

**THE**

Issue #25, February 2018

**Fake news**

SEE PAGE 31

**The Russians  
are coming**

SEE PAGE 30

**£1**

# WORD

Equality **D**emocracy **T**ruth **C**ourage **THE PEOPLE'S PAPER** [www.thewordmedia.co.uk](http://www.thewordmedia.co.uk)



# CHILDREN ADDICTED TO GAMBLING

SEE PAGE 4

**THE NEWSPAPER FROM THE LEFT WING**

I think we can agree that USA President Donald Trump is a sexist, racist bully; a charlatan that makes us cringe. What we should all ask ourselves is he anything fundamentally different from what has gone on before in the dark slithering halls of American politics. Do we really now hark back in nostalgia to the cuddly moron that was George W Bush? Do our hearts miss a beat at the agony of missing out on another Clinton? Do we long for the days of Reagan's in office dementia? Is there even a perceptible amelioration in the depredation that is the foreign policy of the new American century? What we do see is a flim flam of smoke and mirrors designed to lead us on a path into the wild wood. We are being lost and led astray by the big bad wolf.

Hilary Clinton laughs and cackles with joy at the judicial murder of Osama Bin Laden. The icon of the last American confidence trick on us, Barack Obama looks on from the war room. Obama is seen in the official video as cool and hip whilst Clinton is clapping in a Botox enhanced impression of a school girl. She simpers with joy at the death of a fellow human being. Remember



# TOSS TRUMP?

how her campaign promise was to create a no fly zone over Syria? One shot down Russian jet and WW3 was on the cards. Do you

remember Greenham common and how the USA launched an attack on Grenada without informing Thatcher? Remember how

the USA bombed Libya using air-bases in the UK? Remember how George W Bush's eyes glazed over when told the twin towers had

been removed as he was reading a fairy story to children? He was in the realm of the Unicorn, lost in Narnia. And, if we are not careful, so will we be. Trolled and side tracked and spending years through the wardrobe.

By all means form your anti trump groups, protest, post anti Trump rhetoric on social media, show you care. More importantly see the cause of the malaise. Trump is no more than a nasty little sneeze in an American disease. By cooperation and conscience and being true to ourselves we can halt and overturn the spectre of greed filled capitalism. We need not to allow them to divide us on peripheral subjects, important as they seem. Let us keep focused on the main fight which is against Empire, power and greed. Once these mighty Titans are conquered by hope, truth and democracy the rest will fall into place. In truth we are not fighting them. As much as we may despair at their vainness, a false set of people is not what we have to beat. Forget playing cards with a cheating Trump. We have to beat ourselves. The answer is to be found in the magic of our own steps.

THE  
WORD

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The Word Newspaper has a new website at  
**WWW.THEWORDMEDIA.CO.UK**

You can download old PDF versions of the newspaper from there as well as catch up with the latest news. If you register with us (and this is free, you are also entitled to extra content.) Anyone who would like to contribute to the articles in the paper or website is also welcome to register.



**PHOTO NEWS**

Astrophotographer Sergio Garcia Rill captured this composite image of the Super Blue Blood Moon of Jan. 31 over Houston, Texas

## This letter has twice been rejected...

This letter has twice been rejected by The Observer, despite signatories including a prominent former MP and a Lobby journalist. Please print it with that introduction. Very many thanks:

Dear Sir,

Next year will mark the tenth anniversary of the Great Crash, and the fifteenth anniversary of the catastrophic invasion of Iraq. In the scandalously arranged absence of Bernie Sanders, President Trump has been elected by the American individuals, families, communities and areas that have suffered most as a result of politically chosen austerity, and which have given most to wars of political choice. The British individuals, families, communities and areas that have suffered most as a result of politically chosen austerity, and which have given most to wars of political choice, have elected Jeremy Corbyn as Leader of the Labour Party, have delivered the referendum vote to leave the European Union, have re-elected Corbyn even more overwhelmingly, and have deprived the Conservative Party of its overall majority in the House of Commons.

Yet Trump is, predictably, acquiescing to the forces against which his supporters voted, while Brexit is being negotiated, insofar as it is being negotiated at all, in precisely the interests of which the referendum result was a comprehensive rejection. In the midst of this, the senior newspaper of the Anglophone liberal tradition is disgracing

itself by peddling a bad James Bond parody in which Hillary Clinton and the Remain campaign, limitlessly funded and with almost entirely sympathetic media coverage, were defeated by tweets and Facebook posts from the Kremlin.

Instead of this nonsense, The Observer needs to be participating in the formulation, articulation and implementation of the alternative to neoliberal economic policy and to neoconservative foreign policy, based on the pursuit of economic equality and of international peace through the democratic political control of the means to those ends, including a Leader of the Labour Party who is, and who deserves to be, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,

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by Tom Pride

A lot of people in the public eye – particularly journalists and politicians – seem to be afraid to say this at the moment for fear it could damage their career or their party.

It would be extremely naive indeed to think there aren't people cynical enough in politics to use the current appalling sex scandals engulfing Westminster for their own nefarious political ends.

Truth is never black and white. It is always complicated.

And so it is with the Westminster sexual harassment cases coming out at the moment.

Some of the accusations are appalling, particularly the accusations that serious crimes been covered up by both the Tory, Lib Dem and Labour leaderships. I hope in these cases the perpetrators are named and shamed and justice is served.

It was also absolutely right in my view to call out supposedly less serious behaviour by politicians – such as Labour MP Jared O'Mara's horrible homophobic and misogynist comments.

But it's becoming increasingly hard to differentiate between the very real and appalling cases being reported – including accusations of serious assault and rape – and cases which are simply attempts to smear political opponents under cover of the scandal.

Which brings me to the case of Labour MP Kelvin Hopkins.

There was a lot of genuine head-scratching in and around Westminster when Hopkins – the 76-year old left-wing MP for Luton North – was accused of sexual harassment by a young Labour activist.

Unlike other MPs accused in the current sex scandals – where serial cases of similar behaviour are quite rightly offered as proof of guilt – during Hopkins' decades-long political career, there have been no other previous suspicions, gossip or accusations of this kind against him.

Quite the opposite in fact. Even some of Hopkins' opponents have been surprised by the allegations against him:

"As a former Conservative Chairman I was often in the presence of both Kelvin & Margaret Moran. She was hard and hostile to political opponents, whereas he would always say hello, chat, sometimes (at counts) about our respective campaigns, he was always full of cheer and thoroughly decent. I have always liked him and wished he was the Luton South MP as he lives near me, rather than Luton North. I cannot believe these allegations. They don't make sense, and things that don't make sense usually aren't true. Last time I checked we still have a presumption of innocence until proven guilty in this country, so let's stop



# Hard-line Blairite Remainers USE SEX SCANDAL to target pro-Brexit MP Kelvin Hopkins

this trial by media. Kelvin has my full support."

Of course, just because a case of harassment is a one-off complaint and seemingly out of character from previous behaviour, it doesn't necessarily mean the person accused is not-guilty.

Because looking at the details of the case, it's clear he is the victim of an attempt to cynically use the harassment scandal to smear him as a Corbyn and Brexit supporter, as well as an attempt to smear the Labour leader himself.

That's my opinion. Here's a summary of the evidence. Make your own mind up.

There are just two accusations against Hopkins from the same accuser. The first accusation was first made in 2015, soon after Jeremy Corbyn became Labour leader. Hopkins was one of the few

MPs who nominated Corbyn. The complaint related to a text message Hopkins had sent to his accuser, but contrary to some press reports it did not include the second more serious accusation that in 2014, Hopkins had rubbed himself against her. This more serious accusation only appeared in the last few days in an interview with the Daily Telegraph.

What we do know is that Hopkins was reprimanded by the then Labour whip Rosie Winterton (more about her later) for sending this text:

While this message might be considered to be inappropriate, it's not exactly the crime of the century. But there is something very odd about it. It is clearly in reply to a previous message or conversation. Hopkins' accuser – through her Daily Telegraph minders – has

not responded to requests to reveal what communication the text is in reply to. And as mentioned before, Hopkins refuses to discuss anything connected with his accuser. Without any context, it's hard to judge just how inappropriate the message is. To me, it looks like he could be letting her down gently for some reason, but who knows?

The second only recently-made accusation – which contrary to press reports was not part of the original complaint that Hopkins was given a reprimand for – is that in 2014 Hopkins 'ground his groin' against his accuser while saying goodbye to her after a talk at her university. This allegation is completely refuted by Hopkins:

"I absolutely and categorically deny that I in any way engaged in

any such inappropriate conduct. I simply put an arm around her shoulder to give her a brief, slight hug just before getting in to my car. I did not hold her tight. I did not rub any part of my body, let alone my crotch, against Ava. She waved me off as I drove away and did not say anything whatsoever to suggest that anything had occurred that upset her let alone revolted her."

But the real problem with this new accusation is that when it was alleged to have taken place doesn't make any sense at all in the timeline of known messages.

On the 12.11.2014 after an Essex University talk, the alleged groin grind was supposed to have taken place.

But later that same evening, after the alleged event, Hopkins' accuser sent this text to him:

"Thank you so much Kelvin for coming tonight!! We had a fantastic time. My members loved you! You're a star! x Ava."

And just a month later, on the 15.12.2014 Hopkins received this message from his accuser:

"Hi Kelvin, how are you? Could you please send me your post address? I'd like to send you a Christmas card. x Ava."

In 2016, Hopkins' accuser also contacted the MP to enquire about getting a job in Westminster. After a 'friendly' conversation, Hopkins told her he had no vacancies.



The Gambling Commission's annual report for 2017 shows very high levels of gambling among children in the UK. There are more children gambling than smoking or taking drugs, and totally inadequate online protection, and amazingly this has been worse in previous years.

Children are also exposed by the increasing links between TV sport and gambling ads and sponsorship.

The shocking survey showed the following problem areas, and surprising degree of interaction children find themselves passively experiencing, through smart devices, apps, social media and also TV.

### Gambling participation

- 12% of 11-16 year olds had spent their own money on gambling in the past week
- This compared to 5% who had smoked cigarettes and 3% who had used drugs
- 9% of 11-16 year olds had spent their own money - illegally - on licenced gambling, for example in betting shops.
- An average of £10 was spent on gambling - around £3 700 000 in total per week.

### Online participation

- 3% of all 11-16 year olds have ever spent their own money, while 7% used a parent's account
- On average, young people were 12 years old when they gambled for the first time
- 80% of young people have seen gambling adverts on TV, 70% on social media and 66% on other websites
- 10% follow gambling companies on social media

### Problem gambling and gambling-related harm

- 0.9% of 11-16 year olds are classified as 'problem' gamblers - The Gambling Commission equate that to about 25000 youngsters, but according to Gambling Analyst Heather Wardle (see below) it's more like 31 000, 1.3% as 'at risk'.

Regulation is not currently working to protect children even though gambling companies have been banned since 2007, from advertising in media that is specifically for children or young people, including on YouTube channels and gaming sites. To spite this 70% of young people say they have seen gambling adverts on social media, and two-thirds have seen them on other websites.

Our traditional TV channels are also to blame though, BBC research last year found that 95% of British football matches on TV featured at least one gambling commercial during ad breaks. More than 90% of 12- to 15-year-olds watch TV for 14.5 hours a week.

# 11-16 YEAR OLDS GAMBLED NEARLY £4M AWAY LAST WEEK

## Young People and Gambling 2017

GAMBLING  
COMMISSION

Data source: Ipsos MORI Young People Omnibus  
Sample: 2,881 11-16 year olds drawn from 115 academies and maintained secondary and middle schools in Great Britain  
Method: Self-completion pen and paper surveys conducted with whole classes under supervision  
Fieldwork dates: 6 February - 17 May 2017

### Gambling participation

**12%**  
have spent their own money on gambling in the past week

c.370,000  
11-16 year olds

### Past week gambling participation: trend



### Most common past week gambling activities



### Online gambling

**3%** spend their own money on online gambling at least once a year

**7%** have used a parent's account to gamble online

Of this 7%,  
**88%** have done so with permission  
**22%** have done so without permission

### Online gambling-style games

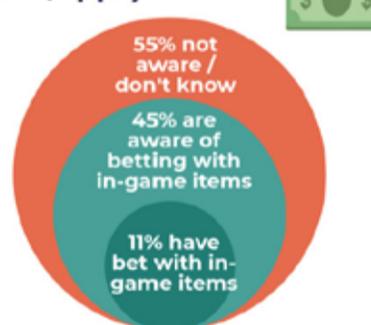
**11%** have played online gambling-style games

**12%** of boys  
**10%** of girls

### Social media

**10%** follow gambling companies on social media

### In-game items (in computer games/apps)



### Ever bet with in-game items:

**20%** of boys  
**3%** of girls

### Seen gambling advertising



### Problem gambling

**0.9%** are problem gamblers  
c.25,000 problem gamblers

**1.3%** are at-risk gamblers

What is also emerging is a picture of a generational gap in general knowledge and understanding of the internet, and total lack of capacity to regulate the subtleties of internet use by parents. For example, thousands of children and young people are losing money

on websites which allow them to trade virtual items through online role playing games.

The items - guns, clothes, cars etc within the games can be won or bought as upgrades, and swapped like a new "skin" for

the character. In a newly emerging trend though, they then get used as a proxy currency to place bets. "Skin gambling" has for the first time been surveyed by Gambling Commission, who found that 45% of 11-16 year-olds were aware of "skin betting and

that 11% of 11-16 year-olds had placed bets using in-game items.

In a worrying evolution of the practice third party sites are now offering a totally unregulated access to young gamblers to place bets using these virtual items.

Anecdotal evidence is also emerging that gambling ads are reaching children of all ages through online content. For example, Heather Wardle, assistant professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has been researching the public health issues of modern gambling for some time. Due to her research, her iPad algorithm has recently thrown up gambling ads even when the viewed content was toddler focused such as "the night garden".

In the wider social context we have to ask "how has the profit motive again been able to jeopardise the future health of tens to hundreds of thousands of young people?". We've seen in recent months and years since Blair onwards that well informed money makers have always seemed to stay several steps ahead of our "societal protectors" - the government. Banks, housing, wages, recently construction companies and of course, gamblers, after all just a more localised form of stock market, are well in on the act.

I would argue that it's not possible to run two opposing systems in parallel. The Tories would pretend that we need (complex, long winded) investigations, recommendations and gradual changes in the law. We know from the train crashes of the early noughties that "Value of Life" calculations are balanced against safety expenditure in private industry all the time, your safety - our safety - has become a fringe accountancy offset, the cost of safety Vs how much profit we generate as consumers, and unsurprisingly, we are not often happy to learn just how little life is worth when that factor starts to eat into profits.

We need a system which starts from what we need, not how we can satisfy other people's greed for wealth beyond our dreams.

I was asked this week "Why do you do it"? And although I know most of you will know this already - it started with an elderly homeless man called Ben and his little dog Mia who we helped about four years ago... he was living in a tent next to the canal and had been robbed, abused and was told to get help he would have to euthanise his little dog - his only friend - as he could not take her into emergency accommodation.....then came Paul who had fled domestic violence and survived a suicide attempt.... then Tony Verminphoned me when WSO very first went live and my Little Brother Joe Solostarted the rallying call over three years ago.....and now it is a way of life that never, ever lets up.....

What was intended to be a weekend of activism to help local communities has grown into a huge family across the length and breadth of the country - fighting back at Austerity and a system that catastrophically fails those most in need. And it is hard work, but it's saving lives and it matters....I'd have cracked if it weren't for the rest of the WSO Central team - Joe Solo, Tony Peter Wright, Stephen Goodall, Val Colvin, Matt Hill, Jamie Bramwell, Pete Yen and Steve White - and all the people in our links, especially Gemma Louise Whittaker and Infinity Initiatives and Lisa Shepherd and Scott Shepherd and the Impact team....

On Monday our hundredth person who needed a roof over their head moves into his new flat - and there are another half a dozen that are work in progress....

And here are some of the reasons I can't stop - this week has been so emotionally and physically draining, but here is just some of what is happening - RIGHT HERE in Ashton - in OUR town....

Yesterday I spotted a post from a young mum we helped when she was made homeless at eight months pregnant - after one hell of a struggle, she ended up in her own home with her newborn son....but due to one cock up after another she is now having to survive on £18 a week for food for both of them....this month she had vets' fees too for her little dog, who she still sadly lost - and the result was that she just ran out of money....she was trying to sell her clothes to survive....people stepped up and donated some money to get her through - she's picked that up today and now has £75 in cash as well as a bit more on the way via Paypal (thanks to Dez Richardson, Steve Blowers and Infinity).....and we've got an appointment booked for her to get advocacy help with Infinity Initiatives next week as well - Gemma Louise Whittaker also sent a bag of treats for them both and Street Daryl Treatpitched in with a big box of fruit and veg-



# PAULINE TOWN IS LICENSEE AT THE STATION HOTEL

gies which she has shared with her sister who also struggles.... now this mum doesn't drink, use drugs, smoke, go out....she just struggles to survive. That box of fruit meant that her toddler son tried an orange for the first time in

his life today - with £18 a week for food for them both, every single penny counts and she simply cannot risk trying him with new food in case he won't eat it....she can't risk anything being wasted....so that little man waited this long to

try an orange....and he loved it - so now she will try to add that into the shop she does....

Last night on the way home from seeing Joe play in Salford, we met a new homeless man on the streets - the fiver that I was handed at the gig from the sale of a hat went to feed him....This new lad in Ashton is called Lee and his new "home" is the doorway of Meeks shoes....I took him a packed lunch today and have promised I will see him when I do outreach every day - he opened the bag and he CUDDLED the fresh fruit....my heart broke.....he has promised that he will go to Impact for help next week as well - so hopefully we can get him some more long term support....

Today a new lad arrived on my doorstep - he's called Cristophe and he is going to Impact for help through the week - but there are no services available at the weekend and one of the other lads had told him he might be able to get food from We Shall Overcome at weekend....he was so hungry today when he arrived and I've told him he can come every weekend and will get a packed lunch here....

Another man arrived on my doorstep as we opened today - he is called Tommy and his wife is called Samantha. They have spent the last four months living in a tent which they pitch near a local park at night and they spend the days walking the streets. They have no address, so they didn't know they could claim any benefits and they have been surviving by him picking up scraps of work here

and there - he would love to work a proper job, but rough sleeping and with no address, he's not been able to find a job....they became homeless when their tenancy ran out and their landlord decided to sell the property, so gave them notice to quit - they complied with that and then found out when they registered as homeless that they had made themselves intentionally homeless as they hadn't waited to be physically evicted. He begged me to spare them any food I could and when I gave him a packed lunch for them both, he tried to bolt down the sandwich so quickly that he was gagging on it.....he was in tears thanking me for A SANDWICH.....I spoke to Samantha and she told me that she had given up today and was ready to end it all....but I've arranged for them to come again tomorrow when I am getting them an appointment to see Impact and get some help with Infinity Initiatives too....Samantha cried like a little girl when I told her we would get them the help they need.

THIS is Britain in 2017 - this is what is happening to people who are vulnerable, scared, desperate and too frightened to argue back - last week two of the people we have been trying to help attempted suicide - thankfully unsuccessfully....

I worked out last night how many people I am feeding that we know are genuinely street homeless or alternating between sofa surfing and rough sleeping - and it is now somewhere between 26 - 30 on any given night - I could tell you where they sleep, but obviously I won't....but that is up from just 3 or four only a couple of years ago on the town centre....there is Jason, Danny, Mark, Rick, Young Mark, Little Mark, Richard, Stephen and Poppy, Terry, Christophe, Peter, Peter C, Big Matt, Peter and Bullseye, Ian, Lee, Tommy, Samantha, Copey, Ryan, Niall, Gareth, Keith, Gary, Ginger Danny, Shnapps and another three who haven't given me their names yet....

And winter is coming on - so when you ask me why do I do this....I have to answer with how can I not?

I'm a bit down today - it feels like pushing a snowball up a mountain....but when I finally get to bed tonight after working tonight on my bar, I will know that I did the best I could today and that because of that, people who started the day with no hope can see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel - they know we care and that we see them..... that's pretty much the best any of us can ever do.

Hope to see lots of you tonight - we have a great band on and I need my family today.....

Love you all and somehow- WE SHALL Overcome!



## FLAG DAY (THE HOUSEMARTINS)

*Too many florence nightingales  
Not enough robin hoods  
Too many halos not enough heroes  
Coming up with the goods  
So you though you'd like  
to change the world  
Decided to stage a jumble sale  
For the poor, for the poor*

*Its a waste of time if you  
know what they mean  
Try shaking a box in  
front of the queen  
cause her purse is fat  
and bursting at the seams  
Its a waste of time if you  
know what they mean*

*Too many hands in too many  
pockets  
Not enough hands on hearts  
Too many ready to call it a day  
Before the day starts*

*So you thought you'd like to see  
them healed  
Got blue peter to stage an appeal  
For the poor, for the poor*

*Its a waste of time if you know  
what they mean  
Try shaking a box in front of the  
queen  
cause her purse is fat and bursting  
at the seams  
Its a waste of time if you know  
what they mean*

*Flag day, flag day, flag day*

# CLASSIC SONGS

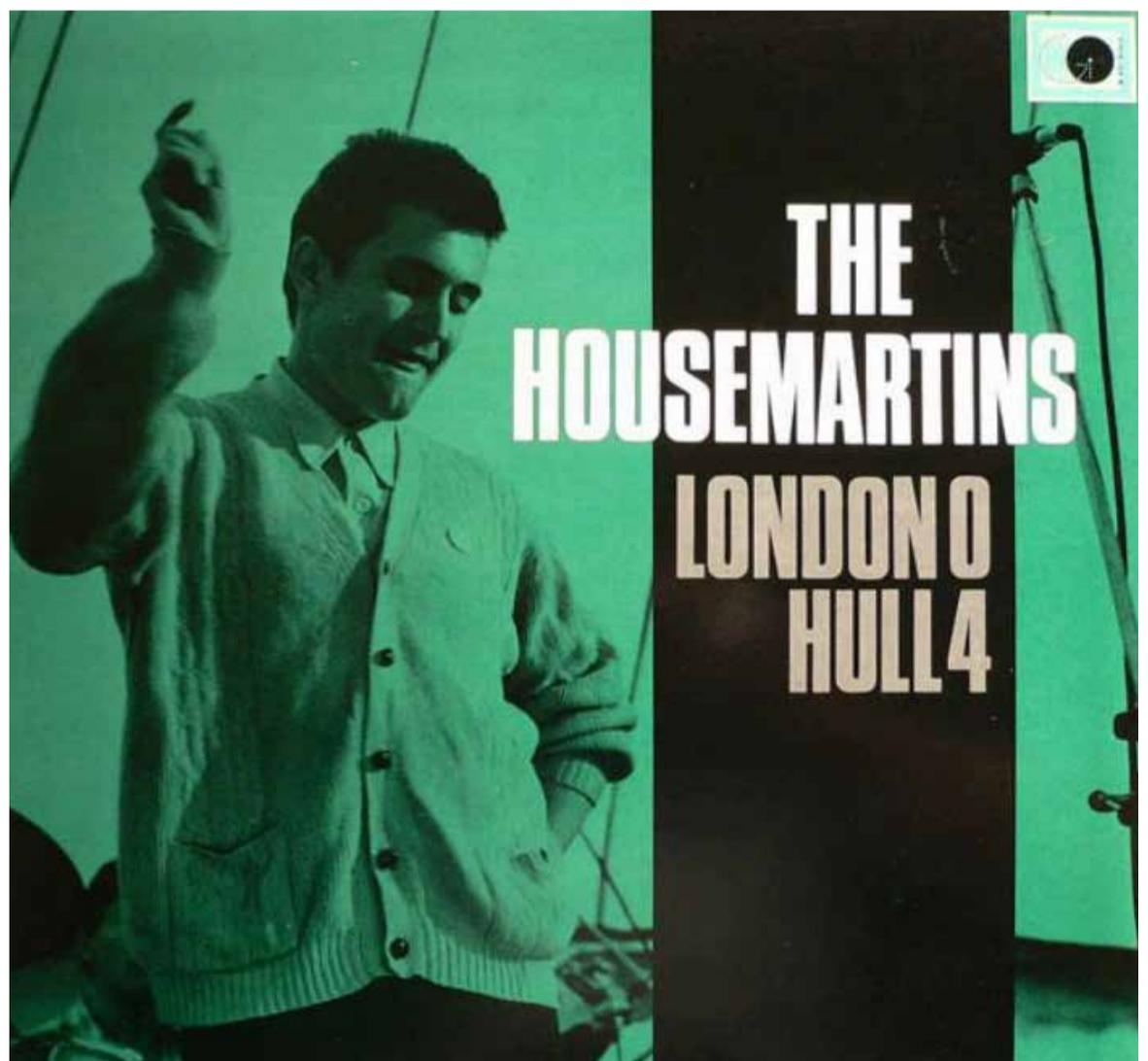
**F**lag Day was the first single released by British indie rock band The Housemartins. Released in 1985,[1] it peaked at #124 in the singles chart, and a re-recorded version of it appeared on the album *London O Hull 4*. Flag Day also appears on the compilations *Now That's What I Call Quite Good*, *Soup* and as a shorter live version on *Live at the BBC*.

The band was formed in late 1983 by Paul Heaton (vocals) and Stan Cullimore (guitar), initially as a busking duo. Throughout his tenure with the band, Heaton billed himself as «P.d. Heaton».

Heaton and Cullimore recorded a demo tape with Ingo Dewsnap and Wax Meov of Les Zeiga Fleurs which brought them to the attention of Go! Discs. They

then expanded by recruiting Ted Key (bass), former guitarist with The Gargoyles, and Justin Patrick [drummer on loan from Udomsuksa!] who was then replaced by Chris Lang. Their first live performance as a band was at Hull University in October 1984.[2] The band's membership changed considerably over the years. Key left at the end of 1985 and was replaced by Norman Cook (the future Fatboy Slim). Drummer Chris Lang was replaced by Hugh Whitaker, former drummer with The Gargoyles, who in turn was replaced with Dave Hemingway.[1][3]

The band often referred to themselves as "the fourth best band in Hull". The three bands that were "better" were Red Guitars, Everything but the Girl and The Gargoyles.[1]



I thought there needed to be a discussion about how people interpreted nationalism as opposed to patriotism after campaigning in the referendum last year. A member of the public did not agree with my views he called me a traitor. This annoyed me as I could not see why I could not be both patriotic and still stay in Europe. I told him that my father, who was shot down over France a month before I was born, could definitely be called a patriot.

The recent outburst on twitter by President Trump over the 'kneeling protests' by NFL players, seemed to echo the views and anger shown by the right wing extremist I had met.

I was impressed by the calm and eloquent way Osi Umenyiora, ex NFL star and tv pundit spoke on the subject prior to tv coverage of a game. Osi is a Nigerian American who said he valued the opportunities given him in the USA and claimed he would be prepared to give his life for his adopted country. Commenting on Trump's tweet when he referred to the protesters as 'sons of bitches', Osi said he did not remember Trump using such language about white supremacists, one of whom killed a woman and injured others by driving his car into the counter protesters at a fascist rally in Charlottesville.

NFL players knelt for the national anthem in a respectful manner to highlight the numbers of black lives that had been lost to police violence.

The sport's national association issued a statement saying "Sports are a unifying influence in our society, bringing people of differing backgrounds and beliefs together." and "Our respect for the national anthem has always been a hallmark of our pre-match events."

Osi claimed that Trump had behaved contrary to the values of

# PATRIOTISM VS NATIONALISM



the founding fathers of the country with regard to the First Amendment of the Constitution. This states there should be no "abridging the freedom of speech.....or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." He therefore argues it is the President who is unpatriotic in not upholding citizen's rights

under the Constitution.

To help me distinguish between concepts of nationalism and patriotism I turned to dictionary definitions.

Nationalism. 'Extreme pride in the history, culture and successes of one's nation'. Chambers.

'Identification with one's own nation and support for its interests, especially to the exclusion or

detriment of the interests of other nations'. Oxford.

'Advocacy of, or support for the political independence of a particular nation or people'. Oxford.

Patriotism. 'Loyalty to one's nation'. Chambers.

'The feeling of loving your country more than any others and being proud of it'.

Cambridge.

Groups like The English Defence League take the first two definitions of nationalism to an extreme. President Trump does also in pushing through protectionist legislation on the economy and in his attitude to refugees.

Much of the world seems currently to reject the third definition when we see current struggles for independence of Catalonians, Biafrans, Kurds and Palestinians.

Patriotism comes into play when a country experiences war, takes part in sporting events, or celebrating achievements. It needs to be shown now in the UK as we move out of Europe, whether we voted to leave or not, it is important that we show loyalty to our nation.

Patriotism can soon turn into a tribal form of nationalism in sport though. It is possible to be loyal and patriotic to country or club without insulting, or showing aggression towards the opposition.

It is worth pointing out that November 2nd. is the 100th. An-

niversary of the Balfour Declaration which led later to the creation of Israel. The UK soon lost sight of their promise in 'the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine'. Here I struggle to define myself as a patriot except that it should, like a true friend, be possible to point out mistakes our country has made.

I will finish by looking at our National Anthem, some verses contain some of the worst examples of nationalism. We usually only sing the first verse but I remember Billy Connolly pointing out the sixth verse which is an example the first of the Oxford Dictionary definitions of nationalism.

*Lord grant that Marshall Wade  
May by thy mighty aid  
Victory bring  
May he sedition hush  
And like a torrent rush  
Rebellious Scots to crush.*

If we have to have this outdated anthem I prefer Verse 4 and would be happier if that was retained and Verse 6 taken out.

Verse 4.

*Lord make the nations see  
That men should brothers be  
And form one family  
The wide world over.*

It is our duty as citizens to be patriotic to our country but curb the excesses of nationalism. The world is shrinking as travel becomes easier and as 'no man can be an island unto himself', no nation can survive without creating relations with other nations.

## Necker Island (part of what was once the British Virgin Islands, 2047)

The warm wafted warmth of a Caribbean paradise Island was their prison. Of course they didn't realise it was a prison at all. They all thought they had been elected as a world governing elite. We kept the truth from them. It was kinder. Some of us in the world debated whether we should tell them that the armed guards were not actually there to protect these self-worshipping hubristics from the masses and to see that they didn't harm each other. Of course, the soldiers were all volunteer sociologists on study leave and no weapons were ever loaded. It just looked real enough to show a pretence these egos could relate to.

Tony was really old now but still hoping to invade somewhere. James Murdoch wrote a very successful blog which was read worldwide (the world thought it satire.) The Ulster unionists defended the

café at the end of the promenade from the Catholics with gusto and the Greater Israel project had claimed several deckchairs on the beach by putting their towels down early as markers. Vladimir, who was one of the more sensible ones, had devised a logical formula so he could stand for election in perpetuity. Theresa's mind was nearly gone (no change there then) she played constantly with the beads of her necklace whilst chanting "strong and stable" over and over again. Tommy Robinson was the coordinator. He brought together African dictators and American dicks, Asian despots and European warmongers. He was so proud of his role in uniting all the colours and creeds on the island that irony escaped him.

Damascus, the cultural capital of the Middle East. A blend of old and modern and beauty and har-

mony. A place that elected more people to the Island than anywhere on earth other than what had been the USA and the UK. The annual ceremony of no politicians was, as usual, a great success.

Manchester, green fields recovered the grey of the Rochdale road, fireworks replaced guns on what had been the Gooch. Universal basic income had long ago replaced poverty. Talent was nurtured and allowed to flourish. It wasn't all roses and they still had to send teams out to Surbiton and even Hale Barns. Most of us felt sorry for the ego tattered remnants of the patronising middle class but they were fading away ungracefully.

Harare, the friendliest city on earth, Copenhagen, the nicest city on earth, New York, the most multicultural. 543 languages spoken here. London the most welcoming city on



earth 543 languages spoken properly here. Moscow, the world museum of poverty, war and borders, a must visit. Everywhere things had changed for the better. How had this happened? What small difference could have changed dystopia into utopia and banished war hunger and poverty forever?

One day in 2018 at a Labour party meeting in Rochdale, where the delegates were all using the towns sordid political scandal for their own ends, someone had

stood up and said "think about the children. Don't let anyone who wants power so much anywhere near it. Choose your representatives from a random ballot like jury service and then choose between those people. Keep the power mad away from power." It was so simple. The members of the party sat there opened mouthed. There was no applause. Democracy. It was a dangerous idea that politicians hated. It slowly started to infect people. There was laughter and joy as people realised we did not have to vote for those who wanted something out of it. The idea spread. Next to go were the bankers and the lawyers. Unneeded parasites all. They joined the soldiers and arms manufacturers. The Murdochs and the Clintons, the Kinnocks and the Trumps. That was all it took. So simple.

<https://www.facebook.com/NyeBevanNews/>

It wasn't just blue Tories that were at the President's Club Dinner auction which was described as a 'meat market' where women were abused - it was red Tories, too.

Progress is chaired by anti Corbyn Labour MP Alison McGovern MP.

Its vice-chairs have included the anti Corbyn Labour MPs Jenny Chapman, Stephen Doughty MP, Julie Elliott, Dan Jarvis, Liz Kendall, Seema Malhotra, Toby Perkins, Lucy Powell MP, Steve Reed MP, Jonathan Reynolds MP and Nick Smith.

None of whom have criticised the still serving Progress Director for his actions.

Yvette Cooper, who took £75,000 from Tory donor Peter Hearn to fund her leadership bid...

On Cooper, consider this - if she had won the 2015 Labour leadership election, the leader of the Labour Party would have been installed with the money of a Tory donor.

We should NEVER forget such things."

FARAZ KHAN

[https://www.facebook.com/frazqy?hc\\_ref=ARQ2p4KjsIllumGjKI9-2RZpDwRzDT-6Kq13DTpwa45VkhMMthj3ZMyh-QYzx7II1faPfk&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/frazqy?hc_ref=ARQ2p4KjsIllumGjKI9-2RZpDwRzDT-6Kq13DTpwa45VkhMMthj3ZMyh-QYzx7II1faPfk&fref=nf)

## Yahoos turn Manchester Metrolink into a playground! Is this why the trams are underused?

<http://northernvoicesmag.blogspot.co.uk/>

THE DUCHESS of Cambridge's wealthy uncle, Gary Goldsmith, 52, was almost legless last Thursday night. Together with some mates, he was wearing a Willy Eckerslike flat cap and careering around Regent Street in an decidedly unsteady manner.

The brother of Kate Middleton's mother Carole, who is reckoned to be worth £30 million, was later according to the Daily Mail reporter Dam Greenhill, spotted 'relieving himself on the road before heading to McDonald's'. Last November, Mr. Goldsmith received a 1-year community order and ordered to take rehabilitation sessions following an incident in which he socked his wife Julie-Ann, 47, to the ground in front on their house as they came back from a charity auction

## OUR NHS is in CRISIS and needs every one of us to March in its defence at an Emergency Demonstration on Saturday 3rd February!



2 PM Assemble Gower Street London WC1 #FundOurNHS

<https://www.politicalprovocateur.uk/single-post/2018/01/30/UK-mass-digital-surveillance-regime-ruled-unlawful>

12 PM Assemble Gower Street London WC1 #FundOurNHS

Appeal court judges have ruled the government's mass digital surveillance regime unlawful in a case brought by the Labour deputy leader, Tom Watson.

The court of appeal ruling on Tuesday said the powers in the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act 2014, which paved the way for the snooper's charter legislation, did not restrict the accessing of confidential personal phone and web browsing records to investigations of serious crime, and allowed police and other public bodies to authorise their own access without adequate oversight.

The three judges said Dripa was "inconsistent with EU law" because of this lack of safeguards, including the absence of "prior review by a court or independent administrative authority".

## Tory MP who said benefits claimants should have vasectomies will keep job

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-mp-ben-bradley-benefits-claimants-vasectomies-sterilise-conservative-keep-job-a8164071.html>

A Downing Street source indicated the Prime Minister believed it is sufficient that Ben Bradley has apologised for the comments made six years ago, but Jeremy Corbyn's spokesman argued it confirmed the Conservatives as "the nasty party". After Mr Bradley, 28, was named in the role it emerged that he had said people on welfare should stop having children if they could not afford them, also suggesting sterilisation.

# Best of

## Corbyn set to win more seats at next general election as Tories slip back



<https://labourlist.org/2018/02/corbyn-set-to-win-more-seats-at-next-general-election-as-tories-slip-back/>

Jeremy Corbyn would make further gains if a general election was held immediately but would still end up with slightly fewer Commons seats than Theresa May, according to a new prediction. The Electoral Calculus study says Labour would win 281 seats, up 19, and the Tories 295, down 23 from last June. "The new year has started relatively well for the Conservatives with the pollsters, on average, showing the two major parties virtually neck and neck.

## British government warned of legal action over DUP deal by campaigners

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's government has been threatened with legal action by an anti-Brexit campaigner and a union over the deal Prime Minister Theresa May struck with a Northern Irish party to keep her Conservatives in power after her botched election last year. Ministers have been sent a legal letter warning that 50 million pounds of funding for the province, part of a 1 billion pound deal agreed between May and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) - was unlawful because it was made without parliamentary agreement.

We should be clear why the Israeli government and the Zionist parties (Meretz excepted) are so determined to physically expel Israel's Black African refugees. It is Zionism. It is because Israel is a Jewish state. This does not mean a state living up to Jewish values as historically understood - the tradition of opposition to racism and fascism, support for trade union struggles and the fight against oppression. Israel is only a Jewish state in that it is racially defined as an ethnically Jewish state (as pure as possible). Being Jewish means having as few non-Jews as possible. Israel's Arabs are a barely tolerated fifth column - Black African refugees are neither Jewish or White so they must go. This is the logic of Zionism. *TONY GREENSTEIN*

## Theresa May to launch 'fake news' rapid response team

<https://news.sky.com/story/theresa-may-to-launch-fake-news-rapid-response-team-11217982>

The Prime Minister is to launch a "fake news" rapid response unit to monitor social media and challenge false stories.

The team will be based in the Cabinet Office, according to Alex Aiken, the executive director of the Government Communication Service (GCS), the PR wing of the civil service.

In an interview with PR Week, Mr Aiken said the civil service needed to "build a rapid response social media capability to deal quickly with disinformation and reclaim a fact-based public debate".

Theresa May will authorise the creation of the unit according to The Times, which reported that insiders doubted whether Whitehall could operate quickly enough to disrupt social media rumours. *SKY NEWS*

## Nearly half of all children in London, Birmingham and Manchester live in poverty, finds study

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-poverty-uk-cities-london-birmingham-manchester-welfare-cuts-benefits-food-parents-households-a8174436.html>

A report by the independent Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) last month found that Britain's record on tackling poverty had reached a turning point and was at risk of unravelling, with nearly 400,000 more children and 300,000 more pensioners living in poverty than five years ago. *APPLE NEWS*

The US House Intelligence Committee's top Democrat has accused Republicans of tampering with a memo about claims of FBI surveillance at the 2016 election.

Adam Schiff said Republicans had changed the text after it was voted on.

The secret document was passed by the Republican-dominated committee but needs approval from President Donald Trump to be made public.

It is believed to accuse the FBI of abusing its surveillance powers to target the Trump campaign.

The four-page document was compiled by staffers for House Intelligence Committee head Devin Nunes, a member of Mr Trump's Republican Party.

Concerns about its contents were raised by the FBI itself which complained of "material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo's accuracy".

Democrats fear the document may be an attempt to discredit the inquiry into Trump campaign links to Russia, which is being led by Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

The rest of the world fears that the greed and rapacious hubris of American politicians from both the Democratic and Republican Party are in an orgy of power grabbing ever since Bernie Sanders was cheated out of the election.

# THE COLLAPSE OF USA POLITICS



## How many 91

By DAVID LINDSAY

How many 91-year-olds know what is being done with their money? But the people to whom that responsibility has been entrusted are answerable for it. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is The Right Honourable Sir Patrick McLoughlin MP. He is an old UDM stalwart, and that lot has a history of trouble keeping the books in order. More to the point, he is now the Chairman of the Conservative Party. In fact, let that sink in: the man with overall responsibility for the Queen's private and personal wealth is the Chairman of a political party.

Now that she is rarely seen, the focus of public affection and reassurance in the midst of everything has passed from "Oh, well, at least

there's always the Queen," to "Oh, well, at least there's always Jeremy Corbyn," who is a mere stripling of 68. I had always assumed that the threat to the monarchy would come from what was once the New Right. There is no possible compatibility between Thatcherism and hereditary office. But just as it is really the resurgent Old Right that, with the Left, would benefit from the lowering of the voting age, enfranchising Second, arguably Third, or very arguably Fourth Wave Fogeyism; and just as it is those same two that would do best out of a new second chamber elected on a multimember, county basis; so it is they that would be the most conspicuous winners from a move to an elected Co-Presidency the assent of which would be re-

quired for the exercise of the Royal Prerogative. From the chant even at rugby (rugby!) matches, to a recent celebrity edition of Gogglebox, a kind of parallel republican-monarchy has arisen spontaneously in this country in the last two years. The question of the succession will eventually present itself. But it will not present many, if any, difficulties. Inadvertently, by providing a focus for public affection in the Queen's extreme old age but other than any of her children, Corbyn may have saved the monarchy.

This latest trouble, however, is very serious: the Sovereign Grant from the State has increased at a rate higher than that of inflation during every year of its existence, which has been the period of austerity for everyone else, while the Duchy of Lancaster, the Queen's private and personal wealth, has been investing in offshore tax havens. Every tax haven under British jurisdiction could be closed

down tomorrow. Any that objected would be, as it already is, free to become independent. Although that would be regrettable, as, like these Islands, all of the existing British Overseas Territories could and should be integrated into the Belt and Road Initiative under a sufficiently far-sighted British Gov-

ernment. Including the Chagos Islands, resettled by their rightful inhabitants.

Are there people who joined the Labour Party because of Jeremy Corbyn in Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man? Are there even branches of Momentum there? Might it be difficult to set up such things? The voting age in all three is 16, and since Labour does not organise in the Crown Dependencies, it ought not to be a problem to observe custom and practice by standing candidates as Independents. The City of London would be a far harder nut to crack. But Labour has had some success there in the recent past, despite the jaw-dropping electoral system. And candidates for Mayor of London have to be nominated by at least 10 local government electors in each of the 32 Boroughs and in the City. George Galloway managed that last year. Those 10 people are there. As, indeed, is he.



*My son won't talk to me after having gender reassignment. I suppose I have to call him my daughter now. I blame it all on his mother who left us when he was little. She has suddenly reappeared in our lives. Help me? I really can't handle this.*  
Tom L in Blackburn

Hi Tom

So sorry to hear about what's happened to your father/son relationship. Whilst Gender reassignment can bring completion and peace of mind to the person involved, it can be very difficult & confusing for loved ones. We're often reminded of the need to accept people who choose to change gender, but sometimes in situations like yours it isn't that easy. It seems you have a few issues here which need resolving Tom. Of course you can't simply start calling him your daughter, it would be ludicrous to expect you to make this switch overnight, it'll take time and a lot of soul searching. You also say you blame his mother who left & that's she's recently re-entered your lives which must be hard. What we need to remember here Tom is nobody is at fault. Your son chose Gender Reassignment because of issues within himself.

Here are some helpline numbers that should be able to help:

Please let me know how you get on

Tenzin

**The Gender Trust  
National Helpline: 01527 894 838  
gendertrust.org.uk**

**GIRES: Tel: 01372801554  
gires.org.uk**

*I tried to start a business as I was told by the job centre to go self employed or have any money stopped now people keep knocking at my door for money. I have tried the CAB but they are useless.*  
Lee

Hi Lee

Thanks for your letter and so sorry to hear about your debt problem. We're hearing more and more about people's benefits being stopped and household debts increasing from loans etc. In your case Lee, you say the DWP told you to go self employed but you've given very little info about why they suggested Self Employment as opposed to Job Searching?

Nevertheless Lee there's an immediate issue here that needs tackling - people banging on your door for money you don't have.

There are some fabulous guys over on Facebook:

C a 3 Debt Free Me ( Debt & Baliff Solutions) Seriously! What they don't know about debt management ain't worth your breath.

The National Debt Helpline:  
**FREEPHONE debt helpline**



**0800 138 1111 - 8am to 8pm,  
Monday to Friday and 8am to  
4pm on Saturday..**

Also, think about appealing the DWP decision.

Please let me know how you get on.

Tenzin

*I am being blackmailed by a close relation who has threatened to ruin my career if I continue to speak out politically. I really do not think the police would have any sympathy with me as years ago I tried to expose corruption at a senior level. Should I call this relations bluff?*  
KK

Hi KK

Does your relative not know that we live in a country where Free Speech and Democracy are paramount? At times it definitely doesn't seem that way KK but we do. Of course you're entitled to your political views the same as anyone else and Im sure your place of work would have fired you by now if they were so concerned.

When you say you're 'Speaking Out' I'm assuming you're talking Social Networking sites? Everyone sees them KK so your workplace probably already knows already and your career isn't in tatters yet.

You have to take personal responsibility here for your actions

KK and not live by what others want - we have enough sheeple following the flock. What's the point is opposing corruption and doing nothing about it?

For what it's worth I think you're amazing! In the words of the famous Citizen 'Woolfie' Smith - "Power To The People!"

Good luck  
Tenzin

*I am getting married this spring but am really worried that my new in laws are racist because of some of the things they have said in the past. Should I say something to them?*  
Miss M

Hi Miss M

Absolutely you should, or at least to your future husband should

It's not really the ideal basis for a happy marriage is it? Maybe you could ask your intended, to have a word with his parents about how unhappy they're making you.

I'm absolutely amazed you're even contemplating marrying into a family you feel uncomfortable with. Think carefully here before you tie the knot because if you're right, and if it goes unresolved it'll likely get worse.

Let me know what happens here Miss M & I really hope you get it resolved.

Tenzin

# QUIZZ

1. Name the first man made object to leave the Solar System and cross into interstellar space?
2. Which planet is sometimes referred to as the Earth's sister planet due to their similar sizes?
3. What is the largest moon of Jupiter?
4. Which planet has two tiny natural satellites named Deimos and Phobos?
5. How old is The Solar System estimated to be: (a) 560 million years, (b) 2.6 billion years, or (c) 4.6 billion years?
6. Name the largest object in the asteroid belt?
7. As of 2016, how many people have walked on the moon?
8. The asteroid belt lies between which two planets?
9. Name the largest dwarf planet - it's also the ninth largest body orbiting the Sun?
10. The Great Red Spot is a storm on which planet in the Solar System?
11. Which planet was discovered in 1781 by Sir William Herschel?
12. What is the hottest planet in the solar system?
13. What word meaning 'Jupiter like' can be used to describe the four large outer planets?
14. In which year was Pluto demoted to the newly created category of 'dwarf planet'?
15. The ring of icy bodies beyond Neptune is known as: (a) the Kelvin Belt, (b) the Kirchhoff Belt, or (c) the Kuiper Belt?

Answers: 1. Voyager 1, 2. Venus, 3. Ganymede, 4. Mars, 5. 4.6 billion, 6. Ceres, 7. 12, 8. Mars and Jupiter, 9. Eris, 10. Jupiter, 11. Uranus, 12. Venus (although Mercury is nearest the sun), 13. Jovian, 14. 2006, 15. The Kuiper Belt

# RICHARD FARNELL: SOMETHING TO HIDE?

WHEN in June 2014 Rochdale MBC had begun a council-commissioned inquiry is into whether there was a town hall cover-up relating to possible sex abuse at Knowl View, the late Jim Dobbin, then Labour MP for Heywood & Middleton, said it was the 'wrong time' for Richard Farnell to take power as leader of the Rochdale Council. Mr Dobbin then reminded us that it was Richard Farnell, who had just taken over was also leader in the early 1990s when the Knowl View sex abuse scandal was first being investigated.

At that time Mr Dobbin told the Manchester Evening News:

"I don't think it's very wise at this particular time, particularly with the inquiry going on into Knowl View.

"Richard was leader at the time these accusations were being made, so I don't think it's a very clever thing for Richard to do and if he had spoken to me about it I would have said so."

This week, before the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse, Councillor Richard Farnell blamed senior officers for the scandal, which he said had only come to his attention in 2014.

Councillor Farnell had also been leader between 1986 and 1992, when boys in the council-run Knowl View school were being subjected to horrendous sexual abuse, including rape.

He went on to tell the inquiry - which is investigating institutionalised abuse across the country - repeatedly that he

had never heard of any allegations relating to the school until recently, adding:

'I am not prepared to accept personal responsibility for failing to take action in this matter.'

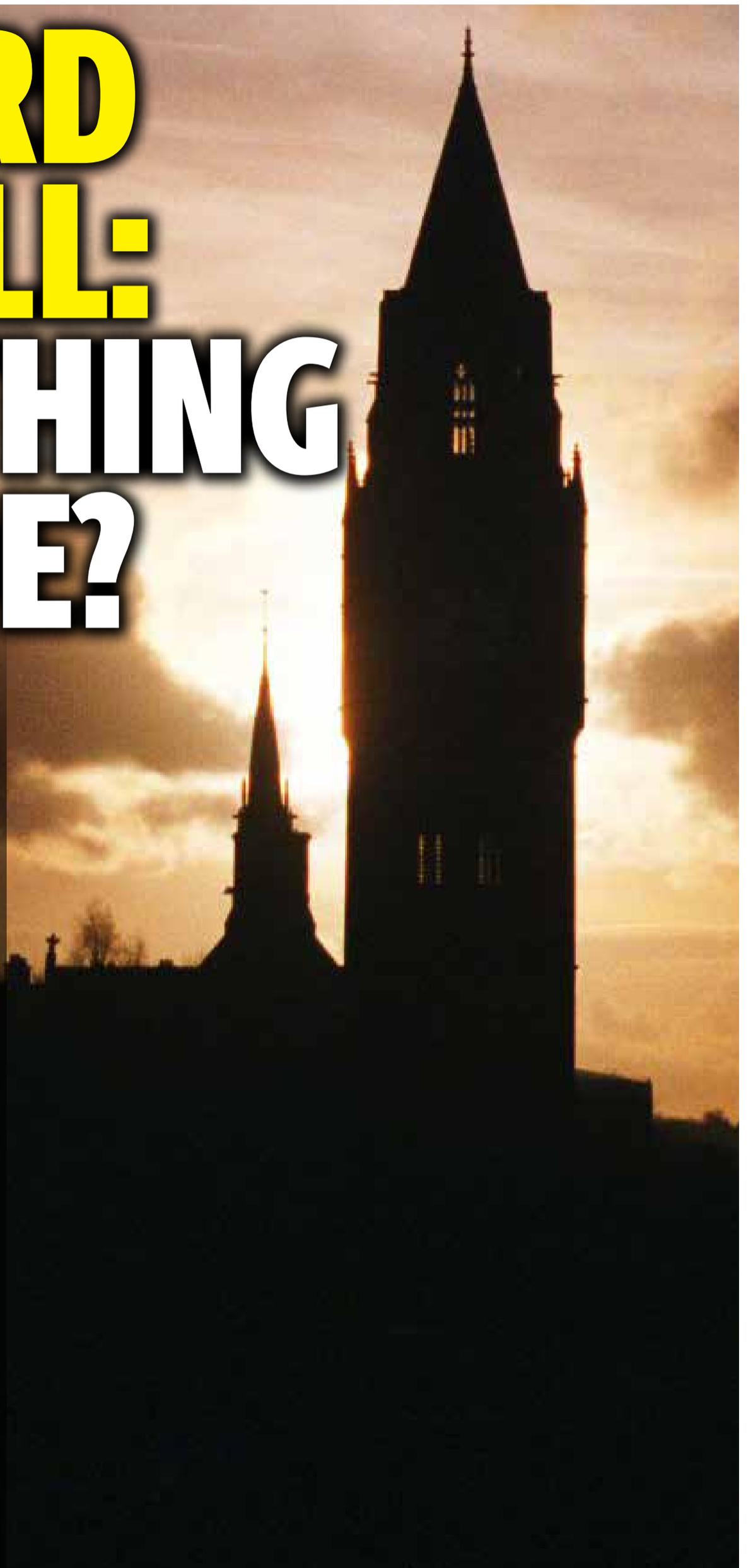
In a remarkable testimony to the national child abuse inquiry, Councillor Richard Farnell blamed senior officers for not having briefed him of the scandal.

Coun Farnell was continually asked about his knowledge of the events by Brian Altman QC, who went on to point out that his own director of education, the director of social services, the chair of education and opposition members were all on record as all having been aware of the allegations.

Yet, Councillor Farnell has still insisted he had never been briefed.

This was a week in which an ex-Labour group chief whip councillor Peter Joinson accused the Rochdale council leader Richard Farnell of 'not telling the truth' to the child abuse inquiry, and of giving 'conflicting accounts' over the reports about sexual abuse at the Knowl View residential school in Norden, Rochdale. And in turn Councillor Farnell went on to accuse Mr Joinson of faking a note, claiming it was an attempt to smear him owing to internal disputes within the local Labour Party in Rochdale.

In these circumstances of internal warfare in the local Labour Party ought the national Labour Party to be considering if it should suspend the local party?



By Joe Solo

The centenary of the Russian Revolution, and, aside from some pretty basic counter-revolutionary propaganda hidden in the editorials, the British media has ignored one of the most monumental events of the 20th Century.

Easy to understand why of course, the British Establishment knew a successful Worker's Revolution threatened their own power base here and abroad, and fought the Bolsheviks from the start. Their hatred of the Soviet Union led to the rise of Fascism in Europe and 50 years of Cold War in which both sides propped up despots around the world; a situation we still feel the reverberations from today.

As we approach Remembrance Sunday it is worth noting that Britain lost 700,000 soldiers in the First World War. The Russians lost 20 million. Almost half were civilians. The brutality of their Generals was matched only by their incompetence. Easy to see why discontent would spread.

In 1917 the French mutinied, leaving the allied lines fatally weakened and leading to the bloody diversionary attack on Passchendaele which claimed so many lives over the Summer and Autumn. The British had mutineers too. They were met with death by firing squad until we went back to trudging through mud and slavishly going over the top to a certain death.

The Russians weren't so easily cowed. Perhaps because their suffering had been greater, perhaps because their courage took a new form; either way, it is impossible to view the revolution as separate from the war. The two are intertwined.

In defeating Hitler the British lost around 450,000 men, women and children. The Russians another 20 million. The Armies of Darkness were beaten back in the East before the West.

# THE CENTENARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION!



I will not try to defend pogroms and witch-hunts, show trials and secret police; tyranny is tyranny no matter what its stated justifications; but the quest for a genuine Socialist state, a nation

of 'peace, bread and land' founded on the principles of equality is something to be admired. And, as we live through the collapse of Capitalism, through its greed and corruption, its callousness

and contempt for anyone who fails to turn a profit; we have to long for a time when people dreamed of a better way of life and a different way of tackling the world's problems and set-

ting our differences.

So I would like to mark the centenary by raising a fist to those who would hope and dream, to those who would rise and resist.

Boy do we need you now.

## Israel is a sort of democracy, but only a Spartan one

By Andrew Dickie

In Ancient Sparta there were three classes of inhabitant - true "Spartiates", who were the descendants of the invading Dorian Greeks, the "perioikoi", meaning those dwelling in the surrounds of Sparta, who were probably the remnant of the original, native ruling class, from pre-invasion times, and so not really Greek, but "Pelagian". Then there were the Helots, a slave class, probably the old slave/serf/working class, from pre-invasion times.

ONLY the Spartiates had any real rights, within - be it noted - a military economy, entirely geared up to war. The Spartiates were ruled by twin Kings, BUT the ordinary Spartiates elected "ephors" (overseers) who could veto the decisions of the Gerousia (Senate) and even of the Kings, in certain circumstances. The "perioikoi" had no real rights, but could pursue their lives within certain prescribed limits. The Helots, by contrast, were tied to the land and bonded serf labour.

The similarity with Israel is



striking - invading ruling class, a military society (Spartiates), Israeli Arabs treated as second class citizens ("perioikoi"), with the working class Palestinians as helots under Israeli occupation.

The similarity is even more striking when one considers that the Spartans invaded, and "helotised" neighbouring Messenia - West Bank).

Lebanon is INDEED the only real democracy in the area, and despite (because of??) that fact, the Israelis have invaded, and sought to occupy it at least twice. The situation stinks.

writes Ian Charles, a year I wondered if I'd see.

The same could be said for the NHS, which is possibly in a worse state than I am. If you have been following this column you will know that my cancer took me into A&E early in 2013, and eventually everyone agreed it had gone to about five places. It has been using the blood to travel around, rather as I do the London Underground, but became trapped in the tiny alveoli of the lungs where it formed nodules about 6mm in size (length? radius? circumference?)

Radiotherapy was used on the original site, and the region around it. Hormone therapy is applied by means of a 12 weekly injection to my belly fat which I keep expressly for that purpose, on medical advice. Since the many experts (I had seven consultants at one point) agreed I should have an oncologist, I™ve been taking a miracle drug costing the NHS (if it truly exists) about £40k per annum. The result is that I now feel fine. Weak, tired, always hungry, always sleepy, but fine. For now.

Hmm, said the young doctor at my local GP practice, we are fairly relaxed about prostate cancer here. After four months of appointments, at which they flatly denied that there was anything wrong with me until I presented at the local hospital totally unable to pee, I would agree - they are far too relaxed about too many things.

My wife, who lost her mum at the age of 61, went to them aged 57 saying a) these are the symptoms... b) this is the family history... c) Mum was sent away to return aged 59, dying at 61. My wife was told to come back when there



# THE PATIENT'S EYE

were more symptoms. The rules seemed to be that you couldn't be screened until you were 60! These rules hadn't changed since her mum had died all those years ago.

I made her go back and see a locum. He whizzed her in to our other big hospital (we have two and about five or six small ones) and three days later the offending item was removed. It was abnormal and might/might not have become cancerous. She now gets regular check-ups. Cameras

up the harris and suchlike. I hope it isn't the same camera they stuff down my throat periodically, or at least that they give it a wipe between times.

But our GPs are fairly relaxed about such things!

The nurses on the other hand are run off their feet, both at the Health centre and the Hospital. There are ever fewer of these consummate professionals, and their numbers are ever diluted with something risibly named

'agency staff,' where people who don't want fixed responsibilities, or can't get into NHS employment, go wherever they are sent by people making a fortune out of the fix we are in. They also earn more than regular NHS staff.

I know a guy I used to work with who turned over a couple of million pounds last year, merely running an Agency to match health professionals with temporary vacancies. He retired from his proper job six or seven

years ago and built up this totally unnecessary business from scratch.

Steady on old boy, I said to him, they'll make a Tory out of you!

Always been a Tory, Ian, he said.

I have two young relatives who are ward sisters locally. Agency staff are not the way forward. But I am not going to blame them; that sits squarely on the shoulders of Hunt and May.

*To be continued.... Ian Charles.*



## Light Brigade

By Moazzam Begg

On 25 October, during the Crimean War of 1854, 600 mounted troops of the British Light Cavalry, led by Lord Cardigan at the Battle of Balaclava, charged directly and foolishly at heavily fortified Tzarist Russian

artillery positions - and were cut to pieces. 129 of them were killed while total casualties exceeded 250 and many were taken captive. Over three hundred British horses were killed too. The disaster happened as a result of hubris, miscommunication and poor leadership. Despite the embar-

assing defeat, the events were celebrated and eulogised by the poet laureate Alfred Tennyson who penned the highly popular "Charge of the Light Brigade". Some of its verses are:

Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
Boldly they rode and well,  
Into the jaws of Death,  
Into the mouth of Hell  
Rode the six hundred.  
Flash'd all their sabres bare,  
Flash'd as they turn'd in air  
Sabring the gunners there,  
Charging an army, while  
All the world wonder'd:  
Plunged in the battery-smoke  
Right thro' the line they  
broke;

Cossack and Russian  
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke  
Shatter'd and sunder'd.  
Then they rode back, but not  
Not the six hundred.

I suppose wallowing in the glories of defeat is one of those British idiosyncracies and values that will stand the test of time.

Just think of Dunkirk, Singapore, Gallipoli, Isandhlwana (remember Zulu Dawn?), Afghanistan - past and present, American War of Independence or Hastings. It's all part of an English subculture that glorifies past military follies and weaves it into a vision of loss through the invisible (and absent) lens of victory.

But that's not why I wrote this post...

You see, the Crimean War and the Charge of the Light Brigade was fought by the British in support of the Ottoman Caliphate against Tzarist Russia - to stop the latter's expansion and its attempts to seize hold of central Asia. That's right, a poem that is still lauded today and taught in English literature at British schools honours men who fell fighting in defence of the Muslim Ottoman Empire that was ruled by the Caliph, Abdul Mejid I.

Now, in light of another disastrous British endeavour, this

time to root out extremism in our midst, the PREVENT duty would - and should, at least according to its own principles - criminalise ANYONE who seeks to support and glorify the notion of the caliphate in a current context. That means any poets who extol the virtues of Tennyson's poem or historians, teachers or politicians who see this work as a worthy piece of British identity and history. Britain supported the caliphate. That's almost as absurd as saying Britain supported the jihad - until you look back at history and realise it did - whenever the need arose.

Just a few years before the Crimean War, British Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston said: "We have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow." He later became Prime Minister. Now that's Britishness for you.

# IN DEFENCE OF GENDER SELF Identification in the Labour Movement



By Alex Taylor

Firstly of course the debate on whether or not to accept someone's Self

Identifying Gender as their official gender is not a side show or a distraction from the important work that Labour needs to do in order to ensure the Tories get kicked out when the next election comes - it's central to it.

People who think we can afford to dismiss certain issues just because they only apply to a fringe minority group have totally missed the point of what it means to be a socialist - even though the clue seems to me to be abundant in the word "Socialism" there are those who want to insist that it's just an economic model. It's not, it's a way of life, a way of living, it's a dream for a society, a real society, perhaps the first genuine society that the UK certainly, has ever known. A society which is not destroyed and shackled by deep seated resentments

between one community and another can't be created just by equalising pay and working conditions, by levelling out housing and retirement opportunities etc.

If all those things became totally equal then society would over the course of time become a much more coherent and naturally less violent and excluding, of course, but that evolution doesn't need to be left to itself and it's the job of politicians to lead the way on social issues, not just wait for society to catch up at some point in the future. Hence the race relations act, equal opportunities act and so on.

Mara claims that the current set up where gender could be decided by a birth certificate only for example "does not diminish the struggle of Tran's people". I cannot agree. A trans female who was once a woman in clearly not a man. A trans man awaiting the final procedures to fully transition to being a woman is also, I would hope, clearly not a man - and not because they may want to wear a dress!

People who want to define

women purely as those whose DNA and birth certificate show that sex at birth have abandoned completely the findings of the several decades of investigation, that the feeling of being a man or a woman is not a hard wired physical thing. If it was then women would also have hard wired social roles and so would men. Life would be very much simpler and less challenging and that distant dream of simplicity and naturally created social cliques is I think what motivates that small, insecure group on the left that insists that a woman can only be a woman if we ignore totally the brain, the mind, the personality, the inner callings, the role ambitions, the sexuality, and the feelings of the person and STAMP onto them the appropriate identity, according to DNA and a piece of paper signed shortly after they were born, when they had no voice, except (perhaps appropriately) the cry of pain and hunger.

How sad and limiting, how close and exclusive and how demeaning to suggest, as vocal few in this debate have suggested,



Lily Madigan  
@lilymadigan

Follow

Marr: Is a trans woman a woman?

Corbyn: Yes

Marr: So she can self identify?

Corbyn: Yes

Thank you @jeremycorbyn ❤️🌹



Linda Bellos  
@LindaBellos

I can't wait. Is this another white man going to shit on me in the Labour Party. Do you remember how they treated me when I was involved in Black Sections back in the mid-1980's, they didn't like me being an out lesbian then either. So what new?

][twitter.com/esjayXX/status...](https://twitter.com/esjayXX/status...)

8:38 PM · Nov 13, 2017

that a trans woman who has spent most of their lives as a woman trapped in a man's body, has enjoyed the rights and privileges of the ascendant male in a patriarchal society.

Lynda Bellos has stated that 'If Labour is foolish enough to allow trans women to be selected for all-women shortlists they will lose thousands of women members who will resign from the party.' When people have to resort to petty fear mongering of this nature most of us sense that they know they are on shaky ground. Even more so when they have to resort to their credentials from 1980, to support an argument they are losing in 2017.

I'd like to see a list of privileges that a woman trapped in a man's body can enjoy in this society, and I ask the question particularly of Lynda Bellos and Jennifer James - and Mara, alongside another

question - what is a woman? If the separation between these groups is really that convincing then the answers to those questions should be compelling, and simple. But, one feminist to another, I find hard these are not simple questions and the answers for me are complex.

Or can we just drop the rigid and rather barbaric extermination of the concept of gender (which after all actually means "the state of being male or female, typically used with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones", and take a leaf out of Jeremy Corbyn's book, when he says: "The position of the party is that where you have self-identified as a woman, then you are treated as a woman...These people have been through a big decision, a big process, a big trauma.

"Let's look at the human beings in front of us."

## Reaching Consensus More Important On The Trans Issue Than Punishing Dissent



By Mara Leverkuhn

I debuted my adult life in Ibiza. There I learned about the world; my bisexuality; that transgender and crossdressers

are some of the funniest and most complex people you'll ever meet. One thing people there had in common was joy and freedom. And dread of going back to a world where they'd be the sexual outcast, sometimes at a cost of violence. Ibiza didn't judge your otherness; if anything, in Ibiza you would be judged if you were normal. This thinking stayed with me.

### DIVIDE ET IMPERA

The current debate on the issue of self-ID in Labour and accepting Tran's women on all women's shortlists is regrettably divid-

ing people who should be class allies in a crucial time.

Despite being a bisexual ethnic minority woman, I am generally cynical of identity politics. Solid evidence traces its beginnings with the Democrats under Clinton, for the purposes of deflecting people from their class struggle.

Significant left energies are currently spent on this squabble which demigrates Labour's image in the eyes of the bystanders and wastes consensus. I believe whatever your opinion regarding the controversial issue of Trans on women's lists and self-ID in general, there should be space for debate without suspensions and accusations of transphobia. There should be space for measured debate in politics, and the left should rediscover this quintessential art. Too often emotions on each side draw over dramatic accusations. Why abandon vital solidarity before you



exhaust all avenues of debate?

It's like having a Labour government that saves the lives of many is less important for some than not being offended by an opinion.

Regrettably some Tran's activists and others have demanded the automatic expulsion of those party members who oppose the issue of self-ID and Tran's women

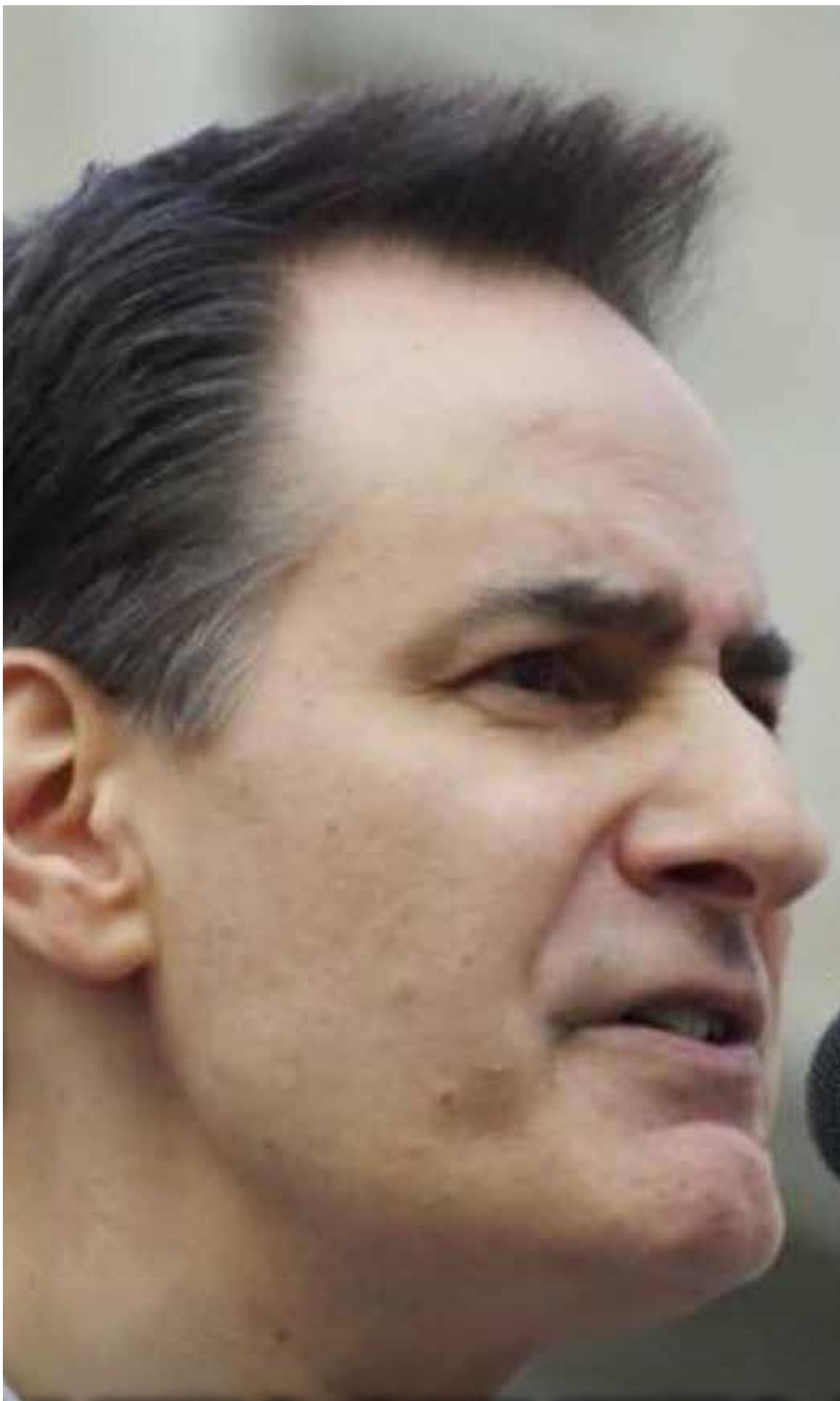
on all women's shortlists. But one can oppose self-identification as a Tran's woman for the purposes of political representation without hating the Trans person. Bureaucratic processes do not take self-identification seriously. You can't just go to the bank and declare you want your billions because your name is Morgan Chase.

In personal matters, we all

self-ID as this or other. Politics is a game of high stakes. Similar to the world of finance, there is much to gain and much to lose in politics. Though politics feels personal, the same lax rules of our personal lives—based on trust and convenience, cannot apply to the officious, highly bureaucratic and cut throat arena of politics.

Who is to say self-ID is not a slippery slope? Can we all self-identify as whatever we want in politics and be taken seriously? It does not diminish the struggle of Tran's people to keep logical processes in the way we conduct political representation. It does diminish EVERYONE's chances of a better government, including the Trans, if the left cannot weather a debate without scandalous and trivial accusations of transphobia when reality is examined.

I am far less invested in the significance of the actual Trans debate than in this tragic loss of reason in public debate of the left. That one can ask for the suspension of people like Jennifer James for questioning self-ID, is of questionable strategic utility:



Don't tell me that a Health Secretary who goes out of his way to claim 27p for a half mile car journey was "innocently mistaken" when he told Parliament we have 30,000 more people working in mental health today when the actual figure is less than 700! Everything Jeremy Hunt does and says is calculated and deliberate!

Doctors running 68 A&E departments have told Theresa May that patients are dying in hospital corridors because staff are simply too overwhelmed to treat them. They blame the Governments "chronic underfunding" of the NHS and dangerously short-staffing levels. It's a simple fact that NHS staffing levels in our hospitals are at crisis point. We've got a record 42,000 unfilled nursing vacancies! Just think about that, a shortage of 42,000 nurses! We have more nurses and midwives leaving the profession than joining for the first time on record, and is it any wonder given not only have they seen a real terms pay cut in recent years of 14% only last year the Government voted down a pay rise for them actually cheering whilst they did it! Many nurses now resort to food banks to feed themselves and their families and if all that's not bad enough the Government scrapped the nurses bursary last year so they now qualify £50,000 in debt! They did it even though anybody with an ounce of sense told them it would result in a drastic drop in applicants for nursing which of course is exactly what happened!

We've got fewer doctors in our hospitals than almost anywhere in the EU and the BMA warn that patient care is at risk because of a chronic shortage of doctors across most areas of medicine. Contrary to what the Tories keep telling us actual spending on the NHS is growing at the slowest rate

since records began in 1955. NHS spending now stands at a measly annual growth rate of only 1.1%. The result of this deliberate underfunding by the Government is millions of patients suffering the longest ever waits for casualty care, beds, cancer treatment and operations. A staggering 55,000 operations have been cancelled this month alone leaving thousands of patients suffering in pain and the Government line is we've never been better prepared for a winter crisis! All non emergency out patient appointments have also been canceled, a decision likely to affect millions of patients.

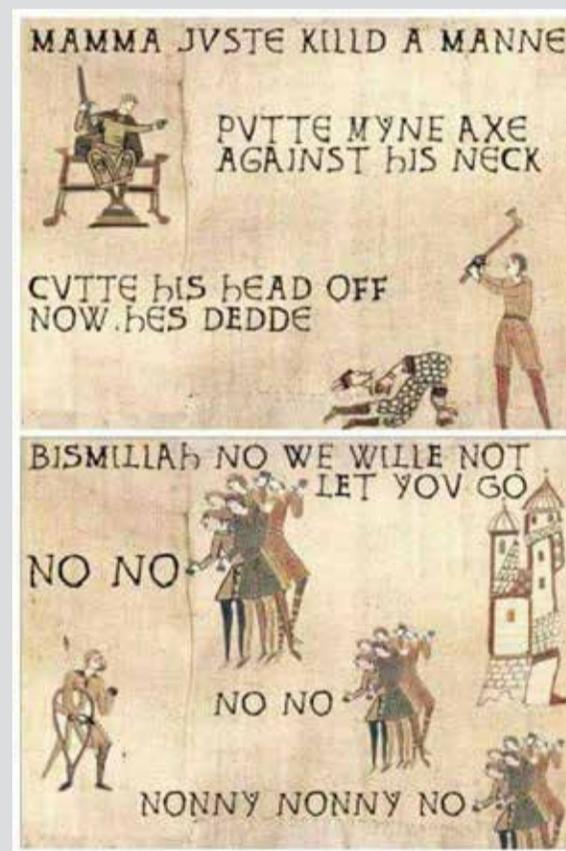
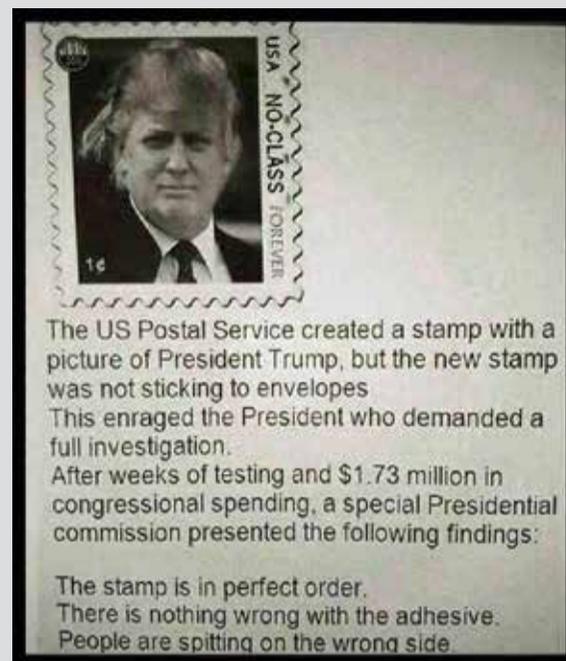
It's time to push back against all the Government lies and spin. The reality is that we've got the longest A&E waiting times since 2004, an NHS facing a crisis in moral, in staffing, in funding and social and mental health services at the point of imminent collapse!

The British Red Cross has said the NHS is facing a humanitarian crisis. Is that any wonder given we have patients dying at home waiting for ambulances and dying in hospital corridors waiting hours for treatment. We've all recently seen the heartbreaking pictures of patients lying cold and in pain on the floors of hospitals at 100% capacity whilst our courageous doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals, overwhelmed, exhausted and at breaking point desperately trying to stop the spinning plates of an NHS in crisis from crashing to the floor as they battle to save lives!

The Government must heed the call of the public, of staff and patients who demand that OUR NHS, that's right, YOURS, mine and our children's is funded properly. So please get out on the street and Join the People's Assembly and Health Campaigns Together demonstration on Saturday February 3!

**LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT  
WITH NO BULLSHIT LAWYER  
PETER STEFANOVIC!**

# SATIRE



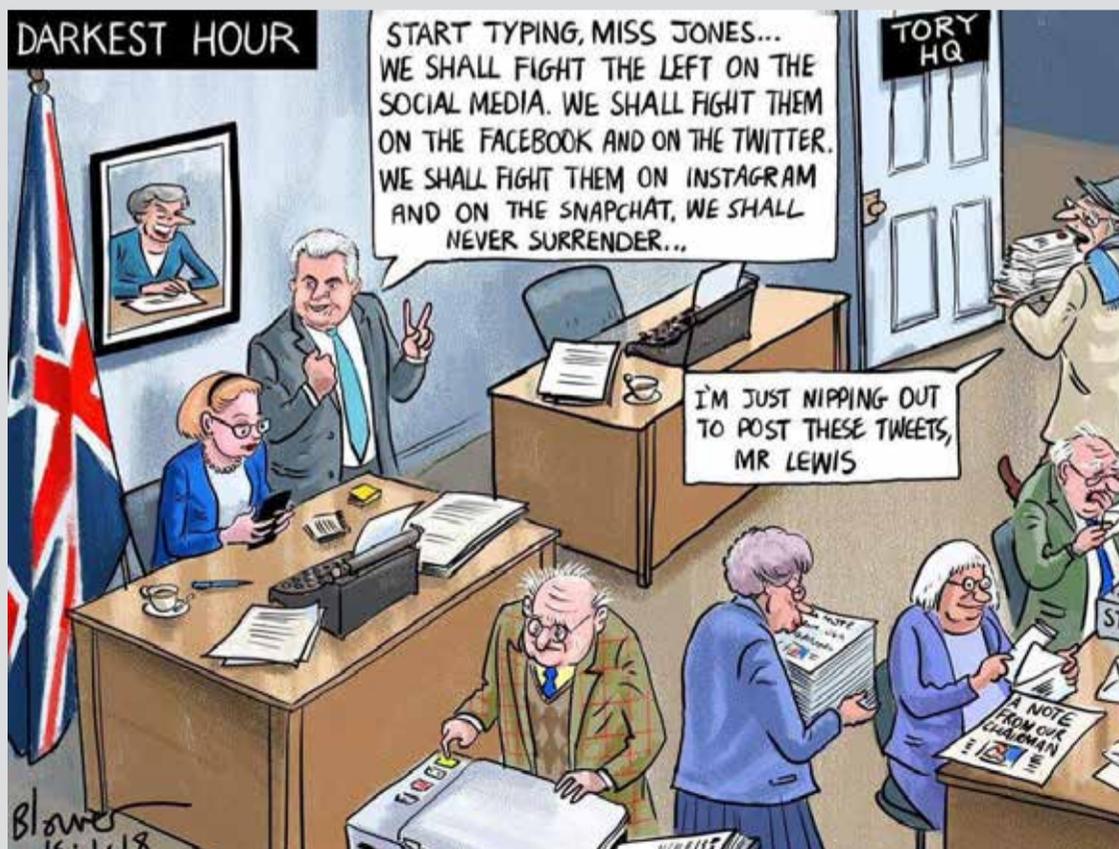
## Toryspotting

#1 DAVID #2 BORIS #3 GEORGE

Choose the Tories.

Choose Eton educated toffs who know nothing about you or your life. Choose unemployment, closed schools, privatised hospitals, benefit cuts, pension cuts, housing cuts and tax cuts for the rich. Choose to believe a smug self satisfied tosser telling you it's for your own good. Choose to watch the rich get richer and the poor get trodden into the dirt. Choose to know your place. Choose your future.

Choose the Tories. [sabc.cat.com](http://sabc.cat.com)





# FILM REVIEW OF CHURCHILL

By DAVID LINDSAY

With Gary Oldman's career-defining portrayal of him in *Darkest Hour*, Winston Churchill is back. In *Great Contemporaries*, published in 1937, two years after he had called Hitler's achievements "among the most remarkable in the whole history of the world", Churchill wrote that: "Those who have met Herr Hitler face to face in public business or on social terms have found a highly competent, cool, well-in-

formed functionary with an agreeable manner, a disarming smile, and few have been unaffected by a subtle personal magnetism." That passage was not removed from the book's reprint in 1941. In May 1940, Churchill had been all ready to give Gibraltar, Malta, Suez, Somaliland, Kenya and Uganda to Mussolini, whom he had called "the greatest living legislator".

All sorts of things about Churchill are simply ignored. Gallipoli. The miners. The Suffragettes. The refusal to bomb the

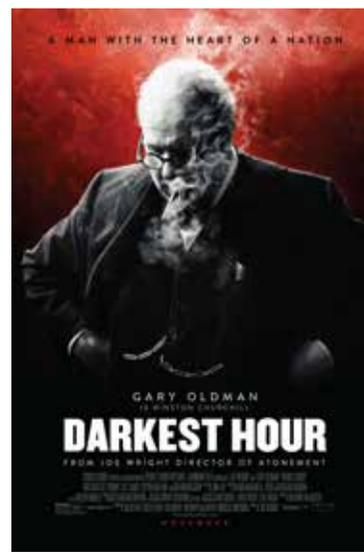
railway lines to Auschwitz. His dishonest and self-serving memoirs. The truth about the catastrophic humiliation at Dunkirk. The other one, at Singapore, for which Australians and New Zealanders have never forgiven Britain. The Lancastria. The men left behind in France. Both the fact and the sheer scale of his 1945 defeat while the War in the Far East was still going on, when Labour won half of his newly divided seat, and an Independent did very well in the other half after Labour and the Liberals had disgracefully refused to field candidates against him. His deselection by his local Conservative Association just before he died. And not least, his carve-up of Eastern Europe with Stalin, so very reminiscent of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. He borrowed the phrase "the Iron Curtain" from Goebbels and used it to mean exactly what Goebbels had meant by it. Broken by the War, the Soviet Union had neither the means nor the will to invade Western Europe, still less to cross either the Atlantic or the Pacific.

But the electorate was under no illusions while he was

still alive. His image was booed and hissed when it appeared on newsreels. He led the Conservative Party into three General Elections, he lost the first two of them, and he only returned to office on the third occasion with the support of the National Liberals, having lost the popular vote. In the course of that Parliament, he had to be removed by his own party. It comfortably won the subsequent General Election. And we have not forgotten the truth about him in the old mining areas. Nor have they

in the places that he signed away to Stalin, including the country for whose freedom the War was fought. It was Churchill who coined the nickname "Uncle Joe" for Stalin.

Churchill wanted to transport the Jews to Palestine, since he saw them as not really British. He presided over the famine in Bengal. His views on race shocked his younger colleagues even in the Conservative Party of the 1950s. The famous dipping of the cranes for his coffin occurred only because the London dockers, who despised him, had been paid to do it. The London dockers, who had been as heavily Blitzed as anyone, anywhere. As for Churchill's having "saved Britain", it will be interesting to see whether anyone could continue to hold a serious academic or journalistic position in 10 years' time and come out with that one. More than 50 years after having said goodbye to him, we are finally saying goodbye to the cult of him. That cult seems to have begun only once he was dead, or at least so old as to have been politically as good as dead. It never translated into votes.





**5th February**

Tomorrow / Demain - WOW Film Festival (12A)  
 Mon 19:30 · Kinokulture Cinema · Oswestry  
 Shared to Left Wing Events UK

**17 MAR**

March Against Racism  
 Sat 12:00 · London  
 Nosy, Joseph and 23 friends

**23 FEB**

Sounds of Resistance - IAW 2018  
 Fri 20:00 · Rich Mix London · London

**JAN29**

Event #2: This is a Social Crisis!  
 Mon 19:00 · St John on Bethnal Green · London

**FEB17**

Stop the War Ceredigion - Cardigan Meeting  
 Sat 14:00 · Small World Theatre · Cardigan

**JAN29**

People & Planet Cardiff Uni: GIAG Badge Making  
 Mon 19:00 ·

**JAN 30**

International Day of Action to #FreeAhed  
 Today 13:00 · Cardiff Centre. Entrance to Indoor Market

**Feb 3**

Coach -Aberystwyth to Emergency NHS demo  
 Sat 5:00 · Park and Ride, Park Avenue, Aberystwyth

**1st FEB**

AGM with Guest Speaker Dr Judith Macdonald  
 Thurs 19:30 · AT THE SPECTRUM CENTRE, 8 MARGARET STREET, INVERNESS, IV1 1 LS (next to Inverness Bus Station)

**3 Feb**

Sheffield protest: Save the

Minor Injuries Unit, Honk for our NHS  
 Sat 11:00 · Royal Hallamshire Hospital · Sheffield

**17 March**

Fly Kites Not Drones RAF Waddington 2018  
 Sat 13:00 · RAF Waddington · Waddington  
 Shared to Left Wing Events UK

**20 Feb**

Intersectional Suffrage: A focus on the women that didn't get the vote in 1918  
 Tues 18:30 · Committee Room 12, House of Commons · London  
 Tickets available · 1,417 people

**FEB 2**

Gigantic British Moon at Trump on his State visit  
 26 February-27 February · The Mall, London · London

Efa Wulle™ to Conwy County Peace Group

**Saturday, February 03, 2018 at 12:00 PM**  
 Gower Street, London, WC16

**FEB3**  
 Manchester coach Feb 3rd Public  
 · Hosted by Manchester People's Assembly - Austerity Cut it Out

March and Demonstration - Saturday 3 February Assemble: 12pm, Gower Street Central London WC1  
 March to Downing Street

17 January at 08:53  
 Please join us for an evening of information, question and answer about the situation in Korea. If you believe the media, this little country, more precisely its socialist North, which has been bombed, threatened and besieged by the US for

decades, is the aggressor. Really?

**FEB15**

Coventry: the crisis of housing and homelessness  
 Public  
 · Hosted by Coventry TUC

**What is happening in Korea?**  
 Who really are the war mongers?

Friday, February 9th at 6.30 pm  
 St. John's Methodist Church Hall, Mostyn Steet, Llandudno (between the two M & S)  
 Sponsored by Conwy County Peace Group

**Speakers:**  
**Dermot Hudson**, President of the Korean Friendship Association. He will speak about the struggle for independence, peace and reunification in Korea from the North's perspective  
**Lindis Percy**, co-ordinator of the Campaign for Accountability of American Bases, will talk on her experiences and reflections after a visit to South Korea last summer

There will be a question and answer session and light refreshments at this free event

**Support Birmingham Homecare Workers Lobby and Noisy Protest**  
 at the Full Council Meeting  
 1-2pm Victoria Sq  
 Tuesday 6th February

Bring your banners and placards, bring your whistles and drums, bring your friends and family and your pots and pans. Like the people of Iceland lets build the loudest protest against threatened cuts in homecare services.

**The race to the bottom in the care sector has to stop**

**Greater Manchester SOLIDARITY with Grenfell**  
 #GMSolidarityGrenfell  
**CANDLELIT March & Rally**

**WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2018**  
 coinciding with the MARCH by GRENFELL RESIDENTS on the same day

6.15pm - Assemble outside Samsung/Costa Coffee on MARKET STREET, MANCHESTER M4 3AT  
 6.30pm - MARCH to PICCADILLY GARDENS  
 6.40pm - RALLY at Queen Victoria Statue PICCADILLY, MANCHESTER

Guest Speakers:  
**Joe Delaney & Jacqui Haynes** Grenfell Residents  
**JUSTICE 4GRENFELL**

**Karl Sorfleet** Manchester Fire Brigades Union Brigade Organiser  
**Kevan Nelson** Regional Secretary, NW Unison & North West TUC Exec  
 Greater Manchester Housing & Other Social Justice Campaigners



Theresa May has given the EU everything that it wanted, in one case on the say-so of the DUP, and in the other cases, well, just anyway. But it has taken her eight months to do so. And we are in for another four and a half years of this style of government, if “government” be the word. We need the negotiation of Brexit in the Welsh, Northern and working-class interests that delivered the result in its favour, including the extra £350 million per week for the National Health Service, something that needs to be written into the Statute Law. All the while rejoicing that the workers, and not the liberal bourgeoisie, were now the key swing voters who deserved direct representation on local public bodies, on national public bodies, in the media, and at the intersection of the public and media sectors in the Parliamentary Lobby, in the BBC, in any future structure of the Channel Four Television Corporation, in any arrangement that made possible Rupert Murdoch’s acquisition of the whole of Sky News, and so on.

If you want negotiation done properly, then you need trade unionists to do it. The Government’s claim to want something like CETA, only even more so, will unite the Labour Party like nothing in years. There are people in Labour who want Brexit, and there are people who do not. But none of them wants this. Meanwhile, the wholesale capitulation of May and of John Major’s erstwhile Europe Minister, David Davis, is being hailed as a triumph by the supposed Brexiteers on the Conservative benches. Those truly of that mind number barely the couple of dozen that opposed Maastricht, several of them are the same individuals, and none of them stands any more chance



# DAVID LINDSAY

of becoming Leader than Tony Marlow ever did. Indeed, are there even that many of them? It turns out that there may be precisely one, Philip Davies, who did not enter Parliament until 2005. The likes of Iain Duncan Smith have queued up to agree with Ken Clarke and

Anna Soubry.

There are half a dozen times that many Brexiteers on the Labour benches, just as there were three times as many anti-Maastricht Labour MPs as anti-Maastricht Conservatives. In any case, all Labour MPs will vote against “Canada

Plus Plus Plus”. By contrast, even the DUP is now signed up to a deal that is even worse than staying in the Single Market and the Customs Union would have been. But then, had the old man been dead a couple more years, then the DUP would have campaigned

for Remain. Are most of the DUP’s voters even in favour of Brexit? Majority opinion in Northern Ireland is to remain in both the United Kingdom and the EU, yet that is represented by precisely one out of 18 MPs, and Sylvia Hermon is an Independent.

The entire Tory and Murdoch press has also rallied behind the white flag. With *The Guardian* about to axe Giles Fraser’s column, Leavers are left with only the *Morning Star*. And *The Word*, of course. This could be the making of *The Word*. I very much hope that large numbers of Leavers will become regular readers. They might then realise that the election of a Corbyn Government was the only way to keep the economic and foreign policy debates open, whether or not you agreed with Corbyn in any way on economic policy, in particular. Unless you want a return to “the centre ground” of the 20 years BC, Before Corbyn, then you must vote Labour at the next General Election, no matter what.

## This may be my barmiest idea yet

By David Lindsay

This may be my barmiest idea yet, and you all know that I’ve had a few. But the Walt Disney Company has no conceivable interest in owning a loss-making British news channel. It would probably more or less give us Sky News, if we asked. “Why would you want that, of all things?” “Well, since you are looking at things from California, we cannot possibly expect you to understand.” The problem, though, is the regulator.

We would of course be more than happy to give Ofcom an Editorial Board. That is why we

want this: for editorial control. But Ofcom would also certainly insist on five years’ guaranteed funding, and possibly on 10. The first would be somewhere between £100 million and £125 million, while the second would be somewhere between £200

million and £250 million.

“And there you have it,” I hear you cry. Well, no, of course I do not have that kind of money. Of course you do not have that kind of money. But at least some of you will know people who know people who have access to seri-

ous funding for a very serious opportunity. If we can find 10 sources, anywhere in the world, to put up £10 million each, then we can offer each of them 10 per cent of the company and a seat on the Board of Management. We would be the Editorial Board.



# HOPE AND GOOD NEWS



## Syria

A couple separated by the Syrian civil war were recently married in the ruins of Aleppo. Maher Sammaan stayed in Aleppo after her lover Amira fled to Lebanon back in 2012. They stayed in touch by text and became reunited when the rebels left the city last year. They were recently married in the rubble of Aleppo wearing converse trainers.

Maher said: "War taught me to live in the moment".

Mirror 13/01/18

## Australia

Heroic achievement by 16 year old Jade Hameister from Melbourne. She recently became the youngest person to conquer the Polar Hat Trick - skydiving to the North Pole, crossing Greenland's largest ice cap and down to the South Pole.

She then gave an inspirational TEDx # talk to encourage young girls to realise their dreams. In reply to trolls who tried to belittle her by, among other comments telling her to 'make me a sandwich', she wrote on Facebook. "I made you a sandwich, (ham and cheese). Now ski .....600km to the South Pole and you can eat it".

Jade made the journey with her father, a guide and two cameramen from National Geographic. Look out for the documentary later this year.

# (TEDx is a media organisation which posts talks online for free distribution, under the slogan "ideas worth spreading").

CNN

## Manila

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) have recently obtained an agreement between 126 world governments, committing them to protect migratory species from being killed or fished and to protect their habitats. The agreement has been welcomed by conservation groups.

Some of the species include lions, leopards, chimpanzees and the blue shark. There are still many challenges though says Susan Lieberman, Ph.D, Vice President for International Policy, Wildlife Conservation Society. "Unfortunately, several world powers with significant populations of migratory species and large areas of terrestrial and marine habitat have not yet joined CMS, including the US, Russia, and China. We can only achieve our conservation and sustainable development objectives through closer collaboration on trans-boundary issues by all countries"

One of the surprises in Piers Morgan's recent interview with President Donald Trump was that he plans to keep the ban on importing elephant trophies into the United States in place, having planned to lift it previously. The move was surprising because Trump's sons are avid hunters and the president is also tightly aligned with the National Rifle Association, which lobbies for trophy hunting rights.

'Hope springs eternal!'

## Brick Lane, London

Kahaila a "coffee shop with a conscience" in Brick Lane The

shop and the Luminary Bakery are part of a non-profit charity helping vulnerable women break cycles of abuse, prostitution, crime and poverty, by restoring their confidence and empowering them to build future careers.

Halimot is one such woman having lost her father aged just nine in Nigeria. Without his protection she was vulnerable to human trafficking, and whilst still a child was taken from her mother, eventually arriving in the UK. She managed to escape from the abusive traffickers, aged fifteen now, but her fears of being killed prevented her getting help from social services or NHS professionals even though pregnant. A few years later she opened up to another doctor, put in touch with the British Red Cross, helped to get accommodation and legal status. She then found employment with the Luminary Bakery. With their nurturing she gained skills and confidence to set up her own catering company. Alongside selling her baking masterpieces she works in the Kahaila cafe, which helped her fund her fresh start in life.

"It's not just baking skills," says Alice Boyle, co-founder of the Luminary Bakery. "We also help them learn life skills like how to manage money, how to manage their emotions and how to get on well at work with your colleagues."

See: [www.kahailachurch.com/mission/luminary-bakery](http://www.kahailachurch.com/mission/luminary-bakery) and further stories at: [www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/luminary-bakery-a7536756.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/luminary-bakery-a7536756.html)



## Who was Mary Anning?

Mary Anning found the fossils of prehistoric animals. Today many children like finding out about dinosaurs. When Mary Anning was a child, no one knew about these long-dead animals. Mary's fossil-hunting helped change the way people thought about the world.

When did she live? Mary was born in 1799. She grew up while Britain was at war with France. She was 16 in the year of the Battle of Waterloo (1815). She was alive when Victoria became Queen, in 1837. Mary Anning died in 1847.

Why is she famous? Mary Anning was not trained as a scientist, but her finds changed science. She came from a poor family. She made only one trip away from home in her whole life. Famous scientists came to see her. They wanted to see the fossils she found.

Their first well-known find was in 1811, when Mary was 12; her brother Joseph dug up a 4-foot ichthyosaur skull, and a few months later Mary found the rest of the skeleton.

Mary and Joseph were the only children to survive to adulthood, of ten born to their parents. The high childhood mortality rate for the Anning family was not very unusual. Almost half the children born in Britain throughout the 19th century died before the age of 5, and in the crowded living conditions of early 19th century Lyme Regis, infant deaths from diseases like smallpox and measles were particularly common.

When she was 15 months old Mary survived a lightning strike that killed three women including one who was holding

her! A local doctor declared her survival miraculous. Her family said she had been a sickly baby before the event but afterwards she seemed to blossom. For years afterward members of her community would attribute the child's curiosity, intelligence and lively personality to the incident.

### Fun Facts

When people first found fossil bones, they called them 'dragon's teeth'.



### Fun Facts

In 1677 a dinosaur bone was dug up in England. Everyone said it was a giant's bone!



### Fun Facts

Mary became an expert on fossil poo (Scientists call fossil poo 'coprolite').



### Fun Facts

Fossil back bones (vertebrae) were sold to seaside visitors as 'verteberries'.



### Fun Facts

Before the 1800s many people believed the Earth was about 6,000 years old. It's actually 4.5 billion years old! (A billion = 1,000 million)





**N**auru was originally named "Pleasant Island". The indigenous people raised fish in the lagoon, so they had a secure protein supply. They had a forest, and they had coconut palms. They traded with visiting ships.

The first colonialists were the Germans. After WW1 Nauru became a League of Nations Mandate administered by Britain New Zealand and Australia.

The Japanese occupied Nauru in World War 2. After World War 2 Nauru was a United Nations Trusteeship administered by Australia New Zealand and Britain.

Nauru gained formal independence in 1966.

Guano (bird shit) that built up over roughly four million years has been removed at huge profit to the German, British and Australian businesses that robbed the island. Since the first shipments in 1907 90% of the eight square miles of Nauru has been stripped of its surface to be sold as fertiliser.

In 1975 alone Nauru's exports were \$2,500,000,000. Nauru's population was then seven thousand people.

Nauru can no longer feed its people because it does not have enough agricultural land. There is poverty because the wealth generated never got to the people.

# NAURU ISLAND

Nauru was reduced to money laundering, and permitted Russians to launder seventy billion dollars of Russian money. It also gains money by recognising rogue states such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

A member of the Commonwealth, Nauru is utterly dependent upon Australia.

Australia does not permit refugees to arrive by sea. When Aus-

tralia "asked" to use Nauru as a location to process asylum seekers Nauru agreed.

The first refugee processing centre was closed in 2008 because of scandals. Another processing centre opened in 2012 and has been riven by scandal since it opened.

Australia will not permit recognised refugees to enter Australia. There is no urgency to process

applications. People including children are detained in dreadful conditions without any end in sight. Australia fails to provide adequate health services, education services, or significant assistance to the recognised refugees and to those not yet processed. Australia government staff are not allowed to disclose information to the media but enough has leaked out

about the murders, suicides, mental health difficulties and abuse to horrify anyone.

Some refugees are going to the United States in a deal where Australia takes some South and Central Americans whom the Americans wish to deport in return for the Americans taking recognised refugees. There are apparently 4,000 offshore refugees in the Australian system. Most of them have no obvious future.

Some Nauru people are employed by the "processing centre". With 90% formal unemployment in Nauru these jobs are important to the local economy.

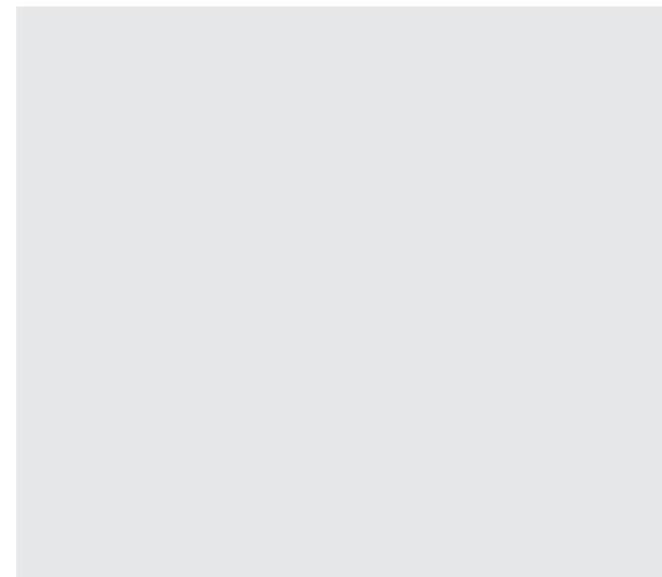
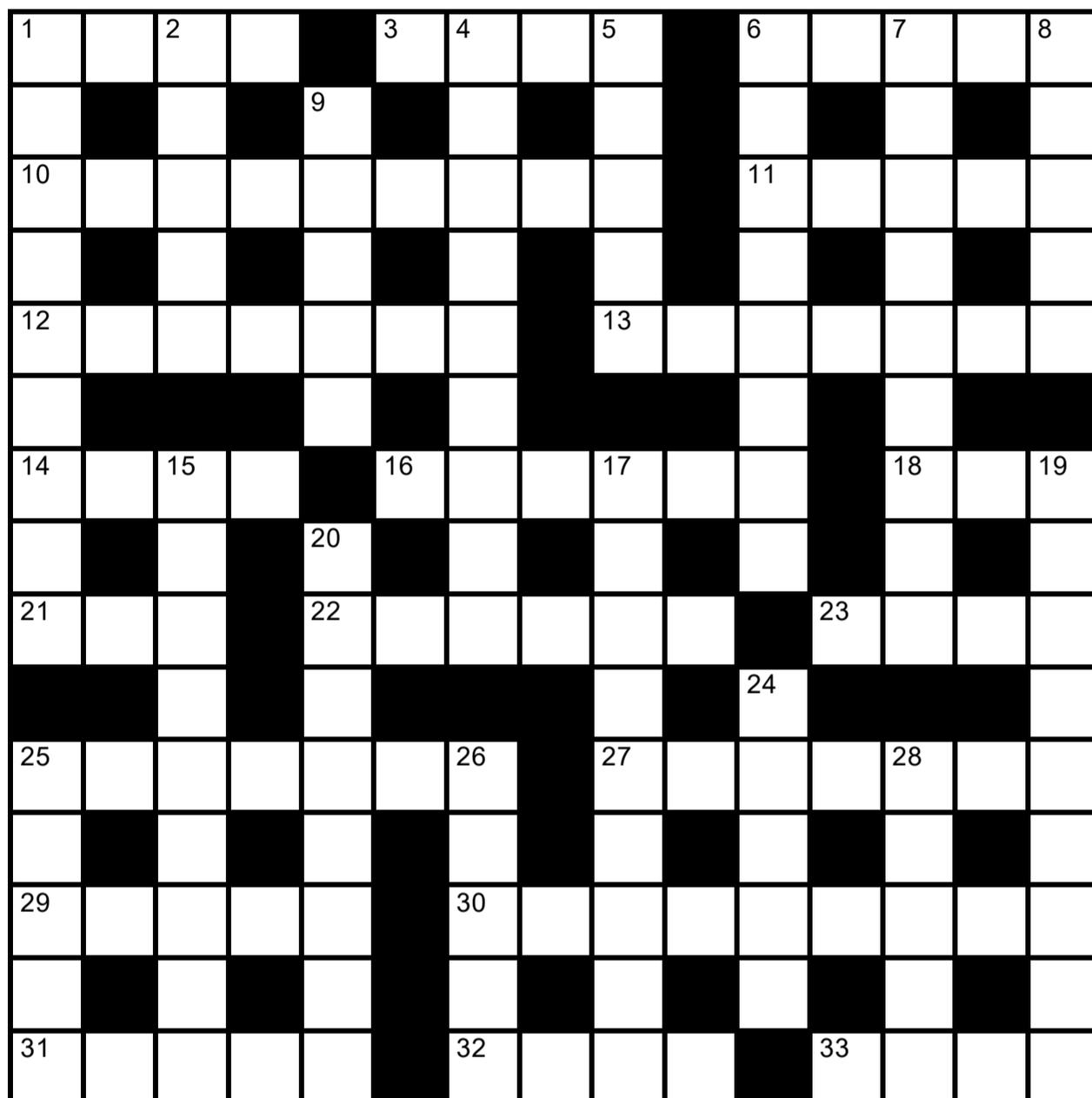
One current political battle is that Australia would like to resettle recognised refugees in Nauru, but the Nauru government is refusing because with a current population of 11,000 whom it cannot feed the government fears the consequences for its population of settling refugees in Nauru.

Nauru is a formal democracy. The pressures of corruption are overwhelming.





# Crossword Puzzle



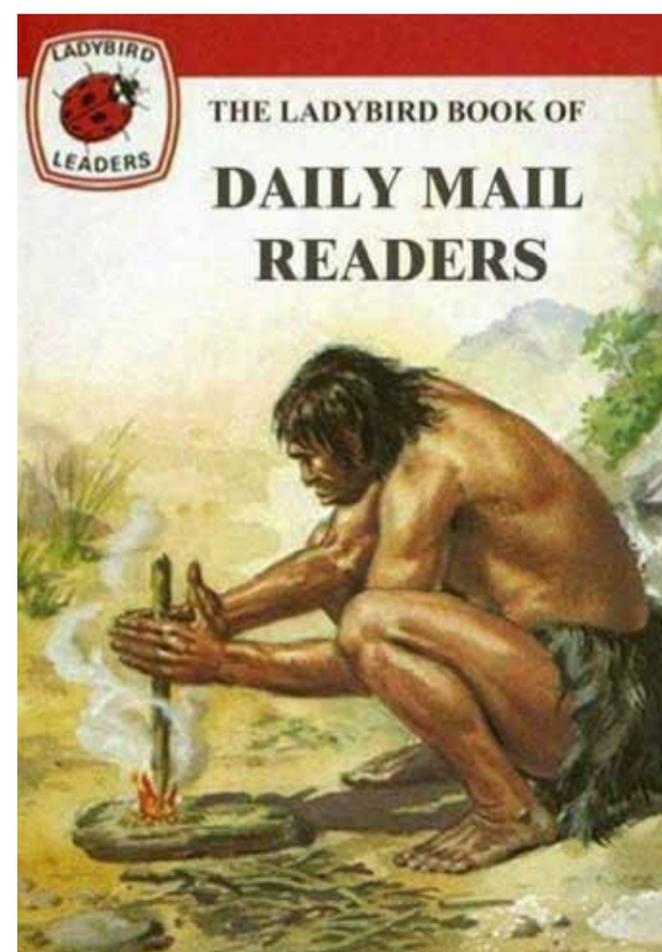
## Across

1. Tykes from Yorkshire you might find under the bed? (4)
3. Tory from Chelsea (4)
6. Useless underwear (5)
10. Alien quite mixed up about Alien film ceremony (9)
11. Distressed achy time in sailing boat (5)
12. Mike Ashley's thieves (7)
13. Foot support for laboured purist with last of traditions (7)
14. Nut excited by English melody (4)
16. Label found on guitarist Aretha used (6)
18. Talk concerns primarily Gilbert and Sullivan (3)
21. Snitch inside operations (3)
22. Android anything but strong and stable (6)
23. Military alliance in action at Oxford? (1,1,1,1)
25. Sounds like suspended boxer has a guilty appearance (7)
27. Car in place and time gets enthusiastic approval (7)
29. Leader of America and West remains inundated (5)
30. Money expert comes into disarray (9)
31. Outdo thin-skinned racist from New York (5)
32. Wren's residence in N.E. Stratford (4)

- 33 I puke strangely without exception at this political party (1,1,1,1)

## Down

1. Device for measuring blood circulation; three more out of order (9)
2. Making dingo crazy (5)
4. Priest's invitation to salad - say please! (3,2,4)
5. The odds perhaps of Stephen Crabb announcing a U-turn? (5)
6. Olivia Newton-John's thorough examination (8)
7. Coach travelling through wild iguana central American country (9)
8. Take notice of this exercise (3,2)
9. Judo black belt being asked to bat? (5)
15. Hyena aunt manipulated into Israeli PM (9)
17. German group of venomous arachnids (9)
19. Baseball player's pants and shirt we hear (5-4)
20. Mishap I'd bungled in the middle of vessel (8)
24. Ex bank manager PM sounds very important (5)
25. Sometimes 31 Across, but not in 22 Across or in Oz resident (5)
26. Immature representation for Brighton Pavillion (5)
28. Swallow writing fluid, under doctor (5)



# Chicken Pizza



## Pizza with chicken and cheese in baking pan with slice cut BBQ chicken pizza

PREP: 25 MINS  
COOK: 30 MINS  
EASY           SERVES 4

### Ingredients

#### For the base

250g wholemeal flour, plus a little for kneading if necessary  
1 tsp instant yeast  
¼ tsp salt  
1 tbsp rapeseed oil  
plus extra for greasing

#### For the topping

pack of 3 peppers  
1 large onion  
1 tbsp rapeseed oil  
1 tsp fennel seeds  
2 tbsp barbecue sauce  
2 tbsp tomato purée  
1 large skinless chicken breast fillet (about 225g), diced  
175g baby plum tomatoes, quartered  
50g Applewood smoked cheese, grated

#### Method

Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Tip the flour into a mixer with a dough hook, or a bowl. Add the yeast, salt, oil and 200ml warm water then mix well to a very soft dough. Knead in the food mixer for about 5 mins, but if making this by hand, tip onto a work

surface and knead for about 10 mins. The dough is sticky, but try not to add too much extra flour. Leave in the bowl and cover with a tea towel while you halve and slice the peppers and onions. There is no need to prove the dough for a specific time, just let it sit while you make the topping.

For the topping: toss the peppers and onions with the oil and fennel seeds then roast for 15 mins. Meanwhile mix the barbecue sauce and tomato purée with 5 tbsp water.

Take the dough from the bowl and press into the base and up the sides of an oiled 25x35cm Swiss roll tin. Don't knead the dough first otherwise it will be too elastic and will keep shrinking back. Spread with two thirds of the barbecue sauce mix then add the remainder to the chicken and toss well to coat it.

Take the roasted pepper mixture from the oven and spread on top of the pizza. Scatter over the tomatoes then evenly spoon on the barbecue chicken. Scatter with the cheese and bake for 15 mins. Serve with a salad or healthy coleslaw.

## Jokes

Doctor: "I'm sorry but you suffer from a terminal illness and have only 10 to live."

Patient: "What do you mean, 10? 10 what? Months? Weeks?!"

Doctor: "Nine."

My dog used to chase people on a bike a lot. It got so bad, finally I had to take his bike away.

Mother: "How was school today, Patrick?"

Patrick: "It was really great mum! Today we made explosives!"

Mother: "Ooh, they do very fancy stuff with you these days. And what will you do at school tomorrow?"

Patrick: "What school?"

At a first date:

He: "I work with animals every day!"

She: "Oh how sweet! What is it that you do?"

He: "I'm a butcher."

Boy complains to his father: You told me to put a potato in my swimming trunks! You said it would impress the girls at the pool! But you forgot to mention one thing!

Father: Really, what?

Boy: That the potato should go in the front.

Two elephants meet a totally naked guy. After a while one elephant says to the other: "I really don't get how he can feed himself with that thing!"

A nice old lady on a bus offers the driver some peanuts. He's happy to take some. He asks her after a while why she isn't having any herself.

"Oh, young man," she says, "they're too hard on my poor teeth, I couldn't."

"Why did you buy them at all then?" wonders the driver.

"You see, I just love the chocolate they're covered in!"



## Saudi Camels Disqualified for using Botox

By Alex Taylor  
- Camel Correspondent

More than 30,000 camels and 300,000 human visitors showed up for the second annual King Abdulaziz Camel Festival, which runs from Jan. 1 to Feb. 1 this year, *The National* reported. And the top spot of that horde of humped herbivores is worth a pretty penny: This year's prize money totals \$57 million, with \$31.8 million set aside for awards for "pageantry."

The puckered pouts of 12 camel contestants in a Saudi Arabian camel beauty contest led to the camels' disqualification, when officials discovered that a veterinarian had injected the animals' faces with Botox.

Days before the festival, one vet was "caught red-handed" both giving camels Botox and performing surgery to reduce the size of their ears, *The National* reported.

For fuller info on the camel botox scandal of 2018, see <https://www.thenational.ae/world/gcc/saudi-camel-beauty-festival-12-entrants-disqualified-for-botoc-use-1.698068>



# 2 MINUTES TO DOOMSDAY, SCIENTISTS CLAIM

By Alex Taylor  
- Doomsday Correspondent

The "Doomsday Clock," a hypothetical timepiece that measures humanity's proximity to destruction

by our own actions, has been brought forward to only 2 minutes to midnight (doomsday) this year.

Speaking at the announcement event, theoretical physicist Lawrence Krauss said: "The dan-

ger of nuclear conflagration is not the only reason the clock has been moved forward.

"This danger looms at a time when there's been a loss of trust in political institutions, in the media, in science and in facts themselves - all of which exacerbate the difficulty of dealing with the real problems the world faces."

No doubt if the anti-vaccination lobby gains much more ground we will see the creep of diseases once more that we had come to know as all but eradicated. Wales for example has seen several very worrying measles outbreaks in recent years, especially in 2013. During the outbreak there were 447 cases of

measles confirmed from the Mid and West Wales area, 64 cases were admitted to hospital and there was one death. The outbreak was a consequence of low historic levels of MMR vaccination uptake in the area due to anti vaccination groups.

The movement forward reflects the breakdown of global efforts to reduce reliance on and risk of nuclear weapons; increased posturing and threats regarding the use of nuclear weapons; and an insufficient response worldwide to curb the impacts of climate change.

Don't feel too badly though - in 2017 it lay at 2 minutes 30 seconds from doomsday, and we were nowhere near - right?

## Were the hands moved during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962?

No. They were not moved during the 10-day crisis because too little was known at the time about the circumstances of the standoff or what the outcome would be. In fact, after the crisis, US and Soviet leaders installed a direct telephone line for communication, and within months signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty outlawing underground nuclear weapons testing—the first treaty addressing the nuclear weapons threat. On the basis of these steps, the *Bulletin* set the clock back from seven minutes to midnight to 12 minutes to midnight in 1963.

## Why a Cannabis 'Breathalyzer' is still pie in the sky

Amid the more widespread legalization of marijuana, there are calls for a roadside test — similar to a Breathalyzer — to determine whether someone is impaired, and for a legal limit on marijuana akin to the one that exists for alcohol. But the problem is that recent research clearly shows that the levels of marijuana's active compound, called tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, don't line up in a straightforward way with how impaired people are, according to the paper, (published Jan. 25) in the journal *Trends in Molecular Medicine*.

Some people "can be extremely impaired at 1 nanogram per milliliter [ng/mL], but other people may not have much impairment at all at 5 ng/mL," said paper co-author Marilyn Huestis, a toxicologist and adjunct professor of epidemiology and public health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

This is why researchers need to develop a better understanding of the effects of not only THC, and maybe also the 500 other compounds found in marijuana, the paper said.

One surprising fact that has

come out of recent research is how long THC can remain in the systems of people who use the drug frequently, according to the review. Researchers found that the compound can linger in the blood of heavy, chronic users for 30 days after they stop using marijuana, Huestis said.

That's because THC is stored in the body's fat and can slowly be released from there over time, she said. What's more, the compound remains active while it is in storage, and so it can still have effects when it is finally released.



"All toxicologists thought that THC was out of the blood in 6 to 8 hours," said Huestis, who owns a toxicology consulting company. But THC is quite unlike alcohol, which dissolves in water and is therefore easy to flush from the body. People who use marijuana frequently may have a huge amount of THC stored in their tissues, and so no test for THC can distinguish whether someone smoked marijuana today or a month ago.

This could lead to a whole new motivation for going on a diet this year!

Britain was the first advanced industrial economy to provide a laboratory for neoliberal policies. Now it can be the first to re-emerge, blinking, into the sunlight.

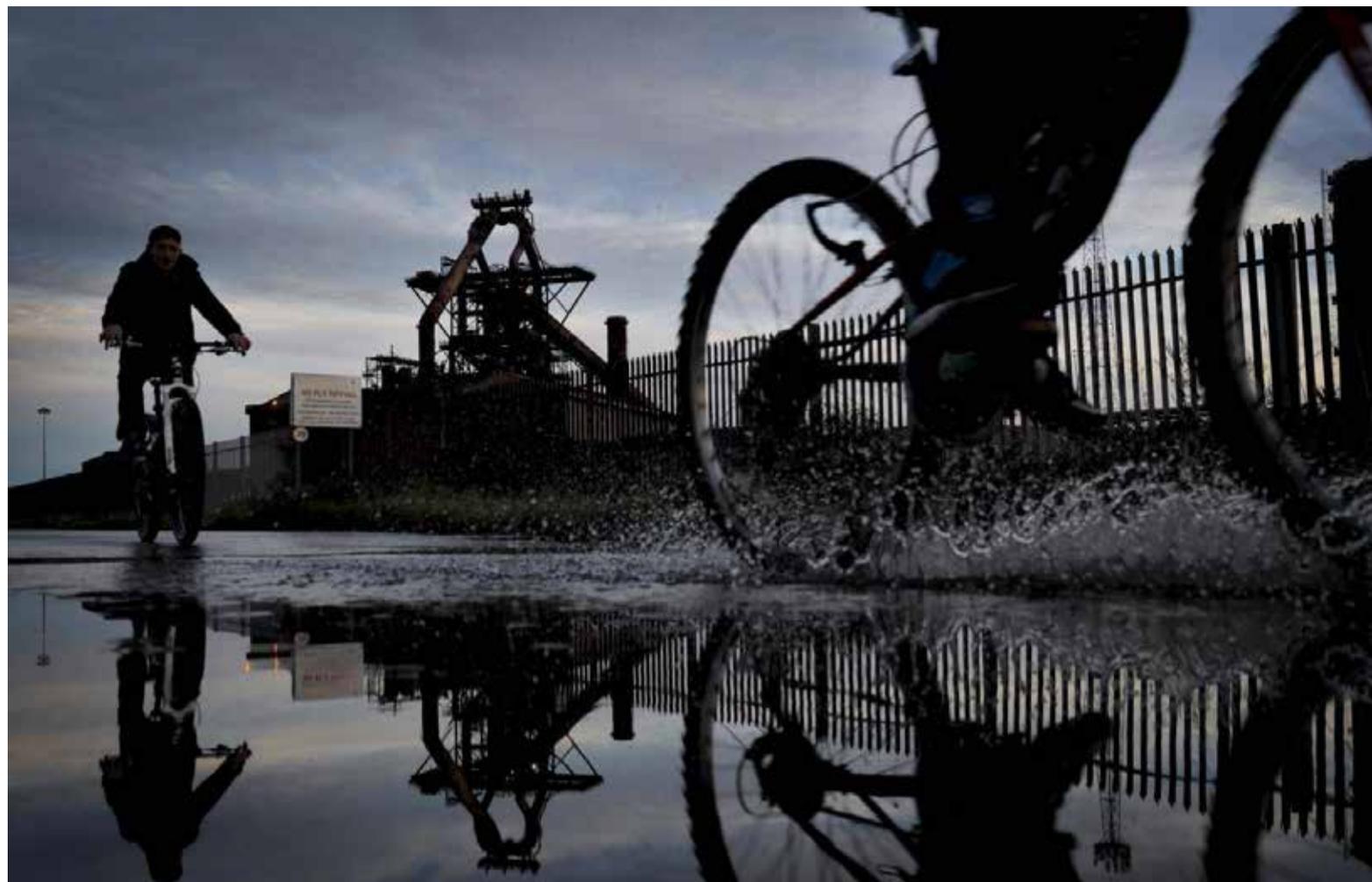
*Re-printed with thanks to Joe Guinan, a Senior Fellow at The Democracy Collaborative and Executive Director of the Next System Project, and Thomas M. Hanna, a Research Director at The Democracy Collaborative.*

Stagnant real wages, exploding inequality, poverty and hunger, collapsing public services, social atomisation, environmental destruction - the dashboard warning lights on Britain's economy have been blinking for long enough. And yet only with Brexit did political elites sit up and pay attention. The vote to leave the European Union, accomplished in the teeth of an overwhelming establishment consensus favouring the status quo, was a true Peasants' Revolt, a gigantic act of political retribution against a system increasingly regarded as rotten to its core.

Across huge swathes of Britain, the chickens of decades of top-down economic class warfare finally came home to roost. Outside London, every region of England and Wales voted Leave (Scotland and Northern Ireland are separate cases), but the scales of the referendum were firmly tipped by what were once the country's manufacturing heartlands. Here community after community has been destabilised by successive waves of deindustrialisation, whole cities thrown away at tremendous capital, carbon, and human cost. Before 1979, 6.8 million British workers were employed in manufacturing, accounting for 30 per cent of national income. By 2010 this had fallen to 2.5 million and 11 per cent. Boiling anger and an abiding sense of economic disempowerment meant that something had to give.

Brexit became the instrument, with long-standing insecurities ruthlessly exploited by the racist and xenophobic right. Many who prescribed painful economic adjustments for Northern manufacturing communities are not so sanguine now that Schumpeterian "creative destruction" is being practiced upon their own preferred order. And while Westminster and Whitehall must shoulder most of the blame for Britain's socio-economic woes, Brussels, with its protected anti-democratic policy-making sphere, is also reaping what it helped sow.

Neoliberalism did not begin in the EU. The testing grounds were Chile, Britain, and the United States. But from the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty on through the Stability and Growth Pact to the Lisbon Strategy, the thrust of European economic policy has been to extend the market through liberalisation, privatisation, and flexibilisation, subordinat-



# A LEFT-WING BREXIT IS POSSIBLE

- if we play it right, we could change the whole of society for good

ing employment and social protection to low inflation, debt reduction and competitiveness. Post-financial crisis, agonising austerity has been imposed - especially on the periphery. Any attempt to create a different kind of economy from inside the EU has been forestalled through powerful legal impediments embodied in the treaties.

An effort is now underway, especially on the left, to airbrush from history these market-fundamentalist aspects of the EU. It won't wash. The record is too well documented. The extensive Commission-funded PRE-SOM (Privatisation and the European Social Model) study by academics from twelve EU countries concluded that "the EU has taken over from the WTO (World Trade Organisation) and particularly from the GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) the role of the avant-garde and driving force of further liberalisation and privatisation". Even the European Trade Union Confederation complained in 2010 of the "slow 'creep' of Commission and

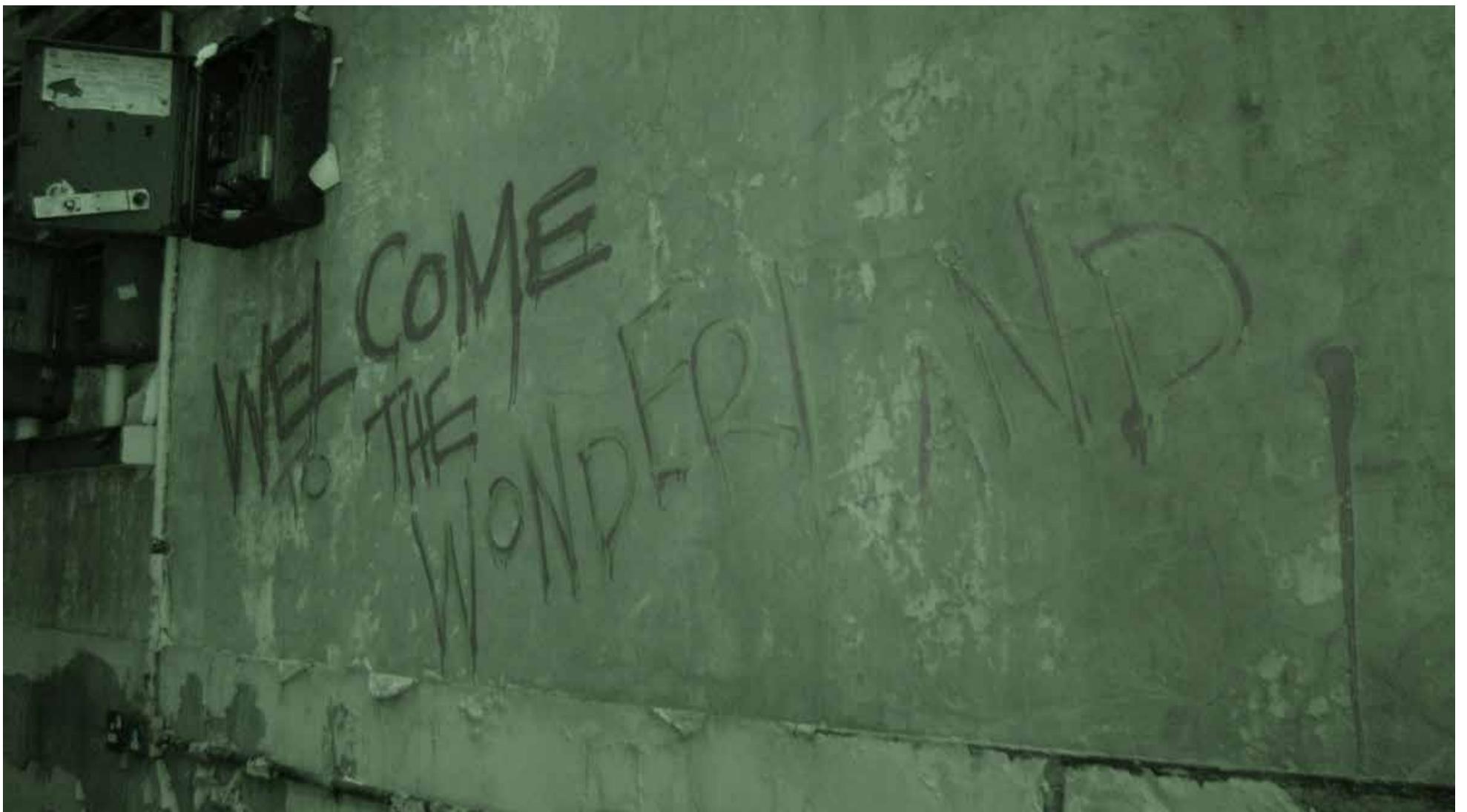
ECJ decisions", warning that the European Court of Justice would "end up opening and liberalising all public services".

Brexit is the symptom and not the cause of a deep underlying malaise. It is also a historic opportunity for a "Lexit" (left exit) from EU

market liberalism. The aftershocks of the vote have already destabilised politics-as-usual, and there is a real prospect of a Corbyn government. We ought to be busy developing a radical agenda, fleshing out John McDonnell's promising "new economics". The elements are increasingly clear. Instead of the concentration of wealth, the broad dispersal of ownership. Instead of the icy-smooth frictionlessness of the single market, the rooted participatory democratic local economy. Instead of the extractive multinational corporation, the worker- or community-owned firm. Instead of asset-stripping privatisation, democratised public enterprise. Instead of commodified migrant labour packaged as "free movement", higher wages and workplace standards for all workers. Instead of austerity and private credit creation by rentier finance, the huge potential power of public banks and post-scarcity sovereign fiat money. Only through such political-economic alternatives can we institute genuine solidarity and true international cooperation.

**Most think Brexit should continue to go ahead in some shape or form**  
Which of the following best reflects your view of how the government should proceed with the issue of Brexit? %





## PART 1

I am a sociologist, by education, a research doctorate, specialist in; Social Theory and Social Change. My education and training specialism is at a micro level in regeneration and resource allocation in urban cities. At a macro level I focus on social and political definitions that define a 'citizen' globalisation, migration and non-binary theory.

This research was the last the last research I 'officially' undertook after 25 years of research for various agencies, UK ....

It took a long process of trust and extra two weeks for me to be invited into a migrant 'community', to collect cognitive maps of newly arrived individuals into the UK. The purpose of the maps is to understand the living places and spaces of newly arrived individuals in the UK. The maps were to ascertain the amount of space, resources and opportunities that are assumed to be but are actually not, available to migrant communities, from specifically asylum seeker backgrounds. The aim was to understand:

- What parts of the 'district' people are able to visit?
- The form of transport enabled and used to navigate places.
- How a new environment is perceived, emotionally and factually.

Maps may help in understand-

# ARE YOUR LOCAL?

ing the 'seeing', visually the extent of an individual's spatial environment or "districts", where "the observer mentally enters inside of". The maps cannot show us a participant's inner emotions & feelings about their life and space or if they venture anywhere that is not drawn on the map, yet more importantly, offer an understanding of restriction of place and space in the UK. Therefore, the drawings of the maps appeared to me a way to trace at least, how individuals that are from, #someplace else might feel when they experience new spaces and places. The community in this account, is a mix of newly arrived members that share a space, to have lunch together, in a church hall in a place in England. Its aim is to point out that a person must orientate not integrate. It asks are you local?

All members of this open, community seem very confident and comfortable with each other. I glance around and notice that there is a plaque on the wall written in white bold type on a black background that declares: 'God loves everyone' and everyone is welcome. God too, it appears 'speaks asylum' with: 'Welcome' written in many languages on positive images of diversity, Welcome, in different versions of English,

placed around the room.

However, why do I feel less than welcome as though I am intruding in this space?

Even though the community have been given prior notice that someone was coming in to ask for:

'For drawings, lovelies', I feel as though I am that someone that is somehow imposing.

The seating plan in the space, is a haphazard array of scattered tables and chairs in the corners of the room and against walls, some in the middle, none linked to the other. I had expected the 'democratic' layout of everyone seated around a circular layout of chairs, no head of table, sharing a communal feast of food in the middle. Instead, everyone was head of their own table. There was a food counter against one wall and the member-organisers, organised and the member-peoples, peopled about. The peoples took their chosen tea/ coffee and cakes to separate locations with chairs, nodding at each other, some shaking hands as they passed each other. Throughout the lunch, the members of the 'community' crossed the room, sat with friends then went back to the table they

had originally chose. I did not feel this was an official code of segregation but a happily informal and democratically unspoken, agreed way of interacting.

I introduce myself.

The first person I approach is male; he speaks very broken English and seems nervous around me.

"Are you an official?" He asks (I am white, British heritage, I hold a clipboard and pens.)

"Of course not," I laugh, "I am wearing jeans". I look myself up and down.

He does not laugh back and he too, looks me up and down.

I point out my children that I had taken along with me, to give me an 'I'm just a parent' look. It registers but he still does not laugh or smile.

I ask if he is willing to draw a map from his house to the places he visits or the places that are important to him. He looks at the paper I have offered him and the felt tips pens, he nods and picks up a biro instead. I decide to remove the coloured felt tip pens,

completely.

He begins to doodle on a scrap of paper that he pulls out of his pocket then as I walk away, to get us both a cup of tea, he begins to draw the map. My heart beats fast, my first 'official' map. Then I panic that maybe I am official after all? So I decide to slouch and drink tea to make myself look 'unofficial' again. He glances up and says:

"How do I draw near or far?"

I think for a few minutes and say: "Just write N or F".

He looks blankly at me: "Draw it for me please" he says.

I draw an 'N' and an 'F' on the palm of my hand but he becomes agitated: "No! Draw it on paper for me!" He snaps.

I write a clear 'N' and a clear 'F'. He studies the letters and asks me to write the whole word. I do so and watch as he studies the letters again and I start to realise that he appears to internalize the letters in a way that seem to symbolize his life, his daily existence. He suddenly exclaims:

"Everywhere there is rubbish, rubbish everywhere!"

By Simon Hannah

There's this thing. Ah, it probably doesn't matter.

No don't worry about it, really...

Well, I guess something just feels a bit odd though, like a bit off?

Well I was just doing some research on the Labour left (as you do) and I looked at Momentum's current statement of principles (here) and I thought. Hmm, that isn't as good as it used to be? Wasn't it longer? Like, something is missing, right?

So I checked previous versions of the website, and compared the two 'About' sections. Anyway, here they are:

What does Momentum want to do? (from July 2016)

Organise in every town, city and village to secure the election of a progressive left Labour Party at every level, and to create a mass movement for real transformative change to:

Redistribute wealth and power from the few to the many;

Put people and planet before profit and narrow corporate interests™

End discrimination, advantage and privilege based on class;

Target growth not austerity, invest to create tomorrow's jobs and reverse privatisation of railways, the energy sector and public services.

Provide protection at work and strong collective bargaining to stamp out workplace injustice.

Ensure decent homes for all in public and private sectors through a big housebuilding programme and rent controls.

Support workers and their trade unions defending the interests of their members, families and communities.

End discrimination based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or age.

Transform Labour into a more open, member-led party, with socialist policies and the collective will to implement them in government.

What does Momentum want to do? (from November 2017)

Organise with communities across the country to put forward Labour's ambitious plan for Britain and secure a Labour Government that:

Redistributes wealth and power from the few to the many;

Puts people and planet before profit and narrow corporate interests™

Builds a society free from all types of discrimination™

Invests to create high-quality jobs and infrastructure™

Reverses the privatisation of railways, the energy sector and public services™

Provides protection at work and strong collective bargaining

# WHO CARES THAT MOMENTUM'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES HAS CHANGED?



to end workplace injustices™

Provides decent homes for all in both the public and private sector.

Transform Labour into a more open, member-led party capable of winning elections. Bring together individuals and groups in our workplaces and communities to campaign and organise on the issues that matter to us.

Now maybe I'm being pedantic, but I don't know... the stuff missing from the original seems kind of important. It also demonstrates how Momentum has rebranded itself from its original conception to something far more tepid, far more typical of the old Labour left.

Taking out "to create a mass movement for real transformative change" seems like a big deal as without that mass movement a left Labour government is pretty much doomed to defeat. Replac-

ing it with "bring together individuals and groups in our workplaces and communities to campaign and organise on the issues that matter to us" just doesn't seem as good—like one is a transformative mass movement linked to a Labour government and the other is just campaigns on "issues that matter to us."

They also got rid of "End discrimination, advantage and privilege based on class" and replaced it with the more generic "builds a society free from all types of discrimination". This reads like a standard 'we oppose prejudice' which is cool, but pretty mainstream these days (which party says they support prejudice?).

Then the real social democratic kicker. Originally:

"Support workers and their trade unions defending the interests of their members, families and communities." Now I like this

one because it signals working alongside workers in struggle to improve their conditions and fight their bosses. Solidarity forever!

But the new one avoids any mention of trade unions, instead meekly calling for a government that "provides protection at work and strong collective bargaining to end workplace injustices".

In the first one the working class is active and fighting and supported by Momentum, in the second it is reduced to the role of passive voters.

Then, like a Fox news anchor, it drops the excellent proposals of a 'massive' housing building programme and rent controls to instead meekly call for "decent homes for all in both the public and private sector"—What?! How mild is that? Why drop one of the few policies that would actually tackle the housing crisis and improve so many people's lives (rent controls) for something so offensively bland?

Then the real let down. That sad moment when you realised your dad was just as flawed as anyone else or you watched the Star Wars prequels for the first time.

Original: "Transform Labour into a more open, member-led party, with socialist policies and

the collective will to implement them in government."

Replaced with: "Transform Labour into a more open, member-led party capable of winning elections."

Capable of winning elections?  
Capable of winning elections?

What does that mean? If it means encouraging thousands of people to go out canvassing at election time and 'get out the vote' then fine—whatever—that's what you'd expect as a bare minimum. But by focussing on something so anodyne and deleting "socialist policies and the collective will to implement them in government" it makes you wonder what the thought process was; as if it was a choice between one and the other - historically a huge problem for Labour.

Anyway, it probably doesn't mean much. I mean no one really cares what Momentum's 'about us' section says anyway since Momentum clearly doesn't really care about the politics of the thing in any meaningful way. I mean who cares that they took out reference to a mass transformative movement and socialist policies and trade unions? I guess viral videos matter more than that other stuff, I'm just being old fashioned.



# JOE SOLO

## THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING!!!

This week I have been increasingly amused by the Ministry of Attack's blatant attempts to fill shortfalls in its budget by crying wolf. It is both a pitifully obvious play politically, and a patronising insult to our intelligence as a people.

Or is it?

This threat of invasion should no longer raise anything but laughter, yet the fact that it remains capable of causing low-level panic in certain quarters is proof that the old lie still works, that they are still able to play on fears borne from a complete ignorance of the way the modern world works, knowing that this ignorance fuels an inability to see the real enemy. The one much closer to home.

The Russians aren't coming.

They don't need to. They are already here.

As are the Germans, the French, the Dutch, the Spanish, the Italians, the Americans, the Canadians, the Chinese, the Malaysians.....the list goes on.

Invasion, by the Old World understanding of the word, is an outdated and unnecessary concept. One nation used to invade another to control its people and resources, to bleed its wells dry, to farm its labour. Who needs to invade now? It is too expensive both financially and in terms of lives. All you need to do now is find a country selling all its assets and buy them.

Welcome to UK PLC.

This island was sold down the river the day privatisation became the accepted means of running public services, manufacturing and industry. Once we took a step down that road we were finished; and now you look around today and wonder what it is we actually DO.

The answer is very little. We have no heavy industry. That was sold off, stripped back and shut down. We have no manufacturing base. That was crippled by Thatcherism when the banks were deregulated and the pound throttled the life out of our factories and plants. And we have little or no control over even the simplest of daily requirements.

Look at the railways. The Germans run Chiltern, Cross Country, Grand Central, London Over-

ground, Northern, Tyne & Wear Metro and Wales & Borders. The French State runs (or part-runs) Docklands Light Railway, Gatwick Express, London Midland, Southern, South Eastern and Thameslink. The Italian State runs Essex Thameside. The Dutch State runs Greater Anglia and Scotland The French and Belgian State co-run Eurostar.....that's not conspiracy theory by the way, just Google it.

Then there's our energy suppliers. The new nuclear plants will be run and controlled by the French and Chinese governments; the French own EDF; German companies run EON and NPower; Scottish Power is Spanish.

Water companies. Northumbrian Water, Cambridge Water, Essex and Sussex Water.....all run from Hong Kong; Affinity Water is US owned; Anglian US and Canadian; Bristol Water is Canada, Spain and Japan; Bournemouth Water run by a Singapore-based company; South Eastern Water is joint Canadian and Australian.

The list goes on. The country people want "back" was sold from underneath their feet by successive governments over four decades of neoliberalism; it was started by the Tories, but New Labour were more than happy to carry it on, until now, when there is very little left to call our own. Some even bought f\*\*\*ing SHARES in it! Shares in something they already owned! Maybe that, right there, is proof that we really ARE as stupid as they think.

The EU was a player in this process for certain, but anyone who thinks Brexit will deliver a return of 'sovereignty' to this island needs to have a long hard look at who owns the things you take for granted, because it sure as hell isn't you.

Until the people of this country wake up and see their enemy is not a specific body but an entire system, we are doomed to carry on down this path getting poorer and poorer and blaming anyone but ourselves.

Without a sustained program of renationalisation, all Brexit will deliver is a union flag waved by people who haven't read the little label in the corner.

If they took a closer look, that label would contain three words.

"Made in China"

# FAKE NEWS

## (ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT NOT BE?)



Compiled by Karl Trevor

**B**BC shouty 'cockney' presenter Greg Wallace is actually from Guildford in Surrey with a home in Whitstable Kent. Shiny-headed Greg was discovered by TV producers of CBBC show Balamory and initially playing a Cockney fruit and Veg man. Wallace is a direct descendant of Braveheart William Wallace and an advocate of Garlic free food. he is predicting that Chorizo will be replaced by Beef Dripping in most kitchens within five years.

Karl Marx died penniless in 1883 in London. As a migrant German Jew he worked mostly as a freelance Journalist until he met his sponsor Friedrich Engels. A friend once taunted Marx saying he failed to see how he would survive in a Communist state as a 'Non-Worker'. The response was "I can't see it either. These times may come, but we must be away by then!" Earlier in his life his Mother was quoted as saying "I wish you would make some Capital instead of just writing about it!" Later in life he suffered ill health in poverty including; Shingles, Ulcers, Arthritis, Insomnia, Asthma and Pleurisy. He wrote most of Das standing up as his backside was covered in 'Huge Carbuncles'. Eleven People attended his Funeral.

Henry Bolton, UKIP Leader, is

so motivated to 'Assert the democratic will of the People', that he will fight the democratic will of his own Party and not step down.

Cheddar cheese doesn't have to come from Cheddar in Somerset. It is named after the process 'Cheddaring' which is performed to the milk curds during its making.

Princess Eugenie's wedding reception will be catered for by the by JustEAT.com This is mainly due to the fact that Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson can't agree on a themed menu. Vegan guests will have to order in via Deliveroo on the day.

There is a diet called 'The Red Wine Diet' which advocates drinking and then offers reduced calorie reduced food to accompany the chosen plonk.

The dead body of a revered Buddhist Monk, exhumed after two months, was found to be smiling and showed no signs of decomposition. Luang Phor Pian was 92 when he died in mid November 2017 in Bangkok. Pians followers took his peaceful appearance as a sign that his soul had reached Nirvana and will change his clothing and reinter his body as part of a 100 day mourning ritual. The Thai Government plan to show Pian's clothes as a relic and celebrate the anniversary of this event with Chocolate Eggs and sweet bread

buns with a X on top.

Chopped Onions kept uncovered in your Fridge are potentially fatally poisonous.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's middle name was Wolfgang! His full name was Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart. Stormzy is Michael Kwadjo Omari Owuwo Jr. Dizzee Rascal is Dylan Kwabena Mills. Peter Loo, Editor of The Word has the real name of Dwight J Sickorski III.

The Donald Trump prompted closure of the Senate and US civil service also closed down NASA activity.

Princess Eugenie's name is in no way related to Eugenics apart from on spell check.

Henry Bolton has been granted a belated Knighthood for services to the Conservative Party as his impact on the opinion polls have added 2% to the Tories. Henry's decision to completely implode is being hailed as a shining example of Tory Statesmanship by Activate, the Tories version of Minecraft.

Hospitals in Calais are offering to treat NHS patients as long as you can pronounce Chateaufeu du Pape with a sufficiently exaggerated accent, whilst wearing a pullover as a cape with the sleeves around your shoulders and sunglasses on the head.

## More Fake News

Southend Councillors are to trial designated 'Modesty Beaches' where females will be asked to cover up. This is intended to appeal to tourists of a shy disposition or for cultural or religious reasons. Essex leading the way there.

Donald Trump made more money from Television appearances than any of his Business ventures, many of which lost more than the initial Capital Investments

USA invaded the UK in 1778. The raid was led by John Paul Jones, the great,great,great grandfather of the Bassist of the same name in Led Zeppelin, 2 miles from Whitehaven. The mission was planned to set fire to the British Ships in the harbour. The plan unraveled when some of his men found the pub, got drunk and woke the town,

A woman from Preston in Lancashire has had the word 'Vegan' tattooed on her forehead. Kate Bullpen who also got a Suicide Awareness tattoo on her wrist at the same time went on Twitter to share photos of her new ink and was targeted with on-line abuse. She was quoted as saying "Of course the tattoo on my face received quite a lot of negative reactions because people seem to get upset when they see the word Vegan.

Jeremy Corbyn really will buy 8000 country homes for homeless people. They will be compulsorily bought only

from aging, Conservative voting, readers of the Daily Mail or Telegraph. The dispossessed former owners will be relocated to Gulag style Caravan parks on The Isle of Sheppey or Canvey Island.

Following the redesign of Toblerone with less triangles per bar other iconic sweets are to follow in order to keep the price down; Twix will still have two bars but one won't have chocolate on it; Black Winegums are to disappear; Aero will be rebranded AeroCompact which will only have one big bubble pair in the middle.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson MP has denied being the Bastard lovechild of Alan Partridge. Liz Truss has denied being the 'separated at birth' sibling of Laura Kuennsberg. Nadhim Zånawi is denying allsorts. Zanawi claims he left Presidents Club early because he felt uncomfortable with things that hadn't happened yet and didn't want to hang about long enough to have to explain what he hadn't seen. Labour Lord Mendelssohn was sacked for going.

Donald Trump has declared he is so popular in the UK that he receives fanmail. He has named his new pet kitten Jayda after one of his favourite penpals. When subjected to a complete arselicking by Piers Morgan the Fanta Menace admitted he didn't know who Jeremy Corbyn or Sadiq Khan were. So that's nice,

Review: by Derek Pattison

**T**O this day, the armed rebellion that took place during Easter Week of 1916 in Dublin, known as the 'Easter Rising', remains controversial. Some see it as a courageous and brave act that led to the birth of the Irish Republic, whereas, others, see it as a reckless act of folly, an attempted revolt against Britain while we were at war with Germany. British intelligence was certainly aware of the planned rising and the armed shipments from Germany, which also went to the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), formed in 1913.

Most of the people, who died during the six days of the rebellion, which was supported by Germany, were Irish, mostly civilians, and the poor of Dublin. And they died for a cause that they hardly understood or supported. Moreover, many Irish people were aware in 1916 that Irish Home Rule was on the cards and that partition was inevitable. In January 1913, the Third Reading of the Home Rule Bill had been carried in Parliament and the Government of Ireland Act 1914, provide home rule for Ireland.

According to the author of this book, nearly a hundred Irish rebels travelled to Ireland from cities in England and Scotland during the early months of 1916 to participate in an armed uprising which they had heard about. Those from England were frequently described as 'London Irish' despite being from other parts of England, such as the city of Liverpool. Some of those who participated during Easter Week also came from the Manchester area and Stockport and this book, is largely about four of those Manchester volunteers. Only two of the volunteers were born in Ireland. These are Liam Parr and Redmond Cox. Gilbert Lynch, was from Reddish in Stockport and Larry Ryan, was born in Salford.

Liam Parr had left Dublin about 1910 when he was 19-years-old and had settled in West Didsbury, in South Manchester. He left Manchester in February 1916 to travel to Dublin and undertook military and munitions training at Kimmage Mill, Larkfield, Dublin. On Easter Monday 1916, Parr was in the Liberty Hall office, the headquarters of the Irish Transport & General Workers Union (ITGWU) and was one of the first to take over the GPO office on Sackville Street, on Monday afternoon. After the surrender on Saturday afternoon, he was arrested and returned to England where he was interned in a camp in Frongoch, Wales.

Redmond Cox was born in Boyle County, Roscommon, in 1893. As a 22-year-old, he'd been living in Cheetham, Manchester, with his sister. He travelled to



# HIDDEN HEROES OF EASTER WEEK

MEMOIRS OF VOLUNTEERS FROM ENGLAND WHO JOINED THE EASTER RISING. BY ROBIN STOCKS

Dublin in February 1916. Before surrendering, Cox had been in 'Four Courts' and he was later arrested and returned to England. He was released from imprisonment after a fortnight.

Gilbert Lynch had been born in Reddish, Stockport, in 1892. A devout Catholic, he joined the National League of Young Liberals in 1908 and was involved with the Clarion in 1916. He claimed to have been a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (Fenians) in 1913 and to have joined the Independent Labour Party (ILP) in 1917. A member of Stockport Trades Council, he said that his political outlook had been influenced by reading "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist." A gun-runner, Lynch arrived in Dublin the week before Easter with 500 rounds of .303 ammunition and had been carrying small-arms. During Easter week he had been based in Father Matthew Hall, which was being used as a first-aid station and to detain prisoners and spies. Lynch escaped arrest because he had been in hospital having 'twisted his ankle getting over a barricade.' He later made

his way back to Stockport.

Laurence (Larry) Ryan was born in Salford in 1894. His mother lived in Seedley in Salford. Unlike the others, it is not known when Ryan travelled to Dublin, but he did train at Kimmage Mill and was one of the first, to take up a position in the GPO building. After the surrender, Ryan was arrested and returned to England. He was interned until Christmas in Frongoch camp in Wales.

On Easter Monday 1916, the rebel's had planned to occupy the General Post Office building on Sackville Street, Dublin, and to use this building as their headquarters. Many of the leaders including James Connolly, a socialist who had been born in Cowgate, Edinburgh, mistakenly believed that the English imperialists would not use artillery because they would not bomb their own property. Therefore, they expected an infantry attack on the GPO building and posted battalions in four main positions outside the city centre to command the routes that British soldiers would take to attack the GPO. The rebel plan also involved armed risings

in the rest of the country. Bolands Bakery, the Marrowbone Lane Distillery, the South Dublin Union Workhouse and the Jacobs factory, were all sites of revolt. Some of the rebels did use Mauser rifles that had been provided by the Germans and brought to Ireland by Erskine and Molly Childers in their yacht 'Asgard' in July 1914. The Easter Rising lasted six days before the rebels on the instructions of their leaders, surrendered on the Saturday.

On the third day of the rebellion, Patrick Pearse, a barrister, writer, schoolteacher and nationalist mystic with a martyr complex, had told the rebels in the GPO building that the country was steadily rising and that volunteers were marching from Dundalk on Dublin and that reinforcements would arrive and release them. 'They were later told by a visitor of the despondency in the city as well as the news that the country had not risen.' Connolly was certainly aware, that after the surrender, all those who had signed the proclamation of the Irish Republic, would be shot by the British and that this was a cause he was

happy to die for. He told others that they were likely to be imprisoned and should keep quiet about what they had done.

After the surrender, many volunteers recalled the hostility and abuse they had encountered from many Dubliners. Con Colbert, who was later shot in Kilmainham Gaol, said after the surrender: 'the people who we have tried to emancipate have demonstrated nothing but hate and contempt for us.'

Hidden Heroes of Easter Week is a book that is well worth reading. Robin Stocks has done a great deal research on this book and many of the accounts given by the volunteers who took part during Easter Week in Dublin are based on witness statements, interviews with family members and research done in archives and libraries in England and Ireland. Where I think this book is at its weakest, is in its lack of analysis of the rising itself and what effect it had on Irish society.

This book does not mention that 450 people were killed and 2,500 injured during the rising and nine reported missing. Among the dead, were 117 soldiers, 41 of them

Irish, plus 16 armed and unarmed policeman, all Irish. Some 64 volunteers out of a total of 1,500, who played some part in the rising, were also killed. However, alongside 205 combatants who died, 245 wholly innocent civilians also died. The dead were mostly Irish civilians and Dublin's poor, who died for a cause they barely understood or supported or were even hostile to. Some saw it as an opportunity for looting. Many of the civilians were killed by British forces using machine-gun fire, incendiary shells and artillery.

As Robin Stocks makes clear, not all leading Republicans were in favour of the insurrection. Bulmer Hobson, a leading Fenian, considered it a reckless adventure. Speaking after the rising, Hobson said that towards the end of 1915, Connolly (who had served in the British army in Ireland), had decided to have a 'little insurrection' with the citizen army.

His conversation was full of clichés derived from the earlier days of the socialist movement in Europe. He told me that the working-class was always revolutionary, that Ireland was powder magazine and that what was necessary was for someone to apply the match. I replied that if he must talk in metaphors, Ireland was a wet bog and the match would fall in the puddle.

He described Patrick Pearse as a 'sentimental egoist, full of curious Old Testament theories about being the scapegoat of the people who had become convinced of the necessity for a periodic blood sacrifice to keep the national spirit alive. There was a certain strain of abnormality in all this.'

Before leading his men out of Liberty Hall, the headquarters of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU), on Easter Monday, to start a rebellion, we are told that Connolly had said 'smilingly': 'Well girls, we start operations at noon today. This is the proclamation of the republic.' What we are not told in this book, is that on the way out of the building, Connolly halted at the bottom of the stairs to speak with his friend and colleague William O'Brien. Connolly told him:

'Bill, we are going out to be slaughtered. Is there any chance?', asked O'Brien. 'None whatsoever', said Connolly. He then marched his men out of the building along with his fifteen year old son, Roderick (Roddy) Connolly, who would survive the rising.

Although fifteen of the rebel leaders were executed, many of those who took part in the rising were treated with surprising leniency by the British authorities, including the four Manchester volunteers. Some 3,430 men and 79 women were arrested after the rising and 1,424 men and 73 women were subsequently released. Of almost 2,000 men who were

interned in England, over 1,200 were quickly released and most of the others were home by Christmas 1916. All were freed under a general amnesty in July 1917. Those who faced a court martial, included 170 men and one woman, Constance Markievicz. Ninety death sentences were passed and fifteen carried out. Those sentenced to life imprisonment, were released within 18-months.

Today, many Republican groups and trade unions in Ireland, have adopted James Connolly as their patron saint or founding father. While it is true to say that the execution of the rebel leaders produced sympathy for the cause and turned the men into martyrs, Connolly's influence was marginalised after the rising - all of Connolly's children took the anti-Treaty side. Ireland did not become the workers socialist republic that Connolly had wished for. What emerged triumphant from the Easter Rising was Irish Catholic Nationalism and it was Pearse's vision of Ireland, which was elevated. There was little support for Marxism in Ireland before the rising and afterwards and many Sinn Fein and IRA members were fiercely anti-Communist. Indeed, in the 1960s, communists were banned from the Republican movement. Ireland under Eamonn de Valera's, Fianna Fail, was protectionist, isolationist, and obedient to the Catholic hierarchy. Divorce, contraception and abortion, were all illegal. It was a world of secrecy and obedience with its Magdalene laundries and the subordination of women. It survived by exporting its young, mainly to Britain, where they could earn a living. The Irish Catholic Church supported Franco during the Spanish Civil War and some Irish Catholic's, fought with the Blueshirts on the nationalist side under Eoin O'Duffy. Others supported the Republican side.

None of the Manchester volunteers fought in the civil war which broke out in Ireland in 1922 following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921, which was supported by a majority of Irish people. It had been estimated that six times more nationalists were killed in the war than had been killed by the British forces between 1916-1922.

Tragically, we now know that Admiralty SIGINT Unit, Room 40, had been intercepting decrypted messages dealing with German support for the Irish nationalists between the outbreak of WW1 and the eve of the Easter Rising in 1916. Under interrogation at Scotland Yard, Sir Roger Casement, asked to be allowed to call for the rising to be called off to avoid a blood bath, but this was refused. Sir Reginald (Blinker) Hall is reputed to have told Casement - 'It is better that a canker sore like this should be cut out.'

# ROBIN WORD

## Pragmatism And Honesty

The topic on The Word's Facebook the other day was "Is doing what is right and honest always better than doing that which is politically advantageous?", and I've been directed towards answering that question long form. The debate, as ever, held some pretty inspiring suggestions for constructing this, and so I hope to have included them well enough in the following.

Here are my stipulative definitions for terms, as this was itself a thing that was noted, and of course, aren't the only definitions in existence. "Right" could mean "that which displays prosocial moral rectitude in conformance with left-wing values" (as likely befits a socialist newspaper's readership.) "Honest" could mean "actions unclouded by deceit and chicanery, or ardent authenticity in one's dealings even to the point of undermining oneself." "Politically advantageous" means "that which is likely to effect political change as swiftly as possible, or offer a shot in the arm to career or prestige", although arguably more popularity could equal better trust from the electorate to work on their behalf just as much as honours, budgets, and bonuses. The idea that rectitude and honesty always being better than political pragmatism strikes me as being a bit of a heuristic. Heuristics usually aren't flexible enough to give the best course of action in all situations, especially political ones. I take consequentialist ethics to be a superior stand-in, as it \*does\* allow for fluidity and complexity in situations, and tries to do what is best for most, and least worst for the remainder, in terms of foreseen consequences. Given our left wing values such as being nurturant, not authoritarian, fairness not privilege, peace not war, love and not hate (of vulnerable people, not necessarily bigots), we can use them to temper the will to be expedient but not necessarily moral, and utilise the moral barometers of others in order to hold ourselves accountable, and to complement conscious consequentialism.

We would do well to consider in situations what the right thing is to do, but what about what the *smart* thing is to do? Occasionally we must make questionable decisions in order to hold our own which may not be very honest, but yet could be



very effective or could prevent further moral harm. Dishonesty is often a means of covering up that which could be incendiary or compromising if discovered. The usual basic example of this is whether or not, all things being equal, one would prize honesty in all ways and be honest to the Nazis that you have Anne Frank hiding in your loft, or you could also potentially lie to them, besmirch the glittering good of honesty, but manage to save Anne, an innocent, from dying by fascist hands.

Those Muslims that practiced the Islamic concept of Taqiya (hiding faith under duress) during occupation by the aggressively Christian Inquisition in Spain during the 16th Century knew this well - do what is smart, in order to survive to practice your \*authentic\* faith, and suffer the emotions related to inauthenticity later on. Perhaps a more laughable hiding of one's own beliefs to save trouble is displayed amongst neofascists, where "I'm not racist, but..." or other related safety statements are often the cue for a tirade of actual racism/sexism/queerphobia/classism, the most superficial, ersatz, casual reformist attempts to fit in with a growingly democratised society being as paper thin as ever.

With political pragmatism matched with a will to help others, one could be like Brown in the 1920's article by Robley Feyland called "Brown's Job". The practically intelligent Brown works for a company but doesn't seek prestige within it, instead using his knowledge of how things are done, and what the proper channels are, to grease

the wheels and protect the workers he is responsible for, even if it means some creative sabotage and throwing out the rule book every so often. The obvious parallels here to representative democrats like Jeremy Corbyn, and how I feel they might act more effectively if they're not already, I will leave to you, reader. I also am lucky enough to know a real-life Brown in the form of one my former volunteering bosses - a straight-talking, knowledgeable, kind-hearted person who isn't afraid to speak truth to power, and match its chicanery with..."unconventional" solutions to problems such power presents to service users.

To those who are alarmed at political representatives and activists dishonestly using pragmatism to merely fiddle their expenses or Humphrey Appleby their way to populist whiskey priesthood (and of course, aren't unconscionably inveterate liars), consider Plato's invisibility conferring Ring Of Gyges. There's a removal of consequence for immoral actions as nobody saw you do it when wearing it, but ring on or off, your conscience, Plato says, will bring consequences of guilt and acting against what is considered just directly to you. If your conscience is in play, self-regulation must follow, or you will suffer as much as what you have caused to others. Comrades of pure heart, take heed!

ROBIN is an anarcho-socialist, scientific skeptical, millennial leftie living in the neocon model village heartlands of the UK. He likes writing, being fair to people, and social justice, and writes AS level philosophy grade nonsense for The Word.



# FA CUP

## FOURTH ROUND REPORT

### Cardiff City 0 Manchester City 2

By Stanley Acrimonious

As everyone who knows football will be aware, the strongly fancied Accrington Stanley will play no part in the 2018 FA Cup, writes Stanley Acrimonious, having held Guiseley, a small team who inhabit a field just outside Leeds, to a goalless draw on Bonfire Night. The first round also included such worthies as Boreham Wood, Truro City and 'Shaw Lane Association.' In the replay the following week Tuesday night, the result between Stanley and some small field dwellers was an inconclusive 1-1 after extra time, and the teams went into that thrilling spectacle of a penalty shootout. I often wish that we could dispense with some of the nonsense once we realise that a game is going nowhere fast, and do the shootout and get home to our bonfire parties. I'm saying very little more about this, except that

the gallant lads from Mansfield despatched Guiseley 3-0 in the next round, as we should have done.

Thus Mansfield carried the Torch of Stanley into the third round, merely to have its light extinguished by the demonic Cardiff City. Again the torch was a lucky omen in the away game, 0-0 but when Mansfield got their opponents home, they shipped goals to the men from Tiger Bay and the torch felt very sad indeed. To lose 4-1 at home is a right Leeds United / Scotland / Shaw Lane Association trick. Even the Shaw Lane chaps had lost only 3-1, and that had been to future Torch Bearers Mansfield in the first round.

Thus the demonic Welshmen were at home to Manchester Citeh in the fourth round.

Citeh! Carrying the scalp of the ludicrous Burnley, Mighty Citeh, with the financial support of the whole economic system from here to Abu Dhabi, went to contest the Torch of Stanley, the Chest Hair of Mans-

field and the divots of Guiseley, not to mention the Eye of the Tiger-Bay (I said \*not\* to mention the Eye of the Tiger-Bay) at Cardiff's ground on Sunday.

This particular lineage of the FA Cup has not been kind to home teams, and Cardiff lost 2-0; I am very glad that even though it took a team purchased not grown, coached not by a Citeh man but by the Very Best in the World, drawn to Manchester by better weather than Barcelona or Munich, at last the Torch of Stanley is held high by a half decent team.

The game itself was settled in the first half. After eight minutes a free kick was given and the demons leaped high into the air as De Bruyne took the kick, keeping it low and true, passing it under their daft legs. A second goal, from Bernardo Silva was disallowed for no good reason and then Raheem Sterling, a Liverpool player lured to Citeh by the flapping costume and similarly flapping chequebook of the owner, nodded another in.

Just before half-time, Joe Bennett crooked Leroy Sane, earning a yellow card. This feat was repeated in the 91st minute on Brahim Diaz and Bennett 'walked' as they say on Match of the Day.

The second half saw many more chances for Citeh, and it could have been 4-1, if Cardiff had scored and Citeh had bagged a couple more. That Torch will see some more exciting games this season, even if it has to sit in the stands next to the chest-hair of Mansfield, the pelts of Burnley, the divots of Guiseley and the Articles of Association from Shaw Lane.

Next up: The Torch of Stanley and friends travel to Wigan for another goalless draw?



### FA CUP 5th round draw

Chelsea vs Hull  
Leicester vs Sheffield United  
Huddersfield or Birmingham vs Manchester United  
Millwall or Rochdale vs Newport or Tottenham  
Brighton vs Coventry  
Wigan vs Manchester City

### FA Cup Fourth Round

Sheffield Wednesday 3  
Yeovil Town 0  
Peterborough United 1  
Huddersfield Town 1  
Hull City 2  
Middlesbrough 0  
Millwall 2  
Milton Keynes Dons 0  
Notts County 1  
Sheffield United 1  
Southampton 1  
Wigan Athletic 2  
Newport County 1  
Liverpool 2  
Chelsea 3  
Cardiff City 0

Reading 1  
Manchester United 4  
Leicester City 5  
Birmingham City 1  
Nottingham Forest 1  
Brighton & Hove Albion 1  
Rochdale 2  
Coventry City 1  
Swansea City 1  
Preston North End 0  
Watford 0  
West Ham United 0  
Tottenham Hotspur 1  
West Bromwich Albion 3  
Newcastle United 0  
Manchester City 2

# THE OLYMPIC DREAM — AT WHAT COST?



As a country we are hooked on Olympic success. As our athletes head out to South Korea for the Winter Olympics, back home we await glory in the form of medals. For the athletes themselves it is the pinnacle of years and years of hard work and sacrifice. Behind the glory however is a system that is failing the very people it is supposed to help.

UK Sport funds most of the Olympic Sports, with the funding being directly proportional to the medals the given sport is predicted to win. In order to be eligible for the money, each sport needs to adopt a form of governance laid down by UK Sport. This governance includes structured (and supposedly transparent) levels of management ranging from independent Directors, Performance

Directors and a Performance Pathway - all designed to create a system which produces medals.

Note I didn't say athletes, or people winning medals. For this is the problem with the system. The system is designed to win medals - period. The athletes are merely a conduit to gaining more funding to keep the governance in place (and thus jobs). Let's face it, if you were a Performance Director on say £60,000 a year, you'd be wanting to get more funding at the end of the 4 year Olympic cycle wouldn't you?

This 'medals for cash' system creates cultures within Elite Sport that lead to bullying, harassment, unfair selection, cover ups, and nepotism. There have been many high profile instances of this in Cycling, Swimming, Gymnastics and Archery to name but a few.

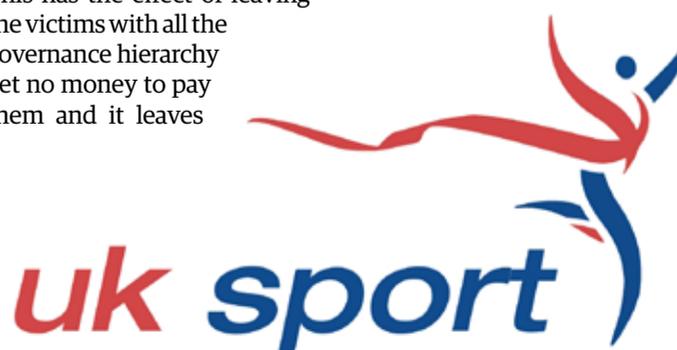
The victims in all of this are the athletes themselves - caught in a trap of chasing dreams, but being at the mercy of National Governing Bodies and the UK Sport system of governance.

When UK Sport deems a sport to be 'unable' to win a medal or medals at an Olympics, they either reduce the funding for the next 4 years or cut it completely. This has the effect of leaving the victims with all the governance hierarchy yet no money to pay them and it leaves

the athletes with huge choices to make regarding their training and competition costs. The problem is further compounded by the fact the hierarchy do not want to make themselves redundant, and do not want to change the governance structure (as this would preclude further funding applications in the future).

The given sport is then stuck in vicious circle in which the only way out is either giving up their funding model and trying to access sponsorship monies and/or cutting administration staff, coaching and development of grass roots sport, thus compounding their inability to achieve future medal success.

Many of the Olympic Sports in the UK used to be run for the benefit of their membership - with the members having a true say in how their sport is run, but with the introduction of money, UK Sport governance rules and structures, this is no longer the case. This is causing a huge amount of dissatisfaction within many sports, leading many ordinary sports people, and Elite athletes too, wondering whether the Olympic Dream is really worth it.



## What Neville said and the case against him

"Relax I'm back chilled - just battered the wife!!! Feel better now!!!" he wrote. Another read: "Morning men couple of hours cricket be4 work sets me up nicely for the day!" When asked why he failed to mention women, Neville replied: "When I said morning men I thought the women would of been busy preparing breakfast/getting kids ready/making the beds - sorry morning women!" The England women's manager's job was advertised as being based at St Georges Park, Derbyshire. Neville currently lives in Spain and has two children at secondary school there with his son also on Valencia's books. The Spanish school year runs, like the English, until this summer. Any reasonable person will understand how important it is not to disrupt schooling and ordinarily a coach might be able to get away with commuting from the Continent for six months. It is thought Neville had never attended a women's match prior to him being approached.

Phil Neville was parachuted into the England Women's job after many of the candidates withdrew because of the "scrutiny" it would bring, the Football Association's head of women's football has revealed. Baroness Campbell, who led the search for Mark Sampson's replacement, attempted to quell the storm around Neville's appointment by disclosing the reason she was forced to look beyond her original shortlist.

# NEVILLE, NEVILLE PUT ON YOUR... MANAGERS SUIT.

Should the England women's football team put up with a misogynist man as their manager?

We asked some of our readers for their responses.

**Callum Hay**, Whoever can make them successful I guess. Success is the quickest way to grow the sport...

**Alex Shough**, if it's a dude, it should at least be one with experience of the women's game and a track record of success within it. Phil has neither experience in the women's game, nor a record of success in the game whatsoever.

**Paul Louis Paterson**, I feel like the sport(s) should be combined. Unisex.

About ten seasons ago now a Serie B (Italian) team attempted to sign a female player, but the Italian FA refused. There would be nothing holding a woman



back in the game if trained to the same standard.

Clermont Foot in Ligue 1 (French) has now had two female managers in a row (although the first never took charge of a game). Helena Costa took charge in 2014 and Corinne Diacre was in charge from 2014 to 2017, three full seasons.

**Pieter Egriga**, A woman is the best man for the job! Phil Neville will know more about men's football than Hope Powell, who used to be the woman's manager. But she will always know more about women in football than any man will know about women in football!

## The case in his favour

Former England goalkeeper Rachel Brown-Finnis adds: "This is a someone who has worked under Sir Alex Ferguson and is from a group of players who have lived with a winning mentality their whole careers. That is something which this team has never had and needs to take it to the next level - a leader who knows what that looks like." After 10 years as a professional with Manchester United, during which time he won six Premier League titles, three FA Cups, three FA Charity Shields, the Intercontinental Cup and the Champions League, he joined Everton in 2005, where he spent the final eight years of his playing career. Neville also played for England 59 times between 1996 and 2007, representing the nation at three European Championships. He could play in defence or midfield; due to this versatility, he operated in a number of different positions throughout his career.

**Jonathan Fletcher**, Would you be asking the same question if the England men's team wanted to appoint a woman?

**Nigel Jones-Morris**, He was however, one of a small number of people willing to take the job on, others being scared off due to

fear of excessive media scrutiny.

**Tessa Caley**, If you are managing a women's football team it's more than just the football so knowing women is probably going to be a key skill for the job! But I can't see why an approachable bloke couldn't manage!