

Finally, there is one option for tackling trauma that has not been

employed by the mainstream medical model and only occasionally by the new psychology movement. It is a model that, more than the new psychology of the early workers, challenges the idea that PTSD should be a matter for medicine at all.

Following the Ugandan war psychiatrists and psychologists were asked to leave by local health workers because, they said, the western approach was too emotionally restrictive. Western workers, they said, did not allow trauma to be expressed through dance or other social expression, and simply made things worse by boxing people up in a room, "out of the sun", and just talking.

Anthropologists tell us about the value of extended dance, ceremony, and initiation rites performed by tribes in war and rites of passage, sometimes accompanied by the use of entheogens (locally-sourced psychedelics).

There is no doubt that dance and ceremony are tools that we in the west have lost and that these could provide a natural and speedy resolution for trauma. I cannot see this provision being made through our health service. Our entire western culture needs to shift focus for this to happen, unless local groups get it together. Though even here, in Cardiff, the beginnings of such a movement was made a few years ago.

THE MENTAL DISEASE OF LATE-STAGE CAPITALISM

By Joe Brewer

You are “supposed” to feel shame when it’s not your fault.

I’ve been talking with a lot of my friends recently—in private where they felt comfortable letting their guard down—about the dirty little secret no one is supposed to talk about.

The shame people feel when they can’t find a job...

...or pay their bills.

...or go to the dentist.

...or that they have to move back in with their parents.

...or they can’t afford to have children.

We are supposed to pretend, in this stupendously individualist culture, that it is our fault. The buck stops here. I am responsible for my failings in life.

Of course this is demonstrably not true. We are merely living through late-stage capitalism and our parents lacked the foresight to warn us about it. When a population explodes—as the human one did throughout the last century—eventually all manner of social institutions become over-crowded. From there, it’s simply a numbers game.

Want that awesome job? Stack your resume next to the hundreds of other people applying for it. Hoping to get into college? You’ll have to pay out the nose in student loans (if, that is, you were fortunate enough to get through admissions). Thinking of buying a house? You’re too busy paying rent in a skyrocketing market of housing prices.

But yeah, be sure to blame yourself. It’s obviously your fault.

Seriously though, we should have seen this coming. Build an economic system based on wealth hoarding and presumed scarcity and you’ll get what was intended. The system is performing exactly as it was designed to. That is why wages have stagnated in the West for 30 years. It is why 62 people are able to have the same amount of wealth as 3.7 billion. It is why politicians are bought by the highest bidders and legislation systematically serves the already-rich at the expense of society.

A great irony of this deeply corrupt system of wealth hoarding is that the “weapon of choice” is how we feel about ourselves as we interact with our friends. The elites don’t have to silence us. We do that ourselves by refusing to talk about what is happening to us. Fake it until you make it. That’s the



advice we are given by the already successful who have pigeon-holed themselves into the tiny number of real opportunities society had to offer. Hold yourself accountable for the crushing political system that was designed to divide us against ourselves.

The mental disease of late-stage capitalism is shame, the devastating feeling that we failed ourselves in the Land of Opportunity.

This great lie that we whisper to ourselves is how they control us. Our fear that other impoverished people (which is most of us now) will look down on us for being impoverished too. This is how we give them the power to keep humiliating us.

I say no more of this emotional racket. If I am going to be responsible for my fate in life, let it be because I chose to stand up and

fight—that I helped dismantle the global architecture of wealth extraction that created this systemic corruption of our economic and political systems.

Now more than ever, we need spiritual healing. As this capitalist system destroys itself, we can step aside and find healing by living honestly and without fear. They don’t get to tell us how to live. We can share our pain with family and friends. We can post it on social media. Shout it from the rooftops if we feel like it. The pain we feel is capitalism dying. It hurts us because we are still in it.

But those billionaires who rigged the game don’t get to tell me what I should or shouldn’t say to my friends. If I am struggling financially it is because the financial system is morally corrupt. This truth is a mantric elixir—repeat it

to yourself every time the habits of your mind whisper that it is your fault.

You are not to blame for the wealth hoarding of others. That is one burden you don’t have to carry any longer. Be healed. Find your strength. Speak your truth. And let the cascades of change unfurl across society.

We cannot begin the work of building new economic systems until we take off the mental shackles of the old ones. So let your shame fall away. Remember your pride in learning and growing as a person, loving life and other people, being with friends, and pursuing your dreams. Then hold tight to these feelings as you set clear intentions about how the future must be different from the past.

We can do better. We must do

better. It might be true that capitalism as we know it is going the way of history. I say good riddance. Whatever good it might have done is in the past now. Moving forward will be a grieving process—and each of us needs to pay close attention to the feelings inside of ourselves. We are the capitalist system right now. But not for long.

The pain we feel is like that tugging of skin for the serpent as it sheds an outer layer. Deep inside ourselves we are human beings, which is about so much more than the money we have in the bank or the things we buy at the store. As we shed ourselves of the immoral economic ideology of insatiable greed (that has made the elites around the world very sick indeed!), let us remember our true nature and begin to heal.

Onward, fellow humans.

Vote Corbyn. Vote Labour.

Corbyn pledges to provide free school meals for all children aged between 4-11 across the country.

No child, regardless of race, class or religion, should go hungry.



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Political Truth

Corbyn 2017

"The City of London is the only part of Britain over which Parliament has no authority. In one respect at least the Corporation acts as the superior body: it imposes on the House of Commons a figure called the Remembrancer, an official lobbyist who sits behind the Speaker's chair and ensures that whatever our elected representatives might think, the City's rights and privileges are protected."

- George Monbiot

There are 25 electoral wards inside the 1.2 square miles that comprise the *City of London*. In four of these, 9,000 people reside and are entitled to vote. In the other twenty-one, 32,000 votes (a huge majority!) are controlled by corporations, which are mostly banks and other financial institutions. The bigger the organisation, the more votes it has; ten workers allow a business two votes and so on, up to around 80 for the largest companies. The workers themselves don't decide how their votes will be cast, as the employers "appoint" the voters. These people choose the Remembrancer.

One previous Remembrancer bragged that his role was to oppose every bill which might interfere

REMEMBRANCER FACTS AND OPINIONS

with the rights and privileges enjoyed by the *Corporation of the City of London*.

The post dates back to a disagreement that the City had with Henry VIII's chief adviser Cardinal Wolsey, so in 1571, it created the post of Remembrancer to "remind the king of his debt" and make sure the City's interests were never again subject to Parliament, and in turn the City of London has gained for itself great privileges that still distort democracy.

But why this can happen is steeped in history. For more than a thousand years, kings, queens and governments were saved by loans from the *City of London*, the single square mile at the centre of Britain's financial centre. The other city inside Central London

is the *City of Westminster*, where representative democracy resides.

We no longer live in the days of Cardinal Wolsey; we're not

plebs who have to suffer some unelected patrician in the middle of our Parliament. We must tell the *City of London Corporation* to



lobby like any other interest group and we should remove its special status immediately. We need to be able to bring in effective legislation to punish those responsible for the banking crisis, as Iceland did, and by abolishing the position of Remembrancer we would send a clear message to all those financial organisations that the most vulnerable in society will never again pay for the economic mess made by banks and bankers and their pals.

"Over and over again we have seen that there is in this country another power than that which has its seat at Westminster," said Clement Attlee, protesting against "those who control money" in 1937. The greater part of a century later has anything changed?

Vote Corbyn. Vote Labour.

Corbyn pledges to provide more homes.

Corbyn will build 1 million new homes in the next 5 years, with at least 500,000 council homes. This will increase access for affordable homes to new families and the people that need it most.

He will introduce rent controls on private landlords to stop huge increases in rent and ensure that tenants have clear rights.



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Political Truth

Corbyn 2017

COLUMN

Mr Les Moore. (Hatfield Main, S Yorkshire.)

Welcome to the new fortnightly column of the UKMPSA, which is the initialled abbreviation used by our association, ie, "The UK Miners Pension Scheme Association, for justice & fair play ". I am Mr Les Moore the Spokesman for the UKMPSA. It's only right I explain a bit about our association, just for your information as well also to add to your understanding of who we are, or who we were along with what we are about what we are looking to achieve while hoping to gather your support.

We have set about exposing the scandal firstly of the removal of the miners money from their pension scheme, which was built up by a weekly contribution from out of the miners wage packet of 5:5% contribution per week. Bearing in mind the miners were not paid a king's ransom for the

skill's & courage they shown to the world every working day of their shortened lives', damaged bodies, riddled with industrial illnesses and injuries . To keep your homes warm, the lights on all around our Island home while ensuring the wheels of industry were kept turning during both days of peace or in the darkest of days of war, without complaint or curse. We also intend to expose the scandal that all governments have gained financially from the raids planned then carried out on every final salary pension scheme in the country driving those same schemes to become almost extinct or facing a possible bankruptcy or maybe is a danger of that result becoming a unwanted reality for tens of thousands of the UK's aging as well as soon to be retired workforce.

I am of the opinion that there are at this moment a section of the elite that are intent on guiding a political class rushing towards destroying an occupational pension industry that has been the envy of the civilised world providing the stimulus for a multitude of investments in profitable venture's the same now being jealously coveted by the financial elite class of the

people of the free world.

Such has been the greed, the jealousy, the wish, of the elite classes coupled with the UK's politicians of all parties hatched their desire to put the hard working people of the United Kingdom back 100 years to the days of the poorhouse, of the pre WW1 era. Which all with a mere ounce of a understanding mind, with eye's to see, with ear's to hear can deduce from all the signal's we can see around our present civilisation.

The stated aim's of our association are these,

1, To uncover then recover all monies taken by stealth, by plan, or any other method, monies that rightly belong the coalminer's of the UK,

2, To return the sharing of the pension scheme's surplus sharing arrangement to a more realistic division that is fair & reasonably reflects the risk's of the guarantor while providing the pensioners themselves with a pension scheme that provides the rewards in keeping with the investments they the UK's miners made into the Mineworkers Pension Scheme.

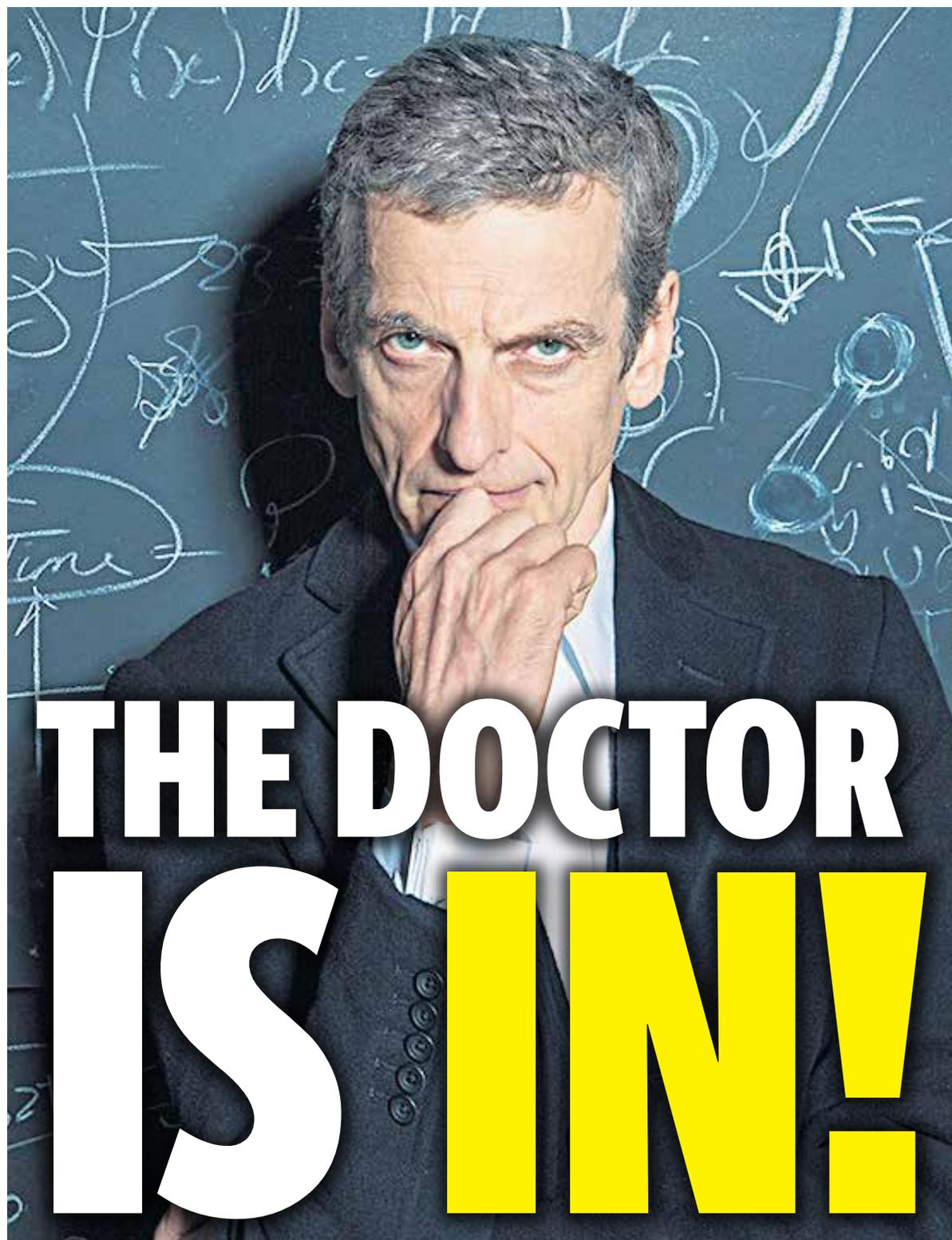
3, To educate as well as make

aware the working or retired population of the UK that invested a proportion of their hard earned coins of the realm into a work based final salary pension, in line with the governments advice, along with the employers wishes, prior to the Machiavellian raid's that took place by design upon the final salary pension scheme's of the UK's workforce to rob the working population of a well deserved retirement in a manner that their parent's along with grandparents could only dream about, in good robust health, day's out at the coast, a week away in the sun or a few pint's with their partner down at the pub, depending on their wishes.

Our Association has been active for just over two years, we have gone from strength to strength, as this is a introductory essay we cannot give an account of all that has taken place over these eventful month's of our existence, which have brought men as well as women from all corners of our Island home to join together in union of purpose by joining our face book page were opinions of all natures that are relevant to the miner's pension theft scandal are aired in the

open for all to comment upon, to give their input, their new intelligence's to be examined and tested by public scrutiny of the most uncompromising nature at times, tempered with quite a lot of funny comments. Banter just like all of us miner's miss from our days as a national brotherhood in the deep dark unforgiving nature of the coalmine's found in the many coalfields of our countries so bound together that close by a shared history, we call ourselves brothers. Mind we have plenty on miner's wives, or more truthful widow's that join in with the close banter of the mining communities we all loved, now so badly missed by us all.

This is my Introduction to you of the Miner's Pension Scheme scandal case it is my aim, also my pleasure to be asked to keep you all updated, on our progress which I intend to carry out to the best of my ability, I also intend to encourage you to join our face book page and get involved with our campaign, it will be fun, it will be full of every bit of human nature on show, come along for the ride with the UKMPSA , be part of this Historic fight. " The Miner's last Stand ".



THE DOCTOR IS IN!

By Jack Cornes

Now it may appear to some of our readers that I am a Sci-Fi freak but to be honest if it isn't a galaxy far far away then it is the blue box and all of time and space and that is it for me really folks. I didn't watch Battlestar Galactica, never been a fan of Star Trek nor Stargate. I'm all about Jedis and Time Lords and while my hunger for Star Wars material was satisfied with the DVD release of Rogue One and the new trailer for the upcoming Star Wars: The Last Jedi in the space of a week it was the return of Doctor Who to our screens over the Easter weekend that secured the brace. Series 10, the final series under the helm of the brilliant visionary writer Steven Moffat, began with the wonderful story The Pilot which re-introduced us to the Doctor, played by the sensational Peter Capaldi in his final series as the Doctor, and his comedic sidekick Nardole, played by Matt Lucas who has appeared in the previous two Christmas specials. It was also the introduction to the breath of fresh air that was the beautiful Pearl

Mackie in the role of the Doctor's new companion Bill Potts, who has gone down a hit with fans of the show who believe this character to be a wonderfully relatable down to earth companion for the Time Lord which I agree with. As much as I am a fan of the Doctor Who story arcs and classic whovian narratives and villains I understand it has to stick to its broad appeal, of the Doctor with his companion battling a dangerous monster and going on various adventures across time and space, to bring the viewers in. I think The Pilot was a wonderful example of this as The Doctor, Bill and Nardole run from an entity, which has used the body of Bill's love interest Heather, who is desperate to never leave Bill no matter how far they run. Plus there was a cameo for the Daleks!

As a series opener it was one of the best and if the coming soon trailer was anything to go by I think this could be one of the best series of Doctor Who since it returned to our screens in 2005. As well as battling new monsters in new situations series 10 will see

the return of the Ice Warriors, the Mondasian Cybermen (their first story since the William Hartnell years) and two incarnations of the Doctor's old nemesis - the Master. We shall see the current incarnation - Missy, played by the manic and beautiful Michelle Gomez, and her predecessor John Simm's insane Master (returning to the show for the first time in seven years) in the first multi-story in the shows history. There is also a possibility that The Doctor will meet his fate sooner than expected as sequences of him regenerating are shown, even though this is a plot twist which has been used to misdirect viewers before. It is intended for Capaldi's Doctor to regenerate in this year's Christmas Special, which is rumoured to feature the character of the late William Hartnell's first Doctor, played by David Bradley, as he helps number twelve save Gallifrey once again and I hope this is indeed the case. Nevertheless I think it is safe to say that 2017 proves to be a very exciting and standout year for Doctor Who!

THE LAST JEDI TRAILER ARRIVES!

By Jack Cornes

It was the moment Star Wars fans around the world had been waiting for - the release of the first teaser trailer for the upcoming Star Wars: The Last Jedi. Packed with a whole host of familiar faces fans were treated to a sneak peek of where this exciting saga will take us next. Narrated throughout by the legendary Luke Skywalker we see Rey, played by Daisy Ridley, appearing to learn more about the force sensitive powers she seems to possess, a poignant shot of General Leia Organa, played by the late Carrie Fisher in her final film role, and the antagonist leader of the Knights of Ren - Kylo Ren, played by Adam Driver, still hell bent on destroying Skywalker. We also see glimpses of our heroes Finn, played by John Boyega, Poe Dameron, played by Oscar Isaac and the ever loveable droid - BB8!

What steals the whole short sequence though are the eponymous words of Luke Skywalker, played by Mark Hamill, as towards the end of the teaser he says - 'I only know one truth - it's time for the Jedi to end'. This remark has sent the internet into meltdown with some suggesting Director Rian Johnson is about to take the Star Wars saga in a com-

pletely new direction and alter some of the essential narrative pillars that Star Wars is known for. Some are saying Johnson is changing course in a similar way to how George Lucas did with the renowned Empire Strikes Back in 1980 when Lucas successfully altered the tone of and added more depth to the narrative of a film now considered one of the greatest of all time.

My personal opinion is we should not read too much into this. These days trailers for films use clever devices to mislead their audience onto other possibilities and theories. It is a very clever device as trailers now alter dialogue and feature scenes that don't make the final completed feature. My advice to my fellow Star Wars brothers and sisters - I think Luke's dialogue is a smart piece of misdirection, listen to the pause between the words 'I only know one truth, it's time for the Jedi' and 'to end' I think these are two different pieces of dialogue from two different parts of the film. Trailers are designed to build excitement and no film series can do this better than Star Wars. Anyway we just have to wait until December to see this hotly anticipated eighth instalment in the Star Wars Canon Universe. May the Force Be With You all!

In 2013, the hapless Tories sold off NHS plasma supplies to US private equity firm Bain Capital for £230 million.

NHS plasma supplies has now been sold on to a Chinese firm for £820 million.

The NHS is not safe in Tory hands ...

BY TOM PRIDE

In 2013 the Tories sold off the state owned NHS blood plasma supplier, Plasma Resources UK (PRUK) to US private equity firm Bain Capital for £230 million.

It's now been revealed that the US firm has sold on the NHS plasma supply company - now renamed Bio Products Laborato-

ry - to Chinese state-owned firm Great for £830 million.

Which means the hapless Tories have managed to cost the UK taxpayer £590 million - while at the same time ensuring essential supplies of plasma to UK patients are now in the hands of the Chinese government.

But of course the NHS is safe in Theresa May's hands ...

<http://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2017/05/08/libya-achieves-political-breakthrough-russia-has-special-role-play.html>

Libya Achieves Political Breakthrough: Russia Has Special Role to Play

The consequences of the 2011 NATO operation in Libya were more than disastrous. The events in the divided and war-torn country have been extremely disturbing until recently. An intervention was an issue on the international agenda. Libya has been mired in a conflict between two competing governments since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 after a NATO-led intervention. The problems facing the country, such as rivalry between two administrations in Tripoli and Tobruk, internal fighting between various armed formations, tribes and city-states, the ruined economy and uncontrolled flows of weapons seemed to be almost insurmountable. It all changed on May 2. Fayez Al Sarraj, the Prime Minister of Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) based in Tripoli, and Field Marshall Khalifa Haftar, the country's most powerful military leader and the commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) representing the House of Representatives (HoR) located in Tobruk, met in Abu Dhabi.

The LNA is the most powerful military force in Libya, which has scored a number of battlefield successes against the Islamic State group and other militias in the eastern part of the country, pushing them mostly out of Benghazi, Derna and other areas. According to the 2015 Libya Political Agreement, the HoR was supposed to merge with the Tripoli-based GNA and become the country's legislative body. Until now the plan has not materialized due to many differences dividing the sides with armed clashes taking place off and on. The LNA gained considerable leverage over the negotiations process after seizing Libya's main oil terminals last September.

The results of the Abu Dhabi talks were a breakthrough. After meeting for the first time in 16 months, the two leaders agreed to form a joint military under civilian control, and to unify state institutions. The UN-backed national accord government based in Tripoli agreed to put Field Marshall Haftar in charge of the national armed forces. It was encouraging enough for the UAE Foreign Ministry to comment that the meeting brought «optimism towards guaranteeing a political solution» and was an «important step to push forward the political process in Libya».

<https://thinkprogress.org/rights-abridged-madison-county-9ac948aa63cc>

Mississippi's richest county uses police checkpoints to enforce segregation, lawsuit claims

Madison County, Mississippi, is among the most segregated places in America. Past court decisions have made note of its "racial isolation" and "confluence of...geography and demography." Part of the reason the state's wealthiest county remains so divided, according to a new class-action lawsuit filed Monday, is that county leaders want it that way—and are willing to use local law enforcement to enforce an unofficial cordon around the county's roughly 40,000 black residents.

The Madison County Sheriff's Department (MCS D) "has implemented a coordinated top-down program of methodically targeting Black individuals for suspicionless searches and seizures," the suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and pro-bono lawyers from Simpson Thacher & Bartlett says. The suit names 10 individual plaintiffs but seeks injunctive relief on behalf of "thousands of victims" of the county's policies.

The roadblocks and checkpoints MCS D allegedly maintains are not like the random DUI stops many motorists have encountered here and there. Plainclothes deputies typically wait in unmarked cars, giving the stops an ambush feel at odds with the sirens-and-or-ange-cones officialdom of a typical checkpoint.

What's more, the complaint says, the department locates these camouflaged identification inspections in and around the few communities in Madison County where there is a concentrated black population.

The alleged system requires African-American residents submit to unconstitutional searches and seizures as part of the normal course of going to and from their homes, which the suit argues is a violation of the Constitution as well as of their personal dignity.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/05/08/secret-military-space-shuttle-causes-sonic-boom-florida-lands/>

Secret military space shuttle causes sonic boom over Florida as it lands at Kennedy Space Center

A pioneering spacecraft belonging to the United States military is reported to have landed in Florida after completing a secret mission circling earth that lasted almost two years. The experimental X-37B space plane caused a sonic boom that surprised residents along the Florida coastline as it prepared to touch down at the Shuttle Landing Facility at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre this week. Residents tweeted shocked reactions as the sky cracked loudly in the early hours of Sunday morning.

<http://theduran.com/russia-submits-draft-security-council-resolution-syrian-de-escalation-areas/>

Russia submits draft Security Council Resolution on Syrian 'de-escalation areas'

Russia has today submitted to the UN Security Council a draft Resolution making the memorandum on 'de-escalation areas' signed by Russia, Turkey and Iran a formal UN document.

As an international agreement between three powers – Russia, Turkey and Iran – the memorandum is already in effect part of international law. However by codifying it through a UN Security Council Resolution the Russians will strengthen its international legal status, making it formally binding on all parties, including those Jihadi groups which are subject to it but which have not themselves signed the memorandum.

Codifying agreements of this sort through Resolutions of the UN Security Council is standard Russian diplomatic practice. The Russians have previously done this with the 2015 Minsk Agreement, the ceasefire agreement they negotiated with former US Secretary of State Kerry in February 2016, and the December 2016 Russian-Turkish ceasefire agreement. Codifying these sort of agreements through Resolutions of the UN Security Council is also furthers the longstanding Russian objectivity of reaffirming the centrality of the UN Security Council – of which Russia is a permanent member with a power of veto – in international law.

The one thing codifying the 'de-escalation agreement' through a Resolution of the UN Security Council will not do is increase significantly the prospects for its enforcement. There is unfortunately a long history of Russian sponsored UN Security Council Resolutions being disregarded by the Western powers and their allies when it suits them, the 2015 Minsk agreement and the February 2016 Syrian ceasefire agreement being cases in point.

However even if the new Resolution is ignored or breached by the Western powers and their Jihadi allies, the Russians would still consider it a worthwhile to propose it. It is becoming increasingly clear that many of the troops and observers who will be deployed to enforce the memorandum will come from Russia. It is important to the Russians that the Russian troops and observers who will be sent to Syria to carry out this mission will be doing so legally under a UN mandate. That way should they be attacked whilst they perform their duties it will be a crime under international law.

On the subject of the Resolution itself, with Turkey and the US supporting it, there is no doubt it will be adopted by the UN Security Council unanimously. Voting is expected to take place on Wednesday.

<https://eblnews.com/video/school-bus-crash-kills-36-tanzania-96669>

School bus crash kills 36 in Tanzania

Thirty-six people were killed after a school bus plunged into a gorge in Tanzania on Saturday morning, authorities announced. Tanzanian President John Magufuli has sent his condolences to the families of the dead, saying the incident is a "national tragedy".

<http://www.dsca.mil/major-arms-sales/government-kuwait-sustainment-and-contractor-logistics-support-ah-64d-apache>

Government of Kuwait – Sustainment and Contractor Logistics Support for AH-64D Apache Helicopters (US arms sale)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 2017 - The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Kuwait for sustainment and contractor logistics support for AH-64D Apache Helicopters. The estimated cost is \$400 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale today. The Government of Kuwait has requested the sale of support equipment and services for its AH-64D Apache helicopters, to include: Apache Maintainer unit support, Depot Level support, training devices, helmets, simulators, generators, transportation, wheeled vehicles and organization equipment, spare and repair parts, support equipment, tools and test equipment, technical data and publications, personnel training and training equipment, United States Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support. The total overall estimated value is \$400 million.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-southkorea-election-idUKKBN18425M?rpc=401&>

South Koreans vote for new leader after months of political vacuum

By Soyoung Kim and Ju-min Park | SEOUL

South Koreans go to the polls on Tuesday to elect a new leader, looking to move on from a corruption scandal that brought down former President Park Geun-hye and shook the political and business elite to the core. Unless there is a major upset, liberal Moon Jae-in - who calls for a moderate approach on North Korea, wants to reform powerful family-run conglomerates and boost fiscal spending to create jobs - will be elected president. The vote will end months of leadership vacuum. Park was ousted on charges of bribery and abuse of power in March to become South Korea's first democratically elected president to be forced from office. She is in jail, on trial. Park has denied wrongdoing. Moon, who lost to Park narrowly in the last presidential election, in 2012, has criticised the two former conservative governments for failing to stop North Korea's weapons development. He advocates a two-track policy of dialogue while maintaining pressure and sanctions to encourage change. A Gallup Korea poll published last Wednesday showed Moon with 38 percent support in a field of 13 candidates, with centrist Ahn Cheol-soo his nearest challenger with 20 percent.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170508-who-yemen-cholera-outbreak-kills-25-people-in-a-week/>

WHO: Yemen cholera outbreak kills 25 people in a week

A cholera outbreak in Yemen killed 25 people this week, the World Health Organization (WHO) said, as two years of war continues to wreak havoc on the impoverished country's health and sanitation system.

The deaths from the diarrhoeal disease which is carried in food and water tainted by human faeces are among 1,360 cases that the United Nations agency reported since 27 April.

Some severe cases can kill within hours unless treated with intravenous fluids and antibiotics.

"(This) is extremely alarming. We are facing a reactivation of the cholera epidemic," Nevio Zagaria, the WHO's representative in Yemen, told Reuters.

"The cause is that there have been two years of war in Yemen.

There is a huge impact on the infrastructure, the electricity power is on and off, the water pumping stations are not functioning regularly and this has an impact on the quality of water."

A previous outbreak subsided last winter, Zagaria said, and the country has experienced a total of around 27,000 cases including 130 deaths during the conflict.

Yemen's conflict pits the Iran-allied Houthi movement and elements of the military against the Saudi-led military coalition backing the internationally recognised government.

Largely stalemated in nationwide battlefronts, the war has plunged millions into poverty, displaced millions of others and killed more than 10,000 people.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170508-hamas-strategic-quandary/>

Hamas' strategic quandary

The release of a new policy document by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has touched off a flurry of speculation as to the real political and strategic motives behind the apparent policy shift.

Coupled with the election of the Gaza-based Ismail Haniyeh as the new leader of Hamas' political bureau, at a minimum the new policy document hints at fresh political initiatives on the part of Hamas' leadership. For its part, Hamas is adamant that Haniya's ascent to the apex of the political bureau does not reflect a "failure of leadership".

In ideological terms, the latest declaration of principles is not a significant departure from Hamas' established world view. The cornerstone of the new charter - namely the recognition of 1967 borders - is a pragmatic choice emerging from calculated and prolonged internal deliberations. It is worth noting that unlike Hamas' 1988 founding charter, the new document is the product of years of internal debate.

Crucially on two core issues, namely the recognition of Israel and the right of return of all Palestinian refugees, Hamas has not revised its position. This ensures that the Islamic Resistance Movement retains its distinction amongst leading Palestinian factions, notably Fatah.

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Finlands-Basic-Income-Trial-is-Already-Reducing-the-Working-Class-Stress-Levels-20170508-0020.html>

Finland's Basic Income Trial is Already Reducing the Working Class' Stress Levels

In addition to cutting bureaucracy, reducing costs and tackling poverty, the trial is already having a positive effect on people's mental health.

Finland's universal basic income trial scheme is already paying off: by reducing the stress levels of those that receive it.

Marjukka Turunen, head of KELA, the legal component of Finland's social insurance agency, said that in addition to cutting bureaucracy, reducing costs and tackling poverty, the trial is already having a positive effect on people's mental health.

"There was this one woman who said: 'I was afraid every time the phone would ring, that unemployment services are calling to offer me a job,'" Turunen told Kera News, explaining that the woman was unable to work because she was caring for her elderly parents.

"This experiment really has an indirect impact, also, on the stress levels (of people) and the mental health and so on," she added.

An initiative of an unlikely candidate, the country's center-right government, the scheme sees 2,000 people receive 560 euros every month for two years. The people receiving the benefits are not required to report whether they are seeking employment or how they are spending the money.

The stipend, under the trial, will also be continued to be given to participants should they find work.

US VULTURES CIRCLING OVER THE NHS

Anyone considering voting Tory this election should forget about Brexit (because what will happen with that will happen) and think about the NHS. Honestly.

In the US, over six hundred thousand ordinary people go bankrupt every year because they can't afford to pay their medical bills. Medical care isn't a luxury, but in the US it is an expense many cannot afford.

Also in the US, pregnant mothers go without prenatal care because they can't afford it or can't get to the nearest facility that would provide it free of charge. Mothers die in childbirth at an alarming rate for a 'first world country'. Your obstetrician will commonly schedule in your delivery weeks in advance to fit their golfing plans, and you'll be induced to suit that schedule or have a C section.

If you don't have a corporate job you're shopping around for insurance with increasingly worse options for providers.

Even with insurance you can't afford the bills that come to you for regular check ups. God help you if you need an X ray or an MRI. That's the price of a car.

Many many people don't get medical care because they can't afford it. Many people don't get tested, because if their tests show up positive they will need care they can't afford. The stress levels, particularly of parents or people with elderly dependents, are super high. It took me a couple of years of living here to realize how enormously healthcare and financial insecurity contributes to the general so-stressed-gotta-work-every-minute-of-every-day-to-survive mentality. It is a ripe hot mess and Obamacare did a lot to move it in the right direction but didn't solve any of the above.

People die in America because the health care system isn't socialized and for the most part, people don't care that other people die because they vote selfishly.

So, in the British election Theresa May wants to send you that way. Jerney Corbyn wants to save the NHS. Not perfect, I know, I could complain about it too and I have. But boy, is it preferable to this hideousness here.

Vote Corbyn. Vote Labour.

Corbyn pledges to take back the

NHS

The conservatives have begun the transition to privatised healthcare and has started to sell parts of it to companies that will charge for medical bills. The owners of these companies will decide the prices of your treatments and get rich from your illnesses.



Reversing the privatisation of healthcare would ensure the **NHS** remains free for everybody.

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Political Truth

Corbyn 2017

IS THE NHS SAFE IN TORY HANDS?

Using a Tory loophole, millionaire businessmen have taken £262million a year out of the NHS in the years preceding 2016. This money, equivalent to 7000 junior doctors, has been stripped from the NHS to become private profit. And guess who's being paid to advise on drug pricing? Former Health Secretary Andrew Lansley!

The startling figures came to light after a seemingly bewildered Jeremy Hunt called in the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) after it emerged that 32 drugs had seen price hikes of up to 1000% in 5 years. A further 196 have seen their prices doubled. In the most extreme case hydrocortisone tablets, a common allergy medicine, have risen by 12500% - from 70p in 2008 to £85 today. That's what I call inflation.

The greedy "entrepreneurs" exemplify the worst kinds of vulture capitalists. They buy up exclusive marketing rights to off-patent medicines and then hike the prices. All they need to do is re-brand the product with its generic name,

as generic products have no NHS price controls whilst named products do. This obvious loophole can then be exploited to raise the price of medicines to record highs.

The lack of NHS price control is because off-patent medicines are supposed to have high levels of competition, driving prices down. But in reality older medicines tend to be ignored by most pharmaceutical companies in favour of newer, more profitable drugs. This leaves the vulture capitalists as the only ones in the market and able to do as they please.

This includes raising the price of antidepressants from £5.71 to £154 a packet. Let that sink in.

Part of the reason this loophole has been allowed to exist for so long is a lack of accountability. Andrew Lansley's health service reforms allow different groups to blame one another and ultimately little gets done. Ultimately responsibility for pricing decisions lies not with the NHS but with the Department for Health, who Labour have implored to close the loophole immediately.



Of course, should Hunt wish to understand profiting from the vulture capitalism that so shocks him and hurts our NHS, he may wish to speak to Andrew Lansley. Following on from his successful privatisation by stealth, Lansley is now paid to advise three pharmaceutical companies. One of which, Roche, has attracted criticism for its own pricing.

Roche's £90,000 price tag for its breast cancer drug has left it unaffordable on the NHS. Of course it bears reminding that Lansley was hired to advise on how to price such medicines. It's a good wheeze

if you can get it - hand people the keys to someone else's car with one hand whilst helping to fence it with the other.

Oddly, Mr Lansley's advisory period ended shortly before the scrounging pharma companies were turned down by the NHS. Perhaps his pricing advice isn't so sound after all.

Given concerns over NHS funding, it seems unfortunate that Mr Hunt has taken so long to act on this loophole. Perhaps he should speak to Mr Lansley to see if he can pull any strings.

None of this is intended to imply that Mr Lansley has abused his position or had ulterior motives in his decision to privatise the NHS. Nor did he have an ulterior motive when he was paid £21,000 by CARE UK, a beneficiary of his NHS reforms. Nor did he have an ulterior motive when paid by various fast food industries shortly before deciding we were too strict on them. Mr Lansley is an upstanding politician who definitely didn't flip his home for personal profit.

Our resident medium, Psychic Steve, has been in touch with England's greatest ever playwright to bring you his thoughts on Theresa May and England today. In the second part of our interview we ask Bill about his upcoming birthday celebrations and the meaning of being English in a multicultural society.

Q) You were born and died on Saint George's day, do you feel this is now being turned into a festival of right wing vitriol?

A) Reaky, onion eyed, miscreant that you are. How dareth thou remindeth me of my untimely demise. Thou art unlearned in thy studies so payeth attention. Good friend for Jesus sake forbear, To dig the dust enclosed here. Blessed be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones.

Q) That was written on your tomb; what are you trying to tell me?

A) It means, you puking, ill nurtured, mold-warp, that I do not want to talk about my death.

Q) So what was multiculturalism like in the early seventeenth century?

A) Frothy, fool born, whey faced, louts, an invasion of fools.

Q) You presumably mean King James and the Scots?

A) There is a tide in the affairs of men.

Q) Meaning?

A) I will be glad when they have upped and left. Did you see how I subtly extracteth the urine in "Macbeth?"

Q) Your thoughts on Multicul-

SHAKESPEARE INTERVIEW

turalism in general?

A) Devils, born devils, on whose nature

Nurture can never stick.

Q) William, I never thought you were a racist?

A) Forsooth, I am talking about the people of London for taking the pith out of my Brummie accent.

Q) And your feelings on what it is to be English?

A) This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,

This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,

This other Eden, demi-paradise,

This fortress built by Nature for herself

Against infection and the hand of war,

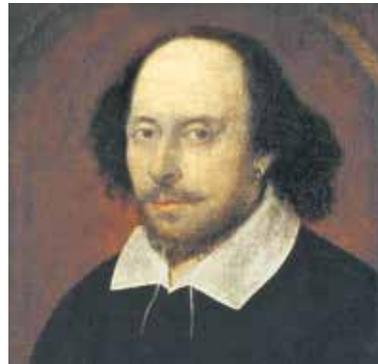
This happy breed of men, this little world,

This precious stone set in the silver sea,

Which serves it in the office of a wall,

Or as a moat defensive to a house,

Against the envy of less happier lands,



This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.

Q) I asked for that?

A) Tis the obvious.

Q) William, please tell us your thoughts on open borders and mass immigration to this country?

A) We are but made of the same breath. The hammer blows that forge fired us speak of the same pain. We, in this race to eternity, are all of the same race. Borders are force fossils of iniquity. The unjust always divide us. Together we are strong.

Q) How do you feel about Donald Trump and the current rush to war?

A) His conscience hath a thou-

sand several tongues,

And every tongue brings in a several tale,

And every tale condemns him for a villain.

Q) What would you say to Theresa May?

A) Methink'st thou art a general offence and every man should beat thee.

Q) You have said that before but we don't do that sort of thing anymore. Have you any economic advice?

A) Universal basic income set at a rate that destroys poverty. True funding for the NHS. An education system that caters for all

Q) How would we fund all this?

A) With another raid on Cadiz of course.

Q) You let yourself down at the end there. Last question, what are your thoughts on Ken Livingstone?

A) I really cannot comment as I am under investigation by the party for making these allegedly racist remarks: "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?"

Tories gobble up NHS



By Lydia Masseron

If you want to know why this government keeps pretending that the majority of us have to live under austerity then think about these figures. The average worker earned £26,500 in 2014. Out of that income they paid £5,393 in tax and national insurance. According to the BBC Facebook declared \$2.9 billion (£1.9 billion) in profits in 2014. Out of that profit they paid £4,327 in tax. This means that every worker on the average salary in the UK in 2014 paid 20% more tax than Facebook. According to Tax Research UK there was a tax gap (think avoidance, evasion and non-payment) of £120 billion (£120,000,000,000) in 2014.

In real terms this means that the NHS, education, welfare, etc were deprived of these funds because billionaires didn't feel like paying their taxes and the government didn't feel inclined to make them. This was enough to cover the entire UK education budget with £20 billion left over. In the same year the government closed all but 14 UK tax offices and dramatically reduced the number of staff looking into tax avoidance.

If you add to this the £41 million profit made by private foster care agencies (yes, they even parasite off vulnerable children) and the £120 million profit made by the owners of NHS staff agencies (The Guardian) in the same year, then you begin to see why this Tory government has no money left to improve the lives of its decent, hard-working citizens.

Vote Corbyn. Vote Labour.

Corbyn pledges to protect the environment

Corbyn will accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and drive the expansion of green industries and jobs of the future.



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Corbyn 2017

http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2988905/battered_but_steadfast_dispatch_from_lancashire_englands_fracking_frontline.html

Battered but steadfast: dispatch from Lancashire, England's fracking frontline

By Mat Hope

The months-old protest at Preston New Road, Lancashire, is no longer just about fracking, writes Mat Hope. This dispute is now about London versus the North. It is about the government failing 'the people' from which it has become detached. It is about people sensing hope-

lessness and helplessness and trying to find a means to resist. And it is about holding on, steadfast, in spite of it all, knowing this is the forgotten frontline of a far greater struggle.

Most of the protesters I see are local people trying to prevent something they didn't ask for, that their council voted against, and which is happening anyway.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2017/05/trump-failure-to-lead-on-climate-doesnt-faze-un-policymakers-in-bonn/>

Trump failure to lead on climate doesn't faze UN policymakers in Bonn

by Justin Catanoso

As Trump ponders withdrawal from Paris Agreement, U.S. creates climate leadership vacuum likely to be filled by China; other nations remain utterly committed to Paris, say UN negotiators meeting in Bonn this week.

Policymakers from nearly 200 countries are gathering in Bonn this week for climate change talks aimed at fulfilling the promise of the Paris Agreement. U.S. negotiators will be there too, despite President Trump's denial of climate change and his signaled alliance with the fossil fuel industry.

Under President Obama, the U.S. played a key leadership role in climate negotiations, bringing China fully on board, and helping broker the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement. President Trump has threatened to withdraw from the pact – a four-year process –

and claims he will make a final decision this month. It seems likely China would step into the leadership gap left by the U.S.

Bonn negotiators remain unfazed by Trump's climate change denialism or his threat to withdraw from Paris. Every signatory nation is going forward with meeting voluntary carbon reduction pledges. Some policymakers do worry how the parties to the Paris Agreement will make up the loss of billions of dollars in U.S. climate aid promised under Obama, but now denied by Trump.

The feeling among Bonn participants is that the rest of the world will go forward briskly and effectively in combatting climate change by embracing alternative energy solutions that will bring jobs and prosperity to their countries, while the U.S. will play the role of a rogue nation that will share no part in the resulting economic boon.

<https://www.treehugger.com/cars/report-95-us-car-miles-will-be-electric-autonomous-2030.html>

Report: 95% of US car miles will be electric, autonomous by 2030

BY Don DeBold

As I mentioned in my post about beer made from recycled bread, I've been reading Paul Hawken's Drawdown. Among the proposed climate solutions in the book, some have seemed ambitious in scale—perhaps even fanciful. But I was struck by the fact that Drawdown is predicting only 16% of global passenger miles will be in electric vehicles by 2050.

Others have different ideas.

Tony Seba, for example, has previously predicted that all new road vehicles, globally, will be 100% electric by 2030. And he's building on that prediction with a new report, co-authored by James Arbib, entitled Rethinking Transportation 2020-2030: The Disruption of

Transportation and the Collapse of the ICE Vehicle and Oil Industries.

Among the bold predictions being made this time around:

—95 percent of U.S. passenger miles traveled will be served by on-demand Autonomous Electric Vehicles (A-EVs) owned by companies providing Transport as a Service (TaaS).

—A-EVs engaged in TaaS will make up 60 percent of U.S. vehicle stock.

—As fewer cars travel more miles, the number of passenger vehicles on American roads will drop from 247 million in 2020 to 44 million in 2030.

—Global oil demand will peak at 100 million barrels per day by 2020, dropping to 70 million barrels per day by 2030.

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2017/05/08/stories/1060054163>

Solar is growing rapidly. So why are solar firms struggling?

By Benjamin Storrow

A number of solar panel makers and installers have declared bankruptcy in recent months. But installations continue to boom.

The U.S. solar market is going gangbusters, but American solar firms are struggling to keep their heads above water. A record-setting year, which saw U.S. solar installations soar to new heights, has been followed by a series of bankruptcies and slumping stock prices.

The downturn has hit panel-makers and installers alike. Sungevity Inc., an Oakland, Calif.-based residential solar installer, declared bankruptcy in March. Georgia-based panel-maker Suniva followed suit last month, citing a deluge of Asian-made panels in the U.S. market. Even relatively healthy firms have struggled to escape the pain. Shares of First Solar Inc. and SunPower Corp. have lost roughly half their value since early last year, while Sunrun Inc. is trading for a third less.

Analysts blame a market saturated by low-cost panels, shifting business models and rapidly changing technology for the trend. Perhaps the greatest challenge of

all: It's difficult to keep up with an industry growing by leaps and bounds.

"It's the way of the wild out here," said Jigar Shah, who founded former solar developer SunEdison Inc. "You've got to keep up every day or you will be left behind."

SunEdison filed for bankruptcy last year, unable to sustain the debt used to fuel its rapid growth. Shah left the firm in 2008 after a disagreement with the company's board over SunEdison's direction.

Solar firms' struggles follow a spike in U.S. solar installations. Some 14.8 gigawatts of solar capacity was installed in 2016, or double the amount brought online the previous year. Growth in utility-scale projects was particularly strong. American power companies added 9.5 GW of new solar, more than any other power source.

Much of the development owed itself to an investment tax credit for solar projects. Utilities rushed to have projects brought online before the end of 2016, when a 30 percent credit on the project's cost was originally set to expire. Congress later extended the credit through 2021, when it will fall to 10 percent for commercial projects and ends residential ones.



THE GREEN

<http://renews.biz/106970/tocado-seeks-5m-tidal-funds/>

Tocado seeks €5m tidal funds

Bond issue to help fund 59MW pipeline in Canada, Netherlands and UK

Dutch tidal developer Tocado has kicked off a €5m bond issue to raise funds for its 59MW project pipeline in Canada, the Netherlands and the UK.

Tocado International BV will issue bonds with a nominal value of €10,000

each. The minimum investment is 10 bonds.

The annual interest paid on the bonds will be 7%.

To date, Tocado has acquired rights for the development of five tidal projects comprising around 245 turbines.

The company expects the projects to be installed within the next two to five years.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170425102529.htm>

Triggering artificial photosynthesis to clean air

Process produces energy at the same time

University of Central Florida

A chemistry professor has just found a way to trigger the process of photosynthesis in a synthetic material, turning greenhouse gases into clean air and producing energy all at the same time. The process has great potential for creating a technology that could significantly reduce greenhouse gases linked to climate change, while also creating a clean way to produce

energy.

Professor Fernando Uribe-Romo and his team of students created a way to trigger a chemical reaction in a synthetic material called metal-organic frameworks (MOF) that breaks down carbon dioxide into harmless organic materials. Think of it as an artificial photosynthesis process similar to the way plants convert carbon dioxide and sunlight into food. But instead of producing food, Uribe-Romo's method produces solar fuel.

<http://cleantechies.com/2017/05/05/pacifico-energy-starts-work-on-japans-largest-solar-project/>

Pacifico Energy Starts Work On Japan's Largest Solar Project

by SAURABH

Tokyo-based solar power developer Pacifico Energy has initiated work on the largest solar power project.

Pacifico Energy has started construction at Sakuto solar power project, claimed to be largest in Japan. The project will have 257.7 megawatt (DC) capacity and is expected to be commissioned by September 2019. The company has, however, not

announced the project financier and EPC contractor.

Sakuto solar power project, at Okayama, is expected to generate 290 million kWh electricity and offset around 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

This is the second project in two months where Pacifico Energy has started construction. In March the company announced that it is working on a 96.2 megawatt (DC) solar power project at Miyazaki-shi, Miyazaki-ken. The project is being executed by Toyo Engineering and is being funded by 13 different banks led by Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ.

The Sakuto solar power project will be the Pacifico's third project at Okayama. The company already has two projects with combined installed capacity of 74.3 megawatts (DC) operational in the region. Both are supplying electricity to Chugoku Electric Power Company.

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/articles/2017/05/china-s-solar-output-increased-80-percent-in-1q17.html>

China's Solar Output Increased 80 Percent in 1Q17

China electricity output from solar PV plants rose 80 percent in 1Q17 after the world's biggest solar power market increased installed capacity.

Solar power generation rose to 21.4 billion kWh in the three months ended March 31 from a year earlier, the National Energy Administration said Thursday in a statement on its website. China added 7.21 GW of solar power during the period, boosting its total installed capacity to almost 85 GW,

the NEA said.

The power-generation increase comes even as more solar plants stand idle because of congested transmission infrastructure. China idled about 2.3 billion kWh of solar power in the first quarter, up from 1.9 billion kilowatt-hours a year earlier, according to the NEA data.

Central and eastern China accounted for about 89 percent of new capacity, the NEA said.

<http://www.cleanenergynews.co.uk/news/transport/air-quality-plans-offer-modest-proposals-on-local-level-as-critics-decry-fa>

Air quality plans offer modest proposals on local level as critics decry failures

By David Pratt

The government's plans to improve the UK's air quality include proposals to require local authorities to provide "active support" for ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), including increased charging infrastructure, and impact business procurement of backup power and plant.

However the Clean Air framework, published on Friday (5 May) following a series of court cases against the government, has been branded weak and incoherent by critics, lacking ambition and credibility while "passing the buck" to local authorities.

The government's plans include few new policies aside from wider use of Clean Air Zones (CAZs), which are defined as areas where targeted action is taken to improve air quality. Resources are prioritised and coordinated in order to deliver improved health benefits and support economic growth, while also accelerating the transition to a low emission economy.

According to the government's documents, local authorities will now "be expected to develop new and creative solutions to reduce emissions as quickly as possible, while avoiding undue impact on the motorist".

Due to the devolved nature of the proposal, the government has shied away from stating a preference towards chargeable CAZs, in which the most polluting vehicles are required to pay for use of the area. Instead, councils are to exhaust all other options before introducing CAZ charging, with minimum standards instead set for diesel (Euro 6) and petrol (Euro 4) vehicles.

However, councils will be asked to design CAZs to deliver the cleanest possible fleet, which may include ensuring provision of charging points for all forms of electric vehicles in a variety of locations. The government also suggests implementing more preferential treatment of ULEVs such as designated parking and lower fees, although many councils have already taken these steps.

<http://inhabitat.com/scientists-warn-thawing-soil-could-suddenly-unleash-deadly-pathogens-unseen-in-centuries/>

Scientists warn thawing soil could suddenly unleash deadly pathogens unseen in centuries

by Lacy Cooke

Humans have fought viruses for centuries. We struck a temporary winning blow with the discovery of penicillin, but now we're watching bacteria develop antibiotic resistance. But what if we were exposed to viruses that have been dormant for millennia? As climate change melts permafrost, the frozen soil could suddenly release ancient, deadly bacteria and viruses that humanity hasn't had to deal with for thousands of years.

2016 saw a case of an illness trapped inside ice being released to harm people. A 12-year-old boy died and around 20 people were hospitalized with anthrax in August 2016 in the Siberian tundra. Researchers think the anthrax came from a reindeer that died more than 75 years ago and was trapped under permafrost, but when that permafrost thawed in a 2016 heat wave, the anthrax was released. And researchers fear this may not be the last time such an event occurs.

Newcastle are champions on dramatic final day



<http://www.thenortherneco.co.uk/news/15270448>. Newcastle are champions on dramatic final day/

RAFAEL Benitez led Newcastle back into the Premier League as champions as they snatched the Sky Bet Championship title on a dramatic final day.

Goals from Ayoze Perez, Chancel Mbemba and substitute Dwight Gayle secured a deserved 3-0 victory over Barnsley in front of owner Mike Ashley and a crowd of 52,276 at St James' Park.

Jack Grealish's last-gasp strike for Aston Villa denied Brighton victory to allow the Magpies to leap-frog them into top spot.

Manager Benitez has insisted for weeks that promotion was the only objective, but as he prepares for the talks with Ashley which will determine whether or not he remains on Tyneside, he will do so with a bonus piece of silverware sitting in the trophy cabinet.

Shorn of the services of Jamaal Lascelles and winger Matt Ritchie through suspension and injury respectively, the Spaniard was forced to play midfielder Isaac Hayden in central defence, although his problems grew when the former Arsenal man had to leave the field with a head injury.

As a result, the Magpies were disjointed as they set about their task with Barnsley enjoying the better of the opening 15 minutes.

However, as midfielder Christian Atsu roused them from their slumbers, they slipped into gear and took the lead with 23 minutes gone.

Jonjo Shelvey expertly clipped Aleksandar Mitrovic's lay-off into the path of Atsu, who cut inside full-back Callum Elder before back-heeling the ball to

DeAndre Yedlin to cross for Perez to cleverly flick home.

Barnsley keeper Adam Davies did well to turn Atsu's fierce shot over the bar after the winger had tricked his way past Elder with the visitors under intense pressure, and he excelled himself a minute before the break to deny the same man as he fired hard and low towards the far post.

The Northern Echo:

Brighton & Hove Albion's Anthony Knockaert (right) appears dejected after the final whistle.

Substitute Massadio Haidara blazed over from 12 yards just before the break and Perez tested Davies seconds after it as New-



castle dominated but struggled to kill off the game.

That changed when Davies dived to save Perez's stinging 59th-minute effort, only for Mbemba to follow up from close range and make it 2-0.

Davies was called up once again 10 minutes later to tip over Mitrovic's header and Shelvey struck the foot of the post two minutes later, but opposite number Rob Elliot had to make late saves from substitutes Marley Watkins and Elliot Lee to preserve his clean sheet.

Substitute Gayle added a third at the death and news of Villa's equaliser sent the home fans into raptures.



THE PRIVATISATION OF FOOTBALL

By Stanley Acrimonious

There was a time, writes Stanley Acrimonious, when I could watch 'my club' at, say, Stamford Bridge. Nowadays there is only one guy can say that; yet the fans who see Chelsea win the English Premier League Title and possibly the FA Cup this season will convince themselves that 'we' have Done the Double.

Fans spend large amounts of money to watch football but when it comes to decisions about the team, the manager, the ground, the shirts, the only power they have is not to buy a ticket, to stand outside the club and shout about whatever it is they don't like. They're more like workers on strike than people who have any ownership of the club they 'follow'.

They might even sing about

how they 'belong' to the club, as though they had Stockholm Syndrome, emotionally manipulated for so long that they claim to 'love' them. Thus it is for fans of, say, Leeds United, who take you all the way, sometimes to the heady heights of the Championship Play-offs, only to turn up at Wembley in no frame of mind to win a game. Leeds has an owner, though not many people know who this might be. From time to time the local paper claims that someone might buy the club, a consortium headed by the King of Nembatal, or a multinational corporation including Richard Branson Pickle and the city goes crazy. Then when you pull the mask of the villain in this Scooby-Doo movie, it's Ken Bates all over again, or even worse, the newest baddie because the actor playing Bates is too old.

I used to laugh at the way de-

isions made by the chairman of Manchester City had destroyed that club, reducing them to the kind of 'home-town-outfit' Leeds have become, but then suddenly a rich bloke bought them and began snapping up everyone else's best players and for a season they looked good; a year later there were loads of better players around and these too were purchased.

When Chelsea did it more successfully they realised they needed a decent coach too, and Jose Mourinho was employed. Highly popular and successful, he lasted until the owner bought some player and insisted that he be played as main striker.

"I need a couple of centre-backs," pleaded Jose.

"Just play Sheva properly," said Roman.

Mr Mourinho left the club,



ATION BALL

despite everyone including Shevchenko agreeing he should have been able to stay and buy two new defenders. I'm not actually sure whether John Terry agreed about the centre-backs but hey. The club belongs to Abramovitch.

The rot began when local businessman Jack Walker purchased Blackburn Rovers in 1991, believing this fine old club simply ought to be given money in order to win football matches. Once they'd got promotion into the top tier of English football, they won the Premier League in 1995. He was unwilling to keep buying the best players in the country and in 1999 they returned to the Championship. They go up and down intermittently, which is better than Leeds, who went down and stayed there.

Walker's daughter sold Blackburn Rovers to chicken-pluckers

Venky's. Tim Farron (who?) has been critical of the deal.

No longer do solitary rich men buy clubs as vanity projects, but corporations, often linked with political forces, are involved. West Ham are allowed to play at the Olympic Stadium for a small fee, and the London Legacy Development Corporation has been ordered to reveal the details of the contract, but taxpayers will pick up many of the running costs.

Let's have a look at who is on the West Ham board of directors: David Sullivan, David Gold, Karen Brady, Andy Mollett... wait a minute...

Sullivan used to own Birmingham City, where he made Brady Managing Director. Baroness Brady, Conservative peer, is worth an estimated £85 million. She began at Saatchi & Saatchi, after which she became an advertising exec for

LBC, who keep Nigel Farage popping up on my news feeds.

David Sullivan, ah yes, previous owner of the Daily Sport and the Sunday Sport, famous for photos of rude lasses wi' no clothes on, and other titles such as Playbirds and Whitehouse, owner of sex shops and maker of blue movies. It's nice when a guy gets out of that line of work, legal though it might be, and goes into something clean and straightforward like football. I don't know if he's a Tory like Brady, but he's rich.

There's no evidence that he is involved with the arms industry, big pharma or banking/ oil/ fracking so I'm not going to bad-mouth the lad here. So far as I'm concerned he's just got an amazingly good deal out of the government for the 'football club' he currently owns. How did he manage that, Baroness?

A Game of Two Halves



By Stanley Acrimonious

Time was, writes Stanley Acrimonious, when football clubs knew their place, whether in the Top Division, the Second, in the lower leagues or even the leagues known paradoxically as non-league. Tottenham Hotspur could move for Alan Gilzean in 1964, and buy him just because they were, y'know, Tottenham Hotspur and they wanted him. It didn't really matter if fans at the club he'd been at were sad to see him go, they knew their place and they wished him well.

Then clubs began to over-reach. Sometimes they trained a bit harder, played a bit harder, bent the rules until they snapped, and a club like Leeds United were able to escape the second highest tier of English Football, their natural home, and the following season, 1965, narrowly lose the Title on Goal Average (like goal difference but more complicated) and the FA Cup Final after extra time having drawn 0-0 at the ninety-minute mark. Eventually they won the League Cup, the Inter Cities Fairs Cup (like the Europa,) the FA Cup, and the League title (twice.) It was to the great relief of the rest of football when their manager left to 'look after' the England squad and subsequently fail, and a series of lesser mortals (and I'm not including Brian Clough in this category, or Jock Stein) presided over their inability to keep up with the way the game was changing and Leeds were relegated.

Things are different now; modern football is more of a business, and like all businesses there is sharp practice and money is the main culprit. A player has recently been banned from playing for 18 months for betting

on football matches. But this is not new. Peter Swan of Sheffield Wednesday was banned for life together with Tony Kay and David Layne in 1964 for betting that their team would lose matches.

In 1919 a club called Leeds City (who had played in the Second Division, think Championship, since 1904) were dissolved for financial irregularities and their players sold off to other clubs. Two of them went to Juventus and the others to Fray Bentos. Actually that's just a bad joke. Port Vale took their place. Before too long, Leeds United were formed, and eventually got into trouble themselves from overreaching financially, resulting in relegation from the Premier League in 2004, and after going into administration in 2006, were given a 10 point penalty and dropped into League One in 2007. They're back in the Championship.

In 2004 a club also calling themselves Leeds City FC were formed and currently play non-league football. Rumour has it they're better than LUFC. But down in these lower reaches are many famous names, with a 'Rovers' where there used to be a 'City' or an 'Athletic' where there used to be a 'United' and so on. All you have to do if you want to continue, is go bankrupt, start again and pretend nothing has happened, like any business, except far, far lower down the league structure. In Scotland, Rangers did it, and eventually got back to the Top Division, but it wasn't as easy as they imagined it would be, and fans still boast about their 'history' as a club; in reality for them to do this they ought to pay their owed taxes, their creditors and then return proudly. Things are different for the rich and strong.



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