



THE WORD

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



VOTE LABOUR

THE PETERLOO PROJECT

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

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

THE
WORD

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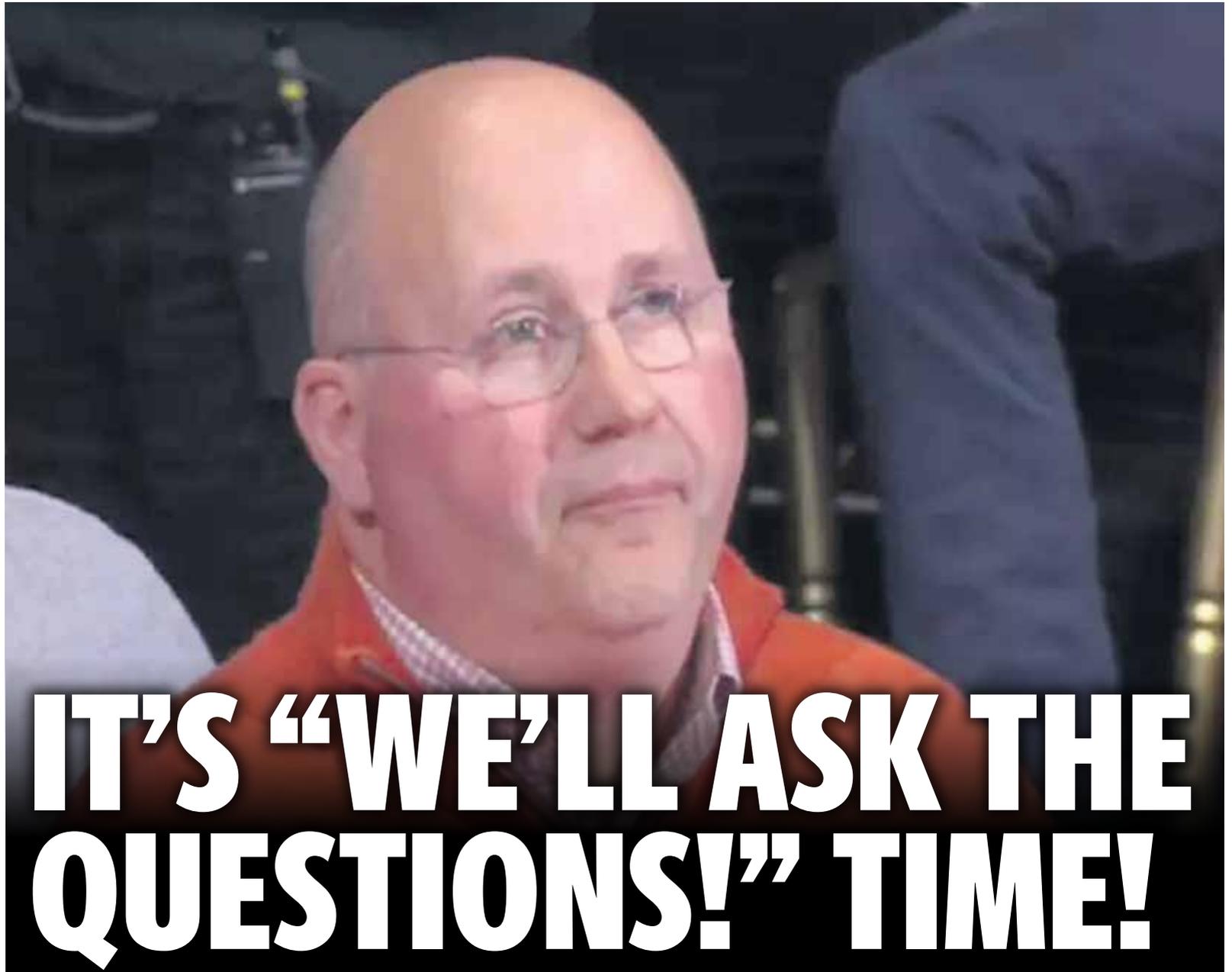
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IT'S "WE'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS!" TIME!

Obvious Tory Party plants in recent election debate audiences!

When it comes to live debate we know that Tweezer May can't hack it, but the Tories have gone even further in recent weeks by planting sympathisers in the audiences who are pretending to have totally different backgrounds to their real privileged situations and party affiliations.

Case #1: Eric Holford

Scottish Conservative Eric Holford is a sitting councillor for Clydesdale East on South Lanarkshire Council. Holford has shared controversial views on population control on Facebook in the past. Going so far as to state that the NHS and the invention of lifesaving drugs have been negative for humanity overall.

On 11 May, he was presented as a voice of the people on BBC Question Time, as if he was just another audience member. Just one minute into the show, Holford is granted the first question. No mention is made of his background. He asks:

Is the leaked Labour manifesto an attempt to drag Britain back to the nightmare that was the 70s?

This is the central attack of the Conservative Party's campaign against Labour's draft manifesto, and parallel attacks by conservative media outlets such as The Daily Mail. After the panel's answers, Hol-

ford simply continues the narrative:

"I'm old enough to remember the 70s...I remember the times when we had unions that would bring down our government...I remember the winter of discontent. I remember the three-day weeks, the power strikes... all of these things. And I don't want to see us go back into that. It's a Tory government that brought us out of that and gave us a strong economy."



Case #2: Maneet Kapoor.

Maneet claimed that he could no longer afford to pay his staff if the minimum wage increased, and that he could no longer send his children to private school if the school were made to pay VAT.

A small web search revealed that Maneet is the company director of 8 different companies, dealing with interests as diverse as property and pharmacy. His net worth is around £850k and his assets are worth near to £1million. It's hard to imagine how paying a hard worker, (or even several!), at his pharmacy £10/h on even a 40 hour a week, 52 weeks a

year basis, is going to put much of a dent in that. That amounts to £21 000/year, a fee which Maneet will profit from handsomely. We're also a little confused as to how a self-proclaimed member of Manchester's "working classes" managed to start up some of his companies in 2016 with a net loss of £700 000 for the year! (<https://companycheck.co.uk/director/908467388/MA-NEET-KAPOOR/financials>)



Case #3: Ed Robbins

Ed Robbins described himself as a student on QT on Friday 2nd June, and said that he was concerned that scrapping zero-hours contracts would make him poorer. But some of those watching took one look at him and smelt a rat when they noticed his £150 Ralph Lauren top!

"I need my zero hours contract to buy food, Jeremy will starve me'. He said, but it turns out that poor old Ed Robbins went to the exclusive Winterfold House prep school, af-

ter brother Nick, leaving in 2010, and moving up to Cheltenham College, another exclusive private school - where he boarded. "Zero-Hour Ed" then went on to tweet from various exclusive skiing and holidaying locations around the world before starting university - not, we believe, on a zero-hour contract. In fact the only zero hours of work that Ed will do, will be sitting on his over privileged lying arse in



a boardroom for the rest of his life!

Although it's entirely possible that Conservative Party central Office has nothing to do with these rogue Tories appearing on, and lying on BBC TV, it seems odd that there are only ever examples of Tory sympathisers doing this. I can't find a single example of a Labour supporter misrepresenting themselves and their interests on Question Time. Some say that necessity is the mother of all invention, surely it's equally true that desperation is the mother of Tory invention?

Filibustering is talking non-stop for a long time in a parliamentary debate, so that a debate runs out of time and a vote cannot be held on the proposal, effectively killing it.

Conservative MP Philip Davies has made a name for himself in Parliament by blocking legislation using a tactic called the "filibuster".



1) Free hospital car parking for carers

(Rex Features)

Davies spoke for 90 minutes in order to block a bill that would have provided free hospital car parking for carers. Two other Conservative MPs also spoke for an hour and 20 minutes, meaning that MPs ran out of time to vote on the law.



2) Making home fit for human habitation

(Getty)

Last year the MP blocked a bill that would have required landlords to make homes "fit for human habitation". Himself a landlord, Davies argued that the rule would put "a huge burden on landlords".



3) First aid training for children in schools

Davies was determined to block a bill that would have required schools to give children training in administering first aid. He spoke for around an hour, the longest speech in the debate, telling the House: "Why on earth would I allow a bill that principle of which I don't like a second reading?"



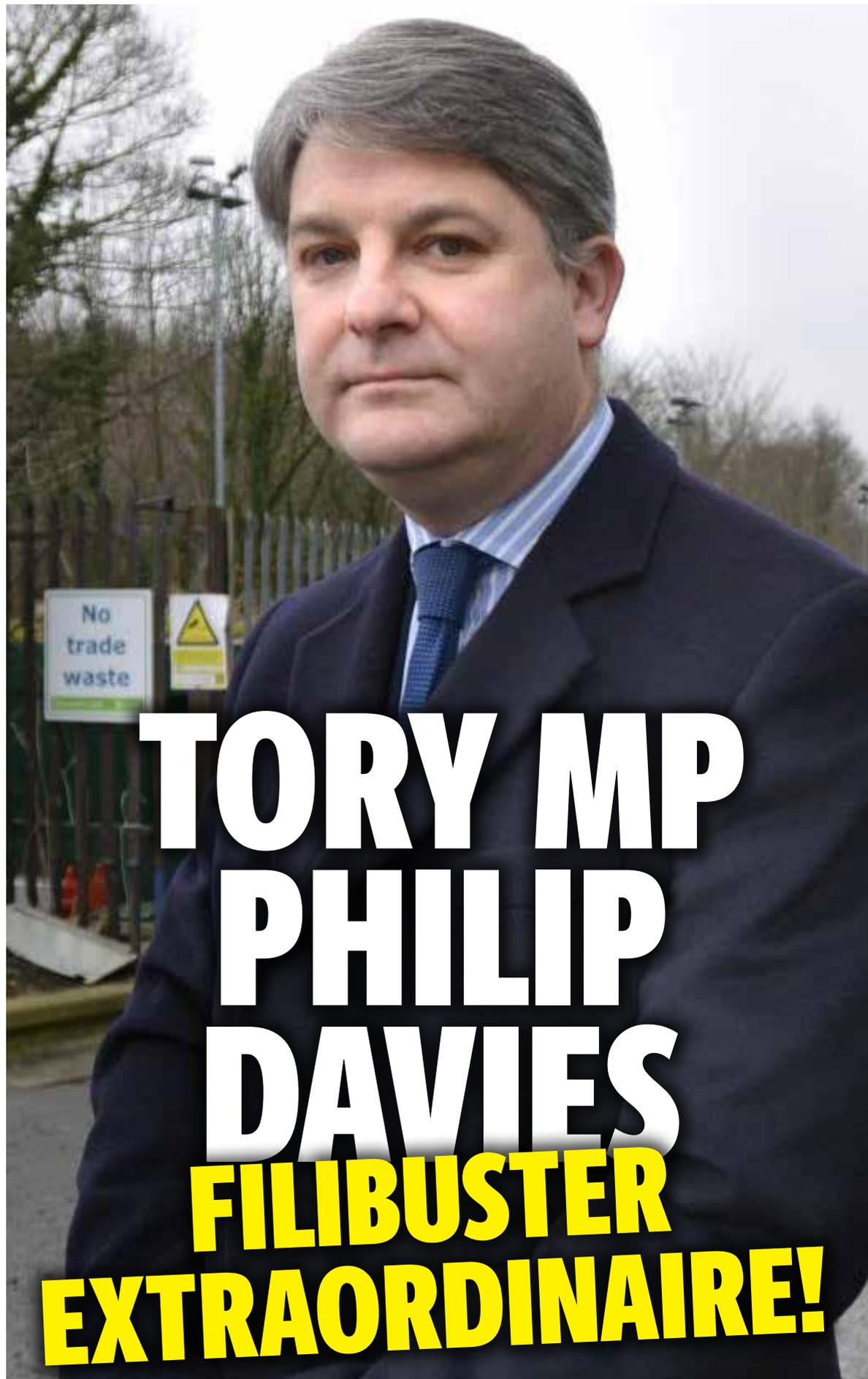
4) Banning wild animal use in circuses

Both parties are on paper signed up to a ban of using wild animals in circuses. Davies was one of three Tory backbenchers who blocked a private members bill to achieve the aim, repeatedly raising objections to stop a bill being debated.



5) Reversing NHS privatisation progress

Earlier this year Davies prevented the discussion of a bill to reverse private sector takeovers in the NHS. He and a small number of other Tory backbenchers talked at length about a bill on deporting foreigners that had repeatedly been brought before the House and rejected. They collectively talked for four and a half hours, using up practically all the afternoon's time for debate.



JUDGE US ON OUR RECORD

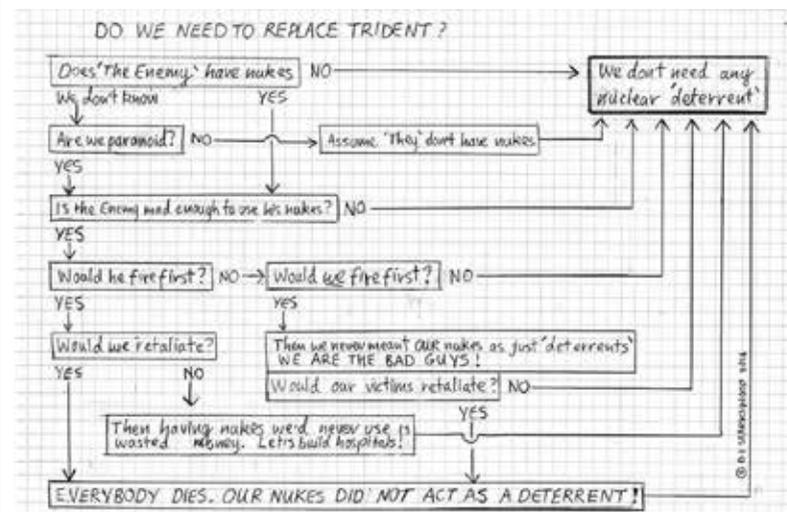
Amber Rudd said "judge us on our record" so here goes:

1. Spectacularly missed economic targets - deficit reduction nowhere near what they said they would deliver.
2. Longest fall in value of wages since records began.
3. The austerity con
4. NHS cuts
5. The productivity crisis
6. Systematic abuse of disabled people
7. Huge rise in child poverty

8. Railway chaos
9. Corporations paying less tax than their employees
10. Most unaffordable homes ever
11. NHS recruitment crisis
12. Rip-off tuition fees
13. The school privatisation agenda
14. Huge rise in Food bank dependency.
15. Unqualified teachers
16. Secret courts
17. Privatisation
18. Foreign ownership of British

19. Social care crisis
20. Tax-dodgers winning government contracts
21. Filibustering (See subsection on Phillip Davies!)
22. Fire service cuts
23. Prisons chaos.
24. Unfair dismissal fees
25. Police cuts
26. Flood defence spending
27. Adult education
28. Forced closure of NHS services
29. Sweetheart tax deals

Jeremy Corbyn's QT notes





LAURA KUENSSBERG AND BBC MANAGEMENT OF COMPLAINTS

By Gavin Lewis

After the leaking of the Labour manifesto, Jeremy Corbyn was interviewed by the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg, who attacked the Party's tax agenda as 'the politics of envy'.¹ This was significant because no other Party has the fundamental main founding principle of its existence - of 'fair distribution of national wealth' - questioned in this way. Also, rather than generate an impartial question Kuenssberg had regurgitated a Tory sound-bite. So what should we make of the bias? We know from presenter Carrie Gracie's 2009 accidental public admission that even many years ago, News24 staff were being paid £92,000,² with 8 years of inflation that rate has got to be considerably higher. Kuenssberg has an editorial title so that adds up to an even larger figure. From this, we know that basically, Kuenssberg is already definitely in the £80,000+ band that Labour promises to tax at 45p. She is almost certainly without question in the £123,000+ band for which Labour is proposing a 50p rate. So Kuenssberg was allowed to field questions that benefit her own pocket and none of this was allowed to be evident to viewers because the BBC has historically refused to publish these staff salary figures.

Complaints about bias from Kuenssberg are not new and even these are often subjected to deliberate misrepresentation and spin. In May 2016 a petition was put together calling for her to be sacked on the basis of bias. Almost immediately a press release went out suggesting that this was a manifestation of sexist abuse. Regurgitating this, the Guardian's Laura Bates even claimed that the word 'cunt'³ had been used. Though if you're the sort of person who uses the street language to condemn male journalistic bias, is it worse to aim the same language at a female reporter guilty of the same practices? In any case critics who either manually, or used their 'find' software to search the petition, found none of the cited abuse. Instead, material from Twitter had been used to taint the petition. Questioning these suggestions of abuse the Huffington Post's Ian Middleton noted, "There is some speculation that this perception may have been part of an orchestrated campaign on behalf of those looking to discredit the petition itself. Indeed if one looks at the list of comments published yesterday, it's difficult to find anything remotely aggressive or sexist."⁴ This establishment hijacking of feminism is also odd because few groups relate so closely to the experiences of marginalisation and oppression than that of women. Consequently, they frequently make up considerably more than 50% of any grassroots movement, such as those demanding BBC accountability. Sexism therefore is hardly a strategy they are likely to favour. Despite these grassroots realities, those manipulating these smears, did succeed in getting the petition taken down.

This 'abuse' strategy is not new and has been used by BBC news staff before. Nick Robinson was criticised for misrepresenting Alex Salmond's interview responses during Independence debates. Instead of answering the specifics of the charges facing him, Robinson instead wrote an article complaining about people exercising their right to protest, which he claimed apparently left "young men and women who are new to journalism... frightened as to how they do their jobs."⁵ Though unsurprisingly his sources-free-claims, couldn't be substantiated by the names any of these so-called 'frightened young men and women' give times of any incidents, or cite police reports of any offences. Ultimately these attempted claims of journalistic fragility and weakness, must embarrass a news organisation who's past BBC veterans - un-embedded - once covered the Vietnam War.

The BBC is our State Broadcaster, founded on the principal of broad social representation and originally not a territorial establishment self-marketing organisation designed to replicate the self-interest of the Murdoch media empire. Clearly, for any notion of impartiality to be maintained, we need transparency on salaries and economic self-interest of news staff. Nor should pay be so inflated that staff become a class entirely separate from the rest of the general public. It's obvious too, that we also need to have a clamp down on the extramural activities of journalists - personal advertising should be restricted in the same way as product advertising. This would mean restrictions on say, the issuing of personal press releases and writing columns in the commercial press. Staff can hardly be impartial when they are abusing licence payer generated platform privilege to enter into shouting matches with large sections of the British public. If these basics cannot be observed, why fund an organisation from public tithe whose functions are so little different from the worst practices of the commercial sphere?

Links:

1. <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/politics/full-text-interview-jeremy-corbyn-13009746>

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2009/may/12/bbc-news-presenter-carrie-gracie-reveals-salary>

3. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/11/the-laura-kuenssberg-petition-should-be-condemned-not-just-removed>

4. http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/ian-middleton/laura-kuenssberg-petition_b_9915680.html

5. <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/aug/21/bbc-nick-robinson-bullying-scottish-referendum-alex-salmond>

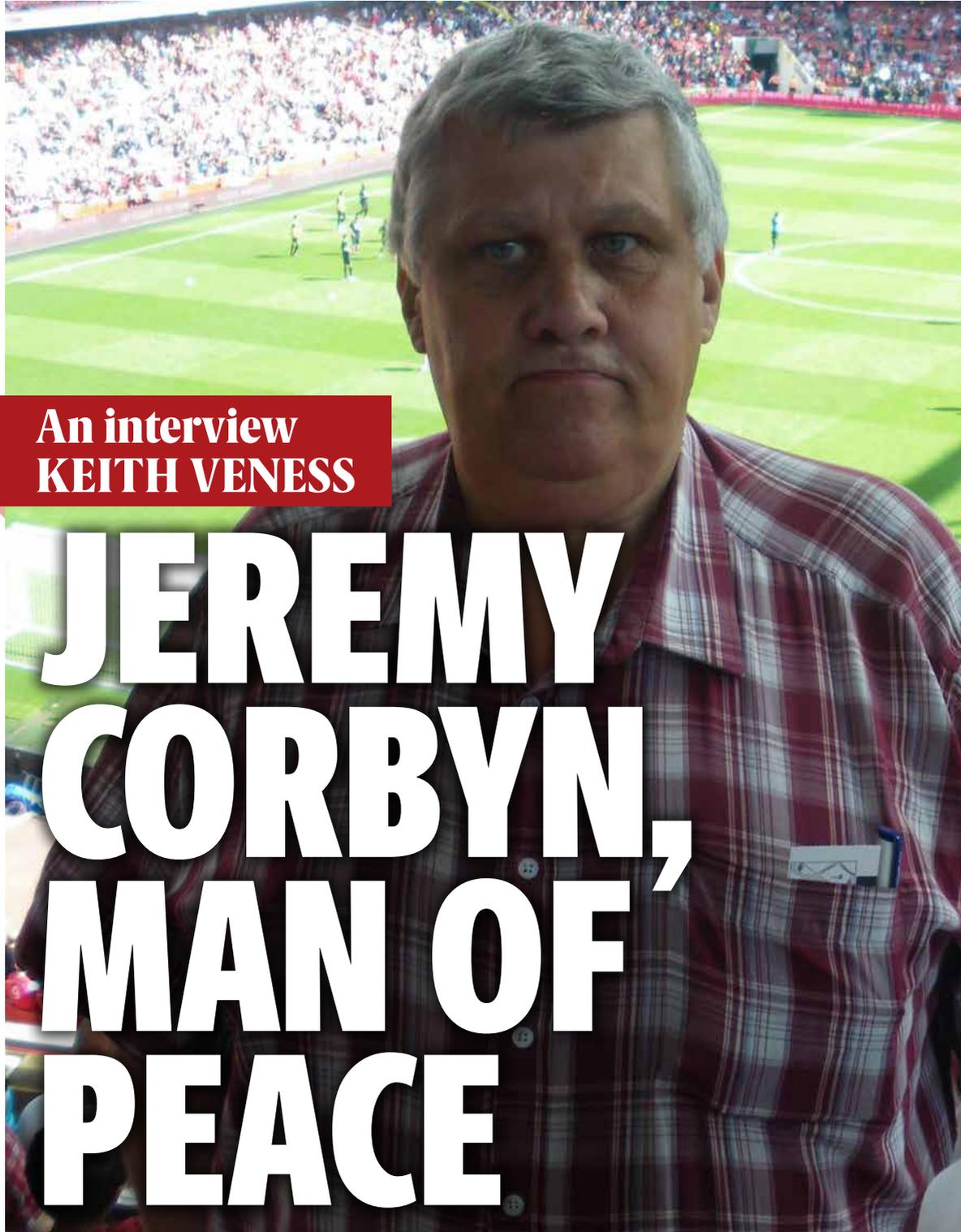
I've recently been in conversation with Keith Veness who was formerly Jeremy Corbyn's election agent from 1984 to 1992, writes Ibrahim Jahlil. Keith's job was to "get him elected, get everyone to work hard for him and to shout at him a lot."

Keith's wife Valerie was Mr Corbyn's political assistant at the House of Commons for seventeen years, from 1991 to 2008 and accompanied him on his frequent trips to both Ulster and the Republic of Ireland. Keith went on to express more than a little frustration about the ongoing campaign to tarnish Mr Corbyn's reputation as a 'terrorist sympathiser' and 'friend of the IRA'. Furthermore, it is usually assumed that it was the arrival of Tony Blair as Prime Minister, which precipitated the peace negotiations that concluded in The Good Friday Agreement. Whereas, as Keith pointed out, it was actually the Tory minister Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland until April '92 who broke the log-jam by stating that

"Britain has no selfish interests in Ireland and is willing to talk peace."

It should be noted that before the election of Bobby Sands MP, who died on hunger strike in the Maze Prison, IRA activists were treated as common criminals as that was the only possible avenue under British Law. The media coverage surrounding the death of Sands resulted in a surge of IRA activity and an immediate escalation of the Troubles, with the group obtaining many more members and increasing its fund-raising capability. Both nationalist and unionist attitudes hardened and moved towards political extremes. Sands' Westminster seat was taken by his election agent, Owen Carron (standing as 'Anti H-Block Proxy Political Prisoner') with an increased majority. After Sands' death the IRA realised that they could bring their argument into the political arena legally rather than simply through violent attacks. It now was time for the "modernisers" Adams and McGuinness within Sinn Fein, political wing of the IRA, to attempt a redirection of the struggle away from violence towards a political solution. There was and still exists a faction calling themselves the 'Real IRA' made up of those wanting to play the 'long war' and active though dwindling in number, consistently resisting a political settlement and believing that a guerrilla war is the only way to eject the British and win a United Ireland. However, Adams and McGuinness won the argument to pursue a political settlement; they were people that could be talked to and negotiated with, and had power in their hands to bring about a peaceful end to the conflict.

Keith Veness again, "I saw first-hand how the Peace Process actually progressed. My wife worked for JC for 17 years and accompanied him over to Ireland (North & South)



An interview
KEITH VENESS

JEREMY CORBYN, MAN OF PEACE

on many occasions. Unfortunately a lot of people are ignorant of most of the facts."

As an ordinary back-bench MP, Corbyn's meetings with Sinn Fein's people would not have been afforded the secrecy that Thatcher's were. However, it was in the interests of all political parties in Westminster to 'court' them and give them the backing they needed to go back to their members and tell them that this was the real road to progress in their fight. Indeed, since the peace process finally came about, it has been revealed that Margaret Thatcher's people indeed did hold a great number of secret talks with both Adams and McGuinness, as did SDLP leader John Hume - all of which contributed greatly to bringing the peace process about and giving those within the IRA who were genuinely seeking peace the influence they needed to persuade the majority that this was the way forward.

Veness went on to add, "When Labour got elected in 1997 the process had again stalled and Mo Mowlam (on behalf of the Government) asked Jeremy to act as a 'Go Between' which he did... The big

sticking point was prisoner release, and Jeremy and my wife went over there on many occasions. Jeremy persuaded Mo to go to the H-Blocks to talk directly to the prisoners' reps, which eventually worked. Jeremy and his staff spent months on the anomalies of the prisoner release scheme - we've still got all the files from that without which Sinn Fein & the IRA could not have agreed any process. So Jeremy did play a key role in getting the Good Friday agreement - just ask Gerry Adams if you don't believe me.

"Jeremy and Val were rather careful ... as Jeremy campaigned systematically over many years for Irish prisoners of 'miscarriages of justice' - first the Guildford 4, then the Birmingham 6 and after that Judy Ward, Nick Mullen, and others. He even supported and spoke at rallies for wrongfully convicted loyalists in the "Latymer" case. These people eschewed any assistance from political or prisoners groups as they were innocent - and Jeremy went to great lengths to distinguish between these two categories."

Sinn Fein would not enter any peace process without three keys

issue being addressed:

[1] Genuine commitments to creating 'equality of esteem' for both traditions in the six counties. This was what the civil rights struggle in 1968 was started for - and had been brutally crushed by Orange Unionism with the connivance of the U.K. Government. The armed struggle ensued from that so no one would ever disarm without that goal being immediately addressed.

[2] A long-term commitment from the UK Government that it had 'no selfish interests hanging on to Ireland' - so that the result of any future 'border poll' would be respected by them.

[3] A programme for prisoner release jointly and severally agreed. This issue was the 'bigger' as far as thousands of people in ghettos and amongst volunteers from most of the 'para-military' groups were concerned.

Veness went on to say, "We still have most of the documents written by the prisoners thanking JC and my wife for all the to-ing and fro-ing they did getting various prisoners out. The Good Friday Agreement thought all the prison-

ers came from the North, with a few republicans from the Free State. In fact there were all sorts of anomalies - Scotsmen in 26 county jails, US and other nationals, members of the Official IRA / Group B who denied it existed and didn't want political status, and so on. Jeremy spent a huge amount of time on these 'exceptions to the rule' as did my wife as his political assistant. To his credit it was because of his hard work and integrity, that Sinn Fein implicitly trusted him to deal with these cases. The issue of the prisoners was incredibly complex - a tangled nightmare. Jeremy helped unpick it. The republicans trusted him to do it in a way they wouldn't have trusted other UK politicians.

"When Drumcree banned loyalist marches and the town was surrounded by loyalists, Jeremy, my wife, and others went over to show support - they had to walk across fields to get there. That earned him the respect of the republicans.

"The idea he would support bombing campaign is absolute nonsense. You need to remind people that one reason he's slightly careful when he answers questions on Northern Ireland is that he spent years working on miscarriage of justice cases and he doesn't want to compromise anyone.

"Paul Hill from the Guildford Four was in prison and getting married. Jeremy was his best man - the Sun never apologised for smearing him as a 'mass murderer's best man' on their front page, not even after the Guildford Four were exonerated and released.

"Jeremy was criticised for bringing a 'bomber' into the House of Commons. That was Ronan Bennett - he was subsequently exonerated and is now an internationally recognised playwright. Again, the media never apologised.

"Jeremy felt only a political solution could possibly help Northern Ireland - and you can't have a political solution without the republicans on board, so the fact they had kept lines open was crucial - without that Sinn Fein would never have joined the negotiations."

Jeremy Corbyn's has consistently worked for conflict resolution around the world. As in Northern Ireland his stance on military action in the Middle East, on apartheid in South Africa, and so many other issues is impeccable. His honesty and integrity has drawn huge numbers to join the Labour Party and was a key part in the achievement of peace in Northern Ireland. As then so now, the right-wing press has consistently smeared him for its own political ends. Furthermore, the media's flagship, the BBC, has demonstrated in the recent Andrew Neil interview an equal eagerness to contribute in its portrayal of him as a terrorist sympathiser.

Jeremy Corbyn got involved in the Irish Peace Process, not because he is a supporter of terrorists, but because he is not.

FORGOTTEN BANDS

- 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.....

#8 Cat Mother and the All-Night Newsboys

I've done about twenty to thirty different jobs in the last forty to fifty years; from selling pop off the back of a wagon to writing in a socialist periodical about football, music and the NHS. Not all of these jobs have been paid, but some of the ones I was paid for will live long in my memory, like being boatman on Roundhay Park Lake, yet some of the ones I've done for no payment at all have given me the most satisfaction.

In 1973, I produced my mate's album. It has been said that every album I've ever produced since (and there haven't been that many) sound like I think it's still 1973; perhaps it is.

What does a producer do? This is easy to define: the producer makes the album happen. He or she manages the process, doing as many or as few jobs as necessary in order to get the thing finished.

In 1969 a band called Cat Mother and the All-Night Newsboys recorded *The Street Giveth and the Street Taketh Away*. They existed for a whole decade, from 1967 ("...You re-



member that we did the Skate") until 1977. Were they any good? Well, they had as producer none other than Jimi Hendrix, with whom they shared management for a while.

1969 saw them release a single, *Good Old Rock and Roll*, which was a minor hit in the USA, and an album (an LP!) pretentiously titled *The Street Giveth and The Street Taketh*

Away. And yes, it was very good, but you had to be in the mood for it.

How on earth does a band persuade Jimi to produce for them,

and what did they expect him to do? This was at a time when he was recording take after take of his own stuff, "Er, you know guys, I think take 54 is the best of them all, except in some ways take 70 has a better beginning, middle and end," and which is why I believe his previous manager Chas Chandler (Jimi Hendrix Experience) and Jimi had parted company. Some of Hendrix's most hauntingly beautiful music was recorded in 1969 and 1970, self-produced (with Mitch Mitchell and engineer Eddie Kramer) yet the process was tortuous and unhurried.

A producer can be all things at once; the person that directs, coaches, assists, demands, interferes, engineers (in all sorts of ways) and does everything up to and including the audio mixing. Or he can be much more laid back, allowing people who know what they're doing to do it. I have the feeling that this is what happened with Cat Mother. Listen to the track *Can You Dance To It* which I've put on this link <https://tinyurl.com/lg-749ca>

There are many good tracks on the same album, and you'll find your favourite. It might be *Nebraska Night*, or you might find it on a different album such as *Love Until Your Heart Breaks* from their eponymous second album in 1971. There is also live footage of them on YouTube.

Good times eh - bet you'd forgotten them.....

By Ian Charles

Prostate Cancer, killer of one in forty men, is the least life-style-linked of all cancers. What causes it to be so lethal seems to be a combination of genetics, late diagnosis and where in the world you live. I live in the UK, have always eaten a 'mixed diet' and had a dad and an uncle (his brother) who suffered from a milder form of the disease than I have, writes Ian Charles.

Most of my life I have been overweight, although my Specialist Oncological Nurse, Lisa, has told me not to lose weight, other than a couple of pounds to fit into clothes I've 'grown out of' as they used to say. I need, it seems, to have some weight should my cancer again begin to get 'the upper hand.'

I've taken up walking more, as exercise is considered good for helping to control cancers, and this includes using my bus pass to get around; bus passengers walk small distances that car drivers might

Conversations with my oncologist 8

not, and I sometimes get off one or two stops early, or walk to the next stop when my bus isn't due for fifteen minutes.

But I always 'scoffed at' vegetarianism, and in particular vegans, as I 'scoffed' my bacon buttie, or my chicken tikka pizza, and mused about what it might be that veggies actually eat. What do they hanker for after a night's drinking - carrot kebab?

I'd already been advised by a guy I know (with prostate cancer) that a plant based diet can be a good way, some scientists say, to fight cancer. I told myself in reply that all diets are plant based. A cow eats plants; a sheep too. A chicken eats grain and suchlike. Fish eat fish eat fish eat fish eat plankton and then algae. All flesh is grass and all fish are water. I resolved never to eat a carnivore or any kind of vulture; I would abjure cannibalism, instead



I'd eat only vegetarian animals.

Then my wife had me read an article in a newspaper, based on a book by two dreadful looking scientists who'd each been vegan for at least twenty five years, were much younger than me, but looked about seventy. I have to admit I scoffed again, this time a sausage sandwich with brown sauce. Their

book was based on science but you had to buy the book to read the science and I scoffed one final time.

"Just go on the diet," she pleaded. "See if it makes a difference."

My symptoms began to improve, even before I got the latest wonder drug, but currently a fortune is spent on removing all testosterone from my body as this

feeds my tumours. Since female hormones do morph into male ones, I resolved not to eat any food groups that contain or are the result of animal hormones. I've given up dairy, eggs, butter, cheese, and poultry; I drink cashew or almond milk; and I'm rediscovering lentils, peas, gram flour, salads, stir fries, and stuff from the Indian take-away, which uses turmeric (proved to be anti-cancer,) paprika, green and red powdered chillies, and other wondrous flavours. Fennel! (Just sayin')

Unlike Paul McCartney, I'm not asking anyone to 'give it a try!' because I really don't care what others eat; I'm enjoying food for perhaps the first time in my life; I can still have the occasional bit of meat, or fish and chips. My symptoms are being kept at bay, for now. I told my urologist this and he replied that he'd been on the very same diet for years. Who knew...

DAVID LINDSAY COLUMN



Fans of the circus, get yourselves along to Durham Crown Court on Tuesday 13th June. The like cannot be seen outside North Korea, and the café at Durham Crown Court does not serve dog meat. For today's hearing at Peterlee Magistrates' Court, the Crown Prosecution Service had provided my solicitor with, well, more or less nothing. No copy of "The Letter". Nothing on its alleged similarities to my published work, a suggestion that has already been comprehensively refuted. Nothing on the fingerprints that supposedly turned up a month after my arrest and fingerprinting, but in time for the local elections. Nothing. Just as they had obviously expected me not to make it to Peterlee, but I did, so they had obviously expected me to plead guilty in the event of my showing my face, but I did not.

Despite the asserted existence of those fingerprints, it took the CPS six hours to charge me on

Maundy Thursday evening, 13th April. Not such a strong case after all, one wonders? It then took until Monday 1st May, three days before the local elections, for the *The Chronicle* to report that I had been charged. Following my defeat in those elections, the persistence with this matter is nothing short of malicious. They have made their point. But, just as I have no conceivable reason to keep it going except that I am innocent, so they have no conceivable reason to keep it going except to punish me for the fact that I ever dared to suggest that Labour ought to lose control of Durham County Council. That would have happened, if certain people had not listened to the Labour careerist saboteurs in their midst. But it did not happen, simply as a matter of fact.

Carrying on with this reflects very, very, very badly on them as spiteful, vindictive bullies. Showboating about terror threats and Jo Cox is just bad taste. Ranked

behind them, however, are people who have not deleted me on Facebook (and nor, in at least one case, have several other members of their families), and one of whom, prominent and highly ambitious, also continues to follow me on Twitter. So much for the slightest belief in my guilt on the part of those of the supposed victims who have known me for 15, 20, 25, 30, and in one case 35 years.

The purpose of this vendetta was to frighten me out of contesting the local elections (it didn't), then to stop me from being elected at them (job done), and then to stop me from contesting the General Election, a job that has been done by Theresa May, since I could never have raised the £10,000 necessary for a proper campaign in less than a month and with no notice. Now, however, I am a declared, organising, campaigning and fundraising candidate, probably the first in the country, both for the local elections in 2021, and for the General Elec-

tion in 2022. Therefore, the purpose of this vendetta has become to prevent me from contesting and winning those elections. It is an undisguised attempt to use the Criminal Law in order to obstruct the democratic political process. A democratic political process that, since my 2021 and 2022 candidacies are declared, is already under way.

Meanwhile consider that, as a matter of policy, no one in this county would ever be arrested, still less charged, with anything relating to the law against cannabis. Consider that no one in this country would run much risk of arrest, never mind charge, never mind conviction, never mind anything more than the most derisory sentence, for what has long been the illegal activity of foxhunting, to which the Police act as escorts, arresting only anyone who might seek to obstruct this criminality or to object to it. Consider that no one other than a Premier League

footballer, and even then probably only one from the "wrong" club, would run any risk of arrest or prosecution for "digital penetration" of a 15-year-old girl who had, furthermore, been out drinking with the complete impunity of everyone from her parents to the relevant licensees. Consider that no one other than a Minister of Religion, or possibly a teacher, would run any risk of arrest or prosecution for any kind of sexual activity with a 15-year-old boy. Consider that the CPS has claimed to have insufficient evidence to prosecute people who openly admit to having filled in their 2015 General Election forms incorrectly in such numbers as to have affected the overall result. Consider that, 10 years ago, the CPS claimed to have insufficient evidence to charge Tony Blair with the sale of peerages, even though he had done everything short of advertise them in Exchange and Mart. Consider an awful lot of things about Tony Blair. And think on.

FACE OF THE FUTURE

by John Jones

FREE ELECTRICITY? NUCLEAR FUSION and ALTERNATIVES

The search for limitless and “free” electricity began in earnest in the 1950’s, with hopes pinned on Nuclear Fusion. This can theoretically provide much cheaper alternatives than is currently offered by nuclear fission and fossil fuels.

Three methods for generating the electricity that boils our kettles and turns the wheels of industry that exist at the current time: The first on the scene was Fossil Fuels - coal, gas, wood, and oil. The burning of fossil fuels creates a large amount of carbon dioxide, which leads to an increase in atmospheric temperature. Fossil fuel companies, shareholders, and pundits, like Trump, often deny this, though the heating effect of carbon dioxide in an illuminated gaseous medium like the atmosphere is demonstrable in the laboratory with ease.

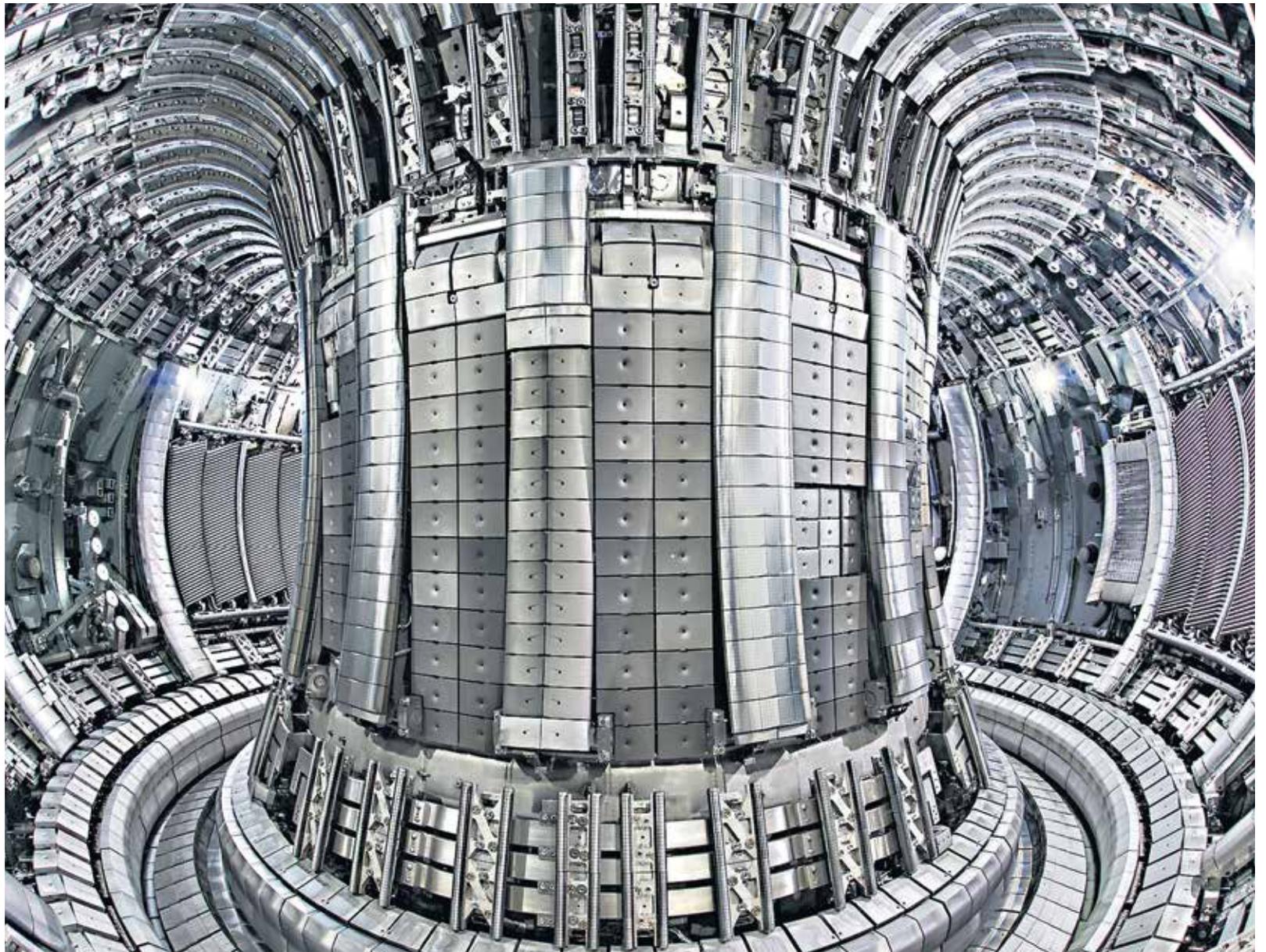
Renewables (wind, tidal, solar power, etc) also offer a promising alternative. Solar power is the fastest growing energy supply source. Clean, urban “decentralised” energy creation using rooftop solar panels is gaining popularity as a vision for the future.

Nuclear Fission (not the same as Nuclear Fusion), is still popular, but its use of radioactive uranium or thorium and the threat from large amounts of radioactive by-products is slowly but surely killing the industry off. Germany is turning toward Renewables and abandoning its nuclear alternative, though politically pragmatic issues prevent it from abandoning its locally resourced fossil fuel, coal.

Death of the combustion engine?

Meanwhile, China is putting all its automotive research money into building electrically driven cars, having abandoned research into the combustion engine! But how will this electricity be generated? Russian gas appears as the immediately available option. Russia and China have recently signed a massive deal to that effect.

Some countries already offer their citizens free electricity and use fossil fuels to create it. Libya, a country whose population had enjoyed the highest standard of living in Africa, had free electricity until



NATO and their western-backed “freedom fighters” (which includes the “Manchester Fighters” linked to the Manchester Arena bombing) destroyed that country to pave the way for western political and corporate interests.

Politically unaligned Turkmenistan also has free electricity and, as it happens, many oil-fields and business interests with the east. Like Libya, this stable country is now, sadly, being demonised by western human rights organisations as yet another predictable prelude, we must presume, for a planned destructive fragmentation and exploitation of the country by western corporate interests.

Fusion - the future?

While the world might theoretically survive through its modest energy demands on limitless Renewables alone, Nuclear Fusion offers limitless and abundant energy. The major problem with fusion is the difficulty in creating a reactor that works. The first breakthrough in reactor design came with the Russian Tokamak, which contains

high temperature gas (plasma) with super-magnets.

Nuclear Fusion is a process where energy release occurs when two atoms combine to make one. The standard model deploys hydrogen atoms. These are collided at high temperatures, tens of millions of degrees, and turned into helium. It promises unlimited cheap-ish energy because the raw material - deuterium (a form of hydrogen) - is found

everywhere i.e. it can be taken from sea water (generally fusion reactions use deuterium). The fusion of two deuterium atoms, or one deuterium atom and another form of hydrogen “tritium”, creates helium and energy in the form of high frequency light, or gamma rays. The energy comes from loss of the force that causes protons (as deuterium) to repel each other.

Recent Developments

The problem with the deuterium-tritium reaction is that it creates neutrons which shoot off and create radioactive elements and other radioactive particles. To counter this, a new company is investigating the possibility of colliding hydrogen with boron to create two atoms of helium with no residual and dangerous neutron by-products.

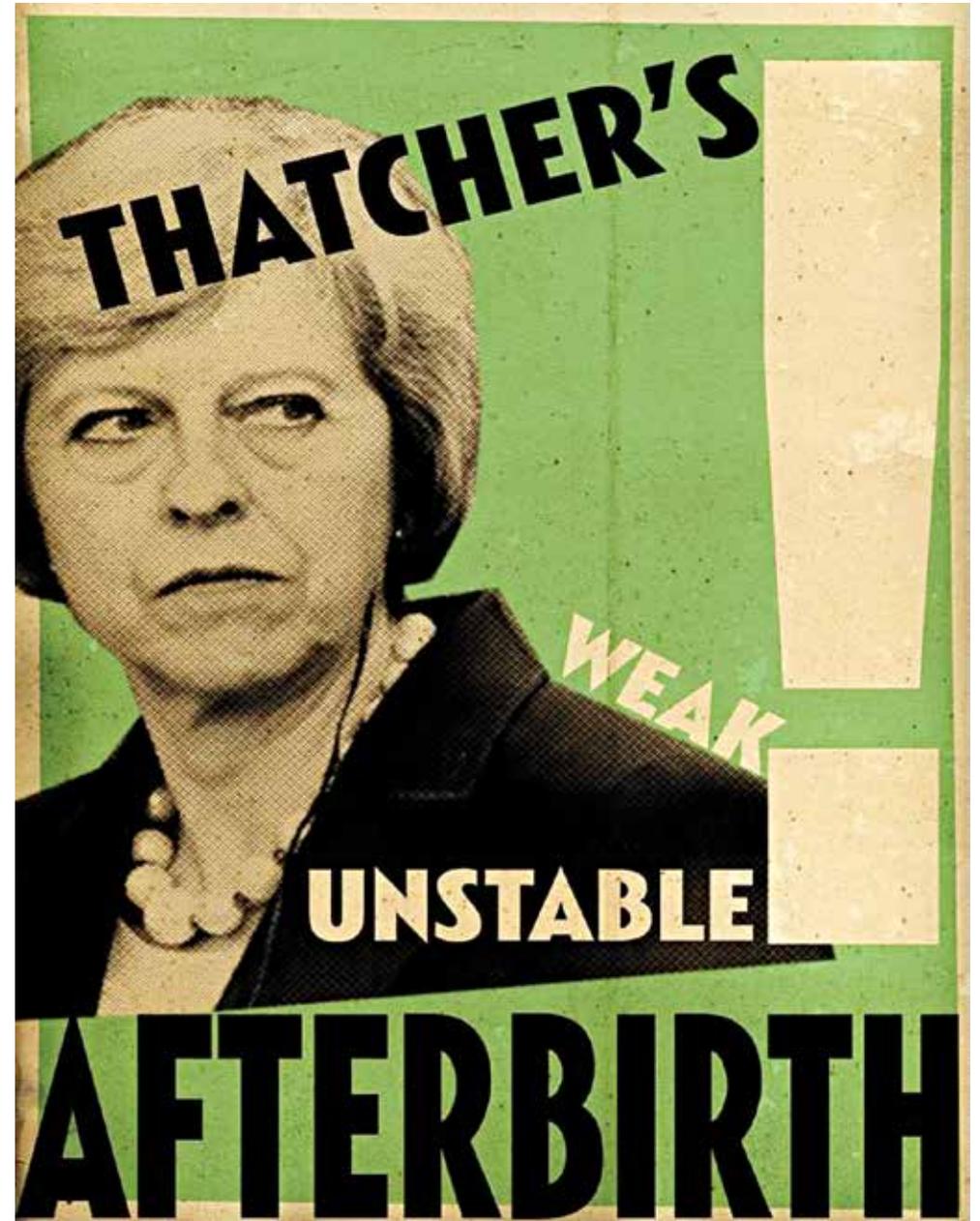
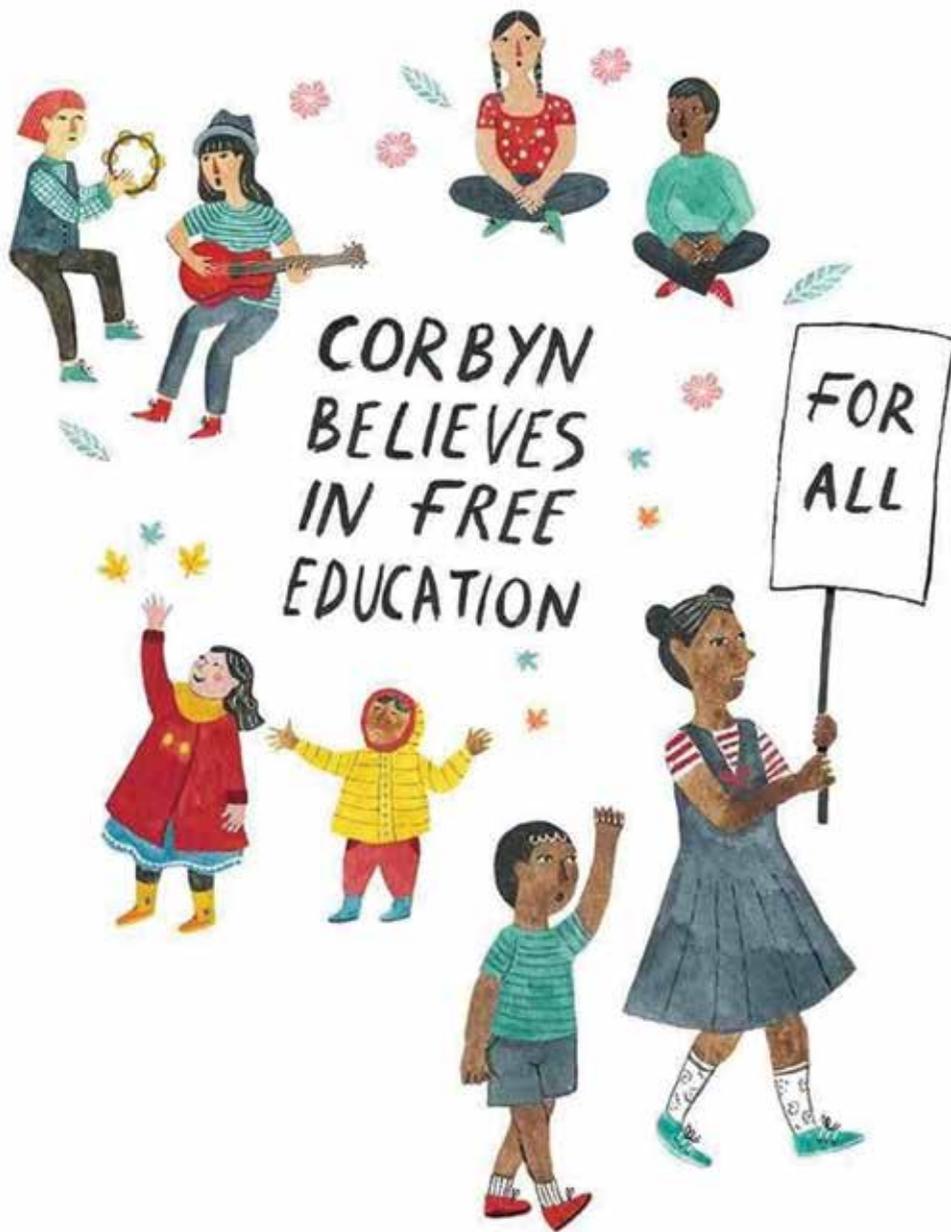
Their machine is based on the Russian Tokamak design and forms a ball of superheated gas—at about 10 million degrees Celsius—and holds it steady for a 5 milliseconds “lifetime” without decaying away, longer than has been achieved so far. 5 milliseconds is a long time

and moves us closer to building commercial nuclear fusion reactors. Particle physicist Burton Richter of Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, who sits on a board of advisers to Tri Alpha, says, “They’ve succeeded finally in achieving a lifetime limited only by the power available to the system.”

A \$20 billion International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) is also under construction in France by an international collaboration, and the U.S. Department of Energy is building their \$4 billion National Ignition Facility (NIF) in Livermore, California. Their reactors are based on the Tokamak design, also. Other designs are in the pipeline. One is to bombard small pellets of hydrogen with laser beams to create the temperatures necessary for fusion to work.

While nuclear fusion offers limitless energy with little environmental impact - once they get it to work - political and corporate interests will, I am sure, rock the boat and kill millions until fossil fuels run out altogether. One hopes that fusion will also tackle the recent problem of growing alcohol/fuel crops at the expense of food production.





CONSERVITUDE

in this constituency by voting

LABOUR

#EndToryRule



Theresa May

FORMER PRIME MINISTER - UK

Neglecting the Homeless

FORMER ACTIVE IRA MEMBER SERVING AS TORY PARTY COUNCILLOR

By Tom Pride

A former active member of the IRA is now an active member of the Tory Party despite admitting she once celebrated the deaths of British soldiers and even civilians killed in terrorist acts:

Maria Gatland - once known as Maria McGuire - is now a Conservative Party councillor in Croydon after being re-elected in 2014.

Ms Gatland was briefly suspended

ed by the Tories in 2008 once her past was revealed but after an «internal investigation» she was then openly re-admitted into the party.

Unsurprisingly, there is no mention of the fact she was an active IRA member on the Croydon Conservatives webpage:

I need hardly point out how this fact highlights the extreme hypocrisy on show by both the Tory Party and the UK press during this election.

A little more about your local team



Cllr Maria Gatland

Maria Gatland has lived and worked in Croham Ward for almost 30 years. During that time she helped run the family business and cared for her husband during his long illness. Maria was elected to Croydon Council in 2002. During that ten years she held the post of Shadow Cabinet Member for Education and then Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, kick-starting the improvements in education for young people in Croydon. She chaired Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee from 2009/2010. Quality of care for patients in hospital is a passionate interest. Following her reelection in 2010 she was appointed Chair of Licensing Committee one of four major Council committees. In 2002 she was one of the founding members of the Friends of Croham Hurst Woods and chairs its committee and recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of FCHW. The protection and care of Croydon's green spaces is of huge importance to her. She sat on the committee for many years. Animal welfare is a current priority for Maria. She has three rescued animals, two of which she has worked very hard to support and care for. Maria was so grateful for the tremendous support of the local community during a difficult time in December 2008, when details of her husband's illness became known. She was elected to stand again as a candidate, and was supported by ward members and to be re-elected as a councillor. Maria has many friends and is a very active member of the local community. She is a keen reader, enjoys reading, theatre, walking and yoga. Maria was delighted to be elected to represent Croham Hurst in 2014 to represent Croham Hurst.



"I agree with the shooting of British soldiers and believe that the more who are killed the better."

Maria Gatland
Conservative

Families and... Shadow Cabinet...

According to former IRA activist Danny Morrison, senior Tories secretly met IRA leaders in 1977 - when the terrorist organisation was at the height of its bombing campaign:

Danny Morrison is famous for coining the phrase 'Armalite and ballot box' to describe the Provisional IRA's then strategy of pur-

suing armed struggle while at the same time Sinn Féin contested elections.

Douglas Hurd is one of the Conservative Party's most senior elder statesmen and later became Home Secretary under Thatcher.

Hurd's meeting with the IRA would have taken place at the

height of the IRA's military campaign which involved murders of British soldiers as well as civilians.

It would also have been just a short time after a 15-month-old baby boy was killed in a car bomb explosion planted by the IRA at Harmin Park, Glengormley in January 1977.

Jonathan Fletcher In Conversation with ANDREW GWYNNE

Andrew Gwynne is the Labour Candidate for Denton and Reddish, and prior to the General Election being called was a member of Jeremy Corbyn's shadow cabinet as a shadow minister without portfolio, before being asked to manage the Labour Party General Election Campaign. So I caught up with him on the campaign trail to have a chat.

Jonathan: Andrew you are a shadow cabinet minister and the General Election Campaign manager, but what influenced you to join the Labour Party?

Andrew: I joined the Labour Party aged 17 having grown up in Thatcher's Britain and seeing first hand the rising inequality and injustice in society. For me, the Labour Party spoke for my own values of equality of opportunity.

Jonathan: What do you think is your proudest achievement in Politics?

Andrew: I could list big physical achievements, like having my old crumbling secondary school rebuilt, but in reality it's helping people that counts.

One woman sticks in my mind.



I joined the Labour Party aged 17 having grown up in Thatcher's Britain and seeing first hand the rising inequality and injustice in society

I fought tooth and nail to get her the treatment she needed for her breast cancer, which the local Trust had refused to fund. She came back to an advice surgery years later (about something different) and told me she thought I'd saved her life.

Jonathan: If you could give grassroots members one tip to campaign effectively for a Labour Victory what is it?

Andrew: Get out on the doorstep (or phones) and speak to voters. The strength of the Labour Party is in its membership.

Jonathan: Is there one particu-

lar Labour policy you are proud of and what is it?

Andrew: The NHS is the obvious one from that great 1945 Attlee government, but there are many others more recently, including the National Minimum Wage; a Labour policy for 100 years but only implemented in 1997. It's made a real difference to millions of people. Now let's make it a real living wage!

Jonathan: Finally if you could choose a campaign song what would it be?

Andrew: Don't stop thinking about tomorrow - because the moment we do, we live in our past. Be proud of our past, for sure, but we must always remain relevant to the next generation.

Jonathan: Well thank you very much Andrew for taking time out of your hectic campaigning schedule to talk to us. Good luck with your campaign.

THERESA'S U-TURN

By Ian Hodson

Despite saying that there 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 programme 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 blind-side 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 reign to lay waste to the country and make the rich even richer in process, claiming that it's the 'will of the people'. The Prime Minister is showing neither courage, nor leadership. Like David Cameron before her, she's playing political games to cover her own backside and 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's as good as won for Theresa May and that it'll be a landslide victory. They'll 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 aren't a reflection of public

opinion, they're designed to shape and influence it 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'll 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, re-nationalising the railways, scrapping zero-hours contracts, free school dinners for all children, a programme 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's 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 and 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 an admirable job on the opposition front benches. The UK under Corbyn wouldn't 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.





By Chris Stone

How do you know you don't like him? Have you met him? Have you spoken to him? Did he come round to your house and kick your dog?

No. You saw him on the telly. He was bit scruffy and he didn't know how to do his tie up properly. He didn't bow his head enough at the cenotaph. He didn't sing the national anthem. What else do you know about him really?

You like his policies. You want railways and other utilities back in public hands. You don't see why foreign-based state-owned rail companies should be taking profits from our subsidised rail system. You want to see our Health Service properly funded. You don't want to see our nurses using food banks. You think that corporations that use our infrastructure should be properly taxed. You are against tax havens and tax cuts for the rich. You are fed up with foreign wars.

But you don't like Jeremy Corbyn.

Shall I tell you a secret? We don't live in a democracy. You think it's one person, one vote and that the will of the majority should prevail? It's not. You get your vote, your thirty seconds of choice, between the man with the red rosette and the man with the blue rosette, but it's the will of the most well off that prevails. Power resides in the hands of those who have the most

wealth, and governments do their bidding, not yours. So the choices you get are the choices between one set of wealthy people's priorities and another, between one brand of neo-liberalism and another: between the blue Tories and the red Tories, Tory heavy and Tory lite. Your choices don't come into it.

But you don't like Jeremy Corbyn.

We've had relentless negativity about him since he first appeared on the scene. Why would that be? Maybe it's because he's offering you a real choice. For the first time in a generation, those are your priorities being set out before you, as a set of policies, not those of the

wealthy elite. The same policies brought to you by the 1945 Labour government, and by governments across the Scandinavian world. Not extremist policies: Social Democratic policies. Policies that are known to work. So, unable to attack the policies, they attack the man.

It's been non-stop, day-in and day-out, since he first won the Labour leadership, from every branch of the establishment. From the BBC, from the Guardian, from the government, from members of the Labour Party, those whose career trajectory has been knocked off track. From the Daily Mail and the Sun. Is it any wonder you don't like him, really? If the BBC told you

that cornflakes were bad for you, and repeated this message every day for two years, chances are you wouldn't like cornflakes either.

A friend of mine asked me why the Labour Party didn't pick a more charismatic leader, a more handsome leader, someone who looked good on the telly?

That's because we were fed up with Tory lite. We were fed up with only getting the choice between one brand of neo-liberalism and another. We were fed up with being told that if you didn't pick the policies that suited the wealthy elite, you wouldn't get into power. But what's the point of power without principles? Tony Blair got us into

power. He was handsome, charismatic and he looked good on telly, but look where he took us: into an illegal war in Iraq that has caused devastation across the Middle East, and terrorism across the world.

And meanwhile, Theresa May is refusing to debate with Corbyn, refusing to meet the public and refusing to take un-vetted questions from journalists. She's being sold to us like a commodity, like a soap powder brand or a type of washing up liquid. Strong and stable, strong and stable. Hands that do dishes. It's an advertising slogan not a political platform. How many of you know what her actual policies are?

So this is my appeal to you. So you don't like Jeremy Corbyn. Fair enough. But let's see what the choices are at this election. Let's hear a debate. Don't let Theresa May get away without answering questions.

We want a TV debate between the two leaders to see who is genuinely strong and stable and whose policies we really can agree with. We want to see what the choices are.

Isn't that the least we can ask?

So you don't like Jeremy Corbyn

For the first time in a generation, those are your priorities being set out before you, as a set of policies, not those of the wealthy elite.

CHRISTOPHERJAMESSTONE.
WORDPRESS.COM

Jeremy Corbyn's policies

- Abolition of Tuition Fees
- Renationalisation of British Rail
- Kick profit makers out of our NHS
- Build 1 million new homes over 5 years
- Abolish Zero Hour Contracts
- A National Education Service
- More taxes on the very wealthiest
- Break up the big 6 Energy Companies
- More investment in Mental Health
- A green economy creating 1 million jobs





CLASSIC SONGS

The Word

The Beatles

*Say the word and you'll be free
Say the word and be like me
Say the word I'm thinking of
Have you heard the word is love?
It's so fine, it's sunshine
It's the word, love
In the beginning, I misunderstood
But now I've got it, the word is good
Spread the word and you'll be free
Spread the word and be like me
Spread the word I'm thinking of
Have you heard the word is love?
It's so fine, it's sunshine
It's the word, love
Every where I go I hear it said
In the good and bad books that I have read
Say the word and you'll be free
Say the word and be like me
Say the word I'm thinking of
Have you heard the word is love?
It's so fine, it's sunshine
It's the word, love*

Released in 1965 on Rubber Soul, The Word found The Beatles singing for the first time about love as a notional concept. It was a turning point in their writing, marking a transition between early songs such as She Loves You, and the psychedelic era's belief that All You Need Is Love.

It sort of dawned on me that love was the answer, when I was younger, on the Rubber Soul album. My first expression of it was a song called The Word. The word is 'love', in the good and the bad books that I have read, whatever, wherever, the word is 'love'. It seems like the underlying theme to the universe.

John Lennon

Anthology

The lyrics displayed an almost religious fervour, with Lennon and McCartney acting as evangelists for their new revelation about love.

*In the beginning, I misunderstood
But now I've got it, the word is good...*

Now that I know what I feel must be right

I'm here to show everybody the light

The Word demonstrated The Beatles' increasing awareness of their power as spokesmen and figureheads. This was developed especially by Lennon, in 1966's Rain ('Can you hear me?'; 'I

can show you') and his later political songs.

The song was a collaboration between Lennon and McCartney, and began as an attempt to write a song based around a single note.

We smoked a bit of pot, then we wrote out a multicoloured lyric sheet, the first time we'd ever done that. We normally didn't smoke when we were working. It got in the way of songwriting because it would just cloud your mind up - 'Oh, shit, what are we doing?' It's better to be straight. But we did this multicoloured thing.

Paul McCartney

Many Years From Now, Barry Miles

Lennon later allowed Yoko Ono to give the lyric sheet to John Cage as a birthday present. It was later reproduced in Cage's book Notations, a collection of scores

from modern music.

Elements from The Word were combined with Drive My Car and What You're Doing, for a sequence on the 2006 album Love.

The Word was written together, but it's mainly mine. You read the words, it's all about - gettin' smart. It's the marijuana period. It's love, it's the love-and-peace thing. The word is 'love', right?

John Lennon

All We Are Saying, David Sheff
In the studio

The Word was recorded in a session beginning at 9pm on 10 November 1965, finishing at 4am the following morning.

It took just three takes to perfect the rhythm track. Onto this were overdubbed harmony vocals, piano by McCartney, a harmonium part performed by George Martin, and maracas played by Starr.

Written by: Lennon-McCartney

Recorded: 10 November 1965

Producer: George Martin

Engineer: Norman Smith

Released: 3 December 1965 (UK), 6 December 1965 (US)

John Lennon: vocals, rhythm guitar

Paul McCartney: vocals, bass, piano

George Harrison: vocals, lead guitar

Ringo Starr: drums, maracas

George Martin: harmonium

Available on:

Rubber Soul

Love

JOSEPHINE BAKER WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Josephine was born on 3rd June 1906 to mother Carrie, a daughter of former slaves. Her birth as Freda Jayne McDonald is shrouded in mystery. Although she recognised Eddie Carson, who performed with Carrie in a song and dance act, he is generally felt not to be her biological father. Her foster son researched hospital records and found Carrie gave birth in a hospital and was there 6 weeks. The assumption was that this could only have been paid for by Carrie's employer at the time, she worked for a family of German descent.

Her early life in the mean streets of St. Louis were tough, though she learnt a love performance travelling to shows with Eddie and Carrie. Her relationship with her mum soured after Eddie died and Carrie married again. Josephine had only minimal education and worked for a time, aged 8, as a live-in domestic to white families. She lived rough for a time but found work as a waitress aged 13, supplementing her income from street dance (busking). Married at 13, divorced and married again at 15 to Willie Baker. She divorced him too but retained Baker as her stage name.

By now her talent had been spotted and she was recruited into a vaudeville dance group, her career had begun in earnest! She left America aged 19 to further her career in France. Having toured with a dance group for a year Baker landed a job as an exotic dancer with the Folies Bergère. Here she gained notoriety performing the "Danse sauvage" wearing a costume consisting of a skirt made of a string of artificial bananas.

Her routines coincided with a renewed interest in Europe of non-Western forms of art, including

African. After a short while, Baker became the most successful American entertainer working in France. Ernest Hemingway called her "the most sensational woman anyone ever saw."

Now with the help of manager and lover, Pepe Albertino she developed into an all round entertainer being a singer and featuring in three films. After months of work with a vocal coach she became, in Shirley Bassey's words, transformed from a 'petite danseuse sauvage' into 'la grande diva manifique'.

Baker never attained the equivalent reputation in America. The prejudice and poor revues when she performed there caused her to return Europe heartbroken. She became a legal citizen of France and gave up her American citizenship.

Her return to France saw France declare war on Germany and Baker recruited into the Deuxième Bureau (French intelligence). Her work enabled her to travel freely and mix socially with the enemy. She passed on valuable information in invisible ink on her sheet music. She moved to French colonies in North Africa using her poor health as a reason but really it was to continue helping the Resistance. She suffered a miscarriage and developed an infection, needed a hysterectomy with complications. After a partial recovery she and her friends organised free entertainment for French, British and American forces in N. Africa. She was awarded the honorary rank of lieutenant in the Free French Air Force and after the war the Croix de Guerre and the Légion d'honneur by General de Gaulle.

Baker was awarded the honorary rank of lieutenant in the Free French Air Force for raising money for the French war effort.

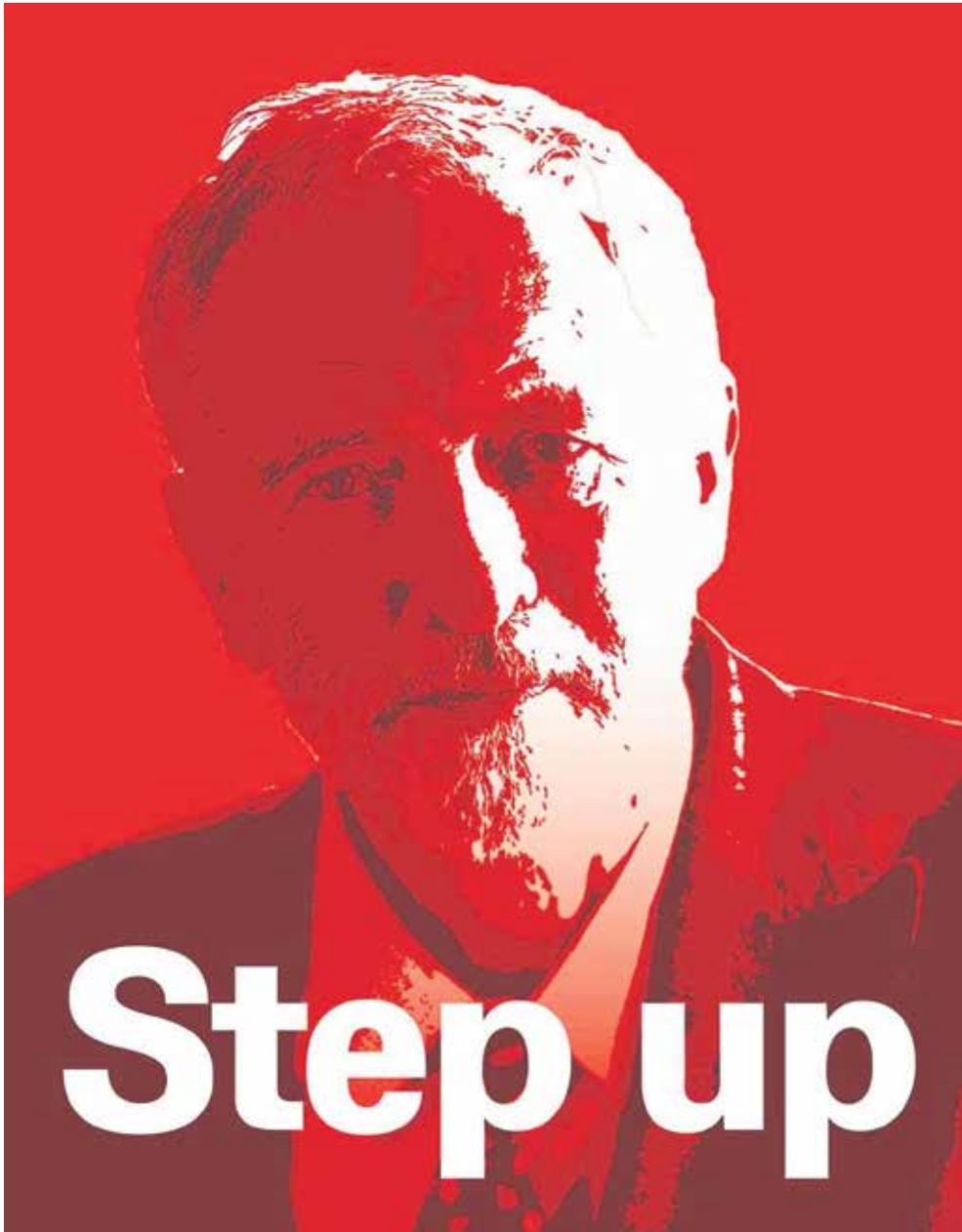
After the war she returned for a time to the States and was honoured by a parade of 100,000 in Harlem on receiving the NAACP's "Woman of the Year" (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) having demanded non-segregation of her audiences. The political climate was such that she was accused of communist sympathies and had to return to France for before she was allowed back nearly ten years later. She continued to fight segregation and racial discrimination and a confrontation with the management of the Stork Club was seen by actress, Grace Kelly who supported her Baker's protests and became her close friend as did her future husband Prince Ranier of Monaco.

She spoke at the March on Washington at the side of Martin Luther King and after his assassination was asked by his widow Coretta to take her husband's place as leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Baker declined saying her children were "too young to lose their mother" During Baker's work with the Civil Rights Movement, she began adopting children, 12 in all, forming a family she referred to as "The Rainbow Tribe". Baker wanted to prove that "children of different ethnicities and religions could still be brothers."

It was fitting that she she died, aged 68, on 12 April 1975, 4 days after a revue in Paris celebrating her 50 years as a performer. It was financed by Prince Ranier, Princess Grace, and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and watched by a host of celebrities.

Truly Inspirational!

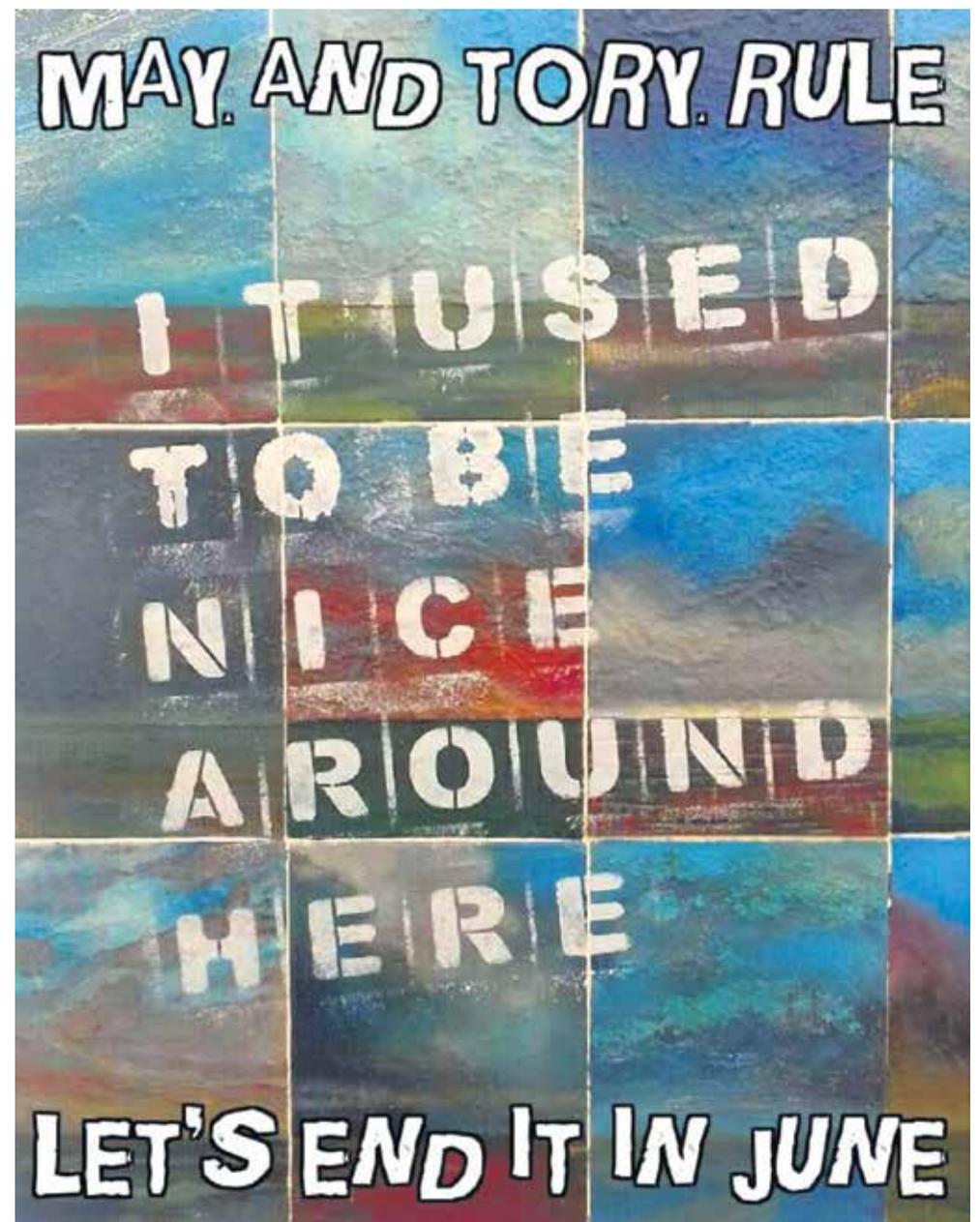
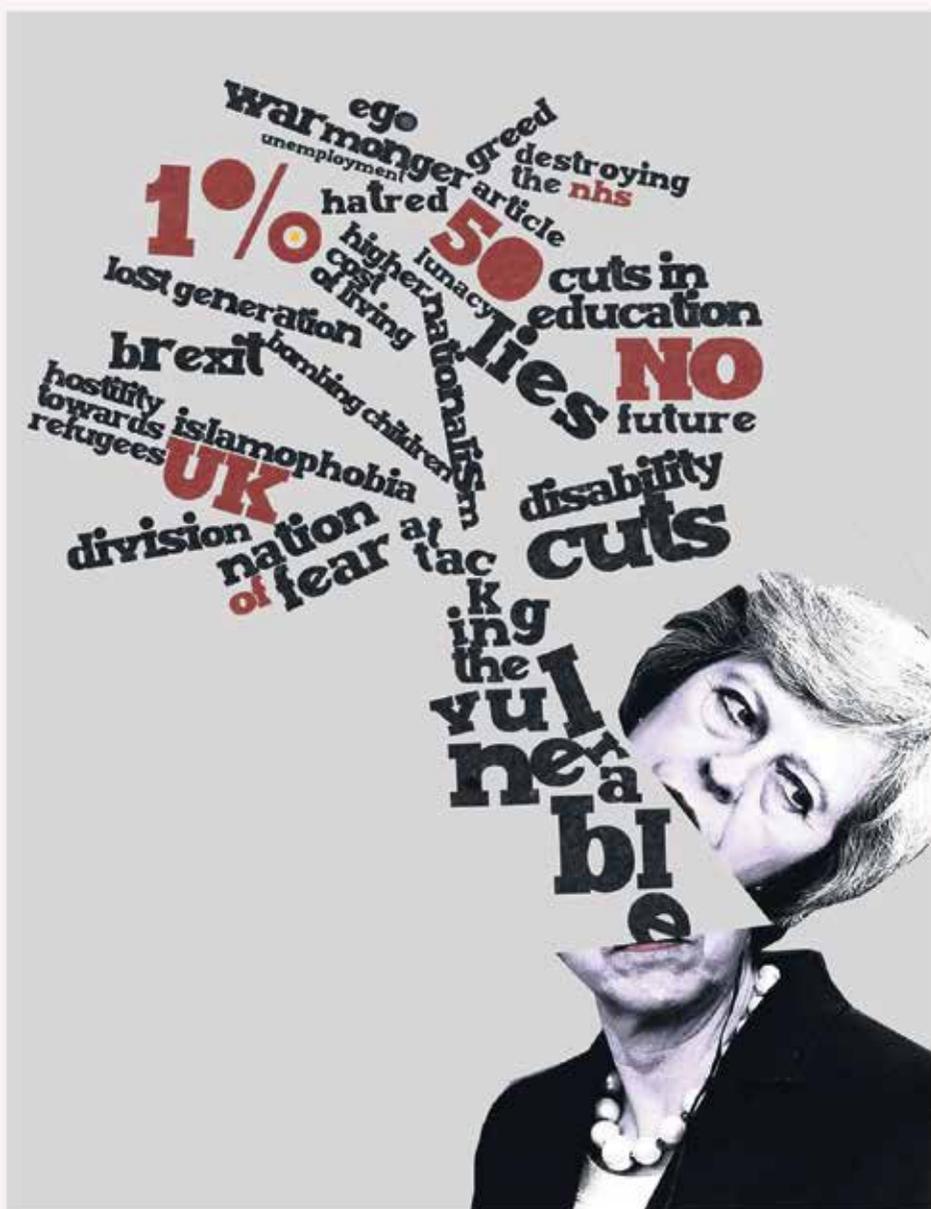




AFZAL KHAN

Is confident of a win in the Gorton constituency as well as an overall majority for Labour and told THE WORD that he sees himself as very much a supporter of the Jeremy Corbyn side of the party.

Afzal has an unusual back history for a prospective M.P. He came to Britain as a child and worked at a number of manual blue collar jobs after leaving school. These included being a bus driver. He later joined the Police force before going back into full time education and qualifying as a solicitor. Afzal has been a member of the European Parliament since 2014. It is no secret that Galloway and Khan do not get on in a personal level and when THE WORD attended the hustings in Gorton for what was then a bye election we found it as acrimonious between them





By Mara Levenskuhn

Update: Since this interview taken May the 15th, Sweden has withdrawn the accusations against Assange, making it more obvious that what George Galloway said here about Assange's case is true and fair.

One accusation I keep stumbling against is your so called sexism. I would like to clear this out for the socialist readers. I BELIEVE SEXISM AND AND IDENTITY POLITICS IS FREQUENTLY USED AS A WEAPON AGAINST DISSIDENTS, SO I'D LIKE TO CLEAR THIS MISCONCEPTION FOR THE "WORD" READERSHIP.

Lisa Nandy, the MP coordinating Labour's campaign, said constituents in the seat left vacant after the death of Sir Gerald Kaufman last month, "deserve better than a man who has described the sexual assault of women as 'bad sexual etiquette'".

Even Corbynistas seem to buy into this story, although in an ideal position to know how manipulative the media is. People might be disenchanted with the mainstream media in many regards, but many among them still believe the official narrative that Assange is a rapist, and that you are a rapist apologist because of your defence of Julian Assange, by describing the allegations of sexual offense as bad etiquette.

Q: WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SUCH ASSERTIONS BASED ON YOUR DEFENSE OF ASSANGE, TO PEOPLE WHOSE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE COMES MAINLY FROM THE MAIN PRESS?

Indeed, Corbynistas above anyone else should know MSM is an organised conspiracy against the truth. Why would you accept the traducing of me when they reject the traducing of Jeremy Corbyn so comprehensively? The people who attack me on these identity politics issues are the very people who attack Corbyn. It surprises me there are some people on the left who have not yet fully accepted that Julian Assange is victim of a gigantic conspiracy. I'm not myself a conspiracy theorist but that doesn't mean there are no conspiracies. Assange was set up for the purpose of getting him to the US where he'd spend the rest of his days in a dungeon like Chelsea Manning would've, if she wasn't released by presidential pardon. All the rest is detail. He raped no one. The alleged victims have stated that he raped no one. The Swedish authorities allowed him to leave the country because he was not wanted for any sexual offense. I will defend Assange 'til my last breath. I believe in him, I know him well and I know what he's done will stand the test of time, as it's of historic importance.

As to the issue of rape, quite

clearly sex without consent is rape and a grave and serious crime. No means no, in popular parlance. But Julian's defence of the "alleged allegations" (because these allegations are now denied by the women), was that he had a reasonable belief that they consented to consensual sex. Which is the agreed defence available to any accused in Britain and Sweden, by law; if someone has a reasonable belief then they are entitled to that defence.

Q: BUT IN SWEDEN SIMPLY NOT WEARING A CONDOM IS DEFINED AS RAPE BY LAW, THAT'S WHAT THEY ACCUSED HIM OF...

Well, that's what it was said they said—having to use this torturous phrasing because these allegations are now denied by the women themselves.

Q: DO YOU THINK THE WOMEN TRIED TO SET HIM UP? THERE ARE TEXTS FROM ONE WOMAN TO ANOTHER PROPOSING THE SALE OF THE INFORMATION TO A LOCAL PAPER, NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF THE POLICE.

At this delicate stage—and it's a very delicate stage, I don't want to go further into the motives of allegations because this moved, long ago, into the realm of state and interstate politics. If the Swedish authorities truly wanted to question him on allegations sexual offences, they could have done so in London, but they refused to do so, even though with many other alleged criminals they have done it—even murder cases, or they could have said "come to Sweden to be questioned and we guarantee no extradition". Their refusal to do either of these to me makes it abundantly obvious that this is an attempt to get Julian to the US where a grand jury has already prepared an indictment grand trial.. he'd go straight into an unfair trial which is not about the use of a condom but against the exposure of US war crimes.

Q: WHAT DO YOU SAY TO JEREMY CORBYN'S REMARKS THAT YOUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST NAZ SHAH WAS AP- PALLING?

He never made it.

But the press reported it.

Lots of things Jeremy Corbyn never said were reported. I had 20 conversations with him and I can say to you he never said it.

Now, in an article for Progress, Dawn Butler, who nominated Corbyn for the Labour leadership (later voting for Andy Burnham), has gone public with her communication with the Labour leader. "I have spoken to Jeremy Corbyn and he has told me he is not in favour of letting Galloway back in," she writes.

Also false.

Q: I CERTAINLY HOPE SO. DO YOU THINK HE'LL WELCOME YOU BACK TO THE PARTY IF LABOUR IS IN GOVERNMENT THIS ELECTION?

If I'm elected as soon as I've sworn in I'll go and sit besides him



in Parliament. No one can stop us. Not the NEC, not anyone.

The NEC's writ does not extend to MPs who wish to take the Labour party whip. Complex esoteric point, perhaps, one that needs to be made nevertheless.

Q: ISN'T RUNNING AGAINST A LABOUR MP HURTING JEREMY'S CHANCES OF BECOMING PM?

That would be an argument if this was a by election and not a general election. If this wasn't now a general election, the argument that the defeat of labour under Jer-

emy Corbyn by me in the context of a by election would have had some way... which I carefully calculated. If Sam Wheeler, (the Corbyn candidate) were selected I wouldn't have this conversation with you now.

But when Watson and Vaz rigged the selection with the explicit purpose of further undermining Jeremy Corbyn, that argument went out the window. Now in a general election it doesn't matter, because, he either wins or loses; but if he wins, that I defeated Afzal Khan doesn't matter, he'll have my vote... if he loses, my vote will be

stronger. All of us know there will be a coup by Watson and co, they will seek to overthrow Jeremy and he'll have an extra MP in me defending him. If it was Afzal it would be one extra MP to undermine him.

Q: YOU CLAIMED AFZAL KHAN WOULD STAB JEREMY IN THE BACK. AFZAL RESPONDED IN A PUBLIC MEETING AT THE KLONDYKE ("JC 4 CORBYN") THAT HE WOULD NOT STAB HIM IN THE BACK. WHAT EVIDENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT HE WOULD BETRAY JEREMY?



I know he's Tom Watson and Vaz' candidate, which is undisputable, if he wasn't, they wouldn't have put him up; they wouldn't have rigged the short list if they were doing so for a Corbynite.

Q: YOU DON'T THINK THE PRO CORBYN FACTION OF THE NEC MIGHT HAVE MANAGED TO PUT A CORBYNITE IN?

As soon as the five person panel was surgically altered in one day, when Rebecca Longbailey was taken off the selection committee and replaced by Vaz, making a three Jeremy Corbyn majority into

a three Corbyn minority, that dye was cast. What conceivable reason could there be for taking Longbailey, a Manchester MP, off the panel, if not to alter its political balance? And to replace her with the discredited figure of Keith Vaz, to me it's screamingly obvious what was going on, and to Sam Wheeler also.

Q: SO YOU THINK AFZAL'S SUPPORT OF PALESTINE IS JUST A FACADE?

Not seen much of it. I understand he did have something on social media about that. We can no longer tell because he wiped it off.

INVOLVEMENT IN CONSTITUENCY

Q: PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICS TENDS TO BE SLIGHTLY MYOPIC, IN THAT THEY VOTE FOR THE PARTY THAT IS BEST AT FILLING POTHoles OR THE CANDIDATE THAT GIVES THEM NICE BIKE LANES, MISSING OUT THE BIGGER PICTURE, LIKE WAR AND A RIGGED ECONOMY. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO THOSE WHO CRITICISE YOUR CAREER AS MP ON THE GROUNDS YOU DON'T GET TOO INVOLVED IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES—NEVER PRESENT AT SURGERIES, AND SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON (ALTERNATIVE) TV?

Pack of lies. I had a surgery in Bradford every Saturday for three years. Including holidays. Every week. Packed surgery, thousands of cases. Pack of lies. It was new labour canard coined as soon as I defeated them in Bradford.

Coming of the same stable is that I've lost my seat in Glasgow and Bethnal Green. I never defended my seat in Glasgow because it was abolished, wiped off the political map. Blair expelled me in 2003 and in 2004 abolished the constituency.

That's how I ended up in Bethnal Green.

Before I stood in Bradford I announced I would stand there only once and I would make way at the end of my term for a Bengali MP. I didn't lose my seats, I didn't defend them.

The only seat I ever lost was in 2015 Bradford West and that's a whole different story.

Q: WELL, THIS IS ANOTHER REASON WHY PEOPLE ARE LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION YOU ARE A SEXIST, YOUR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST NAZ SHAH'S ACCUSATIONS, WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

I don't want to open that because my comrade Salma Yaqoob is standing against Naz Shah in Bradford West, I hope she wins and I don't want to open any old wounds that might harm her campaign.

Q: WHAT CHANCES DO YOU THINK JEREMY HAS IN THIS ELECTION? OR WHAT CHANCES ARE THERE, OF A LABOUR GOVERNMENT?

Not many chance of winning, if you mean by winning a labour

majority, that's impossible for anyone but Jesus. Election result in 2015 was so poor under Ed Miliband and that the mountain needed to be climbed is too great. The best that Jeremy Corbyn can do is head of a coalition of non Tory parties to frustrate May's ability to form government. That too has been undermined by the complete failure of the Lib Dem soufflé to rise. At the start of the campaign, everyone believed, including me, that the Lib Dems would do well, recapture seats lost in 2015, but they're going down in polls. Rather losing seats.

SNP are—very untrustworthy coalition partners, let me tell you—also going down. Tory going up in Scotland. UKIP collapsing under our eyes: down 10%. So Corbyn's chances of leading a non Tory majority are also slim. Having said that Corbyn is doing much better than the MSM imagined he would do, significantly better than Ed, Labour is at 32%, it had 29.5% still two weeks to go; he has weaknesses but he's strong at campaigning, he's extremely good at it. This is campaigning weather, this is not "will the right honourable gentleman", this is up close and personal on the streets and in communities and Jeremy is great at that and Theresa is dreadful at that, so in two weeks I expect him to continue to rise. I don't believe he can rise to win enough seats to form government, to stop May forming government, but the idea that he'd lead Labour to a landslide defeat is dead, people still repeat it, including the labour traitors, but it's clear to me he'd get a remarkably good result in the circumstances: 30% plus up to 35%. If the labour traitors had not spent two years stabbing him in the back, who knows where he'd be?

They did declare they'd rather Labour lost than win with Corbyn.

Tony Blair said that ... Peter Mandelson said he's working every day to sabotage the leader... and they're still Labour, while I am not.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK TRUE LEFTISTS CAN HOPE FOR IF WE LOSE THIS ELECTION? WHAT DO WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO APART TOTAL TYRANNY OF THE TORIES?

There won't be tyranny. Politics is a dynamic business. If Corbyn gets this result I predict, there will be a better platform to build on than any comparable left party in Europe. To compare with the French Socialist party's 6%... Melanchon is comparable to Corbyn. If you had Labour in France with Corbyn's score, he would have won.

So it's not discreditable to have 35% in a general election with a leader like Corbyn and given the extent of the fifth column activities in the party and the wall of sound media hostility. It's by no means discrediting.

Opposition will be continue to be mounted, there won't be tyranny.

There's only tyranny when there's no democracy and we still have democracy.

Tyranny is a strong word. You

as a Romanian would know.

Especially as a Romanian I would know! I don't come with rosy glasses, it may seem on the surface that there's democracy and freedom of opinion here but there isn't such a fundamental difference, because in this society, also, uncomfortable opinion can get you in pariah places, as you would know.

You have to have perspective. If this was a tyranny I wouldn't talk here to you, I wouldn't stand in an election, I wouldn't have two million followers on Twitter to communicate my message to.

There are restrictions but this is balanced in civil society with a conscientious politically educated mass that is acting as counter weight to it. If the Tories win, they can do all kind of ghastly things, but they won't be able to introduce a tyranny. They won't be able to close down the new space available to opponents.

But things like Snoopers Charter or their expert discrediting of dissidents shows they have depraved power, which Ceausescu would be jealous of!

I'm not disputing they have depraved power and they are vile and dangerous, just we have to be careful about the word. The police would love to come and close us down right now, but they can't.

Q: WHAT MEDIA DO YOU RECOMMEND?

There's an RT quote: "whatever you're watching, watch less"... read more widely. I read in the morning, online (never buy paper!), in this order: Daily Mail, Independent, Guardian. Then Morning Star, which has limitations in web presence, and then BBC and watch RT. I therefore know what's going on from different perspectives.

Ignorance is a choice now. Young people adept at tech know how to find sources.

The Canary is phenomenal, a must read every day.

These new forces by the time you'll be my age they'll be giant. The MSM will have faded away. Not a brave world in the future, but 30 years in the future. It's why I'm optimistic. Power of the ruling class is diminished and will diminish.

Q: WHY TRUST THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA?

I don't trust them. I don't trust the Daily Mail to give me the date. But I need to see what they're saying. If they're in hysterical overdrive about Corbyn's manifesto, that tells me that's what they worry about.

Don't trust the Guardian. But I need to know what they're saying.

Russia Today... although I work for and watch it, I know they are biased on France and Scottish independence.

Q: RUSSIA TODAY ALSO LIES?

Not a question of lies, but bias. RT is favourable to Scottish independence. It would suit Russian state policy if Britain were weakened. It would suit if EU were disunited.

So it seems Russian interests at this moment in time align with the survival interests of the rest of us!

A good way of putting it. RT is right most of the time for its own reasons.

How do you think it came to this plateau? I'm conditioned to have vitriolic for Russia, I grew up with a worldview where Russians were the bad guys, but shocked now that RT is flawless information and Americans are bad.

I never thought Russians were as bad as you thought. Russia had a bad period under Yeltsin, the drunken fool. But as soon as Putin came to power I knew his preoccupation was to make Russia great again and he's done that. Not being a Russian I have no particular interest in making Russia great again. I want that there isn't one great power because the more great powers there are, the less monopoly one has. I grew up knowing Americans were the bad guys. Now that Russia is much stronger, united than it was before, this produces a coincidence of interests between them and the rest of us on the left. There will come a point where that will cease to be true, it did come in the French election last week, as Russia would have preferred Le Pen to have won.

Q: WASN'T SHE PREFERABLE TO THE BANKER MACRON?

Neither Macron nor Le Pen. Melanchon. Which was his slogan. Melanchon was cheated by a place in the final ballot by a failed campaign. He would have won. I can't offer support for a fascist, with a Vichy history. Russia Today did. Yes, she's anti globalist. So were the brown shirts and the Nazi party. A lot of fascism has a lot of anti-capitalism, anti banker but that doesn't disguise the fact they were Nazis, which would have led to deportations, the trains, of foreigners, aliens. That kind of socialism is the socialism of fools.

Q: WHO DO YOU THINK PEOPLE SHOULD VOTE FOR IN WEST BROMWICH EAST?

That's the most difficult question I've been asked in this election. It's an issue, like the camel, difficult to define but easy to recognise...

Some labour MPs I could hold my nose and vote for, some for whom I could skip into ballot station to vote for, but others I simply could not vote for nor could ask others to vote for. I suspect West Bromwich is one of those, Wallasey another. Tom Watson, John Woodcock, Wes Streeting, the worst offenders, the people who never stopped attacking Corbyn, Connor McGinn, it was a whip under Corbyn and actually used his time to whip against Corbyn to organise the coup members to overthrow Corbyn, It would be impossible for me to recommend voting for them even with the tightest hold on my noose. I think that because I was for 40 years a follower of Tony Benn, I would stop short of not voting for Hillary Benn.



IT seems quite extraordinary that when the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, was recently questioned about the Manchester suicide bomber, Salman Abedi, she admitted that the authorities didn't know how many Britons had returned from fighting with 'Islamic State' or other extremist groups, and declined to say, how many times 'exclusion orders' had been used; "We have started to use them", she said. Such an admission, is astonishing, from a government that claims that Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, is 'soft on terrorism'.

What many British people will find bewildering, is how a 22-year-old Manchester man of Libyan origin, who grew up in the Whalley Range area, could have carried out such a cowardly attack. After fleeing Libya, Abadi's family, had been given political asylum in the UK. They were given housing, state benefits and their children were educated. Salman Abedi, had been a former student of Salford University.

Described as the "worse terror attack to hit northern England", many of his victims who were injured in the bombing, were innocent young-girls who had gone to the M.E.N. arena in Manchester to watch the American pop idol, Ariana Grande. Of the 22 people killed, his youngest victim, Saffie Roussos, was only eight-years-old. Another 120 people were injured, some, suffering serious life-threatening injuries.

Friends have described Salman Abedi, as:

"A young man quick to anger, who was involved in drink and drugs and supported Manchester United. A young man who found it difficult to fit in and cut a contradictory figure, who reacted violently to western sexual norms - once punching a woman for wearing a short skirt - and got into random fights."

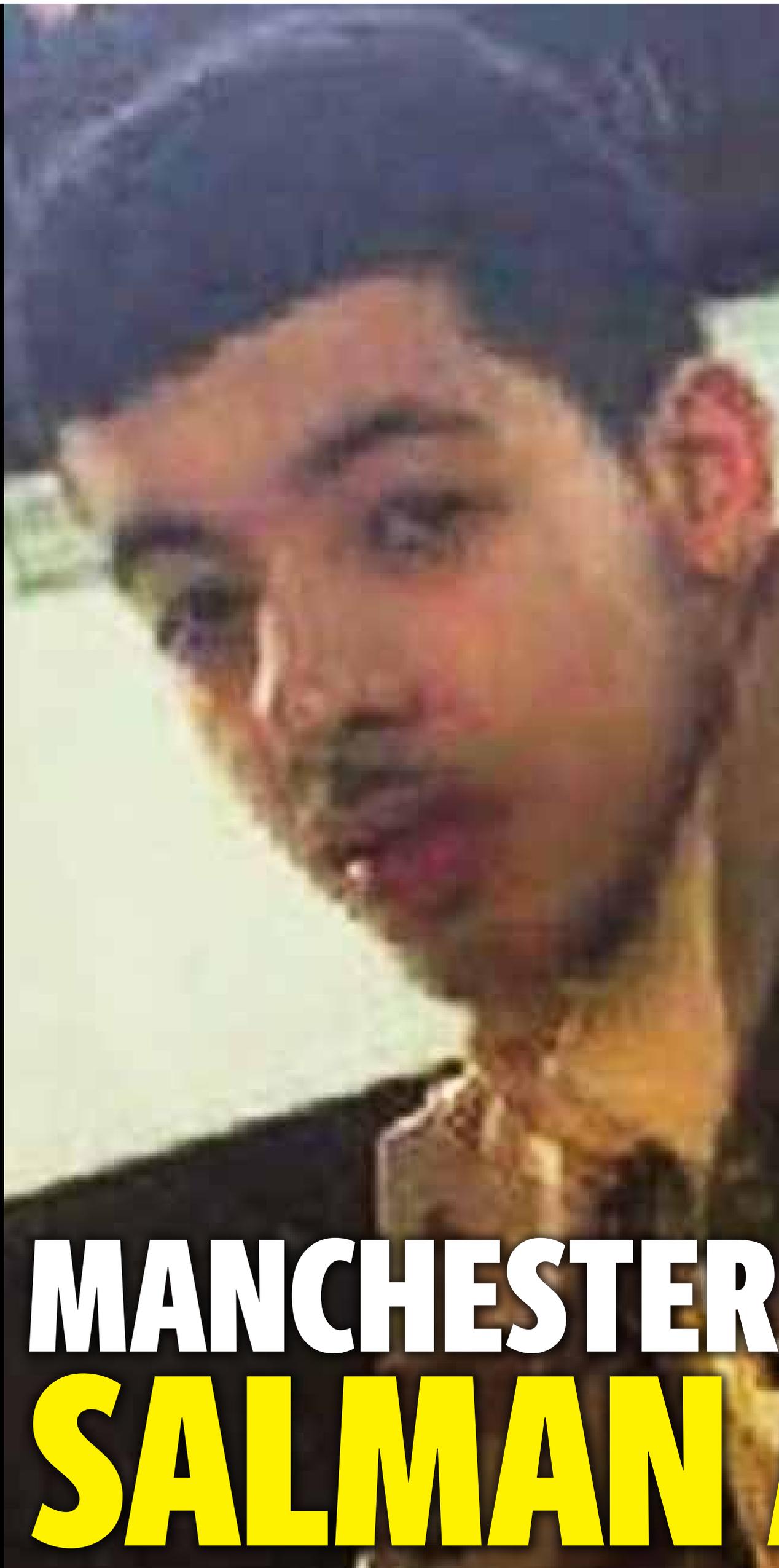
Investigators believe that Abedi, may have had help in making

the explosive device, storing the materials, and buying the chemicals. People who knew Abedi, have claimed that they do not believe that he had the 'acumen' to "formulate the terrible plan he enacted on Monday," (22nd May 2017).

Yet, it is known, that teachers and religious figures in Manchester, who knew Salman Abedi, had raised concerns about his extremist views with the authorities on multiple occasions over several years using the "Terror Hotline" and the 'PREVENT' strategy, introduced by the government. US intelligence sources also told NBC News, "that some members of his family had alerted officials and told them he was 'dangerous'. It is also known that five years ago, students at Salford University, had called the terrorism hotline after claiming that Abedi had allegedly said "being a suicide bomber was OK'.

Before his arrest, Ramadan Abedi (a.k.a. Abu Ismail), the father of Abedi, who has been in Libya since 2011, protested his son's innocence. He told the press: "We don't believe in killing innocents. This is not us." However, another son, Hashem Abadi, who was arrested in Tripoli while waiting to receive a transfer of cash from his brother Salman, is reported to have told Libyan anti-terror forces that he "Was aware of all the details of the terrorist attack," and that he and Salman, were members of 'Daesh' (ISIS). Following the attack, ISIS claimed responsibility for the Manchester bombing.

Ramadan Abedi, fought with the 'Libyan Islamic Fighting Group'(LIFG) in Libya. The group was opposed to Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, and sought to replace him with an Islamic state. It also proclaimed allegiance to Osama bin Laden. In 2004, LIFG, was classified as a terrorist organisation, when the U.S. sought to break-up 'al-Qa'ida's' network of sympathisers. On 28 May 2017, it was reported in the 'Guardian' newspaper, that "Abedi senior's Facebook page shows that he supported the 'Shura' Council, a



MANCHESTER SALMAN



BOMBER ABEDI



bitter enemy of ISIS in Libya'. The same article also claimed that earlier this year, Ramadan Abedi, had summoned Salman Abedi to Libya, because of concern about his son's "erratic behaviour" and had confiscated his passport.

Given the reports about Abedi, and the ease with which, he shuttled back and forth between Manchester and Tripoli over many years, it is extremely surprising that the security services didn't have him under closer scrutiny. He was known to the security services, but was "not one of the 3,000 people under active investigation". Some reports have suggested that he was in Libya for the uprising in 2011 and "was injured in Ajdabiya in eastern Libya while fighting for an Islamic faction." French intelligence sources have also claimed that Salman Abedi, was one of 3,500 Libyans who went to Syria to fight, an allegation that "has been played down by British intelligence." Moreover, Abedi, had travelled back to England from Libya via Turkey and Düsseldorf, just four days before the attack.

In spite of his background, Ian Hopkins, the chief constable of Greater Manchester Police (GMP), told BBC Radio Manchester that the local authorities had been unaware Abedi's 'radicalisation' and he was not known to the

PREVENT anti-radicalisation programme. He was only known to GMP because of a conviction for theft, receiving stolen goods and minor assault in 2012.

Since the bombing in Manchester, people have rightly sought explanations for why Salman Abedi, carried out the attack at the M.E.N. Arena. His sister, Jomana, told the 'Wall Street Journal' that her brother had been angered by what was happening in Syria:

"I think he saw children - Muslim children - dying everywhere, and wanted revenge. He saw explosives America drops on children in Syria and he wanted revenge. Whether he got that is between him and God."

If this was the motive that drove Salman Abedi to carry out his cowardly attack, then it seems to have been driven by a most twisted and perverted kind of 'Jihadi' logic. Few of us, cannot help but feel appalled at the suffering we have seen meted out to innocent children and Syrian civilians, by various factions fighting in the Syrian conflict. But it isn't just American and English bombs that kill Muslim children! Russian bombs and the barrel bombs of the Syrian 'Shia' Muslim leader, Bashar al-Assad, also kill Muslim children. And how many of us,

would feel, that the way to avenge the deaths of Muslim children, is by murdering other people's children in the west?

'Jihad's', like Abedi, may well feel outrage at western intervention in Muslim countries, but turn a convenient blind eye, when ISIS bomb schools, mosques and markets in those very same countries. This week, an Islamic State car bomb targeted families eating ice cream, after breaking their Ramadan fast, in the Karrada district of Baghdad, killing 17 people and wounding 32 more. This month, a bus carrying Egyptian/Coptic Christians' was attacked leaving 29 dead and 20 more injured. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack, declaring Christians in Egypt, "Our first target and favourite prey." It is a fact, that ISIS regularly target civilians, including children, Shia shrines and Christian churches.

Many on the British left, are loathe to condemn the atrocities carried out by ISIS and their adherents, and to do so, runs the risk of one being accused of 'Islamophobia'. Like the Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, and the journalist John Pilger, they feel that it's all the fault of western foreign policy and that if we didn't involve ourselves in foreign wars, these things would be less likely to happen. No doubt, groups like ISIS have benefited from the campaigns waged by western governments to overthrow the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria and have taken advantage, of the chaos, brought about by the collapse of the State of Iraq. But this, 'it's all the fault of the west' attitude, has seen some on the left, defending radical Islamist movements like ISIS, who decapitate apostates and unbelievers, enslave women, murder homosexuals and Jews, and are prepared to wipe out whole communities that will not submit to their ultra-fundamentalist and twisted interpretation of Islam. Notwithstanding, western foreign policy, it should be clear to most people who are not deluded, that groups like ISIS are 'anti-western, anti-democratic, and anti-human rights'.





THE HISTORY OF JAZZ

By Michael White

Part 1

The word 'JAZZ' seems to be an emotive word whereas POP, CLASSICAL and FOLK are readily accepted by the public without real criticism, at least that is my impression when I speak to people in general. I'd say that this is primarily due to media representation in Britain over the past 50 years particularly.

Our prime broadcaster, the BBC, had a jazz hey-day whilst Humphrey Lyttelton was still alive and presenting his Monday night jazz programme, but since his death on 25th. April, 2008, the BBC decided not to replace him. He was well-known to the general public and was the main face of jazz to the non-jazz public. There were many who could have adequately replaced him to continue with the informed style of the programme for the listeners who appreciated this style. BUT, no, this did not happen, a very good but less experienced got the job with a brief to aim the programme at a much 'younger' audience of Radio 2 listeners. Incompetence on the BBC's part, or just plain Producer-opportunism.

For me, and many others, JAZZ music and its performers represent the highest degree of artistic expression of all the types of music. Yes, I would say this, wouldn't I (!), but it is with a rational foundation to my assertion that I DO say this, not just because I may be biased! I will explain in the following paragraphs. As an aside, I do not under-rate the other types of music, and there are some unfortunate people who do not get vibes that music projects at all - in ANY form! Such people are so under-privileged, if only they could realise!

Now, down to brass tacks! Virtually all kinds of instruments are used in jazz, ranging from the plebeian banjo to the aristocratic harp. The main ones, in a rough sort of order of emergence, are the following: banjos, cornet/trumpet/flugel horns, trombones, clarinets, drums/congas/cymbals, violins, pianos, guitars and the many types of saxophones.

What IS Jazz? It is a rhythmic, melodic and swinging form of both improvised and composed music developed from its late nineteenth-century Afro-American roots. The southern states of the USA

were its main promoters with New Orleans the particularly important crucible where it was being forged into a readily recognisable style from its earlier eclectic 'Minstrel/troubadour' associations. The steam-driven showboats ferrying up and down the great Mississippi river were also crucial in the exploitation of the jazz form of music, and Promoter Fate Marable (there's a name to conjure with!) and others used the river to spread jazz from the South to the North of the States, Chicago, via St Louis and other stopping-off points.

Jelly Roll Morton (real name Ferdinand la Menthe), great jazz piano man, Orchestra Leader and Composer, always to his dying day claimed that he invented the form. Let's leave that boast in his mouth, he certainly deserves genius status, but he was also a showman, pimp and womaniser to boot. He was of mixed-race probably, whereas King Joe Oliver and his follower Louis Armstrong were comet-playing negroes and were prime innovators in a steamy New Orleans along with others who are important but whose bands are more transitory. The three mentioned by name stayed the jazz limelight for decades.

New York was certainly not unknown for bands to be recorded in its studios even quite early on, but after St. Louis, it is Chicago which attracts Oliver, Armstrong and flocks of others into its clubs and 'dives' to really promulgate the music and develop it further over a very significant period of time. New York was soon to perform the same function as Chicago as the Roaring Twenties proceeded, and then continued into the subsequent decades. Jazz had become a very profitable entertainment, and during the Prohibition times, clubs became a major cover vehicle for liquor/gangsters as well. During all these metamorphoses, the music expanded in all its glorious forms and formats, and it had spread by 1928 beyond American shores and into Europe.

Word Search Puzzle

BATTLES

- AGINCOURT
- BOSWORTH
- BULGE
- CRECY
- HASTINGS
- MARATHON
- NILE
- PELUSIUM
- READING
- THERMOPYLAE
- WAKEFIELD
- WATERLOO

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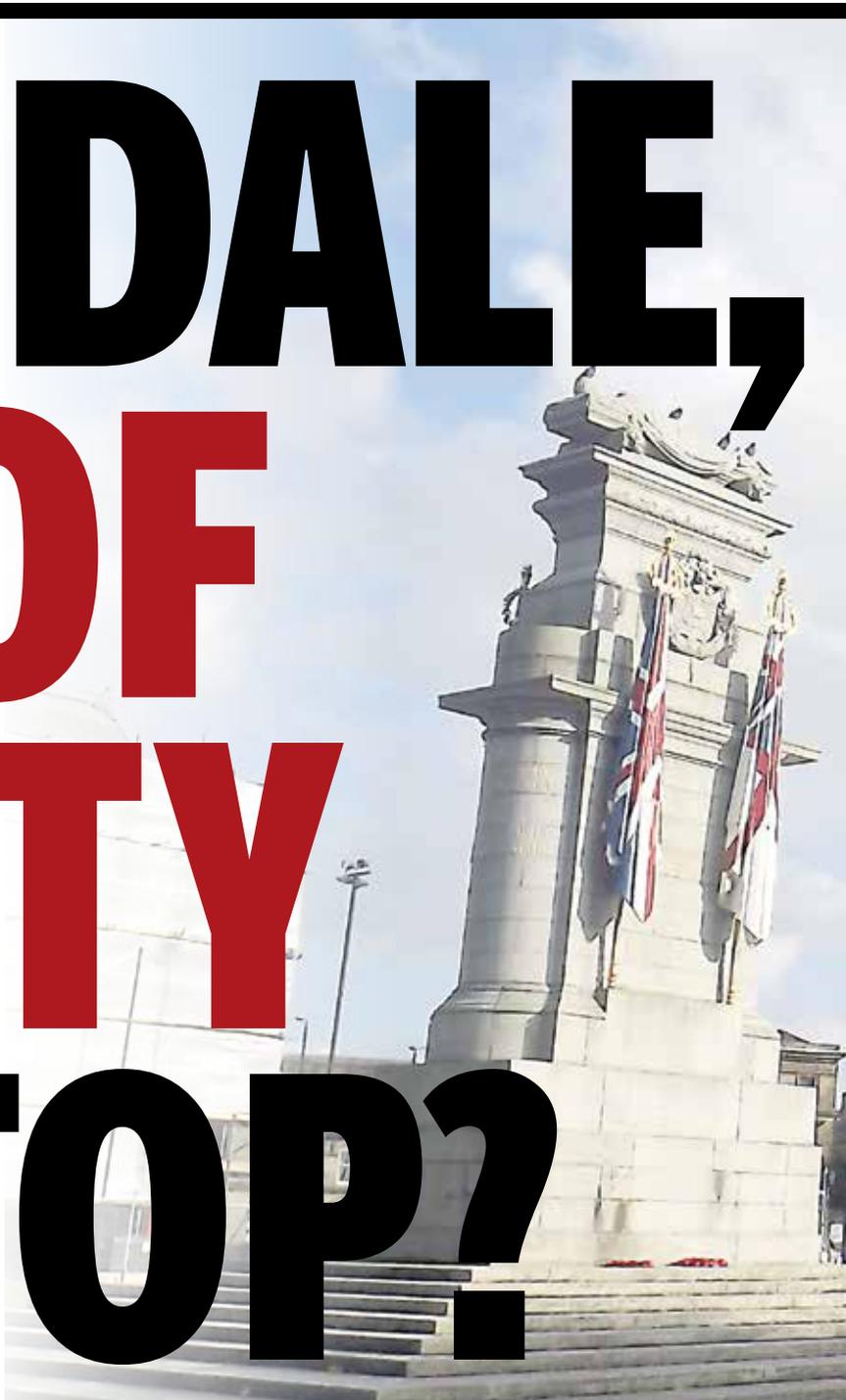
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Word Search Puzzle

POLITICIANS

- ATLEE
- BAILEY
- BENN
- BLAIR
- BROWN
- BURNHAM
- CASTLE
- HEATH
- LONG
- MAJOR
- MAY
- SKINNER
- THATCHER
- THORPE
- WILSON

IN ROCHDALE, A LACK OF CURIOSITY AT THE TOP?



Written up by Les May based on research by Carl Faulkner and Brian Bamford

THERESA May's ostensible reason for calling a General Election is that her slender majority of 12 was an obstacle to passing the legislation needed to cope with the fallout from the UK leaving the EU. The cynical amongst you might wonder if it was not also an opportunity to distract attention from the fact that criminal charges are being considered by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) against at least 30 individuals in the Conservative party. Some have been MPs in the 2015 parliament and contributing to Theresa's slim majority, some will be candidates in this election and could be re-elected. Electoral fraud isn't just something that happens in other countries it happens here too.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_fraud

It's not just the Tories who have played fast and loose with the rules on election expenditure. In recent years Labour and the LibDems have

both been fined by the Electoral Commission for breaking election expense rules. What makes the Tory case different is that the CPS is investigating whether there is evidence that candidates and their agents may be guilty of filing false spending returns. If they are both could be charged with fraud.

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/alexandra-runswick/election-expenses_b16146174.html

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-election-fraud-prosecutions-cps-election-campaign-result-overturn-battle-bus-a7689801.html>

This type of fraud is easy to detect once you are alerted to what is happening. There's always a 'paper trail'. In fact a year ago as part of its 'Check a Tory' campaign the Daily Mirror put the election expenses of Tory MPs on line and invited readers to scrutinise them. What's much harder to detect is when a small group, with or without the tacit agreement of local party bosses, exploit weaknesses in the system to rig the ballot. Having a system which 'on paper' is foolproof, is fallible if the people who

are supposed to implement it fall down on the job.

In August 2015, the government put out a press release announcing that, 'Sir Eric Pickles, the Government's Anti-Corruption Champion', was to review the question of electoral fraud.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sir-eric-pickles-to-examine-electoral-fraud>

A year later it was published.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sir-eric-pickles-publishes-report-into-tackling-electoral-fraud>

So far so good. But as I noted above any system is only as good as the people who implement it. This is what the Electoral Commission have to say about those people:

'Local Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Returning Officers (ROs) manage elections, and are uniquely placed to detect and prevent electoral fraud. They should have robust plans in place to identify any suspicious behaviour and should work with the police to investigate any potential

electoral fraud.' (my emphasis)

But what actually happens when something 'suspicious' does occur. Just how easy is it to get anyone to take notice? Things seem to have changed in Rochdale since 2011 when ex-council leader Colin Lambert was outspoken about what needed to be done.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-13192008>

A few weeks ago Northern Voices was sent the extremely well documented correspondence between a candidate in the Spotland and Falinge ward at last years Rochdale Council elections, and the various bodies which are supposed to deal with questions of electoral fraud. It runs to some 22 pages.

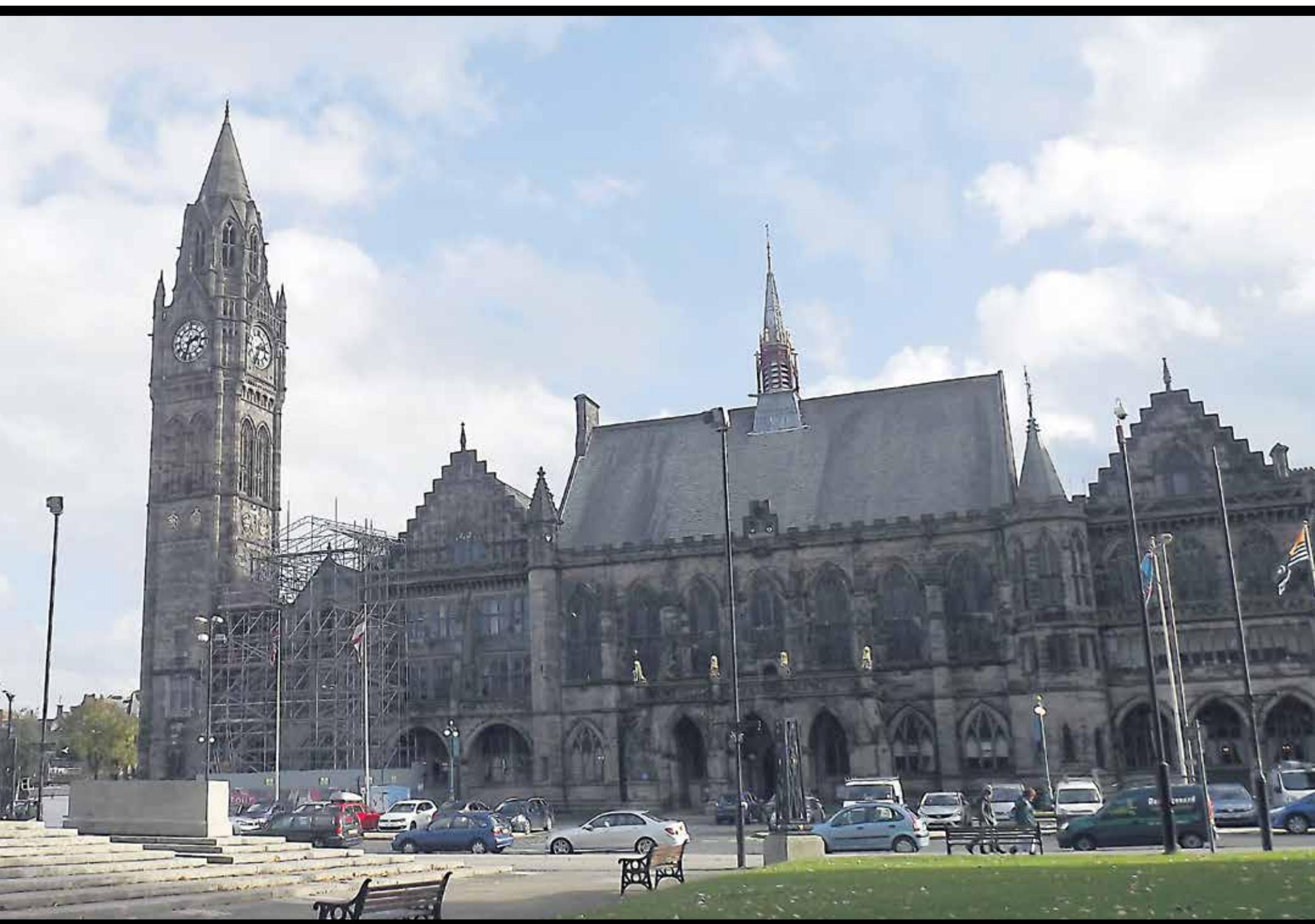
At that election a 'marked register' went missing. It should have been handed to the Returning Officer at the point at which the ballot box and other official documents were delivered by the Presiding Officer at the close of poll. It was either accidentally lost or deliberately stolen. There can be no reason why one of these alternative explanations should be favoured

over the other. If we are to take the fight against electoral fraud seriously the 'precautionary principle' suggests that in the absence of evidence to the contrary it should be assumed that it was stolen, the police should be informed to that effect and a full investigation launched. It did not happen.

What is clear from this correspondence is that, in spite of Pickles bluster in The Telegraph:

'We should never be frightened to look under the rock when what is crawling underneath threatens us all. It is time to take action to take on the electoral crooks and defend Britain's free and fair elections', when a complaint is made, no one wants to shoulder the responsibility for making sure that a proper investigation is launched. It seems that Pickles was right about one thing, 'the authorities are in a "state of denial" and are "turning a blind eye" to election fraud.'

Equally worrying is that the complainant, Carl Faulkner, who stood as an independent candidate, claims that he was not informed of the loss of the missing register as he should have been



and that he was told 'all candidates were informed about the missing register'. Northern Voices made an effort to contact the other candidates to find out if and when they were told about the missing register.

Mick Coates, the Green candidate, was quite clear that he had not been officially informed that the mark register was missing.

Enquires with the Lib-Dems suggested that this was also the case with their candidate Matthew Allen, and Ian Duckworth, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party, was unable to confirm that their candidate, Steven Scholes, had been informed either.

Wendy Cox the Labour candidate did not answer the question directly but said:

'Thank you for your email. I have passed this to the electoral officer.'

Quite why she felt she had to ask the electoral officer whether she had been informed, is unclear at this point. A week later she was asked if there had been any

response and replied suggesting that NV should contact the electoral officer directly. On the 10th April the joint editor of NV wrote to the RMBC Chief Executive, Steve Rumbelow for clarification.

(His reply is printed below together with the response of the original complainant, Carl Faulkner. Copies of the full correspondence between the complainant and the various bodies which are supposed to deal with questions of electoral fraud can be made available by e-mail from Northern Voices. It shows clearly that it was the complainant who initiated the contact with the Cabinet Office, Electoral Commission and Police not RMBC.)

The possibility that the register was in fact stolen has been excluded from consideration a priori, even though at the time an exhaustive and unsuccessful search was made at the polling station, and even of people's cars. The consequence of deciding that a register was 'definitely lost' not 'possibly stolen' is that there is a convenient 'fall guy' in the form of whoever was in charge of that polling station. They

are deemed to have 'lost' it and their reputation must suffer as a consequence.

In all this the one thing that is very clear is that whoever told the complainant that 'all candidates were informed about the missing register' was telling a porky pie. And these are the people we have to trust when it comes to combating electoral fraud. Robust plans to identify potential electoral fraud? I think not.

*Dear Mr Bamford
Thank you for your recent enquiry. Please accept my apologies for the delay in response.*

To clarify, the marked register is the copy of the electoral register used in polling stations. It serves as the record of who has voted in the election, and it is kept for a year after the election. The marked register does not indicate who electors voted for, nor does it contain ballot paper numbers.

Legislation provides that a variety of parties are eligible to access copies of the marked register after an election. Anyone can inspect the marked register, but only certain

people can purchase a copy.

This includes individual candidates and political party representatives. Usually, copies are requested by and provided to party representatives who would then disseminate the information to their colleagues, including candidates.

All those who requested copies of the marked registers were informed that a register had not been returned following the close of poll and the steps that had been taken in an attempt to locate it, both immediately after the close of poll and in the days following the election.

In addition, the Council has been in contact with the Cabinet Office, Electoral Commission and Police on the matter who were satisfied with the steps that had been taken and the measures put in place to prevent any future issues of a similar nature.

*Yours Sincerely
Steve Rumbelow*

And here are Mr Faulkner's observations:

1) Without him actually stating it, it is clear that people were only

going to be informed if and when a copy of the register was requested. That is not the same as informing all candidates as a matter of course. It reiterates my position that there was a concerted attempt to conceal the incident by keeping quiet about it.

2) I feel he is attempting to downplay the importance of the marked register, by portraying it as nothing more than a post-election tool for political parties / candidates / interested persons. This is not the case - it's primary purpose is as an anti-fraud document - but one which can be utilised by political parties etc.

3) All contact with the police, Cabinet Office and Electoral Commission was initiated by me. They contacted RMBC - not the other way round as his response could be taken to mean.

4) What are the 'steps' put in place that did not exist before? The issue is not about how, who, why or exactly when the register went missing but that no candidates nor the police were informed at the time or during the following 21 days.

Quizz!

Capitals

Capitals Quiz - A tricky selection!

1. Christmas Island
2. Greenland
3. St. Lucia
4. Tristan da Cunha
5. British Virgin Islands
6. Grenada
7. Tonga
8. Kosovo
9. St. Helena
10. Bhutan
11. Seychelles
12. Faroe Islands
13. South Sudan
14. Orkney
15. Shetland
16. Corsica
17. Jersey
18. Guernsey
19. Brunei
20. Easter Island

- Answers:**
1. Flying Fish Cove
 2. Nukunono
 3. Castries
 4. Edinburgh of the Seven Seas
 5. Road Town
 6. St. George's
 7. Nukunono
 8. Pristina
 9. Jamestown
 10. Thimphu
 11. Victoria
 12. Torshavn
 13. Juba
 14. Kirkwall
 15. Lerwick
 16. Ajaccio
 17. St. Helier
 18. St. Peter Port
 19. Bandar Seri Begawan
 20. Hanga Roa

Capitals Quiz - Countries that once made up Yugoslavia?

1. Slovenia
2. Croatia
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Montenegro
5. Macedonia
6. Serbia

- Answers:**
1. Ljubljana
 2. Zagreb
 3. Sarajevo
 4. Podgorica
 5. Skopje
 6. Belgrade

Capital Quiz - American State Capitals?

1. Wisconsin
2. Alaska
3. Kansas
4. Maine
5. Maryland
6. Minnesota
7. South Carolina
8. North Dakota
9. New Jersey
10. South Dakota
11. Montana
12. New Hampshire
13. Nevada
14. Florida
15. West Virginia

- Answers:**
1. Madison
 2. Juneau
 3. Topoka
 4. Augusta
 5. Annapolis
 6. Saint Paul
 7. Columbia
 8. Bismark
 9. Trenton
 10. Pierre
 11. Helena
 12. Concord
 13. Carson City
 14. Tallahassee
 15. Charleston

World Capital Cities?

1. Nigeria
2. Azerbaijan
3. French Guiana
4. Moldova
5. Senegal
6. Qatar
7. Bermuda
8. Rwanda
9. Zambia
10. Bahrain
11. Belarus
12. Trinidad and Tobago
13. North Korea
14. Mongolia
15. Liechtenstein
16. Laos
17. Lithuania
18. Namibia
19. Cameroon
20. Kazakhstan
21. Nicaragua
22. Estonia
23. Uzbekistan
24. Armenia
25. Honduras
26. United Arab Emirates
27. Madagascar
28. Central African Republic
29. Lebanon
30. Belize

- Answers:**
1. Abuja (Lagos was the capital from 1914 to 1991)
 2. Baku
 3. Cayenne
 4. Chisinau
 5. Dakar
 6. Doha
 7. Hamilton
 8. Kigali
 9. Lusaka
 10. Manama
 11. Minsk
 12. Port of Spain
 13. Pyongyang
 14. Ulaanbaatar or Ulan Bator
 15. Vaduz
 16. Vientiane
 17. Vilnius
 18. Windhoek
 19. Yaounde
 20. Astana
 21. Managua
 22. Tallinn
 23. Tashkent
 24. Yerevan
 25. Tegucigalpa
 26. Abu Dhabi
 27. Antananarivo
 28. Bangui
 29. Beirut
 30. Belmopan



Baked River Trout with Anchovy Rub on New Potatoes and Cherry Tomatoes

If you're lucky enough to know someone whose into fishing and throws the spoils your way you might occasionally end up with a large fish on your hands - or indeed if you turn up to the last knockings of the farmer's market and score a bargain like I did - you could apply this procedure to most types of fish.

Ingredients

1 very large river trout (or other large fish that comes your way)

1 jar/tin anchovies

2 lb new potatoes, sliced into 1/2 inch slices and steamed until tender

1 lb cherry tomatoes, salted and lightly roasted or even grilled

Handful chopped fennel tops or other fresh herb plus extra to garnish

Lime or lemon wedges to serve plus maybe some home-made aoli or similar

Method

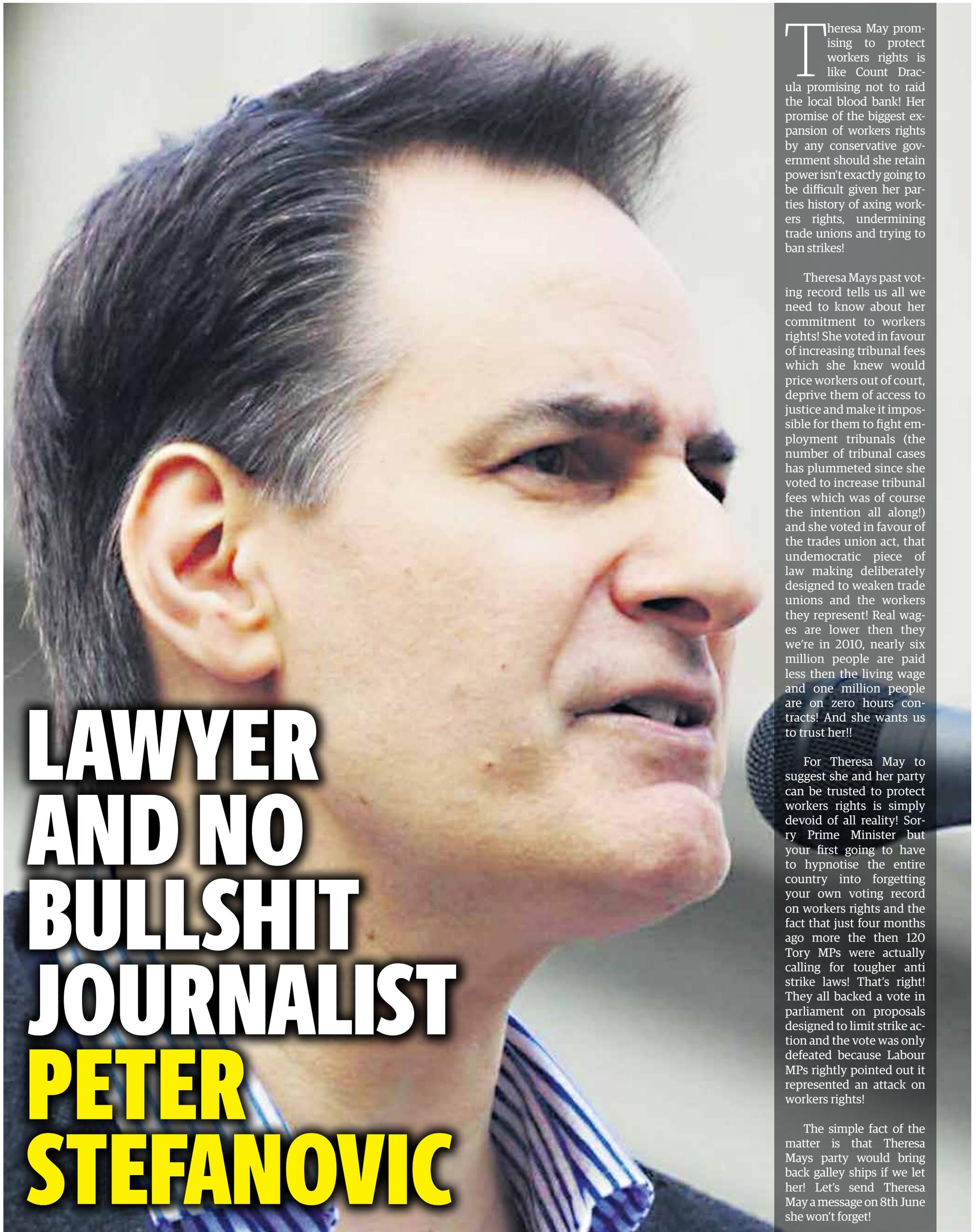
Take a sharp knife and slash the skin of the river trout, about 3 or 4 slashes per side. Set aside while you deal with the anchovies, which you do by simply putting them in



a pan and stirring over a medium heat until they break down completely. Mix the steamed new potato slices, the chopped fennel tops and the lightly roasted cherry tomatoes and, in a large heavy gauge roasting tin, roughly make the shape of your fish with the mixture (season the mixture first, of course). Place the slashed fish on top of this potato/tomato pile and spoon over the melted anchovy.

Bake the fish at gas mark 5 for about twenty minutes. You can test to see if it's done by inserting a sharp knife right at the fattest part of the fish and prizing the flesh apart. If it's still translucent pop it back in for a few more minutes. When it's done, lift it onto a cutting board and carve the fish up in exactly the same way you would a smaller one. Place the potato mixture onto a serving dish and then add the carved the fish pieces on top with a sprinkle of fresh herb and a few lime or lemon wedges. We had some home made garlic aoli too but you could knock up a creme fraiche based alternative in seconds if you're pushed for time.

Serves 4.



**LAWYER
AND NO
BULLSHIT
JOURNALIST
PETER
STEFANOVIC**

Theresa May promising to protect workers rights is like Count Dracula promising not to raid the local blood bank! Her promise of the biggest expansion of workers rights by any conservative government should she retain power isn't exactly going to be difficult given her parties history of axing workers rights, undermining trade unions and trying to ban strikes!

Theresa Mays past voting record tells us all we need to know about her commitment to workers rights! She voted in favour of increasing tribunal fees which she knew would price workers out of court, deprive them of access to justice and make it impossible for them to fight employment tribunals (the number of tribunal cases has plummeted since she voted to increase tribunal fees which was of course the intention all along!) and she voted in favour of the trades union act, that undemocratic piece of law making deliberately designed to weaken trade unions and the workers they represent! Real wages are lower then they we're in 2010, nearly six million people are paid less then the living wage and one million people are on zero hours contracts! And she wants us to trust her!!

For Theresa May to suggest she and her party can be trusted to protect workers rights is simply devoid of all reality! Sorry Prime Minister but your first going to have to hypnotise the entire country into forgetting your own voting record on workers rights and the fact that just four months ago more the then 120 Tory MPs were actually calling for tougher anti strike laws! That's right! They all backed a vote in parliament on proposals designed to limit strike action and the vote was only defeated because Labour MPs rightly pointed out it represented an attack on workers rights!

The simple fact of the matter is that Theresa Mays party would bring back galley ships if we let her! Let's send Theresa May a message on 8th June she won't forget!

By Brian Bamford

LAST Sunday, Trevor Hoyle wrote a comment on the 'McCluskey states the obvious' post on this N.V. Blog in which he claimed:

'Not clear what your position is Brian. "McCluskey states the obvious" -- well it is obvious because it's true that the vast majority of the mainstream corporate media are, and always have been, against Corbyn. ANY leader, no matter who, with such a sustained campaign of vitriol waged against him, including the so-called left-of-centre Guardian, would have struggled to overcome such a negative media image.'

Earlier this month dealing with the relative unpopularity of the British Labour Party, Noam Chomsky admitted to an interviewer:

'... that the current polling position suggested Labour was not yet gaining popular support for the policy positions that he supported.'

Only last Saturday, Joshua Chaffin, in the Financial Times said that the polls (suggest Mrs May is cruising toward a big victory on June 8.)

But by yesterday, with news that the 'dementia tax' was hitting the conservative party hard on the doorstep, Mrs May rewrote a major item in her election manifesto - social care reform - after four days of pressure; leaving her open to the accusations of show bad political judgement and being weak when the heat is on.

Meanwhile, over the weekend the polls showed that Labour under Corbyn, was closing the gap on the Tories. Yet, still the Corbyn approach lacks charisma.

Professor Chomsky described to The Guardian what he thought was wrong:

'If I were a voter in Britain, I would vote for him,' said Chomsky, who admitted that the current polling position suggested Labour was not yet gaining popular support for the policy positions that he supported.'

Pro. Chomsky then added:

'There are various reasons for that - partly an extremely hostile media, partly his own personal style which I happen to like but perhaps that doesn't fit with the current mood of the electorate,' he said. 'He's quiet, reserved, serious, he's not a performer. The parliamentary Labour party has been strongly opposed to him. It has been an uphill battle.'

Trevor Hoyle in his comment complains:

'I don't think Corbyn or McDonnell are dull at all. They state their case and explain their policies in adult, measured tones. To expect them to go all showbiz and join the media frenzy is to support exactly what is wrong with the political climate in this country.'

It might well be that a serious tone is preferable to those who read The Guardian like Trevor Hoyle, or The New York Times like me, but most of the people in the towns

and cities in the North of England where the working-class target voters reside don't read these papers, and these people judging from what we are hearing prefer what Cyril Smith used to call Razzamatanz than the kind of sombre socialism we might fancy.

When asked what motivation he thought newspapers had to oppose Corbyn, Chomsky said the Labour leader had, like Bernie Sanders in the US, broken out of the 'elite, liberal consensus' that he claimed was 'pretty conservative'.

Chomsky told Anushka Asthana, The Guardian Political Editor on Wednesday on 10 May 2017, that 'Labour needed to "reconstruct itself" in the interests of working people, with concerns about human and civil rights at its core, arguing that such a programme could appeal to the majority of people.'

Chomsky talks of the need for socio-economic programmes and the way the key defence against the existential threats of climate change and the nuclear age were being radically weakened, and then goes on to describe what he wants

The current polling position suggested Labour was not yet gaining popular support for the policy positions that he supported

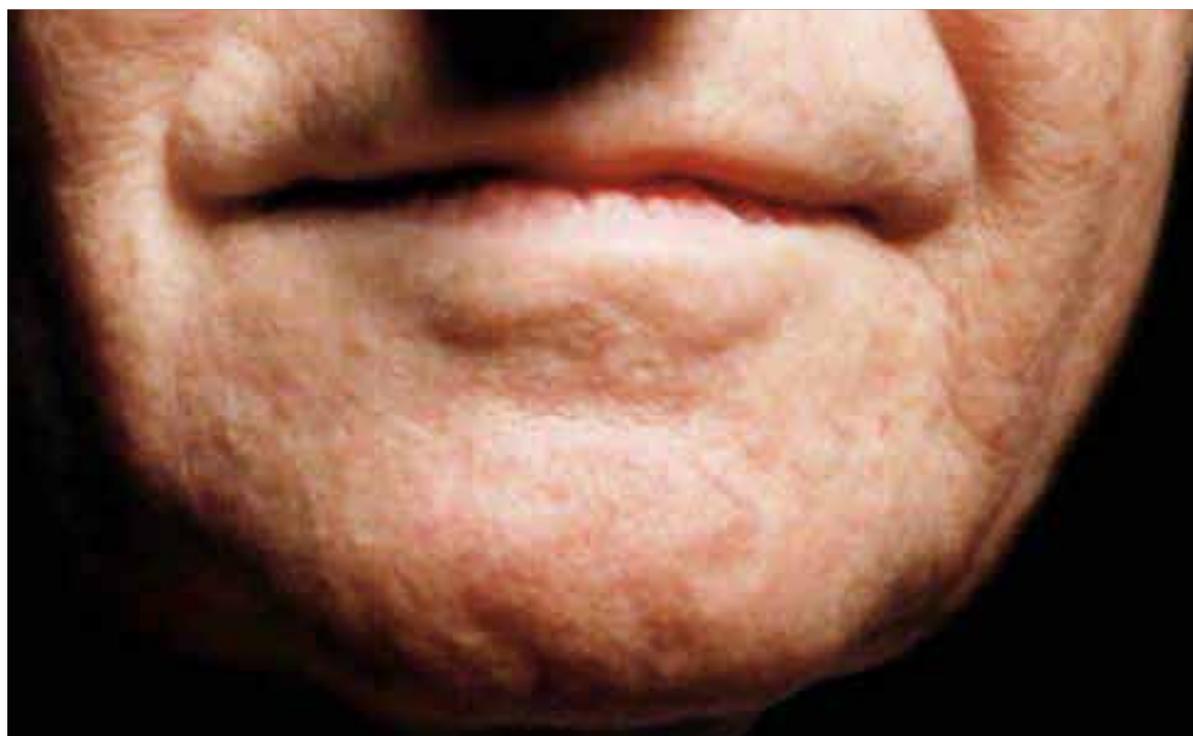
is the defence as a (functioning democratic society with engaged, informed citizens deliberating and reaching measures to deal with and overcome the threats).

This is all well and good, but the circles I move in among my neighbours and other working people, I don't find much genuine concern about the kind of things that might concern Chomsky, Trevor Hoyle and me, like (human rights); (civil rights); or even the environment generally.

The great academic, Noam Chomsky who often describes himself as (a kind of anarchist), and who is in Britain to deliver a lecture at the University of Reading on what he believes is the deteriorating state of western democracy, claimed that voters had turned to the Conservatives in recent years because of 'an absence of anything else'.

What the good professor ought to understand is that the left in this country since the Chartists, has rarely had a program or a strategy for social change which in any way will convince or inspire ordinary people, instead it continues to react to an agenda set by the establishment and the State. Marching, protesting and demonstrating against cuts; Trade Union Acts; privatisation and the erosion of the NHS is all that the left reacts to. There is very little vision on the British left, and that is why the right in this country these days always tends to have the initiative.

NOAM
CHOMSKY
ON THE
LABOUR
PARTY





PRIVATISING ROYAL MAIL

Privatising Royal Mail was a privatisation too far for Margaret Thatcher. The 'iron lady' said as Prime Minister that she was "not prepared to have the Queen's head privatised".

So how did it come to pass that 499 years of public ownership ended in 2015 with the remaining 30% of shares being floated on the London Stock Exchange in 2015, following the majority being sold two years earlier?

Failing Austerity Programme

The Postal Services Act 2011, which paved the way for privatisation, was introduced by Lib Dem Vince Cable as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in the Tory and Lib Dem Coalition.

The government claimed that selling off the public service would raise the necessary funds through private capital to 'modernise' the business. George Osborne, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, had committed to public-sector spending cuts to meet his deficit-reduction targets, meaning that any necessary investment certainly wouldn't be provided by the state.

Cable carried out the dirty work for the Tories to rush through the £3.3 billion fire-sale, desperately attempting to make the economy appear healthier than it was, polishing up those failing austerity measures to save the Chancellors blushes.

The 'creation' of a million private-sector jobs in 'rebalancing the economy' which Osborne and then Prime Minister, David Cameron, regularly boasted about undoubt-

edly included the 170,000 Royal Mail employees who were shifted from the public to the private sector virtually overnight.

Lack Of Opposition

As a Communication Workers Union (CWU) activist I remember being surprised and frustrated at how the union leadership were seemingly caught flat-footed by the sale. Only a "consultative ballot" was held, finding 96% of workers were opposed to the sale joining 70% of the public.

Warning signs had been in place, with Osborne's attack on the public sector arriving after decades of attempts at a sale of Royal Mail, most notably by Peter Mandelson in 2009 when he was Business Secretary of a Labour government.

It is with great shame that I will tell my young daughter in the future that this criminal privatisation was not met with a single day of strike action in opposition.

Indeed, the government had no doubt calculated that placing the company into private hands would mean any possible future strikes by the CWU would cause less political damage to the government.

Public Robbery

The sale also grossly defrauded the public. Royal Mail was valued at up to £10 billion by American bank JP Morgan - three times the eventual float figure. CitiBank valued it at £7.3 billion and Deutsche Bank between £6.4 and £6.9 billion.

The government decided to float the company on a share price of 330 pence. Within a week the

share price had broken the 500 pence mark, an increase of nearly 50%, making the market valuation a whopping £1.7 billion higher than the governments sale price. The public have continued to be robbed of billions of pounds.

Such was the ideological commitment of the Coalition government to privatisation, Vince Cable wrote off the under-valuation simply as "froth".

Corbyn's Policy Welcome

I'm therefore obviously delighted with Jeremy Corbyn's announcement that his Labour government would renationalise Royal Mail. Not only would this undo a catastrophic wrong, but it would also demonstrate the development of the policies of the Labour Party. It indicates a movement towards a party working in the interests of the working class and society, away from the neoliberalism of the Blair and Brown era.

The case to support Corbyn's policy of renationalisation of Royal Mail is strong, has the support of the majority of the public and with the correct programme of development could prove to be hugely beneficial in the first steps towards a genuinely modernised telecommunications and courier industry.

Future Services

The Coalition government's prerequisite of the need for private capital to 'modernise' Royal Mail was a fallacy. Royal Mail has always been, and will continue to be, profitable in public ownership. Profits can be reinvested back into the company but under private ownership those profits are paid

out in dividends to shareholders and CEO's.

A race-to-bottom of terms and conditions, symptomatic of any privatisation, is beginning to manifest itself through an attack on pensions and a failing agenda for growth on the part of the business.

But under state ownership, following the right policies in full cooperation with the workers and users of the service, the company could in fact expand its range of services. This could include full integration of the courier industry – riddled with horror stories of exploitative employment contracts and failing businesses – as well as developing technology by embracing automation and robotics using green energies. Thus providing a state of the art public service of communication and delivery, in-step with the high-speed communication, shopping and distribution of today.

Tory Hypocrisy

There has predictably been early opposition to Corbyn's policies of renationalisation of Royal Mail, in addition to that of the railways and energy providers.

Tories have lined up to hypocritically say, despite presiding over a period where living conditions have been lowered to those last seen in the Victorian era, that nationalisation "takes us back to the 1970's".

This is a clear and deliberate distortion of history; the 'winter of discontent' (to which they're referring to) was only a snapshot in a long period of public ownership. It was also a period where organ-

ised labour and the working class was preparing itself for an oncoming onslaught by the ruling classes which history shows was to be carried out ruthlessly and at great cost to the trade union movement.

We can also point to hypocrisy in the actual application of the Tories' privatisation programme. It would appear that they are not fundamentally opposed to state-intervention of industry at all. The French state holds a huge amount of shares in our energy services. The German state holds a huge amount in our railway services. Even the recent deal on nuclear power in Britain involves ownership for both the French and Chinese governments!

Profits from shares in British services go towards subsidising their own public ally owned services in their respective nation states – showing state ownership of public services is favoured in many developed countries and can prove to be run effectively.

Towards Socialism

As a globalised, neoliberal, capitalist system struggles to find a way out of its current crises, radical socialist alternatives such as those Corbyn is working towards, offer an opportunity for society to work towards revolutionising their services.

Should Corbyn be successful, and develop Royal Mail as I have suggested here, the utter corruption of Tory privatisation ideology will be exposed and confounded to the dustbin of history once and for all.

Carl Harper



HOMELESS VOTES

THE campaign to encourage and allow homeless people to register and vote in the upcoming general election is part of the remit of Salford Unemployed and Community Resource Centre (UCRC).

Our army of clients and service users refers to us as the fourth emergency service in Salford. Our centre has worked with and for vulnerable people in the city since its formation 1980, 37 years ago.

Not only does the centre cater for the unemployed it also works with people in debt; those whose state benefits have been sanctioned; people with disabilities, both physical and mental health problems; workers who are unfairly dismissed; ex-offenders; people with housing problems; refugees, migrant workers and the homeless.

We've asked all of our vulnerable clients to register to vote in order to challenge the current rigged and unfair socio-economic system that makes the many so poor and a few so very rich.

The city of Salford is a poor area with high unemployment and higher than average levels of people with disabilities.

Many people here have mental health issues as a result of unfair and illegal benefit sanctions

and from the ensuing poverty.

The Sunday Times Rich List published earlier this month had no-one from Salford in it.

The 1,000 richest people needed over £110 million to qualify this year; that is double the £55m needed eight years ago to qualify. Most of our clients survive on between £5,000 to £15,000 a year.

There are more billionaires in London than in any other city on the planet and at a time of austerity and poverty, the wealth of the top 1,000 entries increased by £86 billion or 14 per cent.

We imagine that most but not all are of the 1 per cent billionaires on that list are happy with the present Conservative government and on June eighth will cast their votes for the Tories.

It is vital, therefore, that the rest of us – the 99 per cent – not only register to vote but use our votes in our collective interest.

Regardless of whichever benefit or whatever reason our clients use our advice representation services, it is very clear that the present welfare system is not working in their interest as benefits only allow them to survive not live.

Across the country activists and supporting organisations are

helping homeless people to register as voters by providing them use of their address.

This not only includes the Salford UCRC but also Sheffield's Archers Project, Salford University students, Narrowgate Night Shelter, Project 34 and Walsall YMCA.

Under the current regulations, any British person aged over 18 and not incarcerated is entitled to cast their ballot on June 8.

But since registration cards are sent to residential addresses, few homeless people are on the electoral roll.

The point of this campaign is not only to give homeless people a vote, it is imperative to give these people a voice. The way to ensure politicians listen to people's concerns is for that group to vote. If the Tory party – and others – realise hundreds of thousands of homeless people will vote, then the homelessness crisis is more likely to be addressed.

Many homeless centres say they are already signing up service users who wish to vote but – after discussions with Salford Council and parliamentary election officers – our team is also visiting night shelters, soup runs and people on the streets.

Those who want to register simply sign a form and give their dates of birth, and the activists do the rest.

Students from Salford and Manchester universities have also been helping out and organisations such as the foodbank charity the Manchester Booth Centre have also shown an interest.

Big Issue North vendors are being encouraged to register to vote in each office.

Voting is a universal right. There is a loophole which means we can use our office address to register homeless people who have some geographical link with Salford. Others need to do the same elsewhere in Britain.

A number of people have told me it won't work and councillors have commented that it's a lot of work but they are missing the point. It's vital that people can make their voices heard if they want to.

Danny Magill from Sheffield's Archer Project said his day centre would be registering voters and also providing electoral information for all candidates standing in the constituency.

The Archer Project has been doing something similar for a number of years already, in partnership with Sheffield City

Council and Sheffield Central MP Paul Blomfield. Magill says: "A lot of the time people who are homeless get the sense they feel removed from society and feel their opinions don't matter.

"Getting registered as a voter is a small but symbolic way of being involved. The people who take this offer up are usually those who are a bit further along their journeys but who are still on the margins.

"If anyone has anything to say about society, it's the people living on the margins but they don't always realise this."

Local authorities took action in 271,000 cases of homelessness last year in England – a rise of 32 per cent since 2009-10.

Official stats show that over 4,000 people now sleep rough on any given night. The solution to homelessness is for more affordable homes to be built.

A political decision to end this crisis needs to be made and having homeless people vote on June 8 could make this a reality.

Alec McFadden is the manager of Salford Unemployed and Community Resource Centre, a trade union and community activist.

For more on the Salford UCRC visit: www.salforducrc.co.uk.

By Brendan O'Brien

I admire the courage and idealism of UK citizens who leave the comfort and safety of the UK to fight alongside the Kurds battling Isis in Syria. However the truth is they make a great sacrifice likely to achieve little and potentially they could achieve much more by political action here at home.

America could break the Isis dominance of Syria in a matter of weeks if it wanted to. For the first two years or so after it entered Syria Isis was in fact ignored in the West. They were "hiding in plain sight" as the Guardian dishonestly put it. Only when they beheaded Westerners did they get political and media attention and even then military action against them has been limited. US government knowledge of support for Isis from Saudi Arabia is a matter of public record. For years the Turkish border was open to Isis. Barack Obama wrung his hands, talking about the ineffectual "repeated conversations" he had with Turkey about the border. It seems there was a booming oil trade between Turkey and Isis until Russia entered the war. The West stood by as Isis twice took Palmyra and does nothing as they besiege the city of Deir Ezzor which may be their next stronghold. They could be driven away from Deir Ezzor quite easily and with minimum loss of life. If they take the city driving them out will only be achieved with terrible loss of life as seen in Aleppo and Mosul.

The great barrier to America destroying Isis in Syria is that they would have to work with Russia to do so, Assad would then almost certainly win the war and Iran would also benefit.

The first step for us here in the UK who wish to help Syria is to get informed about what is going on and it is necessary to look beyond our abysmal mainstream media coverage to do so. What has our government done there?

- They have declared from the outset that Assad must go. That is the core policy.

- They have waged a propaganda war against Assad, which has benefited all rebels, moderate and extreme.

- They have backed "moderate" rebels (who use IRA tactics) for nearly six years. It has been clear for a long time that this is a hopeless policy. Moderate rebels will never defeat Assad and Isis and bring peace. Former US Secretary of State John Kerry said "The current trend is simply creating more terrorists, more extremists, and destroying the country in the process". US officials have even



UK CITIZENS FIGHTING IN SYRIA **BEST** **WAY TO HELP?**

stated that they do not want the rebels to win. "I think that what we're trying to do is make sure the moderate opposition continues to stay strong, puts the pressure on the regime" said former CIA Director John Brennan, adding "We don't want the Syrian government to collapse...that's the last thing we want to do".

- They have not supported any peace plan, however promising, which might have allowed Assad to stay, including the current Russian led ceasefire proposals.

- They have turned a blind eye to support for Isis from their powerful allies, and are turning a blind eye to current Turkish and Saudi

support for al-Nusra extremists (who have undergone a few name changes).

What UK citizens should be doing for Syria is demanding an end to the failed and destructive policies of our government. End the 'Assad must go' policy. Call for the US to work with Russia to

destroy Isis. Work for an internationally monitored election in which Syrians will decide on their own leadership.

Then there should be a Marshall Plan for Syria, so that refugees can return to their homeland and the work of reconstruction of the country can begin.



The 2015 general election was supposed to produce one type of policy earthquake, but may have produced another. The assumption by nearly everyone until 10.01 pm on May 7 was that we would see the further embedding of multi-party government in the UK, with either a minority Labour government or some type of coalition.

Instead, we saw the collapse of the traditional opposition parties, the Liberal Democrats wiped out across the UK and Labour devastated in its Scottish homeland. Single party government was recovered as the principle mode of British government and David Cameron has since stated on a number of occasions that he now has a mandate to implement the Conservative Party manifesto in full.

On the one hand, the election can be seen as a reaffirmation of the British political tradition (BPT). This is the idea - in existence at least since the time of Disraeli - that Britain has a limited conception of democracy based on a conservative notion of responsibility, accountability to Parliament and an emphasis on consistency, prudence and leadership (Birch 1964), non-ideological pragmatism (Oakeshott 1962) and strong, seamless government (Beer 1965). Its prescribed mode of governance, that of the 'Westminster Model', highlighted the unitary character of the British Parliamentary state, organised around the principle of parliamentary sovereignty. In so doing, it delivered an elitist form of top-down government, based on a high concentration of power at the centre - what Brian Barry caustically referred to as a 'power-hoarding' approach to governing.

As the dust settles on the aftermath of the outcome of the May 2015 election, more than ever both the ideas and the [in]formal rules of the game that were part and parcel of the BPT appear to be an inap-

THE STRANGE RESURRECTION OF THE ELITIST 'POWER HOARDING' FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN 2015.

propriate, anachronistic throwback to an age of politics now long gone. In 1997, Tony Blair spoke of a need for a 'New Politics', of the need to restore trust in the political system, devolve power and decentralise: sentiments repeated in 2010 by both David Cameron and Nick Clegg.

Cameron went so far as to suggest that electors had been: "...betrayed by a generation of politicians, by an elite that thinks it knows best. People have lost control. The politicians have forgotten the public are the master, we are the servant. That's what needs to change in our system... Overthrow the old ways. Put people in the driving seat." Yet beyond the rhetoric, the last 20 years have seen the Westminster class reluctant to address wholesale constitutional reform by redesigning the Westminster model and abandoning the BPT. The British way of ad hocery - a penchant for grafting reform onto the existing model - has held sway.

One of the ironies of the 2015 election is that many people voted for the anti-Westminster parties

UKIP, Greens and SNP, but over five million of them were left without any representation. The election reinforced those cynical about Westminster that voting does not change anything. This is just one of the many disruptive issues to arise from the election. A list of the key pinch points is extensive, but would certainly include: the increasing schism across the Union, particularly north of the Border; the commitment to devolution in England based on a 'City Model', alongside a tacit agreement to move towards a more federalist settlement to accommodate English votes for English laws; the proposal for a new Bill of Rights to replace the European Convention on Human Rights; the possibility of an exit from the European Union; the unfinished business of House of Lords reform; and the suitability of a majoritarian electoral system in an emergent age of multi-party politics.

In addition, as we have suggested, the Conservative majority has led them to think they can ignore the rising 'anti-politics' seam

in British public life, covering a multiplicity of themes concerning power, legitimacy, participation and accountability, often popularly distilled in the now familiar rhetorical retort of an 'out-of-touch Westminster elite operating in its own bubble'. As we have previously argued: "Discussion of the devolution process should come with a debate around the electoral systems, the role of the civil service, the power of Whitehall and Westminster and fundamentally what sort of democracy does Britain want to have in the twenty-first century." Central to this debate is the pressing need for joined-up thinking on the constitutional implications of reform, not a further bout of ad hocery.

So, are we in the midst of witnessing the slow death of the British Political Tradition? Some caution is needed here. The BPT has been a deeply embedded fixture shaping the political landscape for well over 150 years and there are potentially high political costs involved in abandoning it. The power it offers the Westminster political class and the extent to which

its actors have been thoroughly socialised by its ways and means, explain their reluctance to travel down alternative pathways.

It may well be that events themselves - most obviously in the form of Scotland removing itself from the Union - throw up a critical juncture challenging the long-term viability of the BPT and so demand a new constitutional settlement. Yet such an eventuality may also bring with it the emergence in England of a bowdlerised reinvention in the guise of an English Political Tradition, not discernibly different to its British predecessor. If that were to be the case, there is the danger of witnessing the recasting of the same sets of pressures and pathologies that currently afflict our present times.

There is an urgent need to move beyond a nineteenth century set of ideas about democracy and governance that should by now have long been consigned to history. The irony is that the Conservatives may use their slim majority and narrow electoral base to veto any real changes.

MEDIA BIAS



Dimbleby interviewed both Jeremy Corbyn and Theresa May for a recent Question Time. Dimbleby said: "I don't think anyone could say that Corbyn has had a fair deal at the hands of the press, in a way that the Labour party did

when it was more to the centre, but then we generally have a right-wing press." He also suggested the Labour leader has more support among the public than he does among the parliamentary Labour party.



He said prior to the interview: "My own prediction is that, contrary to the scepticism and lazy pessimism of the newspapers and the British media, it's going to be a really fascinating informative night, unlike from amount of polling or reading the papers." Laura Kuenssberg's report for the News at Six in November 2015 breached the broadcaster's impartiality and accuracy guidelines. The news item was edited to mislead the public: The BBC Trust found the BBC inaccurately reported Corbyn's views about shoot-to-kill in the aftermath of Paris. It included a clip of Corbyn saying: "I am not happy with a shoot-to-kill policy in general. It can often be counterproductive." Kuenssberg had presented the clip as Corbyn's response to whether he would be "happy for British officers to pull the trigger in the event of a Paris-style attack". Corbyn had been speaking in a different context; responding to a question about "to shoot to kill" on Britain's streets - and not a Paris-style terrorist attack in the UK. The Trust found that the

inaccuracy was "compounded" when Kuenssberg went on to claim that Corbyn's message "couldn't be more different" to that of the prime minister, who was about to publish anti-terrorism proposals. Inaccurate portrayals like this have become normalised i.e. misquoting Corbyn to misrepresent his views. It's time there were laws preventing this nastiness.

The framing of issues is biased, to shape the entire news agenda. BBC's Steven Sackur has said that as Corbyn was elected, the Conservatives "issued propaganda" suggesting that Corbyn is a "threat" to security. He also pointed out the government's lack of accountability, transparency and democracy in its unprecedented refusal to share intelligence in 2015, intelligence conventionally shared with the leader of the opposition.

"National security" has run through the Conservatives campaigns and media commentary since. It generates fear; political psychological manipulation at its worst: it presents an "enemy"

for the public to vote against, rather than something inspiring to vote for.

The Conservatives, with the cooperation of media, are using this strategy of tension, designed intentionally to create public alarm - to portray the left as a "threat" to the wellbeing of society - as part of its propaganda. Distortion of national defense magnifies our perception of threat, whether of foreign aggressors, immigrants, terrorists, or "invading" ideologies like Socialism. They then justify authoritarian policies to remedy the perceived threats, portraying the party as "strong". Yet even a glance through the Labour manifesto shows that this "threat" patently untrue.

The media does not engage the public, instead there is a fake consensus that promotes public alienation and divisiveness. We are witnessing the erosion of the media as a guardian of public interest, and as a conduit between the governing and the governed i.e. the democratic decay of the U.K.

Written by Hubert Huzzah

In 2008 there were 700,000 people with dementia in the UK. That number is rising rapidly and is projected to be over 1 million by 2025. One in three people over 65 will end their lives with a form of dementia. In 2008 there were 580,000 people with dementia needing Carers in England.

Not all Dementia Sufferers are home owners. For the age group most likely to suffer Dementia 71.6% (45-75+) of the population do own their own home. The average home is worth £215,847 at 2017 prices. So, of the one million people with dementia by 2025, 716,000 will be sitting on assets worth a total of £154Bn.

Imagine being able to take ownership of £154Bn of assets simply by waiting ten years. That is the Dementia Tax. By 2027 those who are currently suffering from even mild dementia symptoms will have to pay for care as the value of the Home will be taken into account when means testing financial support for social care.

Currently, Carers put £132Bn into the Economy purely through Caring Services. This is the amount of money after all benefits - not just Attendance Allowance or Carers Allowance - are paid out. Carers are, in general, the next generation for Dementia sufferers - the children and grandchildren. In total, the Dementia Tax will be taking £286Bn from people who already pay substantial amounts into the economy and have been doing so for two generations.

That means penalising people until 2050 and it does not even make financial sense.

A report from the London School of Economics and King's College London commissioned by the Alzheimer's Society estimated the financial cost of dementia at over £17 billion for the state and families in 2008. This cost grew significantly as the number of people with dementia rose. A King's Fund study estimated that the cost of dementia in England would rise from £14.9 billion per year in 2007 to £24 billion (at 2007 prices) by 2026, making up 74% of mental health service costs. Using £154Bn of assets to pay for £24Bn of expenditure is not only poor economics it is an invitation to fraud on an industrial scale.

The less well understood outcome will be a house price collapse leaving first time buyers in negative equity for the first time since the 1980s. In efforts to reduce the amount paid for Care Services, it will become rational for Carers of Dementia Sufferers to undervalue the property to bring the total estate under £100,000 for the purposes of means testing. Undervaluation to receive benefits is, in Social Security Law, fraud. Which will result in a market in avoidance and evasion promoting corruption. The policy, itself, is about effective



IN 2008 THERE WERE 700 000

money laundering which is, always, corrupt.

This undervaluation of properties will, inevitably, signal to the markets that house prices are dropping and so provide pressure to further reduce house prices. This will leave existing first time buyers at risk of negative equity. When Dementia Sufferers within the Dementia Tax Regime begin to die, First Time Buyers will sell to escape negative equity. Resulting in an extreme boom and crash market that will last for decades. The initial boom will be hailed as an economic miracle until the initial crash reveals the depth of the problem. In 2007 the National Audit Office estimated that £102 million could be saved by reducing the time people Dementia Sufferers stay in hospital.

A Lincolnshire case study they found that people with dementia on orthopaedic wards were staying over 24 days on average compared to under 17 days for people without. That increased length of Hospital stay is increasingly expensive as Private Contractors provide the service. At the same time, the Private Contractors, driven by profit, have no incentive to move Dementia sufferers out of Hospitals. The overall outcome is that Hospitals will become bed blocked by Private Contractors and that will feed back to poorer Accident and Emergency Service, longer waiting times and increased ill health in the general population.

The Dementia Tax is a poorly thought out policy that has one objective: releasing £154Bn of assets into financial markets. With the

net contribution of £29Bn to the UK economy from the Insurance Sector in 2015, the indication is that the £154Bn will be a five year soft landing for the Insurance Sector on exit from the EU. That soft landing will, inevitably, be a source of capital flight from the UK to other EU capitals such as Dublin, Paris and Berlin. Which leaves the policy cascading out from the Health and Social Care Sector to cascade destabilisation across the Economy.

There are 379 authorised Life Insurance Companies in the UK. 200 are UK authorised and 179 are headquartered in another European country and passport in under the EU Third Life Directive. With the unfolding of Exit from the European Union, the Dementia Tax creates a mechanism for capital flight from the UK via those 179

passport Life Insurance companies. If the UK wishes to retain a working financial services relationship after exit then those 47.2% of Life Insurance Companies passported into the UK market will become the potential source of almost £73Bn of capital flight.

It is a poorly thought out, uncosted, scheme that seeks to buy time for the Tories. Given the public availability of information that can be used to cost the scheme, and the pieces of past research that show how poor equity-release is for solving financial problems, where did the Dementia Tax actually come from?

Sources: National Audit Office, Alzheimers Society, Association Of British Insurers. Picture: Madeline Von Foerster. "The Promise II" (Death And The Maiden).



By Cliff Jones

Just a few observations

There was no leak of the Conservative Manifesto because so few members of the Conservative Party were aware of its contents. Theresa 'no mates' May is known inside the Party for her dislike of working inclusively. She does not like dissent, difference or disagreement. She does, however, like control. The link below is to the Conservative website. Prominent as you click around are the words 'me', 'my', 'I', 'strength' and 'stability'. <https://www.conservatives.com/>

Who remembers that great girls' comic, The School Friend and The Silent Three who combined to take on Ursula, the tyrannical Head Prefect? Funny how this always comes to mind when I think of Theresa May. Here they are.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Silent_Three

In all its glory here is the gospel according to Saint Theresa. If you have a copy of Mein Kampf on your shelf you might discover the origin of a certain phrase.

<https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto>

I have referred to the leader of the Tory Party as Theresa 'no mates' May. The following link helps us understand why.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/may/19/theresa-may-fiona-hill-nick-timo->

FOODBANKS AND SOCIAL FRACKING OR FAIRNESS AND FULFILLMENT

[thy-mayism-conservative-to-ry-manifesto-general-election](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/may/20/general-election-labour-media-corbyn)

Ah! The moral descent of a great party.

Who now remembers the Young Liberals? Peter (now Lord) Hain was such a hero to those opposing apartheid in South Africa. We are all in a sense the children of William Beveridge and the Welfare State and the NHS. He was a Liberal MP. Who gave us National Insurance? The Liberal Party. Who curtailed the power of the unelected

aristocracy in the House of Lords? The Liberal Party. Who gave us free and compulsory schooling for all? The Liberal Party. Who opposed the invasion of Iraq? The LibDems. Who proposed abolishing tuition fees? The LibDems. But who propped up David Cameron, that incompetent product of privilege? The LibDems.

It is a depressing tale. Read on to see what they offer. Shall you buy?

<http://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto-glance>

Can it really be that someone is beginning to think about bias in our wonderful media? By the way, who owns our media? Where do they live? How much tax do they contribute?

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/may/20/general-election-labour-media-corbyn>

You've seen it before. Well, here it is again. Not a fantasy. Not a Leninist/Stalinist/Trotskyite plot. Just an ordinary costed, decent set of proposals that in 1945 would have been regarded as ever so slightly

conservative. This is not 'free beer for all the workers' while the patriicians and the plutocrats are taken in tumbrels to meet Madame Guillotine. Who could be frightened of it?

Rejection of this manifesto will, however, guarantee that education, health, welfare, transport, defence, science, art, society and humanity itself are, a favourite Tory obsession, fracked.

<http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/Images/manifesto-2017/Labour%20Manifesto%202017.pdf>

MURDER IN THE FIELD

THERESA MAY WANTS THIS ABOMINATION RETURNED TO ITS FULL 'GLORY'

On a cheerful Boxing Day morning in the beautiful Kent countryside, two opposing groups gather to witness the spectacle of individuals pursuing what was once known as the Sport of Kings.

On the left of the Elham Valley Square are the anti-hunt protesters and hunt saboteurs. They have banners & placards displaying the outcomes of various hunts: images of eviscerated foxes that have been savaged by hungry foxhounds who have been led to associate foxes with being fed. The group is made up of a wide variety of individuals. Many protesters are professionals, many supporting animal welfare & abhorring animal cruelty. Some against the open flouting of laws being broken.

On the right are hunt supporters. They have a uniform. A flat cap, green wellies, standard jacket and yellow cord trousers as modelled here.

The Hunting Act 2004 was introduced by a Labour government specifying the banning of hunting wild mammals (foxes, deer, hares) with dogs in England and Wales; the Act doesn't sadly cover the use of dogs in flushing out an unidentified wild mammal by the thugs in flat caps, the terrier men.

These wild animals might happen to be foxes and there just happens to be a trail hunt or drag hunt close by. Then, oops, the foxhounds 'accidently' tear that fox to shreds.

So why then do so many people gather to oppose this 'lawful' activity? IFAW has had a number of specific concerns that have

been repeatedly raised with the enforcement authorities, but not much has been done to address them. Too many hunts are claiming 'accidental' kills of foxes while claiming that they are legally "trail hunting", a form of hunting created by the hunts after the ban in which the scent of fox urine is used to lay a route for the dogs to track. The fact that the huntsmen in control of the hounds are not told where the scent has been laid, and the fact that trail hunters operate in exactly the same copses and woods than before the ban where many foxes live, made us conclude the following". Trail hunting was really designed as a false alibi to avoid prosecution of illegal hunting when real foxes end up being chased instead of the urine trail.

This raises the question.... where did they get the fox urine??

A recent example of flouting the law :Three members of the Grove and Rufford Hunt were

found guilty of illegal fox hunting on March 22, 2017

They have been fined after being found guilty of hunting a wild mammal with dogs, contrary to the Hunting Act 2004. Huntsman Paul Larby, 57, of Barnby Moor, terrierman Peter White, 57, of Kneesall and the hunt's whipper-in Jane Wright, 63, of Lound were each found guilty at Mansfield Magistrates Court on the 14th March.

The court were shown photographs taken by members of the public who watched the hunt near Rainham, Letford, on 30th January 2016 while going birdwatching. They saw the hunt pursue then kill a fox before the body of the mutilated animal was removed. One of the birdwatchers told the court that a fox was chased by about 45 foxhounds in full view of members of the hunt, including Larby and Wright who were in the field but the bird watchers did not witness any attempts to call the hounds off.

On the day in question one of the birdwatchers said: "This is going to be interesting. They must have seen the fox. Clearly they will need to call off the hunt."

The fox cub killing South Herefordshire Hunt have announced they will be hunting at the home of ex-master Patrick Darling, Caradoc Court, Ross on Wye. The hunt are currently suspended by the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) whilst the investigation continues into employees of the hunt who were filmed throwing fox cubs to the hounds before disposing of the bodies

IFAW has advised police and prosecutors that they should be suspicious if hunts try to defend themselves from allegations of illegal hunting by saying that their dogs were out of control while trail hunting. For centuries hunters have prided themselves on their ability to control their packs. If, for some sudden and inexplicable

reason, they are now unable to reliably exert control they should not be out with their dogs.

Out-of-control dogs have also chased and attacked pets and livestock and even invaded homes and gardens. This would not happen if hunts were to adopt drag hunting, in which an artificial scent (ie. non-fox scent, such as aniseed) is followed, or bloodhound hunting, in which the scent of a person running is followed, both sports which already existed before the ban. In these cases, the huntsmen always know where the trail goes so they can stop the hounds if they deviate from it, and they take place in areas where foxes do not normally go.

Intimidation endured by hunt monitors in England and Wales has increased significantly after successful prosecution outcomes for illegal hunting. Intimidation generally comes from the thug life known as terrier men. Aka the hunt heavies

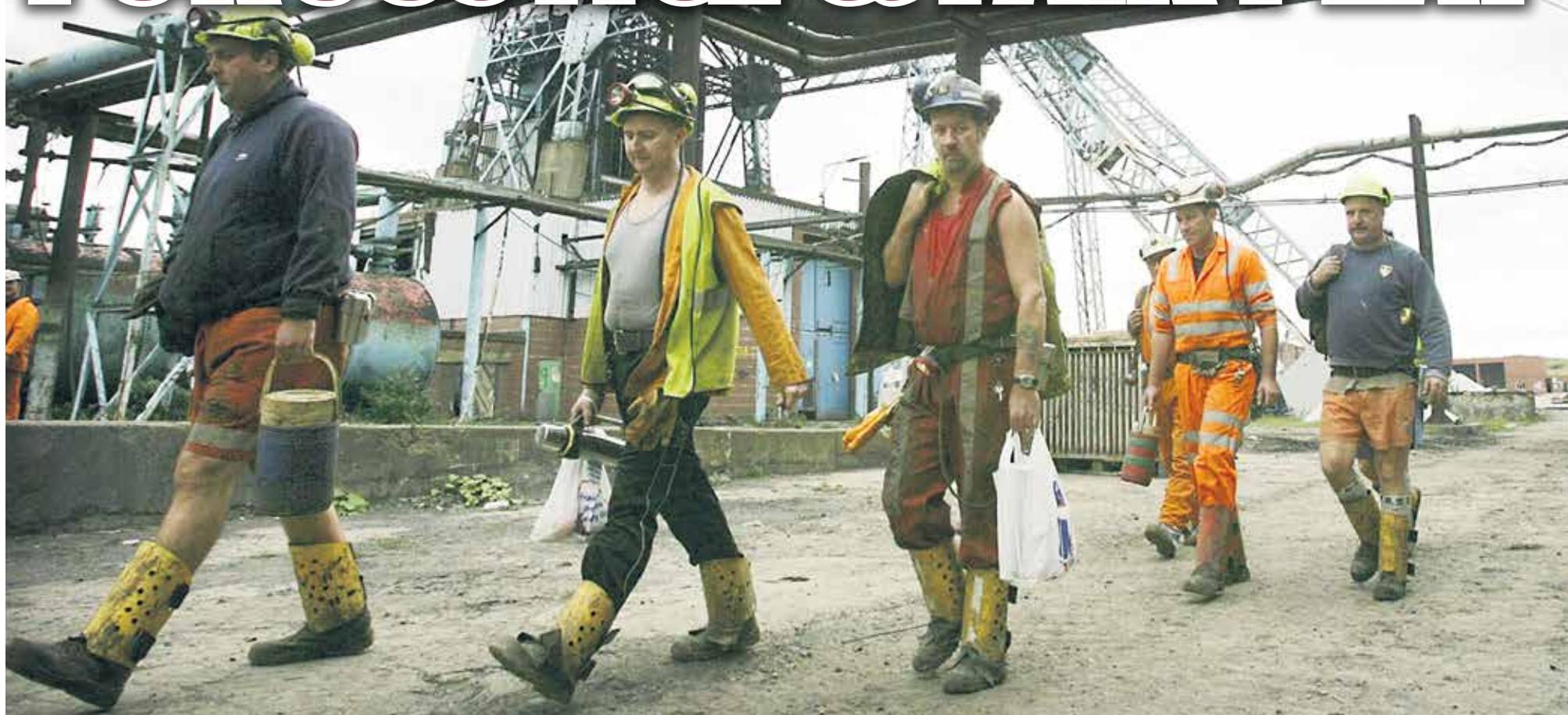
Police need to be more skeptical with any hunt claiming to be trail hunting as often these illegal hunters use this alibi without even having bothered to lay any trail (making it a "false" alibi, not just an alibi).The Hunt Saboteurs offer great insight into the devious tricks of the hunting fraternity & could offer the police great assistance towards successful prosecutions.

But our Prime Minister is clearly devoid of compassion towards any species other than Tories and has happily announced her support for this pursuit.

Join the Hunt Sabs in their quest to protect defenseless animals and make June the end of May



UK MINERS PENSION SCHEME ASSOCIATION, FOR JUSTICE & FAIR PLAY



By Leslie Moore, ex Hatfield Main Colliery (Yorkshire),

Here we are today, 17/05/2017, facing a general election. This is the day I'm typing my third article for the Word. The general election of 2017 is now underway taking place around the UK's collection of nationalities separated by invisible boundaries that I have only seen on a map.

The election will no doubt be over by the time you are reading this paragraph, with the result known, well before this article is published. Our people will be living with the outcome whatever that may be. Which the outcome of could be either left leaning or right leaning. Our country is more divided today than in any year of my life, the class division has many more levels of self inflicted madness than I at first realised as a young miner who thought there was only workers or bosses in our class madness many people love being part of. There I was thinking the Royals were the super duper Boss class, special people to be revered. Mind I may not have been to far out with that uncomplicated line of thought knowing what I

now understand about their history with their pedigree coupled to their influence in mine as well as yours history, as the case may be.

After this election which I am finding interesting in as much as I am of the opinion this is the first time I have ever seen such a clear distinction in the choice of systems being offered to the people of the United Kingdom. It would be a very wise man indeed who could call at this stage of the programme of events, the outcome before the votes are cast during the balloting of the United Kingdom's citizens aged 18 or over. I have great difficulty in saying the adults of the United Kingdom as that term denotes, are mainly well rounded people over the age of 18 with the capacity of rational thought.

The voting patterns I have witnessed over the years leads me to question my own thinking never mind that of the folk around me, turkeys voting for Xmas always brings a smile plus raises my eyebrows as a more apt description, on the other hand we are all entitled to our point of view even if it is obviously wrong. I see said the blind man in the corner talking to his self. I will offer this prediction; The end result will be very close;

in the number of MP's returned to govern us mere mortals, from both sides of the house. Returned to the palace of variety and fool's, the two main parties in England will push aside many Liberals. UKIP is failing fast with no others ever being elected, even at parish level. Scotland will return mainly SNP with possibly two or three labour MP's the surprise may be the Tory party may re-emerge with a few MPs. Wales will still have Plaid Cymru with a few labour MP's. In Northern Ireland there will be no change. For the first time in my life, the smaller parties although being hit hard losing MP's may well hold the balance of power. This will not turn out that good for our parliament. Yet strangely, as a whole, such an event could be good for the population of the United Kingdom. The main political grouping may be well upset with what they will have setup in front for themselves. My comment concerning this possible state of affairs is "Good! 'About time that they were as frustrated with the world: Just as is the rest of the country!"

Now I will come to what my forecast will mean to the Miners of the UK who have suffered in-

describable deprivations, punishments, bullying as well as a peevish programme of disenfranchisement by all shades of governments since the end of the Miners Strike of 1984/85. I am of the opinion that lots of MP's will have lost their seats being replaced by MP's who were children during the battles for the industrial direction, the UK was being forced down. These MP's being replaced by a class of MP's that think chipping a finger nail is a industrial injury. But these will want to remove disability payments from men who are condemned to live their life in a wheel chair through a broken back (a true story), or maybe a broken neck due to the county of Yorkshire falling upon them.

This not out of spite but due to the nature of the county of Yorkshire that, every now and again, likes to fall on miners; Burying them while breaking all manner of bones on the man's body. That is before I give my predictions of what our potential governments are considering offering the miners in exchange for placing a X in a box on a ballot paper in the interests of those politicians now courting the ex-miners collective voting power. We the UKMPSA, have set out what

we would like to take place regarding the ill advised yet greedy episodes of the miners pension funds raids by all political parties - none are exempt from blame - ('A plague on all your houses!').

I am of the opinion that although billions of pounds have been removed from the Miners Pension Scheme, by all shades of government. The only morsel they will offer is a Review of the Surplus Sharing Arrangements. In so doing, totally ignoring the benefit they have taken from the pension payment holidays from 1987 to 1996, taken from the Mineworkers Pension Scheme - and which if taken with the compounded investment returns lost - makes the figure go up to a staggering and eye watering £8 billion plus.

Then adding more insult to the injury the offer from any future government is a review with the trustees of the Mineworkers Pension Scheme. This will be designed to tell us (at the UKMPSA) that our analysis and conclusion is not correct. Our conclusion is, that politicians only want to alter the percentages of the surplus sharing arrangements, while ignoring the money already removed from our Pension Scheme. Watch this space.

TEAM CORBYN WINS THE BIG GAME

For almost two years some of the team's supposed fans in Westminster had been chelping on about how the Manager/Chief Coach was too old at 67. "Past his best, not good enough, had lost the support of his first team in particular and playing staff in general and would be lucky to see this season out still in charge.", writes *R Sennall*, Corbyn fan and cub sports reporter.

On Saturday, a long campaign came to a head, and Team Corbyn came up against The Blues, the first time for a while that they'd gone head to head under coach Lynton Crosby. It was widely expected that The Blues would win it, and they fielded all the usual suspects, Cahill, Sideshow Bob Luiz, Azpilicue-ta at the back, with Theresa May in goal. And a right load of supposed stars in midfield, Hunt, Mick the Fib Fallon, Big Daft Boris and Chopper Hammond. Up front were major tax dodgers, Amazon and Star-buck, with Costa leading the line.

Early doors saw a member of the Shadow Cabinet, Diane Abbot, charge down a clearance, holding up her hands after a small mistake and unfortunately allowing the ball to hit them. Immediately some Blues stopped as though in shock, and began to shout that she'd mis-handled. Other players pointed to Kier Starmer, the one who looks like Bastian Schweinsteiger of the Black Sox but isn't, standing in an offside position.

"Not interfering with play," said referee Christian "Guru" Murphy, totally ignoring Diane's impeccable recovery and superb handling, and she was able to rifle off a shot, if that's not too unpacifist a term, and Team Corbyn were 1-0 up. And that's how things stood until half time, when the general feeling of the crowd and the press and pundits was that The Blues didn't seem to want it. They almost looked as though they wanted to lose.

Theresa May in goal had kept shouting at the back three "Strong and Stable, Strong and Stable," until one of them, Azpilicue-ta I think it was, asked her to either think of something else to shout or shut the feck up.

At half time, Lynton Crosby came in with the half oranges and diet coke, and decided on a relaunch. Eric (more please) Pickles, Team Blue's health and fitness coach thought he'd said 'relunch'



and had several suggestions.

"Brexiteer means Brexiteer again?" asked Theresa. She was still muttering this when Team Corbyn's own health and fitness coach Tom

'Biscuit means Biscuit' Watson overheard her and went off to see if he could find something to keep the squad going in case the game went to penalties.

Then, completely unnecessarily, Mick 'the Fib' Fallon, who had earned a yellow card in the first half for clattering Oxlade-Long-Bailey-Rae told a blatant lie about

Jeremy having fouled when really it had been Daft Boris, and the Guru showed him a second yellow card and asked him to accept he was simulating. Well, he went on and on, as he does, tilting his head reverentially and making stuff up as he went on, and then threw himself down and had to be carried off to the sounds of "Liar, Liar; he's a..." from the capacity crowd.

About three quarters of the way through, Costa Coffee netted for the Blues. It was a good goal, and for 24 seconds, Watson thought he might have to produce those biscuits he'd so carefully hidden, but Diane Abbot was off again, trading passes, shimmying on the ball, then Richard Burgon ran onto Chuka Umunna's pass, chipped the ball over and Kier Starmer arrived to nod in the winner.

For 24 seconds, Watson thought he might have to produce those biscuits he'd so carefully hidden.

"Brexiteer means Brexiteer again?" asked Theresa.

At half time Lynton Crosby came in with the half oranges and diet coke, and decided on a relaunch.

Mick 'the Fib' Fallon ... told a blatant lie about Jeremy having fouled when it had been Daft Boris.



J'Accuse!

Theresa May I accuse you, weak
and wobbly as you are,
Of having lethally underfunded
our police force,
Despite wise warnings from them,
which you chose to ignore,
Resulting in the employment of
a standing army on the streets of
Great Britain,
Of hiding from the General Public
whenever you can
And refusing to engage in political
debate on TV,
Of producing a pitiful manifesto
For which you cannot calculate
the cost
Whether in money, in pain or in
lives lost,
Of having set up the NHS to fail,
OUR National Health Service,
which you have prepared
For sale to someone who will milk it
Of every valuable thing it has, and
thus render it
Rather like the Medical Systems in
the USA or the Third World,
Of watching the gulf grow between
the poor and the wealthy such as
yourself and your friends,
And laughing at the proliferation
of food banks, and homelessness,
(My! what a nasty laugh you have)
Is this the way you guffaw when
you see a fox ripped apart by excit-
ed dogs?
Is this how you would let your at-
tack dogs rip apart all that is good,
left in the UK?
Is OUR Health Service to be
thrown to the dogs?
Do you even want to win this
election?
Or has it all become just too much
for you?
I accuse YOU Theresa Mary May,
born Brasier,
(Let's just be very, very clear
About whom we mean)
And your whole cursed Government,
Hammond, and Rudd and daft
Boris, and that one
Whose initials remind everyone of
Irritable Bowel Syndrome
And that sneaky looking elderly
chap who tilts his head
Reverentially when speaking on
Sunday morning TV,
Yes, that one who wants to nuke
the world
And so encourage others to attack
us first
Before he lets one go like a drunk
in a pub toilet
Not caring who or what it hits or
where it goes
Or the effect it will have on the rest
of the company,
Or that disingenuous fellow who
OPENS HIS EYES REALLY WIDE
When he is telling his considered
lies about our precious doctors
and nurses,
I accuse the whole damned lot
of you, the whole damned and
damnably lot,
But especially you, Mrs May, let's
be perfectly clear, I accuse you
Of being *NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE*.

Stanley Acrimonious

I accuse
YOU



Theresa May

FORMER PRIME MINISTER - UK

Supporting Animal Cruelty
(Fox Hunting)

I accuse
YOU



Theresa May

FORMER PRIME MINISTER - UK

NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE

I accuse
YOU



Theresa May

FORMER PRIME MINISTER - UK

Plotting to sell the **NHS**

I accuse
YOU



Theresa May

FORMER PRIME MINISTER - UK

Underfunding of the **POLICE**

IN DEFENCE OF THERESA MARY MAY

I should like now to say a few words in defence of my client Theresa Mary May, born Brasier Just to be very, very, clear.

Now, the defence is not saying she's a nice person

Or even a successful politician Though she got to be Prime Minister

Without winning an election to that post

Either in a General Election Or across the party membership, which never got to choose in the matter.

What we are saying is that she had no part in making, transporting,

Or setting off a bomb to kill a number of children, parents and grandparents

In Manchester.

Heck, she had never heard of Ariana Grande until you did

Let alone that there was a concert that night.

You have heard charges from learned counsel for kippers

That as Home Secretary she 'let 'em in

Let 'em out and let 'em back' Some carrying rags, some carrying babies

And some carrying evil thoughts

Because aeroplanes from Western Powers

And a man who has fancy property in the UK, Mr Assad,

Had bombed their villages.

You have heard testimony from learned counsel for the Left

That she has systematically

Drained money and resources from the NHS

So that should terrorism escalate in future

Then hospitals may not be able to cope

Particularly if all the non-UK staff

Are encouraged to leave their jobs

And go elsewhere.

But I put it to you that she was

Nowhere near Manchester that night

Though she arrived very shortly afterwards

With cameras, TV, and media, And stood uncomfortably by The beds of injured children, Ignoring them and being ignored.

At least the Queen tried to smile a bit.

But this shows that Theresa, my client,

Did not seek to gain any political advantage.

You have heard learned counsel For the so-called Liberal

So-called Democratic, so-called Party,

Surely a triple misnomer that, If ever there were one,

But I digress, my apologies m'lud;

You have heard that a government

That she was part of between twenty ten

And twenty fifteen

Did, as well as increasing

the gap

Between wealthy and poor, Indulge in Nation Crushing in Libya

Without any care or caution, And certainly without thought of consequence

Or as it could be called Nation Building, such a discredited concept,

So that Libyan people, and their children, and their children's children

Wherever they might live

Should grow in resentment of The governments who took part in this shambles;

But Libya's president literally got

A sharp knife up his bottom without trial

As a previous US First Lady and subsequent

Presidential candidate, laughed gleefully;

Theresa did no such thing. No such thing.

She does not possess a sharp enough knife

She doesn't even have time to do her own cooking, I contend.

Indeed she cannot laugh gleefully.

We have seen and heard her laugh,

And it is nothing like gleeful.

I would not like to say what it was

But I could do an impression for you.

Very well, m'lud I shan't.

Probably best that I don't.

You have heard daft Boris claim

That terrorism is caused by

Military involvement in other countries,

But you have heard another of her colleagues,

Sir Michael Farron, not to be confused

With that odd little Tim Fallon, Say that that's just Corbyn banter.

Well it isn't. It just isn't. It's lies and nonsense,

And he should know, being an expert in both,

Indeed, like Daddy Pig, being something of an expert in most things,

As he tells his family, and some of them believe him.

The very small ones.

More significantly, you have heard various spokespersons

For the police, the security services

The army, navy, and air-force,

From Government Intelligence,

Though some will consider that an oxymoron,

That staff and resources have been

Systematically degraded to the point of

Danger, And that they can't keep track

Of every bad person.

This, we say, is nonsense.

They only need to catch the really bad ones.

The ones carrying the bombs. The ones intent on evil doings.

So in defence of this wretch of a woman,

This previously strong and stable leader

Who has gone all weak and wobbly

In the space of three wobbly weeks,

I suggest that you should find her

Not Guilty of exploding a bomb in Manchester,

Even though her bombs go off all over the world

In places like Yemen,

And convict Jeremy Corbyn instead.

Because he looks a bit old, and scruffy

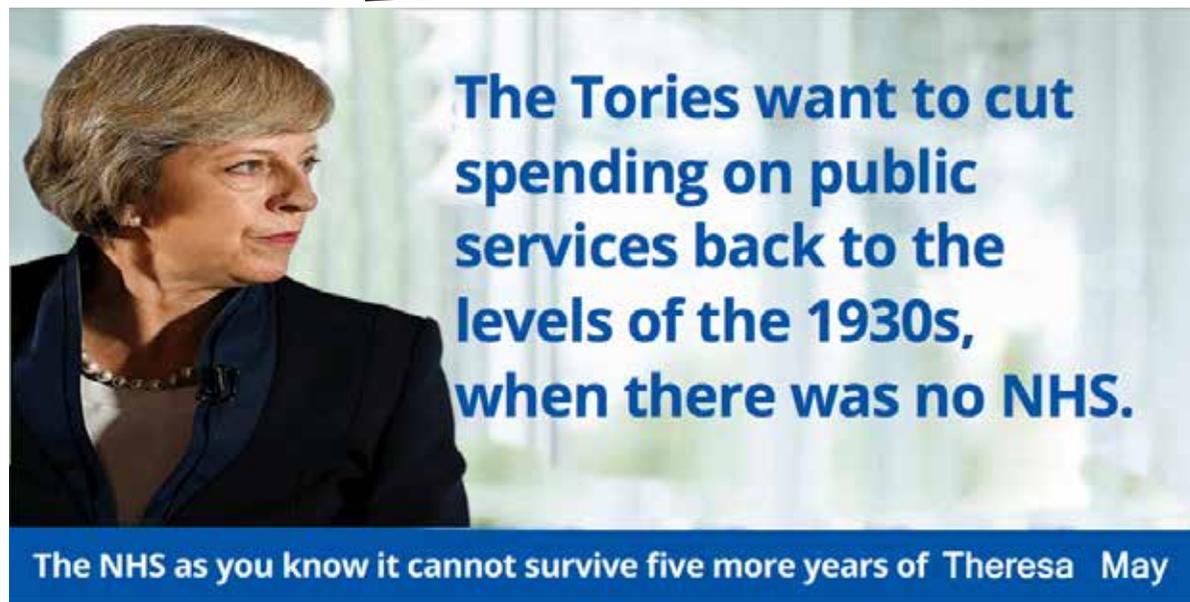
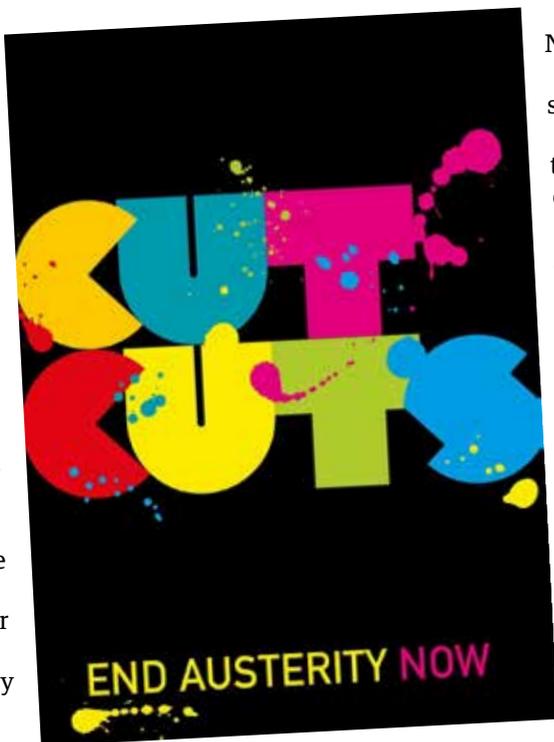
And has a much fairer manifesto than she does

And looks likely to win in the General Election

And that will never do.

Because I earn over £80,000 per year.

Thank you.





REDS BEAT BLUES

**Arsenal shock
the favourites by
outplaying them.**

Chelsea's hopes of winning the double died as Arsenal stunned the Premier League champions at Wembley.

Alexis Sanchez opened the scoring after just four minutes with a goal that was initially ruled out for offside. But after a short discussion between Anthony Taylor and his linesman, the goal was given.

Diego Costa equalised for Chelsea late in the second-half, after Victor Moses was shown a second yellow card for simulation.

But the league champions were only back on level terms for three minutes as Aaron Ramsey raced down the other end of the pitch to score, ensuring that Arsenal's distinctly underwhelming league campaign ended in glory.

So Chelsea have a man sent off for dirty play, the underdogs win and some of Arsenal's supporters finally stop moaning at the manager.

GENERAL ELECTION,
HERE WE COME.